

## RTAMM 521

### Chapter 521: Go Back and Look in the Mirror

In this way, one could easily offend others. There was no benefit to it.

Qiao Nan was the kind of people who came from inferior family background and did not have much knowledge and experience. If Qiao Nan kept her mouth shut and pretended to be a good girl, she was still passable. But when Qiao Nan opened her mouth, she could not hide her inferiority.

If the woman that Brother Zhai was seeing was similar to Qiao Nan, then she would be less worried. As long as she used some little tactics, she could let Brother Zhai understand that the woman was not suitable for him or the Zhai family.

Zhai Sheng's brows turned stiff. "Isn't that so?"

"..." To Qiu Chenxi, Zhai Sheng's words gave her a greater blow than that of Qiao Nan. Qiu Chenxi gritted her teeth. "Brother Zhai, don't go overboard. You're so fearless and unreasonable to me. Isn't it because you know that I like you? Brother Zhai, don't forget that I also have a temper. I have a limit for my patience. I hope you won't squander away my feelings for you again. Why can't you calm down and face your own feelings honestly?"

"..."

"..."

When they heard Qiu Chenxi's words, both Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng had the same expression.

Soldiers were the people that Zhai Sheng came into contact with most in his life. Hence, everyone that he led would obey his instructions whenever he gave an order. They would never display any sign of disobedience. Besides his comrades in the army, Zhai Sheng only interacted with the Zhai family or Qiao Nan.

Among these people, none of them was similar to Qiu Chenxi in any way.

Hence, Zhai Sheng completely did not understand why an individual such as Qiu Chenxi existed in this world. There were truly all kinds of fish in the sea!

Qiao Nan secretly gave Qiu Chenxi a thumbs-up. In another few years' time, these words of Qiu Chenxi would become a classic dialog. "Comrade Qiu, do you have a mirror in your bag?"

"Are you trying to change the topic?" Qiu Chenxi was not pleased. She finally found the chance to force Brother Zhai to face his feelings for her directly. Why was Qiao Nan interrupting?

"No. Comrade Qiu, you really don't have a mirror in your bag?" Qiao Nan shook her head. She was a good person.

"What exactly are you trying to do!" Qiu Chenxi was losing her patience.

"Take it out and look at yourself in the mirror." One sentence, but there were two sides to a coin.

Qiu Chenxi's face swelled in red. "Brother Zhai, did you hear what she said? She actually dared to ask me to look in the mirror! Qiao Nan, what do you mean? Do you think that I'm not compatible with Brother Zhai? No matter what, our Qiu family and the Zhai family are old-time friends. I'm the daughter-in-law that Uncle Zhai and Auntie Miao have in mind for many years. Who are you to talk to me like that? Qiao Nan, admit it. You refused to give me clues about that woman because you like Brother Zhai! When I was with Brother Zhai last time, you knew that you couldn't hold a candle to me and thus, you wouldn't stand a chance. Now that the situation is different, and the woman that Brother Zhai is in a relationship with has similar qualities as you, you began to harbor a greedy intention and feel that if such a woman is acceptable, then so are you. As such, you are thinking of ways and means to break up Brother Zhai and me, right?!"

Right, that must be the reason!

She had felt odd that Qiao Nan refused to reveal any information to her despite having dangled so many carrots in front of her.

In this world, everyone had a price in mind. There was nothing that money could not settle.

Qiao Nan refused to agree not because she was not moved by money. It was because she had not offered a price that was high enough!

“Brother Zhai, you’re quite good to Qiao Nan, right? She, she is actually hitting on you!” Brother Zhai, you should quickly see through Qiao Nan’s true colors.

Given a person like Qiao Nan who had such a family background, how good could her moral qualities be? Qiao Nan was like that. Brother Zhai, the vixen that you were with now was also the same. We were the only ones that were most compatible with each other!

Zhai Sheng looked at Qiu Chenxi from the corners of his eyes. He was willing to be missed by Nan Nan and was happy when Nan Nan hit on him. He could not wait for Nan Nan to take him away and subdue him as soon as possible!

“Brother Zhai, we’ve arrived at the dormitory. I’m going in. You should go back too.” Qiao Nan gave a yawn. She was feeling tired after having such a long and pointless conversation.

“Okay, rest well,” Zhai Sheng replied. He then ignored Qiu Chenxi and walked past her coldly to return to his dormitory. This morning, he had gotten another pillow. That person was his father after all. He would not shortchange his father for two nights because of a pillow.

“...” Qiu Chenxi wanted to go after Zhai Sheng. However, she could only chase after Qiao Nan at this moment. “Qiao Nan, let me ask you. Do you also like Brother Zhai? You don’t know your limits and have been hitting on Brother Zhai? Let me tell you. It’s impossible between Brother Zhai and you. Uncle Zhai will not accept you and never will Auntie Miao as well. I advise you to give up before it’s too late. If you dare to harbor such ideas on Brother Zhai, be careful that I’ll be unruly to you!”

She had not even found out who that vixen was. She did not wish to have another annoying pest like Qiao Nan being an eyesore.

“Comrade Qiu, are you really not going to take the mirror and look at yourself in it?”

“Qiao Nan, you dare to mock me?” Qiu Chenxi flared up. “Now that Brother Zhai is not here, you dare to be so out of hand. Do you really think that you’re very capable just because you’re Lin Yuankang’s disciple? Did you forget what you were before that? I’m going to wake you up now and let you realize what you really are!”

Qiu Chenxi raised her hands and swung her hands toward Qiao Nan's face!

The female counselor, who had already been walking toward Qiao Nan, saw this happening. She gave a stare as she strode forward with steps akin to that of a dragon and a tiger. She grabbed Qiu Chenxi's hands forcefully. "Qiu Chenxi, this is the army camp and not the house of your Qiu family! Comrade Xiao Qiao is the English Teacher that political commissar invited to give English classes. Do you wish to damage the reputation and image of the army? I will definitely report today's matter to the political commissar. If you really wish to be unreasonable and make a scene, go back to the house of your Qiu family. I really don't understand why a person like you can come to our army!"

The army's face was all lost!

"C-counselor?" Qiu Chenxi sounded guilty.

"What's wrong? Do you also wish to hit me?" The female counselor was an authentic soldier and not a military performer. She was those female soldiers who participated in various kinds of special training. She was powerful in terms of physical strength.

When the female counselor struck, Qiu Chenxi was as tender as tofu. She nearly crumbled with one pinch.

Qiu Chenxi stared at Qiao Nan, looking unjustified. "Counselor, it's a misunderstanding. It's all a misunderstanding. I know Teacher Xiao Qiao well. We've known each other for a long time ago. We're friends. I was just chatting with her."

"You know each other and are friends?" The female counselor laughed. "You're friends, yet you still want to hit Teacher Xiao Qiao?"

"I didn't hit her. I really didn't. Counselor, I think you have really misunderstood. You also know that it's summer and there are a lot of mosquitoes. I saw a mosquito on Teacher Xiao Qiao's face and wanted to kill the mosquito for her. After such a huge movement, the mosquito escaped. Fortunately, Teacher Xiao Qiao's face was not bitten by it."

Chapter 522: Utterly Disgraced

There was a mosquito on Qiao Nan's face. Hence, Qiao Nan deserved a beating!

The female counselor tugged the corners of her lips which had turned stiff. "Bluff, continue to bluff. You're friends with Teacher Xiao Qiao, you wanted to help her kill a mosquito, and you even took Teacher Xiao Qiao's things without telling her? So, this is how one treats a friend nowadays? Qiu Chenxi, you're not a child anymore. Even if you're not considered a real soldier, you're also an adult, right? Taking without asking is akin to stealing. Don't you know this?"

Qiu Chenxi's expression froze. "Counselor, what are you talking about? I don't understand." It was impossible. She had burnt that book to ashes. Moreover, when Qian Yanyan did that, she assured her that she was not seen by anyone. The counselor could not possibly have known about it.

"Fine, it's your problem whether you understand it or not. Whether the political commissar and the rest want to understand this matter is also up to them. Do you still have any matter? If not, go back to your dormitory and look at yourself in the mirror properly!" The female counselor released Qiu Chenxi's hands. She did not look up to someone like Qiu Chenxi, who behaved like an evil witch, at all.

"Teacher Xiao Qiao, it's been hard on you today. I've brought supper back for you. You're too skinny and have to eat more. It's still hot." The female counselor waved the bento box in her right hand and welcomed Qiao Nan back to the dormitory. She completely ignored Qiu Chenxi, who was still standing there.

"Thanks, counselor." There was still food? It was already so late. Was there anyone in the canteen?

The female counselor treated Qiao Nan as if she was a mother looking after her daughter. "There's no need to thank me. We should be the ones saying thank you. In the future, we will have to make Teacher Xiao Qiao work hard for some time. Something cropped up at the eleventh hour, so I didn't attend your class today. However, when I came back, I heard from those who attended that you've done very well today."

"No worries. If you're interested, I don't mind teaching you what you've missed today."

"That sounds good too. Perhaps I can converse with my daughter with a little bit of English the next time I go home."

When she saw that the female counselor and Qiao Nan behaving as if there was no one else, walking further and further away from her as they interacted harmoniously, Qiu Chenxi, who stood rooted to the ground, was so infuriated that she nearly ground her molars flat.

Qiu Chenxi stomped her feet and ran off to her dormitory thereafter.

Even the female counselor suspected her. Then, what about the political commissar and Uncle Zhai? How did these people link her to this matter? She could not understand.

The political commissar was not the one whom Qiu Chenxi was most concerned about. She was most worried about the reactions of Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng.

“What should I do? What to do?” If Uncle Zhai and Brother Zhai believed that she was the one who stole the item that Qiao Nan lost and misunderstood that she was a bad woman, then what should she do? She was only afraid that Uncle Zhai would not agree to her marriage with Brother Zhai and Auntie Miao would be able to object openly with a valid reason. Additionally, even Brother Zhai would have an excuse to reject her.

Qiao Nan, it was all Qiao Nan’s fault.

She had not seen anyone as petty as Qiao Nan. It was just a book that cost fifty cents, yet she could bear the shame and make everyone know about it, especially all the important and prominent figures.

Was Qiao Nan really so poor and lacking in money? Then, when she took the initiative to offer her money, why did she have to pretend to be so high and mighty? She rejected such a large sum of money. She was really sick in the mind!

“Qiu Chenxi, what’s wrong with you? What do you mean by what you should do?” Qian Yanyan, who was in good spirits, had just finished bathing and was all smiles. She was in an excellent mood.

Qiu Chenxi was in the limelight today. As the best friend of Qiu Chenxi in the army camp, she was also in the limelight.

Unfortunately, she did not have the chance to wear a dress. Otherwise, the limelight that she received would definitely not be any less than that of Qiu Chenxi if she had worn the dress that Qiu Chenxi gave her.

“I...” Qiu Chenxi turned back and wanted to discuss with Qian Yanyan about Qiao Nan.

When Qiu Chenxi turned her head, Qian Yanyan jumped in shock. “Oh dear, Qiu Chenxi, is that you?”

“Who else can it be!”

“Yes, that’s right. This dress. You’re the only one who has it in the whole army camp.” Qian Yanyan forced a smile. “Qiu Chenxi, don’t tell me that you came back looking like this. Why didn’t you wash your face? You...”

Toward the end of her speech, Qian Yanyan did not bother to continue further. She quickly took the mirror on Qiu Chenxi’s desk and held it in front of Qiu Chenxi. “Look at yourself.”

“I...” When Qiu Chenxi saw herself in the mirror, she was so shocked that she nearly screamed. “Why, why did it become like this?!”

“How would I know?” Qiu Chenxi rolled her eyes. “Forget it. It’s useless to talk further. I’ll get some water for you. Quickly wash your face.” If she did not do so, Qiu Chenxi would not be able to face anyone.

Qiu Chenxi slammed the mirror on the table with a loud bang, shattering it immediately.

When she thought of the way she looked in the mirror, especially the moment she had stood in front of Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan with such a frightening face a few minutes ago, she could not wait to simply dig a hole and bury herself in it. She would even kill herself with tofu if possible.

In order to complement the dress that she wore and to ensure a better outcome, Qiu Chenxi had taken the path to doom by applying light makeup on her face.

She did not put on much other makeup but took great pains to make her eyes look bigger and brighter by applying a lot of eyeliner.

As one could have imagined, in such searing hot weather, any anti-perspiration measures would be ineffective with so much eyeliner. Once she perspired, the eyeliner melted. In addition, when Qiu Chenxi wiped it, her initially fresh and crisp-looking little face was simply smudged.

It was only at this moment that Qiu Chenxi finally understood why Qiao Nan and the female counselor asked her to look in the mirror.

When she was on her way back to the dormitory, it was obvious that many people were staring at her. However, after giving her a glance, those people hurriedly left. Qiu Chenxi did not even have the impulse to cry anymore.

At first, Qiu Chenxi thought that the people in the army had not seen this before, that they were just attracted to her attire but too shy to look at her. Hence, they ran off so quickly. However, at this juncture, Qiu Chenxi finally realized that those people might be attracted by her dress at first sight, but when they saw her face, they ran away in fear!

When Qian Yanyan brought the water back, Qiu Chenxi washed her face as she cried.

She had been talking to Brother Zhai with that face. It was no wonder that even Qiao Nan was laughing at and looking down on her and did not take her words seriously.

“Qiu Chenxi, what’s wrong with you? Why did you cry without an apparent reason? Think about it. Today, most of the people in the army attended your class. There’s only a few who went to listen to that high school student’s lesson. I heard from others that even those who attended the high school student’s class were unwilling. They played the finger-guessing game just to give her some face.”

### Chapter 523: My Sense of Judgment Is Better Than Yours

“Those who lost had to listen to the high school student. Only those who won were qualified to attend your class. Today, you were in great limelight. You should be feeling happy.” Hearing that those who lost had to attend the high school student’s class, she wondered if that could still be considered as attending a class. They were simply attending a punishment session. There was so much fun.

“Don’t talk about it anymore.” At this moment, Qiu Chenxi could not feel happy even after hearing these words. No matter how successful she was in the class, she had embarrassed herself in front of



Brother Zhai. It was enough of a blow to her. “I’m tired. You should go back. I’ll wash up and sleep.”

“Oh, okay. Then, I’ll leave. Sleep well. I’m looking forward to your class tomorrow. Right, I heard that some teachers have teaching assistants. How about it? Do you want me to help you?”

“Do you know English?” Qiu Chenxi sneered. Qian Yanyan wanted to be an assistant teacher? She was indulging in her own fantasy.

“It doesn’t matter that I don’t know English. I can help you take some items such as lesson plans, water, or towel.” At that time, she could then stand beside the podium instead of sitting with the audience. She would be so presentable and proud.

“Fine, let me think about it. If there is really such a need, I’ll definitely look for you.”

“Sure!” After she achieved her aim, Qian Yanyan left without further ado. She even closed the door for Qiu Chenxi.

After Qiu Chenxi finished her bath, she lay on the bed listlessly. She did not feel a sense of victory or happiness at all.

To Qiu Chenxi, the female counselor’s words were piercing through her heart. It made her feel extremely bad. Unfortunately, she had also embarrassed herself so badly in front of Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. At the sight of the dress that she had changed out of and dumped into the washbasin, Qiu Chenxi felt more annoyed, like a cat on a hot tin roof.

Clearly, everything was going smoothly in the beginning. Why was her current mood so bad? It was as if she had done everything wrong. Why did it turn out this way?

This would not do. When she was awake tomorrow, she must look for her uncle and clarify what she did not understand. Her uncle would certainly know.

After she made this decision, Qiu Chenxi then quieted down and fell asleep.

Qiu Chenxi had fallen asleep but there was someone who had not. It was Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng waited for half an hour and discovered that his father had not come to his dormitory. When he looked at the clock, it was already ten o'clock. Zhai Sheng smiled. "This sly old fox really values woman more than his son. Did he have to kick him to the curb after he had outlived his usefulness so quickly?"

Having said that, Zhai Sheng swiftly switched off his lights and returned to his lower bunk bed to sleep.

In less than ten minutes after Zhai Sheng lay on his bed, asleep, someone opened his door again.

Zhai Yaohui's face was black. He was holding a pillow in his arms as he walked in gloomily. "Where are you sleeping at? Go up."

"..." Zhai Sheng, who was being dragged up, raised his eyebrows. "Hasn't Mom forgiven you?"

"..." Today, Miao Miao called him over. He thought that Miao Miao was not angry with him anymore and that he could finally sleep on the same bed with his wife after a few months' time. Unexpectedly, when Miao Miao finished her words, she chased him out. He came up with excuses that Zhai Sheng's place did not have any pillow and that he did not sleep well last night. Miao Miao then threw him a pillow and pushed him out of the room.

She kicked him out the moment he outlived his usefulness!

"Quickly go to the upper bunk. I'm tired and want to rest!" Zhai Yaohui lifted his chin and asked Zhai Sheng to sleep on the upper bunk bed.

It was, after all, his own father, so Zhai Sheng was more indulgent toward him. Without a word, he went back to the upper bunk bed. "You're such a bunch of old bones. Don't worry. I won't let you sleep on the upper bunk bed."

"Who did you say is a bunch of old bones?" Zhai Yaohui was unconvinced. "Last time..."

"Don't talk about your glory in the past. It's not meaningful," Zhai Sheng replied. "What did Mom say after she called you over?"

“What has it got to do with you?”

“Do you think I can’t guess it if you don’t tell me? The son knows his mother best. My mom must have asked you over regarding Qiu Chenxi’s matter today, right?” Zhai Sheng was certain about it.

Actually, today, Miao Jing wanted to support Qiao Nan. She really went to her class. However, when she saw Qiu Chenxi’s classroom brimming with people while Qiao Nan’s class had so few people, Miao Jing was afraid that Qiao Nan was too young and would not be able to take it. Miao Jing thought that if the elders Qiao Nan was familiar with were around, the latter would feel bad and nervous.

Hence, just as Miao Jing stepped in, she withdrew her steps.

At the thought of Qiu Chenxi’s manner and behavior today, clearly, Miao Jing was not the main party concerned, but she felt angry and shortchanged on Qiao Nan’s behalf. She felt that Qiu Chenxi’s actions were too despicable. What Qiu Chenxi did was no different from selling her body.

If such an individual married into the Zhai family, would the Zhai family still be able to keep their reputation!

With this reasoning, Miao Jing mercilessly and thoroughly gave Zhai Yaohui a bad scolding.

The soldiers who turned up because of Qiu Chenxi’s appearance were no different from the Zhai Yaohui a few months back who wholeheartedly wanted Zhai Sheng to marry Qiu Chenxi. They were exactly the same. It was truly like the chief, like the soldiers. Birds of the same feather flock together!

“You’re happy now.” Zhai Yaohui snorted coldly. Because of Zhai Sheng, he had received a harsh scolding from Miao Miao.

Zhai Sheng tossed and looked at the moon outside the window. “I’ve already told you before that I don’t feel anything for Qiu Chenxi. One has to pay a price for refusing to admit their mistake and persisting in the wrong course.”

Nevertheless, for Qiu Chenxi to have committed such a foolish act, she was truly cornered by Nan Nan.

Prior to this, he really did not expect Qiu Chenxi to be such a person.

On the surface, Qiu Chenxi seemed like someone who was able to see the big picture, one who carried herself well with poise and dignity. She matched the requirements of his parents. In actual fact, she was not. On the contrary, Nan Nan, who looked so skinny and petite, never fumbled the ball at critical times. She was able to keep her cool and maintain her stand and dignity while using her ability to convince and gain the respect of others.

When he thought of the political commissar and Lin Yuankang fighting for her to work for them today, and that these two whose age added up to more than a hundred nearly fought with each other, Zhai Sheng laughed out loud.

“Don’t be too complacent. You have not passed your mom’s hurdle. Your mom sees Qiao Nan as her own daughter now. If Qiao Nan becomes her daughter-in-law, she may not be able to maintain her current attitude toward her.” Zhai Yaohui sighed. He admitted that he had made a mistake in the judgment of character regarding Qiu Chenxi.

What Qiu Chenxi did today was extremely offensive. She was, in fact, ruining her own future.

Comparing the two classes held that night, on the surface, it seemed that Qiu Chenxi had gained a little victory. In actual fact, Qiu Chenxi had lost badly. The quality, and not quantity, was important. Clearly, it was the same type of class, but Qiu Chenxi could not achieve an outcome that was close to that of Qiao Nan.

Given this point, Qiao Nan had overtaken Qiu Chenxi by miles.

Unless the attendees were real fools, there would be a reverse of the number of attendees between Qiu Nan’s and Qiu Chenxi’s classes after a few sessions.

At that time, no matter what kind of tricks Qiu Chenxi played, or how revealing she was, it would be of no use. She would only be putting her face beneath her feet until she was trampled on and ruined thoroughly.

“Anyway, my sense of judgment is better than yours.”

## Chapter 524: Did Not Hope for the Reversed Situation

Zhai Sheng leaned on his pillow comfortably. “Fine. It’s late. Quickly sleep.”

“I can’t sleep!”

“I can sleep.” Zhai Sheng did not bother about Zhai Yaohui’s insomnia. He did not even give him any word of consolation. He closed his eyes and fell asleep in a good mood.

“This brat!” Zhai Yaohui was angry beyond words, but he did not disturb Zhai Sheng as the latter had a lot of work to do tomorrow. Nighttime was Zhai Sheng’s resting time. Without good sleep, Zhai Sheng would likely not be able to carry out his duties well tomorrow.

“Good morning, Teacher Xiao Qiao.”

“Good morning.”

“Good morning, Teacher Xiao Qiao.”

“Good morning, everyone.”

On the second day, there seemed to be more people greeting Qiao Nan when she was jogging. Moreover, their tone was obviously more sincere when they called her.

Qiao Nan wiped away the sweat on her face and returned to the dormitory. “Counselor, what is happening recently?”

“Are you pleasantly surprised by their attitude?” The female counselor was pleased.

Qiao Nan drank some water and smiled helplessly. “Pleasant surprise? It’s more like a shock. It was like everyone changed overnight. Didn’t they say that they wouldn’t take any actions for the time being? Don’t tell me the political commissar really assigned them some psychological homework and strongly criticized them?”

She remembered clearly that her master told her that he wanted the political commissar to make use of this opportunity to make some observations.

It was just one night and the political commissar could not wait further. He had already disciplined these soldiers because of his face and asked them to open their eyes wider?

“It has got nothing to do with the political commissar. I heard that the political commissar was so angry that he did not sleep well last night. Until now, his mood hasn’t got any better. The reason why the attitude of the people in the army changed so much toward you is that those who attended your class yesterday formed a procession in English during the free and easy self-training session this morning. You don’t know how complacent those few people were. Of course, their instructor also deliberately chided the others. Toward the same knowledge that was picked up, some people could adopt it so well while some have forgotten what they learned as if they did not learn anything at all. There must be a great difference in the ability and effort put in.”

Who would not value those who knew English at this time?

If they did not, would these people report to the class on time every night?

They learned the knowledge, but their comrades could adapt them flexibly and received their instructor’s praise. On the contrary, they had gone through similar class but did not remember anything. They were even criticized because of this. Would those that were criticized not feel envious of those who were praised?

Most critically, the way the procession was formed in English was really too cocky.

“So that’s why there’s such an obvious change in their attitude.” Qiao Nan put down her cup of tea. She did sort of understand now.

“Yesterday, only thirty-six people attended your class. Teacher Xiao Qiao, guess how many people will sit in your classroom today? Will it be a full house? And will there be no one at Qiu Chenxi’s end?” At the thought of this possible scenario, the female counselor felt elated.

It was not that she wanted to discriminate. It was because she really could not agree with Qiu Chenxi’s behavior. It was truly a bad influence on the army.

In particular, when she thought of the moment Qiu Chenxi was about to hit Qiao Nan yesterday, the more she could not see eye to eye with Qiu Chenxi. She was the older one and yet she bullied the younger one. Such must not be the manner a soldier should behave in.

Judging from her actions, did Qiu Chenxi deserve to wear the army attire?

Most importantly, Comrade Xiao Qiao was the teacher invited by the army. No matter what, Qiu Chenxi had attended one class taught by Comrade Xiao Qiao. Wasn't she also considered a student of Teacher Xiao Qiao?

A student hitting her teacher. She did not even know how to respect her elderly and teachers. There was a flaw in this person's character!

"Counselor, don't be too exaggerating." Qiao Nan was speechless as she shook her head. She never thought that such a situation would occur tonight. She had always felt that those who wore soldier attire were the cutest people in the world. However, she had never felt that they were the most perfect, wise, or far-sighted people in the world.

Qiu Chenxi was mature and charismatic. She also knew how to dress up.

From a man's perspective, most of the people in the army went purely because of Qiu Chenxi. It was not because they wanted to pick up more knowledge or improve themselves.

To put it bluntly, not all those who joined the army was like Brother Zhai, who was a top student. On the contrary, there were more slackers.

To expect a slacker to be interested in obtaining knowledge and working hard to grab every available opportunity to improve themselves were not possible.

There were many such 'simple' soldiers. Of course, there were also those who truly strived to improve themselves.

As she understood this reason, Qiao Nan did not expect that the situation tonight would be reversed.

Qiao Nan was prepared for the worst, that when all the classes had ended, the number of students in Qiu Chenxi's class would still be more than that of hers.

Of course, the difference was that those who learned from Qiu Chenxi would have seen much of a pretty woman, while those who learned from her would have benefited at least a little.

After hearing Qiao Nan's analysis, the female counselor who was just grinning from ear to ear earlier pulled a long face. "Men. It's true that they have this problem. Shallow!" However, she refused to admit that there were, in fact, so many shallow comrades in the army who could not do the army proud or gain any glory for the army!

"Yes, shallow indeed," Qiao Nan chuckled as she replied. "Actually, I'm shallow as well. Who doesn't like to see pretty girls and handsome guys? The problem is that everyone weighs the importance differently. Those who attended Qiu Chenxi's class can be described as loving beauty more than the country. Those who attended my class are those who love the country more than beauty."

The female counselor was delighted beyond words. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, clearly, these comrades' thinking is not forward-looking and can even be considered corrupted. But after hearing what you said, these people seem to have been elevated? In ancient times, those who love beauty and not the country were either the emperor or high-ranking officials."

The female counselor was even more pleased that Qiao Nan did not berate the soldiers due to this matter.

The female counselor was older and looked upon the soldiers like her own younger brothers. She berated them earlier as she expected better from them.

It was a similar situation to when she mentioned her own daughter in front of Qiao Nan previously. Although she felt that her own daughter and 'brothers' were not perfect, she might be reluctant to hear any strict or ugly criticism when her daughter and 'brothers' were assessed by other people.

Of course, one's own children and 'brothers' were always the best.

"Teacher Xiao Qiao, you have such a great personality." The female counselor sighed and said, "Why is it that you don't seem to have any temper? The matter has turned out this way but I've never seen you get angry."



“I’ve been trained. I can’t survive if I don’t have a good temper. Otherwise, I’ll be the first to be driven to the grave. As a human, there’s nothing bad about being more forgiving. It’s a blessing to be shortchanged a little.” She could not agree with huge suffering though.

Perhaps she had the opportunity to be reborn because she had suffered too much under the hands of her mother and Qiao Zijin in the previous life.

## Chapter 525: Help Me Explain

Thereafter, heaven pitied her and gave her another chance to start over.

This possibility was not unlikely.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, don’t talk about this anymore. Let’s eat. Here’s the porridge that I brought back for you.” The female counselor was a little embarrassed to inquiry about Qiao Nan’s family situation. She was also afraid that she would make things difficult for Qiao Nan.

“Thank you.” Qiao Nan was not pleased by material gains or saddened by personal woes. This kind of resilience and benevolence, as well as sedateness and maturity in personality, was different from those who were of her age. It was extremely captivating.

Seeing that Qiao Nan was indifferent to favor and humiliation, the female counselor sighed. Qiu Chenxi was seemingly mature, but she was, in fact, very childish. Her thinking was extremely immature. She yearned for instant success and even forwent her future and the long-term benefits.

On the contrary, Comrade Xiao Qiao was young. She was inexperienced about world affairs but was able to handle matters in a graceful and appropriate manner. She was adept at managing any situations with ease.

It was no wonder the political commissar had the intention to poach a character such as Comrade Xiao Qiao. She was indeed capable.

If Comrade Xiao Qiao was a man in the ancient times, she would be very suited to be an advisor or a strategist, and would definitely become an outstanding hero.

The female counselor rarely sensed this from women. As a woman, the female counselor felt very proud to know the existence of a woman like Qiao Nan.

Did you see that? Women did not only have a lot of hair and little knowledge. When they were capable, they could be very formidable too.

At the very least, during this period, didn't most of the grown-up men address 'Teacher Xiao Qiao' respectfully when they met her?

Qiao Nan was totally unaware that the female counselor, who was older than her and whom she could even address as auntie, held her in such utmost respect.

Qiao Nan did not forget her basics and original intentions. She went according to the pace of her original plan step-by-step in an orderly manner. She tried her best to adjust her mindset to avoid distractions from external parties and issues.

Knock, knock, knock.

Someone knocked on the door.

Before Qiao Nan could stand up, the female counselor squeezed Qiao Nan's shoulders gently. "Comrade Xiao Qiao, continue to eat. I'll open the door. Most likely, someone is looking for me."

The female counselor opened the door and saw Qiu Chenxi. "Why did you come?"

"I'm here to look for Comrade Xiao Qiao." Hence, the female counselor could stay aside and not stand in her way.

"What's the matter?" The female counselor slammed her hand on the doorframe with a bang. She stood straight at the door and expressed that if Qiu Chenxi did not make herself clear, she would not let her in. "It's broad daylight now. I've also lit a mosquito repellent coil in this room, so there's definitely no mosquitoes. Did you come here to look for Comrade Xiao Qiao? It can't be that you're here to help her kill the mosquitoes?"

"You..." Qiu Chenxi's face turned pale. She was infuriated.

It was all because the female counselor was a big-mouth and talked bad about her to the political commissar. She went to seek her uncle for advice today and he directly told her not to come to the army anymore after this event ended. The army did not welcome her.

Now, not only Brother Zhai disliked her but also her uncle. Her uncle had changed.

With just a few days' time left, how could she complete her mission and make Brother Zhai like her again and willing to marry her? Moreover, how could she make Uncle Zhai and Miao Jing willing to accept her as their daughter-in-law?

Given that Brother Zhai stayed in the army camp 300 out of 365 days in a year, not to mention this year, she might not be able to achieve her aim even if she was given another ten years if she lost the privilege to come to the army camp.

“Counselor, why do I feel that you keep targeting me? The army is an organization. There are rules and regulations and it’s a place that values teamwork. You’re forming a clique and targeting the comrades in the army. Is that really good? Counselor, you should familiarize yourself with Chairman Mao’s quotations and carry out a deep self-reflection. Don’t be a bad influence on the army’s culture!” Qiu Chenxi said. If she did not brandish her claw a little at the female counselor, the female counselor would really take her as a pushover!

The female counselor was angry but more amused. “I’m forming a clique? Qiu Chenxi, don’t force me to make my words ugly. Think about what you did yesterday. That’s a bad influence on the culture in the army. Fine, you’re just a young lady and I can’t be bothered to argue with you. There’s a problem with your thinking. I admit that I don’t have the ability to counsel you to take the right path. I think the political commissar has already made a decision. I have absolute belief in the decision of the organization leaders.”

“So, it was really you who made the complaint!” Qiao Nan was not anxious but the female counselor went to complain. What did she mean by this? “Female counselor, can you make way? I really want to talk to Comrade Xiao Qiao.”

“What’s the matter? Speak. I can hear from here.” Qiao Nan put down the pen in her hand. She turned her body and chair to face Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi pursed her lips and put on a fake smile. “It’s about yesterday’s matter. The female counselor has misunderstood. I don’t know what she told the political commissar, but the political

commissar also misunderstood that I wanted to hit you. You should know the truth of the matter best. Can you help me clarify this with the political commissar? Yesterday, I was well-intended and really wanted to help you kill the mosquito. Perhaps I didn't make myself clear and my action was too sudden. That's why I've frightened you. I'll compensate you. Tell me what you want. I promise that you'll be satisfied."

He who started the trouble should end it.

The political commissar asked her to leave the army because of Qiao Nan. He did not even give the Qiu family and her uncle any face.

As long as Qiao Nan did not take issue with her and was willing to resolve this matter harmoniously, then she could continue to stay in the army and woo Brother Zhai.

Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows. Her eyes were sly. "I know it best? What do I know? I don't know anything! Also, don't talk to me about compensation. Until now, I am still sullen, thinking about what you were thinking when you raised your hand. Before I clarify what happened, how can I take your compensation?"

"Counselor, you heard that. Qiao Nan doesn't think that I was hitting her at all!" Anyway, she just wanted such a word from Qiao Nan. This was a misunderstanding on the female counselor's part. Why should she be chased out of the army?

"But I also didn't say that I'm sure that you're not hitting me and was helping me chase away mosquitoes. Instead, in that kind of circumstance, a normal person would think that you intended to hit me. Therefore, Comrade Qiu, you did not make a correct trip. You didn't manage to hit me, but that doesn't mean you didn't want to. Since you wanted to hit me, then the counselor's words were not misleading, and neither did she misunderstand you. It's even more unnecessary for me to explain to the political commissar. Comrade Qiu, take good care of yourself."

"You..." Qiu Chenxi was extremely mad. "Qiao Nan, what do you want exactly before you'll be willing to help me explain?"

"I won't. No matter what."

"You!" Refusing a toast only to drink a forfeit!

“Why?” The female counselor was elated, grinning from ear to ear. Did she treat her as an ornament? Qiu Chenxi had not received a lesson from yesterday’s matter.

## Chapter 526: Expelled from the Army

“Have you forgotten what the political commissar told you? With this attitude of yours, hahaha! Fine. When the time comes, I’ll reflect this situation to the political commissar.”

Clearly, the political commissar had asked Comrade Qiu to apologize to Comrade Xiao Qiao.

As long as Qiu Chenxi was willing to apologize to Comrade Xiao Qiao sincerely and obtained the latter’s forgiveness, Qiu Chenxi would be able to continue to remain in the army.

However, after Qiu Chenxi arrived for so long and said so much, she had not heard a single word of apology from her. Did Qiu Chenxi forget what she initially came for?

Qiu Chenxi gritted her teeth and moved closer to the female counselor. She then lowered the volume of her voice. “Counselor, don’t forget that my uncle is also in the army. If you continue to target me, I’ll tell my uncle. How do you think my uncle will react? That’s my biological uncle. In other words, counselor, you should understand what I mean.”

The female counselor smiled in mockery. “Comrade Qiu, if your uncle is so vicious and powerful, then are you here today to brag? Fine, since your uncle is so formidable that he’s the one that calls all the shots, it won’t make any difference even if Comrade Xiao Qiao doesn’t put in any words for you. Alright, I’ll remember what you said today. I’m the counselor in the army. By right, I should counsel comrades like you who are a little problematic. Unfortunately, you’re deeply poisoned. My skills are not good enough and I can’t counsel you. I’m helpless when it comes to you but we have many talents in the army. I’m sure there’ll be someone who can counsel you well. Don’t need to thank me. We’re all good comrades with one another. We don’t need to differentiate ruthlessly.”

Did she think that she was a young lady who just joined the army? Would she be able to threaten her with these few words?

Crap!

“You, counselor, don’t you feel that you’re poor in your words? Why do you have to tell the political commissar everything? Do you think you’re still a kid who has to tell the teacher about every minor matter that you encounter? So childish!” Qiu Chenxi was nearly driven to the grave. This female counselor was too annoying.

The female counselor must be aware of the status and influence that her uncle, Shi Peng, had in the army.

She was Shi Peng’s biological niece. Shouldn’t the female counselor curry favor with her and help her deal with Qiao Nan? Was this person sick in the mind?

“Whether it’s telling the teacher or the political commissar, I’ll do so as long as the method works. You’re already so mature, yet you’re still into the game of telling your parents. Fine, if you’re not here to apologize, leave quickly. Don’t disturb Comrade Xiao Qiao in her preparation for classes. Really, what kind of person are you?”

“I apologize? Impossible!” She would never apologize to Qiao Nan.

“Leave then.” Why was she trembling with anger then?

“Qiao Nan, I’ll ask you one last time. Are you going to help me clarify the matter? If you’re willing to help me explain, tell me your terms.” It was not possible for her to apologize to Qiao Nan whose status was beneath her. By allowing Qiao Nan to help her, she was already giving Qiao Nan face.

Qiao Nan held her cheeks in her hands as she looked at Qiu Chenxi. “I’m not helping in this.”

“You! Fine! We’ll wait and see. Don’t think that I don’t have other solutions if you don’t help!” Her uncle was in the army. She did not believe that her uncle would not help her remain in the army if she begged him.

If she could not convince her uncle, there was still her mother.

“Sigh, she still has her own justification.” The female counselor simply rolled her eyes. “This kind of young lady must have been too pampered in normal times. She has been spoiled rotten by her family and thinks that everyone is obligated to help her. Comrade Xiao Qiao, please don’t get angry. If you suffer because of this, it’s totally not worth it.”

“Don’t worry, I’m not angry.” It was all thanks to Qiao Zijin. She had seen many more sophisticated tactics. She was already used to them.

If today’s matter happened to Qiao Zijin, Qiao Zijin’s spine would be absolutely bendable. After weighing the pros and cons, Qiao Zijin would definitely apologize to her without any delay. Qiao Zijin would not only apologize swiftly but also cry miserably in a remorseful manner. She would cry as if she was in a very pitiful state.

If anyone did not accept such an apology from Qiao Zijin, that person would be too much.

Now, the phrase ‘I am sorry’ was precious to many people.

No matter how much wrongdoing one committed previously, seemingly, when they said ‘I am sorry’, all the things that happened previously could be regarded as words written with chalk regardless of whether the apology was sincere. They could be wiped away without leaving any traces.

On the contrary, today’s situation, or rather, Qiu Chenxi’s attitude today, was, in fact, more acceptable to her.

“Right, counselor, is it true that Qiu Chenxi can no longer remain in the army?”

“You manage to infer it from her words?” The female counselor secretly laughed.

“Who decided on this? The political commissar?” Was it because Qiu Chenxi wanted to slap her but did not succeed? Wasn’t this reason too far-fetched?

The female counselor sat down. “Don’t worry. This matter is not so serious. The decision will not change. Qiu Chenxi joined the army via the ‘backdoor’. She didn’t join us through the formal and usual way. It’s not so easy to expel someone but it’s much easier in Qiu Chenxi’s situation. Furthermore, this was not decided by the political commissar alone. Chief Zhai, Officer Shi, and Regiment Commander Zhai have all unanimously voted for the decision. Our army is originally so united and has an honest culture. They can’t let an individual like Qiu Chenxi bring bad influence to the army. Qiu Chenxi is like a little poisonous lump. Of course, it’d be best to ‘remove’ her as soon as possible.”

“Who initiated it?” There was a flash in Qiao Nan’s eyes.

“I heard that Regiment Commander Zhai suggested it first.” The female counselor shook her head in disdain. “Qiu Chenxi came to our army for Regiment Commander Zhai. As a young lady, she doesn’t even know how to maintain a woman’s chastity and chases after a man. She’s really... If my daughter does that in the future, I’ll definitely break her leg! Didn’t she see that Regiment Commander Zhai doesn’t like her at all and can’t wait for her to leave soon?”

“Okay, so it’s Regiment Commander Zhai.” Brother Zhai was making use of the recent happenings to cease all the opportunities for Qiu Chenxi to get close to him.

Qiu Chenxi joined the army with an ulterior motive. Most likely, many people knew about it.

“Then, does Qiu Chenxi know about this matter?” The man that she was after could not wait for her to leave the army. If Qiu Chenxi was aware, would she still be able to tolerate all this?

“Of course she doesn’t.”

“Oh, I see!” She fully understood.

Brother Zhai initiated this and the important figures in the army unanimously voted in agreement, including Qiu Chenxi’s biological uncle, Shi Peng. Qiu Chenxi was such a failure in terms of relationships with others.

Qiao Nan found out about the circumstances of the matter. On the other hand, Qiu Chenxi, who was totally unaware, was bent on seeking help from her biological uncle. “Uncle, I’m looking for you regarding some matter... Qing Qing, why are you... You’re here too?” Shi Qing must have come for Brother Zhai. Just like her, Shi Qing must be trying to enjoy the benefits of a favorable position by joining the army to get close to Brother Zhai.

## Chapter 527: The Matter Has Blown Up

“You could come, so why couldn’t I?” Shi Qing rolled her eyes. Actually, Qiu Chenxi wanted to ask why she came, right?



“It’s not the same. I’m from the army. It’s normal for me to be here. You know the rules in the army as well. People who do not belong can’t enter or leave the place as they please. Qing Qing, if you support uncle in his work, don’t create trouble for him.” So, hurry up and leave. Don’t stay here and be an eyesore

“Your mom could even use my father’s name to put you in the army, so why couldn’t I come here? Do you believe that I can formally take the test and qualify as a female soldier?!” Shi Qing was unconvinced. Even a person like Qiu Chenxi who did not know anything could become a soldier. Would she be worse than Qiu Chenxi?

“Don’t kick up a fuss. Focus on your studies. Don’t forget. You only came in second place this time.” Shi Peng gave Shi Qing a scolding happily.

“Dad, can you not be so obvious with that gloating expression of yours? Are you still my biological father?” Shi Qing rolled her eyes even harder. She was in second place. Did her father need to be so happy? Don’t tell her that she was a daughter given to him by someone?

“I can’t.” Shi Peng derided.

The two-way conversation between Shi Peng and Shi Qing, ignoring the presence of others, made Qiu Chenxi turn pale. “Uncle, I’m looking for you about something important. The political commissar said he’s going to expel me. What serious offense have I committed that they have to punish me so harshly? Is it so easy to expel someone from the army? Furthermore, uncle, you know my situation. You won’t hope for the worst and sit by as my life happiness slips away from me, right?”

“Hahaha.” Shi Qing sneered. “When you joined the army, it was quite easy as well.”

“Qing Qing, don’t be so selfish. You can’t come here to destroy and stand in the way of my happiness just because you like Brother Zhai. You must know that after I am married to Brother Zhai, you have to call Brother Zhai ‘brother-in-law’. You double-cross your own sister and snatch your brother-in-law. You! Don’t you feel ashamed?”

“No, I don’t!” Shi Qing looked bitterly cold. Today, such words could actually come out of Qiu Chenxi’s mouth. She could only blame her own stupidity in the past when she believed Qiu Chenxi’s words without a doubt simply because they were relatives.

Shi Peng patted Shi Qing's hands to get her to sit down and calm down. "Chenxi, you'll understand after I tell you one matter. No one can help you. Your expulsion from the army is irrefutable. It's also useless if anyone helps you."

"What matter?"

"Regiment Commander Zhai was the one who suggested your expulsion and Chief Zhai agreed." Even the two people whom Qiu Chenxi was working so hard to gain the favor from were not willing to let her remain in the army. Would it make a difference if he had done anything?

"Impossible. Uncle, you're lying to me!" Qiu Chenxi was in disbelief. "Uncle, I didn't expect you to be so selfish. Are you still my uncle? How can you lie to me and sacrifice my happiness because of Qing Qing? As relatives, you are really too cold-blooded by doing this. You're too disappointing."

"Nonsense! Qiu Chenxi, don't go overboard!" Shi Qing exploded. "You're not finished with this yet? Who's selfish? Who's cold-blooded?!"

Shi Peng looked indifferent. After all, she had seen this ugly side from his biological sister, Qi Minlan, more than twenty years ago. "Whether we're relatives or not, you call the shots. As to whether the matter is real, you can go and inquire about it yourself. Of course, if you're dissatisfied, you can give your mom a call. The phone is here. Do it yourself."

He already said before that Zhai Sheng, that lad, had a good sense of judgment in character. Even if he did not marry his daughter, Qing Qing, it would not be possible for him to marry Qiu Chenxi, his niece.

In comparison, Zhai Yaohui's sense of judgment was much worse than that of Zhai Sheng. He had been so good to Qi Minlan for so many years and had given Qiu Qin so much benefit and convenience.

His judgment was bad and he lacked intelligence. He wondered how Zhai Yaohui could outdo him and become the chief many years ago. Was he just being lucky?!

When he saw that Qiu Chenxi had neither leave nor self-reflect and was staring at the phone instead, Shi Peng got up. "Qing Qing, keep Dad company. Let's go for a walk."

Shi Qing gave Qiu Chenxi a stare and stomped her feet. She reluctantly accompanied Shi Peng and left. “Dad, on what grounds?” Clearly, this was her father’s office. Why did her father have to leave and give Qiu Chenxi some space to call her auntie to complain?

“Anyway, she’s leaving the army soon. Let her call as she wishes. Does it matter?” There would be more trouble if he did not allow Qiu Chenxi to make this phone call.

“What if auntie complains to grandpa and grandma? What should we do?” Auntie was, after all, their daughter. Qiu Chenxi was their biological maternal granddaughter.

Shi Peng laughed. “Even Zhu Chengqi was able to subdue Elder Zhu. How much do you think your grandpa and grandma can interfere in my matters?”

“Dad, you’re so smart.” Her grandfather and grandmother always felt that they had let auntie suffer when they gave her to her grandfather’s former comrade for adoption, and Auntie was unhappy over this. Hence, they insisted that her father should take better care of her auntie. Why should he?

One must know that the one her grandparents wanted to give up for adoption was clearly her father. It was the former comrade who declined and requested for her auntie instead.

Furthermore, her auntie had grown up in the Shi family. She had not been shortchanged in everything that she used or wore. When did she ever suffer?!

When he felt that Qiu Chenxi had almost finished the phone call, Shi Peng then brought Shi Qing back.

At the sight of their return, Qiu Chenxi simply passed the phone which she had not hung up yet to Shi Peng. “Uncle, Mom wants to speak to you.”

“Hello.” Shi Peng took over the phone. “Yes, that’s the situation. I can’t. Why? Regiment Commander Zhai suggested it, and both Chief Zhai and the political commissar agreed. I’m the only one left and my influence is weak. I can’t turn the tides. You don’t need to continue further. It’s no use... Fine, you can call Dad and Mom. I’m not stopping you. However, let me tell you that calling Mom and Dad is not as useful as simply calling Zhai Yaohui... Fine, you do that. It’s up to you.”

True enough, just after Shi Peng hung up the phone call with Qi Minlan, he received a call from Elder Shi. “Hello, Dad. You know my position in the army. My rank is not higher than Zhai Yaohui. My power can’t be comparable with the political commissar. How about I stay away from the army from now on? I’ll use my position in exchange to let Qiu Chenxi remain in the army. I’m not saying this out of anger. This is the actual situation now... Anyway, my health is not too good. As of now, my illnesses have not fully recovered. After I retire from the army, I can get some rest. It’s all good. Right, we don’t have a solution that can give us the best of both worlds. It’s not that we can only have one person remaining. It’s a unanimous opinion. It’s not suitable to let Qiu Chenxi stay in the army. Fine. If you agree, I’ll prepare a report and leave the army. Okay, the outcome will probably be known in a few days after I submit the report. Even after I retire, I can’t guarantee if Qiu Chenxi can continue to stay in the army. Fine, let’s do this.”

“Dad?” Shi Qing was instantly dumbfounded. Was it not Qiu Chenxi who was leaving the army? Why did it become her dad?

#### Chapter 528: Believe in Qiao Nan’ Brainpower

Qiu Chenxi was also stupefied, let alone Shi Qing.

She was counting on Shi Peng to remain in the army and even receive special treatment due to that.

If Shi Peng left, who could she rely on if she stayed in the army?

“Uncle, are you serious about it? Or are you just threatening me?”

“Who do you think you are to be worthy of my dad’s threats?” Shi Qing wanted very much to kick Qiu Chenxi out of the place. She knew very well that her father loved being a soldier very much. Her father was already in such a poor state of health. Unless he needed to be hospitalized, he would insist to remain in the army.

Today, her father had been forced to express that he would like to submit his resignation letter. Her auntie, Qiu Chenxi, as well as her grandparents had really gone overboard.

Her auntie and Qiu Chenxi were respectively her grandparents’ daughter and maternal granddaughter. Nevertheless, her father and she were also respectively their son and maternal granddaughter.

“Dad, don’t say things in a fit of anger due to other people’s matters. It’s not worth it.” Shi Qing was extremely anxious.

Shi Peng patted Shi Qing’s arms. “Didn’t you come to the army to look for Qiao Nan and exchange views with her? I’ve already told you where she’s staying at. Go and look for her yourself. Dad’s matter will eventually be settled properly. When was dad ever impulsive? I’ve thought very deeply and carefully about this before I made the decision. My health can’t make it anymore. It’s time to retire and give up my position to the younger ones. I can also take a good rest. Dad is tired too.”

The exhaustion in Shi Peng’s tone was something that Shi Qing could not understand or comprehend.

“You! You’re the jinx!” Unable to persuade Shi Peng, Shi Qing scolded Qiu Chenxi and left immediately thereafter.

Other people could bear to make things difficult for Shi Peng, but not Shi Qing, as the latter was very close with Shi Peng since she was a child. She could not bear to let her father feel any unhappiness at all.

Despite being scolded by Shi Qing, Qiu Chenxi failed to come to her senses. “Uncle, you’re joking with grandpa, right?”

It was fine if he did not want to help, but it was needless for him to say such things. Who was he trying to threaten?

Although she had not heard the entire phone conversation, she could tell that her grandfather was on her side. He even asked her uncle to leave the army.

She did not believe that her uncle would truly leave the army, that he would rather forgo a bright future than to help her and let her stay in the army. “Uncle, you’re busy. I won’t disturb you anymore. I still have a class tonight.”

She would wait and see if she or her uncle would be the first one to leave the army.

Did he think that she was a three-year-old child? Uncle was underestimating her!

Looking at the ignorant and flamboyant Qiu Chenxi, Shi Peng could not help shaking his head. He then took out a piece of blank, white paper and quietly wrote his resignation letter.

He did not have the habit of joking or threatening others.

He had considered for a very long time about leaving the army that he was so passionate about. It was just that today's matter was a catalyst in helping him make up his mind.

"Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan!" Arriving at the door of Qiao Nan's dormitory, that bright and loud voice of Shi Qing sounded as if she was seeking revenge. This alerted the female counselor and she was immediately on her guard.

"You are... you are Officer Shi's daughter. You're looking for Comrade Xiao Qiao? Is there any matter?" Could this be another Qiu Chenxi who was looking for Comrade Xiao Qiao to stir up trouble?

Qiao Nan took the initiative to open the door. "Why are you here? You came to look for your dad?"

"If I tell you that I'm here to look for you, will you believe me?"

"No." No one would come and look for her rival-in-love. Of course, they would look for the one that they liked. "Brother Zhai is not here." It was not a guarantee that they would find something each time they visited her. This was the army camp. Could she and Brother Zhai be as arrogant and out of control as they were in Ping Cheng?

"You're really... I'm telling the truth but you don't believe me." Shi Qing was angered. She sounded anxious when she spoke.

Qiao Nan stopped smiling. "I'm just joking with you. What happened to you? Quickly come in. I'll get some water for you."

"Comrade Xiao Qiao, do you know each other?" Sensing that the atmosphere between the two was much better than when Qiu Chenxi was around, the female counselor heaved a sigh of relief.

“She’s my classmate. She’s quite a good person. We’re also on quite okay terms.”

“Alright, then. I’ll leave first as I have something on.”

“Oh, take your time.”

After sending off the female counselor, Qiao Nan pushed a cup of warm water to Shi Qing and also wrung a towel for her. “Wipe away your sweat. Drink some water and tell me what happened.”

Shi Qing took the towel and wiped her face twice in a slipshod manner. She then gulped down the whole cup of water. “Qiao Nan, I really came to look for you initially. But now I’m in trouble. You have to help me. You have to love your classmate and comrade.”

“It’s so urgent? What happened?” Qiao Nan was shocked. She was used to seeing a confident-looking Shi Qing. This was really the first time she saw such a restless and anxious Shi Qing. “Something that can make you ask me for suggestions must be a very critical matter.”

“My dad is leaving the army.”

“...” Qiao Nan was stunned for a while. “Are you saying that he’s literally resigning from the army?”

“Yes!”

“Why?” Officer Shi had quite a good reputation in the army.

“Why? What can it be? Isn’t it all because of that jinx, Qiu Chenxi! She doesn’t know what wrong she committed such that she can’t stay in the army anymore, and she insisted on my dad helping her. She even alerted my grandparents. My dad was not willing to. I don’t know what my grandpa told my dad. In the end, my dad simply said that he’s going to leave the army and grandpa did not stop him. What is happening?!”

“You’re going to cry?” At the sight of Shi Qing’s eyes turning red, Qiao Nan wrung the towel in her hand and passed it to Shi Qing.

The first time she saw Shi Qing behaving in this way was when Shi Qing talked about the matter between Brother Zhai and her. Today was the second time.

“Qiao Nan, you don’t know. My dad loves the army so much. He has given all of his life to the army. Each time, my dad would only leave the camp because he was in really poor health and had to receive better treatment elsewhere. This time, my dad wanted to leave because of such a small matter regarding Qiu Chenxi. I’m... I’m worried.” Shi Qing sniffed and sounded like she was about to cry.

“Okay...” Qiao Nan frowned. “Regarding this matter, I’ve not heard about it from the beginning until the end. I only gathered the rough situation. You said that your dad is very passionate about everything in the army. When he said that he’s leaving, on the contrary, I feel that he’s not doing it out of impulse. Don’t you think so?”

“Why can’t it possibly be out of impulse?” Shi Qing did not believe her.

“Your dad would rather be taken to the hospital than to leave the army. Think again about your dad’s expression and reaction when he said that he is going to leave.”

“I...” Shi Qing was trying to recall. “My dad... It’s true that he seemed quite calm.” Someone who was acting on impulsive could not possibly be so calm. Moreover, she had never really seen her father making any decision on impulse before.

“When I say this, it may sound like I’m being assumptive without standing in your father’s shoes. Don’t take it to heart.” After some considerations, Qiao Nan still decided to be honest. “Your dad is not a three-year-old child. He is giving up his passion or even everything that he loves with his life. He must have his reasons. As a daughter, maybe you should support him?”

Chapter 529: Putting Yourself in Others’ Shoes

Shi Qing did not say a word.

Qiao Nan felt awkward and she simply sighed. “I’ve said that I don’t know the causes and consequences of the entire matter. Hence, I can’t confirm if your dad’s decision was a sudden one or due to a long-time consideration. Your dad and you belong to the same family. If you have any



doubts and want to persuade your dad, just speak to him directly. You're one family. As long as you communicate properly, there are always ways to resolve the matter and reach a consensus."

In the army, the rank and status of Officer Shi were only slightly below that of Uncle Zhai. Officer Shi was a man of talent. It could be said that he had also reached the peak of his career very quickly.

If Officer Shi were to give up everything that he had in the army, this was certainly easier said than done. It was thus understandable that Shi Qing would feel unhappy.

"Qiao Nan, you don't need to explain anymore. My mood is certainly not quite good and I am thus easily influenced. Don't take my reactions to heart. I'm going to look for my dad now." Right, if she had any doubts, she could ask her father directly.

"That's great." She was an outsider. Regardless of her opinions, if the outcome was good, all would be well. However, if the outcome was slightly less ideal than expected, she would be blamed by others. Hence, it was not easy to be a good guy.

Shi Qing came and left in a hurry.

Once Shi Qing left, Qiao Nan was focused on doing her summer homework.

The next time Qiao Nan saw Shi Qing was already lunchtime at the canteen.

At the sight of Shi Qing listlessly approaching, Qiao Nan took a deep breath. She quickly finished her food and intended to run away. Although she did not feel that she had done anything wrong, she felt that she had to escape.

It was only when Shi Qing headed straight toward her, seemingly with no second thoughts, that Qiao Nan could not help regretting not finishing her meal earlier. She had allowed Shi Qing to catch her on the spot.

"You've finished your meal. Just nice. I have something to tell you." Shi Qing looked very listless. "I'd like to have a chat with you."

"Shi Qing, do you take me as a tree hole?" She was looking for her to have a chat and not to settle scores with her. That seemed alright.

“Tree hole? What do you mean? Do you look like a tree hole?” Shi Qing was puzzled.

“It is noontime. Do you want to eat something first before we chat? Anyway, there’s still time.” Upon thinking, Qiao Nan stood up. “I’ll wash my lunchbox. You can use it to get some food.”

Shi Qing slumped on the table, looking downhearted. “I don’t have any appetite. I don’t feel like eating.”

“Then, wait five minutes for me.” Qiao Nan shook her head. She still went ahead and washed her lunchbox. Thereafter, she went to get some rice and dishes. “Chef, sorry to trouble you. I would like to have some food for two people.”

“Comrade, you’re getting so much food. Can you finish them? It’s a shame to waste them,” the chef in the canteen reminded Qiao Nan.

“I’m getting them back for other people to eat. There are two of them.”

“Oh, that’s fine.” The chef was able to tell that Qiao Nan was not the type who would waste food. She was helping her comrades to take away some food. He thus gave more than enough shares for two people.

Holding the fully-filled lunchbox, Qiao Nan then walked to Shi Qing and gave her a kick. “Let’s go. Aren’t you going to chat with me?”

“Okay.”

In the end, the two of them returned to Qiao Nan’s dormitory again.

Upon arriving at Qiao Nan’s dormitory, tears welled up in Shi Qing’s eyes and her voice was hoarse. “Qiao Nan, my dad really submitted his resignation letter. I saw him wrote it in person.”

“You didn’t stop him?”

“Yes, I didn’t stop him.” Shi Qing was pulling a long face. “After I spoke to you, I went back and asked my dad a question. I asked him if he’s leaving the army because of Qiu Chenxi’s matter today, or if he has already intended to do so long ago.”

“What’s the outcome?”

“My dad said he has had this intention since a long time ago.” Since her father had said so, how could she convince him to do otherwise?

“Qiao Nan, I feel very sad, very, very sad. My heart feels like it’s pinned under a stone. You don’t know. When I saw my dad writing the resignation letter, his hands were shaking. His handwriting was extremely ugly.” When she described how ugly Shi Peng’s handwriting looked, Shi Qing’s sobbing sounded even more obvious. “Normally, my dad’s handwriting is very beautiful.”

Qiao Nan sat down and poured Shi Qing a cup of tea, pursing her lips. After thinking, she said, “Given your dad’s response, actually, you already know that he’s certain about his decision. Therefore, you didn’t object although his hands were shaking, right?”

“But why?” Her father definitely loved the army and could not bear to leave. When he wrote the resignation letter, she could seemingly hear the sound of blood trickling down from her father’s heart.

“Then, why were you willing to give up on Brother Zhai?”

“He likes you, and he’s not willing to bother about me. What could I do!”

“That’s right. You like Brother Zhai so much, but you’re willing to give him up. You’re sad, you’re suffering, but you still chose to let go of him because of your pride. It’s the same reason. Why do you think your dad did this?” It should not be about Brother Zhai. Shi Qing seemed very fierce.

Shi Qing was very anxious. “For me, it’s because Brother Zhai... Damn, why do you have to expose my scars!”

“Only then you’ll understand why your father did that. You don’t know the reason why your dad was willing to give up, but that doesn’t mean he didn’t have any reason. Every family has its hardships. I have my own problems and your dad does not seem worry-free too.” Qiao Nan sighed. “Shi Qing, do you want to be a filial daughter?”

“Of course!” Shi Qing replied with certainty. “But after wracking my brains, I don’t think it’s possible to make my dad change his mind.”

“Even if you want to be a filial daughter, you may not necessarily need to set such a difficult task for yourself. Think about it. You’re feeling so sad because of this matter. How is your dad feeling at this moment? You feel so bad that you have lost your appetite. Most likely, it’s the same for your dad. However, the difference is that you’re younger and in good health. It’s alright if you skip one or two meals. Nothing will happen. I remember that your dad has recently been discharged from hospital. Is it really good for him to skip one or two meals? Your grades are so good. You should be able to understand my point. After a person takes his meal, he will feel better, or if he takes more sugar, his mood will improve. Don’t just think about yourself. Aren’t you going to console your dad?”

Officer Shi’s condition was certainly not better than Shi Qing.

Shi Qing patted her silly head. “To think that I always feel that I’m quite smart but actually made such a mistake at this time. Regardless of whether the situation can be changed, my dad is certainly the one who is feeling the worst, the one who can’t bear to let it happen the most. My dad does have the habit of neglecting his meals and sleep due to work, so his health is not too good. He definitely can’t afford to go hungry. I... I’ll go and get some food for him now!”

“Forget it.” Qiao Nan held on to Shi Qing who was running out of the room. “You know the situation at the canteen. There may not be any food left at the canteen at this hour. Take this.” Qiao Nan passed the lunchbox that she had previously filled with food to Shi Qing. “After you’ve finished them, wash it properly and return it to me. I still have to rely on it in the evening.”

## Chapter 530: Great Praise

Holding the lunchbox in her hands, Shi Qing sniffed. “Qiao Nan, you, you’re really quite annoying.” Afterward, Shi Qing simply ran off.

Qiao Nan, who received a scolding, was wide-eyed and confused. “I don’t think Shi Qing was really scolding me, right? Don’t tell me she meant that I’m likable when she said that?”

After writing his letter, Shi Peng, who had maintained the same posture for some time since his daughter left, wiped the corners of his eyes with his hands when he heard the sound of his

daughter's running footsteps. He then cleared his throat. "You're back so soon. I thought you'd chat with Qiao Nan for a longer time."

Seeing that Shi Peng remained in the same posture since she left, Shi Qing took a breath and tried her best to sound happy. "Dad, your tummy is not good. It's already so late. Quickly have your meal."

"Have my meal?" Shi Peng was surprised at his daughter's words. "How rare. You're actually concerned about this?"

Although he did not have any appetite, Shi Peng would not decline as his daughter's good intentions were hard to come by. "Our young lady has grown up and is more meticulous now, unlike in the past when you were like a boy. Your mom blamed me every day for having led you astray by bringing you to the army since you're a child."

When Shi Peng opened his lunchbox, he smiled. "I've already said that the sun is rising from the west today. After encountering such a matter, you can still think of getting food for me. I think Qiao Nan got you the food, right?" At this hour, there would not be any food left in the canteen.

Shi Qing paused for a moment. "Why did you guess that I'd certainly not think of it and that it was Qiao Nan who got the food?" Qiao Nan's name was not written on the lunchbox, was it?

Shi Peng took out another lunchbox and transferred half of the food over. "Judging from your question alone, it was not wrong that you lost to Qiao Nan by half a point mark in the recent final examinations. You're my daughter. How can I not know how many intestines you have in your stomach? Look at the portion of the food."

"There's so much." Shi Qing frowned. Even if her father had a huge appetite, he could not take so much food. "Dad, this..."

"Do you understand now? This is meant for the two of us." After transferring the food, Shi Peng passed what was left to Shi Qing. "You're filial to me. It's not impossible that you're concerned about my health by getting food for me. I still have a little confidence in you regarding that. But that's about it. There's a limit to your rational thinking."

It was good enough that Qing Qing would think of getting him a meal. Nevertheless, she would definitely not include her portion of food too.

“Alright, your classmate meant well. It’s hard to come by. Hurry up. Come over and eat. Don’t forget the habit of a soldier. Do you still remember what I taught you since you were at a young age?”

“Every grain of rice on the plate is the hard work of the farmer. I still remember.” A three-year-old child also knew how to recite this.

When he saw his daughter sitting down to eat, Shi Peng, who was initially gloomy, suddenly felt a little better. “Qing Qing, actually, there are two reasons I allowed you to be transferred to the school here. First, I wish to see you more often. Second, I hope you will give up on Zhai Sheng totally. No matter who Zhai Sheng is with, he’s definitely not suitable for you. But, today, it looks like you’ve met a good classmate. It’s rare.”

Although she clearly knew that Qing Qing’s target was Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was still so friendly and sincere to Qing Qing. Qiao Nan was really quite good at heart.

It was no wonder Zhai Sheng did not like Qiu Chenxi but was so protective of Qiao Nan.

Zhai Sheng was much younger than them, but he had a great sense of judgment in character!

“She’s not that good. She’s just a little better than the average person.” Shi Qing refused to admit. “Moreover, I feel that it’s also because I’m a good person. That’s why she’s quite good to me. If it’s Qiu Chenxi, you’ll see if her temper can still be so good.”

So, her ‘goodness’ was the main reason for all these.

“Isn’t this the case in all human interactions? In a relationship, it should be reciprocal. Who will be foolish enough to be good to their enemies?” Shi Peng patted Shi Qing’s head. “Alright, don’t refuse to admit it and say something that’s unappreciative. You need to change this bad habit. Other people are not your parents. They will not always tolerate you. Understand?”

It was already quite good that Qiao Nan could do this.

“Don’t worry about me. About Qiao Nan and me, I know what I’m doing. Also, don’t look down on Qiao Nan. She sees with her heart and not her eyes.” His father was underestimating Qiao Nan. If

Qiao Nan could be frightened off by just a few nasty words of hers, she would not be Qiao Nan then.

“Haha...” Upon hearing his daughter’s words, Shi Peng’s mood turned much brighter.

Qing Qing’s trip to Ping Cheng this time was not completely without any gain.

He had been thinking of leaving the army for two years, so he would definitely leave. It was an unexpected bonus that Qing Qing found a good friend in Ping Cheng.

“Oh, you’re doing your summer homework?” At two o’clock in the afternoon, Shi Qing went looking for Qiao Nan with the latter’s lunchbox. “It’s early afternoon. Are you not taking a nap? After all, the air in the hills is much cooler than outside.”

“I’ve already napped for an hour.” Qiao Nan was so engrossed in her homework, diligently working on it. Ping Cheng High School really gave them a lot of homework.

Shi Qing put the lunchbox down and sat on the study table swiftly. She looked at Qiao Nan, feeling puzzled. “With your results, it shouldn’t matter even if you don’t do all this homework. Isn’t doing them a waste of your time? Why would you? I think the school won’t take issue with you even if you don’t do them.” It would greatly reduce Qiao Nan’s burden if she did not do all these.

“You don’t know.” Qiao Nan, who was writing furiously, paused for a moment. She then continued with the homework on hand.

In the previous life, after she quit school, she felt so envious whenever she saw people of the same age carrying a schoolbag and going to school.

She heard the aunties in her factory lamenting how much homework their daughters had when attending senior high school. When the school holidays finally arrived, it was tough on them as they had to spend all of their time doing homework at home during the weekends. Qiao Nan was filled with jealousy when she heard that.

The homework students detested most while schooling was, in fact, the happiness that she wished for but could never attain.

As such, after she was reborn to this lifetime, Qiao Nan had never disregarded her homework despite her good grades. In the eyes of other classmates, she was just going through the motion. Nevertheless, to Qiao Nan, each piece of homework enabled her to practice her speed.

She could practice the speed of attempting and completing questions, the speed of reading, the speed of everything.

Shi Qing could not understand why Qiao Nan was so determined to do well in her studies. “Judging from your voice, it seems like you’re feeling better now?”

“Can we not talk about this?” She was fine just now, but now that Qiao Nan brought it up, she felt a little depressed again. Regarding this matter, it was not possible for anything to make her feel happy for the time being.

“Okay, I’ll not mention it then.”

“...” She gave up so quickly. Shi Qing had harbored hopes of chatting more with Qiao Nan about the matter so that Qiao Nan could console her more. “Qiao Nan, you don’t have any empathy. Is the summer homework more important than your classmate?”

“Yes, you’re not as important as it is.”

“Cold-blooded.”