

## RTAMM 571

### Chapter 571: Qiao Nan Was Anxious

“Anyway, it’s your arm that’s injured. It’ll be fine if you pick a side to lie down on and turn your arm toward me. If you feel tired, just sleep. I’ll clean up your wound and apply medication before bandaging it. Perhaps the pain will lessen after you fall asleep.” The little nurse blushed. After all, it was quite awkward for a woman to talk to a man about topics such as lying on the bed.

“No need. Just bandage it. I’ll sleep after you’re done.” Zhai Sheng did not agree. Besides Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng did not even like his own family members to be physically too close to him. Moreover, it was a situation where he would be sleeping and unguarded with a stranger beside him.

“In that case, okay.” The young nurse nodded. She took scissors to cut away the fabric on Zhai Sheng’s arms.

Zhai Sheng’s arms had been injured for some time. His bloody wound was now plastered to his clothes and it was a little difficult to manage.

The young nurse was thus gentle and slow when she attended to Zhai Sheng as she was afraid of inflicting pain on him.

At the sight of this, Zhai Sheng turned impatient. After nudging the young nurse aside, he tore away the fabric above the sleeve to detach it from the rest of the clothing using his uninjured hand. He then took over the scissors from the young nurse and cut open the sleeve that he had torn off. Thereafter, only the piece of clothing on the wound was left.

“Hot towel.”

“Okay.” The young nurse was dumbfounded. Regiment Commander Zhai’s arms had bled so much and he still wanted to treat his own wound. Wouldn’t that be painful?

After taking over the hot towel, Zhai Sheng did not even squint as he placed the hot towel on his wound. The heat made the blood clot start to dissolve and he started bleeding again. Those half-dried blood stains previously immediately liquefy.

Without a word, Zhai Sheng gently tore the remaining clothing, which came off easily, and a menacing wound surfaced. “Alright, quickly clean the wound and apply medication.”

“Okay.” The young nurse’s face turned pale slightly. This menacing wound was not caused by a gun or a knife. A knife wound was big and flat, unlike the one on Zhai Sheng’s arm. It seemed to have been caused by an enormous saw.

For a moment, the young nurse’s hands trembled. She accidentally tore off a small piece of Zhai Sheng’s flesh.

Zhai Sheng frowned but did not utter a word.

The young nurse was so nervous that she was sweating profusely. After much difficulty, she finally treated and bandaged Zhai Sheng’s wound. “Regiment Commander Zhai, these are the anti-inflammatory medicine. If you have a fever later, remember to take it. If you feel unwell, quickly get the comrades to inform us. You just have to rest well.”

“Will do. I know. You may leave.” This was not the first time Zhai Sheng was wounded. He was familiar with its subsequent risks.

After the nurse left and closed the door, Zhai Sheng did not even bathe or change his clothes. He simply lay on his back and slept like a log.

When he woke up, it was already the evening of the next day.

Qiao Nan was not aware of Zhai Sheng’s injury at all. Nevertheless, she found out after she saw someone.

“Who is that?” Just as Qiao Nan hung up the phone call with Zhai Sheng, she walked outside. When she stepped out of the door, the sound of knocking on the door stopped.

Qiao Nan nearly thought that someone had knocked on the wrong door. As she was prepared to return to the house, Shi Qing suddenly appeared out of nowhere in front of her. “It’s you. How did you come in... Did you climb the wall?!”

“Otherwise?” Shi Qing replied as a matter of fact. “Hurry, I’ll send you to the camp.”

“I just came back yesterday. Why do I have to go back again? I’ve not heard my master mentioning about this.”

“It has got nothing to do with Elder Lin. Brother Zhai has returned from his mission. I heard that he was injured. You’re his girlfriend. Of course, you have to be by his side to take care of him!” Shi Qing grabbed Qiao Nan’s hands “My dad was the one who told me about this. It can’t be a mistake. Moreover, if you don’t go, most likely, Qiu Chenxi could not wait to put on wings and fly over to Brother Zhai’s side. Don’t let her snatch the role of the good guy first.”

“Brother Zhai is injured? Impossible. Brother Zhai didn’t tell me!” Qiao Nan widened her eyes. “You’re certain that Brother Zhai is injured?” During the earlier phone call, she heard the fatigue in Brother Zhai’s voice but did not feel anything odd.

“Didn’t tell you? You have been in contact with Brother Zhai?” At this juncture, Shi Qing felt so jealous.

She was worried that Qiao Nan did not know about Brother Zhai’s situation and came to inform her personally. So, Brother Zhai contacted Qiao Nan once he returned to the army. Why couldn’t she tell in the past that Brother Zhai was such an affectionate and caring man toward his girlfriend?

It was a pity. No matter how good this man was, he did not belong to her.

“Yes, if you didn’t come knocking on my door, I would still be on the call with Brother Zhai. I know that he’s back, but he didn’t tell me that he’s injured.” Qiao Nan’s face was as white as paper. “Shi Qing, don’t frighten me. Is Brother Zhai really injured? Is the injury serious?”

Brother Zhai was injured. Why did he call her instead of going to the hospital!?

Shi Qing sulked unhappily. “Initially, I heard from my dad that he’s injured and bled quite a lot. But now, I can be very sure that Brother’s Zhai’s injury is not serious. Tell me, would a seriously injured person who is dying still able to call you? It’s not as if he’s conveying his will. You didn’t feel anything amiss. Most likely, it seemed scary because Brother Zhai bled a lot but there shouldn’t be too much of an issue. You should not worry.”

“Shi Qing, are you purposely saying this to frighten me?” Qiao Nan was so angry that she hit Shi Qing. “Can we be serious?”

“Didn’t you say that you have a phone at home? If you’re really worried, lend me the phone in your house. I’ll ask my dad. Brother Zhai has just returned for a while. My dad must have only heard a part of the situation. At this juncture, he should have found more details. Won’t it do if we ask him?”

“Fine, hurry!” Qiao Nan pulled Shi Qing anxiously into the house. She then pushed the phone to Shi Qing and watched Shi Qing as the latter made the phone call.

Shi Qing lifted her chin. “I’m thirsty.”

“I’ll get you some water!”

“I’m tired.”

Qiao Nan, who had gotten the water, immediately massaged Shi Qing’s shoulders in an understanding manner. “No issue. You make the call.”

“Hello, Dad. It’s me, Qing Qing. This phone belongs to Qiao Nan’s house. If you have anything to convey in the future, you can also call this number. Don’t refuse to pick it up because it’s not familiar... Right, how’s Brother Zhai? Oh, okay. I know. Don’t worry. I’ll let Qiao Nan know. Fine, that’s it then. I’m hanging up.”

Within five minutes, Shi Qing finished making the phone call.

Qiao Nan held the cup of water in front of Shi Qing. “How’s Brother Zhai?”

“His arm was injured by an animal trap. Fortunately, it did not hurt his aorta and the wound is not very big either. As long as the wound is cleaned and applied with medication, and he takes care to rest and replenish his blood, there shouldn’t be any major concern.”

“Animal trap?” Qiao Nan was extremely surprised. She felt that such things were very foreign to her. “There’s a need for a few stitches?” The wound was definitely not that small either.

## Chapter 572: Dashed to the Army

“There should be about a few stitches. Anyway, my dad told me that it’s not serious and there’s no danger to his life. There’s also anti-inflammatory medicine in the army”.

“How can it be not serious? The animal trap should be made of metal, right? Does the army have any tetanus jab?!” Qiao Nan was extremely anxious. Fortunately, Zhai Sheng’s life was not in danger. In addition, he did not display anything obvious or strange during his call with Qiao Nan. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would have hurled Shi Qing straight to the camp. She would only feel at ease when she saw with her own eyes that Zhai Sheng was well.

“Yes, they should have them. Given Brother Zhai’s contribution and identity, you can be assured that the doctor in the army will pay more attention to Brother Zhai’s wound than you. They will definitely not let anything happen to Brother Zhai. If my dad tells me that he’s fine, he’s definitely fine. Will my dad lie to me?” Shi Qing patted Qiao Nan as she consoled her. “Alright, don’t frighten yourself. If you’re still worried, how about I send you to the army camp?”

“Alright!” Qiao Nan was prepared to walk the talk immediately. She left a slip of note at home to inform Qiao Dongliang that she would be away for a short time and would be back home by today. She then dragged Shi Qing into the car.

“You’re really going?” Shi Qing blinked her eyes.

“Do you think I’m joking with you? Right, go to the market first.”

“You still want to go marketing?”

“To buy a chicken and bring it along.” Qiao Nan did not elaborate further. She said firmly that she would go to the market. She then bought a chicken that had just been slaughtered.

As Lin Yuankang, this elderly man, was not present this time, the chauffeur drove the car at a faster speed. They arrived at the army camp about an hour earlier than before.

Qiao Nan had just left the army yesterday. Hence, everyone could still recognize this Teacher Xiao Qiao. Furthermore, she came in Shi Qing's car. As such, she managed to enter the camp without much effort.

"I'll go to the canteen first." Qiao Nan carried the chicken and ran to the canteen at her fastest speed. She spent some money and requested the chef in the canteen to specially prepare some shredded chicken porridge.

Zhai Sheng was the regiment commander of the army. When Zhai Yaohui was not around, Zhai Sheng was the next person with the highest authority. Zhai Sheng was now injured. Of course, the people in the army would think of ways to help him nourish his body.

As such, the chef in the canteen immediately declined Qiao Nan's money. After picking up the way of cooking the porridge from Qiao Nan, he expressed that he would definitely complete the mission.

"I was wondering why you had to go to the market and bought food for your home before you came to see Brother Zhai. It turns out you bought it for Brother Zhai." Shi Qing had been standing at the entrance and waiting for Qiao Nan to come out.

"Yes," Qiao Nan replied. "Brother Zhai is injured and his body needs to be nourished. He quite likes the shredded chicken porridge that I cooked but it'll take a long time to cook. It's also inconvenient to travel from Ping Cheng to the camp. Therefore, I could only rely on others to cook it and teach them the method."

Qiao Nan was so meticulous and thorough. Shi Qing was really happy for Zhai Sheng. It was only right that a good man should be matched with a good woman, and a good woman should have a good man to protect her. "However, I heard that chicken is quite oily. Is it good to let Brother Zhai take something so oily now?"

"No issue. I've already asked the chef to do a bit more by removing the skin of the chicken. It won't be so oily after the skin is removed." When Qiao Dongliang had an accident previously, Qiao Nan was the one who took care of him. She had more experience than anyone else in this area.

"Alright, hurry up. Go and see Brother Zhai." Shi Qing scratched her forehead with her fingers. So, if the chicken was too oily, removing the skin would solve the problem?

"Wait for a while." Just as they were arriving at Zhai Sheng's dormitory, Shi Qing grabbed Qiao Nan and stopped her. "You wait here for a while first. I'll go and take a look."

“That’s good too.” Qiao Nan nodded. She then stood at the same place and waited for Shi Qing.

After a while, Qiao Nan saw Qiu Chenxi being dragged away by Shi Qing. Qiu Chenxi was pulling a black face.

Obviously, Qiu Chenxi did not want to leave at all, but with her strong physical strength, Shi Qing overwhelmed all of Qiu Chenxi’s resistance. Qiu Chenxi was hurled away by Shi Qing.

Qiao Nan heaved a sigh of relief. After she was certain that Qiu Chenxi had been pulled further away by Shi Qing, she then dared to go and see Zhai Sheng.

However, when Qiao Nan approached the door of Zhai Sheng’s bedroom, she felt awkward.

It was not because of any other matter. It was because there was a soldier dressed in army uniform standing guard at the entrance of Zhai Sheng’s bedroom. That soldier was like a poplar, standing there in such a straight and upright manner. He was carrying out his duty in a serious manner.

Given such a situation, Qiao Nan could guess easily that before Qiu Chenxi was dragged away by Shi Qing, most likely, this soldier had stood in her way at the entrance. She eventually did not enter the room to see Brother Zhai.

Just as Qiao Nan was wracking her brains about what to do, that soldier turned and saw Qiao Nan. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, you’re here?”

“Hello, good day.” Qiao Nan smiled, looking a little embarrassed. She was a little different from the normal school teachers. School teachers would know the names of at least a few of the students. However, she did not. During the past month of her teaching, she really did not remember any of the students’ names.

After all, she did not usually nominate people in the class. She also did not give them any homework. Everyone only met one another during the classes. There were negligible opportunities to meet outside of the classes.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, please come in.” Qiao Nan was so embarrassed that she did not know what to say. The soldier was quite amiable as he opened the door on his own accord and invited Qiao Nan in.

Qiao Nan was taken aback for a while. “You just opened the door of Regiment Commander Zhai’s bedroom. Is that okay?” The purpose of having someone guarding here was not to let others disturb Brother Zhai while he was resting.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, you’re different. Other people cannot go in but you can.”

“No, this won’t do. What if other people see this and say that you’re neglecting your duty? What to do then?” She wished to see Brother Zhai, but she was not willing to implicate others negatively.

The soldier laughed. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, don’t worry. This won’t happen. I’ve long received instructions that Teacher Xiao Qiao can go in and see the regiment commander if you’re here.”

He had found it strange previously. Clearly, Regiment Commander Zhai was injured and needed to rest quietly for some time. Why was it that other people could not visit Regiment Commander Zhai casually while Teacher Xiao Qiao could? Furthermore, Teacher Xiao Qiao had already left the camp previously. Why would she be back so soon? He did not expect that Teacher Xiao Qiao really came back.

It seemed that the relationship between Teacher Xiao Qiao and Regiment Commander Zhai was not ordinary.

“Instruction?” Qiao Nan was feeling more sullen. Could Officer Shi have lent her a hand? “Thank you, then.”

Since it was not flouting the rules, of course, Qiao Nan would not decline further. She quickened her steps and entered the room swiftly.

At this moment, the room was dark. All the curtains of the windows had been drawn and there was only a little ray of light. Obviously, this was deliberately done for Zhai Sheng to rest quietly.

When she entered the room, a very strong antiseptic smell came to Qiao Nan’s nose. Despite the cover of the antiseptic lotion, that vague smell of blood still did not escape her nose.



Qiao Nan took a deep breath. After she adjusted her eyes to the darkness of the room, she found her way to Zhai Sheng's bedside.

Qiao Nan could not see the face of the person who was lying on the bed clearly, but she recognized immediately from his figure that he was Zhai Sheng.

### Chapter 573: Sponge Bath

As she reached out her hands and touched Zhai Sheng's face, she discovered that Zhai Sheng's face felt very hot. It was not just the face. His hands, especially the wound and its surrounding areas, also felt extremely hot.

Qiao Nan took in a breath of cold air and quickly drew open the curtains slightly. She looked beside Zhai Sheng's bed and saw a cup of water and a pill. Obviously, these were meant for Zhai Sheng's consumption but had not been done so as Zhai Sheng had been unconscious and sleeping.

The thing that Qiao Nan felt most heart-wrenching about was that Zhai Sheng was perspiring so much that his hair was drenched. Strands of his shiny and straight hair were visibly obvious. There was a layer of sweat on his tanned skin, reflecting a different sheen of light. His brows, which were as sharp as a sword, were knitted gently. The once good-looking thin lips had a layer of white skin on it. There were also lines of crack on it.

Qiao Nan was so frightened that she kept trembling. Shi Qing told her that Brother Zhai's injury was not serious. How was it not so? It was clearly very serious!

Brother Zhai was so seriously injured and he did not have anyone by his side to take care of him. What did the army mean by this? What was happening? Could it be that even the political commissar did not bother about this matter?!

Qiao Nan, whose face immediately turned crimson due to anger, took a cotton bud and soaked it in water. She then tirelessly used it to wipe Zhai Sheng's cracked lips softly again and again. She stopped only when the water had completely moistened Zhai Sheng's lips, and the previous layer of white skin had disappeared.

When she saw Zhai Sheng unknowingly open his mouth and extend his tongue, she knew that he was obviously feeling thirsty. Qiao Nan dared not feed him water immediately. She took the anti-inflammatory medicine pill on the stool beside his bed, removed the shell, dissolved the medicine power into the cup of water, and stirred the mixture.

“Brother Zhai, I know you’re thirsty. Let’s take the medicine first. I’ll then feed you water.” Although she clearly knew that Zhai Sheng would not be able to hear her, Qiao Nan stubbornly spoke to him by his ears. She then took the spoon and fed the anti-inflammatory solution into Zhai Sheng’s mouth in little mouthfuls.

The anti-inflammatory medicine tasted very bitter, especially if taken in this manner.

However, Qiao Nan did not have any other alternative. If she did not make Zhai Sheng take his medicine in this way, given Zhai Sheng’s current condition, he could not swallow the pill at all.

Hence, Qiao Nan deliberately did not satisfy Zhai Sheng’s thirst. This was the only way for Zhai Sheng to accept the extremely bitter medicine without any hesitation.

Gradually, after Qiao Nan finished feeding half a cup of water to Zhai Sheng, she then took another half a cup of water and patiently fed Zhai Sheng spoon by spoon again.

“Comrade, can I seek your help to bring in a basin of water?” After resolving Zhai Sheng’s physical needs, Qiao Nan requested the soldier outside for water.

The soldier hesitated for a while. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, please lock the door properly after I leave. Unless I come back, please don’t open the door to anyone, especially women.” He had been on duty for half a day and could not even remember the number of women who had come to visit Regiment Commander Zhai.

From female doctors to young nurses working by the female doctor’s side, and even those female military performer soldiers came to join the ‘fun’. He had been so tied up.

“Okay, rest assured. Unless you’re back, I’ll definitely not open the door for anyone.” Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry. So this was the reason why there was someone on duty at the door of Brother Zhai’s room.

After receiving Qiao Nan's assurance, the soldier closed the door before he went to get water for Qiao Nan.

Fortunately, when Qiao Nan was looking after Zhai Sheng, it was quite quiet outside the door. No one else came to knock on it. Even Qiu Chenxi, who was dragged away by Shi Qing earlier, did not appear.

"Thank you." Seeing the soldier carrying a big basin of water, Qiao Nan gave him a smile full of gratitude.

"Don't mention it. Teacher Xiao Qiao taught us so much English. We should be the one thanking you. Teacher Xiao Qiao, what else do you need? Just let me know." The soldier was honest. "This basin of water is quite heavy. Shall I help you bring it to the room?"

"That's good too." Qiao Nan nodded and gave way to him.

After the soldier entered the room, he looked around suspiciously. He found Zhai Sheng lying well on his bed with no signs of discomfort. The cup on the table was now empty, and so was the medicine container. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, did Regiment Commander Zhai take the medicine himself or did you feed him?"

At the time when he assumed his duty, Regiment Commander Zhai had not taken his medicine.

"I dissolved the medicine powder into water and fed him with a spoon. Regiment Commander Zhai is a little feverish. I think the wound is inflamed."

"Really? Should we get the army doctor?" The soldier was a little nervous. He did not know about this situation at all.

The supervisors gave orders and specified that he only had to guard the door abidingly and not let anyone except Teacher Xiao Qiao enter the dormitory of Regiment Commander Zhai. He did not need to do anything else. However, he did not know that Regiment Commander Zhai's condition was not as light as he thought to be.

Qiao Nan's face was filled with awkwardness. "I'm not sure as well. Why don't you go and get a doctor for Brother..., I mean, Regiment Commander Zhai to take a look at him? I'll guard the place.

Or, you guard while I'll go and get the doctor?" Besides feeding Zhai Sheng medicine, she did not know how to do anything else too.

"Why don't we do this? Teacher Xiao Qiao, you look after Regiment Commander Zhai and I'll check with the political commissar?" The soldier looked at Zhai Sheng's condition and picked a solution in the middle.

Although Zhai Sheng was a little feverish, on the surface, the soldier also could not tell if there were major concerns.

"That's fine too." Qiao Nan was extremely anxious. The soldier appeared at the right time as she could have someone to discuss this with. "Then, quickly go. Don't delay. I'll be looking after Regiment Commander Zhai here. There certainly won't be a problem."

"Fine. Teacher Xiao Qiao, wait here. I'll be back soon!" Without a word, the soldier ran to the office of the political commissar and told the political commissar everything.

After the political commissar heard of it, he put down the pen in his hand calmly. "Do you still remember my previous order?"

"Yes, I do. I just need to guard the door of Regiment Commander Zhai's room and not let anyone else, besides Teacher Xiao Qiao, enter."

"That's right. I don't have any new instructions. You can go back."

The soldier stared straight at the political commissar, totally confused.

"What's wrong? You don't understand? Should I repeat myself?"

"Reporting, Political Commissar, I understand." The soldier saluted and returned to the place of duty with his head full of sweat. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, the political commissar said... said that Regiment Commander Zhai's condition is not serious. It'll be fine if we just let him rest. We need not get the army doctor."

"Are you certain?" Qiao Nan's sullen voice could be heard.

“Yes, I am!”

“Sigh...” Qiao Nan gave a sigh again. Why did she have the feeling that the situation this time was so odd and ridiculous?

Previously, as she was not sure if anyone would be coming, Qiao Nan had to hold back her original plan. Now that she knew that it was impossible for anyone to come, Qiao Nan simply took the towel in Zhai Sheng’s room, soaked it in water, and wrung it dry. She then wiped Zhai Sheng’s face and hands.

#### Chapter 574: Just Missed Again

When she saw that Zhai Sheng’s hair was so drenched that droplets of sweat nearly dripped from it, Qiao Nan wrung the towel again. She used one hand to gently wipe Zhai Sheng’s neck while carefully avoiding the wound and the areas surrounding it. With the other hand, she swiftly rubbed Zhai Sheng’s head a few times in a circular motion.

After she cleaned Zhai Sheng’s face, head, and hands, Qiao Nan gritted her teeth and removed Zhai Sheng’s shirt that was missing a piece of sleeve. The shirt was already wet and plastered to the body.

Having lived two lifetimes, this was the first time that Qiao Nan was undressing a man.

When she was undressing Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan’s fingers were stiff. She distractedly took five minutes to unbutton one button.

If not for fear that the soldier outside would misunderstand, Qiao Nan almost wanted to let the soldier in to help undress Zhai Sheng and wipe his body.

Yes, why hadn’t she thought of that earlier?

“Comrade, can you come in for a while?”

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, what is it?” The honest soldier opened the door.

“It’s like this... Regiment Commander Zhai is sweating all over and certainly won’t feel comfortable. I’ve wiped his face and hands. As for the rest of his body, it’s not convenient for me to wipe them. Can I seek your help to do so? Please help Regiment Commander Zhai change his clothes as well. His clothes look quite dirty. They should be the ones that Regiment Commander Zhai wore when he was out for the mission. The weather is so hot and the regiment commander also sweated a lot. If the clothes are dirty, they definitely won’t do the wound any good.”

“I see. Sure.” The soldier first closed the door to ensure that no one could come in. He then moved forward to undress Zhai Sheng.

When he saw that the first button of Zhai Sheng’s shirt was unbuttoned, he was stunned. But he continued to undress him without uttering a word.

The soldier also felt so warm that he perspired badly when he was undressing Zhai Sheng.

“Comrade, towel. Do you want to wipe yourself first?” The droplets of sweat on the soldier’s brow were as big as beans. They looked as if they would be falling on Brother Zhai’s body soon.

“Hahaha.” Embarrassed, the soldier smiled and wiped away the sweat on his face. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, so you wanted the water to help Regiment Commander Zhai sponge his body. Women are still more meticulous. Teacher Xiao Qiao, how do you know so much?”

Qiao Nan wrung the towel again and passed it to the soldier. Without a word, the soldier wiped Zhai Sheng’s body as if the body was an ironing board. Qiao Nan’s heart ached at the sight of this. “Uh, I know some things but not a lot. Previously, my dad had an accident and was hospitalized for some time. Therefore, I have some experience.”

When the soldier finished wiping the upper body of Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan blushed for a moment. “Why don’t I go outside and wait?”

The soldier, who was already removing Zhai Sheng’s belt, then had a moment of realization. “Fine, Teacher Xiao Qiao, you should wait outside the door. When it’s done... I’ll let you know when it’s done.”

Qiao Nan leaned on the door and quietly counted the time.

After about five minutes, the soldier then called out to Qiao Nan.

When Qiao Nan entered the room, Zhai Sheng's muscular and lanky body on the bed looked as if it was waiting to be slaughtered.

Zhai Sheng only had on a pair of boxer shorts that was quite long.

Compared to the dry and comfortable upper body, Zhai Sheng's lower body did not seem as comfortable. Most likely, the soldier did not wring the towel dry enough. There was so much water that Qiao Nan could see the obvious water droplets on the straw mat.

As for the boxer shorts worn on Zhai Sheng, a few round parts of the body were darker and very noticeable due to the wetness.

Qiao Nan held her forehead. True enough, it was not a good strategy to leave Brother Zhai in other people's care. "Comrade, there's no water left here. Regiment Commander Zhai still seems thirsty. Why don't you get another pot of water here?"

"Sure!" Compared to sponging someone, the soldier preferred this kind of manual work.

As soon as the soldier left, Qiao Nan, without a word and with a reddened face, wrung the towel and carefully and conscientiously wiped Zhai Sheng's thighs and calves, parts that surrounded the boxer shorts, again.

As for that part of the body above the thighs and below the waist, Qiao Nan really did not have the courage and thick skin to wipe it.

Qiao Nan looked at her hands distractedly. In the past, when Brother Zhai hugged her, she always felt that his body was so hard and stiff. Unexpectedly, Brother Zhai's thighs and calves were also as hard as a rock. They were actually so thick?

It was almost twice the size of that of hers.

She took a glance at the naked upper body of Zhai Sheng and looked at his wide and thick back that exuded a great sense of security, square chest muscles, well-defined six-pack abs on the abdomen, and especially that alluring V line abs on the waist that led right into the boxer shorts...

Suddenly, two loud claps could be heard in the room.

With moderate strength, Qiao Nan slapped her face with her pair of sweaty hands to make herself come to her senses.

What was the situation now? She actually had the mood to look at and think of all these. It was too shameless.

When the soldier brought the hot water back, Qiao Nan finally came back to her normal state.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, do you feel very warm? Why do you look so red?”

“It’s a little warm. The weather is stuffy. Do you think it will rain?” Qiao Nan gave a wry smile.

The soldier stared directly at the sunny weather outside. “At this sight, it doesn’t look like it will rain. It’s already the end of June. The weather is so hot. We can’t help it. Our army is located on the hills. The weather will be more cooling than outside.”

Qiao Nan could not help turning redder in the face as she had said such a silly thing.

After feeding Zhai Sheng another half a cup of water, Qiao Nan stood up. “Comrade, I only made the trip here for a while and still have to go home. You take care of the situation here. I’ll go home first.”

At this juncture, it was already three o’clock in the afternoon. If she did not make her way back now, it would be around six or seven o’clock by the time she reached Ping Cheng. The sky would have become dark then.

Qiao Nan did not want Qiao Dongliang to worry. Furthermore, she was aware of Zhai Sheng’s condition now.

The army was a little too much in their arrangements, but it should mean that Zhai Sheng’s injury was definitely not much of an issue.



“Sure.” The soldier nodded. “I’m afraid there’s no car available if you’re going back now. Should I get someone from the army to help?”

“No need. I came together with Officer Shi’s daughter. She has a family car. I’ll go back with her. There’s no need to trouble the army. You take good care of Regiment Commander Zhai. I’m leaving.”

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, take your time as you leave. Come again to teach us English next time.”

“If there’s a chance, I will,” Qiao Nan replied. Thereafter, she left in a hurry.

Coincidentally, Zhou Jun, who came to visit Zhai Sheng, missed Qiao Nan when he was on his way. He saw a young lady coming out from the direction of Regiment Commander Zhai’s dormitory. The figure of this lady resembled that of Qiao Nan very much.

When he arrived at the door of Zhai Sheng’s dormitory, Zhou Jun asked, “Why did I see someone visiting Regiment Commander Zhai? Didn’t the political commissar give orders not to let anyone visit Regiment Commander Zhai? How did you carry out your duty?!”

Chapter 575: How Did You Go In?

“Reporting, Company Commander Zhou, the political commissar has given orders to disallow any visitors for Regiment Commander Zhai except for Teacher Xiao Qiao.”

“Teacher Xiao Qiao? Is that Qiao Nan?” So that young lady whom he saw earlier was really Qiao Nan? “Didn’t they say that she just returned to Ping Cheng yesterday?”

“Reporting, Company Commander Zhou, yes, it’s that Teacher Xiao Qiao. Teacher Xiao Qiao is classmates with Officer Shi’s daughter. Shi Qing came to visit Officer Shi. Teacher Xiao Qiao heard that Regiment Commander Zhai is injured and came to see Regiment Commander Zhai.”

“Almost, again!” Zhou Jun was so depressed that he nearly could not say a word.

One year ago, he took great pain to find ways to become Qiao Nan's military training instructor. He had not even interacted much with Qiao Nan and had to leave for a mission.

This time, Qiao Nan was in the army camp as the English teacher. It was such a good opportunity.

However, when he heard the news, he was sent for a mission again. Why did he have a mission at the most inopportune time? Was heaven not going to let him marry a wife?

"What do you mean by almost?" The soldier looked at Company Commander Zhou, puzzled. "Right, Company Commander Zhou, do you think the orders given by the political commissar are strange? Other people are not allowed to visit Regiment Commander Zhai. Why could Teacher Xiao Qiao do so? Company Commander Zhou, do you think..."

Teacher Xiao Qiao was so good to Regiment Commander Zhai and took care of Regiment Commander Zhai so meticulously.

If he did not remember wrongly, when Teacher Xiao Qiao was teaching English in the army, Regiment Commander Zhai had even sent Teacher Xiao Qiao back to her dormitory before under the orders of Chief Zhai.

"Don't talk nonsense." Zhou Jun chided unhappily. "If you don't know, don't spread unfounded rumors. Teacher Xiao Qiao and Regiment Commander Zhai were neighbors who grew up in the same quad. Outside the army camp, Teacher Xiao Qiao addresses Regiment Commander Zhai as brother. There's nothing strange about a sister visiting her brother."

The political commissar must have known the relationship between Qiao Nan and Regiment Commander Zhai. That was why he granted this special permission.

"I see." The soldier had a great realization. "I felt it was strange. The way Teacher Xiao Qiao treated Regiment Commander Zhai was too good..."

In an ordinary relationship, which woman would help a man wipe his body?

If he was not around, or if she could not find anyone else to help, perhaps Teacher Xiao Qiao would have removed Regiment Commander Zhai's clothes and pants herself so that she could sponge Regiment Commander Zhai.

“Alright, don’t talk about it anymore. I’ll go and take a look at Regiment Commander Zhai.” There was guilt on Zhou Jun’s face. If not for his carelessness, Regiment Commander Zhai would not have been injured. “Regiment Commander Zhai is not used to others taking care of him. He’ll definitely forget to take his medicine once he falls asleep. He can’t always do that when he’s injured. I’ll go in to take a look. If Regiment Commander Zhai has not taken his medicine, I’ll feed him.”

Of course, the way Zhou Jun fed would definitely not be as gentle and easily acceptable by the patient as to how Qiao Nan did.

“Company Commander Zhou, save the trouble. Teacher Xiao Qiao had already fed Regiment Commander Zhai.”

“Already? How did she feed him?!” When Regiment Commander Zhai was in slumber, it was not easy to feed him medicine. Even if he did it himself, he would need a Herculean effort to do so before he could let Regiment Commander Zhai swallow the medicine.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao removed the shell of the pill and dissolved the medicine powder in water before feeding Regiment Commander Zhai spoon by spoon.”

“Oh, this is surely a good way. We can note it down.”

“Company Commander Zhou, Regiment Commander Zhai is sleeping soundly now. Do you still want to see him?”

After thinking, Zhou Jun shook his head. “My main concern is that Regiment Commander Zhai forgot to take his medicine. Since Regiment Commander Zhai had already done so, then forget it. You stay here and guard Regiment Commander Zhai well. I’ll go back first. I’ll take over you in the middle of the night.”

“Yes, Company Commander Zhou!”

“You’re here so soon?” Shi Qing had been sitting in Shi Peng’s office and waiting for Qiao Nan.

The man that he liked most had become someone else's boyfriend. This was already a great blow. If she had to see with her own eyes how that woman took care of him... No, Shi Qing was not so generous.

However, at the thought that she was the one who brought Qiao Nan here to take care of Zhai Sheng, Shi Qing felt so sullen that she did not wish to speak further.

What was she doing!

"Yes." Qiao family nodded. "It's three o'clock already. Let's hurry and return to Ping Cheng. My dad should reach home at around five o'clock."

"Then, what about Brother Zhai? He hasn't woken up, has he?"

Brother Zhai had not woken up. Would Qiao Nan feel at ease if she left? She had thought that Qiao Nan would not go home today. At most, she would give her father a call to inform him.

"I've seen Brother Zhai's wound. The army doctor certainly handled it well. I've also fed him medicine. There are other people in the army who will take care of Brother Zhai. There won't be any problems." If she did not see Brother Zhai's injury with her own eyes, her thoughts would go astray. Hence, she had to come and take a look.

Since she had already seen Brother Zhai's wound, she would not think otherwise and scare herself. "Officer Shi, I'm really sorry. If you don't mind, I'll go back with Shi Qing first."

"Alright, you all should go back." Shi Peng nodded amiably. He did not mind his daughter following Qiao Nan around.

He was well aware that if his daughter was unwilling, she would not do so even if the emperor's father was here, let alone Qiao Nan.

His daughter ran the errand as she was willing to do so. If that was the case, why should he bother?

After getting into the car of the Shi family, Qiao Nan heaved a great sigh of relief. "Where's Qiu Chenxi? She's willing to leave?"

Brother Zhai was injured and needed someone by his side to take care of him now. The Zhai family was not around. Whoever could remain by Brother Zhai's side to take care of him would definitely form a good impression with the Zhai family. It was advantageous to do so.

Qiu Chenxi was never stupid. Before she came, Qiao Nan had guessed that Qiu Chenxi would most probably come as well.

She just did not expect that Qiu Chenxi would be there so soon. True enough, the Qiu family had their connections in the army.

She had seen the impatient expression on the face of the soldier who was on duty at the door of Brother Zhai's dormitory earlier. Hence, Shi Qing's appearance was really a saving grace for the soldier.

"Of course she had to leave." Shi Qing lifted her chin proudly. "She's not part of the army now. She can't come and leave as she wishes. I just asked someone to report this to the political commissar and someone invited Qiu Chenxi out. That lackey of Qiu family can just wait for the political commissar to discipline him."

It was not an issue to let Qiu Chenxi know about Brother Zhai. However, one had to take great responsibility for casually letting people who did not belong to the army enter the premise without seeking his superior's permission.

She could not be bothered to investigate who was the one who let Qiu Chenxi into the camp. Anyway, this person was definitely down on his luck today.

"Right, Qiu Chenxi told me that she had been held back when she was outside Brother Zhai's dormitory. She did not see Brother Zhai at all. Did you see him?" Shi Qing patted her own forehead. "I've been confused by the weather too. If you didn't see Brother Zhai, would you be in the army for as long as four to five hours without seeking my dad's help? Ah, how did you get in? With your identity as Teacher Xiao Qiao?"

That couldn't be. If that was the case, more than one or two people would be disciplined today. Moreover, Qiao Nan was not someone who was willing to sacrifice others for the sake of achieving her own aims.

“No.” Qiao Nan shook her head. “The guard on duty said that the higher-up had given the instructions that I was allowed to enter.”

“Wait a minute, why couldn’t others go in except for you?”

“I thought it’s your dad?” She thought that Officer Shi had instructed to forbid Qiu Chenxi from entering Brother Zhai’s room, while she could be allowed entry.

Shi Qing shook her head. “Impossible, my dad could not have arranged this. Given his situation in the camp, to put it bluntly, aside from being more experienced than Brother Zhai, his rank is similar to Brother Zhai’s. He has more or less relinquished all his duties and power. He has already handed over everything to Brother Zhai to handle. He has no real power, and at most, he will do some administrative work. Hence, it is impossible for him to make such arrangements. Right now, could it be that the political commissar has the say over Brother Zhai in the camp?”

“Impossible!” Qiao Nan rushed to deny. “Only a few people know of my relationship with Brother Zhai, and the political commissar is definitely not one of them. Besides, why would he give such instructions without an apparent reason?”

It did not make sense.

“Then, I am really clueless.” Shi Qing gestured that she had no idea. She might have a high IQ but she had low emotional intelligence. Qiao Nan had to figure it out by herself. “Okay, it’s late. I will send you back now. Otherwise, your dad will be anxious.”

“Alright.” Qiao Nan sighed. “Fortunately, Brother Zhai’s injuries are not serious. If not, I would be very worried.”

“Say no more. If I knew that Brother Zhai’s injuries are not serious, I would not have told you at all. It’s so tiring for you to make the trip here. Alright, you can have a short rest. You must be tired.” Shi Qing motioned for Qiao Nan to lean on her shoulder to rest. As for her, she was used to the hectic lifestyle of the army and she was in good health.

Qiao Nan was different. She was only slightly better than the average person. She was too scrawny and thin.

“Alright, wake me up when we reach.”

“Okay.”

Qiao Nan closed her eyes and fell asleep in no time. It was not because she was exhausted. It was because she had a big fright.

Qiao Nan did not know why Qiu Chenxi was forbidden to enter Zhai Sheng’s room while she was allowed entry. Those who knew what was going on must be up to something.

“Chief Zhai, Comrade Xiao Qiao has already gone back.” The political commissar made a phone call to the Zhai family.

“Did she come with the lady from the Shi family and in their car?”

“Yes.” The political commissar felt odd to have received a phone call from Chief Zhai. This was not the first time that Regiment Commander Zhai was injured. In fact, he had suffered much more serious injuries in the past, but Chief Zhai had never shown much concern for his son. Usually, it was Madam Zhai who would be concerned. What happened today was unprecedented.

The political commissar was even more surprised that Zhai Yaohui did not call to ask about Zhai Sheng’s injuries but called to give him an odd instruction instead. “Tell the soldier who stands guard outside Zhai Sheng’s room that he is not to allow entry to anyone except for Qiao Nan.”

“Do you mean Teacher Xiao Qiao who just left yesterday?”

“Yes.”

“Why?”

“Do you understand?”

“Yes, understood!”

Until now, the political commissar still could not comprehend Chief Zhai’s intention.

He did not understand why Chief Zhai gave him such an odd instruction. What perplexed him further was why would Comrade Xiao Qiao, who had already left yesterday, come back to the camp today to see Regiment Commander Zhai? How did she know that Regiment Commander Zhai was injured and what did it have to do with her?

The political commissar was bewildered.

“How is Zhai Sheng?” Zhai Yaohui relaxed his tone upon hearing that Qiao Nan had indeed gone to the camp and spent a long time taking care of Zhai Sheng.

Since a young age, Zhai Sheng had never gone against Miao Miao and him. The first time he went against his mother was because of a woman. As a father, Zhai Yaohui felt unhappy.

Fortunately, his love was requited. Otherwise, Zhai Yaohui would be very much against their relationship.

His son was so outstanding. He would never allow him to be in a one-sided love affair.

If Qiao Nan had not gone to the camp today, Zhai Yaohui, who had silently agreed to their relationship previously, would have objected to it after this incident.

If Qiao Nan wanted to be with Zhai Sheng, the first and foremost condition was that both of them must cherish each other.

“I heard that after Comrade Xiao Qiao arrived, she mixed the medicine with water and fed it to Regiment Commander Zhai. The wound is quite small. Most importantly, the arteries are not affected, so his injuries are not serious. He should be alright after taking the anti-inflammatory medicine and the tetanus shot. He should probably wake up tomorrow and will be able to give you a report of the mission personally.”

“What else?” Zhai Yaohui wanted to know every detail.



Though he felt puzzled, the political commissar continued. “Comrade Xiao Qiao asked someone to help wipe Regiment Commander Zhai and change his clothes. Also, when Comrade Xiao Qiao arrived, she brought a chicken with her. She gave the cooking instructions to the chef at the canteen and told the chef to cook shredded chicken porridge for Regiment Commander Zhai so that he can have it when he wakes up.”

“Alright, I will hang up now.” After knowing about everything that Qiao Nan did for Zhai Sheng, Zhai Yaohui was satisfied with what he heard and hung up the phone.

The political commissar was dumbfounded when he realized that the phone call had ended.

What was Chief Zhai’s intention behind this phone call and his series of questions?

Though Qiao Nan was Lin Yuankang’s little disciple, as she was young and came from an average family, the political commissar, who was usually sensitive and quick to catch on, pondered for a long while but did not associate Qiao Nan with Zhai Sheng. He was still perplexed by Zhai Yaohui’s behavior today.

Apart from the political commissar who was puzzled, Qiao Nan also did not know that it was Zhai Yaohui’s arrangement for her to be allowed entry to Zhai Sheng’s room. In fact, she was the only ‘special case’ that the ‘higher-up’ permitted to visit Zhai Sheng.

More importantly, this was Zhai Yaohui’s test for Qiao Nan.

Fortunately, Qiao Nan passed the test without knowing what was going on!

“Who were you on the phone with?” Miao Jing came out from the room. “By the way, has Zhai Sheng returned to the camp yet? I heard that the mission this time is not difficult?”

“He’s back.”

“When did he come back? Why didn’t he give me a call?” Miao Jing was agitated.

“He returned to the camp this morning. As he suffered slight injuries, he is resting in the army. I guess he will give you a call tomorrow.” Of course, before he laid down to rest, he did not give his mother a call. Instead, he called to talk to someone else’s daughter.

It was also because of this phone call that Zhai Yaohui gave Qiao Nan such a test. This phone call that Zhai Sheng made had given Qiao Nan unexpected trouble.

## Chapter 577: Shi Qing Had No Hopes

As a parent, knowing that his son was injured and yet he did not rest but gave a call to someone else’s daughter to reassure her that he was alright, one would definitely not feel happy about it.

People like Zhai Yaohui would surely be angry and jealous.

“What! Injured? Is it really not serious? You mustn’t lie to me. No, I have to see for myself!” Miao Jing jumped to conclusions from insignificant evidence. As soon as she knew that her son was injured, even though it was not serious, she had to see it herself to be assured.

“Alright.” Zhai Yaohui gave Miao Jing a strong pull. “He has taken the medicine and there are people waiting on him. Rest assured. It is really a minor injury. He will probably heal much quicker than his previous injuries. There is no need for you to visit him. He has someone to look after him. Today, Qiao Nan took a ride with Shi Qing and returned to the camp. She specially brought a chicken for your son and taught the chef to cook shredded chicken porridge. If you are there, do you know all this?”

Miao Jing’s parents were farmers. She was able to cook simple meals, but she did not know how to prepare difficult dishes.

When Miao Jing was young, they would only get to eat chicken during festivals. It would be too wasteful to use the chicken to prepare shredded chicken porridge.

Therefore, shredded chicken porridge was Miao Jing’s Achilles heels.

“I may not know but I can learn! As long as Zhai Sheng likes to eat it, I will learn how to make it. I will definitely learn. In the future, I will also learn to cook whatever dishes that Hua Hua likes.” She did not take good care of her children when they were young. She must make up for it now!

“They are not by your side. I am the only one by your side now. You should prepare the dishes that I love!” Zhai Yaohui was upset. His father had someone to take care of him in the countryside. They were a family of four. Miao Jing knew to take care of her children, but why was it that she did not care for him?

“Even if you prepare dishes that they like, they are not able to have them. It will be a waste of food. It’s more realistic to cook what I love.”

“Zhai Sheng is already back in the army. I can get someone to send the food to him!” Miao Jing was not convinced.

Ever since she had sorted out her thoughts, Miao Jing found joy in bickering with Zhai Yaohui. It was as if she had been too easygoing for the past twenty years. She had to show him that she had a temper as well.

Zhai Yaohui snorted. “It’s summer now. Are you sure by the time the food that you prepare is sent to the army, Zhai Sheng will not have the runs when he eats them?”

“Then, I will wait until he is back at home to prepare the dishes for him.” Miao Jing was rendered speechless. “But then again, Nan Nan is indeed a good child. She specially prepared the chicken for Zhai Sheng. I have long said that Nan Nan is a good girl.”

“Good, of course, she is good!” She was so good that your son had eyes only for her. If she was not good enough, would your son have taken a fancy to her?

“It’s rare for you to say something pleasing to the ears.” Miao Jing felt happy and there was a smile on her face. It was equally rare for her to smile at Zhai Yaohui. But her expression changed instantaneously. “Let me warn you. I know that the Qiu family must have known that Zhai Sheng is injured. Since Zhai Sheng is injured, he should rest. He does not like Qiu Chenxi, and he doesn’t like to deal with the people from the Qiu family. If you dare to allow them to disturb Zhai Sheng, I will not let you off!”

Miao Jing directed her anger at Zhai Yaohui at the mention of the Qiu family. She warned him to watch his behavior.

“That was already ages ago. Aren’t you tired of bringing it up time and again?”

“I don’t care if it has been ages ago. I am afraid that someone will forget about it without my reminder.” Could he easily let go of the feelings that he had for his old lover?

Miao Jing had her Achilles heel and so did Zhai Yaohui. Zhai Yaohui was defenseless at the mention of the Qiu family.

Zhai Yaohui massaged his temples. “Alright, must you harp on this? Okay, say no more, will that do?”

Miao Jing snorted and pulled a long face. There was a look of hurt in her eyes. If Zhai Yaohui really did not care about Qi Minlan, why would he have such a big reaction at the mention of her? To put it bluntly, the woman who Zhai Yaohui was most concerned about was still Qi Minlan.

No wonder Qi Minlan was so smug. She had reasons to be happy.

Even though she was married to Zhai Yaohui, his heart belonged to Qi Minlan.

Miao Jing felt that theirs was a hopeless marriage.

Miao Jing felt hopeless, but Qi Minlan was in a worse state than her!

“Are you saying that the people in the camp drove you out? And your uncle didn’t help you?” Qi Minlan ground her teeth in fury and hurled the cup that she had with her.

How could this be!

It was fine in the past.

Brother Zhai had said that Chenxi was a well-behaved child and she was a good match for Zhai Sheng. They were childhood sweethearts and their relationship was built on a strong foundation. It would be good if they could marry each other.

She was all ready to be the relative of Chief Zhai, yet someone threw a wrench in the works and the people from the Zhai family changed their attitude completely.

Because of her, she knew that Miao Jing, that vixen, would never truly like Chenxi. But how could Brother Zhai change overnight? It was just like what happened back then. One minute, she was Brother Zhai's girlfriend, and the next minute, Miao Jing turned out to be the one that he was going to marry!

People used to say that women were capricious, but men were the ones who were fickle-minded!

"Help me?" Qiu Chenxi sneered. "Do you know who the first person who pulled me away was? It was Shi Qing! Didn't she leave with Qiao Nan yesterday? Why was she back at the camp today? That's it! It must be because Shi Qing hasn't gotten over Brother Zhai and as she knows that Brother Zhai and I are having some problems, she intends to avail herself of the opportunity to come in between us. Since she pulled me away, she must have the same intention as me. She wants to stay by Brother Zhai's side while he is injured and take care of him. She is downright shameless and despicable!"

"Don't be angry. You can rest assured that Shi Qing can never marry Zhai Sheng." Qi Minlan took a deep breath, trying to calm herself down.

"Why, why are you so certain?" Qiu Chenxi refused to believe her words. Since Shi Qing had liked Brother Zhai for so many years, now was a good opportunity for Shi Qing to come in between them. How could Shi Qing give up at this time?

"Don't forget. Zhai Sheng has a girlfriend that he likes but can't go public. Besides, the most important thing is that your grandpa will never agree to the marriage between Shi Qing and Zhai Sheng. Shi Qing is the only child of the Shi family and your uncle is very obstinate. He refused to have a second child with your auntie. Your grandpa's thinking is outdated. He has already planned to take in a husband for Shi Qing. She can never marry into another family. I heard that your grandpa is already on the lookout for possible candidates for Shi Qing. Besides, given the Zhai family's status, even if Zhai Sheng breaks up with the vixen, do you think he will marry into the Shi family? That being said, it is impossible between Shi Qing and Zhai Sheng. You don't have to worry about her."

"Mom, are you sure?" Qiu Chenxi's eyes lit up. There was a look of joy on her face.

## Chapter 578: Refused to Be the Loser

“I will not lie to you about this.” She knew what was on her father’s mind.

“If this is the case, then I can rest assured.” Qiu Chenxi sat down calmly. “Mom, I am very worried. Uncle Zhai went back on his words and is not supportive of my engagement with Brother Zhai. I am not worried about the vixen but Shi Qing. The reason why Brother Zhai keeps that vixen under wraps must be that she does not come from a good family and she will not be accepted by the Zhai family. Shi Qing is different. What bothers me the most is that it is with uncle’s help that Brother Zhai could be the regiment commander at such a young age. If not for uncle’s help, he would not be promoted in such a short period of time.”

This was the reason why she was able to be with Brother Zhai.

It was through her uncle’s help that Brother Zhai was able to rise through the ranks in a short period of time. Brother Zhai owed their family.

But right now, this had become the biggest reason for Shi Qing to be close with Brother Zhai and for him to accept her.

When she was with Brother Zhai, it was Brother Zhai who owed her uncle. Now that there was some problem between Brother Zhai and her, things had changed such that it was Brother Zhai who owed Shi Qing’s father.

“Then, why would you insist on finding out who the girl is?” Qi Minlan was quite surprised that her daughter could be so clear-headed.

Qiu Chenxi looked unhappy. “I certainly want to find out who the woman is. Children from families like us can never marry simply for love. But I know that Brother Zhai is truly in love with that girl. How can I be happy when my future husband has someone that he sincerely loves?”

Shi Qing was only her competitor for the position of Brother Zhai’s wife, but that vixen was competing with her for Brother Zhai’s heart.

She had always been overbearing. She wanted to be Brother Zhai’s wife and get his love!

She would not settle for less!

“Mom, even though it is impossible between Shi Qing and Brother Zhai, I can’t take it lying down that I miss such a good opportunity. Now that Brother Zhai is injured, if I am able to stay by his side and take care of him, he may be touched, thinking that I am the only one who likes him and treats him well and will stay by his side regardless of anything. With that, not to mention engagement, we may even be married this year. On the contrary, if I miss this opportunity, I have no idea when I will be rid of the vixen and when Brother Zhai will return to my side, let alone getting married.”

In fact, Qiu Chenxi was furious. There was no television and entertainment at the camp. She was not allowed to dress up nicely or put on makeup as and when she liked. She did not like to stay at the camp at all.

But today, she went to the place that she hated and was driven out.

Nobody besides Qiu Chenxi knew how upset she was.

When her marriage with Brother Zhai was confirmed, she would make sure that whoever drove her out today was kicked out of the army!

“I see.” Qi Minlan also had a sullen expression. “Don’t be discouraged. Let me give Chief Zhai a call and see how it goes.”

“Will it help? Uncle Zhai has changed!”

“I am not asking him to consent to your engagement with Zhai Sheng. Now that Zhai Sheng is injured, the Zhai family should thank us for sending you to take care of him. Since they are so worried about Zhai Sheng, isn’t it good that we help take care of him?” Qi Minlan picked up the phone and dialed the phone number of the Zhai family’s residence that she knew by heart.

Zhai Yaohui, who was in a quarrel with Miao Jing, sulked when he saw that it was a call from the Qiu family.

“The phone is ringing. Aren’t you going to answer it? Is it from the Qiu family again?” Miao Jing asked sensitively.

“What do you mean by ‘again’?” He had not been in contact with the Qiu family for a long time. “I have no wish to answer it.”

“If you don’t answer the phone, it will continue to ring. You should know Qi Minlan’s temper better than me. If nobody picks up the phone, she may come over to our house. Or is that your intention for not answering the phone?” When agitated, women could be quite unreasonable.

Apparently, Miao Jing had been agitated recently. For the past twenty years, she had been giving in to Zhai Yaohui. Now, she was getting even with him in the shortest possible time for the grievances that she suffered.

Zhai Yaohui fumed in anger. He picked up the phone with a bang and gave a curt acknowledgment.

“Brother Zhai?”

“Please address me as Chief Zhai!”

“Brother Zhai, must we be so distant with each other?”

“Come straight to the point!”

“I heard that Zhai Sheng is injured. After hearing the news, Chenxi was so anxious that she went to the camp, wanting to take care of Zhai Sheng and to see how he was doing, but she was... Brother Zhai, no matter what, Chenxi grew up together with Zhai Sheng. They are close to each other. Chenxi does not ask for much. She only wants to do whatever she can for Zhai Sheng and take care of him. She will leave once he recovers. She will not bother Zhai Sheng and the Zhai family. Can you grant this little wish of hers?”

“No!” Zhai Yaohui said decisively and resolutely. “Indecision invariably leads to trouble. Qiu Chenxi is young and insensible. Madam Qi, are you insensible as well? It’s normal for young ladies to throw tantrums and cry over relationships. She will be fine after a while. Zhai Sheng has said that he has someone that he likes. If we allow Qiu Chenxi to carry on with her ways, not only will Qiu Chenxi be hurt, but both Zhai Sheng and the lady will be hurt as well. I remember that a few years ago, there was a young lady who was on close terms with Zhai Sheng. Qiu Chenxi was unhappy and she came complaining to me that Zhai Sheng did not pay enough attention to her. We should put



oneself in another's place. I don't think there is any girlfriend who is so generous that she will allow other girls to take care of their boyfriends."

"Brother Zhai, do you mean that you consent to the relationship between Zhai Sheng and that woman?" Impossible, how could this happen? "Brother Zhai, do you know who the woman whom Zhai Sheng likes is? Can you tell me?"

Things were looking serious. Shi Qing was not a problem. The young lady that she and Chenxi looked down upon was their biggest problem.

She thought that it would be absolutely impossible for the Zhai family to accept the girl that Zhai Sheng liked.

But judging from Brother Zhai's tone, not only did he know who the woman was, but he also agreed to their relationship.

Since Brother Zhai did not object and Zhai Sheng liked the lady as well, Miao Jing was the only person in the family who was against the relationship. If Miao Jing gave in eventually, would Chenxi's position as the wife of the chief of the army be taken away by a wild girl who came out from nowhere?

No, absolutely not!

Chenxi could never follow in her footsteps and lose to someone who was not her opponent and be deemed the loser forever!

Chapter 579: No Matter What, I Am Willing

Zhai Yaohui knitted his eyebrows. "Madam Qi, this is our family's business. You don't need to know so much. Zhai Sheng is being taken care of. There's no need for Qiu Chenxi to be worried for him. For the sake of Qiu Chenxi, you should forbid her from looking for Zhai Sheng. She should get another boyfriend and have a fresh start. In this way, she can truly forget Zhai Sheng. As her elder, I also hope that Qiu Chenxi can find her true love soon and for their relationship to come to fruition. Sorry, I am busy. I will hang up now. In the future, it's best that we do not contact each other often."

With that, Zhai Yaohui hung up the phone, not waiting for Qi Minlan's reply.

In fact, Zhai Yaohui was harsh with his words. However, he knew that if he did not make himself clear, Qi Minlan would definitely harbor false hopes.

Moreover, he did not intend to stay in close touch with the Qiu family.

"Are you satisfied?" Zhai Yaohui snorted. He knew that Miao Jing was listening attentively to his conversation with Qi Minlan. Women were indeed petty-minded. They said one thing but meant another. Men were unlike them.

"There's nothing to be satisfied or dissatisfied about. Since it's you who stirred up the trouble, you ought to resolve it." Miao Jing refused to admit. "No, I have to go through the recipe. This time, there may be a chance that Zhai Sheng will come back home to rest for a few days. I have to make use of the time to prepare some tonics for him."

Miao Jing went off to look at the recipe. As for Qiao Nan, she went back home after leaving the camp.

"Shall I go in with you?" Shi Qing arched her eyebrows and looked at Qiao Nan. "In case your dad is angry, with an outsider around, it could be of help to you."

"When did you become so kind-hearted?" Qiao Nan looked at Shi Qing with suspicion.

"Fine, since you don't believe it, I shall go home." Shi Qing lifted her chin. She did not fall for Qiao Nan's tricks. Even if she was up to something, Qiao Nan could do nothing about it.

"Alright, let's go in together." In fact, Qiao Nan was slightly nervous. She ran off after leaving a note. Any parent would be upset and worried at such a situation and would want to give the child a spanking.

Moreover, it was quite late when she reached home.

Qiao Nan plucked up her courage and pushed the door open. "Dad, I am back."

“Do you know...” Sure enough, Qiao Dongliang was worried and angry. As soon as he saw his daughter, he launched into a lecture, but he kept his anger in check and lowered his voice when he saw that there was someone with Qiao Nan. “This is...”

“She is the student who transferred to our school at the end of the last semester,” Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows and said meaningfully.

“It’s her?” Qiao Dongliang was taken aback. She was the high school student who could have skipped a level and advanced to the third year and then be recommended for admission to university?

“Yes!” Qiao Nan replied. Every parent hoped that their children would befriend students who had good results and learn from them.

“Please come in.” Qiao Dongliang relaxed slightly. “Where have you both been? Nan Nan, you are too much. How could you run off after leaving this note? You did not make yourself clear in the note. Don’t do this in the future.”

This time, he would let it go on account of Nan Nan’s classmate.

If there was a next time, no matter how old she was, he had to lecture and punish her. If not, she would never learn.

“No, this is the first and only time.” Qiao Nan quickly promised. She dared not make herself clear in the note. If she made herself too clear, her father might be worried about Brother Zhai’s injuries, and he might feel uneasy that she went to look for Brother Zhai.

“Uncle Qiao, Qiao Nan always said that you have good culinary skills. My dad is in the army while my mom is not in Ping Cheng. I am an only child at home. I feel so lonely. There’s nobody to accompany me and I don’t get to have hot meals. Can I be thick-skinned enough to stay for a meal and for the night? I will certainly go back tomorrow.” Shi Qing sat down and looked around the house.

In the few times that she had been to Qiao Nan’s place, she was always in a hurry and in a bad mood. She had never taken a closer look at the environment where Qiao Nan lived in.

From what she saw today, even though it did not have the modern and contemporary look, she felt comfortable at the simple and unsophisticated feel.

The most important thing was that it was very near to their school.

“Be it today or tomorrow, you still have to go back home.” Qiao Nan glared at Shi Qing, warning her not to go overboard. What did she mean by that? She did not have extra rooms for her to stay in.

Shi Qing returned Qiao Nan’s stare. There might not be enough rooms, but she did not mind sharing a room with Qiao Nan. Since they were of the same gender, there was no problem in sharing a room.

“I mind!” Qiao Nan could not help but yell.

Qiao Dongliang was stunned. “Nan Nan, what do you mean?”

“Uncle Qiao, Qiao Nan feels bad that I am not paying for my meals. Uncle Qiao, isn’t Qiao Nan too stingy? I am merely having a meal and staying for a night. We are classmates, after all. She is too heartless and cold-blooded to her classmates.” Shi Qing flicked her hair. She had said that she would not render her help without asking for returns.

Qiao Dongliang smiled awkwardly. Since a young age, Qiao Zijin and Qiao Nan never stayed in their classmates’ houses or eat at their classmates’ houses. Even Qiao Zijin, who was pampered by them, would never do that.

Qiao Dongliang did not know how to react to Shi Qing’s request.

But since Shi Qing had already said so, as the elder, Qiao Dongliang found it difficult to refuse. “Nan Nan, you can’t behave in this way. She is your classmate. It doesn’t matter for her to stay for one night. It’s settled then. The both of you can chat about your schoolwork or watch television. I haven’t started cooking as I was waiting for Nan Nan to come back. But don’t worry. Given the weather now, the food will be ready in no time. Both of you should take a seat. Nan Nan, remember to pour a cup of tea for your classmate.”

“Did you hear that? Pour me a cup of tea.” Shi Qing leaned back against the chair. She looked smug like an arrogant idler, except that she did not sit with her legs crossed and one foot poised in the air.

“Shi Qing, what do you mean today?” Did Shi Qing really intend to stay for the night? “Even though you moved out of the Qiu family’s residence, the house that you stay in is definitely bigger than our house. Why will you squeeze with us in this chicken coop rather than going back to your comfortable house? Are you out of your mind?”

“I am willing to stay in this chicken coop. You have no say over it.” Shi Qing snorted. “Qiao Nan, don’t forget. Today, you’re indebted to me. Is this how you should treat me? By the way, I am thirsty.” If not for her, Qiao Nan would not have known that Brother Zhai was wounded.

## Chapter 580: Looking for Trouble Early in the Morning

“Are you jealous and want to take revenge?” Qiao Nan seemed to have understood.

“Of course!” Shi Qing turned her head and admitted up-front.

Qiao Nan was at a loss. “Shi Qing, you are a strange person. There would not be such trouble if you didn’t tell me about Brother Zhai’s injuries or allow me to get onto your family car. Now, you feel upset after helping me and want to settle accounts. Don’t you feel that it’s too tiresome?”

“I don’t feel tired. I am too bored, and I am trying to find things to occupy my time,” Shi Qing said carelessly. “Okay, stop thinking about it. Your benefactor is thirsty, so hurry up.”

She felt uneasy helping others. She had to take revenge on them so that she would feel better. She was such a contradiction, different from others!

Qiao Nan gave Shi Qing a thumbs-up. Shi Qing was indeed invincible!

“Uncle Qiao, the dishes that you prepared are delicious. They are indeed home-cooked food. They are superb!” During dinner, Shi Qing ate to her heart’s content. She did not care to look at Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang, who had an awkward expression on their faces. She helped herself to the food happily.

Qiao Dongliang was glad that an outsider was all praise for his dishes. “Well, if you like these dishes, you should have more of them. You can also join us for meals in the future.”

“Dad...” Qiao Nan wanted to stop Qiao Dongliang. She knew that her father was being polite, but some people in the world would take the jokes of others seriously and would see others’ politeness as their warm welcome.

It turned out that they had run into such a person today.

“Sure!” Shi Qing slapped on the table. “Uncle Qiao, you are such a nice person. It’s Qiao Nan’s blessing to have you as her father. I am proud and honored to accept Uncle Qiao’s gracious invitation. After all, one should not reject the elders’ good intentions. Thank you, Uncle Qiao!”

In the future, she would have free lunches.

Qiao Dongliang was at a loss for words. He was being polite. Why were the kids nowadays so blatant?

“Uncle Qiao, have more of the food. Qiao Nan told me that you have a car accident a year ago, and you still have to work to earn money to raise Qiao Nan. It’s been tiring on you. We can have less of the food, but you must not go hungry.” Shi Qing did not treat herself as an outsider. Instead, she reversed the position of the host and the guest and picked up some vegetables with her chopsticks for Qiao Dongliang. The latter was dumbstruck.

Shi Qing’s father was Shi Peng. He was used to giving orders to people in the army. He was an expert at this.

The daughter had learned well from the father. Though Shi Qing was not as good as her father, but compared with Qiao Dongliang, who had been an obedient soldier for many years, she was able to make him listen to her.

“No, don’t stand on ceremony with us. I, I will get the food by myself. All of you are still young. You, you have a hard time studying. Nan Nan and you should eat more.”

“Alright, sure, I will obey Uncle Qiao.” Shi Qing responded to Qiao Dongliang’s words by picking a large amount of the vegetables with her chopsticks and putting them into her bowl.

Usually, there were only Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan who would eat at home, and since Qiao Nan forbade Qiao Dongliang from leaving leftovers for the next day, the portion of food Qiao Dongliang cooked was just enough for the two of them.

Today, since Shi Qing was staying for dinner, Qiao Dongliang had prepared more food than usual.

However, judging from the amount that Shi Qing had, Qiao Dongliang dared not eat any more of the food.

He was afraid that he might eat too much and the children would not have enough to eat.

It would be alright if Nan Nan did not have enough. After all, the guests were more important and she would only go hungry for one night. He would prepare more food for her tomorrow.

But he could never let the guest go hungry.

Qiao Dongliang hesitated and said, “Shi Qing, are these dishes enough? I remember there are two eggs in the refrigerator. How about I whip up a plate of stir-fried tomato and scrambled eggs?”

“Sure, I just happen to crave for another half a bowl of rice.” Shi Qing smiled happily at Qiao Dongliang. He stood up immediately, took the eggs out of the refrigerator, and went into the kitchen to prepare the dish.

True enough, home-cooked food prepared by someone else was definitely better than the food back at home.

“Shi Qing, don’t be too much. You have finished the amount of food that could last my dad and me for two meals. You seem to be skinny and petite, yet why do you have such a huge appetite?” Qiao Nan sized up Shi Qing. She could not understand why she was able to have so much food.

It was news to her that Shi Qing was a foodie.

“Don’t worry. I won’t suffer indigestion from these dishes. Today, I have traveled high and low with you. Qiao Nan, are you thinking of starving me, not letting me have a full meal?” Shi Qing was not afraid of Qiao Nan.

Zhu Baoguo was her defeated opponent. She thought nothing of Qiao Nan who looked thin and scrawny like the poorly-developed chicks.

“Qiao Nan, let me give you a piece of advice. Zhu Baoguo, the hatchet man of yours, is nowhere to be seen. Given your small frame and without him around, you’ll be easily bullied by others. With me around, nobody will dare to come close to you. You must not live in plenty without appreciating it.” Her fighting prowess was better than Zhu Baoguo’s. With her around, Qiao Nan was particularly safe. She should be thankful.

“Crap.” Qiao Nan was speechless. “How can you be so blatant when you are having a meal for free? I take my hat off to you. Protect me? Who will be after me?”

“Qiu Chenxi!” Shi Qing snorted.

“Why?” Why would Qiu Chenxi create trouble for her?

“Have you forgotten that she was not allowed to enter Brother Zhai’s dormitory today?”

“But it’s not my fault. It’s you who pulled her away!” If Qiu Chenxi really wanted to settle accounts, she should look for Shi Qing, not her.

“Hey, don’t you know that there are people who bully the weak and fear the strong? Given my fighting prowess, will Qiu Chenxi dare to act up in front of me? I can have her under my thumb with one hand. The most important thing is that she already has you as her target. Now that she is fuming with anger, she will definitely lose her temper at you. I’m staying at your house to protect you. You’re so unappreciative.”

Yes, she would always give in to Qiu Chenxi in the past, but Qiu Chenxi did not dare to go overboard in front of her.

If not for her fighting prowess, she would not have been able to pull Qiu Chenxi away today and Qiao Nan would not have been able to see Brother Zhai.

She should not underestimate her!



Qiao Nan clutched her forehead in exasperation. “I have a headache.”

It turned out that Shi Qing refused to leave not merely because she wanted to have a good meal. She was also here because of Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi had no idea who the girlfriend of Brother Zhai was. Hence, she kept pestering her.

But at least, Qiao Nan was, in fact, Zhai Sheng’s girlfriend. She felt better at the thought of that. Otherwise, aside from not having such an outstanding man as her boyfriend, she would be downright unlucky to be the scapegoat for that lucky woman who was his girlfriend.