

RTAMM 491

Chapter 491: I Am That Woman

Qi Minlan's expression changed. "As long as you can succeed, there's nothing that you cannot do."

"Mom, what do you mean by this?"

"What do I mean?" Qi Minlan sneered. "Don't you know? When Miao Jing married your Uncle Zhai, she gave birth to Zhai Hua just after nine months. Otherwise, how do you think they could give birth to two children in three years?"

"Nine, nine months? Didn't it mean that they had done it before they were married? That meant Miao Jing was already pregnant when she married Uncle Zhai." Qiu Chenxi widened her eyes. This was the first time she heard about this. Her mother had never mentioned this before.

"It's too shameless. I don't even wish to talk about it. I didn't expect that the many years of relationship I had with your Uncle Zhai were lost to despicable and underhand methods of Miao Jing. She was shameless enough to do it, but I was too embarrassed to say it. Moreover, it takes two to tango. Could Miao Jing give birth to Zhai Hua alone?" It was because of this that Qi Minlan still bore a grudge against Zhai Yaohui, and hated Miao Jing even more.

"If Miao Jing could do that last time, why can't you?"

This time, Chenxi could use the same tactic to snatch Miao Jing's son away from Miao Jing, just as what Miao Jing did in the past, snatching Zhai Yaohui away from her.

"No, won't it be too embarrassing?" She dared not believe that she would go into the church and the wedding banquet with a big tummy. That would definitely be ugly.

"What kind of era is it now? Miao Jing dared to do that many years ago. What are you afraid of? There's one thing that you can be assured of. If you are married into the Zhai family because of that piece of meat in your womb, and if Miao Jing dares to use this matter against you, you can just tell her that she's the one who did not set a decent example in the first place. She's the one who gave the juniors such ideas."

Qi Minlan said everything that she could, regardless of whether they were appropriate. But Qiu Chenxi still looked hesitant. Qi Minlan simply gave Qiu Chenxi some hard advice. “You think about it carefully yourself. After all, it’s your happiness. Even if you’re not willing to fight for it or treasure it, I will still hope that you don’t follow in my footsteps. However, the truth is that you need to be thick-skinned when you fight for a man. That vixen is already seducing Zhai Sheng when you’re still in good terms with him, how will she give up this great opportunity to become Cinderella? I’m saying this for the last time. Don’t wait for that woman to go to the Zhai family with a big tummy. You will surely regret it, just like Mom did many years ago.”

Chenxi was not willing to do that, but there were many shameless women who were willing to.

“Mom, don’t talk about it anymore. Let me calm down and consider it myself.” Qi Minlan’s words caused Qiu Chenxi to feel confused and nervous.

“Fine, think about it yourself.” Qi Minlan knew that she would only be wasting her breath if she continued with the persuasion.

To have both dignity and happiness. There was no such thing as having the best of both worlds.

Qi Minlan immediately left Qiu Chenxi alone in the bedroom so that she could ponder over the situation.

Qi Minlan did not know Qiu Chenxi’s final thoughts. On the other hand, Qiao Nan, who was unaware of what happened, encountered something ridiculous the next day.

Seeing the stack of bulging yellow envelopes in front of her, Qiao Nan gave a sigh as she looked at Qiu Chenxi. “What do you mean by this?”

“I’d like to buy some information from you.” Qiu Chenxi wore a pair of sunglasses. She pursed her lips as she looked at Qiao Nan arrogantly. “I heard that you ranked first in the cohort again. Congratulations.”

“Thank you.” Qiao Nan brushed her fringe. “Most likely, there’s nothing that I can help you with.”

“No, as long as you’re willing to, you’ll definitely be able to help me. You know who that woman is, don’t you?”

“...” In the face of this abrupt and clueless question from Qiu Chenxi, Qiao Nan actually understood what she was inquiring about. “I don’t know.”

“You know!”

“Why is it that I must know?” Was something written on her face?

Qiu Chenxi took a deep breath. “You’re a woman too. You should know how I feel. Brother Zhai and I are childhood sweethearts. Our relationship of more than ten years is now broken by a third party. In the future, if you encounter the same situation, you will know my difficulties now. I only wish to safeguard my relationship. Am I wrong in doing that? That woman came between Brother Zhai and me. Is it right for her to do that? Both of us are women. Qiao Nan, I hope you can help me with this. As long as you’re willing to tell me who that woman is or give me some clues, all this money will be yours. You need them very much, don’t you?”

Qiao Nan sneered. “A gentleman who desires wealth makes it in good ways. Regarding the situation between Brother Zhai and you, it seems that opinions differ. After all, your account of the story is different from that of Brother Zhai and Auntie Miao. Also, Miss Qiu, don’t forget one thing. That day, when you slammed at my door and scolded me vixen, didn’t you already know who Brother Zhai liked? Today, you’re spending this sum of money to buy information from me? What do you mean by this?”

Qiu Chenxi gritted her teeth while enduring the humiliation. “I apologize to you about what happened that day. I’ll say sorry. Will that do? It’s my fault. I clearly knew that you’re not that woman, and... But you have to be more understanding. I’ve been driven mad. I was so close to Brother Zhai. When I found out suddenly that he had betrayed and deserted me, I was looking for that woman crazily. You’re an innocent party that had been implicated. It’s my mistake. Sorry, I’m really sorry.”

Those few words of apologies made Qiu Chenxi tear up uncontrollably as if she was in a state of suffering.

That love-struck and forlorn performance, as if she was attacked by the vixen and abandoned by her lover, was portrayed very vividly and depicted in a detailed manner.

If Qiao Nan did not know the truth from the beginning until the end, from Qiu Chenxi's one-sided narration alone, Qiao Nan would begin to suspect if she was the third party that stood in Qiu Chenxi's way.

It was only until this moment that Qiao Nan began to believe that Qiu Chenxi not only graduated from college but also a top-tier one. This type of speech and expression was not something that an ordinary person could manage.

If not because it was inappropriate, Qiao Nan would ask Qiu Chenxi if she majored in acting or performance when she was in college.

Qiao Nan let out a breath and straightened the thoughts that had almost been led astray by Qiu Chenxi. She pushed the money back to Qiu Chenxi. "I won't take the money. Initially, I have nothing to say to you, but instead of letting you continue to pester me, I can only tell you that the woman you've been looking for is me. It's me. It's me. Will that do? If not, you can come to my house to argue and create a fuss next time. You'll see if the outcome is what you wish for. How about it?"

Chapter 492: No One Believes in the Truth

Qiu Chenxi clenched her fists. There were flashes of hate and mockery in her eyes.

Qiu Chenxi's eyes were seemingly telling Qiao Nan that the latter must be a fool talking in her dreams. Given Qiao Nan's qualities, it was wishful thinking on her part that she could be together with Zhai Sheng.

Qiao Nan told such an unbelievable lie. Unless her brain was sandwiched by the door, she would never believe it.

Qiu Chenxi pursed her lips and took back her money. "Since you're really not going to tell me, then forget it. Sure, you're not willing to tell me about that woman's situation, but can you not mention to anyone that I came to look for you today? Not breathe a single word to anyone?"

"Sure."

“Thank you. Sorry to disturb you. I’m leaving.” After confirming that Qiao Nan could not give her an answer, Qiu Chenxi did not waste her time further. She immediately took her money back and left. Her behavior now was in stark contrast to that pitiful and sincere look that she portrayed earlier. She was like an entirely different person.

“She finally left.” Qiao Nan slumped backward. After this occasion, she hoped that when Qiu Chenxi wished to investigate about that woman in the future, she would stop suspecting that she was the one. It would be better if she stopped bothering her for clues altogether.

With Qiu Chenxi’s constant stirring of trouble, Qiao Nan was very worried that Miao Jing would discover the truth when things got out of hand.

“Don’t you think that you’re feeling relieved too early?” Shi Qing crossed her arms and kicked Qiao Nan.

“Damn, when did you come in? Why wasn’t there any noise?” Qiao Nan jumped in shock. “Something is wrong. When Qiu Chenxi came in, I clearly closed the door. When she left, I also heard her close the main door. How did you get in?”

“The wall in your house is not tall. Isn’t it easy for me to get in?” Shi Qing said daringly. She then picked a comfortable spot and sat down, as if she was at home. “I’m a guest. Get me a cup of tea.”

Another one who came in by climbing the wall?

Oh, man!

Did these people pick up the skills of flipping over the walls of other people’s houses while they were in the army? What kind of army was that?!

Qiao Nan was unwilling to do so. She had spent much energy in her conversation with Qiu Chenxi earlier. “My house is just this big. You’ll be able to see everything with a glance. If you want water, go and get it yourself. Otherwise, don’t drink.”

Everyone was coming to her house to pretend to be the boss?

Sorry, she was not entertaining them!

“It’s fine if you don’t.” Shi Qing snorted. She did not get herself a cup of water. Instead, she opened the refrigerator and took out the milk ice pops that Qiao Dongliang specially bought for Qiao Nan and started chewing it. “Were you out of your mind just now? You actually told Qiu Chenxi that you’re that woman. What if she took it for real?”

“When did you get in?” Qiao Nan narrowed her eyes at Shi Qing.

“When she was here, I was here.”

“You have a spy at the Qiu family?”

Shi Qing swung her legs. “Did you think I stayed for one month at the house of the Qiu family for nothing?”

Qiao Nan gave Shi Qing a thumbs-up. She took her hat off to Shi Qing. She certainly believed that Shi Qing, this young lady, had been trained in the army before. Otherwise, it was impossible for her to play this game of spy so well. It was unlike the family of four in the Qiu family that did not take any preventive measures at all. “Rest assured. I don’t know why Qiu Chenxi subscribed to this thinking, but she’s very sure that I’m not involved in any love affair because of my good grades. In particular, she thought it’s impossible for me to have a relationship with Brother Zhai. I was not afraid of telling the truth because she would not believe it. The more I admit to it, the more she won’t believe it.”

Shi Qing had devoured the ice pops in no time. “She may be too clever for her own good. Fine. It looks like I have been worried about you for nothing. Your physical ability is weaker than Zhu Baoguo but your brainpower deserves praise. It seems like Qiu Chenxi is not your match.”

“Are you praising or deriding me?” Qiao Nan tugged the corners of her lips. She kicked the dustbin to the side of Shi Qing’s legs. Shi Qing then swiftly threw the stick from the consumed ice pops into it.

“Of course I’m deriding you,” Shi Qing said as a matter of fact. “You’re a weakling with good brains but poor physique. I look down on you.”

If Zhu Baoguo was not so weak, and Qiao Nan did not seem any stronger than him, she would not have rushed over in a panic after receiving the news that Qiu Chenxi was coming to look for

trouble. “Right, please don’t misunderstand that I’m concerned about you. Although Qiu Chenxi’s mother bears the surname Qi instead of Shi, she’s also a family member of my Shi family. As long as Qiu Chenxi has something to do with the Shi family, I have to keep a watch on them for the sake of the Shi family’s reputation.”

Her father told her that many years ago, when Zhai Yaohui had already filed a marriage report to marry Miao Jing and even sent out wedding invitations, and everyone was just waiting to attend their wedding banquet, that ‘good’ auntie of hers actually pressurized the men in the Shi family to force Zhai Yaohui to marry her instead. Shi Qing felt so ashamed when she thought of it.

Although the Zhai family at that time was not as formidable as today, they could not be underestimated too.

If they really provoked the Zhai family, the Shi family would be in deep trouble. She really did not know what her auntie was thinking about to be able to come up with such a bad idea.

Given Qi Minlan’s poor behavior, to prevent the situation of like mother, like daughter, Shi Qing could only keep a tighter watch on them on behalf of the Shi family.

“Alright, Qiu Chenxi left. Even if she wants to mess around and lose the face of your Shi family, she’ll definitely not do so at my house. Shouldn’t you run out and watch her like a hawk? Don’t let her bring shame to the Qiu family and the Shi family.”

“Can I possibly watch her for twenty-four hours a day? No way! If there’s really a problem, the face of the Qiu family will be lost first. The Shi family will then be implicated,” Shi Qing said, seemingly very annoyed. “Alright, you don’t need to shun my presence. It’s not like I’m willing to remain in this lousy house of yours any longer.”

If she remained here, she would think of how sincere Brother Zhai’s laughter was that day. She would feel so sad that she could not be at ease.

“Before I leave, I’ll say one more thing. Now that Qiu Chenxi and my auntie are watching Brother Zhai closely, it’s better if Brother Zhai and you do not interact too closely with each other these few days. Otherwise, they will have to believe it even if they initially don’t. You and Brother Zhai should decide for yourself what needs to be done.”

Leaving these words behind, Shi Qing really left.

Of course, she did not leave through the main door, again. She flipped over the wall.

Qiao Nan held her forehead which had imaginary black lines on it. Shi Qing was good. She could climb over the wall in broad daylight.

Fortunately, Shi Qing was a woman. Otherwise, she did not believe that no one would notice her climbing in and out of the house in broad daylight. If the person who climbed over was a man, her reputation would be gone. She would immediately be seen as a bad kid in the area.

Nevertheless, Shi Qing's words reminded her. Clearly, Qiu Chenxi came to look for her today because she had not given up. Qiu Chenxi's attitude was representative of that of the Qiu family.

Fortunately, Brother Zhai only came back for ten days this time. If they really could not see each other in person like they did in the past, they could call each other.

Chapter 493: Backstabbed by His Son

When he received Qiao Nan's phone call, that good mood of Zhai Sheng dissipated thoroughly. If it was just phone calls, Zhai Sheng could also do so while he was in the camp. Wasn't the reason that he wanted to go home was to meet Qiao Nan face-to-face during her school vacation?

Fortunately, although the Qiu family had a plot, Zhai Sheng also had his strategy.

The next day, Zhai Sheng simply brought Miao Jing with him to the house of the Qiao family.

Hence, unknowingly, Miao Jing had been 'deceived' under the cover of a diversion.

It could be said that the relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan was known to everyone in the Zhai and the Qiao family. Not taking into account Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, Miao Jing was the only one that was not in the know.

At the sight of the muddle-headed Miao Jing, Qiao Dongliang found it too awkward to stay at home. Each time Miao Jing visited, Qiao Dongliang would find an excuse to leave the house.

Although he was also the ‘victim’ and Zhai Sheng was the wolf who wished to prey on his daughter, from another perspective, he had to admit that his own family’s Nan Nan had also abducted other people’s son.

“Nan Nan, why do I keep feeling that your dad leaves every time I come? Is he unhappy about my visit?” Miao Jing looked at Qiao Dongliang’s back sullenly. “Did I do something wrong?”

“...”

“...”

As the ‘main culprits’, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan exchanged looks with each other. Zhai Sheng explained, “Mom, Auntie Ding is not at home. Uncle Qiao is a man and the lady owner is not around. It’s not convenient for him to entertain you. You should understand Dad’s temper.”

“What has it got to do with him? I’ve never seen him finding it inconvenient or cautious when he entertained Qi Minlan alone,” Miao Jing said unhappily. She could not be too close with another man. Then, on what grounds did Zhai Yaohui have to be on such good terms with Qi Minlan?

“Don’t talk about your dad. I feel angry at the mention of him. Why couldn’t he let me go back to my hometown? Why!”

Qiao Nan, who was ‘arowed’ again, bowed and dared not speak.

At the sight of the guilty look on Qiao Nan, Miao Jing understood. Miao Jing looked at Zhai Sheng. “Zhai Sheng, I’m thirsty, but I don’t feel like drinking water. Can you help me buy some drinks back? Remember, I want something cold. I don’t want it if it’s not cold enough. Hurry and go.”

Zhai Sheng looked at Qiao Nan to confirm that Qiao Nan could handle this. He then left according to Miao Jing’s wish.

“Nan Nan, do you have anything to explain to me?”

“Yes.” Qiao Nan nodded. “Auntie Miao, I feel that Chief Zhai actually cares a lot about you. He will be jealous because of you. Maybe the person in Chief Zhai’s heart is not Qi Minlan but you.” A man’s reaction could not fool others.

The domineering attitude that a man had toward a woman could be due to selfishness. Nevertheless, it could also be due to the importance of the woman in his heart.

If Chief Zhai did not have feelings for Auntie Miao, his expression that day would not show any uneasiness or unhappiness, but tremendous anger. He would feel that he had been betrayed and shamed, not hurt.

“You’re just a child. What do you know?” Miao Jing did not believe the outcome of Qiao Nan’s test this time. “No matter what your reason is, even if it’s for my own good, don’t let this happen again. Understand? In the past, my heart had no freedom. Now, even my body does not have any freedom.”

In the past, Zhai Yaohui did not care about where she went. Now, Zhai Yaohui watched her like a hawk. It was as if he was a dog guarding his own dog house.

Damn, what kind of description was that? Zhai Yaohui was a dog, but not her.

When she heard Miao Jing’s words, Qiao Nan could only shut her mouth. If Miao Jing could not sort out her thoughts, it was useless for her to explain further as Miao Jing would not listen to any of it.

“Auntie Miao, can I ask you about another matter?” Qiao Nan was suddenly inspired.

“What’s the matter?”

“You’ve been objecting to Brother Zhai finding a woman from an ordinary family to marry. Does this have something to do with your experience with Chief Zhai?” No matter how she saw it, she did not think that Auntie Miao would shun a girl from becoming her daughter-in-law because of the latter’s family background. It did not seem like Auntie Miao favored the rich to the poor.

Miao Jing gave a bitter smile and touched Qiao Nan’s head. “I hope you will never know the answer.”

In other words, Miao Jing would never tell Qiao Nan the reason. Nevertheless, judging from Miao Jing's attitude, Qiao Nan already had the answer in her heart.

The ten days of leave seemed like a short time for Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. In the blink of an eye, Zhai Sheng had to return to the army.

Zhai Sheng and Zhai Yaohui had a prior agreement. Zhai Sheng must never cast the matters of the army and the country aside because of Qiao Nan.

"Fine, don't look anymore. Quickly go back. If I find out that you change your route halfway, ahem..." Zhai Yaohui gave Zhai Sheng a warning when he sent the latter off. Zhai Yaohui had found out about the previous occasion where Zhai Sheng secretly went to see Qiao Nan before returning to the army.

In the past, Zhai Yaohui did not know why he routed there but he was aware now. As a father, he knew Zhai Sheng better than Zhai Sheng himself. Hence, he was well aware of Zhai Sheng's route to the army.

Zhai Sheng narrowed his eyes and gave Zhai Yaohui an unhappy glance. "I know."

Zhai Yaohui snorted coldly. Zhai Sheng belonged to the Zhai family. He could not let him mess around with some matters.

After Zhai Sheng got into the car, he smiled and looked at Zhai Yaohui. He then faced Miao Jing and said, "Mom, I'm going back to the camp first. If there's any matter at home, call me."

"Of course, other people are not as reliable as my son. I'm already of this age. Who else can I look for besides you?" Miao Jing smiled. Her son did not mind helping her. Was there anything more blissful than this?

When he saw that he had successfully made Zhai Yaohui's face turn black, Zhai Sheng felt much better. "Mom, I'm leaving. Bye."

"Drive slowly. No hurry." Miao Jing waved her hands. It was only when Zhai Sheng had driven a distance away and was out of sight that Miao Jing was willing to go home.

Zhai Yaohui was frowning badly. Three deep vertical lines were showing on his forehead. He would be at home. If Miao Miao really encountered any matter and needed somebody's help, he would be around. Did she still have to look for Zhai Sheng?

So, the mother-son pair decided to treat him as nonexistent?

Zhai Yaohui, who was depressed, sat on the sofa when he arrived home. He did not manage to read a single word in the newspaper that he had been holding for a long time.

Ring! Ring! Ring!

At this juncture, the phone of the Zhai family rang in an urgent manner. The auntie had a shock.

When the auntie saw that Zhai Yaohui did not intend to pick it up, she could only run over and do so. "Hello, good day. Yes, he's around. Chief, the army called. They are looking for you."

"Okay." Zhai Yaohui took over the phone. "Yes, it's me. The army is organizing an event? Of course, I'll definitely agree to it. We, as soldiers, have to keep up with the times. Okay, what event will that be? Can you tell me in detail? Yes... Oh, English?!"

Chapter 494: Support the Army Events

"Why did you all organize this activity suddenly? I see. Okay. It's not that it can't be done. The country always has a high level of expectations of our soldiers. Of course, we have to give more support to events like this. Who did you all invite? Lin Yuankang? Being able to invite Elder Lin, you're very capable. Okay, so Elder Lin will be bringing his little disciple. He can. Elder Lin is very capable and has done the country proud. He has done a lot for the country. Of course, it's best that you can invite him. Most likely, his little disciple should be very capable as well."

"..."

"I see. Okay. I express my support. At that time, I will be there. Okay. Just tell me the date and time... It's that day. Fine, I know. Bye."

After hanging up, Zhai Yaohui's mood turned a little better.

Instead of staying at home to face Miao Miao's hostility, it would be better to make a trip to the army and see what help was needed.

"Miao Miao, the army is organizing a small event. They asked me to attend. Are you going?" After thinking, Zhai Yaohui went to ask Miao Jing.

"Not going!" Why should she go? To wait for Qi Minlan to come knocking on the door and showing off to her again?

In the house of the Zhai family, she was the lady owner at the very least. She had a say in whether Qi Minlan could come in and out of the house. However, at the army camp, this would not be within her control.

She would rather not go to the army and see those scenes that would prick her eyes.

Zhai Yaohui knitted his brows. "You're really not going? When you're there, you'll be able to see your son and daughter."

"Even if I go, I may not be able to see them as both of them are busier than me. Forget it. They are so busy. If I go, won't I be disturbing them while they're at work? Not going. You can go by yourself this time. I'll stay at home to rest. After running around for more than twenty years, I'm old and tired. I'm not prepared to join in this fun anymore. I can't control all the three of you. Since I can't, then I won't," Miao Jing said angrily.

"Look at you. It's fine that you won't go. What are you talking about again? It's just a misunderstanding and you remember it until today," Zhai Yaohui said annoyingly. He did not understand. He had already clarified the matter. Why did Miao Miao have to keep coming at him?

Miao Jing sneered. "I'll not only remember this until today. Unless I'm dead, I'll always remember this. Both of us know if it's really a misunderstanding. You hope that I'll forget everything just with your words. What about me? I don't have any misunderstanding at my end, but you didn't even allow me to return to my hometown. Zhai Yaohui, to tell you the truth, when I saw the way you handled this, I realized that I was too foolish in the past."

So, in the whole world, only those who bore the surname Zhai had a temper? She, who bore the surname Miao, did not have any?

“You!” Zhai Yaohui could not find a reason to refute. “Fine, fine. Let’s talk nicely. You’re angry again. I won’t disturb you anymore. You think about it carefully whether you wish to attend.”

After Zhai Yaohui left the master bedroom, he sat in the study room in a daze.

After a while, Zhai Yaohui secretly called the auntie over.

The auntie was full of curiosity. “Chief, you asked for me? Do you have any instructions for me? Are you hungry? Do you want me to prepare supper for you?”

“I’m not hungry.” Zhai Yaohui waved his hands. “After two days, I’ll be going out with Miao Miao. Miao Miao’s mood is not very good recently. If there’s any matter, it’s not convenient for me to tell her, in case she feels troubled. You... When Miao Miao is unaware, help her pack some clothes. When the day comes, put the clothes in the car before we leave. Understand?”

“Oh.” The auntie nodded honestly despite feeling puzzled.

Madam was never a lazy person. In the past, whenever she left the house with Chief Zhai, she would always pack her own luggage and never requested her help.

Moreover, what had the packing of luggage got to do with her mood?

Although the auntie did not understand, she followed Zhai Yaohui’s instructions and packed a few clothes for Miao Jing behind her back. After packing, she placed them in the car that Zhai Yaohui wanted to use. Throughout the whole process, the auntie did it in a hush, as if she was a thief.

When the day came, Miao Jing intended to stay at home comfortably and let Zhai Yaohui go to the army alone.

She never expected that before getting into the car, Zhai Yaohui would wordlessly carry her into the car against her will. He did not give Miao Jing any chance to reject him.

The auntie, who was standing at the entrance of the house, heard Miao Jing's screams. Miao Jing was gone with the car that sped away.

The auntie tilted her head, her expression full of doubt. "What's wrong with Chief and Madam Zhai? What Chief Zhai did just now was no different from a brigand chief snatching his wife. What's happening?"

"Zhai Yaohui, don't be too much!" In the car, Miao Jing's face turned red. "Didn't I tell you that I'm not going? I'm not going! Do you understand human language?"

Zhai Yaohui's face was calm. "Fine. Can I not know how much you miss your son and daughter? You don't need to feel embarrassed about it. Aren't I bringing you along? Stop making noises and embarrass yourself in front of Xiao Liu. You'll make things difficult for your son and daughter in the army if you behave in this way. Don't forget that you're the wife of a chief. Be more serious. We can tease each other as a couple when we're back."

Miao Jing gave a stare. She had never seen this thick-skinned side of Zhai Yaohui before. He spoke as if the black was white. She was stunned, dazed.

When he saw Miao Jing raise her hands up, Zhai Yaohui quickly grabbed her hands. "I've already told you to be serious. Don't kick up a fuss anymore."

Xiao Liu, the chauffeur who was driving the car for the couple, adjusted the rearview mirror in case he became implicated. Nevertheless, Chief Zhai and his wife were already a long-time couple, yet they're still so close with each other. They're closer than when they were young. He was so envious of them.

They were outside. Even if Miao Jing did not wish to give Zhai Yaohui any face, she had to consider her son's and daughter's faces. Furthermore, there was also her own face to save.

Miao Jing withdrew her hands from that of Zhai Yaohui. She even stepped hard on Zhai Yaohui's shoe without any reservation. She then distanced herself from Zhai Yaohui by sitting further away from him.

This time, Zhai Yaohui did not force her. It was fine as long as Miao Miao was by his side and followed him to the army camp.

He could accept that Miao Miao was kicking up a fuss with him.

When they arrived at the army camp, which had a completely different atmosphere, Zhai Yaohui looked like he was a fish returning to the waters. He looked not only more relaxed but also glowing. “We have arrived. Come down.”

Miao Jing ignored Zhai Yaohui who tried to help her down the car and alighted on her own.

She was not a seventy- or eighty-year-old woman that needed the help of others. When she could not walk anymore one day, the person who would be by her side and help her would be either her daughter or son. But it would never be Zhai Yaohui.

Chapter 495: Protecting His Calf

Zhai Yaohui did not have any reaction. He just stood beside Miao Jing.

Miao Jing was unwilling to bother about Zhai Yaohui. She looked around but did not glance at Zhai Yaohui at all.

When Miao Jing saw someone in the army, her mood suddenly turned better. “Nan Nan, why are you here?”

At the sound of the two words, ‘Nan Nan’, Zhai Yaohui’s temple throbbed twice greatly. He turned and looked. Wasn’t that Qiao Nan?

“Nan Nan, why are you in the camp? Why didn’t you tell me that you’d be here? How did you come? You’re alone? Did you call your Brother Zhai and ask him to fetch you?” Miao Jing went up to Qiao Nan affectionately and asked her a few questions in a meticulous and caring way.

“Nonsense!” Zhai Yaohui’s face turned black instantly. “How did you all guard the place? Can any Tom, Dick, and Harry enter the army?” Zhai Sheng actually lied to him. He did not do as he promised!

Clearly, they had a prior agreement that Zhai Sheng must not let his relationship with Qiao Nan affect the matters in the army.

This time, he merely did not allow Zhai Sheng to stop by the house of the Qiao family before returning to the army. He did not expect that Zhai Sheng would be so daring and bring Qiao Nan to the army camp directly instead. He was simply a scoundrel!

“Let me warn all of you. This matter, I will definitely pursue it till the end. I’d like to see who neglected their duties and committed such a lowly mistake. Get someone to come here to quickly send away those people who have nothing to do with the army. Whatever happened today, everyone who played a part in this has to face disciplinary actions!” Even if it was Zhai Sheng!

The two soldiers on duty who were spat at by Zhai Yaohui had looks of innocence written all over their faces. They nearly cried. “Reporting to Chief Zhai, Teacher Xiao Qiao is not someone who has nothing to do with the army. She came here with a valid reason.”

“What reasons? They’re all excuses. Hurry, quickly send her away!” Zhai Yaohui was really infuriated this time. He had believed that, despite having taken a liking to a woman, his son would remain clear-minded and could prioritize and manage issues according to importance and urgencies.

If that had not been the case, he would not have helped hide this matter.

However, he had misplaced his trust in his son this time. After Zhai Sheng took a liking to Qiao Nan, he had completely changed.

Previously, he could force himself to accept Qiao Nan’s existence, but now, he certainly could not! He would not let Qiao Nan ruin Zhai Sheng or the Zhai family.

This time, even if Miao Miao agreed, he would never agree to the relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan must not be together with Zhai Sheng or worse, become the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family!

“Old lad of the Zhai family, what do you mean by this? Even if your dad is here, he will not dare to be so fierce to me. You’ve grown up and your wings have hardened. You’re really unreasonable!” Lin Yuankang walked over with a frown. “Who are you chasing away? If your political commissar did not invite me here, do you think an old man like me would be willing to climb the mountains and come to this poor place that’s in the middle of nowhere? My disciple is such a soft and tender young lady. She can’t take this kind of hardship, but she didn’t even mind your poor environment

and isolated place, yet you wanted to chase my disciple away? What do you mean! Didn't you all invite me here to support the launch of your event? Now, the people in the army are so merciless. So, you can play such tricks? On one hand, you invited people for an event. On the other hand, you scream at people?"

"Elder Lin?" When he saw Lin Yuankang, Zhai Yaohui was stunned. "Elder Lin, you've misunderstood. Why would I chase your disciple away?"

Lin Yuankang's political status might not match that of Zhai Yaohui, but his seniority was much higher than Zhai Yaohui.

When there was peace in the country and development was needed, many Chinese citizens were unwilling to return to the country after going overseas. Someone like Lin Yuankang, who was successful overseas but was willing to give up a high-salaried job and everything to come back to a country that had nothing and had to be developed from scratch, was a patriotic senior and elder whom Zhai Yaohui respected very much.

Many years ago, Elder Lin was determined and firm in giving up everything he had overseas to return to his own country. Until today, Zhai Yaohui was full of respect for him and people similar to him. Without them, China would not have progressed so quickly.

"Then, who were you chasing away just now?!" Lin Yuankang was even more displeased. He didn't have any other strength except for being good at protecting his own people. He was like a cow protecting his calf.

Amongst his many disciples, he had very few female ones. Within them, this last disciple was the youngest.

Zhai Yaohui dared to pick his youngest disciple to bully. This would not do. He had to call Old Zhai one day so that Old Zhai could chide Zhai Yaohui. He did not respect him anymore after being the chief for a few years?

What arrogance!

"I..." Zhai Yaohui had wanted to say that he was chasing away Qiao Nan, someone that did not matter. But when he heard Lin Yuankang say that he had taken in a female disciple, he was in total shock. It was as if he had been struck by lightning. "Elder Lin, do you mean that Qiao Nan is your disciple? She's the disciple that you brought to the army to participate in the event this time?"

The people in the army had already reported this to Zhai Yaohui clearly. They had invited Lin Yuankang, a veteran revolutionary. Most importantly, Lin Yuankang even brought his little disciple.

When Zhai Yaohui received the news via a phone call a few days ago, he had sung great praises for Lin Yuankang's little disciple, saying that Lin Yuankang's disciple should be quite capable.

Oh, how one did not expect that they would slap their own face after just a few days!

"Then?" Lin Yuankang snorted unhappily. "Nan Nan, did you have a scare? Really, these people in the army... If I have to use a term from the olden days to describe them, they're rough boors whom no one likes! They're physically developed and look down on others who are mentally developed."

Even when Old Zhai saw him in the past, he would address him as Mr. Lin!

"Misunderstanding. It's all a misunderstanding." Zhai Yaohui was very ashamed. How would he know that Qiao Nan was the little disciple that Elder Lin brought to the army for the event? Had he known about it, why would he chase Qiao Nan away? No matter how much he disliked her, he had to find another excuse, right?

"Nan Nan, you've become Elder Lin's disciple? And you're his last disciple?" Completely ignoring Zhai Yaohui's embarrassed state, Miao Jing felt so happy for Qiao Nan. "I've heard previously that Elder Lin has retired and was prepared to take in the last disciple. However, the news disappeared after a few days. I even thought that Elder Lin had changed his mind and found those people knocking on his door annoying. So, you're the one who got it. Nan Nan, Elder Lin is someone of great capability. You must not miss this great opportunity to learn conscientiously from Elder Lin."

"Auntie Miao, don't worry, I will." Qiao Nan smiled and nodded. She could not hide her feelings of helplessness.

Chief Zhai was very surprised to see her, and so was she.

That day, she knew that Brother Zhai was going back to the army. Before he went back, he had called her. Hence, she knew that Brother Zhai would not come and see her before he returned to the camp.

Chapter 496: Go Home and Ask Your Son

Qiao Nan felt a little disappointed. That day, she stared at the wall of her house for a long time, as if she was waiting for Zhai Sheng to climb over it.

Qiao Nan was finally able to manage her feelings and was prepared to focus on her studies again. She wanted to prepare the study plan for the next semester, but a phone call from her master, Lin Yuankang, completely disrupted her plan.

In the beginning, Qiao Nan thought that her master was joking with her.

This morning, the car from her master's house stopped at the main entrance of the Qiao's house. She heard her master continuously urging her to place her luggage in the car. It was only until then that she realized what her master said in his previous phone call was real.

Qiao Dongliang had always known that his daughter had formally acknowledged a master and was learning English from him.

However, as the situation of the Qiao family was not good, Qiao Dongliang had been busy working to earn money. Aside from reminding Qiao Nan to give a call to this master to send her respect and greetings during the Lunar New Year and festive occasions, he did not have any other contact with Lin Yuankang. This was the first time he saw his daughter with her English teacher.

Qiao Dongliang was aware of his own family situation. In addition, all this while, Lin Yuankang had been helping Qiao Nan a lot. When he found out that Lin Yuankang was Qiao Nan's master, his heart was generous enough. Without any suspicion, he immediately let Qiao Nan pack a few pieces of clothing and leave with Lin Yuankang.

When Qiao Nan alighted and stepped onto the grounds within the territory of the army, she still felt that this was unreal.

She actually came to the army to look at the place first without relying on Brother Zhai. That being said, Brother Zhai was also here?

At the sight of the orderly place with strict regulations, Qiao Nan stood straight with respect.

“Nan Nan, how long have you been here?” Miao Jing, who was previously unwilling to come as she was angry with Zhai Yaohui, was happy now. She had previously planned to look for Qiao Nan after Zhai Yaohui left for the army. Anyway, it was Qiao Nan’s summer break from school and she would have a lot of time to keep her company.

It was great now that she could see Nan Nan in the army camp.

In other words, if she had not come today, it would have been more boring to stay at the house of the Zhai family.

“I was here about half an hour earlier than you.”

“Do you have a place to stay?”

“Yes. I’ve already unpacked my clothes.”

“Really? Then, did you bring any mosquito-repellent coil? There’s nothing but mosquitoes and insects here. They bite people.”

“I didn’t bring any.” When her master arrived at her house, she had to leave with him in a hurry. Even the clothes that she brought were stuffed into the car by her father. She was totally unprepared.

Fortunately, there were material resources in the army. She could collect some basic daily necessities in the camp. Otherwise, it would truly be haphazard.

“No issue. I have some. I’ll send you some later. There are also mosquito nets. I have ready-made ones too. Initially, I bought these for your Sister Hua Hua, but she usually doesn’t stay long in the army camp. She still has some leftover from those that I gave her previously. Come. Bring auntie to take a look at where you’re staying.”

With Qiao Nan, Miao Jing simply forgot about Zhai Yaohui. She totally ignored him.

Three imaginary vertical lines appeared on Zhai Yaohui's forehead. "Elder Lin, is Qiao Nan really your disciple? Why did you accept her?"

Given the situation of the Qiao family, Qiao Nan would not have any chance to meet someone like Elder Lin. It was thus impossible for Qiao Nan to be Elder Lin's disciple.

"You want to know?" Elder Lin laughed. "Go home and ask your son. It's all thanks to him. Otherwise, I would not have found such an intelligent and diligent little disciple that I'm extremely pleased with at my old age."

In the beginning, it was by accident.

After more interactions, he then discovered that Nan Nan was truly the one that he was most pleased with among all of his disciples. It was fate that Zhai Sheng sent her to him.

"Zhai Sheng?" Zhai Yaohui's heart flipped. He thought of that smile on Zhai Sheng's face when he left the house for the army.

"Isn't that so?" Lin Yuankang was happy. "I won't take issue with you for the matter just now. If it happens again, don't blame me for being unruly. Nan Nan is still so young. She's someone that can call you uncle. You're already of an age that can become someone's grandfather, yet you bullied a young lady who has not grown up. Zhai Yaohui, you're a chief that's moving backward in time."

Bullying the young and small, wasn't that deterioration?

"Ha, hahaha..." Zhai Yaohui clenched his fists. If not for the fact that Zhai Sheng had grown up and that he could not instill discipline in him with physical punishment, he would definitely bash the young brat up until his buttocks were in pain.

If memory served him right, Zhai Sheng had only known Qiao Nan for a short time when Elder Lin accepted her as his disciple. Qiao Nan was only a fifteen-year-old child who had just completed her second year of junior high school then!

Initially, Zhai Yaohui was a little unhappy about Qiao Nan's age. When he knew that Zhai Sheng had been harboring such thoughts ever since Qiao Nan was at an even younger age, Zhai Yaohui was not pleased.

Qiao Nan, who was a fifteen-year-old second-year student then, was really only a child. How did Zhai Sheng get that idea!

At first, Zhai Yaohui blamed Qiao Nan a little for not knowing her limits and be together with Zhai Sheng. Now, Zhai Yaohui's blame in his heart was all targeted at Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng was a very intelligent man. Furthermore, he was already an adult who knew what he wanted. Judging from his attitude toward Qiu Chenxi, he was someone who understood romantic feelings.

Zhai Sheng knew, but what did the Qiao Nan then know?

As it turned out, as a father, Zhai Yaohui was too ashamed to point the finger at Qiao Nan for harboring ill intentions toward the status and reputation of the Zhai family. No matter how he looked at it, it was Zhai Sheng, this big bad wolf, who made use of the fact that Qiao Nan was just a little ignorant sheep back then and did his utmost to bring her back to his wolf's den and put a stamp of his family on her.

Zhai Yaohui was at a loss for words when he reflected on this. Zhai Sheng, this young brat who was often silent, was so resolute, decisive, and shameless when he acted.

“Elder Lin, don't worry. This won't happen again. Also, thank you for supporting our army's event this time. You've already retired, yet we still made you come back this time to teach the young lads in the army. We're really sorry. However, there's no other alternative. Although our country is developing, our foundation at this early stage is not that strong. Regarding the technology and skills in other countries, we definitely have to learn and examine them. However, all those are in a tadpole-like language. It doesn't serve the learning purpose for our soldiers well. The soldiers in our army must have some basic understanding of this. As for the elite ones, of course they have to be adept at it. Some terminologies and jargons are too complex. We really can't do without your help.”

Zhai Yaohui was also in a fix regarding this.

If Elder Zhai's culture was not considered good, then Zhai Yaohui was a little worse than Elder Zhai. It was because Zhai Yaohui was born in a special era where an environment conducive to learning was absent. Thereafter, when there was peace in the country, Zhai Yaohui continued to learn and thus achieved his success today.

Chapter 497: Bribing the Hearts of Others

In terms of some languages and cultures, such as English, Zhai Yaohui was definitely out of touch.

It was not just Zhai Yaohui but also the soldiers that were currently in the army. Some were worse than Zhai Yaohui in terms of culture.

In the face of such a situation, the army had to think of a way to elevate the cultural standards of everyone.

Moreover, if the soldiers in the army intended to continue with this as their future path, they had to undergo various types of training and self-improvement courses in the army.

“Alright, stop your favor-carrying. I understand all these. Didn’t I bring my own disciple here? A bunch of grown-up men are not even comparable to a young lady who is still studying in senior high school. And you were not embarrassed to chase Nan Nan away. Don’t you feel ashamed?” Lin Yuankang lifted his chin. He looked so proud.

See, this was the disciple of Lin Yuankang.

So what if she was young? Amongst so many grown-up men here, who was older than his disciple? But now, all these tall and big figures had to address his little disciple as ‘Teacher Xiao Qiao’ respectfully when they saw her.

Zhai Yaohui pursed his lips helplessly. Teacher Xiao Qiao, so be it. Anyway, he would not address her as such, and neither would Zhai Sheng.

At the thought that both father and son did not have to bow to Qiao Nan, Zhai Yaohui felt more at ease.

No matter what, although this matter was not planned by Zhai Sheng...

Prior to this, Zhai Sheng must have known about this. This young brat...

“Elder Lin, would you like to take a seat at my office?” He could not understand how Zhai Sheng, that young brat, could set his eyes on Qiao Nan that early. Who did he resemble? He did not resemble either Miao Miao or him.

“Of course, why not? Most likely, your office is the most comfortable place in the entire camp. It’s rare that my old bones came to this place. Surely you would let me rest at the most comfortable place, wouldn’t you?” Lin Yuankang would not let his old physique suffer. Even if Zhai Yaohui did not suggest it, he would also do so.

“Then, Elder Lin, this way please.” Zhai Yaohui let out a sigh of relief. He finally stopped chiding him because of Qiao Nan’s matter.

After all the VIPs (Very Important People) left, the two soldiers standing on guard looked at each other pitifully. “Then, do we still have to face disciplinary actions?” When Chief Zhai left, he did not make himself clear.

“I don’t think so... After all, Teacher Xiao Qiao was invited here by the political commissar. She’s not any Tom, Dick, and Harry. If we didn’t let her pass, then we should be criticized. Furthermore, Teacher Xiao Qiao seems to be on good terms with Chief Zhai’s family, doesn’t she?” the other soldier said with some reservation.

“That’ll be the best. Alright, don’t chat anymore. Let’s continue with our duties. If someone sees us chatting, we will really be disciplined.”

“Good day. Please alight from the car for security checks.” At this juncture, a car drove in.

Qiu Chenxi, who looked haggard, alighted. “Fine, you can stop here and go home. When I want to go back to the Qiu family, I’ll give you a call to ask you to come and fetch me.”

“Yes, Miss.” After sending the person, the chauffeur of the Qiu family drove off.

“It’s Comrade Qiu.” The soldiers on duty were especially familiar with Qiu Chenxi. Besides the people who had to leave the army to purchase necessities, Qiu Chenxi was the next ‘busiest’ person who came in and out of the camp.

“Yes.” Qiu Chenxi rolled her eyes coldly at the two soldiers before walking in arrogantly in an aloof manner.

How could the two soldiers not know that they had been looked down upon?

One of them simply sighed. "Fine, it's not the first day we know what kind of temperament this person has. It'll be fine once we're used to it."

"I don't feel justified. Such an arrogant and snobbish woman, yet so many brothers in the army treat her like a fairy. Damn, all of them are blind." When he told everyone the facts, those bewitched brothers who were blind at heart even said that it was normal and understandable for Comrade Qiu to have some temper as she was a beautiful woman that came from a good family.

Nonsense.

They did not mind as they were not the ones who were being rolled eyes at.

"Putting aside Comrade Qiu's family background, no matter how I see it, she can't be compared to Teacher Xiao Qiao who came this time. She's so polite. The way she looked at us was obviously different. In Qiu Chenxi's eyes, soldiers are useless. In Teacher Xiao Qiao's eyes, I realized how proud a soldier can be. Do you think all the outsiders now look at us in the same light as Teacher Xiao Qiao?"

When they thought of the bow that Teacher Xiao Qiao gave to them when she arrived at the army, the soldiers felt so sweet at heart. It was as if they had taken some soft drinks.

"How could that be the same?" The other soldier laughed. "If all the outsiders are like Teacher Xiao Qiao, then why are there so many bachelors in the army?" Hence, people like Teacher Xiao Qiao who liked soldiers so much were few and far between, particularly women.

His family wanted to introduce ladies to him, but when the lady heard that he was a soldier, oftentimes, she would reject even the opportunity to meet up.

Qiu Chenxi, who stepped away with her little leather shoes, did not know she had been the topic of criticism of the soldiers whom she looked down upon. They even compared her with Qiao Nan, and in the end, the outcome was that she lost to Qiao Nan.

When she returned to the army where mosquitoes would not stop buzzing, Qiu Chenxi sat in the dormitory and kicked her feet in fury continuously.

The bed in the dormitory was so hard and small. It was, of course, not as comfortable as the one at home. Furthermore, the fan in the army was so weak. They were also not allowed to turn it on at times. There were so many mosquitoes, life was tough, she could not wear any pretty clothes and the food was poor.

It was such a dilapidated place without any merits. For the sake of wooing Zhai Sheng, she had to come and stay here frequently. She was going crazy!

In the Qiu family, it could be said that Qiu Chenxi lived her days without doing any work.

However, in the army, although the food was not good, she did not need to cook them herself. The problem was that no one helped her do the laundry. Qiu Chenxi only learned how to wash her own clothes after she came to the army because of Zhai Sheng.

It was a place that she hated. Qiu Chenxi could not understand why Zhai Sheng liked it so much. He could stay here for at least 300 days out of the 365 days in a year.

After venting some of her frustration in the dormitory, Qiu Chenxi gathered herself. She went out and summoned someone. “Has Regiment Commander Zhai come back? Where is he?”

“In his office. There is an event in the army recently. Most likely, Regiment Commander Zhai needed to be involved in this matter.” The person who replied Qiu Chenxi was a female soldier, a military performer.

“I see.” After thinking, Qiu Chenxi went back to her dormitory and took out a bottle of perfume which only had half left.

Chapter 498: Who Dares to Teach Her?

“This smell is quite good. It’s an imported product. You can’t get it in China. I feel that this smell suits you. If you don’t mind, I’ll give it to you.” After saying that, Qiu Chenxi simply passed the

perfume to the female soldier. She knew that the female soldier would not be angry about or mind taking the half-filled bottle of perfume.

“I don’t mind, I don’t mind. Why should I?” It was an imported and high-end product. This perfume would most likely cost her a few months of her salary!

At the thought that she could use a high-end imported perfume, the female soldier was overjoyed.

“It’s great that you don’t mind. Right, did any woman look for Regiment Commander Zhai when I was away these few days?” Unlike Qiu Chenxi who came to the army for ulterior motives and could not tolerate staying in the camp for a long time as it was too tough for her, the female soldier was always in the camp. She hardly left the place. Hence, there was some information that she would know more than Qiu Chenxi.

“Don’t worry. I’ve been keeping a watch for you. Although that female doctor seemed to like regiment commander, when you were away these few days, regiment commander was also on leave for ten days. He went back to the Zhai family. After he came back, he has not fallen sick. Hence, even if that female doctor wishes to see Regiment Commander Zhai, she can’t find a reason to do so. I say, Qiu Chenxi, you’re so pretty and your family background is so good. You’ve also known regiment commander since you’re at a young age. Given the situation of your two families, most likely, you will be together in two years’ time. Regiment commander is very good. Before you came, I’ve never seen him giving special treatment to any female soldiers. Qiu Chenxi, you’re so blessed to be able to meet such a good man like Regiment Commander Zhai.”

The female soldier’s tone was full of envy.

Before Qiu Chenxi appeared, she thought that Regiment Commander Zhai was extinct. In the male-dominated army, he actually did not seem interested in the female soldiers. Was he considered a normal man?

Since Qiu Chenxi appeared, the female soldier then knew that she was childhood sweethearts with Zhai Sheng. Moreover, the Zhai family and the Qiu family were on very good terms. She was not stupid. When she heard the situation, the female soldier understood what was happening.

Hence, the female soldier believed that Regiment Commander Zhai was uninterested in another woman because he already had Qiu Chenxi in his heart and not because he did not like women. He was devoted to Qiu Chenxi.

“Don’t mention it.” Qiu Chenxi was both guilty and proud.

“Regiment Commander Zhai is so devoted to you. What do you have to worry about?”

“You don’t know,” Qiu Chenxi replied weakly. “Zhai Sheng... No, Regiment Commander Zhai is too outstanding. Who doesn’t like such an outstanding man? Even if Regiment Commander Zhai treats me... I have to watch him more. I can’t possibly let others have a chance to come in between us because I didn’t guard my own relationship. There’s wisdom in the saying that prevention is better than cure.”

Most of Zhai Sheng’s time was spent in the army. Hence, perhaps that vixen could be someone from the army. It was just that she did not discover it.

“That’s true too.” The female soldier nodded. “Regiment Commander Zhai is so good looking. It’s only right to keep a tighter watch on him. Right, there’s an event in the camp. It will start officially this evening. The activity time will be from seven to eight o’clock daily. You’ve been here for some time. You should know where the event will be held. Remember to be there on time, because Regiment Commander Zhai will definitely be there.”

“Are you sure?” Qiu Chenxi frowned. “He doesn’t like the crowd. When there’s an event in the past, at the very most, he would leave after attending for a while.”

Would the activities in the army be more exciting than those outside?

Zhai Sheng often left after a short time, but she would attend from the beginning till the end like a fool for the sake of him.

“It’s different this time. I can’t talk anymore. I have to go to training and don’t have time to explain to you. You make a decision on whether to attend.” Qiu Chenxi was paranoid. If she did not wish to go, then so be it. Anyway, that was not her lover. Why would she feel anxious if Qiu Chenxi was not? Anyway, she had already received the perfume.

Qiu Chenxi was affected by what the female soldier said. She eventually went to the location where the event would be held.

When Qiu Chenxi arrived, the activity hall was actually filled with people.

Qiu Chenxi found a place and sat down. She looked puzzled. “What is the event today? Everyone is here?”

“You don’t know?” The female soldier who sat beside Qiu Chenxi frowned in surprise. “We’re learning English. Now that China is progressing, many foreigners are coming. The army hopes to raise our standards. At the very least, we won’t be so nervous when we meet foreigners and embarrass the army.”

“Learn English?” Qiu Chenxi laughed. Did she still need to learn English? If she had known that this was the event, she might as well stay in the dormitory and sleep. “Do you know who’s coming to teach us?” She wanted to know who was qualified and dared to teach her English. Don’t teach grandmother how to suck eggs and make a fool of themselves.

Qiu Chenxi was very confident of her English proficiency.

At the thought that Zhai Sheng would most likely come today, and to let him see how outstanding she was, an odd idea suddenly came to Qiu Chenxi’s mind. “Sorry, excuse me. I’m going to the restroom.”

In order to calm herself down and plan the next steps, Qiu Chenxi went directly to the restroom and started practicing in front of the mirror.

Coincidentally, at this juncture, the door in the other cubicle opened, Qiao Nan was constantly assuring herself not to be nervous. If she could not do it, there was still her master, right?

“Why is it you? Why are you here?!” Qiu Chenxi, who was facing the mirror and practicing halfway, looked at the other person in the mirror, Qiao Nan, in surprise.

Qiao Nan tilted her head slightly and looked at Qiu Chenxi. “You are also here, so why can’t I?”

“Do you know what this place is? How could you come here too? Don’t tell me you purposely sought Brother Zhai’s help and hid in the army to avoid me. Qiao Nan, don’t think too highly of yourself!” That woman was not Qiao Nan, but Qiao Nan was not willing to tell her. In that case, she was also not willing to continue wasting her time on Qiao Nan.

As long as she could keep a tight watch on Brother Zhai, no matter what kind of vixen he was hiding, she did not believe that she could not find her. At that time, Qiao Nan would be useless to her.

“Hahaha, I’ll return the exact same words to you. Also, excuse me.” Qiao Nan curled her lips. Qiu Chenxi was so confident.

“You!” Qiu Chenxi’s face turned red. She wished very much that she could grab Qiao Nan and give her a beating. Qiao Nan refused to tell her the truth previously. Qiu Chenxi had already ‘remembered’ her for that. ‘Forget it. I’m not going to take issue with her. Brother Zhai’s matter is more important.’

Qiu Chenxi looked at the time and quickly went back to the activity hall. She then continued to prepare the drafts in her mind.

“Regiment Commander Zhai is here.”

“What do you know? Not only Regiment Commander Zhai, but Chief Zhai and his wife are also here.”

“Wow, isn’t it just learning English? Is there a need to make it such a big issue? But I’m curious about who will be teaching us.”

Qiu Chenxi gave a mocking smile. She was curious too. Who would dare to come and teach her!

Chapter 499: A Powerful Figure

“Don’t talk anymore. The teacher is coming. It’s rare that we have this kind of opportunity. We should pick up the knowledge properly so as not to waste this chance. I heard that Chief Zhai also came to support this event.”

“Learn properly.”

“...” Qiu Chenxi’s eyes lit up, gleaming with cunningness. Uncle Zhai and Miao Jing were here too. This might really be a good opportunity for her.

All this while, she was only lacking an opportunity to perform and impress Brother Zhai and Uncle Zhai. The Zhai family was aware that she was outstanding, but they did not see it with their own eyes. If she was able to perform well this time or even take over that anonymous person who sprang out from some corner as the English teacher in the army, would this change Brother Zhai’s opinion of her? Would Uncle Zhai accept her as his daughter-in-law again?

As for Miao Jing, she was completely not in Qiu Chenxi’s consideration.

Qiu Chenxi, who was immersed in her own thoughts, did not realize that the activity hall had become silent. At this moment, a pair of old and young was standing on the stage. The event had begun.

“Master, do you really want me to do this?” Standing at the podium on stage, Qiao Nan’s hands were sweating with anxiety. Her master only told her that she had to participate in this event but did not say that she would be the English teacher for so many people, or did he? She was used to taking lessons in the class. However, this was really the first time in her life that she was going to give a class.

“Of course. Didn’t I ask you to prepare previously? Don’t tell me you didn’t take my words seriously. It’s just a bunch of soldiers. Given your standards, it shouldn’t be a problem even if you teach spontaneously without any preparations. Hurry.” Lin Yuankang was very composed and did not feel nervous at all.

Anyway, he had delegated everything to Qiao Nan. What was there to be anxious about?

“Ah, why is there an old one and a young one? Which one is our teacher?”

“Nonsense. That young one is even younger than my sister. Most probably, she’s just here to listen to the class. But I didn’t receive any news about a new female soldier in the army. This young lady is quite pretty. She looks gentle and quiet and doesn’t seem to be one of us.” There were only a handful of female soldiers in the army. Once they became soldiers, they were as fierce as tigresses, totally not as gentle and soft as a little sheep.

“So, that old man is our English teacher.” What a pity. He had been wondering if they could have a pretty lady as their teacher this time.

“Old and young ones?” Qiu Chenxi, who regained her senses, inevitably heard the conversation. She looked up and saw the other party whom she was going to challenge today. When she saw that familiar face, she sulked badly. “How can it be her!!”

In particular, when Qiu Chenxi saw Lin Yuankang standing beside Qiao Nan, she felt suffocated, as if her heart was pinned under a piece of rock.

Lin Yuankang was a veteran translation officer in China. Most of the current diplomats in China were his disciples. They were indebted to Lin Yuankang.

Lin Yuankang was the one who accepted these disciples, applied to the country, and even linked up with international schools to send them abroad for studies. Without Lin Yuankang, even if China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs would develop steadily in time, it would not be with such rapid progress.

For this matter, even the leaders in the country looked up to Lin Yuankang.

The most commendable thing was that although Lin Yuankang clearly had such capability and connection, he did not yearn for power and status. He willingly gave up his position and power to the young and promising generation.

It could be said that very few people with position and status equivalent to him could be so carefree and without greed. There was a Confucius saying, ‘You’re old and yet not dead. You’re a bandit.’ This did not apply to Lin Yuankang at all.

The more carefree Lin Yuankang was willing to hand over the baton to the younger generation, the more the country and the new diplomats respected him.

Not everyone could understand Lin Yuankang’s ‘value’. Only people in the political circle could.

It was precisely because of this that someone joked with Lin Yuankang when he retired two years ago. It was suggested that he took in another disciple so that he would not be bored after retirement. At that time, Lin Yuankang did not decline or agree.

The next day, many people crowded at the entrance of the Lin family's residence, pleading Lin Yuankang to accept their child as his disciple. Even the proud Qiu Chenxi followed like a flock of ducks and anxiously recommended herself to gain Lin Yuankang's affirmation so that she could cast another layer of gold on herself.

Lin Yuankang was definitely a powerful and formidable figure.

Qiu Chenxi was entirely devoted to marrying Zhai Sheng and hoped that the latter could follow in his father's footsteps to become the chief when he reached the appropriate age. She would then finally become the wife of the chief.

As long as she became the closed-door disciple of Lin Yuankang, given her identity, she could help Zhai Sheng pull the strings with many people.

In this way, her self-worth would increase. She could also help Zhai Sheng and herself for their future. She would let Zhai Sheng remember the good things about her and feel indebted to her for life. After they were married, Zhai Sheng would then dote on, be more forgiving to, and respect her more.

In Qiu Chenxi's original plan, Lin Yuankang was the first and most important stepping stone in her grand path to happiness and success in life.

However, although Qiu Chenxi had it all planned, she did not expect someone would throw a wrench in the works. Qiao Nan, an unknown girl with no reputation and status from a common family, was a step ahead of her and chosen by Lin Yuankang to be his disciple.

Was it not just giving English classes to the junior soldiers in the army? It was not something of great importance.

Professional knowledge and usage of English that were truly useful would certainly not be taught in such a setting.

Since that was the case, why did a person of great status such as Zhai Yaohui appear? To put it bluntly, he was giving Lin Yuankang's face.

In these two years, Qiu Chenxi had already tried her best not to forget about her missed opportunity with Lin Yuankang.

However, today, when Qiu Chenxi saw that Qiao Nan, a nobody, could come to the army by making use of her identity as Lin Yuankang's disciple, she felt so jealous.

If Qiao Nan had not appeared out of nowhere back then, she would have become Lin Yuankang's disciple.

Once she became Lin Yuankang's disciple, she would be the one accompanying Lin Yuankang to teach the soldiers in the army English today. She would be the one that received the attention and gained the notice of everyone. Qiao Nan was just a nobody. By right, Qiao Nan would never have the opportunity to be in such a major and important event or receive such an honor in her entire lifetime.

Chapter 500: The Unleash of Qiao Nan's Power

Qiao Nan was basically a thief, a robber. Qiao Nan stole and robbed the glory and master that belonged to her.

Till now, even as Qiao Nan was clearly aware that a vixen was competing with her for Brother Zhai's affection, Qiao Nan refused to help and protected that vixen. One day, she must find a chance to deal with Qiao Nan and teach her a hard lesson so that she would regret her decision of becoming her enemy.

"Qiu Chenxi, what's wrong with you?" The female soldier who accepted the half-filled bottle of perfume from Qiu Chenxi arrived even later than her. "If you continue squeezing, the book in your hand will soon be torn. I really can't tell that you have so much strength."

"You're here." Looking at Qian Yanyan, Qiu Chenxi took a deep breath. "I see. The person who is going to teach us is Elder Lin."

"Elder Lin? What Elder Lin?" Qian Yanyan came from a rural village and had not seen much of the world. It was to her blessing that she had some potential and could become a female soldier in the army. She was ignorant of and did not understand many issues, in particular, people such as Lin Yuankang. "Are you referring to the old man? Isn't he just someone who teaches English?"

"Hahaha." Qiu Chenxi sneered. She could not be bothered to explain to Qian Yanyan.

“Ah, what’s the matter? The old one is not teaching us? It’s the young one? Oh man, this girl is a few years younger than my younger sister. I think she’s still in school. She’s teaching us English? Where did her confidence come from? Don’t tell me she’s going to teach us A B C D?” Qian Yanyan spat out these words sulkily.

With such a young girl, how would she be hopeful about gaining a lot of knowledge from this opportunity? Was the army playing a prank on them? This event was so hard to come by and the situation was such.

“She’s teaching?” Qiu Chenxi’s expression changed again. Qian Yanyan did not know Qiao Nan’s proficiency, but Qiu Chenxi did.

Two years ago, when Qiao Nan was even younger, Qiu Chenxi specially brought one of her homework to gain Lin Yuankang’s favor. In the end, the Qiao Nan then ‘pointed out’ a number of her mistakes.

It was certainly not possible for Qiao Nan to teach others higher standards of English, but her capability was more than enough to teach these soldiers in the army who did not have high cultural standards. Even the Qiao Nan from two years ago could assume this task, let alone the current Qiao Nan.

“Qiu Chenxi, help me keep a watch. She’s such a young lady. In front of a hundred people, her legs will definitely wobble with fear. How can she teach? Since it’s going to be useless, I can’t be bothered to listen. I would rather rest and take a nap.” Qian Yanyan covered her face with a book and slouched on the table.

At this juncture, Qiao Nan did not know that there were people who started to doze off as they completely did not believe her due to her young age. Nevertheless, she had already guessed some of these situations beforehand.

When she saw Lin Yuankang looking as if he was a storekeeper keeping his hands off this matter and did not have any intention to help, Qiao Nan took a deep breath and moved a step forward. “Good day, everyone. My surname is Qiao. Given my age, it’s a little inappropriate for me to be standing here as all of you are my elder brothers, elder sisters, uncles, aunties, and there are probably even grandfathers and grandmothers.”

Many who were present had similar thoughts as Qian Yanyan. When they saw that young and tender face of Qiao Nan, they did not believe in her and looked down on her.

These words of Qiao Nan were akin to self-deprecating behavior.

Couldn't everyone tell that Qiao Nan was young? Qiao Nan admitted it herself. She even mentioned grandfathers and grandmothers.

All of a sudden, there was laughter in the activity hall. Everyone was amused directly by Qiao Nan's self-deprecating and humorous speech. The atmosphere eased. Some of the audience seemed to be looking at Qiao Nan with less revulsion and resistance.

Qiao Nan then spoke in English. "Hello, my name is Qiao Nan. Given my age, it's a little inappropriate for me to be standing here as all of you are my elder brothers, elder sisters, uncles, aunties, and there are probably even grandfathers and grandmothers."

Just as the atmosphere turned better, that well-pronounced British English speech that Qiao Nan gave simply stunned and subdued the audience.

Qiao Nan seemingly did not have many actions or said much. Nevertheless, her bright voice rang clearly in the activity hall. Her words were not as loud and deafening as the army commands, but almost everyone could hear Qiao Nan's pronunciation of each word clearly.

The continuous laughter prior to that completely disappeared in that instant. The whole activity hall was so quiet that even the sound of a needle dropping could be heard.

At that moment, these brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties, and even grandfathers and grandmothers understood. Although Qiao Nan was young, she did not lack the capability. She had substance.

Anyway, they did not understand a word of that long speech earlier.

When facing a capable individual, they felt more convinced and respectful from their heart.

When she felt the atmosphere on-site changing, Qiao Nan maintained the same kind and affectionate smile on her face. It was so approachable. "Don't be nervous, everyone. My earlier speech in English may sound quite complicated, as if it's very impressive and powerful. Actually,

it's not. When I translate it to Chinese, everyone will understand. It's basically my welcome remarks just now, but in English. Who can still remember the meaning of the first sentence in my English speech?"

Most of the people on the ground looked doubtful. It was not that no one remembered that phrase. It was just that they were shy in front of a crowd. Moreover, this was the knowledge they were unfamiliar with. The greatest issue that a Chinese had when learning English was to open their mouth to speak.

Hence, when Qiao Nan posed the question, there was silence on the grounds. Even those who remembered could not muster the courage to raise their hand to answer Qiao Nan's question.

Qiao Nan's eyes swept sharply and swiftly across the grounds. "Can I invite this brother to give a reply?"

"M-me?" The male soldier who was nominated by Qiao Nan blushed. His cheeks turned red although his skin was already so tanned from the sun.

"Yes, you."

"R-remember a little, but I don't really know how to say it." The male soldier was very shy.

"It's okay. Give it a try."

"Okay. I think it was 'Hello, my name is Qiao Nan'?" The soldier's pronunciation was certainly not perfect but it was generally fine.

"Not bad, you've said it very well. Excellent! This sentence is a self-introduction. Qiao Nan is my name. You change my name to yours and try."

"Hello, my, my name is Yang Lin?" When the soldier said this, his eyes were filled with doubt and bewilderment.