

RTAMM 1121

Chapter 1121: Wouldn't That Overwork the Brains?

When Qiao Nan could identify Tian Dong's flaws, Zhai Hua could immediately tell the family that it was impossible between her and Tian Dong then.

Zhai Hua wholeheartedly wanted Qiao Nan to be her advisor. Besides helping her analyze the situation, Qiao Nan could also devise a strategy to resolve Tian Dong, this trouble.

"Let's go." Without giving the time for Zhai Hua to converse further with Qiao Nan, Tian Dong reached out his hands, held on to Zhai Hua's elbows, and pulled Zhai Hua away.

Qiao Nan's jaws dropped slightly at the rare scene before her. Somehow, she felt that there was hope for these two people.

Tian Dong was very quiet, but judging from their behavior, she vaguely had the feeling that Tian Dong would have Sister Zhai Hua eating out of his hands.

If Tian Dong could really lead Zhai Hua by the nose, no matter whether Sister Zhai Hua was willing, she did not need to worry about having a baby anymore. The child's father had already come knocking on the door.

"Mom, I'm going back to my room first." Qiao Nan was carrying the books in her arms when she informed Miao Jing.

"Sure. I will get auntie to call you when it's time for dinner," Miao Jing replied. The Tian family had been overseas for more than twenty years. Miao Jing's understanding of the Tian family was not as good as before. If Qiao Nan was with her, she was also afraid that Qiao Nan was too young and would be tricked into revealing certain matters.

When she heard that Qiao Nan was going back to the room to read, Miao Jing was quite pleased.

As elders, when they heard that the youngsters were keen to learn, they had no reason to disrupt the youngsters' enthusiasm.

“Mom, uncle, and auntie, take your time to chat.” After Qiao Nan informed the elders politely, she moved a huge pile of books to Zhai Sheng and her new bedroom.

Judging from today’s situation, Qiao Nan estimated that she would definitely spend a longer time in her in-law’s house than she would in the small courtyard of her master this semester.

After Qiao Nan left, Mother Tian smiled. “Qiao Nan is very young but she is quite steady. She has so much enthusiasm for learning. Your family’s judgment of character is very good.”

When she said this, Mother Tian had some intention to fawn on the Zhai family. Nevertheless, she also said this from her heart.

Mother Tian did not believe that Qiao Nan did not know who they were.

She clearly knew their identity but she could politely excuse herself, taking into consideration the nature of the relationship. That was not easy.

At the thought of the Qiu Chenxi that she had just met, Mother Tian could not help frowning.

That lady was very young but she was very scheming. She had been greatly influenced by her family.

As an elder, everyone preferred children who had pure and simple hearts. When they faced people who tried to get close to them due to ulterior motives, Mother Tian could not accept them.

“I heard that Qiao Nan is a student of Peking University?” Mother Tian could not help asking again. One had to know that Tsing Hua University and Peking University in China were akin to the University of Oxford in England.

“Yes, Nan Nan was the top scorer of humanities in the college entrance examination last year.” At the mention of Qiao Nan, this daughter-in-law, the smile on Miao Jing’s face turned more genuine. “This child is extremely sensible. Sometimes, I suspect that the ages between Hua Hua and Nan Nan have been mixed up.”

Mother Tian laughed. “Hua Hua’s temperament is very good too. I heard that Hua Hua is in the army? People from the army are more honest and straightforward. They are not so cunning.

Furthermore, Hua Hua has a strong sense of justice since she was a child. She wears her heart on her sleeves. Nowadays, a good child like Hua Hua is hard to come by.”

Miao Jing’s smile turned more polite. “I am also troubled over my family’s Hua Hua’s character. People who like her definitely recognize her merits.” Whereas those who disliked Hua Hua definitely could not accept her character.

Everyone was a mother. They could understand each other’s thoughts.

Zhai Hua was Miao Jing’s only daughter. Zhai Hua was a straightforward person who did not like to beat about the bush. She was willing to indulge her daughter too.

When she looked for the future partner of her daughter, she would certainly look out for this aspect in her son-in-law. She would only accept him if he met the requirement.

If the situation of the Tian family was too complicated and they could not accept a child like Hua Hua, everyone did not have to waste each other’s time and opportunities then.

Miao Jing’s words revealed only one intent: The family that set their eyes on Zhai Hua and wanted her to become their daughter-in-law could not force Zhai Hua to change her character. That was the only requirement that the Zhai family had for the other party.

The Zhai family was willing to pamper Zhai Hua. Similarly, Zhai Hua’s in-laws also had to be willing to do so.

Those who were not willing to do so did not have to come to them. They would not force Zhai Hua to enter the family.

“I don’t know other people’s views on this but I watched Hua Hua grow up. I always feel that Hua Hua is a child that is hard to come by. She has a rare and pure heart.” Mother Tian expressed sincerely that she really liked Zhai Hua. She did not think that there was any problem with Zhai Hua’s character, and neither did she intend to change Zhai Hua’s character.

Mother Tian had seen many people who liked to play mind games. On the contrary, she cherished someone like Zhai Hua, who had a candid character.

Playing mind games and plotting against people were for outsiders.

If they had to do that amongst family members, this family could not be called a family anymore.

Father Tian and Mother Tian only had Tian Dong as their only son. When Tian Dong was married, they had already planned to treat their daughter-in-law as their own daughter.

As such, this daughter-in-law had to be someone fancied by not only their son but also them.

This was the only way the two generations could get along harmoniously and nicely after their son's marriage so that they would not have so much trouble.

Miao Jing was quite happy about Mother Tian's words but she dared not let down her worries so soon. She observed Father Tian more.

Qiao Nan, who was focused on her books, did not know the situation downstairs.

When the auntie called her to have dinner, besides Zhai Sheng, all the Zhai and the Tian family had congregated.

Qiao Nan was very sweet-tongued. She greeted everyone one by one before she took a seat beside Miao Jing. Zhai Hua then sat beside Qiao Nan.

At the sight of Zhai Hua and Tian Dong's appearance at the meal, Qiao Nan was a little surprised. Shouldn't Tian Dong bring Sister Zhai Hua out for a meal before coming back?

Qiao Nan glanced at Zhai Hua, who was sitting beside her. "Sister Zhai Hua, is the movie nice?"

"Yes!"

"..." Qiao Nan's eyes swirled. Judging from this answer, Sister Zhai Hua did not sleep through the movie. She had watched all of it. "What did you watch?"

"War genre."

Qiao Nan was amused at Zhai Hua's tone. It seemed that Tian Dong still had a high chance. He was very good at finding the right cure for the illness.

He had a very good understanding of Sister Zhai Hua's temper and preferences. Hence, he knew what to do to make Sister Zhai Hua happy and accept him.

Tian Dong had been overseas for twenty years. During this period, Tian Dong had minimal contact with Sister Zhai Hua.

They were buddies that had been separated for over twenty years, but Tian Dong could still know so much about Sister Zhai Hua. This only proved that Tian Dong had most probably been paying attention to Sister Zhai Hua all this while.

After making this analysis, Qiao Nan reached a conclusion. It was either Tian Dong hated Sister Zhai Hua very much or he loved her very much.

If it had nothing to do with these two possibilities, no one in this world would have so much spare time to know someone else's situation so well. Wouldn't that overwork the brains?

Chapter 1122: You Are Choosing Someone, and Vice Versa

After reaching such a conclusion, Qiao Nan felt that subsequent matters were not within her control. She would leave it to the men in the Zhai family to probe whether Tian Dong was a good or bad guy.

Speaking of such using methods, she was definitely not better than her husband.

Tian Dong was sitting opposite Qiao Nan and he was not oblivious to her inconspicuous gazes.

Well, Qiao Nan's gazes were not rude or overboard. They were also not ill-intentioned. Hence, Tian Dong did not have an excuse to act up.

Most importantly, Tian Dong could not offend Qiao Nan even if he had such intent. On the contrary, he had to gain Qiao Nan's favor.

He had only watched one movie with Zhai Hua, yet the sensitive Tian Dong counted the number of times that Zhai Hua had mentioned Qiao Nan's name to him. It was thirty-six times.

The Tian family left the house very soon after the meal.

When the family of three was sitting in the car, Father Tian looked at his already grown-up son and asked, "Have you really decided?"

"Yes," Tian Dong replied without expressing much emotion.

Mother Tian, oblivious to the situation, was still feeling glad that today's meeting was not considered a flop. At the very least, her son and Zhai Hua watched a movie together. When she suddenly heard the conversation of the father-son pair, naturally, Mother Tian asked, "Dongzi, what have you decided on?"

Tian Dong glanced at his biological mother via the rear-view mirror. "I've decided that I should marry a daughter-in-law for you and let you carry a grandchild."

"Isn't that so? You're almost thirty years old and you don't even have a girlfriend. I am very anxious for you. But that's right too. We are Chinese. I'm used to seeing foreigners when we are staying in America. However, if you really find me a daughter-in-law who is a foreigner, most likely, I still can't accept it. After looking everywhere, it's true that Chinese ladies are still the best looking." Mother Tian smiled. She was most fearful that her son would refuse to marry a wife and throw her a grenade by telling her that he liked men.

At the sight of his wife's good mood, Father Tian glanced sideways at Tian Dong. Thereafter, he snorted unhappily.

"Qiao Nan, you're heartless!" In the house of the Zhai family, Zhai Hua was kicking up a fuss with Qiao Nan. "You clearly knew my situation today but you refused to help me. You watched on as Dongzi brought me out. Don't forget that I am your sister-in-law!"

Qiao Nan wanted to snatch back her book but failed to do so. She gave an unhappy glare. "Didn't you feel quite happy watching that movie? You didn't even sleep during the show. If I really went with you, I was not treating you as my sister-in-law then."

Being a light bulb was not one of her interests.

“Sister Zhai Hua, haven’t you always wished for a child? You have already decided to go on blind dates, and you are also serious about finding a man to get married and have a child. Since that is the case, why do you have to feel revulsion against Tian Dong? You can treat Tian Dong as your first blind date.”

She was not sure why. After saying this, one sentence suddenly appeared in Qiao Nan’s heart. Tian Dong might be Sister Zhai Hua’s first blind date but it was highly possible that he would become her last one.

“This won’t do. We don’t have feelings for each other,” Zhai Hua said awkwardly.

“Was it love at first sight when you were together with Wei De previously?” She heard that Wei De wooed Sister Zhai Hua for a long time. Also, when they first knew each other, Sister Zhai Hua only treated Wei De as an ordinary soldier attending the training sessions. The process of them knowing each other until dating took roughly about five years, no?

“Sister Zhai Hua, I think you are the kind who will open your heart only after a long time. To put it in cliché terms, you will grow to like someone only after knowing him for some time.” There was no love at first sight or thunder shaking the ground. This kind of love was not suitable for Sister Zhai Hua.

“In short, a blind date is a blind date no matter who attends it. Furthermore, you’ve known Tian Dong since you were a child. You’re more familiar with him than others. It doesn’t matter if you don’t like him. You’re just interacting with him. It’s not as though you’re going to be with him. First, pick someone that you’re familiar with. When you feel that you have adjusted your mindset, and you really don’t fancy Tian Dong, you can make it clear to him and move on to the next target. I didn’t expect you to be so serious. Relax.”

“Can it really be resolved so easily?” Zhai Hua was still worried. “Dongzi... He seems to have changed. He is not as easy-going as before.” In particular, that 1.9-meter height of his made her feel uneasy and pressured.

“Is he as easy to bully as when he was a child?”

“I did not bully him before. I am not sure.” Gift blinds the eye. She had just accepted Dongzi’s present. How could she bully Dongzi into crying immediately?

“Not sure? Then, tell me about it when you are sure.”

“...” Zhai Hua was not speaking. She looked at Qiao Nan without moving at all. Qiao Nan did not avoid her either. Both of them stared at each other for five minutes.

After five minutes, Zhai Hua sighed. “You mean... as of now, it is still worthwhile for me to interact with Dongzi?”

Qiao Nan nodded honestly. “I can’t tell if there is any problem with him. As such, I have no reason to object to you being together with him. I heard about grandpa and father-in-law’s worries. One should never intend to harm others but should always guard against the harm others might do to him. I never believe that this society will be completely peaceful. There is peace and happiness currently because our country is strong and big. However, there is no need for us to apprehend danger at every bush and tree that we see. Take it that I’m forming an early judgment. When I listen to them, I think the Tian family does not forget their origin although they had been overseas for more than twenty years.”

“Let’s not mention others. Just take my master as an example. He is so well respected by others because he gave up the good life overseas and returned to the country at chaotic times. He was resolute to contribute to his country. This shows that many people’s origins may not change even after they left the country. It doesn’t mean that their patriotism will be eroded by capitalism.”

During their first meeting today, the Tian family felt that Qiao Nan was a young and upright lady. Similarly, Qiao Nan felt that the Tian family did not seem too bad.

Qiao Nan was very clear that, in her previous life, her death would occur more than ten years later.

She was not sure whether the Tian family came back to the country. Nevertheless, she did not hear any scandal or big news pertaining to the Tian family.

“If there is no problem with the Tian family, given Tian Dong’s good looks, he can give us a baby with mixed ethnicity without the stereotype character. I think you can still give it a try.” What if Tian Dong was really that one in a million good guy? Sister Zhai Hua would have picked a treasure then?

Qiao Nan was on very good terms with Zhai Hua. In the past, she was furious when Zhai Hua was with Wei De. Now, Zhai Hua and Wei De had broken up. She hoped that Zhai Hua could find someone who was really good to her and they would live happily ever after.

“I... I will consider it.” Zhai Hua seemed to have been fed a pile of drugs by Qiao Nan. All of a sudden, she forgot her initial intent. She looked muddleheaded as she agreed with Qiao Nan’s words and expressed that she would really consider the possibility between her and Tian Dong.

“You should consider it. Why not? You are choosing others, and vice versa. Perhaps Tian Dong is also considering it. Why can’t you do the same? Sister Zhai Hua, you definitely have to open your eyes wide and take a good look. You have to give it very careful consideration.”

Chapter 1123 Likewise, Congratulations

“If there are areas that you dislike, you can tell Dongzi and watch his reaction. So what if you wish to be a princess? I believe you can definitely find a man who is true to you and willing to dote on you like a princess.”

Qiao Nan’s sixth sense told her that Tian Dong might be this man.

Qiao Nan was very eloquent and Zhai Hua had always listened to Qiao Nan. Before she knew it, Zhai Hua had been coaxed out of the room.

It was only when Zhai Hua returned to her room and lay on the bed did she come to her senses. She seemed to have been tricked by Qiao Nan.

Before she could jump up and settle scores with Qiao Nan, her cell phone rang.

Initially, she did not want to pick up the call when she sighted an unfamiliar phone number. Her finger was already on the rejection button, but it changed direction and pressed the accepted button instead. “Hello, good day.”

“It’s me.”

“...Dongzi?”

“Yes, this is my cell phone number. Save it in your address book so that we can keep in touch.” After leaving these words behind, Tian Dong hung up the phone. He didn’t even say ‘goodnight’.

Fortunately, the big-hearted Zhai Hua did not mind at all. She even abidingly saved Tian Dong’s contact in her cell phone.

After saving it, she then questioned, “I don’t even know Dongzi’s cell phone number. How did he know mine? Who gave it to him?”

Zhai Hua’s late spring seemed to have finally reported, and Qiao Nan was also doing very well in her studies.

Same as the news that Xu Shengnan had given Qiao Nan earlier, Qiao Nan’s grades for various subjects were outstanding. Her aggregate score was a cut above the rest. She had been given the school-based first-prize scholarship.

During the class, the professor had already told Qiao Nan with certainty that she had received the scholarship.

As one could imagine, everyone was full of shock and envy when they heard this news. Forget it that she had achieved the first-prize scholarship, but she even attained the school-based first-prize scholarship! Qiao Nan, this classmate, was truly the cream of the crop.

Everyone was sitting in the same classroom. Who was not a top student before they came to college?

However, Qiao Nan stood out among the group of top students. She had an extraordinary capability. It would not do if she lacked behind a little in intelligence and capability.

Hence, the glory that came with this school-based first-prize scholarship was a lot more than what Qiao Nan had imagined.

Qiao Nan did not care much about what others think. Xu Shengnan had given her advice earlier. In addition, she had met those few dormitory mates during her last semester. As such, besides focusing on her studies, Qiao Nan was not too interested in making friends in the school.

Qiao Nan also learned something from Xu Shengnan.

Given her current situation, instead of becoming good friends with classmates of the same cohort, she would rather interact more with her seniors.

If that could not work, she would pick those who were not from the same faculty so that there would be no competition.

She was now almost crushed by the heavy workload of studies and social practice. If she still had to spend so much time and energy on interpersonal relationships, Qiao Nan knew that that would be too tiring.

It was not so easy to attain the first-prize scholarship. She would have to say goodbye to it if she were to slack a little.

Qiao Nan was also fortunate to have made many friends in the new English club. In the eyes of ordinary people, Qiao Nan was not considered the arrogant kind who would look down on others. She was also not a dim-witted nerd.

When the professors in the school assessed the students' performance, they couldn't get to the bottom of everything.

Qiao Nan had good performances in academic results, social practice, and interpersonal skills. Given these three factors, the professors' assessments of Qiao Nan was quite good.

Qiao Nan was well aware of this situation.

She silently made adjustments to her study plan for this semester. Qiao Nan was having a meal alone in Canteen One of the school, ignoring the eyes on her.

Qiao Nan did not bother about the deliberate cold shoulders given by others.

A mediocre person would not be the envy of others.

One had to know that Qiao Nan had already encountered such a situation previously when she just entered senior high school.

When she was in high school, Qiao Nan could already deal with this. Now that she was in college, she had no reason to become weaker emotionally. The only difference was that, when she was in senior high school, Qiao Nan was still willing to spend time and effort to build up good relationships. Now, Qiao Nan felt that her current social circle was enough. In addition, this social circle did not need to necessarily include classmates from the same cohort.

Qiao Nan was not the least affected by others as she enjoyed her meal. However, those who were watching her were not as indifferent.

Yu Xiaoxiao took a few deep breaths to ease her expression, which had been stiff for a few days. This was so that she could force a little smile out of the muscles on her face.

Initially, Yu Xiaoxiao was not successful. However, when she saw that extremely distorted face of Lü Yan, Yu Xiaoxiao relaxed immediately and could really smile.

In comparison to Qiao Nan's school-based first-prize scholarship, Yu Xiaoxiao only received a third-prize scholarship.

Yu Xiaoxiao consoled herself that, at the very least, she had received a scholarship. Lü Yan and Tang Jiayun did not even receive any.

As for Qiao Nan...

That was Mount Everest which was beyond her reach. She was afraid that her neck would be sprained if she were to keep lifting her head and hoping to climb it.

When Qiao Nan placed the plate and utensils to the designated cutlery collection point, Yu Xiaoxiao walked over and said briefly, "Congratulations."

Qiao Nan was surprised and puzzled when she lifted her head. She then realized that Yu Xiaoxiao was the one who said congratulations. "Thank you. Congratulations to you too." If she did not remember it wrongly, Yu Xiaoxiao also received a scholarship.

There were four people in the dormitory. Half of the people in this 'former' dormitory had received scholarships. Hence, some people had been discussing it.

When Qiao Nan was sitting by the side, she heard someone mention this. Hence, she had some impression.

Yu Xiaoxiao blushed slightly, her eyes turning gentle and smiley. "I am far behind in comparison to you. If there is something that I am not sure of in the future, can I consult you?"

Everyone liked to hear good words. Everyone hoped that others would affirm them for being outstanding.

Although Yu Xiaoxiao might feel disappointed that she only received a third-prize scholarship, she also received something. After all, only a minority of the students received scholarships.

It was definitely an honor for her name to be remembered by someone who received the school-based first-prize scholarship.

"I spend very little time in school. I am in the library most of the time." There was a flash in Qiao Nan's eyes. Was Yu Xiaoxiao trying to curry favor with her so that they could become closer?

It was not a big deal to share her learning experience with classmates. Qiao Nan was never petty in this aspect.

However, the situation with these three dormitory mates in college was much more serious than that when she was in senior high school.

She was not Virgin Mary and she had been plotted against many times. Could she still smile and treat the other party as a good teacher and friend and learn and improve together with her?

Yu Xiaoxiao was a smart person. She understood that Qiao Nan's words were a form of rejection.

However, Yu Xiaoxiao did not want to give up. "Right, you don't stay in school. Where are you staying now that you've moved out? Sometimes, I also feel that it is more convenient to rent a place outside. I wish to be your neighbor. Do you think that will work?"

Chapter 1124 Help Me. We Are Classmates After All

She had seen for herself that Qiao Nan scored very well in all areas.

In terms of technical knowledge, Qiao Nan definitely knew more than her. She had wanted to seek Qiao Nan's advice on how the latter could excel in social practice although she also came from a smaller town.

She had never seen Qiao Nan participate in any of the social practices organized by the faculty.

Yu Xiaoxiao could not figure this out. However, unlike Lü Yan, she did not think that there was a problem with Qiao Nan. Lü Yan felt that the school must have helped Qiao Nan cover up and deliberately been lenient in giving her scores.

Yu Xiaoxiao knew that the school would not do that. As such, Qiao Nan was truly capable.

If she could become closer to Qiao Nan, learn more from her, and improve her social practice, she would be able to attain the second-prize scholarship in the next semester.

In terms of technical knowledge, Yu Xiaoxiao was lacking a little behind Qiao Nan.

After the scores and scholarship results were out, Yu Xiaoxiao spent a lot of effort to obtain this piece of information. She had been researching the differences between her and the recipients of the first and second prize scholarships.

In the end, Yu Xiaoxiao discovered that the difference in the examination scores for everyone, except for Qiao Nan, this pervert, was, in fact, not huge. She even received slightly higher marks in the examination than a second-prize scholarship recipient.

She fell behind in the area of social practice. That had dragged down the rest of her other scores.

If she could improve her scores on social practice, she could not only receive the second-prize scholarship but also rise through the ranks.

Yu Xiaoxiao did not hold any class committee roles in the class. She was also a loner in the club that she joined.

As such, even if there were good social practice opportunities, it would not be Yu Xiaoxiao's turn to participate in them.

If Yu Xiaoxiao wanted to have a breakthrough in this area, she could only learn from Qiao Nan and find other avenues to do so. She could improve her aggregate score then.

It was difficult to find other ways. After considering for a long time, Yu Xiaoxiao decided to bow to Qiao Nan, her former dormitory mate.

After knowing Yu Xiaoxiao's thoughts, Qiao Nan was amused. "If you were in my shoes, would you agree?"

"Why not?" Yu Xiaoxiao blushed. Her eyes were evasive and she avoided looking at Qiao Nan's eyes. She also dared not admit that she would definitely disagree if she was Qiao Nan. "In that way, we can keep each other company."

Yu Xiaoxiao hinted to Qiao Nan that the latter was having her earlier meal alone.

If she were to move out and stay nearer to Qiao Nan, they could keep each other company when they left and went home.

Qiao Nan gave Yu Xiaoxiao a thumbs-up. "You really don't know where I am staying? You should have done your homework regarding the houses in that area. The rent is not cheap. Have you decided on which place to rent?"

It was not because Qiao Nan looked down on Yu Xiaoxiao. The Yu family was not wealthy too.

In a place like the capital, even the rent for a house as big as a nest was not cheap. This had been a huge headache for Beijing drifters.

As a student, if Yu Xiaoxiao really wanted to move out, her one month of living allowance might not be enough to pay for the rent, let alone other expenses.

Even if it was enough, would Yu Xiaoxiao be able to fill her tummy with water during that one month?

Upon hearing Qiao Nan's question and doubt, Yu Xiaoxiao's face turned even redder. "Qiao Nan, we're classmates after all. In the past, you were staying with Shi Qing. Now that Shi Qing has transferred to another school, the place that she used to stay in is unoccupied, no? Can you rent it to me at a cheaper price?"

Qiao Nan crossed her arms. "Cheaper. In your view, how much cheaper?"

"..." Yu Xiaoxiao's face was as red as fire. The number was in her throat but she could not bring herself to say it.

Yu Xiaoxiao's one month of living allowance was barely enough to meet her needs.

If she had to take out another sum of money to pay the rent, she would need to suffer in terms of food consumption.

Facing the extraordinary high property price in the capital, Yu Xiaoxiao could only afford a very low sum of money even if she were to reduce her expenses on clothes and consumption.

She was hoping that Qiao Nan would take into account that they were classmates and lent her the unoccupied place which was previously occupied by Shi Qing.

As for the rental fee, of course, Qiao Nan could accept a small sum as a token.

Yu Xiaoxiao heard that that house did not belong to Shi Qing's family. It was lent to Qiao Nan by someone. To put it bluntly, Qiao Nan was not the owner of that house.

After she moved in, the money would go into Qiao Nan's pocket regardless of how much she paid her.

No matter what, Qiao Nan would not lose out as she would be renting out a place that did not belong to her.

However, if Qiao Nan really did not lack that meager sum of money or when Yu Xiaoxiao was occasionally cash-strapped, on the account that they were classmates, Qiao Nan would not be so strict on her.

Yu Xiaoxiao had a hundred reasons in her heart when she shamelessly put up the request of staying together with Qiao Nan. However, in her heart, she knew that she was taking huge advantage of Qiao Nan.

However, she had no choice. If she did not do that, she would not have any more opportunities.

In the last semester, she had been observing Qiao Nan.

During weekdays, Qiao Nan would definitely report to school on time regardless of whether there were classes. If there were classes held, she would attend them. If not, she would nest in the school's library for the entire day without going to other places.

During the weekends, there were no classes. She would not see Qiao Nan in the school at all.

Since Yu Xiaoxiao stayed in the dormitory, it was not so convenient for her to leave and enter the school.

She had wanted to find out what Qiao Nan always did during weekends but she did not have the opportunity to do so.

However, that would be completely different if she were to stay with Qiao Nan.

When she heard Qiao Nan wake up, she could also follow suit. She would follow Qiao Nan wherever she went.

After confirming the social practice that Qiao Nan was involved in, she would find a way to fight for the opportunity without the need for Qiao Nan's help.

What she lacked now was just a chance to find the doorsill.

“What is wrong? Why aren’t you talking? How much are you prepared to pay me each month?” Yu Xiaoxiao did not speak but that did not mean that Qiao Nan was willing to let it go so easily.

“I don’t have much money. Can you make an exception? Anyway, that house does not belong to you, right?” Yu Xiaoxiao mustered up the courage and said.

Qiao Nan shook her head. “No. It’s precisely because the house is not mine. I am not so shameless as to stay in someone’s house, rent it out, and take the money at the same time. Besides, even if I pass your rent to the owner of the property, he doesn’t need it. If he did, he wouldn’t have lent the house to me. He could have rented it to anyone. One room can already fetch a rent that is more than ten times what you can afford, let alone the whole house.”

There was no need to talk about money. Yu Xiaoxiao did not have money.

There was no need to talk about relationships. Yu Xiaoxiao did not even know who the owner of the house was. What relationship was there to speak and make use of?

Chapter 1125 There Is a Fishy Smell

“I suppose you’re very close with the owner of the house, no? Qiao Nan, can you help me, please?” Yu Xiaoxiao’s voice turned hoarse and tears welled up in her eyes. Since a young age, she had never pleaded with someone in this manner.

“Yu Xiaoxiao, I’m sorry. This matter really won’t work.” Qiao Nan took a firm step back to distance herself from Yu Xiaoxiao. “That house is not mine and I don’t have the right to manage it. I don’t have the right to accede to any of your requests. If you really have any plans in mind, you can ask the owner of the house. But don’t expect me to give you the owner’s contact. If you feel that your words are solid and convincing, you can try contacting the owners of other houses too.”

It was true that one should not take advantage of others in this way.

Yu Xiaoxiao felt that she had already been servile enough. In her life, she had never even bowed to her biological parents in this manner.

She had completely thrown aside her dignity and endured the humiliation by pleading for Qiao Nan’s help. She did not expect that Qiao Nan would still reject her.

Yu Xiaoxiao had been dealt with a huge blow. Tears rolled down her face uncontrollably. “I am really sorry to have caused you trouble. I’m the one who has simplified things. Can you not tell anyone about this matter?”

Qiao Nan restrained the look in her eyes. “I won’t spread this matter to others but this is the canteen. I cannot guarantee that no one has heard our earlier conversation.” If there were any rumors, she hoped that Yu Xiaoxiao would not immediately blame it on her.

Yu Xiaoxiao sniffed and looked around.

When she saw Lü Yan laughing at the side, her pupils simply formed a line. “Okay, I believe you.”

“Goodbye.” After making herself clear, Qiao Nan carried her books and went to ‘nest’ in the library.

Regarding Yu Xiaoxiao’s earlier behavior, Qiao Nan was not in any dilemma.

Qiao Nan knew that she would meet many people who were more competitive and thick-skinned than Yu Xiaoxiao in the future when she stepped out into society.

To those wily old foxes who had stepped into society, Yu Xiaoxiao’s behavior today was extremely amateurish.

When Qiao Nan was catching up in the library, she did not know that Yu Xiaoxiao and Lü Yan had a huge argument.

Just as Qiao Nan had said earlier, the property prices in the capital were too high. Sometimes, even those who were employed and earning money had to rent an extremely small-sized basement to save on the rent, let alone students.

Given the situations of Yu Xiaoxiao and Lü Yan, it was most economical for them to live in school abidingly.

Only those whose family did not lack money could harbor ideas about moving out of the school.

After Yu Xiaoxiao and Lü Yan secretly had a huge argument, the two were being forced into submission by reality. They were compelled to continue living in the same dormitory even though they could not see eye to eye with each other.

Now, the trio could not even change their dormitory, not to mention a serious matter such as moving out. That was because Qiao Nan had already moved out of the dormitory.

When there were many issues in a dormitory, it would naturally draw dislike and uneasy feelings from the teachers.

Yu Xiaoxiao was not satisfied with a third-prize scholarship. She wanted to achieve something better. She was only worried that she did not have any opportunity to perform. As such, why would she be willing to create so many troubles and continue to ruin her image in front of the teachers and the professors?

If this kind of situation happened another one or two times, third-prize scholarships would not be associated with Yu Xiaoxiao anymore, let alone second-prize ones.

Yu Xiaoxiao was focused on her studies while Tang Jiayun paid more attention to building interpersonal relationships. Lü Yan was the only one behaving oddly. No one knew what her plans were.

Human hearts were complicated. When the list of scholarship recipients was out, the atmosphere in the dormitory quietly started to become strange.

The trio never spoke to or discussed things with one another in the dormitory. They did not even look at each other. When they left the door, they would avoid eye contact. There was no interaction at all. The situation was more uptight than that between ordinary classmates.

Fortunately, Qiao Nan had moved out and she did not need to face these troubles anymore.

“Nan Nan, this is the award certificate that you brought home?” When Qiao Nan arrived home, the sharp-eyed Miao Jing sighted the red booklet that Qiao Nan casually placed on the study table. She was overjoyed when she opened it. “First-prize scholarship. Nan Nan, you’ve done so well in your examination?”

Her daughter was not good in her humanities subjects. Her son had well-developed brains.

Since Zhai Sheng graduated from school many years ago, Miao Jing could not remember when she had last seen these red booklets.

Qiao Nan had changed into another set of clothes when she came out. “Not too bad. Not many people received scholarships, but I’m not the only one. I heard from my senior that I will have the opportunity to go overseas for studies if I attain a few more first-prize scholarships.”

“Nan Nan, do you wish to study abroad?” Miao Jing was taken aback. Nan Nan was only a first-year college student and she was already involved in studying abroad?

Qiao Nan turned her head and said, “Earlier on, I just wanted to do well in my examinations, attend college, and be a college student. As for studying abroad, I have never thought about it. If my senior did not tell me about it, I wouldn’t even know that there is such a practice in the school.”

Qiao Nan only placed importance on her grades and found out about the assessment criteria. She had never thought about the other advantages that would come with good grades.

“Do you want to consider it then? Opportunities to study abroad are hard to come by.” If the school was really willing to give Nan Nan such a chance, that meant that Nan Nan was truly capable.

Studying abroad was not the same as migrating. She could come back after completing her studies.

Qiao Nan took a sip of the milk that Miao Jing gave her. She knitted her brows. “This milk tastes weird. There’s a very fishy smell.”

“Is that so?” Miao Jing took and tasted it. “No, it’s the same taste as usual. Drink more milk to replenish your calcium.”

Qiao Nan wanted to try but before the milk came to her, her mind floated with the earlier smell of the milk. She shook her head continuously. “Forget it. Perhaps I am not used to it now or maybe my taste has changed. I feel a little nauseous when I drink milk.”

“Are you feeling unwell?” Miao Jing was anxious. “Don’t tell me that you ate the wrong things when you were in school?”

“Don’t think so.” Qiao Nan trusted the food in the canteen very much. “I have eaten in the canteen for half a year and have never taken any bad food before. Most likely, I just can’t stand the smell of this milk. Mom, I’m fine. Don’t worry about me. It’s just that I have wasted your cup of milk.”

Miao Jing looked carefully at Qiao Nan’s face. Besides disliking the fishy smell of the milk, her face was pinkish and eyes dewy. There were no other symptoms. “It won’t be wasted. I will drink it if you don’t want it. Right, it’s time to eat. Let’s go downstairs together?”

Qiao Nan walked to Miao Jing’s side. “Okay, Mom. Right, the army is still making arrangements for Sister Zhai Hua. What has she been doing at home these few days?”

Chapter 1126 Great Praise

“How come I didn’t see her when I came back?” Sister Zhai Hua seemed busier than her.

Miao Jing revealed a sheepish smile. “Your Sister Zhai Hua did not return to the camp, but she has been quite busy recently. Dongzi has been asking Hua Hua out very often to watch movies or have meals. I am having a headache now. She has gone out with Dongzi so many times. Hua Hua always has a look of revulsion whenever I mention Dongzi’s name in front of her. The problem is that she never rejects Dongzi whenever he asks her out. There is also something that I can’t quite figure out. The time they spent together outside never exceeds four hours.”

As such, had Hua Hua and Dongzi taken a liking to each other? Were they in a romantic relationship?

Qiao Nan patted Miao Jing’s hands. “Mom, don’t be anxious. As of now, it is still quite hopeful for the two of them. Dongzi has been living in America for more than twenty years. It’s a good thing that Sister Zhai Hua is still willing to interact with him. You should be more worried if they are in a hurry to get married. If they interact with each other for a longer time, we can also find ways to observe Dongzi more.”

Qiao Nan felt that they should take things slowly regarding marriage. It could not be rushed.

It was hard to understand some people even after knowing them for a few years. As such, it would not be a wrong move to observe someone for a longer period of time.

“Miao Miao, what are you holding in your hands?” Old Master Zhai asked curiously. After his daughter-in-law called his granddaughter-in-law downstairs to have a meal, Old Master Zhai sighted the red booklet in his daughter-in-law’s hands.

The old master had aged and his eyesight was not as good as before. He had presbyopia. However, Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Hua had very sharp eyes. They immediately sighted the golden words ‘certificate award’ printed on the red booklet that Miao Jing was holding.

“What else could it be? Nan Nan received the first-prize scholarship in the school. I specially brought it down for all of you to see.” Miao Jing was elated. She left Qiao Nan’s side, ran to the table, and opened the red booklet to show everyone Qiao Nan’s name and the words of the first-prize scholarship in the red booklet clearly.

“Huh, school-based first prize scholarship?” Zhai Hua’s eyes lit up more. She was keener than Miao Jing. “Qiao Nan, what do these words mean?” Why was there the word ‘school-based’?

Zhai Yaohui was secretly taken aback. “Nan Nan, do you know how many people from your cohort received this scholarship?”

“Uh...” This was a difficult question for Qiao Nan. She did not pay attention to this at all.

Xu Shengnan told Qiao Nan so much information, but in Qiao Nan’s world, she was already content to have received a scholarship. As to how many words were printed on the red booklet, she was completely unaware. “In my impression, not many in the school.”

Naturally, Xu Shengnan was the one who told Qiao Nan this.

Qiao Nan was not sure. Hence, she did not mention Xu Shengnan’s name, lest Xu Shengnan become implicated.

“Definitely not many.” Miao Jing interrupted. “Nan Nan told me that if she receives this scholarship a couple more times, she will have the chance to study abroad for free.”

When Miao Jing said that, the three generations of the Zhai family were further taken aback.

Old Master Zhai carefully took the red booklet and looked at it. “It’s really... not easy.”

Zhai Yaohui also gave Qiao Nan a look of encouragement. “You’re doing very well. Keep it up. Also, don’t give yourself too much pressure. For things such as grades, just let nature takes its course. You just have to do your best, learn well, and strengthen your knowledge foundation. These are the most important things.”

Looking at the red booklet in Old Master Zhai’s hands, Zhai Yaohui’s eyes were shimmering.

When Qiao Nan was still in junior high school, he had heard Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua speak about Qiao Nan’s matter. At that time, he already knew that Qiao Nan was a very diligent child who always strived for excellence.

He never expected that the child that he had heard about and forgotten at that time would become his daughter-in-law one day.

In addition, he also did not expect that Qiao Nan’s results would still be so exemplary after entering the best college in the country, although she had always been outstanding when she was in junior and senior high school.

One had to know that the top place in the college was much more valued than the top place in junior and senior high schools.

He knew that Qiao Nan was good at her studies and adopted a serious attitude. However, he had never expected Qiao Nan’s grades to be so outstanding.

This daughter-in-law of his was definitely cut out for studies.

“Hahaha, it’s a good thing. Come, let’s celebrate with some wine.” Old Master Zhai was elated. He looked cheery and radiant. Even the mustache around his mouth curled up.

His grandson was so smart, and his granddaughter-in-law seemed to be a little more capable than his grandson.

Under normal circumstances, his great-grandchild whom they would give birth to would be a genius.

At the thought that his future great-grandchild would be so clever and quick-witted, Old Master Zhai, as if he had taken tonics, looked like he was in the pink of health. He also could not close his mouth and stop smiling.

Zhai Hua looked at Qiao Nan with envy. “Qiao Nan, how did your brains grow? Do you have any secret formula? Teach me.” In terms of academic grades and brains, Zhai Hua took her hat off to Qiao Nan. Even if they were to be tested on the judgment of character, Qiao Nan was also better than her.

“Since I was a child, I have never attained such good grades.” Amongst the group of ‘top scorers’ in Peking University, Qiao Nan could continue to be the top scorer. She had a solid capability.

Facing the praise from the Zhai family, Qiao Nan was overjoyed but she felt more awkward. “Sister Zhai Hua, you can do it too if you work harder. I can only say that I have spent more time and effort in studies than most people. I am also more focused. I didn’t win with my intelligence. Most probably, I won in terms of attitude.”

Qiao Nan dared not make it a big deal. She was the only one who knew in her heart that she had received this scholarship after much difficulty.

There was also one more thing...

“Mom, when are you going to put it down?”

When she said that, Qiao Nan felt like covering her face.

She was not a three-year-old child who could not wait to proudly announce to everyone that she had received a first-prize scholarship.

Qiao Nan’s initial plan was to put away the certificate and store it properly. Who would have known that her mother-in-law would sight it?

When she was coming downstairs, Qiao Nan was too concerned about finding out from her mother-in-law about Zhai Hua’s situation. She did not even see her mother-in-law conveniently carry the certificate in her hands when they walked out of the room. In the end, her mother-in-law even displayed it in front of the family.

“Qiao Nan, have you finished eating? I wish to have a chat with you.” After Qiao Nan received continuous praise from the elders at the table, Zhai Hua quietly mumbled into Qiao Nan’s ears.

Qiao Nan nodded but she did not question further. After putting away her bowl and chopsticks and expressing that she would be going back to her room, Qiao Nan went upstairs. Zhai Hua followed closely behind.

At the sight of Zhai Hua’s guilty-looking back view, Old Master Zhai snorted. “She is already of this age, yet still so childish. She is growing backward.”

Did Zhai Hua think that she could keep this matter from others?

Zhai Yaohui was calmer. “If Zhai Hua doesn’t do anything foolish, that person is just asking for humiliation even if he chased Zhai Hua to the capital.” He would just be a clown making a fool out of himself.

Old Master Zhai was not pleased. “What do you know? This kind of p is the most annoying.”

Chapter 1127 Eating out of Hand

“If it were a few decades ago, I could kill him in one gunshot. He is committing the huge crime of playing rogue!”

“Old Zhai, father is right. I am not worried about other matters. Wei De came to the capital because of Hua Hua. What if he keeps appearing when Hua Hua is attending matchmaking sessions or dates with other guys?” If that really happened, Hua Hua could really forget about marrying in this lifetime.

“We don’t need to be afraid of this.” Old Master Zhai looked calm and composed. “The blind dates that we find for Hua Hua will not be cowards. Hua Hua is already of this age. Many people in society have already divorced, not to mention having dated before. If this person gives up on Hua Hua because of Wei De’s appearance and pestering, this kind of lousy goods can forget about being the son-in-law of the Zhai family.”

Wei De was very annoying, but from a certain perspective, he had become a touchstone.

Until now, Old Master Zhai firmly believed that there was no hurry. His granddaughter could take her time and she would still be able to find a good man that she fancied to get married and have kids with.

“What? Wei De came to the capital?” When they were upstairs, Qiao Nan raised her voice and shrieked when she heard Zhai Hua’s confession.

“Shhh. My little ancestor. I specially chatted with you upstairs because I don’t want the three ‘masters’ downstairs to know about this.” Zhai Hua quickly covered Qiao Nan’s mouth. After confirming that Qiao Nan had calmed down, Zhai Hua then released her hands. Her own face was in a grimace. “Tell me. What should we do about this matter? I am so vexed. I am suspecting more and more if my eyes have been blinded by a ghost in the past. Otherwise, why would I have taken a liking to a thing like Wei De?”

Although only about two months had passed, Zhai Hua had been busy with Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan’s wedding. She was so occupied that she had forgotten about Wei De.

Now that she mentioned Wei De, Zhai Hua had a feeling that it had happened so long ago.

After confirming that Zhai Hua was filled with annoyance and disgust when she mentioned Wei De and that there were no longer any feelings, Qiao Nan felt much more at ease. “Do you still remember my previous advice to you? Who has not loved a few scums before in their lifetime? As long as you don’t forget how lousy Wei De is, you don’t need to worry about other matters.”

“Wait... Do you mean that you bumped into Wei De when you were out on a date with Tian Dong? Wei De followed you? Did he speak anything in front of Tian Dong?” Wei De refused to give up. That meant he had not given up hopes on Sister Zhai Hua. He still wished to become the son-in-law of the Zhai family.

After Zhai Hua and Wei De had broken up, the Zhai family, including Qiao Nan, no longer paid attention to Wei De. They just let him perish at his own course.

However, the Zhai family knew in their hearts that Wei De’s life was definitely not good.

He did not have money and connections. Most importantly, besides sweet-talking Zhai Hua, he did not have any other capability. The only thing left of him was his most ludicrous ambitions.

A person like Wei De could only buy lottery tickets every day and wish to run into one-time good luck. If Wei De could strike it rich, no one would starve to death in this world.

The more Wei De behaved in this way, the more no one looked up to him.

On the contrary, if Wei De could appear like a man in front of the Zhai family, even if it was in the fit of pique, the Zhai family would say that he had some backbone.

“He did not utter a word. He was just fixing his eyes on and glaring at Tian Dong and me.” Zhai Hua was extremely sullen. “If Dongzi was not by my side, I would have run up to him and given him a beating. How dared he appear before me? Has he forgotten that when I just found out that his younger sister in his hometown was actually his wife who had borne a son for him, I nearly shot him dead?”

He was really not afraid of death!

Qiao Nan touched her chin. “What is Tian Dong’s reaction?”

To the Zhai family, Wei De posed a threat all because of Zhai Hua’s attitude.

Now, Zhai Hua’s expression looked as if she had seen a smelly worm whenever she mentioned Wei De. Qiao Nan could completely cast Wei De aside and ignore him.

Until now, Wei De still could not cause any waves in the Zhai family.

“I didn’t pay attention to that.” Zhai Hua looked a little lost. At that time, she was only occupied with being angry with Wei De, this shameless guy. She did not have any impression of the reaction of Tian Dong, who was standing by her side.

“When Tian Dong sent you back, did he behave oddly?”

“No. He looks almost the same as usual.”

Qiao Nan’s eyes swirled a little. “There is no hurry in this matter. We will wait and see for a few days.”

Zhai Hua scratched her head. "Wait and see for a few days? What do you mean?" Did they need to wait for something?

"Do you mean that Wei De may still come knocking at our doors?"

"That's for sure." Qiao Nan patted Zhai Hua. "He won't give up without creating a din and causing you to be left on the shelves. After marrying you, his hard life will be shortened by fifty years. After marrying you, his life will come into place and be fulfilling instantly. Do you think he will give up? Right, you have seen Wei De today. How is he?"

"Nothing great." Zhai Hua's tone was full of disdain. "Can we not talk about him anymore? Each time I mention him, I can't help thinking how stupid I was half a year ago. He can kick up a fuss as he wishes. He may even be of some help to us. I find some people quite annoying too. If they leave because of Wei De, this will save me a lot of trouble."

Qiao Nan held her chin and did not comment on Zhai Hua's words. "Let me ask you then. Did Wei De's appearance help you chase Tian Dong away?"

Zhai Hua was heartless in her reply. "Wei De just appeared today. I am not even sure if he knows about Wei De's matter. Will he not leave after he finds out about it?" Even if he did not leave now, he might cleverly scam as far as possible as soon as he found out.

Although her chat with Qiao Nan could not resolve some practical problems, at the very least, Zhai Hua did not feel so panicky now.

After settling her own matters, Zhai Hua started to be concerned about Qiao Nan's situation. "Right, how are you doing in school? Did anyone bully you?"

"If I say yes, are you going to take revenge for me?"

"Why not?" Zhai Hua laughed like a ruffian. "It's not as if I have not studied before. The children nowadays are very scheming and domineering. They also get jealous very easily. Zhai Sheng is not at home. If anyone dares to bully you, of course I have to help him protect you." Who did not open their eyes and dared to bully the Zhai family? She had to deal with them.

Qiao Nan smiled sweetly as she leaned her head on Zhai Hua's shoulders. Her soft and gentle demeanor made Zhai Hua's face turn red. Zhai Hua was having goose bumps all over. She pushed Qiao Nan away uneasily. "Scram, scram, scram. Stop using this tactic on me. Do you treat me as Zhai Sheng?"

It was no wonder Zhai Sheng liked Qiao Nan so much. When Qiao Nan was acting coquettish, even a woman like her could not help feeling soft and numb.

She already felt this way. No wonder Qiao Nan had Zhai Sheng ate out of her hands.

Chapter 1128 Be Firm

Qiao Nan did not care about the fierce looks that Zhai Hua had deliberately put up. "Sister Zhai Hua, don't worry. Besides, I am not that easily bullied." Now, she also dared to retaliate when Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin wanted to deal with her. Would she agree to be bullied by others?

Zhai Hua was a very smart person. She understood Qiao Nan's words immediately. "Why? Did someone really dislike you because of this first-prize scholarship?"

Qiao Nan covered her mouth and smiled. "If I tell you that I have already been bullied last year, and there were rumors in the school that I was my father-in-law's kept woman, do you believe it?"

"My goodness, that's terrible!" Zhai Hua almost jumped. "Is this person purposely going against our Zhai family? Which family's child is that?"

Qiao Nan held on to Zhai Hua. "This matter is not as complicated as you think. At that time, I just got engaged to Brother Zhai. I am just an ordinary college student in the capital. Father-in-law was implicated although he did not do anything. Coincidentally, mother-in-law was sick that day and father-in-law came to fetch me home to look after mother-in-law. When the other party saw father-in-law's age and knew that he drove a Land Rover, I became a 'kept woman'. However, don't worry. I have resolved this matter. There won't be any more issues."

Zhai Hua had black lines all over her face. "I'm really not wrong to say that the young ladies nowadays are too scheming. Are they brainless? Don't they know that everyone has to be responsible for their own actions and speech? Don't tell me she thinks that she will get away scot-free after spouting untrue words, that she doesn't need to be imprisoned?"

The most annoying thing was that she even maligned her father. This person had the gall of a leopard!

“So how is she doing now?”

“A little bad. She went back to where she came from.” Qiao Nan did not hide the truth. She said it bluntly.

Zhai Hua looked at Qiao Nan from the corners of her eyes. “Did you stop her? You’re a lousy kind one!”

“I’m kind?” Qiao Nan pointed to her own nose in disbelief. “Do you know that no one in the dormitory dares to bother about her after she created such a din? Even classmates from the same faculty dare not associate with her. If she is like me, who prefers to focus on studies, that’s fine. However, she is eager to make friends. Tell me. Given her character, will she feel comfortable staying in the school?”

Most of those who were aware of the matter gave Lü Yan psychological abuse.

Even though Qiao Nan disliked boycotting, she really had nothing to say when she encountered someone like Lü Yan.

It was not easy for Lü Yan to make it to college. It was also not easy for her parents to support her through her education all this while. If Lü Yan could sort out her thoughts and focus on her studies, the psychological abuse from others would not upset her that much.

However, Lü Yan was as scheming as before. As such, Lü Yan’s school life was not something that Qiao Nan could empathize with.

Zhai Hua pinched Qiao Nan’s face. “It’s so rare. Given that soft and flour-like heart of yours, it’s considered extreme to have done what you did to this woman. Alright, as long as you’re not the type who apologizes to the person after the latter bullies you, then that’s fine.” The only regret was that Qiao Nan’s retaliation was not strong enough.

If it was her or Zhai Sheng, they would have caused the college student to be expelled.

She did not believe that Peking University was willing to accept a student who maligned others casually, who would be liable legally.

After having a heart-to-heart talk with Zhai Hua, Qiao Nan waved the books in her hands. Zhai Hua rolled her eyes a few times at Qiao Nan unhappily. "I specially came to keep you company as Zhai Sheng is not at home. I am afraid that you will feel lonely. Who knows that your life is more fulfilling than mine."

"You can continue to keep me company. There are so many books on the shelves. You can just grab any book to read." Qiao Nan blinked her eyes. Of course, she was glad that someone was willing to keep her company. However, she preferred a 'quiet' companion.

Zhai Hua flung her hands. That look of disdain on her face was as if she was chasing flies away. "Don't joke with me. I have finally graduated from school. Why would I still want to read books? No way, no way."

Having said that, Zhai Hua took off to her room. She had a look of worry on her face as if Qiao Nan was really going to make her stay behind and read.

In the blink of an eye, it was the weekend.

On this morning, Qiao Nan wanted to go out as per her usual routine. Just as she went down the stairs, she was stunned by the straight and tall figure in green army attire sitting in the living room. "Brother Zhai, you... Why did you come back?"

Brother Zhai looked fine but there were some greenish dark circles under his eyes. Obviously, he had not been sleeping well for some time.

Qiao Nan's heart ached badly at the sight of this. "You have just been deployed here and the leaders sent you for missions immediately. Do they need to be so anxious? How many sleepless nights did you have?"

He was in good spirits. Coupled with the fact that there were many joyous events recently, Zhai Sheng's eyes did not look like that of someone who had not slept for two days.

With Qiao Nan's concern, Zhai Sheng seemed to have taken a soup with a concoction of ten powerful tonics. His whole body felt much better. It was better than having ice in June. "Don't

worry. I am fine. I am new here and have thus encountered some situations. I'll be fine after tiding over this period.”

Zhai Sheng was very young and he had been deployed to the capital suddenly.

The people in the new army did not know Zhai Sheng well. Although they heard that Zhai Sheng had many contributions and achievements, many people felt that these were empty talks.

No one could guarantee that these so-called achievements of Zhai Sheng were not obtained through underhand means.

Everyone did not trust the contributions of Zhai Sheng. Moreover, he assumed a senior position of great authority as soon as he joined. Zhai Sheng was basically given a promotion. To the people who took their job seriously and were willing to sacrifice their lives to protect the peace of the country, that was too unfair.

This was not the first day that Zhai Sheng had joined the army. At first sight, he knew in his heart that many people in the new army were not convinced by him.

If this problem continued to persist, Zhai Sheng would definitely encounter hindrances during his training and missions in the future.

In the army, it was not necessary to speak too much. Basically, one could gain respect with absolute capability.

Zhai Sheng was clear about this. Hence, he did not waste his breath on the new comrades when he joined the camp. He went by the books and did what he should. Those who were unconvinced could step out and challenge him.

On the first day that Zhai Sheng joined the new army, he already had physical exchanges with a few of the people with the best brawns in his team. It happened in an alfresco setting and everyone witnessed that.

Zhai Sheng fought with these people one by one.

In this way, he won respect from others. At the same time, he was also testing the standard of the new team that he had just taken over.

Undoubtedly, Zhai Sheng won beautifully in the end.

Because Zhai Sheng won against his last 'opponent' after much difficulty, no one thought that Zhai Sheng was someone without substance or someone who was only good at talking thereafter.

Chapter 1129 Apply Leave to Collect Certificate

In terms of physical strength, training content, and marksmanship, Zhai Sheng's skills were definitely top-notch. He was very powerful.

As for the last exchange, it was tough on him and he spent more time. Nevertheless, everyone who witnessed that took their hat off to Zhai Sheng, this new officer.

It was not because of other reasons. That few skilled individuals challenged Zhai Sheng consecutively, one after another.

In other words, besides having one-to-one exchanges, they were also rounding up Zhai Sheng at the same time.

As such, the selected skilled individuals only needed to participate in one fight each whereas Zhai Sheng had to fight all of them one by one, one after another. After every round of exchange, his physical strength would diminish a little.

In the end, Zhai Sheng was the victor. Even if he had lost, no one would say that he was a coward. They would only be convinced of Zhai Sheng's guts.

Of course, when Zhai Sheng eventually won, everyone did not seem as defiant and unconvinced as before when they looked at this 'airborne army personnel'.

It was uncertain if Zhai Sheng was considered lucky. After he had a run-in with his troops, the top management delegated a mission. Due to various reasons, this mission landed on Zhai Sheng's plate.

Zhai Sheng was well aware that the waters were deep in the capital and things would not be as peaceful as when he was in Ping Cheng.

To him, this mission was very dangerous. Someone had plotted against him. They clearly knew that he had just arrived in the capital and was not very familiar with his troops, yet they deliberately forced this mission on him, hoping to see him make a fool of himself.

Zhai Sheng was enduring the anger in his heart. Although he knew that he had been schemed against, he had to take on this mission. He had to remain nonchalant, accept it gracefully, devise a strategy, and pick the capable ones in his team to execute it.

In the end, Zhai Sheng used his capability to prove to those people who harbored ill intentions that the men in the Zhai family were still the same as more than a decade ago. It was not good to provoke them!

What made Zhai Sheng most happy was that this mission had been a blessing in disguise. After successfully completing it, he had used the shortest time to gain achievement in the new work environment.

Most importantly, at the very least, those few army veterans whom he picked and brought with him in the mission had completely conceded defeat to Zhai Sheng, this new officer.

These few 'veteran' soldiers had a good performance in the army. They were recognized by everyone as promising individuals.

Precisely, these people were quite influential in the army due to this.

When the junior heads affirmed Zhai Sheng, would the soldiers under their wing be at odds with Zhai Sheng?

To these people, Zhai Sheng's past contribution was void. However, every comrade whom they looked up to said that the new officer was very capable. Under his leadership, the army would progress and become the most outstanding team. Naturally, not many people objected to Zhai Sheng anymore.

After completing his mission successfully, Zhai Sheng rushed back to the house of the Zhai family. He even specially wore his favorite well-ironed green army attire and waited for Qiao Nan to come downstairs.

She was just studying and had already encountered various kinds of problems. Upon hearing Zhai Sheng's words, Qiao Nan understood a little. "It's really been settled? Next time, no one will dare to create hindrances for you anymore? Also, do you know who exactly in the army is at odds with you?"

Although many people had complaints and dissatisfaction, some matters and problems would not erupt so quickly in the absence of someone taking the lead to stir up troubles.

Someone was not happy about Brother Zhai's 'promotion'. Hence, someone had to step out first to take the wind out of his sail.

In this aspect, Qiao Nan knew a little but she did not know how to manage it.

Zhai Sheng carried Qiao Nan into his arms swiftly. He buried his head in Qiao Nan's neck and took a deep breath.

After his lungs were filled with that natural and faint body fragrance of Qiao Nan, there was a tinge of dreaminess in Zhai Sheng's deep and hoarse voice. "No need to worry about me. I can settle this small issue on my own. Besides, Nan Nan, have you forgotten what day is today?"

"What day?" Qiao Nan expressed that she had really forgotten.

Facing the fair, tender, nice-smelling and snowy skin, Zhai Sheng's mouth seemed to be acting on his own accord as it started chewing on Qiao Nan's neck. "It's your birthday today. From this year onward, today is not only your birthday but also our wedding anniversary date."

Today, he was going to bring Nan Nan to collect the wedding certificate. He would officially add Nan Nan's name into the household register of the Zhai family. She would become part of his family!

"M-my birthday?" Qiao Nan was in a slight daze. Qiao Nan had never celebrated any birthday in two lifetimes.

Last year, the elders had wanted to celebrate Qiao Nan's twentieth birthday but she declined it. She had no choice. During this time last year, Qiao Nan was enthusiastically preparing for the college entrance examination. She really could not find time to organize a birthday celebration.

After some time, Qiao Nan, who had been used to not celebrating her birthday, had completely forgotten that she was born on this date.

"Brother Zhai, are you really going to collect the certificate with me?" Tears welled up in Qiao Nan's eyes. After collecting the certificate, she would truly and officially become Brother Zhai's wife. This would be recognized in the eyes of the law.

Her marriage with Brother Zhai was considered a military marriage. It would be protected by the law in the future.

If Qiao Zijin snatched her love and became a third party like she did in the previous life, she would have to be imprisoned!

Qiao Nan did not have any more feelings for Chen Jun. However, in her previous life, her only happiness of almost getting married had been destroyed completely via such a shameless means of Qiao Zijin. She even suffered badly from Ding Jiayi's humiliation and scolding.

Upon hearing that she was going to collect the marriage certificate, Qiao Nan had some phobia. At the same time, she also yearned to do so.

As a very traditional Chinese woman, Qiao Nan viewed that red booklet that cost just a few yuan to prepare with utmost importance.

"Of course." Zhai Sheng gave Qiao Nan a loud kiss on the face. "I have already brought along my identity card and household register of family members. Bring yours along. Let's go to the Civil Affairs Bureau now!"

Zhai Sheng had also been waiting for this day for a long time.

As he was going to collect the certificate with Qiao Nan soon, Zhai Sheng was in a very good mood.

This was the moment that he had been waiting for and the reason that he had worked so hard to complete his mission and return home early.

There were tears in Qiao Nan's eyes as she smiled. Her tiny face rubbed in Zhai Sheng's arms. "I'll get it now."

After taking her identity card and household register, Qiao Nan quickly made a call to the department where she was having her social practice and requested for half a day off from her supervisor.

Qiao Nan's performance was excellent during the past six months. Due to her fluent English, she had received many praises when she entertained overseas tourists. She had also quietly raised the fame of the department.

As such, the people from the office of the Palace Museum liked Qiao Nan, this junior, very much.

Being able to receive the school-based first-prize scholarship was also largely due to the affirmation given to her by these people.

Chapter 1130 Qiao Nan Received a Present

For the past six months, Qiao Nan had neither been late nor applied for any leave. It was rare that she requested for half a day of leave today. As such, the other party approved it with no questions asked.

This was a volunteer who could provide great customer service and was not paid any money. If they did not even approve the leave, they were also fearful that others would label them a slave driver.

After applying for a leave, Qiao Nan got into Zhai Sheng's car and left for the nearest Civil Affairs Bureau.

The marriage of Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan was a military one. Zhai Sheng had with him the marriage report approved by his superiors. As such, the process of collecting the certificate was very smooth and convenient for the two of them.

As it was Saturday today, it might be a little cumbersome for others to do the collection. Nevertheless, they had no trouble given the special identity of Zhai Sheng.

When the 'piping hot' and stamped certificate was out, Zhai Sheng snatched it away from Qiao Nan before she could hold and examine it. "Ah, Brother Zhai, what are you doing? I have not seen it clearly. This is mine. Isn't yours in your hands? Why did you snatch mine away?"

This was a marriage certificate that belonged to her. This was the first time that she owned it.

At most, it was a red booklet with many photographs of her and Zhai Sheng. Although it was just an ordinary booklet, Qiao Nan cherished it very much. She wanted to flip it many times and look at it properly.

Unfortunately, she had only seen the red booklet for a while before Zhai Sheng snatched it away unreasonably. That red booklet did not even carry any of her warmth in it.

As a tall and grown-up man, Zhai Sheng's movements were very careful when he was holding their wedding certificate. It was as if the red booklet would become spoiled if he used a little more strength. He then meticulously put them away in his pocket. "You don't need this item at normal times. This kind of identification document is quite important, so give it to me and I will safeguard it together with mine."

When Zhai Sheng said this, it meant that he had already decided. He completely did not consider Qiao Nan's opinions and thoughts.

There was a row of imaginary black lines on Qiao Nan's head. "Why do you insist on putting everything away at your end? Can't I take care of it on my own?" Brother Zhai was too domineering to have done that.

In the past, didn't she safeguard her own identity card and household register before she married Brother Zhai?

"No." Zhai Sheng rubbed Qiao Nan's hair like he did when they were young to appease her. "That's the past. This is such a tiny item. I'm afraid that you will lose it. Don't you trust me?"

"It's not that." Qiao Nan denied honestly. Was it necessary to leave both wedding certificates to Brother Zhai? His attitude was too serious and solemn.

She almost suspected if their wedding certificates were made from gold and not ordinary paper.

“That’s good. Let’s go home and celebrate. We are finally married today.” After successfully ‘convincing’ Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng’s mood turned even better. He felt that it was really great to marry a wife home. Good things kept coming his way.

Qiao Nan passively allowed Zhai Sheng to hold her hands. She not only got into his car but also deliberately went marketing to buy a lot of groceries for the celebration. They wanted to celebrate their marriage ‘again’.

“You have collected the certificate?” At the sight of her son looking excited and her daughter-in-law looking shy, Miao Jing was smiling so much that her eyes turned crescent-shaped. They had collected the certificate. Henceforth, Nan Nan’s name would be on their household register. There was nothing better than this.

“Yes.” Zhai Sheng restrained his smile. “Is there someone else at home?”

Tian Dong, who was sitting opposite Zhai Hua, could tell that the ‘someone else’ that Zhai Sheng was referring to was, of course, himself.

“Dongzi is here for a meal.” Miao Jing’s smile turned even more enthusiastic and happy.

An unmarried and mature man of marriageable age had asked her daughter out a few times after meeting the latter. He even came to their house for meals. It went without saying what this meant.

She had not discovered anything mean or unreliable about Tian Dong yet. As such, when she saw that a man finally appeared by her extroverted daughter’s side, Miao Jing was very happy to see a good outcome.

Tian Dong carried a box and passed it to Qiao Nan. “Congratulations to both of you.” He did not come to have a free meal.

Qiao Nan, who was surprised at receiving a present, raised her eyebrows as she glanced sideways at Zhai Hua.

She was going to collect the marriage certificate with Brother Zhai today. Besides the family, no one else knew. There came the problem. It was such a coincidence that Tian Dong had a gift for the newly married with him.

Could it be that Tian Dong always carried one or two presents with him all the time out of courtesy to prepare for unexpected needs?

“Do you mind if I open it?” She knew that Tian Dong came back from America. Even if Tian Dong did not pick up the liberal mindset of the foreigners, Qiao Nan believed that, at the very least, Tian Dong would not mind that she opened the present in front of him.

“Sure.” Tian Dong raised his hand.

Qiao Nan removed the ribbon, tore the packaging, and opened the box. “Necklace?” It looked like a diamond necklace. “Did you give this to the wrong person?”

Wasn't Tian Dong wooing Sister Zhai Hua? Shouldn't such an expensive gift be given to Sister Zhai Hua instead?

“No.” Tian Dong denied. “She doesn't like it. If I really want to give her a present, most likely, a gun is better.”

There were clear regulations on the allocation of guns in the country. Fortunately, the situation of the Zhai family was different from that of ordinary people. Such dangerous items could not be gifted to others. However, it was definitely not a problem to gift a gun with the latest model to Zhai Hua.

After confirming that this present was for her, Qiao Nan accepted with a smile. “Thank you.”

“Don't mention it.” He could get a 'free' meal after giving a necklace. That was a bargain no matter how he looked at it. Just as Zhai Hua had said to him, this young sister-in-law of Zhai Hua was quite interesting.

The auntie moved all the groceries that Zhai Sheng bought into the kitchen. Using every trick in her bag and at her fastest speed, the auntie transformed them into delicious dishes.

During this period, Zhai Sheng quietly took a few glances at Tian Dong.

In the face of Zhai Sheng's assessment, Tian Dong did not avoid it at all. He even confronted Zhai Sheng by looking directly at him in the eye.

Although the two did not speak a word, the three women seated with them could vaguely feel the sparks between the eye exchanges of Zhai Sheng and Tian Dong.

"Madam, the dishes are ready." Oblivious to the situation, the auntie broke the stiff atmosphere. She had prepared and placed all the dishes on the table.

"Please, help yourself." Zhai Sheng smiled. They had not seen each other for twenty years, and Tian Dong had changed a lot.

When they were young, even Zhai Hua could make Tian Dong cry. Now, Tian Dong dared to look at him in the eye. He was much more daring than before.

Zhai Sheng was different from ordinary people. He was young and good-looking.

However, he had an extraordinary job. He had seen blood and someone had died in his hands before.

Although a person like Zhai Sheng might want to hide it, sometimes, they would exude an aura of ferocity that made people want to avoid him.

When they met Zhai Sheng, this kind of 'devil', timid bad guys only wanted to avoid him totally. They would not bump into him face to face.

"Come. Let's eat. Everyone must be hungry." Miao Jing knew that her son and Dongzi were done with the 'combat', so she became the mediator and asked everyone to start eating.