

RTAMM 1681

Chapter 1681: Strong Background

Qiu Chenxi was initially unwilling to do so as this matter was simply too embarrassing. She knew that not only was Peng Yu getting married, but he had decided to do so shortly after he had a first date with the other party. It was like a huge slap to Qiu Chenxi's face and she was ashamed. How would she have the face to run over to the Peng family and question them?

If she went to ask, could it be that Peng Yu wouldn't marry that international student but her instead? Qiu Chenxi was worried that if she found out more from the Peng family, she would only suffer more humiliation instead.

However, Elder Shi insisted on an answer. Qiu Chenxi had no choice but to be thick-skinned and go to the Peng family.

The Peng family wasn't afraid of Qiu Chenxi questioning them. Even if Elder Shi had made a trip personally to their house, the Peng family could give Elder Shi and Qiu Chenxi a convincing answer. "Have you dated our Peng Yu? Did our Peng Yu ever admit that you are his girlfriend? Also, did our Peng Yu ever say to marry you as his wife, or to be engaged to you, or to propose to you? Don't tell me there is a tacit understanding between the two of you. You don't have that with our Peng Yu. I have never heard of marriage proposals or engagements based on a tacit understanding either. If there was really a tacit understanding, even if there wasn't a proposal, there would be an engagement ring, right?"

Peng Yu was never interested in Qiu Chenxi. It was purely because Qiu Chenxi had grudges against Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng that he saw his enemy's enemy as a friend. Qiu Chenxi and Zhai Sheng were childhood sweethearts. He had thought that he would yield twice the results by doing half the work with Qiu Chenxi's help to deal with Zhai Sheng.

However, Peng Yu didn't expect Qiu Chenxi to be unreasonable. She had some ability to deal with and scheme against others. However, when she dealt with her enemies, Qiu Chenxi's means weren't worth mentioning.

The Peng family had said it so explicitly, but Qiu Chenxi couldn't even answer a single question. She could only return in defeat and bring the Peng family's words to Elder Shi. She also told Elder

Shi to forget it. If she went to the Peng family's house again, she would really be too ashamed to show her face in the future.

Qiu Chenxi's development wasn't as good as Shi Qing's. They were both thirty years old. After much difficulty, the person Qiu Chenxi married couldn't compare to Zhu Baoguo, whom Shi Qing married. At this moment, Elder Shi couldn't help but feel regretful.

If he had known that his granddaughter, Qiu Chenxi, was incapable, he would have handed over everything in his hands to Shi Qing. In any case, Qiu Chenxi was just a maternal granddaughter. Qing Qing was different. She was his paternal granddaughter.

Even if Elder Shi felt regretful, he couldn't ask back the items he had given to Qiu Chenxi anymore. Shi Qing wouldn't bother to get what Qiu Chenxi had received either.

As such, after Elder Shi understood who was the one between Shi Qing and Qiu Chenxi who could develop the Shi family and help make his wish come true, it naturally became just an extravagant hope when he tried to pick up his relationship with Shi Qing again. Aside from the respect one should have for elders, Shi Qing didn't have any endearing feelings toward him at all.

Later, when Elder Shi heard that the government would be allowing a second child to be born into the family, Elder Shi secretly discussed with Shi Qing, hoping that she could give birth to another child with Zhu Baoguo. Shi Qing's eldest son was surnamed Zhu and he was called Zhu Yu. After Shi Qing gave birth to a second child, regardless of gender, he or she would be surnamed Shi. The Shi family name must be passed down.

When Shi Qing heard this, she felt that it was extremely funny. "Grandpa, if you really have such thoughts, let me give you a suggestion. You have heard in advance that the government would be allowing a second child to be born into the family. Why don't you tell this to Qiu Chenxi? You have given Qiu Chenxi everything from the Shi family. It's right and proper for Qiu Chenxi to be giving birth to another child for the Shi family. Coincidentally, that child surnamed Shi can inherit from Qiu Chenxi everything that you have passed to her. In this way, everything would be returned to the Shi family."

She wouldn't meddle with the Shi family matters. If she herself wouldn't, how would she let her child be involved?

"You also know that Zhu Baoguo and I are usually too busy. My father has retired and thus has more free time to help me take care of Zhu Yu. When Zhu Yu was born, Zhu Baoguo and I had to return to the army. My father-in-law was busier than us, and my father had a lot of projects at hand.

My mother was even more inexperienced than me when it came to taking care of children. As such, if not for Nan Nan's help at that time, Zhu Yu might not have grown up well. If I don't have the time to bring up a child, I don't want to have a second child. I couldn't possibly trouble Qiao Nan to help me bring up my second child after she had brought up my first child, right? You might not have known this, but when Zhu Yu was at the Zhai family, he often called Qiao Nan as Mother Nan Nan."

Thankfully, she had a good relationship with Qiao Nan. She also felt that she had owed Zhu Yu, her son, a lot. Otherwise, to listen to his son address another woman as his mother would really fill her up with jealousy.

Actually, Shi Qing felt jealous at the start. After all, Zhu Yu was her only birth son. She naturally hoped that Zhu Yu would be closest to her. It was really uncomfortable to listen to his son address another woman as his mother.

However, Shi Qing quickly let go of such complicated thoughts. Within an hour, she recalled that she only had a son addressing Qiao Nan as his mother. However, the triplets Qiao Nan gave birth to had addressed her as their godmother since they were young. In that way, she had obtained two half-sons and one half-daughter from Qiao Nan.

If those could be put together, she would have obtained one and a half of Qiao Nan's children. Based on this, she would have taken three times the advantage, as compared to Qiao Nan. This was really... The person who should feel jealous shouldn't be herself but Qiao Nan.

It was also because she had too good a relationship with Qiao Nan that Shi Qing used a very short period of time to adjust her mentality when her son called Qiao Nan his mother. After that first time, whenever Zhu Yu addressed Qiao Nan as Mother Nan Nan, not only was Shi Qing not angry, but she even smiled happily behind their backs as if she was a kitten who had just stolen a fish. She was only short of licking her paws.

When she saw how intimate Zhu Yu and Qiao Nan looked, Shi Qing silently told herself that out of Qiao Nan's three children, at least two of them would follow Brother Zhai's footsteps to be a soldier. The army was her territory. Zhu Yu and Qiao Nan could be intimate now, but by then, she would let Qiao Nan's children who had entered the army to be equally intimate with her.

Snort. How could she lose to Qiao Nan? Let's see who has the biggest advantage in the end!

As one would have imagined, when Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin went to study at PLA National Defense University, they immediately received special care from Shi Qing. Aside from those students in

school who didn't need to know, the rest understood how strong Zhai Yi's and Zhai Xin's backgrounds were.

Chapter 1682: Again

These two students had the backing of the most famous female general in the country.

The moment the superiors saw that it had been Zhai Xin who had applied to join the mission, they immediately approved it without any hesitation.

After receiving his approval, Zhai Xin made some basic preparations. "Are you really not planning on going with me to get some experience? Godma and godpa did this too when they were younger."

If they performed well while they were still in school and had an outstanding performance in this mission, they would have a better starting point compared to others when they really joined the military after their graduations.

No matter what, everything that they had was all earned through their own hard work. They had not relied on their relations. But Zhai Xin felt that efforts and shortcuts could go hand in hand.

Zhai Yi shook his head. "There's no need. I have my own plans. Remember to take care of yourself when you're on this mission since I'm not by your side."

Zhai Yi knew that the only reason Zhai Xin was in a rush to go on a mission a whole year earlier than they had originally planned was because of Zhou Xing.

Even now that things had gotten to this point, Zhou Xing had the cheek to call Zhai Xin. It did not seem as though Zhou Xing had any intention of calling to apologize after the truth was so shamefully exposed. Before they left, Zhou Xing had even criticized Zhai Xin angrily. Anyone with ears could hear that Zhou Xing felt that it was their mother who was against their relationship.

So Zhou Xing hoped that Zhai Xin could express a man's charm and decisiveness to rebel against his mother's 'tyranny' so as to protect his girlfriend.

To go against his mother for the sake of a girlfriend whom he had not been dating for long? And one that he had no true feelings toward, no less! Zhai Yi once again confirmed that Zhou Xing had to be spending her free time on the weekends reading novels. Perhaps, Zhou Xing had not taken the college entrance examination because her academic results had been far from stellar.

To Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin who excelled academically, Zhou Xing's poor results were no different from bad students. Including Zhai Yu, the three siblings had always swept the top three level rankings. The three siblings were never troubled over having average academic results or worried about not getting into a good school through the college entrance examination.

As for someone who often read novels and even transported herself into the novel, Zhai Yi thought that it was a smart decision for Zhou Xing to give up on high school and the idea of getting into university.

What Zhou Xing was tackling now was performance. Apart from her usual training, she did have a lot of free time. Otherwise, Zhou Xing would not have found excuses to visit their dormitory with soup every two to three days. Every time Zhou Xing sent soup over, it was really quite a hefty portion. It was not only Zhai Xin who could be filled and energized, but even he could get his share of two bowls of soup!

The soup that Zhou Xing cooked could not compare to their mother's or grandmother's, but her culinary skills were not particularly bad if compared to an average person's. "I hope that we'll never get any more soup in this room once you go on this mission."

It did not taste bad, but it was unfortunately too oily.

Zhai Yi felt that it was all thanks to the great amount of training in school and their instructor's 'special treatment' that the brothers' training intensity was much higher than that of other students. It could even compare to that of normal soldiers. It was also because of this that the two brothers did not gain weight from Zhou Xing's oily soup but managed to maintain a good physique instead.

That kind of soup did not do much for hunger, but because of its high oil and water content, it provided the much-needed calories.

"It will... I hope." Zhai Xin had wanted to say that it would. Since he had already broken up with Zhou Xing, she had no business sending soup over to his dormitory. But he thought about how Zhou Xing was currently not sending any soup over, but she had continued bombarding him with calls. If he had not changed his phone number, his phone might still be ringing at this very moment. Just in case, the second thing that Zhai Xin did right after switching off his phone was to disconnect the only phone in their room.

He refused to let Zhou Xing find him through any channels.

Zhai Xin had learned his lessons from the phone calls. That was why Zhai Xin's tone became hesitant when he talked about Zhou Xing not coming to find him or sending soup to him anymore. An average person would surely not come anymore. But Zhou Xing was not just an average person.

An average person would never get into a relationship all the while knowing that her boyfriend was her biological cousin and that their mothers shared the same mother. She even deliberately hid this information!

At the thought of this, Zhai Xin's expression darkened. "Even if she's shameless enough to send soup over to our dormitory, just don't accept it. This is a men's dormitory. She's a girl. She won't be able to come up." Even if he had dated Zhou Xing, this was still a men's dormitory and women could not enter. That rule would not change.

Now, even though Zhou Xing had become his cousin instead of his girlfriend, the rule still stood. She could not enter a male dormitory.

"Fine. That works," Zhai Yi replied in satisfaction. If it was not for Zhai Xin, he would have rejected Zhou Xing the first time she sent soup over. Seeing that she had already progressed to sending soup over, Zhai Yi felt that Zhou Xing would not act according to Zhai Xin's plan. She would not break up with Zhai Xin or set her eyes on another target after seeing more outstanding male university students just because of her young age and immaturity.

Even without any experience in dating, Zhai Yi could tell that much.

Now that he had gotten Zhai Xin's permission, it would be much easier for Zhai Yi to work. To tell the truth, the reason why Zhai Yi had decided not to participate in this mission and stay by Zhai Xin's side but had instead chosen to stay behind was also because of Zhou Xing.

He had to take the chance to clean up the last bit of this mess while Zhai Xin was on his mission. Zhou Xing was not one to give up easily, and many people in both schools knew that Zhou Xing was dating Zhai Xin.

If Zhai Xin just dumped Zhou Xing without any reason, it would be detrimental to Zhai Xin. Zhai Yi did not wish for Zhai Xin to be labeled as a heartless lad and have his reputation ruined just because of Zhou Xing.

What would happen if his future sister-in-law heard of these rumors and misunderstood Zhai Xin? As Zhai Xin's elder brother, he had to help Zhai Xin tidy up these loose ends.

After his discussion with Zhai Yi, Zhai Xin left for his mission without any hesitation.

It had not even been two days since Zhai Xin left when Zhou Xing turned up just as expected. Zhou Xing was not just unwilling to give up but had also shown up at their school as Zhai Xin's girlfriend.

Chapter 1683: Proof

He saw Zhou Xing surrounded by several girls and boys, all of whom were looking at Zhou Xing with sympathy in their eyes. As for the guys, there was an additional look of pitiful love in their gazes toward Zhou Xing. Upon seeing this situation, Zhai Yi understood why Zhou Xing felt so good about herself. There were so many blind guys in their school!

Then, he thought again about how there were more boys than girls in their school. There were simply too many boats chasing too few fish. Zhai Yi finally understood. "Zhou Xing, what's the matter with you? Why are your eyes a little puffy?" Since she was already here, it did not seem right for Zhai Yi to remain silent.

"Do you still have the guts to ask me about it? It's all thanks to that younger brother of yours. Don't think that you can treat us girls so carelessly just because you guys are handsome and are the most popular guys in the PLA National Defense University. As a boyfriend, don't you think that it's normal to show more concern about your girlfriend? He suddenly ceased all contact, stopped answering Xingxing's phone calls, and has even gone missing now. What does this all mean? Does Zhai Xin have another woman so he wants to get rid of our Xingxing? Our school may not be as good as yours, but don't think that we'll be bullied so easily!"

Zhou Xing's female classmate was the first to jump out and seek justice for Zhou Xing. "I hate people who play with the feelings of others. No matter what, your brother has to give us a good explanation for this. What exactly did our Xingxing do to anger him? Why does he have to torture and make life difficult for our Xingxing? If you guys have any conscience and a little bit of integrity as future soldiers, you'd better get your brother out and apologize to our Xingxing. And he'd better promise us that he'll treat Xingxing well in the future and not bully her anymore."

Actually, this female classmate thought that it was much better for Zhou Xing to stop hesitating and crying and simply break up with Zhai Xin and find a better guy who would cherish her. It was true that Zhai Xin was handsome and a student of the PLA National Defense University, but he was a bast*rd after all. Since Zhou Xing had already discovered his true nature so early on, it was much better to end the relationship as soon as possible!

But Zhou Xing had been crying, saying that she truly loved Zhai Xin and could not live without Zhai Xin. As long as Zhai Xin got rid of his bad habits, she felt that she would be the happiest staying with Zhai Xin.

Since the party concerned, Zhou Xing, was so stubborn and devoted, there was nothing her female classmate could do. The only thing she could do was to be a moralist and lecture Zhai Xin to get justice for Zhou Xing, all the while reminding Zhai Xin to treat Zhou Xing well in the future.

“I’ll say this today. If Zhai Xin is someone who toys with women’s feelings, I don’t think he’s worthy of that military uniform or of being a soldier. I believe that the military will never accept a person like Zhai Xin!” If this matter blew up, it would have a drastic impact on Zhai Xin’s future position in the military.

Being softhearted was not going to work, so she had to bring in solid consequences. Otherwise, the Zhai brothers would think that the girls in their art school were easily bullied. When they liked it, they would date a girl. Once they got tired of her, they would treat her as trash and dump her aside without a second look.

“Zhai Yi, there’s actually no need for this to become such a big matter. It won’t be good for Zhai Xin. Zhou Xing is quite pretty, treats Zhai Xin well, and even sends soup over to Zhai Xin often. It won’t be easy to find such a good girlfriend in the future even when you enter society. Zhai Yi, as an average person, don’t you think it’s good to know how to cherish whatever we have?”

Even the male students of the PLA National Defense University spoke up.

He knew all too well the struggles of not having a girlfriend. If he had a girlfriend, he would surely perform much better than Zhai Xin. There was no way he would let his girlfriend cry until her eyes were swollen. He would do his best to pamper his girlfriend like a princess so that she would never think of leaving him and would even step into the marriage hall together with him.

This guy knew that the students of the PLA National Defense University would all be busy with their careers and would have no time for their families in the future. There were too many boys but too few girls in their school, making it incredibly hard for him to get a girlfriend. But if he did not

get a girlfriend now, he would have even less time to get to know girls and get a girlfriend once he entered the military.

How he wished he could be Zhai Xin. He would surely cherish a good young lady like Zhou Xing. What era were they living in? Even his mom's cooking was very ordinary. Now, young ladies of Zhou Xing's age all lived pampered lifestyles and never had to dirty their hands with household chores. Zhou Xing was even willing to dirty her hands to make soup for Zhai Xin, and he had even heard that her culinary skills were pretty good.

Where could he find such a good girlfriend?

After someone took the lead, many more people who had accompanied Zhou Xing here started to join in. "That's right. Zhou Xing is such a good girl. Zhai Xin can't bully her like that."

"Where's Zhai Xin? Ask him out! Don't always hide behind his elder brother! Does he feel too ashamed to face us now that he knows he's done something wrong?"

The clamor was soon getting more out of hand, and the commotion had even attracted a lot of attention from onlookers. Zhai Yi knew about that, but he was waiting for Zhou Xing to explode. Clearly, this fire that Zhou Xing had started was now big enough. Now that it had reached his desired level, Zhai Yi finally spoke up. "You guys have been saying that Zhou Xing is Zhai Xin's girlfriend. I am confused by you guys. Who told you that Zhai Xin is dating Zhou Xing?"

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"..."

"..."

The moment Zhai Yi said that, Zhou Xing turned her head and leaned on her classmate's shoulder before bursting out in tears.

That girl who was full of righteousness flushed with anger. "Who told us? We all know! Do you dare say that Zhai Xin did not save Xingxing two months ago and that they did not get into a relationship? Zhou Xing has a good temper and knows that Zhai Xin is always busy, so she tries not to bother him. Ask around. I don't believe that no one in the PLA National Defense University doesn't know that Zhai Xin is dating our Xingxing."

Zhai Xin was the most handsome guy on campus. Even if people in the PLA National Defense University had not seen it for themselves, the news of the most handsome guy getting a girlfriend had surely spread like wildfire. Therefore, the girls were not the least bit worried that Zhai Yi would not admit it or even try to deny that Zhou Xing was in a relationship with Zhai Xin.

“I think you guys have all misunderstood the situation. Zhai Xin was never with Zhou Xing, and the two of them have never dated.” Zhai Yi denied the relationship between Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin, completely ignoring the rumors that had been spread. Rumors were almost always false anyway!

“You...” At this, the girl not only flushed with anger but was rendered speechless by Zhai Yi’s ‘shamelessness’. “Dating is not like getting engaged. There’s no ring as proof. But you brothers can’t be such scoundrels! They were clearly in a relationship, but you’re denying it now! Don’t force me! If you force me, I’ll flip your university upside down just to find a few students to prove that Zhai Xin was in a relationship with our Xingxing and that they went out together!”

Chapter 1684: Proof

That was bad. It was always Xingxing who went to visit Zhai Xin, and the location of their dates was always PLA National Defense University. If it had been their own school, it would have been much easier for her to find someone to prove the relationship between the two.

Zhai Yi sneered. “Who said that a man and woman walking together must be dating?”

“A man and woman being together alone is highly suspicious. Don’t tell me that you’re such a genius but you don’t even know that? Or do you really think that there can be a truly platonic relationship between a man and woman to the extent that they want to spend time together alone but are still not in a romantic relationship? If they were not dating, why would Xingxing cook so much soup for Zhai Xin? She really fed an ingrate with all that soup!”

That girl was once again provoked by Zhai Yi’s shameless words. He was a gifted student in PLA National Defense University, and she had even heard that he was a top student! But how could his words be so shameless?

Heaven would be too unfair if Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were really able to escape this time! Now, she was not doing it for her classmate, but for justice. If she could not bring Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin down and prove that Zhai Xin had indeed been dating Zhou Xing, she would write her name in reverse!

Zhai Yi could feel that the students from both schools, including those who had overheard their conversation, had turned their gazes toward him. Now that he had set up the scene perfectly, Zhai Yi brought up the main topic. “So in your opinion, is there only love and friendship when a man and woman are together?”

“If it’s neither love nor friendship, do you really think it could be kinship?” The girl laughed angrily at Zhai Yi’s words. He was getting increasingly ridiculous. No one would even believe that it was purely friendship between this pair of man and woman. To simply escalate this friendship to kinship? Was he kidding? Did they simply skip the step of love?

“Why would it not be kinship?” Zhou Xing was indeed quite bothersome, even more so than his elder aunt that year. Thankfully, this pair of mother and daughter was not the sharpest tool in the shed. Even if they really fell in a trap set up by this mother-and-daughter pair, it would not be difficult to find a way out. Besides, he and Zhai Xin had no other talent, but they did have excellent physical fitness. Even a two or three-meter pit was just a small matter to him and Zhai Xin, let alone this small pit.

“...” The girl was almost rendered speechless. “Can you get any more shameless with your words?” Why not kinship? The question should be why kinship instead! Were all top scholars in the capital idiots who lacked even the most basic common sense? He was not only trying to find extraordinarily unconventional ways to solve his problems, but he was also using a one-in-a-million phenomenon as an explanation and excuse!

Stupid!

So stupid that he could not be helped!

There was no way he was really a top scholar in the capital! It must have been the Zhai family who bought this title for him!

Zhai Yi’s expression was cold. “I don’t have the habit of beating women, but that does not mean that you can be reckless, unreasonable, and spout nonsense just because you’re a woman.” The sight of Zhou Xing shivering while crying only made Zhai Yi become even colder.

Everyone thought that Zhou Xing was sobbing because she was feeling heartbroken, and they all rallied around Zhou Xing to comfort her, expressing their support for her. Even in front of their teachers and professors, they would stand on Zhou Xing’s side and seek justice for her.

Only Zhai Yi knew that Zhou Xing was sobbing not out of sadness but because she knew just what Zhai Yi was going to say.

Just as Zhai Yi had expected, Zhou Xing was not heartbroken but extremely frightened, and she began trembling in fear. “Let’s not talk about this anymore. Thank you all for your concern. I’m... I’m just too upset. I-I want to head back.” Today was not a good time. They had been making a fuss for such a long while, but Zhai Xin had still not appeared. She had cried for a long while and her eyes were now swollen, but she had still been unable to win Zhai Xin over and soften his resolve so that he would change his mind and return to her side.

Zhai Yi was indeed much colder than Zhai Xin.

She had better save those tears for when Zhai Xin appeared. If they kept this up, Zhai Yi might just expose the truth. Then, she would really have no way of saving this relationship.

“Don’t worry, Xingxing. I don’t believe that we won’t be able to find something to say with so many people here!” Zhou Xing’s previously god-like teammates were bound to commit mistakes as though they were fools just because Zhou Xing had hidden the truth from them. Now that this moralist friend of hers refused to let her leave, Zhou Xing’s face drained of all color. That was because she knew that this righteous girl was going to do her a disservice from this moment on.

“That’s right. You can’t just accuse someone like that in broad daylight.” Zhai Yi got even bolder and more confident than that moralist girl. “Zhou Xing’s mother is Qiao Zijin. Qiao Nan is Zhai Xin’s and my mother. Ding Jiayi is Zhai Xin’s, Zhou Xing’s, and my grandmother. Our mother and Zhou Xing’s mother share the same mother: Ding Jiayi. So what’s wrong with cousins walking together and Zhai Xin being concerned about whether his cousin would be able to adapt to this new and unfamiliar school and environment? Zhou Xing was just repaying Zhai Xin’s good intentions by cooking some soup for her cousins. Is that wrong?”

“...”

“...”

Zhai Yi’s words were like a bolt out of the blue that made everyone fall into a trance for a long while. Their gazes darted foolishly between Zhou Xing and Zhai Yi. Those who had criticized Zhai Xin earlier felt especially cheated. It was as though they had been punched in the face.

They studied at PLA National Defense University, and they had always been the best in the past. If they wanted to continue with this as their future paths, a sense of righteousness would undoubtedly necessary. But this false sense of righteousness without finding out the truth of the matter was detested. If their instructor found out about today's incident, they would surely be punished with a hundred rounds around the track.

Thankfully, they had only been bystanders and had not said a single word. If anyone had really spoken up for Zhou Xing to scold Zhai Xin, he would really have to escape to his room and cover his face with a blanket without coming out for a few days now. It would be too embarrassing!

It was not just the boys from PLA National Defense University. Even the moralist girl who had been fighting for Zhou Xing from the very beginning was in a trance for a long while. Finally, the girl asked uneasily, "Do you mean that Xingxing's mom shares the same mom as your mom?"

With the three moms all in the picture, she had gotten confused about the relationship between Zhou Xing and Zhai Xin. She had even bitten down on her own tongue so painfully that she teared up.

"Otherwise?" Zhai Yi retorted coldly. "Our grandmother may live in Ping Cheng and is far away, so we might not be able to call her over to prove it. But our grandfather is right here in the capital."

Chapter 1685: Forced to Break Up

"Do you need me to call our parents over and ask my family to issue a certificate to prove that Zhou Xing is our cousin? Since when did we have to prove our family background, ancestors, and all our family relations when coming to university? Do you have that privilege, or do we have an obligation to do so?"

Was it normal for cousins to spend time together alone? Of course! Nowadays, families had fewer children, so it was normal for children to address their cousins as elder sisters or brothers. The line between cousins and siblings was not so clear-cut anymore.

Even so, they were still relatives!

Since they were relatives, the younger sister was simply sending soup over to her two elder brothers to thank them for their concern. Was it normal? Of course! Even though Zhou Xing was still young, she was only young in age. She was actually very mature. Because she felt immensely grateful

toward Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin, she wanted to do a little something to express her gratitude toward her two elder brothers.

It was such a pure and innocent kinship. What was the problem? What went wrong?

The moralist girl's cheeks were flushed and were as red as a pig's liver. "No, that's not necessary." This was a family matter between Zhou Xing and the Zhai family. They had no obligation to report the matter to outsiders. More importantly, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were not even students from their school. Even if the two brothers had wanted to report the matter to the people in the girls' school, the brothers would have had no chance at all. The students of PLA National Defense University were outstanding and extremely busy with both their academic workload and training. She knew all that.

The problem was that Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin might not have had the time to explain the relationship between the three of them, but Zhou Xing did have the time and opportunity to do so.

At this moment, the girl finally came back to her senses. "That's not right, Zhou Xing. Didn't you tell us that Zhai Xin was your boyfriend? How did your boyfriend become your cousin?" Zhou Xing had been the one to say that Zhai Xin was not only her boyfriend but had gone missing on purpose so that she could not contact him. This was why she was in tears about Zhai Xin's attitude toward her.

If it was not for Zhou Xing's words, they would not have come all the way to PLA National Defense University in anger to seek justice for Zhou Xing. If they had known that Zhou Xing was Zhai Xin's cousin, they would have found nothing wrong with Zhai Xin busying himself with his studies or even spending time with other girls. Did Zhou Xing really expect Zhai Xin to give up his rights to a girlfriend just because Zhou Xing wanted Zhai Xin to take care of her as an elder brother?

Was this not just pure nonsense?

Most importantly, she was sure that Zhou Xing had always told them that Zhai Xin was her boyfriend, not her brother. If she had known that Zhai Xin was Zhou Xing's elder brother, she would never have come to PLA National Defense University and embarrassed herself in front of all these handsome guys from PLA National Defense University.

How could there be such pure and simple moralists in this world? This girl was also a female, after all, and had heard about how brilliant Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were. It was just that Zhai Xin had already gotten together with Zhou Xing and was already her classmate's boyfriend. She was

unwilling to be the third party, and thus, she naturally did not try to interfere. But who would have known that she would have a chance to show herself to this Prince Charming, Zhai Yi, because of Zhou Xing's incident? What's more, she would even be able to express her strong sense of righteousness and justice, which was sure to make Zhai Yi have a deep impression of her.

The girl had heard about Zhai Yi's family background and knew that the Zhai family members were all righteous and just. As long as she expressed her sense of righteousness, it would leave a positive impression on Zhai Yi. But Zhai Yi's initial stubbornness and inability to tell right from wrong shocked the girl.

Best of all, there was nothing that was most shocking. There was only something even more shocking. The so-called couple only had a sibling relationship between them!

What the hell? She had just embarrassed herself in front of her Prince Charming!

Thinking about this, the girl's tone was tinged with blame and disapproval when she questioned Zhou Xing. This was all Zhou Xing's fault. If Zhou Xing had not misled her by lying that Zhai Xin was her boyfriend, and if she had known that Zhou Xing had such a familial relationship with Zhai Xin, she would never have done something so foolish.

She had also been wondering how such an intelligent person like Zhai Yi, who was even a top scholar, would choose to behave so unconventionally against all logic and push all the blame to Zhou Xing alone.

"Zhou Xing, be honest with us. Are you actually cousins with Zhai Xin, or are you guys in a romantic relationship? Don't think that we'll believe everything you say and that we won't be able to find out the truth. Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin are both from the capital, so their mom is probably in the capital too. Didn't you say that their mom came to visit them a few days ago? Don't force us to do it."

Feeling that they might have been taken for a ride, the expressions of many people's faces changed, especially the girl who had been the most agitated. She had wanted to show off her sense of righteousness to her Prince Charming, not leave the impression that she was a fool who was even more foolish than a pig!

If Zhou Xing did not give her a reasonable explanation, Zhou Xing should just wait and see how she would gang up with the other students in school to deal with Zhou Xing! She had all reason to believe that there were many girls who were waiting to deal with Zhou Xing because of this matter. After Zhai Xin became Zhou Xing's boyfriend, it was not just the girls in PLA National Defense

University who went into mourning. Even girls from their art school had secretly cried under their covers.

It was too shameless to have advertised a sibling relationship as a romantic relationship. Because of Zhou Xing's deliberately vague words, they had all misunderstood their two Prince Charmings. Zhou Xing had to bear the responsibility for this matter.

Zhou Xing's face was covered in tears, and she looked pitifully at the girl with those doe eyes of hers, hoping that the girl would not try to pursue the matter any further at the moment. She would explain the matter fully once they got back to their university. As long as Zhai Yi was not around, the truth was whatever she said.

After this time, she would never be so foolish as to bring so many people to find Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin. The only one at a disadvantage was her. Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin had nothing to worry about and would be completely released from their predicament.

"What do you mean by this? Why are you looking at me? Do you still want to continue with your lies?" Yes, the girl had started to use the word 'lies'. "Did you really treat your brother, Zhai Xin, as a boyfriend?"

What did she mean by treating him as a boyfriend? Just a few days ago, Zhai Xin was indeed her boyfriend, and she was Zhai Xin's real girlfriend! It was Qiao Nan's appearance that had ruined their relationship, forcing them to break up.

Chapter 1686: Unnecessary

If not for Qiao Nan, she and Zhai Xin would still be doing just fine right now. Nothing would have happened, much less this whole saga that happened today.

Zhou Xing took a deep breath and suppressed these words. She was clear that the situation had begun to turn against her. Zhou Xing had to consider what to say so that she would not face such a great loss in this situation and be able to protect herself at the same time.

It seemed as though there was no choice but to admit to the relationship between Zhai Yi, Zhai Xin, and herself. The whole Zhai family was in the capital, and so was that grandpa that she had never met. If they were to call her grandfather here to prove the relationship between Qiao Nan and her

mom, she would really be done for. She would be a complete fool to continue telling a lie that could be easily exposed.

After giving it some thought, Zhou Xing sniffled. “Actually, Zhai Xin and Zhai Yi are indeed my brothers. But the three of us did not grow up together. I only met them after attending this school.”

Zhou Xing subtly hinted that she was not at all familiar with the Zhai family. Although they were relatives, she was already sixteen years old and had found out for the first time how Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin looked like only after coming to this school. A discerning person would realize that something was going on in this family.

Zhai Yi narrowed his eyes. Was Zhou Xing going to say that she had not known that they were siblings when she had first gotten together with Zhai Xin since they had not grown up together? It was because she suddenly found out about this and realized that they could not remain in a romantic relationship that it was too heartbreaking for her to accept it. That was why she had not made her words clear and that had led to so many people misunderstanding the conflict between her and Zhai Xin.

If this carried on, it would only lead to people finding out that his mom had not contacted her family after getting married to his dad. Apart from his grandpa, his mom did not really have a relationship with his so-called grandmother and elder aunt.

Zhai Yi’s expression looked awful as he thought about how his elder aunt had attacked Qiao Nan brutally with this excuse before her death.

The moment Zhai Yi’s face changed, Zhou Xing rejoiced. Why should the Zhai family always maintain their high ground while she was the only one to be embarrassed? Since they dared to do it, they should dare to admit to it too. Was Qiao Nan afraid of saying it after she had done it? Zhou Xing even wanted to tell everyone about how her mom had been killed by Qiao Nan!

Anyway, her family was not in the capital, and her mom was no longer around. No matter how serious this matter got, she was a child with no mother after all. As such, her classmates’ anger toward her would be limited. Perhaps, everyone would even pity her after learning about her tragic life experience and stand on her side once again.

With her around, she would definitely think of a way to make Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin’s lives interesting and full of trials and tribulations!

Zhai Yi saw Zhou Xing's proud look in her gaze and suddenly laughed, giving people goose bumps and making their hair stand. If he did not get rid of Zhou Xing today, then he would pack his bags and leave for the military tonight so as not to embarrass the Zhai family. The military exercises tested one's strategy and psychological warfare, which was much more vicious than what Zhou Xing was doing.

Did Zhou Xing have nothing to her advantage? She did!

“You really haven't seen me when we were young? I remember that you've seen my mom. When my mom came to visit me and Zhai Xin, didn't you immediately recognize who she is? That's right. You know us better than we do you. The moment we started school, you appeared frequently by Zhai Xin's and my sides. You wanted to acknowledge us as your cousins but didn't know how to do so? I would think so too. Grandpa and grandma separated early, and your mom followed grandma, while my mom followed grandpa. Just like how you've never met grandpa, Zhai Xin and I actually have no idea how grandma looks like. After all, you guys live in Ping Cheng, while we live in the capital.”

Zhai Yi spoke casually, but the hidden messages within his words did not fall behind Zhou Xing's earlier words. Since Zhou Xing was not afraid of being humiliated, how could Zhai Yi be bothered to suffer in order to maintain his pride for the sake of some distant relative and even smearing his own name?

“It's true that we've never really met since we were young, and neither is our relationship as good as other siblings'. But we're already of this age. Even if you've not come of age, you should have the most basic ability to tell right from wrong. So many years have passed, and it's not as though everything couldn't be found out. Besides, Zhai Xin has gone on a mission and is not in school. It's naturally good that you want to further this familial relationship and keep in contact. But on the other hand, since the relationship is not very good anymore and since you guys view each other as enemies, there's no point in trying to have such a familial relationship. Don't you think so, Zhou Xing?”

Qiao Zijin's death that year was Zhou Xing's greatest advantage. No matter how deep the hatred, no biological elder sister would deliberately force herself under her younger sister's car. Even though Qiao Zijin was gone, Qiao Zijin had sacrificed her life to do such a thing! Considering this, it was obvious that the relationship between the two families could not be good.

Thus, if one were to look at the orphaned Zhou Xing who kept appearing by the Zhai brothers' sides, as a girlfriend at one time, and then as a sibling, no matter how one looked at it, one would realize that there was something more to this. A closer look would reveal that Zhou Xing might look pitiful, but she was actually scheming and full of bad intentions!

Zhou Xing ground her teeth and stared at Zhai Yi sinisterly. This time, she finally figured out the difference between Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin. The brothers were equally handsome and even fifty to sixty percent similar in their looks. But their personalities were worlds apart.

Although she had only been together with Zhai Xin briefly, and Zhai Xin could only spend a little time with her, they had still gone on two dates together. During those dates, Zhai Xin had not only been very bubbly and cheerful, but he had also been very considerate toward her. He was truly a rare boyfriend.

If Zhai Xin's mouth was as foul as Zhai Yi's, and his thoughts as cunning and crafty, she might have been the one initiating a breakup. The difference between the brothers' personalities was so stark. For Zhai Yi, who liked to put girls in a tight spot, one could use the word 'mean' to describe him.

Zhou Xing understood that her mom died under Qiao Nan's wheel. As long as she said this, everyone would pity her. Similarly, since everyone was of the same age, if she did not talk about this matter, everyone would hate her. If the person in front of her had been Zhai Xin instead, Zhou Xing would have been pretty confident.

But now, the person in front of her was not Zhai Xin, but Zhai Yi. In the few verbal confrontations that she had had with Zhai Yi, Zhou Xing had never gotten the upper hand but had been suppressed by Zhai Yi instead. Zhou Xing knew that if she were to continue, the situation that she had just saved with much difficulty would take a turn for the worst yet again.

Chapter 1687: There Was a Premise

Zhou Xing, who had no choice, sighed. She seemed to be willing to compromise. "Sigh. Since you want to know about this matter, I'll tell you. After all, you have tried to help me. I should let you understand. Zhai Xin and I are cousins, not a couple. How would it be possible for a brother to date a sister? I announced this publicly because I'd discussed it with Zhai Xin. You also know that Zhai Xin is a gentle person and doesn't really know how to refuse girls. Although Zhai Xin and I are cousins, only insiders in school know about our relationship. Zhai Yi's face is cold enough for other female students to choose to retreat."

He was cold. One had to know that her initial target was also Zhai Yi. However, when Zhai Yi's face turned cold and indifferent, she started to retreat.

Initially, Zhou Xing still felt that it was a pity Zhai Yi was not as easily fooled as Zhai Xin to become her boyfriend. However, Zhou Xing no longer felt this way. Thankfully, Zhai Yi was cold enough and she dispelled those thoughts early to be together with Zhai Xin.

She believed that compared to the beautiful memories she had with Zhai Xin, one wouldn't know who would be the one taking revenge in her so-called revenge plan if the person she dated was Zhai Yi instead.

Had that been the case, she would have cursed Zhai Yi endlessly. If a man as cold as him who didn't know how to be considerate toward girls really met a girl he liked in the future, that girl would definitely not like him. Serves Zhai Yi right to be a virgin his whole life!

“After that, Zhai Xin thought of an idea, which was for me to pretend to be his girlfriend. We are all youths with upright worldviews and values. As long as Zhai Xin had a girlfriend, the female students who were interested in Zhai Xin would naturally not be a third-party who destroyed relationships. It was proven that this method was useful. It's just that I'm Zhai Xin's sister, after all. This fake relationship had to end sometime. I didn't expect my classmates to be so righteous. This had created unnecessary misunderstandings and caused everyone to work in vain. I sincerely apologize to all of you here.”

Once Zhou Xing said so, she naturally became that kind and understanding sister who helped resolve problems for her brother. Zhai Xin managed to escape as he was carrying out a mission today. However, Zhou Xing was still around. Although both of them had done this, Zhou Xing was the only one who was apologizing.

When he saw Zhou Xing stepping on Zhai Xin and trying to restore her image, Zhai Yi laughed coldly. It was rare for him not to expose and embarrass Zhou Xing further.

One doesn't push another to the wall.

Compared to what Zhou Xing wanted to achieve in the beginning, this was already the best ending. After the turmoil today, people from both schools would quickly find out about the cousin relationship between Zhai Xin and Zhou Xing. If Zhou Xing pestered Zhai Xin again and wanted to date him, he didn't even need to take any action. She would have drowned in the saliva of the people from the two schools.

“Since there's nothing else, hurry back to school. Even if you are studying in an art school now and learning dancing, I feel that you should put in more effort into dancing and train harder. Your teacher might have arranged fewer tasks for you, but you can definitely train harder yourself. Zhou

Xing, you have to remember that you're different from other children. You're in a more unique situation. As a youth in the new generation, as long as you're capable, you don't have to rely on your parents. It's precisely because of this that you should work harder. Zhai Xin is carrying out a mission and my schoolwork is relatively heavier. I hope that you can cherish the few years of life in school."

In other words, if there was nothing—no, even if there was something, don't come to PLA National Defense University to find him and Zhai Xin. Their relationship was different from others. Not only was it bad, but it had even reached the stage where they were at loggerheads with each other.

The act was for others. If they weren't around, Zhou Xing didn't have to appear and be annoying.

"Big brother is right." Zhou Xing forced a smile. Her cover was exposed. Zhai Yi didn't want to be her big brother and take care of her in the future at all. However, in front of everyone, he put on airs as a big brother and even started lecturing her.

Zhou Xing really wanted to say that unless Zhai Yi really decided to control her in the future and let her realize her dream, he should keep his grand principles to his birth sister, Zhai Yu. Her surname was Zhou and she was a child from the Zhou family. She had nothing to do with the Zhai family. She didn't care for Zhai Yi's 'invaluable advice' at all. "I'll head back first."

Once Zhou Xing left, the others dispersed as well.

Actually, if one thought about it carefully, there were inconsistencies in Zhou Xing's words. How could the show end just like that? Based on the relationship among the three, why would Zhou Xing do that? Wouldn't Zhai Xin's image be completely ruined if he used such an excuse to break up? Zhai Xin wasn't that stupid to be so ruthless to himself, right?

Secondly, Zhou Xing's previous words were simply too misleading. Even if it was time for the two of them to 'break up', couldn't a smart person like Zhai Xin come up with better ideas? They didn't believe it.

Most importantly, they didn't feel that the kind of sadness and abandonment Zhou Xing portrayed was real. Zhou Xing was just putting on an act.

It was just that since the parties involved, Zhou Xing and Zhai Yi, weren't pursuing this matter and were prepared not to mention it in the future, how would these people, who were here to watch the

excitement, still have so many 'whys' in their hearts? They could only shut their mouths obediently. After all, it was someone else's business.

The farce ended just as it started.

Thankfully, Zhou Xing managed to turn the tides in the end and preserve her jeopardized image in front of the students. As for Zhai Xin, he managed to get rid of the label 'scumbag' with the successful help of Zhai Yi.

Now, the relationship between the two was exposed. It was just that from today onward, Zhou Xing would have much lesser excuses to find Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin. At this time, Zhai Yi could express graciously that since Zhai Xin wasn't around, Zhou Xing did not have to come and look for Zhai Xin or him again.

They were just cousins and couldn't possibly neglect their studies just to take care of Zhou Xing. Nobody was more important than their futures.

Even if Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin wanted to be good brothers, Zhou Xing had to be a good sister first.

Chapter 1688: Throwing the Burden

Everyone knew that the students of PLA National Defense University were much busier than the students of art schools, and that was expected.

Albeit knowing that Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were extremely busy because of their studies, Zhou Xing had continually disturbed Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin and distracted them from their studies. Zhou Xing had gone overboard and had been too excessive. They were all a family, but no one would do that. Did Zhou Xing hope that Zhai Yi's and Zhai Xin's academic results and performances in every aspect would deteriorate? Was that why she spared no effort in pestering the brothers?

If that was the case, others would really doubt whether these three were truly cousins. Why was Zhou Xing's performance nowhere near as good as Zhai Yi's or Zhai Xin's?

With Zhai Yi's careful layout and setup, even if Zhou Xing wanted to plot something against the brothers, no matter what kind of plan she had, she would only find herself trapped and not be able to carry out her plans as easily as before.

Thankfully, Zhai Yi's efforts were not wasted. When Zhai Xin finally returned at the end of the year, he completed a whole semester's worth of content and hurriedly sat for his final exams. On the way home with Zhai Yi, Zhai Xin could not help but ask Zhai Yi, who was sitting beside him, "Did you do something to Zhou Xing in the two months that I was gone? Why do I feel that everyone looks at me differently now that I'm back? The atmosphere is even a little strange."

The only thing he was happy about was that Zhou Xing no longer called him on his phone ever since he changed his phone number, and neither had she taken the initiative to visit him anymore. "Up until today, Zhou Xing has never contacted me. Do you think she has finally realized her mistake and decided to back off and not bother me ever again?"

It was not just 'difficult' between him and Zhou Xing. It was simply impossible. He had to take his hat off to Zhou Xing's imaginative ideas. Even though she knew about the relationship between the two of them, Zhou Xing had still tried to find a way to become his girlfriend. Zhai Xin thought that even a lunatic would be calmer than Zhou Xing.

"Isn't that good?" Zhai Yi drove very carefully, unlike other boys who paid no heed to the law and simply sped up with no hesitation.

The scene of Qiao Zijin's death had not only agitated Qiao Nan. Even Zhai Yi was unable to forget that faithful day. Even if he did not have a huge psychological barrier and had even gotten his driving license early, he was always very careful and cautious while driving, just like Qiao Nan.

"Good. Of course it's good. I feel like I'm on cloud nine." While making his way back after his mission, what he was most worried about was that he would have to face a sobbing Zhou Xing the minute he got back. The thought of such a scene caused goose bumps to form on Zhai Xin's body. How he wished he would not have to return to school for some cultural exam.

It would be great to head home directly to spend time with his grandparents and mom.

Then again, if he was going to take the exam, then so was San Bao. After having seen a scheming and cunning girl like Zhou Xing, Zhai Xin felt a desperate need to take a few more looks at a pure and innocent young lady like San Bao to cleanse his eyes and soul.

Only then would he be able to comfort himself and say that there were too many girls in this world who were so much better than Zhou Xing. Not everyone was as annoying and crafty as Zhou Xing.

If all the girls in the world were just like Zhou Xing, Zhai Xin felt that he had no chance of getting married in his entire life, and neither would his parents ever get the chance to carry their grandchildren. If women were so scary, he would much rather stay single than get married to such a woman and spend the rest of his life with her.

“That’s good. You don’t have to know about anything else. Don’t worry. Zhou Xing won’t bother you anymore. If she really comes to find you behind everyone’s back, acts pitiful and sobs in front of you, just deal with her however you like. Don’t care about what other people say. You don’t have to worry about the consequences. There won’t be any.”

Upon hearing that Zhai Xin was happy, Zhai Yi’s lips curled up into a smile. He was happy about getting such a response from Zhai Xin too.

Zhai Xin raised his eyebrow. “Why? Did you do something to Zhou Xing while I was on a mission these two months?”

“Why? Do you feel for her?”

“Nonsense!” What a joke! But this joke was not the least bit funny and he felt extremely cold. “I just want to say that you’ve done a wonderful job! You handled this matter a lot better than I did. If I had done it, I wouldn’t have been able to do what you did!” An onlooker saw the situation the most clearly.

When his mom exposed Zhou Xing’s identity, he went berserk and lost all sense of rationality. Now, just the sight of Zhou Xing was enough for him to fly into a rage, and all rationality and logic was gone too. If he were to handle Zhou Xing’s matter on his own, he would not even be able to calm down. No matter what he did, he would only be at a disadvantage then, and Zhou Xing would benefit from it.

Anyone could benefit from him, except for Zhou Xing!

But now, everyone was good! Zhai Xin would not have to trouble himself over this problem that was Zhou Xing since Zhai Yi had resolved the problem on his behalf. From now on, Zhai Xin could sit back with his legs crossed and just treat Zhou Xing's matter as a joke.

"Mom said that grandma hasn't been in good health lately. You're the best at cajoling people. When we get back, you'll handle grandma. You'll get it if you don't do it well." Amongst the three of them, Zhai Yu was the only girl and had a fair temper.

Actually, because Zhai Yu was the only girl of their generation, Zhai Yi knew that even if Zhai Yu had a bad temper, she would grow up happily while being pampered and loved. Moreover, Zhai Yu was a good child who was very considerate toward her elders.

Apart from Zhai Yu, the one that most elders loved the most was Zhai Xin, who naturally had a sweet mouth. Zhai Xin retained his cheeky nature from childhood. Every time Zhai Xin did something, he was bound to bring joy and laughter to his elders. Sometimes, they laughed so hard that their stomachs hurt.

There was nothing better than laughter for a patient. Laughter could help a patient recover more quickly.

Zhai Yi was not good at doing this, so he carelessly threw that burden over to Zhai Xin and tasked Zhai Xin with this mission. Thankfully, Zhai Xin was in a good mood. Besides, it was true that he was good at doing this, and so he did not find Zhai Yi's irresponsible act particularly repulsive.

Chapter 1689: No Problem

Since it was his talent, not only did Zhai Xin not reject Zhai Yi, but he even accepted it happily. He then gestured a 'no problem' sign with his hands. He would take care of this matter.

Sure enough, when her two eldest grandsons returned home, Miao Jing's mood suddenly improved. When a person's mood improved, so would her spirits. When her spirits improved, her illness would then get better. "You two rascals are finally back. It's almost the new year! Grandma thought that you two wouldn't be spending the new year with grandma! I've been so upset that I haven't been eating well lately!"

She took a look at her eldest grandson before caressing her second grandson's face. Oh, they lost weight. They lost a lot of weight. It was no mean feat being students nowadays, especially her grandsons who were studying in key universities. It was a given that they would have it even harder than average students. "Now that you've come back for the new year, I'll definitely prove myself and show you my skills. I promise that I'll get you chubby again and as handsome as you guys were before the next school term starts! Sigh, you three loved eating so much when you were younger and were so chubby. Why have you lost all that weight now?"

"Especially San Bao. She is in Peking University, which is actually just nearby. When your mom was in Peking University, she came home every day to take care of the three of you. San Bao doesn't even have the burden of children and doesn't have to run between her school and our house. But the strange thing is that San Bao eats a lot but never gains any weight. I don't really understand where all that food that San Bao eats goes to. Does it really go into her stomach? Where does it go afterward?"

Miao Jing was just like any other old person, who felt that it was more adorable and healthy for children to be slightly chubby. Unfortunately, all her grandchildren, from Zhai Yi to Zhai Yu, were kids who never seemed to have an extra ounce of fat on them.

This was a huge blow to Miao Jing who was determined to fatten the three children. Ever since she had learned to cook, she had just this one wish.

Zhai Xin touched his own face. "Isn't that right? The food in our school canteen is so terrible when compared to what grandma cooks! It's almost as bad as pig food! You've spoiled me too much, grandma! How could I not lose weight in school? Grandma, you must make more delicious food for the three of us, especially for me and Zhai Yi, so that we can gain back whatever weight we've lost!"

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Yes, even he felt that he had lost some weight this time. If this persisted, his handsome face would be so skinny to the point of having no fats at all.

"..." Zhai Yi was speechless upon hearing the conversation between his brother and his grandma. Every time they ate in the school canteen, Zhai Xin was the most excited and was always at the front of the line. He would always try to plate his food as quickly as possible, and once he sat down, he would eat more quickly than anyone else. It was as though a bunch of noisy crows was flying over Zhai Yi's head.

Pig food?

Both he and Zhai Yi had already been studying there for a year and a half. Did that mean that they had been pigs for a year and a half? But why was Zhai Xin more excited than anyone when it came to eating that pig food?

Zhai Xin really did not have any qualms about saying such things or even comparing himself to a pig just to coax his grandma. Zhai Yi had no issues with Zhai Xin comparing himself to a pig. But Zhai Xin had implicated Zhai Yi in such an analogy! This really upset Zhai Yi.

Zhai Xin coaxed Miao Jing so much that she was overjoyed like a blooming flower. Laughing, she sat up in her bed full of spirit and instructed the auntie to purchase a whole bunch of fresh vegetables so that she could whip up a good meal for Zhai Xin. At that, Zhai Yi kicked Zhai Xin from behind. “Pig food?”

Zhai Xin rubbed on his bottom where Zhai Yi had kicked him. “Didn’t you say that I was in charge of coaxing grandma? If not, you can do it. How could you want to interfere with what I say in this difficult task of coaxing grandma? I’ll give you two choices. The first is that I’ll say whatever I want, and your opinions won’t matter. Secondly, you can you up. No can no bb.”

Did Zhai Yi think that he could be bullied easily just because he was the second child and Zhai Yi was the eldest? Did he think he could just act however he wanted? Did Zhai Yi expect to be both the good person and the bad person all at once? There was no way such a good deal could exist in the world!

Zhai Yi fell silent for a moment. “I dare you to repeat your last sentence when Mom returns!”

“...” Zhai Xin chuckled. “Do you really think I’m a fool? The three of us learned our foreign languages from master grandpa. Mom was by our side, supervising us the whole time. If I repeat those words, Mom will skin me alive.”

At that time, their mom had been upset for quite a while because of master grandpa’s death. Because they were still children then, they forgot things easily. No matter how upset they were, they would forget about it after crying for a while. But their mom was different. At that time, he clearly remembered that his mom had lost quite a few kilograms when two elders in their family passed away at the same time.

His mom had never been fat to begin with. When she brought them to school, those who did not know them personally even mistook them for siblings. Because of this, their mom did not even weigh forty kilograms at her lightest. As for someone of 1.6 meters, forty kilograms was way too light.

So it could be said that their grandma had been affected by how skinny their mom had gotten at that time. That was why she was devoted to fattening them up. After all these years, their mom had finally managed to regain weight after much difficulty and now weighed forty-five kilograms. This was all thanks to their grandma alone. Their grandma had spent more than ten years to help their mom regain these five kilograms.

It was true that she gained one kilogram every year.

Why was it harder for their mom to gain weight than it was for other women to lose weight?

It was exactly because they had such a deep impression of this experience that the three children were especially careful about mentioning the two elders. They feared that they would upset their elders at home.

But now, Zhai Xin had just spurted out a series of web slang in English because he was in a good mood. Zhai Xin did not dare to say that in front of his mom, as he was afraid of being punished by his mom.

Zhai Yi snorted. “Grandma will definitely cook a lot of dishes, so you had better eat more. Just wait and see what will happen if you don’t gain at least one kilogram after the new year.” Was their grandma so easily coaxed? The weighing scales in their house had all been purchased by their grandma while she had been trying to fatten Qiao Nan up. They were to get a gauge of their mom’s weight. Even if she could not fatten Qiao Nan up, at least, she could not let Qiao Nan lose any more weight.

Chapter 1690: Not To That Extent

Of course, their grandma naturally developed this habit. If their grandma wanted to fatten anyone up, recording their weight daily was their daily homework, and they would even have to weight themselves a few times a day! After a while, Zhai Yi wondered if his grandma could become a nutritionist instead.

Sure enough, with Zhai Yi's reminder, Zhai Xin immediately thought of his grandma's way of doing things. "Is it too late for me to regret it now? You know well that the three of us inherited Mom's genes of not gaining weight no matter how much we eat. I'm not afraid of eating more. I'm just afraid that I won't gain any weight after the new year even if I eat everything that grandma cooks! What will happen then?"

Zhai Yu was a girl, so she was overjoyed about having such a physique. She never failed to praise her mom for being the best mom who had given her such amazing genes. As for the boys, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin, they did not feel much about it. Apart from not seeing much effect from their grandma feeding them, having such genes was not bad at all other times.

Being fat and overweight was not a good thing and was not attractive whether on a male or female.

Knowing that their mom had once been the school belle of Peking University, Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin did not really have any reaction to being the most handsome guys in their school on the surface, but they were actually quite pleased with the news. As the sons of the gifted Peking University school belle, they would not deserve to be their mom's sons if they did not get this title.

Zhai Yi patted Zhai Xin on the shoulder silently, but it was all too clear that he meant to tell Zhai Xin to take this in stride. It was exactly because it was not easy to coax their grandma that he had handed this arduous task over to Zhai Xin.

As a future soldier of the People's Liberation Army and as a man, he could not take back his words. Neither could he regret what he had said. Since he had said it, he would have to see it through.

After leaving a mess for his younger brother to clean up, Zhai Yi headed downstairs as though nothing had happened and looked around the kitchen to see if his grandma needed any help. In the Zhai family, there was no rule that men could not enter the kitchen or touch anything in the kitchen.

The men in the Zhai family were all used to washing vegetables, handing out bowls, or serving the dishes.

Now that Zhai Yi and Zhai Xin were back, it was not just Miao Jing who was overjoyed. All their elders were happy about it too. Qiao Nan saw Miao Jing constantly sneaking looks at Zhai Xin. Seeing how easily her son had managed to coax her mother-in-law and that her mother-in-law was no longer sick in bed, there was nothing for Qiao Nan to be displeased about.

At this moment, Qiao Nan pulled Zhai Yi over to the side for a chat. “After that time, has Zhou Xing ever gone to find Zhai Xin? Has she created trouble for you two?”

In the two months that followed, Qiao Nan had not asked about the details of the matter because she was confident that her two sons would be able to deal with the matter themselves. As such, she chose not to interfere in the matter any further. But now that her sons were back, Qiao Nan would feel uneasy if she did not get to the bottom of the matter with her sons.

“She did, but after that, I resolved all the problems. Zhai Xin and I are fine. Don’t worry, Mom.” Zhai Yi did not hide the truth and told Qiao Nan exactly what had happened after that incident.

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. “I really don’t know whether to say that Zhou Xing is truly Qiao Zijin’s daughter. Even though Qiao Zijin is gone and Zhou Xing was raised by the Zhou family, this temper of hers is exactly like her mom’s!”

The way she refused to give up without reaching her goal and did not mind to use unscrupulous methods to achieve her goal was the spitting image of her mother!

Zhai Yi poured Qiao Nan a cup of tea to appease her. “That could be because they were both brought up by grandma.” Even though their grandpa was a good man, he had his flaws too and had indeed treated his mom unfairly. As such, he had no expectations toward that legendary grandma of his. “Didn’t you say that Zhou Xing’s father didn’t care about her after he got remarried? Once the old Zhou couple passed away, Zhou Xing grew up with that grandma of hers in the following three years, didn’t she?”

Just based on the way he addressed his grandmother by adding the word ‘that’, it was clear that Zhai Yi had no good feeling toward Ding Jiayi. The only reason he addressed Ding Jiayi as ‘grandma’ was that he could not deny the fact that Ding Jiayi had given birth to his mother. So logically, it was only right for him to address Ding Jiayi as ‘grandma’.

He did so only because his mom had taught him well and because he had manners. That was all.

As for anything else, like kinship, there was absolutely none. This was nothing but a polite greeting. It was no different from how they would have to address elders of their grandparents’ generation politely with an honorific when they met them outside.

Qiao Nan rubbed her forehead. “If she was really influenced by that grandma of yours, I can only say that Zhou Xing is such an unlucky child. I’m afraid she’ll be following in her mom’s footsteps.”

When Qiao Zijin realized what kind of mother Ding Jiayi was, she had chosen death. If Zhou Xing was to follow in her footsteps, Ding Jiayi might have to experience the same pain of losing her beloved daughter through losing her most beloved granddaughter. Then, Ding Jiayi would probably break down for real.

Forget it. There was no need for her to worry about this. What she had to worry about was what would happen in the future now that Zhai Xin had gotten himself entangled with Zhou Xing.

“Da Bao, let me ask you something. Answer me truthfully.” At home, Qiao Nan naturally changed to addressing Da Bao by his nickname. “Ever since that incident with Zhou Xing, has Er Bao had any reaction to girls?”

“No.” Zhai Yi shook his head in denial. “Er Bao won’t reject all girls and think that they’re all bad just because of Zhou Xing. The men in the Zhai family aren’t so cowardly. Besides, other than getting deceived, Er Bao didn’t really lose much in this whole incident. It’s a small lesson to learn, at most. It’s not that serious.”

If an average man encountered such a situation, his feelings might have been cheated.

But Zhai Xin had not even liked Zhou Xing to begin with, so his feelings had not been cheated at all. Zhai Yi felt that no matter how upset Er Bao felt about this matter, there was no way Zhai Xin was going to get overly upset about it.

“All right, then.” Since her son had not become ‘once bitten twice shy’ from this experience, there was nothing else that Qiao Nan was worried about. She believed that Er Bao would walk out of this shadow very soon with Da Bao by Er Bao’s side. Even if Zhou Xing refused to give up and continued to set her sights on Er Bao and was even thinking of getting back together with Er Bao, Da Bao would surely remind Er Bao not to let Zhou Xing’s plan succeed.

But she had to take her hat off to Qiao Zijin and her daughter. Qiao Zijin was so persistent even until the end and wanted to die under Qiao Nan’s wheel. If her mother was crazy enough to sacrifice her own life, Qiao Nan could not be sure just how far Zhou Xing would go if she were to put her mind to it.

Qiao Zijin had schemed against her for two whole lifetimes. Thankfully, she had never been harmed by Qiao Zijin. But she could not let Qiao Zijin’s daughter harm her precious sons either!