

RTAMM 1941

Chapter 1941: A Clear Explanation

Although he wanted to enter the house as its owner, it was still a little early for that. But he would soon become its owner as long as he persevered.

“I don’t have tea or water. If you’re thirsty, there’s a minimart in front where you can help yourself. We were having a good chat, but it can’t compare to how open-minded you are. Since you have the same thoughts as Qiu Chenxi, you can just have a chat with her. There’s no need for an outsider like me to interfere. There’s no point in telling me so much. I’m closing this door so that I save some time for you to go back and chase your own happiness!”

It seemed as though Qiao Nan was grinding her teeth by the time she finished her sentence.

At this time, Qiao Nan seemed nothing more than a panicked cat whose hairs were all standing and claws were all showing. “Chasing after my happiness? Nan Nan, have you watched too many dramas? This may sound a little old-fashioned, but I married her out of obligation to my parents. I had no feelings for her at all. I didn’t take the initiative to find out about her situation. I can only say that it was fate. Didn’t I injure my leg and need to recuperate? Before coming to Qingshui Town, I bumped into her when visiting the doctor in Ping Cheng. As a soldier, my ears and eyes are a little sharper than average. That was why I overheard things that I shouldn’t have.”

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If he did not explain himself now, Nan Nan might never open her door for him again even if he were to visit in the future. He could not carry the accusation of a cheater. Once he did, his wife would run away!

Qiao Nan’s face was filled with doubt. “Really?” Had he said that just to appease her? “Are there so many coincidences in this world?” Qiu Chenxi had gone to visit the doctor for such an illness and Zhai Sheng had just happened to bump into her and overheard her conversation?

“If possible, I wish it wasn’t so coincidental either. You can see just how easily other people can misunderstand me for it. I didn’t have any feelings for her while we were younger. Now that we’re already divorced, I feel so aggrieved that people mistake me for having feelings for her and wanting to reconcile with her. I’m not young anymore, and I can’t go through such trials anymore. What if the person I have in mind runs away because of this misunderstanding? Who will compensate me with a wife? Nan Nan, you can’t say such things again. Will you pay me if my wife runs away?”

Zhai Sheng said such things in a joking manner but with a serious expression.

Qiao Nan felt like a deer caught in headlights and tried to avert her gaze. “I-I can’t afford that. If it’s really a misunderstanding, it’s best to clear the air. Any misunderstandings will surely affect you getting a wife. Brother Zhai, I hope you won’t mind me telling you this. Actually, women are all very petty. Even if you meet a woman who seems generous and understanding, don’t believe her words. No woman will allow her man to remain in an ambiguous relationship with his ex.”

Zhai Sheng was in no hurry. He was already clear of Qiao Nan’s timidity and avoidance. If he wanted to claim his stakes, he would naturally have to analyze his ‘enemy’s’ situation carefully. Although he did not mind, it did not mean that others did not mind either.

Perhaps, there were even people in the Zhai family who cared that Qiao Nan did not have an equal status to him. If the Zhai family cared about such a matter, then even more so outsiders. Zhai Sheng did not mind, but he could not be sure that Qiao Nan did not either.

He did not wish for Qiao Nan to be ridiculed and mocked when they were together, causing her to have trauma from that even before they entered a relationship.

There were some things that he would never be able to resolve completely, but he would at least try to give Qiao Nan a good living environment. If he could not even do that, he could not blame Qiao Nan for trying to avoid him or ignoring him. It would not be worth it for Qiao Nan to muster up her courage and fight for someone like that.

“You’re right. There are some misunderstandings that have to be explained. There’s another thing that I agree with. Women are indeed petty. It’s just as well. I already have someone in mind. Nan Nan, why don’t you help me analyze it? Normally, she’s a good person, and even the child in our family likes her. But I didn’t expect her to be so adorable when she gets angry and petty. Yes, she doesn’t really look like such a generous person, but I guess there are advantages of being petty. If she had not shown that side of her to me, I wouldn’t have known that not only do I like her, but I actually also have deep feelings for her. Women are petty indeed. Don’t you think so, Nan Nan?”

Zhai Sheng's words were obviously targeted at a certain someone.

Jiajia was the only child in the Zhai family, and Zhai Hua and Jiajia had only started contacting the Zhai family at the end of last year. No matter how Qiao Nan thought about it, there was only one woman, no matter her age or status, who got along with Jiajia and knew the Zhai family.

Thinking again about her agitation and reaction earlier, Qiao Nan felt her heart pounding even more rapidly. "How-how would I know whether being petty is good? That's for you to decide. I-I won't give my opinion on it."

Humph! Who was being petty? She was not petty! She was not angry either. No, the person Zhai Sheng was referring to might not even be her. Who said that he was interested in her? Qiao Nan's mind was in a mess and could not even rationalize anything at this moment.

The redder Qiao Nan's face got, the surer Zhai Sheng was that he had not been wrong. Qiao Nan's avoidance of him was because she had feelings for him. What could make him happier than knowing that the woman he liked liked him back?

"All right, you don't have to tell me now. You're welcome to let me know your opinion any time you want to. I'll keep your suggestions in mind. But men are different from women, and age matters as well. There are too many styles and patterns of clothes for young ladies nowadays. Just the sight of them makes me confused. Qingshui Town might be small, but there are still shops around. Why don't you go shopping with me first? If we can't find anything right, we can go to Ping Cheng to have a look."

As he said that, Zhai Sheng took Qiao Nan's hand and pulled her along without giving her a chance to refuse.

There was no way Qiao Nan could rival Zhai Sheng's strength, and all she could do was to be dragged along by Zhai Sheng. "Wait a minute. If we're really going out, I have to lock my door. No matter how good the security around here is, I can't leave my door unlocked. Hold on."

Chapter 1942: Disheartened

Zhai Sheng did not reply but he did react. Zhai Sheng was tall and muscular and he simply hooked the door with his foot and pulled on it with his hand. With a click, the door was closed.

Once Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan got in the car, Xiao Xu, who was driving, had an expression that was only slightly better than Qiao Nan's. Through the rearview mirror, Xiao Xu stole glances at Qiao Nan's hand in Zhai Sheng's from time to time. His heart leaped with joy. They were holding hands! He had seen the chief holding Sister Qiao's hand from the moment they stepped out of the door! YES!

Although Xiao Xu's reaction was not obvious, Qiao Nan was sensitive. Since she was sitting in the back with Zhai Sheng and was too embarrassed to interact with Zhai Sheng, the only person she could place her attention on was Xiao Xu.

It was only when a third party like Xiao Xu looked toward her hand did Qiao Nan realize the situation she was in. Looking down, her face flushed red and she pulled her hand away while coughing to remind Zhai Sheng.

After having held her hand for a few minutes, Zhai Sheng, who had enjoyed that feeling, finally released Qiao Nan's hand with a little regret. When their hands were finally separated, the two men were filled with nothing but regret, whereas Qiao Nan secretly heaved a sigh of relief but felt a little lost.

Of course, that feeling dissipated the moment she alighted from the car. Zhai Sheng had alighted before her and had even opened the door for her. No sooner had Qiao Nan heard the door close did her hand get grabbed by Zhai Sheng again.

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Before Qiao Nan could say a thing, Zhai Sheng said frankly, "It seems like there's a festival going on here today. It's really busy here in Qingshui Town. We'd better hold hands so that we don't lose each other. It'll be easier for us to work together and pick out a present together. Otherwise, who will I ask if we get separated? Also, I hold you so that you don't get injured because of the crowds. I brought you out, so I have to take responsibility for you."

Qiao Nan blinked blankly. It was just a crowd. She was not a three-year-old child who needed someone to hold her hands. Why did he have to talk about taking responsibility? Wasn't this too over-the-top?

Qiao Nan felt that holding hands was too strange, but there was someone else who had been watching this scene unfold and thought that it was even stranger. It was so strange that her expression darkened. Qiu Chenxi had known that Zhai Sheng had been recuperating in Qingshui Town. Afterward, the entire Zhai family had returned to Ping Cheng because of Zhai Hua.

In comparison to the courtyard in Ping Cheng, it was easier to stay close to the Zhai family's old villa in Qingshui Town. Qiu Chenxi had taken a gamble that Zhai Sheng would eventually return to Qingshui Town after settling Zhai Hua's divorce. As such, Qiu Chenxi had returned to Qingshui Town after the new year, intending to repair her relationship with Zhai Sheng.

After she had failed to get Qiao Nan's help the first time, Qiu Chenxi had been so infuriated that she had refused to meet that caretaker, Qiao Nan, a second time. She was unwilling to meet Qiao Nan, but she still cared about Zhai Sheng. As expected, Zhai Sheng had returned to Qingshui Town. Before she could think of a way to approach Zhai Sheng and make Zhai Sheng's heart soften toward her, Zhai Sheng had gone out again.

This was a huge opportunity for Qiu Chenxi!

Besides the Zhai family's old villa, wherever Zhai Sheng visited was a public area. That meant she could visit that place as well. Then, there would be no one who could stop her from getting close to him. Once she got close to him, she would then be able to confess her feelings for him!

Qiu Chenxi was truly determined. Because she had decided on staying in Qingshui Town, she had signed a long-term lease on an apartment, and she had even driven her car from Ping Cheng to Qingshui Town so that it would be more convenient for her to go out.

As such, when Zhai Sheng had gone out to find Qiao Nan in Xiao Xu's car, Qiu Chenxi had found her way to Qiao Nan's apartment since she had been there before, even though she had lost sight of Xiao Xu's car. It was just that she had not driven into the complex.

While she was in her car, Qiu Chenxi was confused. What kind of relationship could Zhai Sheng possibly have with a caretaker like Qiao Nan, who had only taken care of him for two days? Could it be that Zhai Sheng had specially gone to thank Qiao Nan for saving Jiajia? If that was the case, she could only hope that Zhai Sheng had another destination for the day. Otherwise, she would have made a wasted trip.

Perhaps, he had heard Qiu Chenxi's prayer for Qiu Chenxi saw that Xiao Xu was not headed toward the Zhai family's old villa! But before she could get her hopes up, she could make out the silhouette

of another person in the car and that person was a woman with long hair! At that, her expression soured.

In the three years that she had been married to Zhai Sheng, Zhai Sheng had never touched a strand of her hair. Even if he was at home, Zhai Sheng would always move away when she tried to sit next to him. When they went to sleep at night, Zhai Sheng would always leave some space between them. Every time she heard Zhai Sheng sleeping soundly, Qiu Chenxi questioned whether Zhai Sheng treated her as a woman or as a fellow soldier. Was that why Zhai Sheng did not feel anything or any impulse even when they slept next to each other?

Of course, Qiu Chenxi had also suspected that Zhai Sheng, who was already so accomplished at his young age, had been injured. If he had been injured in that area, he might not be able to do what normal men could. But that conjecture was quickly overturned.

Zhai Sheng was a soldier and had the habit of waking up early. Qiu Chenxi, on the other hand, was a typical urbanite. If Zhai Sheng was not around, Qiu Chenxi was a night owl who went to bed late and woke up late. As such, by the time Qiu Chenxi woke up, almost half of Zhai Sheng's day had already gone by.

To figure out whether it was because Zhai Sheng did not have feelings for her or whether there was something wrong with Zhai Sheng's body, Qiu Chenxi set an alarm for five o'clock in the morning. It was then that Qiu Chenxi realized that Zhai Sheng was a normal man, after all. Zhai Sheng had morning wood just like any other man. There was nothing wrong with his body.

That evening, once Zhai Sheng laid down, Qiu Chenxi deliberately stripped off her clothes under the blanket, threw herself in Zhai Sheng's embrace, and looked seductively into Zhai Sheng's eyes. She did not believe that a normal man like Zhai Sheng would ignore a naked beauty in front of him.

But the truth humiliated her badly. Even with Qiu Chenxi's naked body in front of him, Zhai Sheng did not so much as move, much less reach out toward Qiu Chenxi. All he did was look indifferently at Qiu Chenxi. That gaze caused Qiu Chenxi to be disheartened. Zhai Sheng knew exactly why Qiu Chenxi had done so, and that was why he had not tried to avoid it. He wanted to let Qiu Chenxi know the consequences so that she would never dare to do it again.

Chapter 1943: Humiliated

Their bodies were stuck against each other. There was nothing wrong with Zhai Sheng, but he had not touched her even after such a long while, and neither had he moved away. But she had not seen the reaction that she had seen in Zhai Sheng that morning. Did that mean Zhai Sheng had no interest in her at all?

The humiliated Qiu Chenxi flew into a rage and scolded Zhai Sheng before asking him to sleep in the study. Zhai Sheng was not afraid of Qiu Chenxi, but he was more than happy to sleep in the study. Without saying a word, he picked up his pillow and left.

From then on, Qiu Chenxi could not help but observe if Zhai Sheng treated all women in this manner. If it only applied to her, Qiu Chenxi had to worry that Zhai Sheng had found a vixen outside, who would threaten her position.

But if he treated all women in this manner, Qiu Chenxi would be angry nonetheless. She knew that there were men in this world who did not like women and could even be homosexuals.

Qiu Chenxi was waiting for Zhai Sheng to trip up so that she would have something to hold against him, but she had not even one thing to threaten him with. With no other choice, Qiu Chenxi had to back down. In their three years together, Qiu Chenxi had observed that Zhai Sheng had not been close to her, but neither did he have any other women he was close to.

Unless there was a special situation in which he had to hire a professional like a nurse, Zhai Sheng did not have many opportunities to get close to females. How Zhai Sheng treated her was exactly how he treated other women.

This discovery made Qiu Chenxi happy and sad at the same time. She was happy that he did not, in fact, have a mistress outside. What upset her was that while it was only right for Zhai Sheng to treat those other women in this manner, she was a different case. She was Zhai Sheng's wife. How could Zhai Sheng treat her in the same manner as those unfamiliar women outside? She had a special place in Zhai Sheng's heart!

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Qiu Chenxi did not see any problem in Zhai Sheng not getting close to any other women. Besides, as a soldier, Zhai Sheng's timetable was no different from a student's. He had no free time at all. In that way, Zhai Sheng did not even have any personal time to spend with anyone he fancied.

Of course, the past did not matter to Qiu Chenxi anymore. What mattered was the scene before her. It pierced Qiu Chenxi's heart.

Apart from her wedding day, she had never had the experience of sitting in the same car as Zhai Sheng. But a mere caretaker like Qiao Nan had been able to do that! On that day, a soldier had been their chauffeur, and there had been another soldier in the passenger's seat. She was unsure why Zhai Sheng had gone to find Qiao Nan this time, but what she knew was that given Zhai Sheng's temper, either he or Qiao Nan would have sat in the front passenger's seat even if he had gone to find Qiao Nan for an official matter.

Why was she seeing Zhai Sheng sitting in the back with Qiao Nan? It even looked like they were sitting rather close to each other! She had never been in such close proximity to Zhai Sheng even before their divorce!

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Thankfully, Qiu Chenxi had not driven into Qiao Nan's apartment complex and had not seen Zhai Sheng holding her hand when they got out of the house.

Qiu Chenxi, who had roughly guessed Zhai Sheng's intention of looking for Qiao Nan, felt numb in her heart. She had always felt that Zhai Sheng was like a gun, dangerous and cold. Zhai Sheng would never participate in a festival in a small town. On the contrary, he would try his best to avoid it. But Zhai Sheng had come to participate in one today. What's more, he had even brought a caretaker, Qiao Nan, along!

Before Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had alighted from the car, Qiu Chenxi could comfort herself and tell herself that it was not impossible for a caretaker to be with Zhai Sheng. As an old employer, Zhai Sheng could be looking for Qiao Nan for some official matters.

Unfortunately, when Zhai Sheng alighted from the car, she saw that the person who had always been cold toward her had not only opened the door for Qiao Nan but had even placed his other hand over the car door in case Qiao Nan bumped her head on it while coming out. Qiao Nan had not hit her head, but Qiu Chenxi felt like she had been stabbed in the heart.

Qiu Chenxi had thought that that was the biggest blow, but the two of them had not taken a few steps before Zhai Sheng grabbed Qiao Nan's hand in his. Because of how close she was, Qiu Chenxi could be sure that Zhai Sheng had taken the initiative to hold Qiao Nan's hand. After

holding Qiao Nan's hand, Zhai Sheng had not shown any discomfort on his expression, and he even seemed as though he was enjoying it.

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Seeing Zhai Sheng's mouth move, Qiu Chenxi saw some unwillingness in Qiao Nan's expression. At that moment, Qiu Chenxi felt as though someone had hit her on the head with a hammer. Her mind was entirely blank.

Qiu Chenxi was just like a stalker, following behind the couple, all the while calculating just how long Zhai Sheng had been holding onto Qiao Nan's hand for. Afterward, her heart dropped when she saw the two of them walk into different shops like a couple.

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What made Qiu Chenxi nearly lose her mind was a shop owner laughing and commenting when the two of them had walked into a shop while holding hands. "You look like a great couple. You're even holding hands! I was the same when I was younger, but now that I'm older, she's annoyed with me and doesn't let me hold her hand anymore. Are you picking something out for your daughter? What does your daughter like? Do you want me to recommend you something?"

A couple?

What a joke!

Qiu Chenxi, whose heart was already in a mess, had the urge to rush forward and tear that shop owner's mouth apart before gouging his eyes out. What was the point in having eyes if he was not using them? One was a chief, while the other was only a caretaker! How could they look like a good match? How could they look like a couple!

It was the first time Qiao Nan was interacting with Zhai Sheng alone and they had even held hands! Even if Qiao Nan had been unwilling, and even though they were still not in an official relationship, Zhai Sheng was still overjoyed. Because of his joy, he naturally let his guard down.

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It was only when he led Qiao Nan back to the car with bags in his hand did Zhai Sheng finally realize through the reflection of the car that there seemed to be someone sneaking behind him and Qiao Nan.

He was unsure how long that person had been following him for, what intention he had, or whether that person was an enemy or a spy.

“Chief?” Xiao Xu piped up when he noticed Zhai Sheng’s unusual expression.

Chapter 1944: Fate

After handing the things in his hands over to Xiao Xu, Zhai Sheng gave Xiao Xu a look, asking Xiao Xu to pay attention to that figure who had been following him. Xiao Xu looked around and noticed that person as well and nodded at Zhai Sheng, telling him that he would handle the matter.

After placing the things in the car, Xiao Xu said to Qiao Nan, “Auntie Qiao, I have some family matters. I don’t think I’ll be able to send you and the chief back. You know that the chief is injured and I worry about the chief going back alone. Can you help me out and accompany the chief back? I’ll take over once I return. How’s that? The military tasked me with taking care of the chief because of their trust in me. I don’t trust anyone else, so you have to help me, Sister Qiao. Otherwise, I won’t be able to account for my superiors and comrades when I return.”

“...” Qiao Nan’s lips twitched when she heard Xiao Xu’s excuse. Even if Zhai Sheng were to return, he would not be alone. Would there not be Xiao Zhao whom they had hired? Whatever she could do, Xiao Zhao could as well. What was there to worry about?

Xiao Xu was alert, and upon seeing Qiao Nan’s dissatisfaction, he quickly cut in. “Sister Qiao, I’ll take it that you’ve agreed to it since you haven’t said anything. Sister Qiao, you’re such a good person. You’re always helping me out when I need help. Sister Qiao, you’re a real-life heroine! I’ll hand the chief over to you!” With that, Xiao Xu quickly shut the door so that he would not need to hear Qiao Nan’s refusal and then handed the keys over to Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng patted Xiao Xu on the shoulder, instructing him to stay safe. He had only seen one person. If this person was a lone wolf, there was nothing to worry about given Xiao Xu’s abilities.

What he was afraid of was that this person was only there to gather information and that there would be a bunch of people waiting to pounce on Xiao Xu.

But Zhai Sheng did not think that that was very likely.

Had it not been for Qiao Nan by his side today that he had let his guard down, he would have noticed that person's presence long ago. That person's stalking skills were unrefined and unprofessional. Even a private detective's skills were much better than that person's, let alone a spy.

While driving, Zhai Sheng did not insist on Qiao Nan sitting beside him in the front passenger seat. Firstly, it was because he had been affected by someone following him. Secondly, he was afraid that he would get distracted with Qiao Nan in such close proximity while he was driving. If Xiao Xu had been the one driving, there would have been no problem for Qiao Nan to sit beside him. "Thank you so much for following me around today. Xiao Zhao should already have prepared dinner. Since you have to help Xiao Zhao take care of me, why don't you stay for dinner as well?"

"..." Qiao Nan could not believe her ears. How could Zhai Sheng say such shameless words? Zhai Sheng did not even need a wheelchair anymore and could move around just fine. She remembered that the doctor had previously said that it would be no problem for Zhai Sheng to return to the military around April.

That meant that Zhai Sheng was almost fully recovered. Why did he have to put up a pretense and insist on someone accompanying him? Did he not feel embarrassed because of Xiao Xu's words? Shouldn't Zhai Sheng apologize to her and ask her to hurry home after reaching the Zhai family's residence?

"All right, that's that then." Qiao Nan's wide-eyed expression tickled Zhai Sheng. He had never felt this way while he was younger and in his twenties. This was new, but he did not dislike it.

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"..." Qiao Nan was once again at a loss for words. A deal? Who had made a deal with him? Had she?

"Brother Zhai, look at the time. It's already seven..." She did not have the habit of returning home late. If she was to have dinner at the Zhai family's house and have a cup of tea afterward, she might not even reach home by eight-thirty. Besides, there was no bus service to her house at that time of

night. Hailing a taxi would mean that she would only reach home at nine. By the time she washed up and got ready for bed, it would be ten.

“Yes, it’s already seven. I’d never shopped before. I think it’s actually quite fun. I didn’t expect to spend so long shopping. You must be hungry. Don’t worry. My driving skills are better than Xiao Xu’s. Give me another ten minutes. We’ll be home and there will be food very soon.” Yes, as long as he had the right person by his side, something as mundane as shopping was acceptable to him.

Qiao Nan was taken aback. “Please don’t. Take your time. Safety is of utmost importance.”

It was already seven, and the street lamps had already been switched on. It was dangerous to speed up at this time. Qiao Nan had sat in Zhai Sheng’s car more than once, but most of the time, Zhai Sheng had no interest in showing off his skills and always prioritized safety.

“Fine, I’ll listen to you.”

“...”

It seemed as though Sister Zhao had already known that Qiao Nan would turn up and had thus prepared several of Qiao Nan’s favorite dishes specially for her. The moment she saw those dishes, Qiao Nan felt as though Zhai Sheng had planned this ahead of time.

Qiao Nan looked at Zhai Sheng with a complicated gaze. Given what had happened today, Qiao Nan could not help but ‘flatter herself’ no matter how ‘self-conscious’ she was. Qiao Nan knew exactly how Zhai Sheng was as a person and how his temper was. If Zhai Sheng did not have feelings for her, he would never get so close to her.

In her dream, apart from the women in the Zhai family, Zhai Sheng would only be this affectionate to her and San Bao. She believed that Zhai Sheng’s temper would be similar in real life. So, that could only mean that Zhai Sheng’s behavior and attitude toward her was not her own narcissism or her overthinking the situation.

Ever since she woke up from her dream, Qiao Nan had never dreamed of having a blissful life or a perfect husband like Zhai Sheng in reality. She dared not tie reality to her dream or regard Zhai Sheng as her partner.

If she had not been so engrossed in finding that happiness in her dream, she would never have escaped to Qingshui Town and settled down there in her humble pursuit of happiness and so as to escape the Qiao family. But at times, such was life. She had never even considered it, but because she had rented Xiao Xu's apartment, she had gotten the chance to enter the Zhai family's old villa and had even gotten to know Zhai Sheng so well.

Chapter 1945: Self-Awareness

In her dream, she had managed to do it. So, would she be as brave to take a step out in that direction in reality?

After dinner, Zhai Sheng naturally sent Qiao Nan back. Along the way, Qiao Nan remained silent. Zhai Sheng knew that Qiao Nan had to be contemplating their relationship. As such, Zhai Sheng did not rush her, and it was only when they reached Qiao Nan's house did Zhai Sheng alight from the car as well. "Shall we have a chat?"

Qiao Nan hesitated for a moment before nodding. "All right. Come on in." Qiao Nan poured Zhai Sheng a cup of tea. "If you wanted to have a chat with me, why didn't you do it while we were at your house? Why are we only having a chat now?"

"I know that you wouldn't be comfortable talking about this in my house and you wouldn't be able to think about it properly on your own." Zhai Sheng had already sensed that Qiao Nan cared a lot about the Zhai family's matters and understood them to a great extent. That was why she was affected by them. He respected Qiao Nan and hoped that Qiao Nan would get together with him voluntarily. As such, he was naturally willing to give Qiao Nan space to consider this rationally.

But Zhai Sheng did not want to think about why Qiao Nan was clearer about the Zhai family's situation than he himself was. People were rarely that muddleheaded. He had already felt that Qiao Nan's care toward him and his family was genuine. In that case, Zhai Sheng was willing to attribute Qiao Nan's behavior to his fate with Qiao Nan.

"Nan Nan, I'm serious about you. I believe that you know just how I am as a person. This might sound a little cheesy, but I'm a person who would rather do without than have something substandard. You've heard a little about my marriage to Qiu Chenxi, but you don't know the full story. I think I should tell you about it today. In those three years, I spent more time in the military, and I guess I didn't even spend ten full days with her in total."

Zhai Sheng was particular about this and hoped that Qiao Nan would be able to understand him and would not have any misunderstanding in this regard that would affect their relationship. After all, Qiu Chenxi, who had no self-awareness at all, was still eyeing him.

Zhai Sheng did not think that there would be any problem on his side. But he had to make some preparations in case Qiu Chenxi tried to attack Qiao Nan first.

Qiao Nan blushed. She could not deny that she had felt joy in her heart upon hearing these words. Which woman would not be happy hearing such words from their partner? Qiao Nan was the most average person and naturally had the most average feelings as well. Besides, she could reply to Zhai Sheng in the same manner in this regard.

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“Nan Nan, we’re not young anymore. I think we should cherish this even more. Don’t you think so? If you agree to it, I’ll write a marriage report right away. Of course, you can tell me if you have any requests. I’ll try my best to fulfill them. In order to improve efficiency, I think that we can get married before dating.”

Zhai Sheng had done his homework to chase Qiao Nan and knew that women nowadays enjoyed romance and liked the feeling of being pursued and being pampered like a princess. Zhai Sheng wanted Qiao Nan to become his wife, and once they were married, he would pursue Qiao Nan in whatever way she liked. He would not only treat Qiao Nan as a princess while they were dating, but he would treat Qiao Nan like a princess for the rest of his life.

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No matter who upset Qiao Nan, he would never let a single one of them go. That included his future children. “Nan Nan, you like Jiajia very much, and I think that you’ll want a child of our own too. For the sake of your body, I think we shouldn’t be delayed anymore. Of course, if you don’t want children, we can go slower.”

“No, I like children!” Even if she could not have the same good fortune to have three outstanding and adorable children at the same time, she still wanted to be a mother and have a child with Zhai Sheng, whether it was a girl or a boy.

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Zhai Sheng was over the moon. “I don’t have an opinion in this regard. Of course, it’ll be better to have one. If you want a child, I’ll do my best to fulfill that request. After we get married, I’ll try to get you pregnant as soon as possible.”

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“...” Qiao Nan felt a little strange. Why did that sound wrong? “No, no...” They had not gotten married yet. Why was he talking about having children? He seemed a lot like a pervert now.

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Zhai Sheng’s face fell. “Didn’t you just say that you want to be a mother? Why are you changing your mind now?”

Qiao Nan was taken aback by Zhai Sheng’s words. “I’m not regretting, but don’t you think that your sequence is entirely wrong? Marriage isn’t such a simple thing. It doesn’t involve just two people. It involves two families. Brother Zhai, I think that most women will be moved by such an outstanding person like you. Yes, I like you, and I acknowledge your feelings for me, but you know about my family background too. Wei De might have been a little crude with his words the other day, but I can’t deny that what he said isn’t the truth.”

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With a family like the Qiao family, Qiao Nan had no other choice but to avoid them as far as possible. Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were her blood relatives that she could never get away from. Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin had already sucked her dry. If they were to find out that she was together with Zhai Sheng, they would definitely try to do even more outrageous things to take advantage of her relationship with Zhai Sheng.

“Brother Zhai, I’m just an ordinary person. I like you, and I care about the Zhai family. That’s why I don’t want to let you guys see my ugliest side. A family like that makes me feel utterly humiliated, and don’t you dare underestimate a person’s greed and that family’s greed.”

The Qiao family was Qiao Nan’s obstacle and Zhai Sheng understood that. “Don’t you think that Wei De’s affair and his relationship with Wei Xiaomei and Wei Wei are shameful too? I guess every other man would have tried to hide a marriage like mine to Qiu Chenxi. Don’t you think that’s

shameful too? You said that you're an ordinary person, but so are I and everyone else in the Zhai family. What is family for? Shouldn't family members stay by one another and support one another when we face such humiliating things? Nan Nan, haven't you felt through my actions that the Qiao family isn't a barrier between us?"

Qiao Nan's eyes reddened. In the face of all these matters, she had almost regarded herself as part of the Zhai family, and not as an outsider.

Chapter 1946: Personally Witnessed

As such, Qiao Nan had never thought that such an incident was shameful or would spoil the Zhai family's image in her mind. It was only when faced with her own matters that she became irrational and subjective.

Qiao Nan sniffled as her voice turned hoarse. "Then, what about the old chief and Auntie Miao? Will they agree to it?" She was not that brilliant student in her dream. She did not have the title of coming out on top in the college entrance examination, and neither did she have an impressive mentor like Lin Yuankang, much less entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to become a female diplomat. Of course, she had not graduated from Peking University since she had not even graduated from high school!

1

Would the Zhai family still treat her as well now that she was facing them with a different status and had nothing to her name? Would they even accept her? She had already said that marriage was not just between two people. It was between two families. Qiu Chenxi was the best example of that.

After her divorce, Qiu Chenxi had allowed herself to go wild and had even hurt her own body, thus losing the right to become a mother. Qiao Nan felt that if her marriage to Zhai Sheng would only end in divorce, she might be even less able to control herself as compared to Qiu Chenxi, and she might even give up on herself. Having happiness was nice, but it was devastating to lose it after having it.

Zhai Sheng laughed and moved to sit beside Qiao Nan, hugging her in his arms. "Don't you know my family well enough? Can't you feel my family's attitude toward you?" Not only would the Zhai family not reject her, but the whole family also hoped that he would act quickly to bring her home.

1

“But at that time, I was just a caretaker who had taken care of you for a few days. Zhai Hua treated me as a friend and Jiajia treated me as an auntie.” If she were to get together with Zhai Sheng, her identity would completely change.

Seeing Qiao Nan’s reddened and watery eyes, looking all pitiful, Zhai Sheng could not help but peck Qiao Nan. “You little fool. Do you really think that my parents came all the way back from the capital just to see their unfilial son? They came back to see their daughter-in-law. Why do you think Wei De had such a great reaction the other day? It’s not because Wei De misunderstood our relationship. It’s because the Zhai family already knew that I liked you at that time and were trying to help me get into your good books. Do you understand that now?”

Qiao Nan was in a trance. She had never considered that the Zhai family had all gathered at the Zhai family’s old villa for her. She had always thought that the Zhai family had only come to show concern for Zhai Sheng because of his injury. “Do you mean that the old chief and Auntie Miao have both agreed?”

They had agreed to someone like her being with their outstanding son?

“Don’t look down on yourself. You’re the best in our eyes.” Besides, their family had no reason to disagree. The Zhai family had long ago come to the point where they would agree to anyone as long as he was willing to marry them. “So, you don’t have any more concerns now, and I can go ahead and write my marriage report?”

It was still that same old sentence. They would get married before dating. Getting married was more important and took priority over dating.

“All right.” Qiao Nan mustered up all her courage to reply to him. Yes, at their age, they did not have much time to waste. She wanted to be a mother, even if she could not be a mother to triplets. It would still be good being a mother. If she did not give birth now, it might really be too late in the future.

Now that he had officially confirmed this relationship, Zhai Sheng was over the moon. Because of that, he moved closer to the person he loved and did something that he had wanted to do for a long time, which was to hug Qiao Nan within his embrace and kiss her as much as he wanted.

All right, his soldiers were right. Women were fragrant, soft, and sweet. There was nothing that could compare to this. Zhai Sheng did not like sweets, but this sweetness was immeasurable!

When Qiao Nan sent Zhai Sheng off, she was completely out of breath and her lips were swollen.

Looking at Qiao Nan's red lips, Zhai Sheng could not help but lean in for another kiss. "All right, there's no need to send me off. Go back and have a good rest." As a man, he did not need someone to send him off, but it did feel nice being sent off by his partner. Zhai Sheng could not wait to get married so that Qiao Nan could live with him.

"Okay." Qiao Nan nodded. Brother Zhai had already said that he would handle their marriage. Qiao Nan did not know how much conflict other women had after marriage, but she had got along well with the Zhai family. With her experience from her dream, Qiao Nan was not at all nervous. She only felt that everything had moved a step closer to aligning with her dream.

Only after seeing Zhai Sheng drive off did Qiao Nan shut her door and sit on her sofa in a daze. It was only when she heard a series of rapid poundings on her door did Qiao Nan return from her trance and realize that she had been rather foolish today.

She glanced at the clock. It was already nine. Who could that be? Could it be Brother Zhai had left something behind or had returned to tell her something?

Thinking that it could be Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan quickly stood up. But upon seeing that it was Qiu Chenxi and not Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan's heart sank and she shut the door without hesitation.

Unfortunately, Qiu Chenxi was prepared, and before Qiao Nan could shut the door, she had already kicked the door open, forcing Qiao Nan to back down.

Qiao Nan frowned. "Are you crazy? This isn't the Qiu family's house. This is a private residence. You're trespassing. It's illegal. I'm sorry, Miss Qiu. You're not welcome here. Please leave."

"You shameless vixen!" Qiu Chenxi's face was extremely sour. She had come with the intention to beat someone up. She was not Qiu Chenxi if she did not deal with this caretaker today. She was just a mere caretaker! How dared she seduce her master! Had she watched too many drama serials?

Thinking about what she had gathered from stalking Zhai Sheng throughout the day and the scene she had witnessed at Qiao Nan's doorstep, Qiu Chenxi was burning with rage. In the three years that she had been married to Zhai Sheng, he had never even been willing to touch a strand of her hair, but he had been so intimate and affectionate with a caretaker at the door and had even kissed Qiao Nan!

Qiu Chenxi had experience, and even with the limited lighting, Qiu Chenxi could tell that Qiao Nan's swollen lips had not been a result of a single kiss.

Chapter 1947: No Status

So that meant that these two people had done much more intimate and private things in a closed room. "No wonder you were unwilling to help me! It was because you had such an intention! You shameless mistress! I'd better teach you a lesson for snatching someone else's husband today. Otherwise, you won't learn what etiquette, righteousness, integrity, and shame are!"

1

Qiu Chenxi flew into a rage and wanted to grab Qiao Nan's hair.

If someone else was in Qiao Nan's place, they would have lost out since Qiu Chenxi was the one to strike first. Thankfully, the person whom Qiu Chenxi had encountered was Qiao Nan. As a woman of the Zhai family, Qiao Nan had no other ability, but she did know how to protect herself.

The moment she saw Qiu Chenxi reach out for her hair, Qiao Nan grabbed Qiu Chenxi's hand and twisted it, holding it down. Qiu Chenxi gasped in pain and felt that all energy had been drained from her arm.

Qiao Nan turned pale, but she felt anger rising up within her. "Don't keep calling others mistresses and take other people's patience for granted! You don't deserve to know why I refuse to help you. You've already gotten divorced from Brother Zhai, and there's no possibility of reconciliation. I'm unmarried and so is he. It's much more moral for me to be with him than you cheating on him during your marriage. You know best who the truly shameless one is!"

1

Since she had already decided to get together with Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was not going to back down just because Qiu Chenxi had turned up at her doorstep. She could give in on any other matter but this. "I'm warning you to leave now. Otherwise, I'll call the police."

Qiao Nan did not dare to let go because her opponent was Qiu Chenxi. She was afraid that Qiu Chenxi would go crazy and make a din if she were to let go. As such, she maintained a firm grip on Qiu Chenxi and only let go when she chased Qiu Chenxi out of her house. Before Qiu Chenxi had the time to turn around, Qiao Nan quickly locked her door.

Qiu Chenxi was reluctant to give up and kicked and pounded against Qiao Nan's door, shouting nasty words. "You still don't admit it? Even if I got a divorce from Zhai Sheng, he's still my husband! We're going to reconcile! What are you if you're not a mistress for barging in at this time? You have the cheek to do it, but you don't dare to admit to it? I'm warning you that the Zhai family is not just any ordinary family. Didn't you think about your status before getting yourself into this? Do you think that the Zhai family will agree to this marriage if you seduce my husband? Fat chance! Just wait and see. If the Zhai family finds out that Zhai Sheng's fallen for someone like you, they'll find a way to get Zhai Sheng to reconcile with me!"

She did not believe that the Zhai family would not think that it was shameful for Zhai Sheng to marry a caretaker. In comparison to Qiao Nan's status and background, she did not think that her past mistakes were that unforgivable. No matter what, her family background could match up to Zhai Sheng's.

"Is that so? Then, why are you still here looking for me? Should I congratulate you in advance that your dreams have come true?" Qiao Nan had to give it up to Qiu Chenxi for being so unaware. It was true that her family background was terrible, but she had lived a decent and honest life, unlike Qiu Chenxi.

The Zhai family was not one to suffer just for the sake of maintaining their dignity. Would they accept an honest and decent daughter-in-law or one who had a good family background but was a failure as a daughter-in-law? It was not just the Zhai family. Even if it was any other family, the odds did not seem to be in Qiu Chenxi's favor.

Perhaps, it was because of the three years that she had been married to Zhai Sheng that Qiao Nan felt that the Qiu Chenxi before her was even more foolish and unaware than the Qiu Chenxi in her dream.

Qiao Nan wondered if Qiu Chenxi would be able to remain so confident about winning if she were to tell her that everyone in the Zhai family, including Zhai Sheng, knew about the ridiculous lifestyle she had lived after the divorce and how she could no longer bear children.

Looking at the tightly shut door and Qiao Nan's indifference, Qiu Chenxi's expression was indescribably foul. Given Qiao Nan's attitude, Qiu Chenxi knew that she would never be able to scold that shameless and immoral Qiao Nan into realization, nor force her to back down.

That was expected since she was a vixen anyway. How could she have counted on Qiao Nan to have some morality to not snatch someone else's husband away?

But that was not the end!

After returning to her car, Qiu Chenxi did not return to her rented apartment. Instead, she sped back to Ping Cheng.

It was almost one in the morning when Qi Minlan realized that her daughter had returned and was shocked. "Didn't you say that you wouldn't return before you got back together with Zhai Sheng? Why are you suddenly back in the middle of the night? You should have waited until tomorrow at the very least." Qi Minlan yawned in exhaustion.

Qiu Chenxi slammed the table in rage, chasing Qi Minlan's sleepiness away at once. "What's wrong? Did you run into another wall at Zhai Sheng's? Did you only realize Zhai Sheng's temper and personality today after growing up with him? You should have prepared yourself for this the moment you decided that you wanted to get back together with him. What's the point of getting angry now? Are you giving up now?"

If she was not giving up, she would not have returned in the middle of the night.

"Giving up? Zhai Sheng is mine. I'm the chief's wife. Why should I give my man to someone else, especially someone who's so much worse than me?" Qiu Chenxi slammed the table even harder.

Qiu Chenxi was dumbfounded and poured a glass of water for Qiu Chenxi. "What's the matter? Does Zhai Sheng... have someone in mind?"

Had the Zhai family finally found someone whom Zhai Sheng was willing to get married to? No wonder Chenxi was so angry. Chenxi had always been gleeful that Zhai Sheng had been unwilling to marry any other woman and had confidence in her own chances.

“What nonsense! I’m Zhai Sheng’s wife! Zhai Sheng’s a married man. That’s not a partner. That’s a shameless vixen and a mistress! How can Zhai Sheng cheat on me behind my back!” Zhai Sheng was hers and hers alone!

Qi Minlan rubbed her forehead. Chenxi did not seem to be in the right state of mind recently. What nonsense was she spouting? “You’ve already gotten divorced from Zhai Sheng. He’s no longer your husband. It’s neither immoral nor illegal for him to get together with another woman.” She had to be clear of that.

“But I want to get back together with him! So, how can he get together with another woman?” As long as she remarried Zhai Sheng, her relationship with Zhai Sheng would be legally recognized and protected. Qiao Nan was just a woman with no status!

Chapter 1948: Understanding

“Chenxi, I’ll bring you to the doctor tomorrow.” Qi Minlan had no choice but to say such words. It was obvious that Qiu Chenxi was not thinking rationally.

If they really got remarried, it would indeed be wrong for Zhai Sheng to be with another woman. But before that happened, it was up to Zhai Sheng whomever he wanted to be with. No one else had a say in it. Even though her daughter was Zhai Sheng’s ex-wife, she could not control whom Zhai Sheng got together with.

“Mom, I’m not crazy. I’m very normal and I know what I’m saying. I want to make a call. I want to call the Zhai family. I want to call my parents-in-law. I don’t believe that they’ll stand by the side and not do anything once they know that Zhai Sheng’s giving up on me for a mere caretaker! Don’t they despise me for the mistakes that I made in the past? But it’s even more shameful for Zhai Sheng to be with that caretaker! They have to do something about it!”

As long as the Zhai family disagreed, Zhai Sheng would never be able to get together with Qiao Nan!

“A caretaker? What do you mean? Does Zhai Sheng really have someone in mind?” That was unexpected, yet expected. Qi Minlan’s heart pounded. Ever since Chenxi had gotten divorced from Zhai Sheng, she knew that this day would come eventually, but she had not expected that ‘that day’ would be today.

“She’s not a partner. Zhai Sheng must just be playing around with that caretaker. That woman’s already forty and is an old woman. I heard that she didn’t even graduate from high school. How is it possible that Zhai Sheng’s serious with her? I’m sure he’s just playing around. The most ridiculous thing is that that caretaker thinks that Zhai Sheng really likes her and is trying to fight with me for Zhai Sheng. I’m going to let that woman know what the real world is like!”

Given Qiu Chenxi’s insistence and stubbornness, Qi Minlan felt a little lost. No matter how much her daughter erred, she was still better than a caretaker, after all, right? After learning about this, the Zhai family had better rein in Zhai Sheng. He was already at the age where he should be a father, but he might just commit a mistake if they did not do anything.

1

As such, it was at this ungodly hour that the Zhai family’s phone started ringing nonstop until someone picked it up.

The Zhai family’s caretaker was in the most awkward position. She was naturally the one to answer the phone at such a late hour. She would only hand the phone over to the old chief if it was important. “Hello?” The caretaker yawned. It was already past one. Who was so crazy to call them at this hour? “Hello, this is the Zhai family. Who are you looking for? Is anything the matter?”

“I’m the Zhai family’s daughter-in-law. I’m looking for my parents-in-law...”

With that, the caretaker slammed the phone down without a second of hesitation. Yes, she was a newbie who had been hired just a few months ago, but this did not mean that she would be easily deceived. She knew just who the old chief had in his family.

1

The old chief had a son and a daughter. His son was brilliant and had become a chief in his own right and had only left recently to recuperate. As for the old chief's daughter, she was already married and stayed in this house. But very soon, she would be divorced since there was no way she would lose her divorce lawsuit.

The Zhai family's family tree was as simple as that. The old chief did not have a daughter-in-law. This phone call was indeed ridiculous! And she was even calling them her parents-in-law! She must have dreamed so much about marrying into the Zhai family that she had made such a call.

Tired, the caretaker yawned and squinted, preparing to return to bed. Just as she was about to return to her bed, the phone that she had just hung up rang again. "Again?" The caretaker stared at the phone in frustration, not wanting to pick it up.

It was not right for her not to pick it up, but she did not dare to pull the landline out either. Yet, she was afraid that the calls would wake the Zhai family up.

Indeed, Zhai Yaohui had been awoken by the calls. He opened the door and asked, "What's the matter? Why aren't you picking up the phone?"

"Old Chief, I'm a little confused about this call. There's a woman calling you her father-in-law, and calling madam her mother-in-law. She's looking for the both of you..." Did the old chief and his wife really have a daughter-in-law? Was that the person Chief Zhai had just found?

Zhai Yaohui put on his clothes and walked over. "Where's it from?"

"Locally."

"Locally?" If Qiao Nan had called, it would be a foreign call, and not from Ping Cheng. "All right. Go and have some rest. I'll pick up the phone." Zhai Yaohui decided to pick up the call in case Zhai Sheng had gotten into some trouble. "Hello?"

"Dad!" Qiu Chenxi was overcome with emotions when she heard Zhai Yaohui's voice.

Qiu Chenxi's one word was enough to wake Zhai Yaohui up. "You've got the wrong number." With that, Zhai Yaohui did exactly what the caretaker had done and hung up the phone. Zhai Yaohui did not think that there was a need to waste his breath on a person like Qiu Chenxi.

1

He had just hung up the phone before the phone rang again. The caretaker could not help but pull the blanket over her head. Anyway, the old chief was taking care of this matter.

Zhai Yaohui was more thorough than the caretaker. The caretaker dared not pull out the landline but Zhai Yaohui did. Anyway, most people used mobile phones nowadays. An outsider like Qiu Chenxi did not know the Zhai family's mobile phone numbers.

After unplugging the landline, the Zhai family finally had a good night's rest.

When Zhai Yaohui lay back down on his bed, Miao Jing moved over and asked blurrily, "Who called us in the middle of the night? Is anything wrong?"

Zhai Yaohui patted Miao Jing and instructed her to get a good rest. "There's nothing wrong. They just got the wrong number. Hurry and sleep. Tomorrow's the last court session of Zhai Hua's lawsuit against Wei De. We'll finally get closure to this. We have to be with Zhai Hua tomorrow."

"You're right." Miao Jing answered breezily. Hua Hua would finally be free of that bast*rd tomorrow. Sigh. She had an experience of that because of Zhai Sheng. Anyway, Hua Hua already had her daughter, Jiajia. She would let Hua Hua make her own decision as to whether she wanted to get remarried.

If Hua Hua was lucky enough, she would definitely support her. If Hua Hua did not intend to do so, she would not force her either. Zhai Sheng was already of this age, but fate could not be stopped. There had been no use for her to urge him in the past. There were some things that she could never understand about her children no matter how much she thought about them.

Chapter 1949: A Turn

This divorce lawsuit had been going on for two to three months. That sounded like a long time, but in comparison to other divorce lawsuits, it was already rather efficient. Zhai Hua and the Zhai family had only shown up during the first and last court sessions.

That day, the Zhai family and the Wei family had bumped into each other at the entrance, and both Wei De and the Wei family were very emotional. Wei De, in particular, seemed to want to get closer to Zhai Hua and tell her something. Unfortunately, given Zhai Yaohui's status, going out entailed having bodyguards around him.

With the protection, no one, including the Wei family, could successfully break through the security border and get close to the Zhai family. Wei De was incompetent and could not match up to the bodyguards. As such, he could only watch as Zhai Hua entered the court indifferently under the protection of those bodyguards.

"Ah De?" Mother Wei felt the guiltiest. Ever since they had started the divorce lawsuit, Mother Wei had increasingly realized just how important Zhai Hua was to the Wei family. The Wei family, who had been rather wealthy, was getting worse off by the day without Zhai Hua as the mistress of the family.

1

At this time last year, Zhai Hua had gotten the family two new outfits for the new season. But they had not done so this year. When Mother Wei, who was used to showing off, went out for groceries, she was afraid of running into her friends. She was more afraid that they would ask about that filial daughter-in-law of hers who was a chief's daughter.

Thinking about how Zhai Hua had contributed to the family so selflessly and had never thrown her weight around as a chief's daughter, Mother Wei truly regretted her actions. If she had known that such a day would come, she would have treated Zhai Hua better normally.

1

How would she have known that the Zhai family, who had treated Zhai Hua as someone who had died all these years, who had not helped Zhai Hua or her son, would have returned in full force to help Zhai Hua get a divorce this time?

If she had known that the Zhai family had always cared about Zhai Hua and were only treating Zhai Hua that way because she was stubborn, she would have pampered Zhai Hua and treated her like a Buddha.

1

Mother Wei had always felt that Zhai Hua was useless since she could not even coax her family. She had only allowed her son to marry an old woman who could not get married because of the Zhai family's status. If Zhai Hua had a place in her family's hearts and had pulled on some strings so that the Zhai family would have helped her son, she would have treated Zhai Hua like how she treated her ancestors!

In reality, the couple had been married for more than a decade, but her son had not been able to fulfill his dream of becoming a regiment commander. Contrarily, it seemed as though he would never get promoted from his rank as a company commander. Besides, Zhai Hua had never been in contact with the Zhai family all those years. The chief's daughter was nothing but a title.

It was also because Zhai Hua's temper had been so good and she had been too nice toward the Wei family. She had tried her best to be a good wife, a good daughter-in-law, and a good mother that she had been trying to live her life to prove to the Zhai family that she had not made the wrong decision.

Even with her status, she had not put on any airs. That was why Mother Wei's uneasiness had turned into her strong and overbearing behavior as a mother-in-law. Everything was a result of mutual influence.

When Zhai Hua finally prided herself as part of the Zhai family, Mother Wei realized that it was too late for her to regret it now. Because she had gone overboard during normal times, there was nothing for her to rely on at this critical moment. There was nothing she could do since she had never treated Zhai Hua well, and even treated Wei Wei better than Jiajia.

Father Wei glanced at Mother Wei. "All right. Let's go in. It's too embarrassing to stay out here." Mother Wei had her regrets, and so did Father Wei. He had always felt that he had a better image in Zhai Hua's mind since he had never tried to interfere whenever Mother Wei bullied Zhai Hua.

He had thought that Zhai Hua would take his advice as a father-in-law once he spoke. But reality gave Father Wei a tight slap in the face.

Anyone could have seen just how indifferent and scheming Father Wei had been all along. He had just gotten the chance to say something to Zhai Hua before she rebutted him. “Uncle, I might not have said anything in the past, but that doesn’t mean that I don’t know anything. At that time, we were a family and I tried to tolerate all of you as much as I could. Uncle, I’m sure you like Wei Wei very much as a grandson. I’ve seen it for myself.”

If they did not place emphasis on their grandson, would they use their granddaughter’s resources to help their grandson?

In that way, Father Wei naturally had no way to use his good father-in-law image to persuade Zhai Hua to make up with Wei De since they had a child and to forget about the divorce.

After entering the court, the family of three found a spot by the window to have some fresh air. Ever since the day Zhai Hua had brought up a divorce, the atmosphere in the family had been stifling. After a long time, Father Wei finally spoke up when he realized that the pocket where he normally placed his cigarettes was empty. “Is there any change in your situation in the military?”

Wei De was dejected. “No.” He had thought that losing the chance of promotion after getting divorced from Zhai Hua was the greatest punishment he would get for being together with Wei Xiaomei in his youth. It was only when he received a call from the military that he realized that it was not easy for Zhai Hua to pull him up, but it was no effort at all for the Zhai family to drag him down.

Both calls from the military were not out of concern for Wei De. In the first call, the people from the military expressed that they understood that it was important to resolve his personal matters. As such, they were willing to grant him time off to settle these matters.

Less than a month later, Wei De received yet another call from the military. Because of Wei De’s dishonesty, the military had reason to believe that his character and morality were poor. More importantly, Wei De had organized a wedding dinner and had gotten married to Wei Xiaomei in the countryside. Afterward, he had cheated Zhai Hua into marriage. That bigamy was an extremely severe crime that had ruined the image of the military. As such, the military had made the decision to expel him.

1

The phone call was a bolt out of the blue for Wei De. He was already in despair that he would never become a regiment commander. Now, he could not even continue being a soldier, let alone a regiment commander. There was no place for him in the army anymore.

Similarly, it was only when Wei De received this call did he realize just how frightening it was to get divorced from Zhai Hua.

Chapter 1950: Pushing Them to Their Deaths

All his achievements originated from Zhai Hua. As soon as he and Zhai Hua got a divorce, he seemed to be beaten back to his original form.

Wei De thought of how others were discussing back then that the army would be dismissing him soon as he had no achievements at all. This was when he hadn't wooed Zhai Hua yet. He remembered how he felt back then.

His physical fitness was alright. He didn't have any other capabilities and only knew how to be a soldier but wanted to be an officer. As such, he could only continue to be in the army and keep trying to climb up the ranks. When others looked down on him and felt that he would be dismissed sooner or later, he wanted to prove to these people that he had a better life than them in the army.

The more it was like this, the more unwilling Wei De was to have a divorce. As long as Zhai Hua didn't agree to this divorce, Wei De would do anything Zhai Hua wanted. Even if Wei De were to kneel in front of Zhai Hua now, not only would he not frown, but he wouldn't even hesitate to do so at all.

He couldn't leave the army. If he left the army, his fifty-year-old self would really be left with nothing.

After such a big change, not only did Wei Xiaomei return to her hometown, but Wei Wei was sent back as well. Thoughts about continuing to complete the remaining semester in school, striving to achieve outstanding performance in the college entrance examination, and entering a good university in the future disappeared from Wei De's mind.

Zhai Hua didn't like Wei Xiaomei. She would definitely hate Wei Wei too. He hadn't thought of ways to get Zhai Hua back yet. If he let her see people she didn't like, then his relationship with Zhai Hua would be even more hopeless.

If he couldn't even take care of himself, how would Wei De have the thought to take care of his son?

Father Wei and Mother Wei knew about Wei De's dismissal from the army. Mother Wei's eyes turned red and she nearly cried. "Why is Zhai Hua so cruel? At the very least, Ah De has been husband and wife with her for over ten years. Didn't they say that a day together as husband and wife means endless devotion for the rest of your life? She really isn't going to leave us any way out? She wants to push us to our deaths?!"

1

Her son was her pride and the biggest officer in their village. Now that her son was no longer a company commander and wasn't even a soldier, upon thinking of how their lives would be in the future, Mother Wei felt bitter. They really couldn't lead such a life.

Zhai Hua wasn't going to give them any money. Her son was dismissed from the army. This meant that they would no longer give allowances. Forget thinking about the long term and if it was possible to nurture Xiao Wei into a university student. If her son didn't find a job soon, their family would run out of living expenses soon.

Wei De had a menacing look. "Since she and the Zhai family want to push us to our deaths, let's die for them one by one." His mom was right. Zhai Hua was too ruthless. The Zhai family was even more ruthless. After all, they had been family for over ten years. They didn't leave him any way out now. They wanted to see him die, huh? He would die and just let the Zhai family be equally embarrassed as well!

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Of course, Wei De wasn't really planning to die. A person like Wei De would know that it was better to live than die. He only hoped to use such a tactic to force Zhai Hua so that she would dare not to divorce him and the Zhai family would help him return to the army.

As such, before the last trial started, there was a big piece of news about someone wanting to jump off from the opposite building. "Look quickly! There's someone sitting on the roof railing of the opposite building. He looks like he's going to commit suicide. Hurry up and call the police."

"Oh god. What happened such that he couldn't come to terms and wants to commit suicide? He doesn't look young either."

“It’s said that his wife wants to divorce him. He doesn’t want to as he doesn’t want his family to be separated and his daughter to have an incomplete family. I heard that his in-laws are very powerful and forced the couple to divorce. They even caused that man to lose his job.”

Upon hearing these words, the Zhai family’s looks turned ugly.

Zhai Hua gritted his teeth. “It shouldn’t be him, right?” If the person who was going to commit suicide was really Wei De, Zhai Hua had the urge to blind herself. How bad were her eyes back then that she fancied Wei De and argued with her family for more than ten years?

How did Wei De manage to do such a shameless and embarrassing thing?

“That’s hard to say.” Zhai Yaohui knew of the saying that a dog will leap over a wall in desperation. Wei De wasn’t someone good to begin with. Now, all the facts had proven that Wei De married Zhai Hua back then not because he really liked her, but because of the Zhai family’s conditions. What kind of things would a person like Wei De, who relied on a woman and didn’t recognize his wife and son just to climb up the ranks and achieve his motives, not do?

Furthermore, the content of those people’s discussions coincided too much with Wei De’s situation. It was estimated that there wouldn’t be any accidents in this matter.

Miao Jing felt a headache. “What should we do? Why don’t we get Zhai Sheng back?” Miao Jing, a woman who had encountered so many things when she was young, had never tried the method of seeking death. She didn’t expect that a method that even she, an old woman, found disdainful would be used today, and it was by her son-in-law nonetheless.

Miao Jing looked at Zhai Hua helplessly. She felt that her daughter was too unlucky. She was afraid that her daughter only knew about Wei De’s true colors today. Could a man like this still be called a man?

“No need.” Zhai Hua’s personal matters were considered important as well. “Wei De’s a clown. Do you really need to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut? Let him be. If he really jumps down from the rooftop and dies, then so be it. That has nothing to do with our family. If someone wants to die, even the King of Hades can’t stop him, let alone us.”

In short, who cares about Wei De’s life and death?

“Do you think Ah De can really do this? Why am I so afraid? If Ah De loosens his hand... We only have one son.” Mother Wei’s legs were shaking, and her face turned pale. She was starting to feel a little regretful. All was good as long as her son was here. Why don’t they just give up everything about the Zhai family?

If anything happened to her son, she really couldn’t live anymore.

Father Wei was also worried. However, he felt determined. “You’re just a timid woman who lacks knowledge. As the saying goes, deploy troops in such a way as to leave no room for maneuver or route for escape so that the soldiers will fight for their dear lives out of desperation and eventually win the battle. For our Wei family and Ah De’s future, I’m supportive of Ah De. Furthermore, Ah De was a soldier. I believe Ah De knows it in his heart and won’t let anything happen to him.”

If not for him being too old and his fear of heights, it would have been more appropriate for him or his wife to do this. He wanted to see if the Zhai family was really so cruel and shameless, and that in order to make Zhai Hua divorce Ah De, they were going to force the Wei family to their deaths.