

RTAMM 481

Chapter 481: A Beautiful Misunderstanding

“...”

“Happy? I’ve never felt happy being the top scorer. Now that I’m in second place, what am I happy about!”

“...”

“It’s fine to be the second. But the first... Dad, you don’t understand. Yesterday, Qiu Chenxi left. I guessed she must have gone to the army. I’ve already told you about the situation. You’ll decide for yourself what you wish to do in the future. Anyway, I’m not interfering in the matter between you and your sister.” As for her relationship with the Qiu family, it was not within her father’s control as well.

After hanging up, Shi Qing returned to her own room without a word. She took out a few clothes and stuffed them into the luggage.

There was no elder present in the Qiu family when she left.

Shi Qing sneered. She just informed the auntie in the Qiu family and then took her own luggage and left.

When Qi Minlan received the news, Shi Qing had already unpacked and tidied up her clothes in the new place.

For the sake of his own daughter, Shi Peng would definitely not just find any place. That area was not only safe but also quiet. At the very least, it would not affect Shi Qing in her studies.

Qi Minlan did not wish to cut off kin ties with the Shi family. She thus quickly ran over to fetch Shi Qing back. As long as Shi Qing was staying at the house of the Qiu family, her brother would definitely agree to help when the Qiu family needed them.

Of course, Shi Qing, who was determined to move out, would not be persuaded to do otherwise by Qi Minlan.

Qi Minlan, who had tired herself out after trying for so long, went home empty-handed. She could not convince Shi Qing. Her face was pale with anger. "True enough, she's from the Shi family. She's as bad-tempered and has the same problem as them."

"Mom..." Qi Minlan's bottom had just landed on the real leather sofa, and before she could rest, she heard Qiu Chenxi's downhearted voice.

Qi Minlan quickly sat up. "You're back. Where's Zhai Sheng? Why didn't you invite him to our house? It's such a good opportunity! As for Shi Qing... You don't need to worry about her anymore. Whenever you have a chance, just ask Zhai Sheng to come to our house. Shi Qing has moved out. Zhai Sheng won't bump into Shi Qing when he's here."

Qiu Chenxi's face turned black. Her mother had really touched her soft spot. "Inviting him here... I need to have the opportunity to do so in the first place."

"What? Didn't he send you back? How can that be!"

"It can be!"

Qiu Chenxi ground her teeth.

When she knew that Zhai Sheng was coming back, Qiu Chenxi had been busy looking for excuses to return to the camp. Early this morning, Qiu Chenxi had been waiting at the entrance of the camp for his car. She finally saw the car coming. Without a word, Qiu Chenxi stood in the way of the car.

Zhai Sheng could only stop his car when he saw a person standing in front of it. Furthermore, Qiu Chenxi was not some special forces personnel.

Once Zhai Sheng stopped his car, Qiu Chenxi smiled and walked over. "Brother Zhai, it's such a coincidence. Where are you going?"

“Going back to the Zhai’s residence.” Zhai Sheng had to roll down his window when he saw Qiu Chenxi standing beside it and refusing to leave.

“Really, such a coincidence. I’m going home too!” Qiu Chenxi’s eyes lit up and she smiled at Zhai Sheng happily. “Brother Zhai, I’m still worried about how I should go home. You know, not everyone can come to this place as they wish, so there are few vehicles on the road. Brother Zhai, can you do me a favor and send me home, please? If I depend on my two legs to walk home, they’ll be broken by the time I arrive home.”

First, she would request Zhai Sheng to send her home. When they arrived at the house of the Qiu family, even if she had to drag him along, she would definitely pull him into the house to linger for a while.

She did not believe that she would not be able to manage one Zhai Sheng after putting in so much effort.

In the past, Qiu Chenxi liked Zhai Sheng and wished to be married to him. Nevertheless, she felt that Zhai Sheng was definitely hers and could not run away. Therefore, although she liked him, she was not willing to spend too much time and effort. She was waiting for the day Zhai Sheng would be enlightened about romantic relationships and woo her on his own initiative.

The situation was different now. She knew that Zhai Sheng had someone he liked. If she did not put in any effort, she would let slip the duck that she was about to consume. If Qiu Chenxi did not act up and woo Zhai Sheng directly, she would be following her mother’s past footsteps.

Qiu Chenxi was willing to try all ways and means as long as it could bring her closer to Zhai Sheng.

“You can’t go home?” Zhai Sheng glanced at the many pairs of eyes surrounding him and asked coldly.

“Yes. So, Brother Zhai, can I trouble you to give me a lift?” Qiu Chenxi nodded continuously.

There came a sound from the car, the door seemingly opened.

When she heard this, Qiu Chenxi was overjoyed. They had known each other for so many years. How could Brother Zhai not have any positive feelings for her? It was definitely that shameless vixen who seduced Brother Zhai behind her back.

Brother Zhai was already of this age. He could not endure the vixen's temptation and gave her up as he was temporarily bewitched.

As long as she persisted, the happiness that belonged to her would prevail. No one could take that away from her.

She had known Brother Zhai for more than a decade. It would not be that easy for that vixen to destroy everything with just a little beauty and charm.

Qiu Chenxi carried her luggage. She wanted to open the car door and sit on the passenger seat beside the driver, the seat that was nearest to Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng stopped Qiu Chenxi with a shout. "You wait for a while. Don't rush to go into the car. Come here and sit for a while."

Qiu Chenxi's face turned red and she smiled sweetly.

It's the end of the June summer period. The weather at eight or nine o'clock in the morning of June was particularly scorching. To Qiu Chenxi, who always liked to look pretty, it was, in fact, a very painful matter to stand under the hot sun to wait for Zhai Sheng without even carrying an umbrella.

It was fine for her whole body to perspire and to have her dress plastered to her body. Qiu Chenxi was only afraid that she would become tanned.

She listened to Zhai Sheng and entered the guardhouse and sat down.

At that time, air conditioner was not as prevalent. Although there was no air conditioner, there was a fan. Additionally, she did not need to be under the sun anymore. At the thought that such a cold and aloof man like Zhai Sheng also had such a gentle and considerate side, Qiu Chenxi's heart simply melted with sweetness. In particular, Zhai Sheng presented this side of him to her.

Perhaps that woman was not that great a threat as she believed her to be.

Perhaps Brother Zhai felt that she had ignored and neglected him too much in the past. Hence, he got together with that woman to spite her. If Brother Zhai did not like her and she did not have any place in his heart, why would he be so considerate and thoughtful toward her?

If she had long known that Brother Zhai had such a gentle side to him, she would have taken the initiative long ago. In that case, not only would they have been married, but they also might have already had a child by now.

Just as Qiu Chenxi was deeply immersed in her beautiful imagination and could not break out of it, Zhai Sheng came out.

Qiu Chenxi's face was flustered and red. Her pair of bright and watery eyes were looking emotionally at Zhai Sheng, waiting for him to come and help her with the luggage.

Qiu Chenxi told herself that she was much more fortunate than her mother in the past.

Chapter 482: One-Sided Love Affair

At the very least, she had a place in Zhai Sheng's heart. Moreover, he was more decisive and determined than the Uncle Zhai in the past. She had decided. She would temporarily forgo her dignity as a woman and let Brother Zhai understand her love for him thoroughly. She would not let any other woman take advantage of the available opportunity and come in between them.

Qiu Chenxi was as shy as a newly married wife. She bowed her head coyly as she waited for Zhai Sheng to approach her.

Contrary to her wish, Zhai Sheng looked like he had forgotten about Qiu Chenxi's existence. When he came out from the guardhouse, he headed toward his car directly.

Zhai Sheng's legs were long, his strides wide. Moreover, with the style of a military man, his walking speed was fast.

Just as Qiu Chenxi was blinking his eyes and trying to figure out how Zhai Sheng had walked past her without even a greeting, Zhai Sheng had already got into his car and locked the doors. He also started the engine.

Seeing that Zhai Sheng's car was leaving soon, Qiu Chenxi was anxious. She gave it a chase, leaving her luggage behind. "Brother Zhai, aren't you going to send me home?"

Why did Brother Zhai lock the car doors before she could even get into it?

Zhai Sheng scrolled down the car windows. "Don't worry. I have helped you make a call. There will be a car coming to send you back soon. I've something on and have to leave first."

After leaving these words, Zhai Sheng did not have any more reservation this time. He stepped on the accelerator and left without giving Qiu Chenxi any further chance to say anything.

"Brother Zhai, Brother Zhai..." Of course, Qiu Chenxi's two legs could not catch up with that four-wheeled vehicle of Zhai Sheng. She could only watch as Zhai Sheng left in a wink, helplessly taking in a mouthful of exhaust gas.

When Qiu Chenxi saw that the car Zhai Sheng mentioned would send her home was actually a vehicle for material procurement, her entire face turned pale.

Throughout the whole journey back home, Qiu Chenxi did not utter a single sound.

When she alighted, she did not greet the driver as well. Her face was black as she slammed and closed the vehicle's door. She then stomped home in fury.

Qiu Chenxi did not feel good. Moreover, Qi Minlan posed a question that made her feel very embarrassed and furious.

"How could Zhai Sheng do that?!" Qi Minlan sat up properly. "He just left like that?" And left Chen Xi in the lurch?

"Otherwise?" Tears welled up in Qiu Chenxi's eyes. "Mom, initially, I thought Brother Zhai asked me to wait at the guardhouse so that I wouldn't be under the sun and had the fan cool me down, letting me rest for a while. On hindsight, Brother Zhai was clearly afraid that I would sneak into his car and refused to come down. So, he was actually guarding against me!"

She actually deluded herself by taking Zhai Sheng's coldness and guarding toward her as his gentleness and thoughtfulness. When she dawned upon this realization, Qiu Chenxi did not cry and endured the pain in her heart.

Now that she had arrived home and was facing her mother, Qi Minlan, Qiu Chenxi simply cried out loudly. "Mom, how could Brother Zhai do that? No matter what, I'm his childhood friend. We've known each other for such a long time. Were all those times we spent unreal? Just because that woman appeared, Brother Zhai distanced himself from me. He even completely denied the relationship between us over all these years? Mom, is it because Brother Zhai doesn't like me at all?"

Otherwise, why would Brother Zhai behave to this extent today?

He was too much!

"Don't cry." Qi Minlan was full of heartache. "How could that be? How could Zhai Sheng not like you at all? It's been so many years. Did he object to being with you in the past? It must be because of that woman. Zhai Sheng is having a very fresh and close relationship with that woman. That's why he behaved in this way. The problem doesn't lie with you or Zhai Sheng. It's all that woman's fault. Think about it. In the past, Uncle Zhai liked Mom so much. In the end, not only Zhai Hua, even Zhai Sheng is older than you."

She only got married to Qiu Qin one year after Zhai Yaohui married Miao Jing.

When Zhai Sheng was born, she was not even pregnant with Chen Xi.

To put it bluntly, all men were the same. They favored the new over the old.

So what if Zhai Yaohui liked her? Old Master Zhai did not allow that. Zhai Yaohui not only married Miao Jing but also had two children with her in three years.

"Mom, you were so close with Uncle Zhai in the past, yet the two of you did not end up together. I've been putting on airs in front of Brother Zhai. Now, that woman has appeared. I'm not even clear who she is. What should I do? What if Brother Zhai does the same as Uncle Zhai? Then, I... Oh, yes, where's Shi Qing!!"

Qiao Nan was her only path to find out who that woman was.

She had considered it carefully. Qiao Nan did not only gain Miao Jing's favor but also the two siblings in the Zhai family.

Others might not know who the girlfriend Zhai Sheng was hiding was. Qiao Nan definitely had some clues, but she held back and refused to tell her.

"It's already been five days, right? Shi Qing has not gone back. She's waiting in Ping Cheng. How're her results? How many marks did she exceed Qiao Nan by? Qiao Nan has always been the top scorer in the first-year cohort of Ping Cheng High School. I don't believe she won't be sad or angry when someone else takes this away from her."

As long as Qiao Nan was willing to tell her about that woman, she would think of ways to make Shi Qing leave.

No matter how proud Qiao Nan was in the past, she could ensure that Qiao Nan could continue to bask in glory.

Otherwise, Qiao Nan should prepare to say goodbye to her fate with the top scorer position in the cohort for her entire life.

"Qing Qing, Qing Qing, you're back. Quickly come out." Qiu Chenxi, who was full of anxiety, could not wait for Qi Minlan's reply. She started raising her voice to shout for Shi Qing.

The auntie quickly ran out. "Miss, I've already told Madam that Shi Qing has moved out. She has another place to stay at in Ping Cheng. She left this morning."

"What, she left? And it's this morning!" Qiu Chenxi glared. "Then, what about her results? Did she mention to you about her grades at Ping Cheng High School?"

The auntie was innocent. "Why would Shi Qing tell me, an auntie, about that?" Even if Shi Qing mentioned it, neither could she understand nor remember anyway.

"Mom, Shi Qing left. Did you go and take a look? What if Uncle asks about this?" In a sour mood, Qiu Chenxi barked at the auntie, ordering her to go to the kitchen impolitely. The auntie's face turned sullen and went back to the kitchen, enduring her anger.

Qi Minlan knitted her brows unhappily. “Don’t bring it up anymore. She left so readily and didn’t even inform me. She doesn’t even treat me as her auntie. Shi Qing has been overly indulged by your uncle. She stayed at our house for a month, and we fed her with the best things. She’s clearly a white-eyed wolf. Right, don’t accidentally say this in front of Shi Qing.”

“Mom, do you think I’m stupid?” How could she let out the words spoken behind the back of someone? “Mom, did you ask Shi Qing about her results?”

“No.”

“Then, where is she staying? I’ll look for her to ask about it myself.” She had to deal with Qiao Nan.

Chapter 483: ‘The Child’s Father’ Is Back

“Fine, I’m not going. You go ahead. Get the chauffeur to send you. He knows where Shi Qing lives.”

“Okay.” She did what she said. After Qiu Chenxi finished a cup of tea, she requested the family chauffeur to send her to Shi Qing’s place.

Unfortunately, when Qiu Chenxi arrived, there was no one in the house. The thing that infuriated Qiu Chenxi most was that she knocked on the door for at least ten minutes. It was only when her hands turned all red that Shi Qing’s neighbor told her that the young lady who had just moved in this morning had gone out about thirty minutes ago.

Qiu Chenxi, who met with so many setbacks in a day, lost her temper and nearly kicked the door of Shi Qing’s place. “It’s fine that another woman fights with me over Brother Zhai. Shi Qing, you...”

After thinking carefully, Qiu Chenxi felt that the reason Shi Qing was not at home must be that she had gone to look for Zhai Sheng as she knew that he was back.

She had not found out who that woman was and Shi Qing had to create trouble. Could she have brought disaster upon herself and found herself another rival-in-love? If that was really the case, she would be certainly driven mad by anger!

At the house of the Zhai family.

“You’ve seen it yourself. Zhai Sheng may come back today, but even as his mom, I’m not sure when he’ll be back. If you have any matter, leave a message for him.” Miao Jing sat at home and looked at Shi Qing uneasily.

Initially, given Shi Qing’s personal qualities, she indeed fit Miao Jing’s conditions as the latter’s daughter-in-law. However, she was from the Shi family, Qi Minlan’s relatives.

Miao Jing had already sorted her thoughts and would not make things difficult for herself. She had already stroke off Qiu Chenxi from her list of daughter-in-law nominees. Given that Shi Qing was from the Shi family, Miao Jing was certainly unable to accept her as well.

When she first came to the Zhai family, Qi Minlan bullied her with the fact that Qi Minlan was from the Shi family.

“Auntie Miao, actually, I’m just here to see Uncle Zhai and you. I’d like to say hello on behalf of my dad. I’ve been here for a month and couldn’t spare the time to visit you because I have been busy preparing for my exams previously. I hope Auntie Miao will not be angry.” Shi Qing would not leave before seeing Zhai Sheng.

Today, she had to see Brother Zhai before Qiao Nan could.

“You really came to Ping Cheng to study? Are you studying at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China?” Miao Jing looked at Shi Qing in puzzlement. “What happened to you in Mo Du?”

Shi Qing nearly spat out the tea in her mouth. The way Auntie Miao put this across was as if she had done something wrong in Mo Du.

It was not because she had encountered any matter. She simply came because of Auntie Miao’s son!

“Auntie Miao, you’ve misunderstood. I just feel that Ping Cheng is quite good. Furthermore, my dad stayed in Ping Cheng quite often in the past. I only wish to have a change of environment and be close to my dad.”

“Isn’t your dad resting in Mo Du due to his illness?” If she would like to be closer to him, shouldn’t she stay in Mo Du?

“In a month’s time, my dad will be back in Ping Cheng.” Shi Qing heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, she had a counter excuse for this.

Shi Qing was brought up in Mo Du by her grandpa, grandma, and mother. Occasionally, she would come to Ping Cheng to visit Shi Peng and also the house of her relative, Qi Minlan.

Miao Jing then understood. “I see.”

Miao Jing did not know what else to say to Shi Qing. She could only hold her cup of tea and keep drinking from it.

Miao Jing did not mutter a word. All of a sudden, Shi Qing could not think of an appropriate topic to chat with Miao Jing. Nonetheless, she refused to leave and could only stay put. Similar to Miao Jing, she continued to drink her tea. She then looked at the clock frequently, estimating when Zhai Sheng would be back.

Hence, Miao Jing and Shi Qing filled themselves with two pots of tea. They were so full.

As a young lady, particularly in front of the mother of someone she liked, there were matters that Shi Qing was embarrassed to do or ask about. However, her bloated tummy had already reached its limit.

Shi Qing took a deep breath. “Auntie Miao, I’m sorry to have disturbed you. I’ll be going back first. I’ll visit you again next time.”

“Okay, sure. I’ll send you off.”

“It’s okay. You’re the elder and I’m the junior. I’ll go back on my own.” Then, she walked out of the Zhai family’s residence, her pace seemingly normal. However, once she left the place, she anxiously looked for a restroom.

It was not only Shi Qing. When she had left, the first thing Miao Jing did was to run to the toilet in her house. These two people had been enduring too much.

Zhai Sheng, the person Shi Qing had been waiting for such a long time, had obviously left the camp long ago. Where could he be at this point in time?

There was only one answer: the house of the Qiao family.

“Dad, don’t be so exaggerated. It’s just the final term examination, not the college entrance examination.” In the house of the Qiao family, Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry.

When Qiao Dongliang heard that Qiao Nan remained top in the cohort and had received half a point mark more than Shi Qing, although it was only half a point mark, it was enough to make Qiao Dongliang overjoyed.

Nan Nan had surpassed a gifted student who was guaranteed a place in a top-tier university.

In other words, since that young lady could attend prominent universities such as Qing Hua University and Bei Jing University, at the very least, his family’s Nan Nan could also get into the same universities with her own ability. Those were the best universities in the country! How could he not feel happy!

“No issue, I just did some marketing. Dad bought what you like and will prepare your favorite spicy food. Dad has also ordered a cage-free chicken. When the weather turns cold, I’ll brew some soup to supplement your health.”

At the thought that her own daughter would become a student of the best university in the capital in two years’ time, Qiao Dongliang was high-spirited and full of energy. It was as if he had been injected with twelve tubes of chicken blood. “Nan Nan, you rest well at home. If you feel tired, there are ice pops in the refrigerator. Take them out to eat if you want. Also, which flavor do you like? Dad will buy some for you from the place that sells frozen stuff next time.”

“There is no such need, Dad. I don’t really like to eat them. I prefer plain water.” Qiao Nan shook her head. Her father was now in a heated and excited mode. He could not wait to bring her all the good stuff.

“Plain water is not nice. There’s not much taste. Forget it. Dad will buy something for you. I heard that there’s a new milk flavor recently and it’s very delicious. I’ll buy a carton back for you.” After saying this, Qiao Dongliang left to do marketing without waiting for Qiao Nan’s reaction.

During the past six months, the neighbors all knew that Qiao Nan was a student of Ping Cheng High School and her results were excellent.

Due to this situation, many people had been trying to get to know Qiao Dongliang as they hoped that Qiao Nan could help their children with their studies.

Regarding the matter about Qiu Chenxi coming to create a fuss, everyone did not take it to heart after a few days. After all, the members of the Zhai family had already clarified this matter. There was no doubt that Qiao Nan was dragged into this. At most, she was just unlucky.

The top student of Ping Cheng High School tutoring their child for free... Where else could they get such a good deal from?

Fortunately, Qiao Dongliang was not muddle-headed. He declined all the requests on Qiao Nan’s behalf with the reason that Qiao Nan did not have any spare time as she was busy with her studies.

When Qiao Nan was attempting past year exam papers, she heard a voice in the courtyard. She lifted her head. “Dad, you’re back so soon after marketing? Why didn’t I hear you opening the door?”

“You addressed me wrongly. You left out three words. It’s the dad ‘of your child’.”

Chapter 484: ‘Gun’ Going Off by Accident

Qiao Nan could hear Zhai Sheng’s voice coming from behind. She had a fright and turned her head with a jolt. “Brother Zhai, you... How did you come in? I remember that my dad closed the door when he left. Wait, Brother Zhai, you did it again...”

Qiao Nan held her head in agony. “Brother Zhai, with your current behavior, I feel that if my house has a courtyard in the future, I’ll definitely ask my dad to fix a wall with those tiny and sharp pieces of glass. Otherwise, I don’t feel quite safe.”

Zhai Sheng sat down in a thick-skinned manner. His face was even full of consensus. “Yes, it should be built that way. The wall in the courtyard should not be too low, and you can’t put too few pieces of shattered glass there.”

“Brother Zhai, I’m asking my dad to do this to guard against a ‘wolf’.” To prevent Brother Zhai, this big wild wolf who wore a green army uniform, from climbing over the walls of her house!

“It’s a must to guard against wolves.” Zhai Sheng took over Qiao Nan’s cup of water and finished what was left in it. One would perspire a lot in the summer and had to replenish their water intake. “If you need any help, tell me and I will get someone to send the things needed over.”

“If I really do this, how are you going to come inside next time?” Qiao Nan looked at Zhai Sheng strangely. Was Brother Zhai so confident of his skills that he felt that he would not be hurt by the pieces of shattered glass?

“My silly lady.” Zhai Sheng held Qiao Nan’s waist and let Qiao Nan’s body lean against his.

Qiao Nan was unwilling. She patted Zhai Sheng and wanted to push him away. “You’re the silly one, not me. This is the summer period. The fan is blowing at me and I’m perspiring. Don’t you feel hot when two of us stick together? If you don’t, I do. Quickly let go of your hands. Your body feels so warm!”

With two layers of clothing as a barrier, Qiao Nan could clearly feel that Zhai Sheng’s body temperature was much higher than that of hers.

She was not sure if the saying of the elders was true, that young man had a strong aura of ‘Yang energy’ [1. Yang is one of the complementary principles of Chinese philosophy. Yang is synonymous with positive, bright, and masculine]. Qiao Nan could not withstand being hugged by Zhai Sheng in this way, perspiring even more.

“I’m warm, but your body is cool. It’s quite good to have a hug.” Zhai Sheng did not mind. He felt that it was not hot enough. In the future, when the two of them did something that they liked, they would perspire even more and it would be even hotter. Nan Nan had to get used to this first.

“You still don’t want to admit that you’re silly. When that time comes, you should already be studying in college, and I should have received approval for my marriage request. As such, you will have become my wife, the wife of a soldier. At that time, will I still need to climb over the wall? I’ll openly enter through the main door. “So, we have to place as many pieces of sharp glass on the wall as possible.”

“...” Qiao Nan curled her lips. She was so embarrassed by this reason of Zhai Sheng. “Brother Zhai, talk to you about something serious.”

“What’s the matter?”

“When you sent me to school that day, most probably, Chen Jun saw us. Chen Jun saw you pulling me into a small alley and he guessed what we did. He came to look for me thereafter. You should know what he told me.” Qiao Nan did not forget that matter of Chen Jun.

“This happened one to two months ago. You could really endure this. You only tell me about it now?” Qiao Nan kept him from a matter regarding another man. Zhai Sheng felt a little uncomfortable about this. Moreover, that man even had some ulterior designs on Qiao Nan.

“I’m only left with a few days based on the deadline he set. Before the time is up, he will not come and harass me. Furthermore, you’re busier than me. Why should I be anxious? It’s not that you’re not coming back. Besides, you seem a little jealous, Brother Zhai. It’s unnecessary. Is the situation between him and me something that you should be jealous about?”

Brother Zhai clearly seemed quite dauntless and rational usually. Why did he like to feel jealous?

If she had something for Chen Jun, Brother Zhai would not have a chance to express his love for her.

“Brother Zhai, you have to remember that Chen Jun and Qiu Chenxi are of the same kind. Qiu Chenxi has been finding excuses to go to your house. If I were like you, wouldn’t I die of jealousy?”

“You have quite a glib tongue. You used that little knowledge of what you’ve learned in the school on me?” Zhai Sheng gently squeezed the soft part of Qiao Nan’s waist. “Of course I know the situation between you and him. Otherwise, without a word, I will simply file a marriage report to stamp the ‘military personnel’s wife’ on you. One has to know that it’s illegal to break up an army marriage.”

Logic was logic and feelings were feelings.

Nevertheless, when Qiao Nan mentioned Qiu Chenxi, it struck the guilty string in Zhai Sheng’s heart. He finally did not need to be troubled by this. “Alright, I will settle his matter. Perhaps, before I settle your sister’s issue, I will have gotten rid of him. I have been too merciful on him.”

“What do you intend to do?” Qiao Nan knitted her brows. “Don’t go overboard. You’re a soldier. Everyone has enemies. Don’t let others catch a handle on you because of Chen Jun. It’s not worth it. Chen Jun’s matter is not worth you using your future as a stake. If your future is affected, most likely, Auntie Miao will really hate me.”

Zhai Sheng smiled. He held Qiao Nan’s waist with one hand and her neck with another. He lowered his head and simply kissed her on the lips with a loud smack. He then looked at Qiao Nan’s lip line and made his next move.

Compared to their first kiss that was amateur and forceful, this time, Zhai Sheng’s kiss had improved tremendously. He already knew that a kiss did not have to be just the contact between lips. They could be closer with more intimate contact.

Perhaps men were congenitally gifted in this aspect. Compared to Zhai Sheng’s adept skills, Qiao Nan continued to be as green as a newbie. She was paralyzed in Zhai Sheng’s arms and was completely under Zhai Sheng’s mischievous control.

The sound of the two kissing in the bedroom was extremely towering. Even the sound of the conversation from the television could not mask the noise. Qiao Nan was so flustered and shy that she turned all red. Even the tips of her toes curled up.

When Qiao Nan nearly fainted in Zhai Sheng’s arms, the life-threatening kiss finally ended.

Zhai Sheng hugged Qiao Nan tightly in his arms. That speed and strength nearly crushed Qiao Nan. I was as if he was embedding her into his body. “Nan Nan, quickly grow up. You should know that

I'm at an age full of vigor and vitality. I can't take too much stimulation. Next time, I can't be sure if I'll be able to control myself."

As a soldier, the self-control that he was proudest of became so vulnerable in front of Nan Nan.

When he felt that his own 'brother' had stood straight and was in high spirits, Zhai Sheng felt extremely unwell, his face turning red with all the endurance.

"Let go, let go." Qiao Nan stopped herself from screaming at the pitch of her voice. She struggled to get out of Zhai Sheng's arms.

Zhai Sheng was also afraid that his 'gun' would go off by accident if he continued to hug Qiao Nan so tightly. He could only let go of Qiao Nan and watch her jump away, escaping like a frightened little rabbit. Otherwise, given that little strength of Qiao Nan, she was no match for Zhai Sheng at all.

Chapter 485: One Has to Be Thick-skinned to Get a Wife

Qiao Nan took a deep breath as she gave her mouth a wipe with her hands. She then tidied up her hair. "Brother Zhai, you, you're a soldier. You must not let your military attire down. You... How could you be so rogue? You've gone overboard today!"

In two lifetimes, this was the first time that Qiao Nan had been kissed so deeply by a man.

When she thought about the tongue that did not belong to her inside her mouth earlier, Qiao Nan felt strange and uneasy all over, particularly her heart. It was on fire. She had the urge to strip and take a cold shower to extinguish all the fire in her body.

"A relationship that is not on the pretext of marriage is playing rogue. I didn't. If you nod, even if you're underage, do you believe that I have a way to make you become Mrs. Zhai instantly? At that time..." He would not be afraid of his 'gun' accidentally going off. He could directly 'punish' Nan Nan, who had seduced and set him on fire, on the spot!

With Zhai Sheng's burning eyes staring at her, that stubborn ball of fire in Qiao Nan's heart could not be extinguished.

Qiao Nan swallowed, grabbed the cup, and turned her back. With her back facing Zhai Sheng, she started to drink from the cup. She dared not look at Zhai Sheng in the eye.

Zhai Sheng's searing hot palms simply followed and landed on Qiao Nan's waist. "Nan Nan, I drank all the water in the cup earlier. What are you drinking?"

Upon hearing Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan removed the cup from her mouth and looked at it. Yes, it was empty. After swallowing for so long, she did not drink a single drop of water. "I, I'm thirsty. I'm going to get some water."

Having said that, Qiao Nan ran to get some water for herself. After downing half a cup of it, the fire in her faded a little.

Having experienced it once, when Qiao Nan returned, she was cautious about the distance between her and Zhai Sheng. "Brother Zhai, you... Don't do anything rash. M-my dad is coming back soon. If you dare to do anything and Dad sees what you do, we'll not only be troubled about Auntie Miao next time. Most likely, my dad will punch you each time he sees you."

"Nan Nan, you're scared of me?" Zhai Sheng smiled softly. He was trying to find out Qiao Nan's attitude toward him.

"Yes, a little." When Brother Zhai kissed her just now, she really felt that she was going to be devoured alive by him. "Brother Zhai, y-you... You don't eat human meat, right?"

"No." After he knew that it was because they had been too intimate, Zhai Sheng then let down his worries. He was most concerned about Qiao Nan disliking being intimate with him. If that was the case, how could they have children in the future? "Don't worry. Uncle Qiao will be coming back soon. I won't let him have the chance to chase me out."

"Nan Nan..."

Speak of the devil.

Qiao Dongliang opened the door with his keys. “Nan Nan, the watermelon looks very good today. I’ve tasted it. It’s sweet and crispy. You’ll definitely love it. Eat half of it and leave the other half in the fridge so that you can eat it whenever you want to... Zhai Sheng, you’re here?”

“Uncle Qiao.” Zhai Sheng maintained about one person’s distance from Qiao Nan. In front of Qiao Dongliang, Zhai Sheng was aware of his boundaries.

“When did you come?” Qiao Dongliang’s smile was obviously not as natural as before. Nan Nan was always studying in the school and did not have much time to be at home. He had not even spent quality time with Nan Nan alone and Zhai Sheng had to come? What did he mean?

There was another man that was fighting with him for his daughter. This was truly the most annoying thing in the world.

“I just arrived.” Zhai Sheng’s face did not turn red. His reply was bare of any anxiety. Qiao Nan was stunned and speechless when she heard his words.

Did Brother Zhai have a strong heart or was he simply thick-skinned?

“Did Nan Nan open the door for you?” This would not do. Next time, he had to find an opportunity to educate Nan Nan not to open the door casually to anyone. In particular, someone of Zhai Sheng’s age and gender should not be casually let into the house.

“Right,” Zhai Sheng replied on behalf of Qiao Nan.

“Nan Nan, I’m asking you.”

“Uncle Qiao, Nan Nan was the one who opened the door for me.”

The father and son-in-law seemed to be at odds regarding this issue. Qiao Dongliang insisted on asking Qiao Nan, but Zhai Sheng kept replying on her behalf. He was not afraid of offending his in-law too. In the future, it would not be so easy to marry his wife.

At the sight of the exchanges and atmosphere between Qiao Dongliang and Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan simply stood up quietly and brought over two cups of water for them respectively. “The weather is hot. We perspire a lot. Drink water, drink water.”

Zhai Sheng took a glance at his new cup. When he knew that the cup he had used a few minutes ago was used by Qiao Nan now, he felt great. It was as if he was having an ice pops. “Right, drink more water. It’s good for health.”

“Yes, drink more. You soldiers perspire a lot. Nan Nan, get another cup of water for your Brother Zhai again later. Right, add some salt into the water to replenish some salt for him.” Although Qiao Dongliang was angry, he was truly concerned about Zhai Sheng.

Although he was reluctant and displeased that someone was fighting with him for his daughter, Nan Nan liked Zhai Sheng. Could he stop them?

“No need, this one cup is enough. I’ve drunk some earlier.” Add some salt?

No, he was not going to drink anything salty. He was only going to drink something sweet.

“You’ve drunk some?” Qiao Dongliang looked down. “But there are only three cups?” Then, which cup did Zhai Sheng use to drink his water from just now?

Qiao Nan gritted her teeth and secretly gave Zhai Sheng a kick. She warned him not to go overboard. If he provoked her father, Brother Zhai would certainly be the one at the losing end eventually.

Hence, one shouldn’t be too arrogant in normal times.

Seeing that the wife was angry, Zhai Sheng had to immediately restrain himself. “Uncle Qiao, did anything good happen to you today as well? You look so happy.”

“Right, you don’t know yet. Nan Nan clinched the top place in the cohort. Her scores were half a point higher than that of second place. Isn’t she capable!” In the past, when Qiao Nan was the top scorer, Qiao Dongliang was also happy. He was already quite used to it. However, he was especially elated about Qiao Nan’s results this time. Without Shi Qing as a comparison, Qiao Dongliang did not know that his daughter’s top place had such a good standing according to the national standards.

Zhai Sheng had the option to not ask, but when he did, he hit the nail on the spot. The worries Qiao Dongliang had earlier vanished instantly. He was grinning from ear to ear now. “Right, you just said ‘as well’. Why? Did something good happen to you as well? Do you wish to share?”

Qiao Dongliang posed this question as he also wanted to find out more about Zhai Sheng’s situation.

If Zhai Sheng was a good man, then he would allow Nan Nan to continue to be in contact with him. If there was an issue with Zhai Sheng, no matter how good the Zhai family was, they would not be worthy of Nan Nan if Zhai Sheng was not good enough.

“Recently, it has been quite smooth at work for me. There’s great progress, so I can’t help feeling happy.” Working hard for his family was also a type of work. He did not lie to his ‘father-in-law’.

“Good. Everyone’s doing well.” It was certainly a good thing that work was smooth for Zhai Sheng.

At the sight of the clock on the wall, Qiao Dongliang smiled. “Zhai Sheng, it’s almost eleven o’clock, and I have to prepare lunch for Nan Nan. You see...” Zhai Sheng had just returned from the army. He should go back to his home for lunch, shouldn’t he?

Chapter 486: Have Not Reconciled

“Unknowingly, it’s already this time. I can’t decline an elder’s request. I’ll stay here for lunch then. Uncle Qiao, I’ll help you. You bought all the things that Nan Nan like, right? I still remember what you’ve taught me previously. Let’s prepare the food together for Nan Nan to eat?”

Afterward, Zhai Sheng grabbed hold of the bags of groceries purchased by Qiao Dongliang and pulled the latter into the kitchen. Qiao Dongliang did not have any time to react.

It was only when Qiao Dongliang started preparing the meal that he exclaimed that he had fallen into Zhai Sheng’s trap.

When did he invite Zhai Sheng to stay for lunch?

In normal circumstances, he certainly had to be more polite. However, toward Zhai Sheng, this wolf that wholeheartedly wanted to snatch Nan Nan away, he was not willing to feign politeness. He nearly chased Zhai Sheng away directly.

From the family member who once had the lowest status in the Qiao family to today, where two men in the house were preparing meals for her, Qiao Nan's thoughts were elsewhere although she was sitting on the sofa, holding the remote controller and staring at the television.

Life was truly unbelievable.

Zhai Sheng dawdled in the house of the Qiao family until half-past three in the afternoon before he was willing to leave.

During this period, Qiao Dongliang 'impolitely' stayed at home and even deliberately sat in between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan to eliminate all the opportunities for Zhai Sheng to come into physical contact with his daughter.

The situation of the trio made Qiao Nan seem like a precious egg. As the hen, Qiao Dongliang was on his greatest guard to protect the egg beneath his wings. He used all his might and effort to prevent Zhai Sheng, the weasel, from having any slightest opportunity to steal away his egg.

Qiao Dongliang, who had been uptight the whole morning, nearly heaved out a loud and big sigh of relief when he heard that Zhai Sheng was finally going to leave. He was cheering in his heart when he sent Zhai Sheng to the door.

At the sight of Qiao Dongliang's behavior, Zhai Sheng laughed. "Uncle Qiao, sorry to have disturbed you today. I'll visit again tomorrow. Thank you."

"No need..." Qiao Dongliang was about to decline, but Zhai Sheng had already got into his car. Zhai Sheng then stepped on the accelerator and left. He nearly made Qiao Dongliang take in a mouthful of exhaust gas.

Qiao Dongliang snorted like a cow and quickly ran back into the house. "Nan Nan, before I came back, nothing happened between Zhai Sheng and you, right?"

"Brother Zhai was chatting with me."

“Just chatting?”

“Yes...”

“What did you chat about?”

“My studies.”

“Then, before I came back, how long had Zhai Sheng been here?”

“Brother Zhai was here about five to seven minutes before you came back.”

Zhai Sheng left so swiftly and quickly. Qiao Nan was left to fend for them and had to continue to lie according to what Zhai Sheng said earlier.

Qiao Nan had to face many questions from Qiao Dongliang. The situation of Zhai Sheng, who arrived home at the Zhai family’s residence, was not any better.

“You really came back? It looks like Shi Qing received information about it and already knew that you’re coming home. She visited us. Zhai Sheng, let me warn you. It’s not just Qiu Chenxi, but also Shi Qing. I won’t force you to marry other women if you really don’t want to, but these two are definitely out of the question.” Miao Jing was enduring a tummy of resentment.

Her stomach had been full of tea because of Shi Qing, and she had visited the restroom numerous times. Even the auntie thought that Miao Jing’s tummy was upset because there was something wrong with the food she had prepared.

Zhai Sheng sat down. “Shi Qing came to our house?”

There was a flash in Zhai Sheng’s eyes as he secretly assessed Miao Jing. He discovered that besides a little resentment, Miao Jing did not seem to have other feelings when she talked about Shi Qing. Zhai Sheng was assured then.

At the very least, this proved that Shi Qing did not tell his mother about Nan Nan's matter behind his back for the sake of getting his mother's favor.

"Wasn't that so? In normal times, you're such a stoic lad, never mixing around with other ladies. You've been like that since young. Forget about Qiu Chenxi. I don't understand why Shi Qing kept coming to our house. You, you've gained love interests from women even with that attitude of yours. I'm really worried for your future wife." Miao Jing sized up her son. Besides being good-looking, tall, and masculine, the expression on his face 'stank'. He always carried that nonchalant look.

The children nowadays were excessively pampered.

Hence, she could not understand why everyone liked his son. She never thought that Zhai Sheng would be so popular among the ladies.

She only needed one daughter-in-law. Hence, it was not necessary for many ladies to take a liking to her son. She just needed one.

"Don't worry. I'm fully devoted to my wife," Zhai Sheng said without reservation.

Miao Jing was pleased. "Look at you. You said it as if you already have someone in mind to marry. Wait, Zhai Sheng, did you do anything behind my back? Have you filed a marriage report?!" After some thoughts, Miao Jing was simply frightened by this thought that appeared in her mind.

"The household register of family members has always been at home. Mom, are you kidding me?" Zhai Sheng replied calmly. If he could pretend in front of Qiao Dongliang, he could do so even more in front of Miao Jing. "Mom, don't worry. I won't promise you anything else, but I will not get married before getting your approval."

Anyway, Nan Nan had already said this.

The husband and wife had to sing the same tune. Since Nan Nan said that, of course, he had to keep the words.

Miao Jing was both happy and surprised when she exclaimed, "Really? Don't sweet-talk me. I will definitely take it for real!" Would Zhai Sheng really be so obedient and concerned about her opinion? She had thought that both Hua Hua and Zhai Sheng did not like her as their mother.

“I won’t joke about such matters.” Anyway, his mother could not stop him from marrying Nan Nan in secret. There was no point in asking whether it was real or not.

Miao Jing did not know the real thoughts of Zhai Sheng. Nevertheless, she felt so sweet at heart with this promise of Zhai Sheng. “Fine, this will do. Right, did Qiu Chenxi look for you?”

“Why do you ask that?”

“She’s Qi Minlan’s daughter. They have similar characters. They don’t seem like the sort that will give up easily.” Miao Jing snorted.

Zhai Sheng paused and looked at Miao Jing carefully. “Mom, is there something that you did not tell us?”

He and Zhai Hua never knew fully about the things that happened in his father’s generation. In the past, he and Zhai Hua thought that their mother’s behavior was due to her character. Judging from this, there might be more to the past happenings than met the eye.

“What matter could there be? Nothing, nothing.” Miao Jing was stubborn and refused to reveal further. “I’m hungry. Auntie, is dinner ready?”

“It’s ready. You can eat now,” the auntie in the kitchen replied sullenly.

Miao Jing stood up. “Dinner is ready. You go and inform your dad. I can’t be bothered about it.”

“You’re still angry with Dad? You’ve not reconciled?” Zhai Sheng looked in the direction of the study room as if he was implying something.

Miao Jing turned away unhappily. She sat on the dining table and did not respond.

Zhai Sheng knitted his brows. He already knew the answer in his heart.

Chapter 487: A Knack for Coaxing His Mother

When the auntie was serving the food, she said as she walked by Zhai Sheng, "It's already been a month. Chief has been sleeping in the guest room. Madam is still angry."

"Understood."

The auntie let out a sigh of relief. At the very least, Zhai Sheng was willing to respond.

Fortunately, both the chief and madam were kind people. Even if they had arguments, they would never vent their frustration on the employees. They would continue to treat them in a polite manner. The better they treated her, the more the auntie did not wish to see the couple at odds with each other. The auntie was also worried about them.

As a salaried employee in the Zhai family, it was really not appropriate for the auntie to say certain things. Zhai Sheng was different as he was the couple's son. It was certainly more appropriate for him to persuade them.

The auntie hoped that Zhai Sheng could think of a way to make the couple reconcile when he knew about the situation.

The auntie did not know that her effort would be in vain this time.

It was just a little argument. Since it was a matter between the couple, Zhai Sheng was not willing to interfere.

During mealtime, Zhai Yaohui, who had been sleeping alone for many nights, was in quite a bad temper. "You've been coming back so often recently. Aren't there any matters in the army? If a soldier has so much spare time, then who's protecting the country? It looks like I have to go back and request to increase all of your workloads!"

For the sake of a young lady, Zhai Sheng was so hardworking. Why wasn't he spending more time and effort on the matter regarding his own parents?

Facing the nagging of an old man who was never satisfied with anything, holding the belief of respect and love for both the elder and the young, Zhai Sheng did not lose his temper. Furthermore,

although he still felt angry, the relationship between Nan Nan and him was sweet and good. Hence, he did not take issue with his father.

Zhai Sheng's temper was good, but not Miao Jing.

Miao Jing endured the impulse to throw her chopsticks on her table. Her face turned black. "My son has been coming back often? Since the Lunar New Year, my son only came back twice or thrice. Each time, he would leave only after a few days. Clearly, I have a son and a daughter, but eventually, both of them are not by my side. It's rare that my son came home to see me and accompany me. Did he get in your way again?"

When Miao Jing flared up, Zhai Yaohui's voice became softer. "Weren't you doing fine just now? Why did you flare up again? I didn't chide Zhai Sheng much. I was just reminding him that he is young and should focus on his career and future. He should not put aside the country and his future because of a 'small matter'."

"Yes, coming back to see me and keeping me company is a small matter. It's not as important as the major affairs of the country. To you, you can certainly put aside all these unimportant matters." At the end of her speech, Miao Jing was saddened.

When she was at a young age, such was the situation. Miao Jing was always secondary in Zhai Yaohui's eyes.

Now that she was older, she did not hope that Zhai Yaohui's heart would be with her. She just wished that her children would spend more time with her. But why were her children being chided by Zhai Yaohui?

Having finished her words, Miao Jing placed her chopsticks aside. "I'm full. Auntie, help me clear the table."

"Madam, you've not eaten much." The auntie looked a little worried when she saw the bowl that was still full of rice.

Once Miao Jing left, Zhai Yaohui's tone to Zhai Sheng worsened. "Brat, look at what you've done! Is your own mother or other family's daughter more important? See, your mom is so angry that she's not eating anymore. This is my order. No matter what way you use, quickly make your mom finish her food. Your mom is not young anymore. Her health is not good and can't afford to go hungry."

Zhai Sheng put down his chopsticks. “Dad, you’re good at putting the blame on others when it’s your own fault.” Thereafter, Zhai Sheng carried the rice and dishes and served it to Miao Jing.

“Not eating!” Miao Jing was still angry. She was not happy even when she saw her son.

Zhai Sheng placed the food down. “Mom, clearly, you’re not eating because you’re worried about Zhai Hua and me... If other people know that you’re too angry to have your meals, won’t they be so happy that they’ll consume three bowls of rice?”

“I...” Miao Jing was at a loss of words. “I won’t be so foolish to see my enemies happy! Happily consuming three bowls of rice? That’s wishful thinking on her part!”

At the thought of Qi Minlan, Miao Jing’s tummy was like a bottomless pit. She finished whatever Zhai Sheng brought to her in a few mouthfuls.

She had to eat well and eat her fill to ensure that she was in good health.

As long as she was alive, Qi Minlan’s daughter would not be able to harm her son. If she was no longer around, Zhai Yaohui would agree to whatever Qi Minlan asked for. Her son’s happiness would eventually be destroyed in these people’s hands.

For the sake of her son and daughter, she had to live well!

“Is one bowl of rice enough? If you’re still hungry, get auntie to cook some dessert for supper three hours later.” Zhai Sheng did not encourage Miao Jing to get into the habit of eating and drinking too much. “Right, I passed by the Qiao family’s residence today when I was on my way back. I heard good news.”

“What’s the good news?”

“Nan Nan ranked first again in this round of examination, scoring half a point mark higher than Shi Qing.”

“Really?!” Miao Jing’s eyes lit up. “I heard that Shi Qing is excellent in her studies. She has always ranked first in her school, never in second place. Initially, when I heard that Shi Qing would be transferred to Ping Cheng High School, I was worried about Nan Nan. Nan Nan, this child, is very determined. She has never been careless or lazy in her studies. She could score better than Shi Qing. She’s really capable!”

“Nan Nan said that you’re very concerned about her. Initially, she wanted to tell you this piece of good news herself as soon as possible. Coincidentally, she met me, so she asked me to send you this news to make you happy.”

“Happy! I’m so happy!” Miao Jing’s eyes were smiling. “Since a young age, your results have been good. Zhai Hua’s was not that good. Actually, Nan Nan resembles you when you’re young. Her results are excellent.”

“Ah,” Zhai Yaohui, who ‘coincidentally’ passed by the master bedroom, heard the entire conversation between Miao Jing and Zhai Sheng. He sneered and snorted. For the sake of the woman that he liked, Zhai Sheng had a lot of tricks up his sleeves. He indirectly helped Qiao Nan coax Miao Miao.

As if he had expected it, when Zhai Sheng opened the door, he used his body to shield Miao Jing’s view in case she saw Zhai Yaohui eavesdropping on them. “Dad, what a ‘coincidence’.”

“What coincidence? This is my house. Is there anywhere I shouldn’t be at?” Zhai Yaohui’s old face stiffened. He straightened his back and maintained his authority as a father in front of his son. “Qiao Nan ranked first and scored half a point mark higher than Shi Qing?”

“Yes.”

“That’s really not too bad.” Zhai Yaohui paused in silence. “It’s rare that she has something redeemable.”

“Is there any other matter?”

“There’s still one more thing. Is other people’s daughter or your own mother more important? You think about this carefully. Your mom has a very stubborn character. There are certain things that she will never be able to accept. The deeper you’re into this relationship, the more difficult it will be to resolve this when the time comes. You will be hurt more deeply. Zhai Sheng, I hope you can make a decision between Qiao Nan and your mom. If you have to hurt someone, who will that be?”

Chapter 488: A Special Way of Getting Along

“If you don’t want any of them to be hurt, give up when there’s still time.”

Having been married for more than twenty years, nobody else understood Miao Miao’s temperament better than him.

It was true that Miao Miao liked Qiao Nan, but it was also true that she could not accept Qiao Nan as her daughter-in-law.

If Miao Miao found out about the relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan one day, the blow and hurt that she would receive would be doubled.

“Why does it have to be harm and not protection?” Zhai Sheng was unconvinced. He looked sullenly at Zhai Yaohui. “Be it Nan Nan or Mom, I will protect them well. I won’t let either of them receive any sort of harm. Nan Nan has the same thought as me. Similarly, she’s not willing to see Mom getting hurt. Regardless of the psychological barrier in Mom’s heart, I don’t believe that Nan Nan and I won’t be able to remove it if we work hard. Dad, you should know better than anyone about Nan Nan’s influence on Mom. What you owe Mom, Nan Nan and I are helping you to repay her. Do you understand?”

All the knots in his mother’s heart were caused by his father.

Despite being understanding, his father was cracking wise with his words. Sorry, he would not accept that.

As a soldier, he did not believe that there was anything impossible in this world!

“Also, this kind of words, I only wish to hear it once. Don’t let me hear it again next time. If you really don’t want Mom to be hurt, even if you’re my dad, I have to remind you that you have to reflect on yourself first.”

Leaving those words behind, Zhai Sheng returned to his bedroom.

As his biological father, Zhai Yaohui not only did not fulfill his responsibility to Miao Jing but also his pair of children.

Nevertheless, after Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng became military personnel, they were aware of the difficulties and responsibilities that Zhai Yaohui had in the past. Although they knew, it did not mean that Zhai Yaohui's lack of fulfillment in his duties toward them was correct. It also did not mean that they understood and accepted his doings.

Zhai Sheng could choose not to take issue with what happened in the past. However, his future lay in his own hands. He was not willing to be denied a good future just because his father said it was 'impossible'.

In the face of his son's blame, Zhai Yaohui's face turned sullen. He did not refute him because it was the truth. He had no means to retaliate.

When he was at a young age, he did not let down his father, his country, or the citizens. The only three people that he felt guilty toward were his spouse and children.

His wife had knots in her heart due to him, and his son had resentment toward him.

Zhai Yaohui, who typically had a clear conscience, felt lost and helpless at that moment. Throughout the many years, was there anything that he did correctly?

In the end, all his questions turned into a sigh. When he thought of his son's words, Zhai Yaohui smiled bitterly. Fine, he fell into that little sly fox's trap again. What could he do? The little fox held on to his tender spot and targeted his Achilles' heel. He had to continue to keep the matter between the little fox and Qiao Nan from Miao Miao until the latter could accept Qiao Nan.

When he returned to his bedroom, Zhai Sheng changed his gloomy expression. He happily bathed as he hummed military songs.

That old sly fox. He could deceive others but not him. He was very satisfied with Nan Nan's resilience and continuous strive for excellence.

When Nan Nan completed her apprenticeship with Lin Yuankang, even his mother would not have a reason not to accept Nan Nan.

At this time, Zhai Sheng could not help feeling glad that he had made such a sudden decision back then. He had been so resolute and determined when he brought Qiao Nan to Lin Yuankang. He had even built a foundation for Qiao Nan when she was young by accepting private assignments from Lin Yuankang on behalf of Nan Nan, gaining Lin Yuankang's favor and affirmation of Nan Nan's capability.

The situation of Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng might seem bitterly disappointing in other families.

Nevertheless, Zhai Yaohui brought Zhai Sheng up in this way since the latter was at a young age. The father and son were already used to this. This had become a special way in which they got along with each other.

"Hello?" Qiao Nan, who had a little walk after her meal, received a call when she was preparing to bathe and go to bed.

"Sleepy? Going to bed soon?"

"..." Qiao Nan knitted her brows. "You are... Shi Qing? How did you know my phone number?" She had not told her before.

"Don't need to bother about how I knew about it. Qiao Nan, this afternoon, I loitered at the entrance of your door for more than an hour."

"..." Qiao Nan fell silent for a while. "Then?"

"Isn't there a saying that when you fail in love, you will win at a gamble? Why is it that I had to suffer another setback in love when I already suffered one in my examinations? All the good things befell you. Isn't that too unfair?" Shi Qing's sullen voice could be heard from the other side of the phone.

Qiao Nan sighed as she sat on the sofa. "If it's true that all the good things happen to me only, then I'll be so mad with happiness. Shi Qing, you just came here for a month. Most probably, you had been focusing on your studies in order to compete with me for the top place in the first-year cohort. My life is not as good as you think. Also, Shi Qing, when you talk about first-come-first-serve, it's not feasible in this situation. In comparison to Qiu Chenxi and you, I got to know Brother Zhai last.

But for love-related matters, it's not just about how long you've known each other, and it's not about first-come-first-serve either. It's because the person appears at the right timing. Understand?"

"So, are you telling me that you're the right one that Brother Zhai met at the right time?"

"Shi Qing, I'm telling you this because you did not tell Auntie Miao about Brother Zhai and me. I'm not sure if I'm the right person in Brother Zhai's life, but before the outcome is known, I'm working hard for it because both Brother Zhai and I feel that we are the right one for each other."

"Brother Zhai said that he will marry you?!!!" Shi Qing's heart nearly suffocated.

"Yes, I rejected him. I'm still too young and have not reached the legal age for marriage. Furthermore, there are a lot of issues between Brother Zhai and me. We need to settle the problem about Auntie Miao first before we can consider marriage. So, I've told Brother Zhai clearly that we will talk about it two years later."

"You're telling me this. Aren't you afraid that I'll be jealous to death and play some cheap tricks on you?!" Shi Qing gritted her teeth. The pain in her heart made her cry.

So, she was still too late?

She had thought that since it was impossible between Brother Zhai and Qiu Chenxi now, her opportunity finally came. Even if there was already Qiao Nan, she was prepared to give it a try for the sake of her own happiness.

She never would have imagined that that opportunity of hers was actually created due to Qiao Nan's appearance.

"If you wanted to, you would have already done it. Moreover, I believe you. You won't."

"Don't be overconfident!" On what grounds should Qiao Nan believe in her? She was also a woman. She, too, could be scheming. She would also feel jealous. She was jealous that Qiao Nan snatched away the Brother Zhai that she had liked for ten years!

Qiao Nan laughed. "Are you crying?"

“Bullshit!” Shi Qing nearly spurted out vulgarities.

“I wonder how happy Zhu Baoguo will be if he knows that you cried.”

Shi Qing was stunned for a while before wiping away her tears. “I didn’t cry. I’m warning you. Don’t talk about my matter in front of that moron. That Zhu Baoguo is an idiot who’s well-developed physically. None but the Zhu family treats him like a treasure!”

Chapter 489: Are You Really Giving Up?

“Yes, he’s a treasure of the Zhu family, but I’m not sure if he’s anyone else’s treasure. You already knew that Brother Zhai was at my house this entire afternoon. What do you intend to do then?” Wait, something was not right. “Why did you suddenly come to my house?”

“Because I’ve been to Brother Zhai’s house and I heard that Qiu Chenxi came back. There’s no reason that Qiu Chenxi arrived home but not Brother Zhai,” Shi Qing said sullenly.

She had caused inconvenience to the Zhai family for the whole morning. She only left after she could no longer endure a bursting bladder.

When she arrived home, she found out that Qiu Chenxi had returned from the army and even came to look for her at her new house.

If Brother Zhai was not out of the camp, Qiu Chenxi would definitely not look for her.

Since Qiu Chenxi had already arrived home, Brother Zhai should have arrived home even before Qiu Chenxi did.

After thinking, Shi Qing thought of a possibility. She thus went to the house of the Qiao family to try her luck.

Never did she expect that she would hear Zhai Sheng’s voice coming from the house even before she could knock the door. With that, she guessed that Zhai Sheng was in the house without going into it.

There were a few times that Shi Qing mustered her courage and wanted to knock on the door and enter the house. She could at least meet Brother Zhai and have a chat with him. However, when she realized that Brother Zhai's tone and voice was something that she had never heard before, Shi Qing lost the courage to knock on the door.

"..." Shi Qing was really good.

"I don't want to give up." Shi Qing's pained voice came from the phone.

Qiao Nan sighed. "Although I don't know if this happiness eventually belongs to me, at the very least, I don't wish to give up now."

"You don't seem quite confident." Brother Zhai clearly liked Qiao Nan so much. What did Qiao Nan have to worry about?

"Not confident." Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. "In front of Brother Zhai, I've never had much confidence. I don't think I'm much worse than Brother Zhai, but my thinking does not represent that of others. Subsequently, it does not represent what the Zhai family thinks. China is a very conventional society. Who will be able to completely ignore how others see you and live in a carefree way? Shi Qing, I may not be confident when I'm facing others, but when I face Qiu Chenxi and you, I'm still quite confident. This is because all three of us are not accepted by Auntie Miao."

"Why?" What was wrong with her that Auntie Miao did not like her?

"I can only say that you wouldn't be here if Auntie Miao could accept you. Most likely, Qiu Chenxi would have gotten engaged with Brother Zhai long ago. The reason why Qiu Chenxi and Brother Zhai's matter was dashed was mainly due to Auntie Miao. On the other hand, it's also partly due to Brother Zhai's attitude."

"No wonder..." It was no wonder that Auntie Miao behaved strangely when she visited the Zhai family this afternoon. "Auntie Miao doesn't accept you? Why?"

"Tell me, what else can it be?"

“I don’t think so. We’re already in this era. Do they still have so many conventional excuses?” Shi Qing did not believe it. “Since Brother Zhai is such a good man, Auntie Miao must be an elder who’s very understanding and morally principled. Can it be that you’re just being paranoid?”

Qiao Nan leaned on the sofa. She did not know whether to laugh or cry. “Auntie Miao can’t accept me. Why do you care about the reason? Shouldn’t you feel happy about this?” Shi Qing even had the mood to chat with her. Didn’t she seem like she had been dealt with a tremendous blow earlier?

Shi Qing leaned on the chair listlessly, rolling her eyes sullenly. “Brother Zhai doesn’t like me. There’s nothing that I can do about it. Even if he doesn’t pick you, he’ll eventually get married. Compared to letting him marry another woman, it may be better if he marries you. At the very least, you’ve won against me once. If the woman that Brother Zhai is going to marry is not better than me, I’ll feel more depressed. Therefore, if that person is you instead of someone else, I’ll be more able to accept it.”

“Do you mean that you’ve given up?” You had persisted for ten years, yet you’re giving up today?

“Miss Shi, you said that you’ve loved Brother Zhai for ten years, didn’t you? I’m eighteen years old this year. You’re one year older than me at most. Does that mean you started to like Brother Zhai when you were nine years old and have always wished to marry him ever since?” At such a young age, Shi Qing was so mature?

Shi Qing’s face turned red. “What do you know? That’s because my intelligence quotient and emotional intelligence quotient are both top-notch. Since a young age, I’ve already known what I want. And don’t laugh at me. At that time, Qiu Chenxi was only older than me by a few years, yet she told me shamelessly that she was already Brother Zhai’s fiancée, saying that when we grew up, she would be Brother Zhai’s wife. Because of what Qiu Chenxi said, I did not come to Ping Cheng for almost ten years!”

“Oh my god, it’s true that I don’t really understand.” Qiao Nan felt ashamed. Compared to Qiu Chenxi and Shi Qing who matured at such a young age, she was simply too far behind.

“Qiao Nan, since you’re the one that Brother Zhai likes, I hope you can take good care of Brother Zhai in the future. Don’t let Brother Zhai down because of another man. Otherwise, I’ll definitely ensure that you suffer.” After thinking for some time, Shi Qing then gritted her teeth and added, “Don’t think that I’m giving my blessings to Brother Zhai and you. Don’t hope for it. I only wish that Brother Zhai will be happy. I don’t care whether you’re happy or not.”

Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows. “You... have really given up?”

In comparison to Qiu Chenxi, or even Chen Jun, wasn't Shi Qing giving up too quickly? It was so quick that she felt that she might have fallen into a trap.

"You don't know anything!" Shi Qing slammed the phone with a loud bang.

Once she hung up, Shi Qing ran to the bathroom and cried.

She had known and liked Brother Zhai for a long time. Although she had not seen or interacted with Brother Zhai that many times, judging from what she heard this afternoon, Brother Zhai was truly very happy when he was at the house of the Qiao family.

That cold, aloof, and emotionless child from back then could, in fact, have feelings when he found someone he liked. He could actually become that happy.

For the entire afternoon, Shi Qing continuously asked herself what would happen if she used all ways and means or stoop to anything to snatch Brother Zhai.

She had already seen the fact that Zhai Sheng really had such a side to him. If Zhai Sheng was together with her in the future, was she confident that she would be able to make Zhai Sheng show that happy and carefree side of him?

If she could not, yet she knew that Zhai Sheng was also someone with feelings, could she face a stoic Zhai Sheng who was like a block of wood? Could she really accept it? Was she even willing to sacrifice everything to maintain such a relationship that would not be reciprocated?

The final answer was apparent: No!

Shi Qing was an intelligent and sensitive individual. From every perspective, Shi Qing concluded that even if she had the chance to be together with Zhai Sheng, she could not make Zhai Sheng happy, and neither could she accept the fact that Zhai Sheng would behave like a piece of stone in front of her.

Rather than causing everyone to be unhappy, she would let go as soon as possible to avoid that situation.

Chapter 490: Scram, Sister

When she heard the beeping tone coming from the other end of the phone, Qiao Nan was stunned and confused. Wasn't she fine just now? Why did she flare up all of a sudden?

After being classmates for over a month, Qiao Nan, in fact, had quite a good impression of Shi Qing.

Shi Qing was clearly physically strong. However, unlike Zhu Baoguo's style, she did not use this to threaten Qiao Nan or bully Qiao Nan physically just because she was unhappy. If Zhu Baoguo did not tell Qiao Nan, she really did not know that a seemingly skinny and frail Shi Qing was actually a pretty lady who's physically strong.

In particular, when she thought of the notebook that Shi Qing gave her before the examination, she really saw Shi Qing in the same light as Qiu Chenxi.

After clarifying everything today, Qiao Nan felt much better.

Qiao Nan had been relieved, but not Shi Qing.

To prevent the neighbors from hearing her cries, she turned the volume of the television to the highest. She even turned on the showerhead in her bathroom and cried loudly under the sound of the water splashing.

Before Shi Qing could vent out all her frustration, the phone in the house rang nonstop. It was so noisy that Shi Qing could not continue to cry.

The phone rang and stopped, and rang again thereafter. It continued for about half an hour.

Shi Qing turned off the tap and changed into a set of clean clothes. She held her hair which was dripping with water continuously and walked into the living room. She then turned down the volume of the television. "Who's that?"

"Qing Qing, it's me."

“What’s the matter?”

“I just came back from the army today. You should have collected your results slip, right? How’s it?”

“What has it got to do with you?!” When Shi Qing, who was already in a sour mood, heard Qiu Chenxi’s words, she nearly exploded in anger.

Could she stop talking about how unlucky she was today? She initially thought that there was a chance that her first love would blossom. Never did she expect that it had not even budded and Qiao Nan had nipped it with just one move. Forget it. Qiao Nan even surpassed her by half a point mark in the studies that she excelled in.

She could not withstand a life like this!

“Qing Qing, why did you say that? I’m your sister. Aren’t I just being concerned about you? That’s why I came to ask you. What kind of tone is that?” Qiu Chenxi’s face turned black. Zhai Sheng shunned her and did not allow her to get onto his car. Now, Shi Qing was also shunning her too?

“I’ll use whatever tone I like. This is not the first day that we’re sisters. It’s been more than ten years. I didn’t realize that you’re so concerned about me. Don’t you think that it’s too late to pretend to be the good guy now? Qiu Chenxi, don’t always treat others as fools. Do you think that I don’t know what you have been thinking of? I’m very sorry to tell you that your plan is going to fail. Qiao Nan is so capable. In this examination, she’s still the top in the first-year cohort. She scored half a point mark more than me. Are you satisfied with this answer?!”

Having finished with her words, Shi Qing slammed the phone, hanging up.

What kind of relative was that? She definitely had to tell her father one day. No auntie or cousin would behave in this way.

Qiu Chenxi’s eyes turned stiff. She stared at the phone in her hand, looking foolish and stunned.

“Chen Xi, didn’t the phone go through? What did Qing Qing say? Did she rank first in the cohort? It looks like you can ask Qiao Nan out and have a good talk with her tomorrow. There are only a

few things that a man will wish for in his life. Furthermore, Qiao Nan is still young and materialistic. The top place in the cohort must be very important to her. Look for her tomorrow and have a chat with her. You will definitely succeed.”

Qi Minlan did not hear the conversation between the duo. She was only guessing and having her own monolog.

“So what if the top place in the cohort is important to Qiao Nan? Our efforts were all in vain. I really did not expect that Shi Qing was so useless. The ever-victorious general who had never come in second failed when she met Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan scored half a point mark more than her. Shi Qing ranked second in the cohort. Even if the top place is important to Qiao Nan, it has nothing to do with us. Qiao Nan has it in her hands!”

In the end, Qiu Chenxi was so angry that she smashed the phone. “This useless thing! Other than giving me trouble, she did not help me at all. If I knew that Shi Qing was so useless, would I let her come to Ping Cheng? She’s even so rude to me. She seemed to have forgotten where she had stayed at previously!”

Qi Minlan was shocked too. “Qiao Nan’s results were better than that of Qing Qing? Impossible!”

She usually did not care about the situation at her maternal home. Nevertheless, she had long heard about Shi Qing’s excellent results.

As such, Qi Minlan was confidently waiting for Shi Qing to defeat Qiao Nan after they made Shi Qing come to Ping Cheng. They were waiting for the day that Qiu Chenxi could be the third party that benefited from the conflict of the two.

She would never have expected such an ‘accident’!

“Did you hear incorrectly? Qiao Nan won by half a point mark? How’s it possible that Qiao Nan scored half a point mark higher than Qing Qing? You must have made a mistake.”

“I’ve made a mistake? If there’s really a mistake, then Qing Qing would be the one who made it. The whole Ping Cheng High School would have made a mistake! Do I have the capability to ‘make this mistake’? If I did, I’d definitely make Qing Qing score higher than Qiao Nan by more than ten or even twenty marks!”

Qiu Chenxi was so furious that she wanted to cry. “Mom, what should we do now? Qiao Nan is still the top of the cohort. Then, what handle of her do I have that I can use to negotiate with and get her to help me? If we keep dawdling like this, most likely, Brother Zhai will file a marriage report with that vixen soon! By then, this matter will really have nothing to do with us.”

“Don’t cry. It’s not so urgent.” Qiu Chenxi quickly helped Qiu Chenxi wipe her tears. “Why don’t we do this? Tomorrow, I’ll ask your Uncle Zhai out. I can’t deal with Miao Jing, but your Uncle Zhai is quite good to Mom. He still owes it to Mom.”

“Will it work? Even when Miao Jing did not object to the matter between Brother Zhai and me, Brother Zhai did not marry me. Even if Uncle Zhai promises you, will it work just with his words alone?”

“Even if it can’t make Zhai Sheng marry you directly, at the very least, Zhai Sheng can’t marry that vixen without letting anyone know. Chenxi, you know about the situation. If you really don’t want Zhai Sheng to be taken away, it’s not enough with Mom’s help. You have to work harder and settle Zhai Sheng. He’s the crux of this matter.” As long as Zhai Sheng nodded, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing were merely fake ornaments and vases.

Qi Minlan sighed. If Zhai Yaohui could be as persistent as Zhai Sheng many years ago, that would be great. She would not have to marry Qiu Qin and lead such an ordinary and annoying life.

“Brother Zhai is not willing to bother about me. He wouldn’t even let me sit in his car. What can I do? You can’t expect me to strip naked in front of Brother Zhai to seduce him and create a done deal?” She was truly at her wits’ end.

She could not catch that vixen. Brother Zhai had changed his mind the moment he saw the other woman and gave her cold shoulders. She was afraid that she would lack the will to persist even if she wanted to.