

RTAMM 1671

Chapter 1671: Watching Closely

No matter how much Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi wanted to deal with her, Qiao Nan would still be able to keep her cool and not get too angry. But once they brought her three children into the matter, Qiao Nan would be like a provoked lioness that could not wait to tear apart the other party.

In the face of Zhou Xing's unreasonable revenge, Qiao Nan could not accept it and was understandably infuriated.

"No, you're mistaken. I know. I know everything. I did tell Xingxing about the whole matter. I didn't malign you..."

"Hehehe... Your favorite daughter did die under my wheel after all. I don't believe that your tone and comments could have been fair and unbiased when you told Zhou Xing about this. It's your emotional memories that affected Zhou Xing, right? Ding Jiayi, Qiao Zijin would rather die than acknowledge you as her mom. You already ruined the life of your favorite daughter. Do you intend to ruin your favorite granddaughter's life as well?"

She had been Ding Jiayi's daughter for two whole lifetimes. Ding Jiayi could deceive others about her true nature, but Qiao Nan was definitely not going to be fooled.

She did indeed believe that Ding Jiayi did not intentionally smear her name in front of Zhou Xing. But when speaking of the past, Ding Jiayi's words were bound to be biased and were sure to be laced with her own subjective opinions, emotions, and judgment.

What would a child like Zhou Xing know? When everything happened, Zhou Xing had not been in the capital, and neither had she experienced it first-hand. Everything she knew, as well as everything she based her emotions on, was from Ding Jiayi's descriptions of the matter.

Naturally, Ding Jiayi had to bear the responsibility for Zhou Xing's huge misunderstanding about what had happened in the previous generation.

“No, I didn’t. I loved Zijin the most, and Xingxing is my only granddaughter who grew up by my side. At that time, I was willing to leave the capital and return to Ping Cheng for the sake of staying by Xingxing’s side, taking care of her, and watching her grow up. How could I bear to hurt Xingxing? You’ve misunderstood me. I’m not that kind of person.” Ding Jiayi continued to deny it. Her heart ached dearly.

In this lifetime, Qiao Zijin’s death had become her greatest regret. Even her divorce from Qiao Dongliang ranked below that. Without Qiao Zijin, Zhou Xing had become the only kin that Ding Jiayi cherished. Otherwise, she would not have called Qiao Nan to let her know of Zhou Xing’s true identity.

“Alright. You should be clear of whether you did so or not, and I’m sure you know best who influenced Zhou Xing such that her judgment is so warped today. I can’t be bothered to waste my time on you. I can’t manage someone else’s daughter, but I’ll very well manage my own son!”

Initially, Qiao Nan had been prepared not to interfere in Er Bao’s relationship. But now that she had found out that Zhou Xing was actually Zhou Ying, there was no way she could not interfere. This was her biological son they were talking about!

She could not be sure whether Zhou Xing had gotten together with Er Bao just to get revenge on her and how far Zhou Xing wanted to go with Er Bao. But no matter what plans Zhou Xing had, she had to stop them right then and there. She would have to make things right and let Er Bao know about the situation.

After hanging up on Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan asked Minister Deng Wenchang for a long leave for the first time ever.

Because Qiao Nan worked all year and hardly asked for leave, Deng Wenchang was rather surprised. “Is something wrong with your health? It’s rare for you to be applying for leave!” Although he said that, Deng Wenchang approved Qiao Nan’s request at once.

“Something happened and I need to take care of it immediately. It can’t wait. Don’t worry. There’s nothing wrong with me. I go to the hospital for a checkup every year. I’ve always been healthy.” Qiao Nan answered reluctantly. At this moment, her mind was filled only with Er Bao.

She had never expected that her son would encounter such a ridiculous thing in his first relationship just because of the previous generation. Should she say that she was unlucky or that Er Bao was unlucky? Why was there not even a single normal person in her family? Even Zhou Xing, who was of the next generation, was like two peas in a pod as Qiao Zijin.

Should she say that Zhou Xing was indeed a child who grew up by Ding Jiayi's side? Any child who grew up by Ding Jiayi's side was sure to have a skewed view of the world and would do foolish things that no one could understand.

"Alright, hurry and take care of it. I'll take care of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for you. If anything crops up, I'll let you know at once. Don't worry and just leave." Seeing Qiao Nan's sullen expression, Deng Wenchang did not waste Qiao Nan's time but urged Qiao Nan to leave quickly instead. He would watch after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Qiao Nan's behalf.

"Alright." Now that her leave had been approved, Qiao Nan did not waste any more time and made a call back to Miao Jing to tell her that she was going to make a trip to Er Bao's school. Then, Qiao Nan left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and drove toward the PLA National Defense University, where Da Bao and Er Bao studied.

Upon learning that their mother was headed to their school, both Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were taken aback. This was the first time in two years that their mom had personally made a trip down to visit them.

As such, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin took this matter seriously. Knowing that Qiao Nan was coming, they took time out to pick Qiao Nan up at their school gate. At the PLA National Defense University, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin had quite the reputations. Firstly, they were brothers and were triplets, not just twins. Their only sister was not studying at the PLA National Defense University with them. Secondly, the brothers excelled in every aspect so much so that it was perverted. Thirdly, the brothers were handsome.

One could only imagine what an eye-catching sight it was for Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin to be waiting for someone at the school gate together. Even some tomboys who had learned of this news could not help but steal a few glances at them. This was truly a breath-taking sight. The two of them were clearly brothers and even shared a room, but it was really rare for the two brothers to be appearing together.

Many people were wondering who it was that both of these two handsome guys, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin, would be waiting for at the school gate together. It was probably some important figure based on how the two of them had appeared together.

It was not only the students of the PLA National Defense University who had received the news. Someone else had received the news that both Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin had taken time out to wait for someone as well. This person was none other than Zhai Xin's girlfriend, Zhou Xing.

Zhou Xing was an intelligent young lady as well. Even though she knew that the men in the Zhai family were rather 'honest' and would not mess around once they found a girlfriend or partner, Zhou Xing was not like other typical girlfriends. Her intentions were much more complicated and complex. Thus, the efforts she put into Zhai Xin were much more than other girlfriends would put into their boyfriends.

Knowing that there were more males than females in the PLA National Defense University, she took advantage of her beauty and young age. With her coquettish behavior, she managed to hire a male student from the PLA National Defense University to keep an eye on Zhai Xin.

Chapter 1672: The Encounter

If Zhai Xin was free or if something happened to him, he must remember to inform her.

Zhou Xing didn't spend money or give treats in vain. When Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin walked toward the school gate, Zhou Xing immediately received news of this on her mobile.

Once she saw the news, Zhou Xing was so happy that her face was flushed red. Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were both free today. Could it be that today was her lucky day?

Zhou Xing still remembered how Zhai Yi had rejected her when she called him Brother Zhai Yi previously. Zhai Xin shared a good relationship with Zhai Yi. It was easy for her to sow discord between Zhai Xin and Qiao Nan. After all, a man would forget his mother once he had a wife. This was something very commonplace. However, Zhai Yi was Zhai Xin's brother. It was more difficult to worsen their relationship as brothers.

If Zhai Yi had fancied her, then everything could be discussed easily. The problem was that she had changed her target to Zhai Xin as she couldn't hook Zhai Yi back then. Seeing that Zhai Xin was also around today, she didn't believe that Zhai Yi would not give her face in front of Zhai Xin like before.

Using Zhai Xin to attack Zhai Yi was the best way Zhou Xing could think of.

Zhou Xing was also curious about who could move both Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin at the same time. It had better not be a girl. Otherwise, her situation would become dangerous.

“Oh? Why are you here?” When Zhai Xin saw Zhou Xing, he was extremely surprised. However, he had no intention to avoid her. Upon thinking that his mother was coming over today, didn’t this mean that his mother would meet Zhou Xing? His relationship with Zhou Xing was still unstable, or rather, he still didn’t have that kind of feelings for Zhou Xing. Wasn’t it too early for his mother to know about Zhou Xing’s presence and for the two of them to meet each other?

Zhai Yi frowned. He had more thoughts than Zhai Xin about the timing that Zhou Xing appeared.

If he didn’t have the ability to think about this, Zhai Yi felt that he wasn’t suitable to study at PLA National Defense University. Of course, the current situation seemed to prove that Zhai Xin’s current IQ was not on par yet. Thus, it was similarly unsuitable for him to be studying at PLA National Defense University.

“Nothing. Can’t I come over?” Zhou Xing avoided the question. She knew that if Zhai Xin knew about the things that she was doing at this time, he would definitely not accept it. “You’re to blame as well. It has been almost half a month since our last date. You have no time to see me but you have time now? Why didn’t you inform me that you’re free? Could it be that someone else is more important to you than me?”

Zhou Xing was young and she looked tender. It was appropriate for her to be acting like a spoiled child.

Once Zhai Xin saw Zhou Xing’s look, he was reminded of how San Bao and Ling Ling were at home. His heart couldn’t help but soften. “Who said that I’m free? I still have the heart, but the situation today is different.” His birth mother was coming over. Of course this was something more important than anything else.

“What’s different? You’re standing here with your brother and you seem to be waiting for someone. Who are you waiting for?” Zhou Xing’s eyes swirled with thoughts. They really seemed to be waiting for someone. What kind of person could mobilize the two sons from the Zhai family? She prayed that the other party wasn’t a woman. Otherwise, this woman was too big a threat to her.

Because of Ding Jiayi, Zhou Xing knew that aside from the three children in the Zhai family, there was also the existence of Xu Lingling. Since they were childhood sweethearts, the feelings must be different.

Zhou Xing was extremely worried that Xu Lingling would have feelings for Zhai Yi or Zhai Xin in ways more than what a sister would have for a brother, on account that they had known one another since they were young. If that was the case, how was she going to win against Xu Lingling since she had appeared so late and lacked presence for more than ten years?

Thankfully, Zhai Yi didn't seem to have that kind of feelings toward Xu Lingling. She was also Zhai Xin's girlfriend now. Aside from Xu Lingling, there wasn't any other girl Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin would have known and developed strong feelings for, right?

"Waiting for... She's here." Zhai Xin wanted to make Zhou Xing leave as it was really not too convenient for Zhou Xing to meet his mother now. It was a pity that before he could do so, the familiar sound of the car could be heard. Once he saw Qiao Nan's car, Zhai Xin's eyes lit up. It was as if a dog had seen a bone and pounced on it, without any care for anything else.

It wasn't only Zhai Xin who had this expression. Even the cold Zhai Yi who wasn't easily approachable looked like he had the spring breeze and warm sun on his face.

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The brothers stepped forward and opened the car door. "Mom, what brought you to our school today? Go and park the car first. We will bring you around PLA National Defense University today. This is such a rare chance. Back when godfather and godmother were studying here, you didn't have a chance to take a look here as well."

Qiao Nan was naturally happy to see the two sons whom she had not seen for a long time. It was just that when Qiao Nan saw that there was a young girl standing behind Zhai Xin, her face couldn't help but stiffen.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath. Er Bao was an innocent party in this matter. He didn't know anything and she couldn't lose her temper with him. "Okay, I'll park the car first. Bring me to a quieter place later where we can have a chat. That young lady is around too, right? Let her stay. I want to have a chat with her as well."

Qiao Nan didn't visit PLA National Defense University in the past. However, she knew where the parking lot was as most of the people around her had attended this university before. Shi Qing even sent her a thick stack of photos featuring the scenery of the school. Even if they weren't studying at the same university back then, she could send Qiao Nan photos of PLA National Defense University so that Qiao Nan could feel that she was studying together with her and they had never been separated.

As such, it was normal for Qiao Nan to find the scenery of PLA National Defense University familiar even though it was her first time here. She didn't need Da Bao and Er Bao to provide her directions to park the car.

Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were naturally happy that their mother was here. However, Zhou Xing's face changed a little. She asked anxiously, "This person is...?" She was really confused. Aside from Qiao Nan, who could trouble the two sons from the Zhai family to pick them up?

She didn't expect that woman to be Qiao Nan. She was prettier than how grandma had described her. If she hadn't seen for herself, she would have misunderstood that Qiao Nan was a university student if she saw her on the streets. She was already a mother of three children, but she couldn't see the slightest trace of aging on Qiao Nan's face.

Chapter 1673: A Chat

No wonder her grandma always said that Qiao Nan was a lucky woman. Even time was particularly forgiving to Qiao Nan.

She thought about her mother who had been dead for ten years. She could not even remember how her mother looked like anymore. Looking again at Qiao Nan's face that looked not much older than her own, Zhou Xing's gloom and hatred only deepened.

"My mom." Zhai Xin did not try to hide the matter. "Initially, I felt that it was too early to let my mom know about our relationship." It was mainly because Zhou Xing was too young, and he was afraid that his mom would get angry after learning about it. "But my mom saw you earlier and she said that she wanted to have a chat with you. Don't leave. Come along with me." Alright, his mom was being a lot more receptive than he had imagined.

The moment she saw Zhou Xing, his mom had guessed that this young lady could be his girlfriend. His mom was just as sharp as she had been in her youth. She had not gotten dumb just because of a pregnancy.

"Oh, so it's auntie." Zhou Xing forced a smile out.

Zhai Yi glanced at Zhou Xing. “You don’t have to be nervous. Mom found out about your relationship a long time ago.” If she had wanted to deal with them, she would have come long ago. So what could his mom have come to the PLA National Defence University for today?

“She found out a long ago? When did Mom find out? Why didn’t I know about it?” Zhai Xin jumped up. He was the party concerned, but why did he know nothing about this matter?

“The moment I knew, Mom knew too. Why? Are you scared?” Was it not just a relationship? But Zhai Xin had been so frightened that his face was entirely drained. “Don’t worry. Mom shouldn’t be here to deal with you today. Mom is here!”

Zhou Xing, who had wanted to speak up, could not find a good time to interrupt Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin. Then, she heard Zhai Yi say that Qiao Nan had already known about her existence. She did not know how to feel about that. What she knew was that she had not expected to face Qiao Nan so early.

In her plan, she would only face Qiao Nan proudly once her relationship with Zhai Xin had stabilized and once Zhai Xin confirmed that he would definitely marry her. Then, she would not have to worry about Qiao Nan objecting to their relationship.

It was way too early at this point in time.

But she had not been able to escape in time. Seeing Qiao Nan who had returned from parking her car earlier than expected, Zhou Xing’s eyes widened. This was no good. If she still wanted to leave, she would have to get Qiao Nan’s permission. It would be too rude of her to leave now on her own volition without Qiao Nan asking her to do so.

Her relationship with Zhai Xin had not yet stabilized. If she were to embarrass Qiao Nan in this way now, Zhai Xin would surely get upset with her. Zhou Xing’s face was almost completely distorted. She could not understand how this matter could have landed up in this state.

“Mom.”

“Mom.”

In front of Qiao Nan, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were still children and did not behave any differently from when they were at home.

On the contrary, the one who behaved differently was Qiao Nan. She was naturally overjoyed about seeing her two sons, but at this moment, she paid more attention to that young girl who was standing by Zhai Xin's side. Even though it was her first time meeting that girl, Qiao Nan was sure that the girl was Qiao Zijin's daughter.

Appearances could not lie, especially those gentle but scheming eyes of hers that looked like two peas in a pod with Qiao Zijin's. Even though Qiao Zijin was no longer around, Zhou Xing was the spitting image of her mother!

"It won't be convenient to speak here. Can we find somewhere else?"

"Of course." Zhai Xin nodded. "Mom, why don't we head to our room?"

"That won't be necessary. Although the PLA National Defense University is much stricter than other schools, I remember that there's a street around here that's pretty crowded. Anyway, it's far away. Let's just walk over and pick a nice and quiet cafe." It was just as well. Along the way, Qiao Nan could take her time to consider how to broach the topic and persuade Zhou Xing to back off.

Actually, as long as she told Er Bao about Zhou Xing's identity, she knew that she would not have to elaborate any further. Er Bao himself would end the relationship. Even though Qiao Zijin had died years ago, the three children still had a deep impression of Qiao Zijin and had never forgotten about her.

After all, it was the first time that the three children had witnessed such a bloody scene. It was also the first time they had experienced first-hand just how malicious their biological elder aunt was toward their mother. Not to mention that Zhou Xing and Er Bao were such close relatives. They were practically brother and sister. Even if Zhou Xing did not care about brother and sister dating, it was impossible for Er Bao to ignore it.

"Mom, how about this shop?" Zhai Xin could feel that Qiao Nan was not in a good mood, and her face was a little gloomy. Zhai Xin looked at Zhai Yi. Had he not said that his mom had found out about his relationship with Zhou Xing long ago? Since his mom knew about it and had not come to deal with him earlier, why was her expression like this now?

Zhai Yi frowned too, expressing his confusion. The only thing he could feel was that his mother's mood was very somber and she looked particularly troubled today.

"Take a seat. Just order what you want." After Qiao Nan took a seat, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin's first reaction was naturally to sit around Qiao Nan to protect her like her bodyguards.

Seeing Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin treating this old woman who was Qiao Nan like a princess, protecting her like her knights, Zhou Xing was especially sour. She had never experienced such care and love in her entire life.

"Mom, try drinking this. Is it nice? If it's not, I'll swap with you." Zhai Xin handed Qiao Nan her drink and considerately squeezed the slice of lemon into Qiao Nan's drink.

"There's no need for that. The taste is just fine." Qiao Nan was already used to her sons taking care of her now that they had grown up. What she did not know was just how bitter Zhou Xing, who was sitting opposite her, was feeling upon seeing just how caring he was toward his mom but completely forgetting about his girlfriend's existence.

Thankfully, Zhou Xing suddenly remembered that she had not even been his girlfriend for two months. If she were to fight over Zhai Xin's affection with Qiao Nan at this time, there would be no chance for her to go ahead with her plan. Her entire plan would be ruined immediately.

And so, she had no other choice. This was no time for her to be willful. She could only take her own drink meekly. At the very most, she would look at Zhai Xin with an aggrieved gaze to remind Zhai Xin of her presence and that she was his girlfriend who needed his care and love too.

Chapter 1674: Shocking Relationship

After taking two sips of her drink to suppress her nerves, Qiao Nan suddenly said, "Zhai Yi, Zhai Xin. Do you still remember that you have an aunt?"

Zhai Yi frowned and his face turned dark. "Mom, why did you suddenly mention this person out of the blue?" How could he not have remembered? He had a deep impression of her. A woman who was particularly sick no longer wanted to live and chose to die under his mother's car wheels. That was already ten years ago. Because of that scene, Zhai Xin and Zhai Yu had nightmares for a long time.

However, this was their Zhai family's matter. Zhou Xing was just Zhai Xin's girlfriend and wasn't considered part of their Zhai family. Why did their mother mention this aunt in front of Zhou Xing?

Zhai Yi didn't understand. However, Zhou Xing couldn't help but clench her hands. The fingertips that were holding the glass cup turned white due to excessive force. Zhou Xing couldn't help but lower her head. She was afraid that the three from the Zhai family would notice the emotions that were brewing strongly in her eyes. No, the Zhai family must not know her relationship with her mother yet.

Even if she really got married to Zhai Xin, she must not let him know that she was Qiao Zijin's daughter.

"I don't want to mention this at first. However, I have no choice but to mention it now as this woman is quite important. You have to listen, especially Zhai Xin. Promise me that when you listen, you have to remain calm. Zhai Yi, if Zhai Xin can't do that, help me manage him. Understand?" Qiao Nan kept her gaze firmly on Zhou Xing.

Zhai Yi nodded and changed his position to sit next to Zhai Xin. Zhai Xin felt dismayed. He remembered that aunt as well. However, she had passed away for ten years now and he had treated that woman as if she had never existed. Why was it that upon the mention of that woman, his mother had asked Da Bao to look out for him? She even specifically called him out and asked him to remain calm.

What a joke. How would he not remain calm because of that aunt? She wasn't part of their family. Even if he was angry, that was in the past. How would he not be able to remain calm?

"..." Zhou Xing couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat. She had a faint feeling in her heart. However, she felt that it was impossible. It was impossible for Qiao Nan to know about her background.

"You're Zhou Xing, right? Zhou Ying is a pretty name. Why did you change your name to Zhou Xing? Your decision to change your name should have nothing to do with our Zhai family, right?" She couldn't have changed her name just so that she could seduce the men from the Zhai family. "I heard that you're a military performer in the army and like the arts and teaching dancing? Actually, your mother liked these a lot when she was still around. The both of you are similar, and you share the same hobbies."

In her and Qiao Zijin's generation, studies were valued the most. Only by learning well and getting into a good high school and university would one be successful in the future. It was unlike now, where every profession produced its own leading authority. Even people who wanted to be celebrities could be found everywhere.

Zhou Xing's hand shivered and nearly spilled the drink in the cup. "A-Auntie, what are you talking about? Why do I not understand?" Perhaps Zhou Xing's words would have been more convincing if her face wasn't that pale or if her voice was calmer and not trembling.

"Auntie?" Qiao Nan smiled. "Although today is the second time we have met, you should call me 'aunt' and not 'auntie'. Ten years ago, you were still a little girl holding a doll. In the blink of an eye, you have become a slim and graceful girl who is at the age of finding a boyfriend."

"..."

"..."

Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin didn't expect that they would hear such a big secret. The brothers were tongue-tied at Zhou Xing's identity. If Zhai Yi was surprised, then it would have been considered a big blow to Zhai Xin.

He had treated Zhou Xing like his sister, but in name, Zhou Xing was still his girlfriend. However, when his mother told him that he was dating his cousin, Zhai Xin felt that matter was both mysterious and ridiculous. "Mom, are you for real, or are you joking with me? You know my temper. I only treat Zhou Xing as my sister and I don't have that kind of feelings for her. On account that Zhou Xing is still young, I initially planned for her to meet a boy that she really likes in the future..."

Thus, it was really unnecessary for his mother to say such terrible lies to scare him just so that he would break up with Zhou Xing.

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Zhai Yi looked at Zhai Xin. Would their mom joke about such matters? If she really wanted Zhai Xin to break up, she could just say that she didn't like Zhou Xing. This might not have worked for a lot of times, but Zhai Xin did listen to their mother and break up for the past three times.

As such, Zhou Xing was really their cousin and she was even that aunt's daughter!

“Don't rush to deny your relationship with Qiao Zijin. You wouldn't have thought that just because you changed your name, I wouldn't be able to check your background, right? According to what I know, Zhou Zheng is still alive. Your stepmother could similarly prove if you are Qiao Zijin's daughter, Zhou Ying, or not.”

“...”

“I don't know what your grandmother had said to you when you were growing up. I don't want to know as well. What's your motive for coming to the army to be a military performer and making such a bad joke with Zhai Xin? I want to let you know that a lot of things will not become reality just because you wish for it. The people from our Zhai family would always use our brains when doing things.”

Cousins dating? Did Zhou Xing really think that this was the ancient times?

In modern times, such marriages between close relatives are not allowed by the law! Er Bao wasn't the type who would become carried away because of love. Furthermore, their feelings for each other hadn't reached that stage yet. No matter what Zhou Xing was up to, it was destined that she would not be able to continue this act anymore.

“Hehe...” Zhou Xing laughed coldly. “That's right as well. You're one of the top ministers in the central government now. If this was the ancient times, you would only have one above you and millions under you, right? I'm just an ordinary citizen. How could I fight against you? How could I hide whatever you want to know? In your profession, you could casually find a person to check on my ancestors for the past eighteen generations. Who knows? In the end, you might even be clearer than me about our Zhou family's history.”

“It's good that you admit to this.” As to Zhou Xing's unpleasant words, Qiao Nan had automatically blocked them.

“...” Zhai Xin's face darkened and looked unkindly at Zhou Xing. His previous explanation that this was all just an overboard joke was no longer valid. Zhou Xing herself had admitted that she was indeed Qiao Zijin's daughter.

Chapter 1675: Backing Off Shamefully

In other words, Zhou Xing was his cousin.

At the thought that Zhou Xing had always been clear of the relationship between the two of them and had insisted on chasing him and making him her boyfriend, Zhai Xin's expression darkened.

Zhai Yi had considered the matter more than Zhai Xin. With his arms around his chest, he narrowed his eyes and stared at Zhou Xing. "So that means that you approached our family with bad intentions, and I was your initial target, right?"

The moment Zhai Yi said that, Zhou Xing spat out even more of her drink. Everyone there had a tacit understanding. Even without Zhou Xing responding, the mother and son trio already knew the answer from her reaction alone.

Qiao Nan's expression was the worst. She had never expected that Zhou Xing was not only planning on getting revenge on her but had even set her eyes on Zhai Yi and had gotten together with Zhai Xin even though she had no feelings for him. Because Zhai Yi had not taken the bait, the more outgoing Zhai Xin had become Zhou Xing's second choice as her boyfriend.

As a mother, the thought of Zhou Xing plotting against her two brilliant sons gave Qiao Nan the impulse to slap Zhou Xing in the face.

Was Zhou Xing planning on being Diao Chang and provoke Da Bao and Er Bao like Diao Chan did to Dong Zhuo and Lu Bu? Was she intending on making them her enemies? Did she really think of herself as a femme fatale? "You're really like your mom." Her thoughts were just as childish and unreasonable.

"Thank you. I'm my mom's daughter. If I don't resemble her, who else would I resemble?" There was no need for Zhou Xing to keep up her pretense. In the first place, her relationship with Zhai Xin had not yet stabilized. They had only gone on two dates together and had not even held hands, let alone had any other intimate contact. One was the mother who had raised him for twenty years, while the other was a girlfriend of less than two months. No matter how much Zhou Xing idealized the situation, she understood that there was no way Zhai Xin would choose to give up his mom just for her.

But one's rationality is often separate from one's emotions.

While saying this, Zhou Xing stared at Zhai Xin, hoping that Zhai Xin would respond to her. Unfortunately, up until the very end, Zhai Xin had never once revealed a look of anger or heartache for her.

The disappointed Zhou Xing could not help but attack Zhai Xin. “Zhai Xin, you’re not a man. Even if you can’t rebuke your mom for me, I’m still your girlfriend. Shouldn’t you try to protect me? Are you still unweaned? Does your whole world revolve around your mom? You don’t even have opinions of your own! All you know is follow whatever your mom says! You treat your mom as though she was the Empress Cixi! You’re such a coward! I’m so unlucky to be your girlfriend! Do you mean to break up with me? Just be prepared to spend your whole life being a good son to your mom!”

She had really expected the tall and muscular Zhai Xin to act like a young child in front of his mother and that he would follow Qiao Nan’s every order. She could hardly believe that Zhai Xin had already come of age.

Although her mother had died early, she could confidently say that even if her mom were still around, she would not agree even if her mom were to force her to break up under such circumstances.

After scolding Zhai Xin, Zhou Xing could not help but look at Zhai Yi. She wanted to know if Zhai Yi, as the eldest son, was just like Zhai Xin and would never refuse Qiao Nan’s request. Even if he grew up and got a girlfriend in the future, he would take Qiao Nan’s words as the law.

But by doing so, Zhou Xing had angered Qiao Nan and her two sons. Their anger was evident in their eyes. Zhai Yi had already made it clear about his suspicions of Zhou Xing’s first target being himself and that Zhou Xing had only gone after Zhai Xin because he had not fallen for her tricks. With such a reaction, Zhou Xing had just exposed herself and admitted to Zhai Yi’s suspicions being the truth.

Of course, the one with the darkest and most vicious expression was Zhai Xin. Zhai Xin was so angry that he did not even know who he should scold. Even if he had no feelings, he had dated his own cousin! To put it crudely... He did not want to say such awful things, but that was the truth!

He had become a couple with his own cousin! And she had even known about this relationship between them from the beginning! Zhai Xin had already been exasperated to begin with, but now, he had even found out that he had not even been Zhou Xing’s first choice! Her first choice had been Zhai Yi! Even though the matter was ridiculous in itself, Zhai Xin could not help but feel utterly degraded.

He would never in a million years have imagined that his first relationship would be so awful, let alone downright embarrassing and humiliating. As the party concerned, Zhai Xin finally understood how Qiao Nan felt about her relationship with Qiao Zijin.

Now that the mother was gone, it was time for the daughter to make her move. Why was there not a single person who was normal in his maternal grandma's family?

"Mom, it's late. Let's go." Zhai Yi could not even be bothered to answer Zhou Xing. After all, this question would never be in their purview. His mom was not an unreasonable person and had not even had a huge reaction to the news of Zhai Xin dating Zhou Xing.

If it was not for the news of Zhou Xing's true identity, his mom would probably not have come forward to prevent this relationship from developing any further. But when Zhai Yi thought about how Zhou Xing was their cousin and even dared to date her own cousin, Zhai Yi could not help but view Zhou Xing as a lunatic.

He could sense that the relationship between Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin was not just a typical campus relationship. If Zhou Xing had intended on staying together with Zhai Xin until the end, Zhai Yi could not imagine what their family would become if that were really to happen.

"Alright." Since she had already achieved her aim, Qiao Nan did not have any hopes of Zhou Xing coming to her senses. After all, this was something that Qiao Zijin had not managed to do even up until her death. A person would normally forget about the evils of the world and think of good things nearing death. But that did not apply to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan stood up and called the waiter over. After paying for the drinks, she said to Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin, "Before I came, I simply told your grandma that I was here to check on you boys. It's late and I have to make a move. Your grandma hasn't been in good health recently. When you two get the chance, try to come home to visit her. As for Zhou Xing, Er Bao, Mom believes that you'll handle it well. You're not a muddleheaded child, so I won't care about this matter anymore. You can do whatever you deem fit."

She did not even have any hopes that Zhou Xing would come to her senses. So naturally, Qiao Nan was not expecting Zhou Xing to back off shamefully even after today's incident and leave Er Bao alone, much less put an end to this relationship that should never have started.

Since Zhou Xing was not someone with self-awareness, Qiao Nan could only hope that Er Bao had self-awareness and not be deceived by Zhou Xing and end up doing something that would only hurt his loved ones but please his enemies.

The relationship between Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin had not even been as far as five generations! Even if they were really to get together, it would be illegal. In other words, they would be committing a crime by getting married. Zhai Xin could not possibly ruin the reputation of all three generations of the Zhai family just for the sake of a cousin with evil intentions.

“Mom, don’t worry. You don’t have to do anything about this anymore. I understand. I didn’t have any feelings for her to begin with. Initially, I just thought that she was still young and did not know what she truly wanted and was simply confused.” Zhai Xin knew that both he and Zhai Yi were rather famous in the PLA National Defense University. Because they were brothers, they shared the title of the most popular guy on campus.

Zhai Xin did not care for this title. After all, men should rely on their capability, not their appearance. But Zhai Xin knew that many women bought into that and felt that it was a respectable thing to be dating the most popular and handsome guy in school. After he and Zhai Yi were picked as the most handsome guys in school, Zhai Xin clearly felt that he had started to receive more love letters. And it was at such a time that Zhou Xing had appeared.

Because she was not from his school, and Zhou Xing was really young with unstable emotions, Zhai Xin had relented because of her cries and agreed to meet up with Zhou Xing. But who would have known of Zhou Xing’s true identity and that she was such a person! Zhai Xin only felt that he had wasted all of his good intentions and been foolish to have been softhearted this once.

Once bitten, twice shy. He naturally tried to stay away from and not even interact with irrational people like Zhou Xing. Now, Zhai Xin thanked the heavens that Zhou Xing was not from his school and that their schools were separated by a great distance. Otherwise, he could not even imagine how he would act if he were to see Zhou Xing around the school.

With such a decisive answer, Qiao Nan’s expression finally warmed and she was relieved at long last.

“Mom, be careful on your way home. Zhai Xin and I will be sure to visit once we have time. Thank you for taking care of grandma.” Zhai Yi knew that his dad was indeed spending more time at home now as compared to the past when they were still young. But his mom was still the one managing

the family matters. His maternal grandfather was still living in the capital and had not left. The last time his grandfather fell sick, it had been his mom who had driven around to pay for his hospital bills and purchase medication for him.

It was almost as though his mom was the only one taking care of the elders in both families.

Sometimes, when Zhai Yi thought about how hard Qiao Nan's life was, he had the occasional impulse to get into a different line of work so that he could spend more time with his family. At least, the burden would not always fall on that frail mom of his if his elders were to fall sick. But Zhai Yi had to think rationally. He knew clearly about his desire to join the military, and he knew even more clearly of his identity as the eldest grandson of the Zhai family.

It might sound clichéd, but as the eldest grandson of the Zhai family, he had to answer to his mission. His great-grandpa had been right. The men of the Zhai family were destined for the military.

For the most part, Qiao Nan was not at all worried about Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin. Even now, Qiao Nan had absolute faith in her two sons. After a few words, Qiao Nan drove home to the Zhai family.

But what no one had expected was that Zhou Xing did not intend on giving up even after her identity had been exposed in this manner and knowing full well that she should not be appearing in front of the Zhai family. What was different, however, was that Zhou Xing had not approached Zhai Yi or Zhai Xin. Instead, she directly stopped Qiao Nan in her tracks.

Upon seeing Zhou Xing open her arms wide to stand in front of her car, Qiao Nan felt her heart leap. In that moment, it was as though she had seen Qiao Zijin on that day ten years ago. That day, Qiao Zijin had jumped in front of her car and had been pinned under her wheel just like that too!

Thankfully, Qiao Nan had not been driving quickly and had managed to apply her brakes in time so that she did not hit Zhou Xing. When the car stopped just a few centimeters shy of Zhou Xing, even Zhou Xing herself shut her eyes in fear. Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry at the scene before her. Before standing in her way, had Zhou Xing never realized that this was extremely dangerous? Did she really think that shutting her eyes would mean that the car would not knock into her and that she would not get injured?

Even though this was her first time meeting the grown-up Zhou Xing, she already had a bad impression of Zhou Xing.

When Zhou Xing opened her eyes and saw that Qiao Nan's car had stopped just short of her, she followed in her mom's footsteps and got all flared up that Qiao Nan had almost knocked her over. Zhou Xing took a few steps forward and lambasted at Qiao Nan. "Don't you think you're too much? You knocked down my mom and killed her, and now, you want to kill me too? Don't think that you can just do whatever you want without facing any consequences just because you're the Zhai family's daughter-in-law! I'm warning you. If the same thing that happened to my mom happens to me, I can assure you that this will be the end of your life as a cadre!"

She would not be like her mom, whose death had not even made the news even after she had been knocked down by Qiao Nan. Her mom had lost her life, but Qiao Nan was still living her peaceful and comfortable life. This world was sure unfair! Everyone was supposed to be equal in front of the law, but why did exceptions like Qiao Nan exist?

Not only did she not have to give up her own life after killing someone, but she did not even have to face any consequences at all! Qiao Nan's existence was like the blackest of all black holes in the country.

Qiao Nan wound her window down and looked at Zhou Xing seriously. "If you haven't done a thorough investigation, you don't have any right to speak. As for your mom's incident, I have a clear conscience. The police station holds records about how your mom was knocked down by my car at that time. Not only that, but that accident was also recorded by surveillance cameras. You can choose not to believe what I say, but the evidence is with the police. You can check it out yourself. Seeing it for yourself is much better than just listening to what other people say."

As long as Zhou Xing was willing to investigate the matter, Qiao Nan was sure that she would be able to prove her innocence. "At that time, I had material evidence as well as witnesses. I didn't even know those witnesses personally. They just happened to be there at that time and saw your mother deliberately running in front of my car. Your mom's death has nothing to do with me. If you want to resent someone, I'm not the one you should hold a grudge against. You might not know, but the doctor said at that time that your mom's injuries were not serious for a victim of a car accident. She could have been saved."

"So why did my mom die in the end?" Zhou Xing could not believe it. If her mom had indeed only suffered minor injuries, how did she become a child with no mother?

"As for that, you'll have to ask your grandma. She can give you an answer."

Chapter 1677: Did You See It Yourself?

“Although this matter was over ten years ago, your mother’s behavior back then was too bizarre. You can go to this hospital and ask for yourself what your mother had said to the nurse before she passed away.” Qiao Nan didn’t mean to splash dirty water on Ding Jiayi. It was just that she could no longer tolerate how Ding Jiayi had pushed all the responsibility to her and even misled Zhou Xing.

Zhou Xing was the same as Qiao Zijin. Both of them were action-oriented.

Zhou Xing was certain that Qiao Nan was the one who caused Qiao Zijin’s death. As such, Zhou Xing deliberately found her son and wanted to make use of him to seek revenge on her. Ding Jiayi had created this trouble herself and couldn’t blame Qiao Nan in the future for telling Zhou Xing the truth of the matter.

Zhou Xing’s eyes were full of doubt as she held the piece of paper with the address Qiao Nan had provided her. “How can I be sure that the nurse I found wouldn’t have been bought over by you? I know you’re considered one of the shareholders in the Tian Corporation. All you have is money, and there is hardly anything in this world that money can’t buy.”

On what basis should she believe that the nurse’s words were true and that it wasn’t what Qiao Nan deliberately wanted her to hear? Zhou Xing was full of doubts and didn’t have any trust in this world, especially toward Qiao Nan.

“Then, you’re only left with going to the police station and see the footage of how I had knocked your mother down that year. I can’t possibly buy the footage, right? Also, the facts are all in front of you. If you really want to believe that I was the one who had forged all the evidence, then I have nothing much to say to you.” Qiao Nan didn’t really want to talk to Zhou Xing. Zhou Xing was Qiao Zijin’s daughter. Qiao Nan knew how unreasonable Qiao Zijin could be when she was still alive.

Like mother, like daughter. Qiao Nan never wanted to knock some sense into Qiao Zijin. Similarly, Qiao Nan didn’t intend to persuade Zhou Xing. It was up to Zhou Xing to believe it or not.

If not for the old couple from the Zhou family having passed away and Zhou Xing having grown up with Ding Jiayi by her side, Qiao Nan wouldn’t have bothered saying these words to Zhou Xing. Ding Jiayi had really caused so much harm, harming one after another.

Zhou Xing had gone awry. If Qiao Zijin couldn't change for the better, she didn't expect Zhou Xing to either. Zhou Xing was born with Qiao Zijin's character. They were unreasonable.

Zhou Xing held the note that Qiao Nan gave her tightly. As Qiao Nan had said, even if there was footage, she would wonder if the video evidence in the police station was synthesized. IT was so developed nowadays. There was nothing a computer couldn't do.

As one of the stakeholders in Tian Corporation, Qiao Nan didn't lack any experts in this field. She was a child who had not even graduated from high school. How would she win against the skillful Qiao Nan? However, even if that was the case, she would go and understand Qiao Nan's so-called evidence and truth. "I stopped you here today as I hope that you could promise me not to interfere in the matters between me and Zhai Xin. Don't stop us from being together and badmouth me in front of Zhai Xin either. I don't expect you to help me and Zhai Xin, but don't ruin it. I have already lost my mother. You wouldn't hate me like how you hate my mother and make sure I don't get my happiness, right?"

All her plans had been destroyed by Qiao Nan. If Qiao Nan tried to stop Zhai Xin from being together with her, Zhai Xin would probably agree without any resistance, based on what had happened today. If that was really the case, all her previous efforts would be in vain. "Even if I take steps back and not discuss if you had deliberately knocked my mother down, the truth is that my mother had died under your car wheels. From this point of view, you owe me a mother. Shouldn't you return to me what you owe me? Do you know how tragic it is for a child to lose their mother? When you were happily smiling, do you know that I was crying so badly because I have lost my mother's love, and yet there wasn't a single person by my side who could comfort me? You owe me a happy childhood, and this is something you would never be able to make up to me in this lifetime!"

She didn't expect much. She wouldn't let Qiao Nan return her a good childhood, but Qiao Nan was not to intervene in her affairs with Zhai Xin moving forward. Without Qiao Nan's influence, she believed that since she could succeed in the past, she could similarly succeed now.

Zhai Xin's heart softened easily. He would never reject her.

"..." Qiao Nan's lips twitched. She had long known that as Qiao Zijin's daughter, Zhou Xing wouldn't be someone who listened to reason. However, Zhou Xing was more stubborn than Qiao Zijin back then. This was something Qiao Nan didn't expect. It was really as if the whole world should have sided with them, the mother-and-daughter pair.

Qiao Zijin deliberately ran out to hit her car and caused her car to be scrapped directly. Looking back, she was instead the one who had owed Qiao Zijin and Zhou Xing and thus had to give her second son up as compensation. Aside from 'hehe', what other reaction could Qiao Nan possibly have?

Based on the fact that she was Qiao Zijin's daughter, she shouldn't have expected anything from Zhou Xing. She should just treat Zhou Xing how she had treated Qiao Zijin back then.

Qiao Nan, who didn't say anything, hit the car's headlights and changed lanes. She stepped on the accelerator and left, leaving behind a cloud of exhaust fumes for Zhou Xing.

"Qiao Nan..." Qiao Nan hadn't promised to her request. How could she just leave like that? "Qiao Nan, you can't avoid this forever. You caused me to be a parentless child. Is it too overboard for you to repay me with one of your sons? Even if you're unwilling, you have to be willing. This is what you owe me."

Zhou Xing was stubborn and decided to entangle herself with Zhai Xin all the way to the end. He was already her boyfriend. How would it be easy for him to run away from her? Since Qiao Nan didn't answer, she took it as Qiao Nan silently agreeing to her words.

Zhou Xing exhaled. She lost the composure she had when she was facing Qiao Nan and her eyes became uneasy. She looked at the address in her hands and thought of Qiao Nan's words again. In the end, Zhou Xing went to the few places Qiao Nan had mentioned.

It was rare for Qiao Zijin to reject the doctor's treatment and even insisted on the doctor to give up on her after she got into a car accident. Such a bizarre thing was indeed rare. As such, once Zhou Xing asked, the nurse who knew about this matter immediately had an impression. "Indeed, such a thing happened. Before the victim passed away, she mentioned that she didn't want to see a person when we were talking about funeral matters. The people in our hospital later found out that this person was the victim's birth mother. I even heard that during the funeral, the victim's father really didn't let that birth mother attend."

"Did you see or hear this personally?"

Chapter 1678: Couldn't Admit

“No.” The nurse shook her head. “These are all hearsay. This was something too rare. Within half a day, word had spread to everyone in the hospital. However, a few of them who had seen or heard this matter themselves are still in the hospital. Do you want to ask them?” Anyway, it wouldn’t be for nothing. There was money to receive, so why not?

The little nurse initially didn’t want to talk about this. After all, she was working now. If she was caught by the head nurse, she would be criticized. What the little nurse didn’t expect was that Zhou Xing was quite patient and had come looking for her again when she was having her meal at noon.

Zhou Xing’s lips twitched. “There’s no need. Thanks.” After giving the little nurse the money she had promised her, Zhou Xing came out of the hospital with a dark look. Before arriving at the hospital, Zhou Xing had already gone to the police station to take a look at the footage that Qiao Nan said had been recorded by the surveillance cameras.

Initially, since this matter had passed for so many years, the police officers shouldn’t have reopened the file and let Zhou Xing take a look at the footage. However, Zhou Xing was Qiao Zijin’s birth daughter. On account that Zhou Xing was just an ignorant six-year-old when Qiao Zijin had passed away, the police officers gave Zhou Xing the convenience after completing the administrative matters.

It was obvious that Qiao Zijin was seeking death. As such, the veterans in the police station had a deep impression of this matter. When Zhou Xing mentioned it, the veterans involved in this case could almost immediately remember the situation back then.

There were too many pieces of concrete evidence in front of her. Furthermore, Ding Jiayi had told Zhou Xing more than once that Qiao Nan couldn’t exactly be blamed for the car accident that happened between her and Qiao Zijin. Zhou Xing initially thought that Ding Jiayi had said so to help Qiao Nan.

Her mother had died so early and wouldn’t have been able to repay her grandmother for bringing her up in time. Qiao Nan was different. It could be considered her grandmother’s pride that Qiao Nan was a minister. After her mother was gone, Qiao Nan was the only one who had provided for her grandmother. Since her grandmother always received money from Qiao Nan, who else would she put in a good word for other than Qiao Nan?

One had to know that after her grandparents left a will to leave most of the Zhou family’s assets to her, her father no longer liked her. During that week, her father actually bought a puppet doll that she liked and came to school looking for her with all smiles. He acted like a loving father and said that he had missed her. He also said that they were a family and that they should be living together.

In reality, her father wasn't trying to take care of her. He was just trying to use the excuse of taking care of her to move into the big house which her grandpa and grandma had left behind for her. Moreover, he wanted to spend the money her grandpa and grandma left behind for her using his identity of her guardian.

People were that realistic.

After her father remarried, he couldn't help but wish that this daughter of his never existed. However, under the temptation of money, he could pretend that he was a loving father who considered all aspects for her own good. If her father was like that, her grandmother was probably like that as well when she put in a good word for Qiao Nan.

However, at this very moment, Zhou Xing couldn't help but seriously think if she had misunderstood her grandmother's words all along. Her grandma said that her mother's car accident had nothing to do with Qiao Nan. Did she really mean this and that there was no other meaning to it?

Why didn't her mother sort out her thoughts? She was only in her thirties when she abandoned her. Why didn't she want to continue living and chose to go under Qiao Nan's car wheels instead?

With a stomach full of questions, Zhou Xing had no choice but to call Ding Jiayi for verification.

After Ding Jiayi finished the call with Qiao Nan, she was very afraid. She wasn't sure what kind of means Qiao Nan would use to deal with Zhou Xing. It was pitiful for Zhou Xing not to have a mother. However, as a mother, Ding Jiayi could understand if Qiao Nan was filled with uncontrollable anger now that Zhou Xing was scheming against Er Bao.

As such, when she saw that Zhou Xing had called, Ding Jiayi was filled with both expectation and fear. "Hello? Xingxing?"

"Grandma, it's me." Zhou Xing responded. "Grandma, let me ask you. Why would Qiao Nan suddenly know about my identity? You didn't betray me and told Qiao Nan anything, right?" Upon hearing Ding Jiayi pick up the phone, Zhou Xing suddenly thought of another serious question.

How did Qiao Nan find out that she was Qiao Zijin's daughter? If Qiao Nan realized it later, perhaps her relationship with Zhai Xin would have been more stable by then. Then, she wouldn't have the worries she had today.

"Xingxing, I've told you long ago. Don't belittle Qiao Nan. Think about it. When your mother was still around, I was helping her but she didn't manage to get any benefits from Qiao Nan at all. It's really not easy to deal with Qiao Nan." Ding Jiayi evaded and didn't dare to answer Zhou Xing's question.

She was afraid that Zhou Xing would know that Qiao Nan was suspicious of her identity because of a phone call from her. Zhou Xing would then feel that she had betrayed her and that she was biased toward Qiao Nan.

With a clear conscience, she loved Zijin the most when she was alive. Once Zijin was gone, she placed all her love for Zijin on Xingxing. As for Qiao Nan, even though she was successful now, her feelings for Qiao Nan had never deepened.

It was only today that she realized that Qiao Nan was meant to collect debts from her in this lifetime.

"Okay, let's put aside this matter first. Let me ask you about something else." That was right as well. There were so many capable people around Qiao Nan. Zhai Yi had said before that Qiao Nan had long known about her relationship with Zhai Xin. It was close to two months now. If Qiao Nan wanted to, it wouldn't be strange at all for her to find out her family history of eighteen generations. "Did my mother deliberately go under Qiao Nan's car wheels back then?"

"..." Ding Jiayi looked embarrassed. Ever since she knew that Zhou Xing had chosen to study in the capital, she guessed that this day would arrive sooner or later. "You have heard about it?"

"After my mother entered the hospital, did she deliberately refuse the doctor's treatment? They could have saved her, but she chose to end her life?" Zhou Xing felt suffocated and extremely pained in her heart.

Did her mother know that she had tormented both herself and her? Did she know what kind of life her only daughter was going to face in the future after she had lost her mother?

"..." Ding Jiayi didn't say anything. She couldn't deny or admit it. The truth was too cruel to Zhou Xing.

“Let me ask you the last question. Did you attend my mother’s funeral?” If she didn’t answer, that meant she wasn’t denying it. If she didn’t deny it, it meant her mother really didn’t want to continue living.

“...” Ding Jiayi’s breathing became rapid, and her eyes and nose turned sour at the same time.

Chapter 1679: A Marvel

In her entire life, the most painful thing for her was that she had not been able to attend Qiao Zijin’s funeral as her mother. She had not even been able to see Qiao Zijin for the last time. “In my whole life, the one whom I’ve loved the most was your mom. I even loved your mom more than myself. I’m sure your mom understood how I felt and would not want me to be too upset.”

Zhou Xing laughed. “Hehehe. Is that so? My mom’s filial piety to you was indeed exceptional. When other people pass away, what they want is for their closest kin to be there to send them off. I’m sure that my mom’s love for you had surpassed that of a human’s! Grandma, I think your relationship with my mom was too amazing...”

“...” Ding Jiayi hesitated for a while because she had not been able to confirm in that moment whether whatever the granddaughter, whom she had raised, had said was just on a surface level, or whether there was more to her words.

Zhou Xing took a deep breath. “Alright. I’ve already gotten a good understanding of everything. I won’t make such foolish mistakes in the future.” She had only committed those foolish acts because she had not known the truth of the matter.

Thankfully, she was young and had been deceived by her grandmother. Even in front of Qiao Nan, she could use this as an excuse for her behavior. It was because she had been misguided at such a young age that she had misunderstood her younger aunt, Qiao Nan. To put it bluntly, she was a victim too!

But then again, whether her mom had done it deliberately, her mom had died in Qiao Nan’s hands after all. Qiao Nan was her younger aunt and had even caused her to become a child without a mom. Qiao Nan should be taking more care of her to make up for all the love that she had lost out on all these years.

As for Ding Jiayi's misguidance in the past, Zhou Xing had no intention to pursue it. She would always remember that it was her paternal grandparents who had given in to her and had allowed her to continue living blissfully like a princess after her mom's death. After her paternal grandparents passed away, her birth father had been like an evil wolf. When he was about to snatch everything away from her, it was her maternal grandma, Ding Jiayi, who had bravely stood up for her and stayed by her side. It was Ding Jiayi who had shielded her from all those bullies and had even helped her avoid losses because of her paternal grandparents' wills.

All these years, Ding Jiayi had been Zhou Xing's guardian and had been taking care of all of Zhou Xing's assets before she came of age. Truthfully, as soon as all these assets came into Ding Jiayi's hands, Ding Jiayi could not wait to hand them over to Zhou Xing and let Zhou Xing manage them herself.

Even though Zhou Xing was only thirteen years old at that time, Ding Jiayi told Zhou Xing that Zhou Xing reminded her of Qiao Zijin. Even though she was young, she was very sensible. While other children had the bad habit of spending their money carelessly at the age of thirteen, she believed that Zhou Xing would definitely be able to manage her money well and not splurge unnecessarily.

Just based on this alone, Zhou Xing believed that Ding Jiayi's care and love toward her was not mixed with hidden agendas like money. Considering Ding Jiayi was the only one left who loved her and had stayed by her side all this time, it was understandable for Zhou Xing to be lenient to Ding Jiayi.

"So have you broken up with Zhai Xin?" Ding Jiayi breathed a sigh of relief when her granddaughter stopped with her questions. After all, lies could not withstand scrutiny, so Ding Jiayi was afraid that her lies would come back to bite her if Zhou Xing were to continue with her questions. Zhou Xing treated Ding Jiayi as her only loved one, and Ding Jiayi's feelings for Zhou Xing were even deeper. She could not imagine or accept losing Zhou Xing. How would she live without Zhou Xing?

"Of course not!" Zhou Xing said with a nasty tone. "Grandma, why don't you have higher expectations of me? I haven't broken up with Zhai Xin, and I don't plan on doing so! Even though Qiao Nan didn't really have anything to do with my mom's death, and Qiao Nan did not do it on purpose, Zhai Xin's conditions are too good. I'm not so foolish as to give up on my own happiness just because of Qiao Nan." Besides Zhai Xin, where was she going to find another boyfriend who was the son of a chief?

Nothing was more real than her happiness for the rest of her life.

“...” Ding Jiayi was on the verge of tears. Why was Xingxing being so stubborn? “Didn’t you say that Qiao Nan already knows that you’re Zijin’s daughter? You’re cousins with Zhai Xin. The law won’t allow it, and neither will Qiao Nan. Will Zhai Xin still be willing to stay with you now that he knows you’re his cousin?”

This was no television drama!

Zhou Xing was unconvinced. “What do you know, grandma? My family register is nothing much. As long as the Zhai family is willing, this is nothing but a small problem. Hadn’t Zhai Xin agreed to be my boyfriend initially and hadn’t we started dating afterward? I believe that Zhai Xin will accept me again. As for Qiao Nan, once Zhai Xin accepts me, what can Qiao Nan do? Qiao Nan may have her hands in everything, but do you think she’ll be able to control whom her son dates and gets married to? Even if Zhai Xin is so obedient to Qiao Nan, I’m sure I’m capable of changing Zhai Xin so that he’ll only listen to me in the future.”

It was just that this path would not be an easy one, and this task would be an extremely arduous one.

If Zhou Xing was prepared to walk through this dark tunnel, there was nothing Ding Jiayi could do. The only thing she was thankful for was that Qiao Nan already knew about the truth of the matter. If the Zhai family already knew about the matter but was still unable to stop Zhai Xin from being with Xingxing, then no matter how angry the Zhai family got, they could only blame themselves for not properly disciplining their son. The Zhai family would probably feel too ashamed to go after Xingxing.

Zhai Xin now wondered if everyone, including Zhou Xing and Ding Jiayi, thought of him as an immoral person. By this time, Zhai Xin had already taken his third bath and was resting in his room.

Seeing Zhai Xin in this state, Zhai Yi frowned. “Nothing even happened between you and Zhou Xing. If you continue taking more baths, you can’t blame anyone for thinking that something did actually happen between you and Zhou Xing.” He was no young lady, and neither had Zhou Xing forced herself on Zhai Xin. So why was he taking so many baths?

Zhai Xin walked over with his hair still dripping wet. “I feel so unlucky! I really wonder how Mom managed to live with such a person for more than ten years when she was young. I’ve only known Zhou Xing for two months, but I feel as though I’ve used up all my bad luck on her. Is she a nutcase?”

Thinking about how the two of them were cousins, Zhai Xin only felt that he had been so unlucky, as though he had been stepping through a pile of dog poop for two whole months. It was for this reason that Zhai Xin had taken three baths.

Zhai Yi threw a dry towel over Zhai Xin's face. "If that's the case, only good things will happen to you from now on. Shouldn't you be happy?" Indeed, this incident involving Zhou Xing was truly a marvel that happened once in a blue moon.

Chapter 1680: Misjudged

He couldn't help but suspect if Zhou Xing was a person from ancient times. Cousins... Zhou Xing's brain structure was really different from ordinary people.

"I heard that children nowadays especially like to stay at home and read novels regarding time travel. Do you think that Zhou Xing might have read too much of such novels and thus her brain became abnormal and she mixed the story up with reality?"

Zhai Xin wiped dry the water droplets on his hair and let out an exasperated low roar. "How would I know? I have never seen them before. Also, hold it. From today onward, that woman's name has to disappear from both our mouths. Don't mention it anymore. If you do, I'm afraid I might not be able to have dinner tonight."

He only wished that he could forget Zhou Xing as soon as possible. He wanted to treat Zhou Xing like a nightmare so that when he opened his eyes after waking up, the nightmare would disappear without a trace and leave nothing behind.

Zhai Yi couldn't help but laugh. "Okay."

Zhai Yi had just finished saying so when the phone Zhai Xin threw to the bed started ringing. Zhai Xin thought that Qiao Nan had called to tell him she had reached home. He walked over and wanted to answer the call. However, when Zhai Xin saw Zhou Xing's name from the caller ID, he was

immediately disgusted. He treated his mobile as a virus and threw it heavily on his bed, staying far away from it. “She, she, she... she’s calling me again. If she’s sick, she should go to the hospital!”

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Why did she keep calling him? He wasn’t a doctor and couldn’t treat her.

After thinking for a while, Zhai Xin picked up his phone again. However, he didn’t answer the call. Instead, he used a needle and poked it into the hole, ejecting the SIM card. “Are you my brother? If you are, accompany me to change a new SIM card. After that, help me send a short text to Mom, grandma, and the rest that I’ve changed my number.”

On account that Zhai Xin was ‘hurt’ and pestered by the mentally unsound Zhou Xing, Zhai Yi wasn’t calculative toward Zhai Xin. It was rare for him to be good-tempered and do whatever Zhai Xin wanted him to do.

Having just gotten out of such a deadly relationship, his younger brother required proper companionship, which he, as a good elder brother, should provide. At the very least, he had to let Zhai Xin understand that even if he didn’t have love, he still had kinship.

Zhai Xin replaced the SIM card at the fastest speed. Aside from family, he didn’t inform any of his classmates. Of course, the teachers and professors who taught him were exceptions. The reason why Zhai Xin didn’t inform his classmates about the change of his mobile number was also because of the lesson he learned today.

An onlooker sees the game best.

After Zhai Xin calmed down, how could he not have felt that when he and Zhai Yi had just appeared at the school gate, Zhou Xing was soon right behind them as if she had received news in advance? Zhou Xing’s spies must be nearby! In order to prevent him from having a need to change his SIM card again, Zhai Xin decided to keep his mouth shut and not let any of his classmates know.

It was rare for Zhai Yi to compliment Zhai Xin. “There are times that you’re still smart.” He always felt that ever since Zhai Xin dated Zhou Xing, even if he wasn’t serious yet, his IQ had dropped by quite a bit.

It was rare to hear Zhai Yi's exaggeration and approval, but Zhai Xin couldn't feel happy at all. If he could choose, he would rather not have this compliment. Zhai Yi's compliment was no different from a slap to his face.

It was better not to have this compliment.

Zhai Xin had originally spent most of his time and efforts on studies and training. After encountering a pitfall like Zhou Xing, Zhai Xin delved further into these aspects.

In the past, Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo had already started receiving missions when they were students in school as their performance was good. Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin could be said to have strong family roots. Their family, from their great-grandfather's generation to their father's generation, had performed outstandingly after entering the army. One had to know that there were already three generations of chiefs from the Zhai family.

Moreover, the Zhai family had an extremely good relationship with the Zhu family, the Li family, and the Shi family. Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo's son, Zhu Yu, could be said to have grown up in the Zhai family since he was young. He treated Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin like his birth brothers.

With such a family influence, how would Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin not become great soldiers? Seeing that there was an opportunity, Zhai Xin applied to join the mission without saying a word. One had to know that it wasn't always good for veteran soldiers to appear in some missions. It would be easier to confuse the enemy and not be discovered by them by changing new faces from time to time.

If it was an ordinary person, they would definitely be prohibited from carrying out a mission while still schooling. However, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were not ordinary students. Zhu Baoguo had an outstanding performance as well. After his father, Zhu Chengqi, became Elder Zhu, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin even started to call him their godfather.

As for Shi Qing, even though she didn't manage to become a chief like Zhu Baoguo, she was already regarded as a famous queen soldier and general in the army. It could be said that apart from Shi Peng, Shi Qing was the most outstanding in the entire Shi family.

Elder Shi had always looked down on Shi Qing. He only treated her as an ordinary granddaughter and thought of finding a capable young man who would be helpful to the Shi family and let Shi Qing marry him when she had grown up.

In the end, not only did Shi Qing marry well, but most importantly, she was extremely outstanding. She was only within a stone's throw from the expectations that Elder Shi had for Shi Peng, his son, and had performed better than Shi Peng that year.

As such, Elder Shi left with a smile. He felt that he could answer to their family's ancestors. The Shi family had always been bumpkins, until his generation. After that, Shi Peng worked hard and made it to the central government. Shi Qing was one of the most promising grandchildren the Shi family had. Although the Shi family had a short history, he could be said to have answered to the surname Shi.

Actually, before he died, Elder Shi wanted to get closer to Shi Qing. All these years, he had given Qiu Chenxi all the resources he had. Shi Qing, his birth granddaughter, didn't get any benefits at all. Shi Qing climbed up the ranks and became a famous female general. In contrast, Qiu Chenxi, who had received Elder Shi's help, was unfit for a higher post but willing to take a lower one.

She didn't get married at a young age and it was not easy for her to meet Peng Yu. The Peng family also treated Qiu Chenxi as their daughter-in-law and had brought her around everywhere. Who knew that Elder Shi was only happy for a few days? In the blink of an eye, the Peng family had arranged for Peng Yu to marry an international student.

Elder Shi threw a great tantrum because of this matter and asked Qiu Chenxi to settle scores with the Peng family.