

RTAMM 601

Chapter 601: Hello, Auntie Qian

It was a pity that these were not what Miao Jing wanted to know or was interested in.

She had already asked everything that she wanted to know. After ascertaining that Qian Mufang could meet some of her requirements, Miao Jing had lost the interest to know more about Qian Mufang. She felt like ending the conversation.

However, Qian Mufang was clueless. In order for Miao Jing and Zhai Sheng to know that she was very outstanding, and to be closer to Miao Jing, she was willing to share her past experiences with her.

Since Qian Mufang was bent on sharing more with her, Miao Jing could only drink some tea to interrupt her.

Zhai Sheng, who sat at the side, sneered. Since his mother had spent a lot of her time with his father, and she did not really take care of Zhai Hua and him when they were young, he had no idea whether his mother had always been that awkward and unnatural, or whether she became like this after she married his father.

Apart from Qian Mufang's family background, his mother was not interested in knowing anything else. She had to drink some tea to cover up her lack of interest.

Zhai Sheng drank the tea that Qian Mufang poured for him.

Everyone present was thrilled at Zhai Sheng's actions.

If Zhai Sheng did not have a good impression of Qian Mufang, he would not have drunk the tea.

Miao Jing felt more at ease. Sure enough, Zhai Sheng had spent too much time in the army and did not have much contact with other women. That was why he could not tell who was a good choice

and who was not. As long as Zhai Sheng got to know more women, she did not need to resort to any tricks and he would leave that girl.

“Mom, it seems that you hit it off with Miss Qian, don’t you?” Zhai Sheng put down the teacup and asked.

“Yes, we really hit it off. Xiao Qian has good looks, good character, and is well-educated. Basically, everything is good about her. We hit it off really well.” Back then, Miao Jing could tolerate Qiu Chenxi for so many years, and she never once said that her love rival’s daughter, Qiu Chenxi, was not good enough.

Since Miao Jing chose this girl by herself today, she could never say that Qian Mufang was not good enough.

“Auntie Miao, I am not as good as you said.” Qian Mufang lowered her head. She was too shy to look at the rest of the people in the room.

She had never thought that the first man that was introduced to her since she graduated from school would be so outstanding and that everything would go so smoothly.

Given this progress, she might get married within this year and have children in the next year.

“It’s good that you hit it off with her.” Zhai Sheng’s eyes turned somber, and there was a peculiar look in his eyes. The funny thing was that the three of them were most concerned about Zhai Sheng’s reaction and thought that everything was working well, yet they failed to notice such an important change in Zhai Sheng. “Previously, my mom said that she has invited a few friends for her birthday today. I was very surprised when I saw Miss Qian. Miss Qian is so young, yet she is my mom’s friend. I suppose both of you are friends despite the difference in age. But when I witnessed the conversation between both of you, I finally understood everything. The people in our family always feel that my mom doesn’t have a lot of friends. Now, we can rest assured since my mom will have Miss Qian for company in the future.”

“Well...” Qian Mufang paused momentarily. Why did she feel that what Regiment Commander Zhai said sounded strange? Something did not seem quite right...

Secretary Qian, who worked in the government, could tell right away that something was amiss.

Zhai Sheng kept on saying that his daughter was Madam Zhai's friend, but he did not mention himself at all. This was not right.

Miao Jing's expression changed. "Zhai Sheng, you..."

Zhai Sheng stretched his long legs and stood up, taking the teapot from Qian Mufang. "Miss Qian, since you are my mom's friend, according to the order of seniority, I should address you as Auntie Qian. Even though you are younger than me, we must not mess up the order of seniority. According to what I heard from Auntie Qian, you're young and outstanding. You're indeed qualified to be addressed as my auntie. In that way, I am the youngest among the four of us. I should be pouring tea for all of you. Auntie Qian, you must come to Ping Cheng often to chat and shop with my mom in the future. Thank you. Auntie Qian, I am already at such an age. As the elder, you should know that no matter whether I am in a relationship or not, I seldom spend time with my mom. I suppose I will have even less time after I am married and have a child. Therefore, I will count on you to take care of my mom in the future."

Qian Mufang was twenty-four years old this year. She was one year younger than Zhai Sheng.

But Zhai Sheng kept addressing her as auntie, and he did not find it awkward at all.

"You, you have a girlfriend? Both of you already have marriage plans?!" Qian Mufang raised her voice, making sharp, piercing sounds.

"Mufang." Secretary Qian looked at his daughter, telling her to keep her composure and not to be rude in front of others.

Qian Mufang coughed slightly and calmed herself down. "I, I am sorry. It could be that I had too much cold food yesterday and a slight cold, so my throat is uncomfortable. Auntie Miao, did I give you a scare?"

Though Miao Jing touched her ear in discomfort, she lied blatantly. "No, no, you didn't."

In order to better understand Qian Mufang and behave affectionately to her, Miao Jing sat right next to Qian Mufang, while Zhai Sheng sat on the other side of Miao Jing. Miao Jing was the direct victim of Qian Mufang's high-pitched voice. She jolted in shock at her screams.

Zhai Sheng smiled secretly. He did not bother to help Miao Jing out. “Yes, I have a girlfriend. We have already discussed when to get married. It is just that she is still young. She decided to finish her studies before planning for her future. I am very supportive of her. I also hope that my future wife can be knowledgeable like Auntie Qian. When it’s time, I will send you the wedding invitation. Auntie Qian, you have to come to the wedding dinner.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Apart from Zhai Sheng, the other three were dumbstruck at the mention of wedding dinner. Qian Mufang and Secretary Qian felt that they were being cheated.

Not only did Regiment Commander Zhai have a girlfriend, but he also had plans to marry her. How could Madam Zhai arrange a blind date for her son? It was just as good as bullying them.

As for Miao Jing, she was infuriated. She wanted to introduce a future wife for her son, yet he addressed the lady as her friend and his auntie!

Precisely, what Zhai Sheng said made Miao Jing feel that he did not respect her. She almost fainted from anger.

“Mom, isn’t today your birthday? The dishes have already been decided upon. It’s about time, so let’s get them to serve the food. Auntie Qian, don’t stand on ceremony and have more of the food. Of course, if it’s not enough, and you would like to have other dishes, please go ahead and make the orders. It’s my mom’s birthday. Naturally, I will pay the bill.” Zhai Sheng acted close to Qian Mufang, treating her as his elder. He even handed her the menu so that she could order more food.

Chapter 602: There Was Still a Chance

He kept addressing her as Auntie Qian. The three of them could do nothing but feel vexed and stifled.

“No, no need.” Qian Mufang pushed the menu aside. Given her age and looks, the children would always address her as their sister. Today, a man who was one year older than her addressed her as auntie. Qian Mufang patted her chest that throbbed with pain.

“Then, let’s get them to serve the food.” Zhai Sheng behaved as if he was the sensible junior and arranged for the waiters to serve the food and paid for the meal thereafter. “Mom, you finally have a new friend. You must be happy about this year’s birthday, right?”

“H-happy?” Miao Jing asked in an unsteady tone.

Zhai Sheng smiled. “It’s good that you are happy. Today is your birthday. What’s important is that you are happy.”

Miao Jing felt as if she was blacking out. She was exasperated at Zhai Sheng’s behavior.

Secretary Qian and Qian Mufang stared at each other without saying anything. It was obvious that Madam Zhai had a sullen expression, but Regiment Commander Zhai said that she was happy. As the outsiders, it was best to keep their silence.

Despite coming to the blind date, the pair of father and daughter from the Qian family knew that the Zhai family was, in fact, out of their reach.

As the saying went, women would marry someone who was of a higher social status than her, whereas it was the other way round for men. Qian Mufang never felt that she was wrong in looking for a good catch like Zhai Sheng.

However, when things did not go smoothly, the gap between the Qian family and the Zhai family became very obvious.

Though Secretary Qian and Qian Mufang felt that they had been ridiculed by the Zhai family, they dared not voice their unhappiness.

Miao Jing finished her birthday meal in a stifling atmosphere. Ever since Zhai Sheng addressed Qian Mufang as his auntie, the atmosphere was so awkward that nobody made other comments or conversation. Among the four of them, Zhai Sheng was the only person who was cool and collected. The others looked somewhat stiff.

In the end, everyone left the hotel full of the meal. Zhai Sheng ate to his heart's content and did not care whether the rest of them had a good meal or not. "Auntie Qian, did you come in a car? If not, how about I get you a car?"

Zhai Sheng bore in mind that Qian Mufang was his auntie and that he was her junior. He respected the elder and wanted to get a car for her.

"No, no need. We can call the car by ourselves." Secretary Qian refused. Regiment Commander Zhai's attitude was very obvious. Even if they continued to harbor any other thoughts, it would not turn out well. It was best to call it a stop for today.

"Dad?" Qian Mufang followed right behind Secretary Qian, perplexed.

In order to create the opportunity for Qian Mufang and Zhai Sheng to spend more time together, Secretary Qian did not drive today. Their original plan was that Secretary Qian would say that he had forgotten that he had work to do and would need to go back to his office. In that case, Miao Jing would then suggest for Zhai Sheng to send Qian Mufang home.

Secretary Qian gave Qian Mufang a reassuring look and got them a car. "Madam Miao, I wish you a happy birthday and if there's a chance, let's have a meal again."

"Okay." Miao Jing breathed a sigh of relief. She felt a mix of emotions. Since Secretary Qian said that they could have a meal when there was a chance, it meant that the Qian family was not completely disappointed with the Zhai family, and it was still possible between their children. But before that, Zhai Sheng had to break up with his girlfriend.

The daughter from the Qian family could not start a relationship with Zhai Sheng while he was in another relationship.

In short, it was still possible for the Zhai family and the Qian family to be in-laws, but Zhai Sheng had to break up with his girlfriend.

"Dad?" After getting into the car, Qian Mufang could not help but ask her father. "Dad, what do you mean? He, he already said that he has a girlfriend and that they have marriage plans already. Why should we have meals with them? I won't go!" Qian Mufang never felt that she was worse off than anyone else. Moreover, her father was the provincial party committee secretary.

When she was still in school, she had a lot of suitors, but none of them caught her interest. That was because her father had said that after she graduated, he would introduce a good catch to her, and the person was someone she would never get to know in school.

Even though the blind date today was exceptionally good, but no matter how good he was, she did not want a man who was attached!

“Mufang, Dad knows that you are proud, but Dad has told you about the Zhai family. You are proud, but Regiment Commander Zhai has a better family background than you, and he could act however he wants. At his young age, he is already the regiment commander. I also heard that he had major meritorious performance in the army recently. You should know who his dad is. Sooner or later, he will take over his dad’s position. Think about it. If you marry Regiment Commander Zhai, what will your status be and what will happen to the Qian family? Have you heard of the saying to ride on somebody else’s success? Mufang, if we succeed this time, you will be the golden phoenix who soars out of the Qian family!”

It was no big deal that Regiment Commander Zhai had not taken a fancy to Mufang.

It was still uncertain who would end up with Regiment Commander Zhai.

Everyone had their own pride, but when faced with someone who was such a good catch, pride was simply not worth mentioning.

“Mufang, you are still too young. It’s understandable that you throw tantrums. However, you have to remember that I will only pick the best route for you. In the future, you will understand that the situation you encountered today is nothing at all. What matters is that you can succeed in the end!”

“How can it be successful?” At the thought of Zhai Sheng’s looks and his family background, Qian Mufang decided to compromise. “The problem doesn’t lie with me but Regiment Commander Zhai.”

Secretary Qian smiled. “This is not a problem. I suppose Madam Miao must have known that Regiment Commander Zhai has a girlfriend. Since she invited us today, it goes to show that she is unsatisfied with Regiment Commander Zhai’s girlfriend. If the future mother-in-law is on your side, Mufang, what are you afraid of?”

“Dad, what future mother-in-law are you talking about? Don’t talk nonsense.” Qian Mufang felt much better after being comforted by Secretary Qian. “But Dad, if Regiment Commander Zhai continues to address me as Auntie Qian the next time we meet, what should I do?” In this life, she had never been seen as that old before!

“What to do? That is not something we should be worried about. It is something Madam Miao has to resolve.” Secretary Qian leaned back and relaxed. “Mufang, you have to do our family proud.” He did not expect that the Zhai family would be willing to be in-laws with the Qian family.

Once they succeeded, he would achieve meteoric success in his career.

Unlike Secretary Qian and Qian Mufang who were having a happy conversation, as soon as Miao Jing and Zhai Sheng got into the car, Miao Jing exploded in anger right away. “Zhai Sheng, what is with that attitude of yours just now? I don’t think you respect me as your mother!” Auntie Qian? How could Zhai Sheng say something like that?

Zhai Sheng’s expression turned cold. “Mom, even though you are my elder, respect should always be mutual. Do you have any respect for me considering what you have done today?”

“If you are willing to abide by what I said and break up with the girl, I will definitely respect you and will not come up with so many tricks.” So in the end, the fault was with Zhai Sheng. If not for him, what happened today would not have happened.

Chapter 603: Zhai Hua and Her Harsh Words

Zhai Sheng’s face darkened. “Fine, I don’t want to talk about this anymore, lest I say something that hurts you. But Mom, I have to say that it’s no wonder that my grandpa likes you and insisted that dad married you. To a certain extent, your temper is very similar to grandpa’s temper.”

She was as overbearing as his grandpa, and everything must be done according to her likes and dislikes.

“What hurtful words are you going to say?” Miao Jing’s countenance changed. She looked at Zhai Sheng with pain in her eyes.

Her son had grown up and he no longer obeyed her words. Zhai Sheng had yet to marry the lady and yet he already went against her for that lady.

“Step on the gas.” Zhai Sheng felt stifled. There was no way that he could communicate with his mother.

“You...” The atmosphere in the car was worse than during the meal.

As soon as they reached the Zhai family’s residence, Zhai Sheng went back to his room without another word. He pulled a long face and slammed the door shut. Miao Jing felt upset that she was treated as such by her son.

There were tears in Miao Jing’s eyes, but she tried her best to contain her tears.

“Silly!” Zhai Yaohui, who was at home, witnessed the scene and unhappily threw the newspapers aside.

From the very beginning, Zhai Yaohui knew Miao Jing’s true intention behind the meal.

Miao Jing had been giving Zhai Yaohui the cold treatment for ages, but the first time Miao Jing took the initiative to speak to Zhai Yaohui was to ask him to join them for the meal and to let Zhai Sheng know of their stand in regard to Zhai Sheng’s marriage.

Miao Jing could feel that Zhai Yaohui had been making efforts to reconcile with her, but she did not forgive him as she was prideful. She had thought that Zhai Yaohui would definitely agree to her suggestion since she had already taken the initiative to ask him. To her surprise, Zhai Yaohui refused, saying that he would rather eat alone at home.

Miao Jing almost blew up at Zhai Yaohui’s words. “Silly? How am I silly? What I did are all for the sake of Zhai Sheng. I give birth to him. How can I not care about him and dote on him? Right now, he is young and insensible, hence his temper. As his dad, how can you not do anything about it? Is it that you will only put in effort if the other party is Qiu Chenxi?”

“Enough, stop being unreasonable. I admit that I did not object to it when you mentioned Qiu Chenxi and Qi Minlan in the past. Even though my stand has always been firm, my attitude might have been doubtful. I admit I have not handled it appropriately. I will do self-reflection and repent on my mistakes. However, Miao Jing, let me tell you. If you keep on mentioning this, you are no

longer the person that I know in the past.” Zhai Yaohui was very disappointed with Miao Jing. He sneered. “Your behavior is exactly like my dad back then!”

“Hahaha...” Miao Jing’s face turned pale. “Fine, you and your son gang up on me. Both of you said the same words. You are his father, while I am an outsider. I am an outsider! Are you satisfied?!” After snarling at Zhai Yaohui, Miao Jing sadly returned to her room.

She could not understand why nobody appreciated her painstaking efforts. There was nobody who could understand her.

In the past, there would be one or two people who would comfort her or do something to console her when she was upset. However, nobody bothered to care about her this time.

Miao Jing sat by herself for a long time. As time passed, she felt even more upset and she could not help but panic.

When she was young, she spent all her time with Zhai Yaohui, and she never took care of her children. But even so, although Zhai Sheng might be cold and indifferent as a son, he showed that he cared and was concerned about her.

Even when she quarreled with Zhai Yaohui, Zhai Sheng would always stand on her side.

But today, not only did Zhai Sheng not appease her, but he refused to give in to her as well. Furthermore, Miao Jing was in panic because of Zhai Yaohui’s attitude.

The next morning, Miao Jing saw that it was half-past six and made a phone call to Zhai Hua quickly. “Hua Hua, tell me, are your dad and your brother being too much and unreasonable? It’s fine if they cannot appreciate my efforts, but how could they do this to me?”

Zhai Hua, who returned to the army camp not long ago and had yet to take a rest, was annoyed. “I have heard this from Dad. He has asked me for my opinion. I have told him that the blind date would not work out. Zhai Sheng is too smart. Your childish tricks would be seen through by him right away. If he is incapable of that, it’s best that he stops being a soldier. Otherwise, he will definitely die in his mission.”

“What are you talking about!” Miao Jing was filled with trepidation. Before Zhai Sheng came back from his mission, Miao Jing had been constantly worried about him that she lost appetite, so she hated to hear such words.

“Do you know to be scared and fearful? If you know what fear is, then you should know that being alive is the most important of all. As long as Zhai Sheng is alive and by your side, just let him be with whoever he likes. Why must you force him to do as you wish? Zhai Sheng may be cold and aloof but he is soft-hearted. It pains him to be harsh to you. Since I am his elder sister, then I will be the bad guy. Mom, when Zhai Sheng and I were young and needed our parents the most, Dad and you did not take care of us. Now that we have grown up and have our own way of thinking and life, we can take care of ourselves. Mom, since you left us to mend for ourselves in the past, you just have to maintain the status quo now that we’ve grown up, and don’t interfere in our lives. Just stay by Dad’s side every day.”

“When we were young, we never blamed you for not taking care of us. You can rest assured that now that we have grown up, all the more we won’t. In fact, Zhai Sheng and I have to thank you for giving us freedom. Mom, can you just maintain your good image in front of us? Why must you play the bad guy and do things that will make us unhappy? Mom, what for?”

Zhai Hua had no idea what her mother was thinking about.

When they were young and weak, and might die when they fell sick if not properly taken care of, their mother was not by their side to take care of them.

Now that they had grown up, even if Qiao Nan was indeed a liar and a bad girl, the worst outcome was that Zhai Sheng’s feelings would be hurt.

Given his temper, it was impossible that he would attempt suicide because of relationship problems.

Therefore, why was her mother so worried?

When they needed her concern, she was not around, and when they could decide for themselves, she became overbearing.

“Fine, I will say no more. I am sleepy. I still have to sleep. I will go back in the afternoon.” With that, Zhai Hua hung up the phone coldly.

Zhai Hua had said something that was very true. Zhai Sheng appeared to be cold and aloof but was soft-hearted, whereas Zhai Hua appeared to be affectionate but was more hard-hearted than her brother.

Miao Jing was dumbfounded when she heard the dial tone of the phone. She had thought that her daughter would stand on her side. She never expected that she would be scolded by her.

Zhai Yaohui, who sat in the living room, saw that Miao Jing dashed out of the room with a flushed face. She then headed out to get the chauffeur. He sighed. He did not know what to say.

Chapter 604: Come Clean

When Miao Miao was young, she was simple and kind, and did not resort to any tricks.

Every time he saw Miao Miao, he felt as if she was a sunflower that bloomed in the sun. She was bright, sunny, cheerful, and hopeful toward the future.

But right now...

“Where is your mom heading to?” Zhai Yaohui could not help but ask Zhai Sheng who happened to come out right then.

At the mention of this, Zhai Sheng’s face turned black. “Where do you think my mom could have gone? Who else can my mom have a good chat with?”

When Zhai Yaohui heard what Zhai Sheng said, he could understand the change in his expression. Everyone who was in his position would feel the same.

Miao Miao introduced a prospective girlfriend to her son during the blind date yesterday. It was equivalent to snatching Qiao Nan’s boyfriend.

However, Miao Miao was unaware of it. She felt that she had suffered grievances and needed someone to talk to, and she happened to look for Qiao Nan, whose boyfriend was the party concerned. Qiao Nan could only suffer in silence.

Zhai Yaohui had no choice but to speak up for Miao Jing. "You must not be angry with your mom. She does not know about your relationship with Qiao Nan. If she knows, she will certainly not do this." Miao Miao would either accept Qiao Nan or sever all ties with Qiao Nan. She would not snatch Qiao Nan's boyfriend on one hand and pour grievances to her on the other hand.

Initially, Zhai Yaohui did not approve of Qiao Nan's relationship with Zhai Sheng. He merely acknowledged that she was Zhai Sheng's girlfriend.

But after what happened today, Zhai Yaohui began to sympathize with Qiao Nan. She was unlucky enough to be in a relationship with his son!

"Qiao Nan, I am going for a run." At the Qiao family's residence, Shi Qing felt awkward when facing Miao Jing, so she thought of an excuse to get away.

Previously, when she went to the Zhai's family residence to look for Brother Zhai, Auntie Miao would always be on the alert and be wary of her. She could understand her behavior as she was Qi Minlan's niece. But now that she was at the Qiao family's residence instead of at the Zhai family's residence, it was too much of Auntie Miao to look at her in the same way.

"What's there to run for? Do your homework in the small room!" Qiao Nan threw the schoolbag to Shi Qing. It was September now. The Indian summer was unbearable, especially now that it was near noontime. It was no different from the summer. It would be bad for one's health to run at this time.

"Alright." Shi Qing took the schoolbag abidingly and went to the room where Qiao Zijin lived in previously to do her homework.

Ever since she received the information that Shi Peng sent to her regarding the Qiao family, Shi Qing had only dislike for Qiao Zijin, whom she had never met before. Normally, she would never go into the room that she once lived in.

But it was a special situation today. She knew that Miao Jing had something to talk to Qiao Nan. Hence, she could only leave the living room.

As soon as Shi Qing left, Miao Jing began to pour her grievances to Nan Nan. “Nan Nan, what wrong have I done? I have good intentions but nobody appreciates it. Zhai Sheng is like this, and even Hua Hua...” Miao Jing’s heart ached at the thought of the hurtful words that her daughter said.

Qiao Nan also wished to cry out loud. What wrong had she done to deserve such treatment?

“Auntie Miao, do you want to hear the truth or some comforting words?” It took Qiao Nan quite a while to set aside the heartache she felt before she braced herself.

“The truth.” Miao Jing hesitated for a moment and chose to hear the truth. She knew what those comforting words were, and she had no need of them. Because it was Qiao Nan, Miao Jing wanted to hear the truth.

“Auntie Miao, since you want to listen to the truth, I can only say that you have a double standard when dealing with things. Take for instance what happened with Chief Zhai back then. Old Master Zhai was indeed the person who pushed for your marriage with Chief Zhai. Without his insistence, Chief Zhai’s girlfriend seemed to be Qiu Chenxi’s mom back then, am I right? Old Master Zhai is Chief Zhai’s father. Old Master Zhai must have let Chief Zhai marry you for Chief Zhai’s sake. He couldn’t possibly want to harm Chief Zhai. That was an act of a loving father. However, if you approved of his actions, you would not have agreed for the Zhai family to be in contact with the Qiu family and be so nice to Qiu Chenxi all these years, even to the extent of planning for Brother Zhai to marry Qiu Chenxi.”

“Auntie Miao, you wanted Brother Zhai to marry Qiu Chenxi just to fulfill Chief Zhai’s dreams. You felt that you owed it to Chief Zhai, so even though you knew that Brother Zhai does not like Qiu Chenxi, you would rather let him suffer and go according to your wishes than to change your mind, right? Back then, you felt that you owed it to Chief Zhai and hence Brother Zhai had to repay your debts. Now that you no longer think so, you want to dictate Brother Zhai and want him to obey your wishes and marry a girl whom you think is suitable to be the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family. Auntie Miao, you have not really taken care of Brother Zhai and Sister Zhai Hua. To put it bluntly, apart from giving birth to them, you have not given them anything since they were young. It was the Zhai family who nurtured and raised them up, isn’t that so?”

Auntie Miao came from a family of farmers. Her grandpa and father were farmers. Back in the revolutionary era, it was good to be farmers.

However, during the postmodern era, Auntie Miao’s family background was considered simple and they had neither power nor social status. What they lacked the most was money.

After Auntie Miao married Chief Zhai, she had never held a job. She did not work to raise her children. In fact, the Zhai family had to pay for her expenses.

Though it was said that Auntie Miao helped Chief Zhai take care of the family so that he could focus on his career, Auntie Miao had, in fact, been keeping an eye on Chief Zhai. Though she stayed by his side, she never helped him take care of the Zhai family.

She did not work and did not take care of her children. Had she fulfilled her duties as a housewife?

If they were to divorce, according to the current law, Auntie Miao would not deserve to have half of the family assets.

She did not make any contributions.

But she held the power and authority!

Miao Jing was stunned. Was she as terrible as what Qiao Nan made her to be?

Miao Jing almost had an emotional breakdown, but Qiao Nan was in a worse state than her. She never expected that Auntie Miao would introduce a blind date to Brother Zhai and make use of her birthday to make Brother Zhai go to the blind date!

Qiao Nan's tone was full of pain and frustration. "Auntie Miao, you come from an ordinary farming family as well. Why do you look down on ladies whose parents do not work for the government? Auntie Miao, if I am the person who is in a relationship with Brother Zhai, and he wants to marry me, will you hate me and refuse to accept me? Even though you know that we have the intention to get married, will you still insist that we break up and for Brother Zhai to go to a blind date? Auntie Miao, am I so undeserving of your liking and your acceptance?"

A woman would have two mothers in her lifetime—her biological mother and her mother-in-law.

Qiao Nan did not understand why she did not have any luck with her 'mothers'. Her biological mother treated her badly and Auntie Miao was so cruel to her.

Auntie Miao liked her very much as a junior and wanted to take her as her goddaughter.

Goddaughter was considered as half a daughter, and a daughter-in-law was considered as half a daughter as well. Why was it that Auntie Miao treated them so differently?

Chapter 605: Gave Up

For a moment, Qiao Nan really had a feeling that she was going to breakdown as she could not keep going anymore.

“No, no, you, you are very good, Nan Nan, really.” Miao Jing was flustered, not knowing whether to comfort herself or to comfort Qiao Nan.

At the thought of the cold, harsh words that her daughter said, Qiao Nan’s words of reason felt as soothing as the April spring breeze.

“I’m good, yet you don’t like me?”

“No, no, the person that I don’t like is Zhai Sheng’s girlfriend. If you are his girlfriend, I will definitely like you.” But Nan Nan was not in a relationship with Zhai Sheng. Nan Nan was not that lady.

“Auntie Miao, if I tell you that I am the girl, are you willing to accept me?” Qiao Nan decided to take the plunge since the outcome would be the same either way. She did not want to be a coward anymore.

“Nan Nan, don’t make a joke. Even if you want to comfort me, you should not say this.” Miao Jing smiled bitterly. She did not believe Qiao Nan’s words. “I think I understand what you mean. Nan Nan, Hua Hua and you are right. I have failed as a wife, and I have failed as a mother as well. I have never done anything right in my life. When I should have been taking care of my children, I devoted all my time to be a wife. When my children are grown up and it’s time for me to let go, I try to stop them from leading their own lives.”

Qiao Nan lowered her head and covered her face with her hands.

No, it was not Auntie Miao who failed terribly. It was her.

She did not understand why nobody believed her when she told the truth. Both Qiu Chenxi and Auntie Miao did not believe her words.

“Auntie Miao, in short, if you really feel that what you did yesterday was for the best interests of Brother Zhai, and that he should accept your kind intentions, from then on, please hold your head high in the Zhai family and tell it arrogantly to Chief Zhai that if he did not marry you, he would not be blessed with such happiness. Perhaps, when you see Qi Minlan next time, you should behave like Madam Zhai and tell her that you are the best person to be Madam Zhai, and that you are more suited for the role than her.” Qiao Nan sent the helve after the hatchet, feeling weak in the knees.

Although Qiao Nan said it in a pique of anger, she meant what she said.

Although Qiao Nan’s words sank in, Miao Jing was not confident in doing that.

When she was just married to Zhai Yaohui, as she was not used to the dealings within the political circle, she often made a fool of herself.

She was more suited than Qi Minlan?

No, at least in the beginning, she did not fit the bill.

“Nan Nan, do you think Zhai Sheng will stay angry at me for what happened this time? Will he ignore me?” Miao Jing, who had calmed down, began to worry about the consequences of her actions. In fact, when she felt guilty of her actions yesterday, subconsciously, she already knew that it was wrong of her to do that.

“You are his mother and he is your son. Given that both of you are related by blood, as long as you stop being obstinate and realize your mistakes, Brother Zhai will not ignore you. Of course, Auntie Miao, I am not trying to scare you. If you disregard Brother Zhai’s feelings and introduce another blind date to him in the future, your relationship with Brother Zhai will not get anywhere. It is totally up to you whether Brother Zhai and Sister Zhai Hua will be close to you.”

As a family of soldiers, it was impossible for them to sever ties with each other.

But they could be estranged with each other.

Miao Jing knitted her brows and pondered her words. “Nan Nan, I will think about what you said. You are right. I should have thought about how I should get along with Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng. Since a young age, they have had a mind of their own. The average children will usually throw tantrums when their parents are not with them, but they were not rebellious at all. I suppose, even for the average children, they will also be upset with my arrangement if they have someone they are in love with.”

“Auntie Miao, it’s good that you understand.” Even though Auntie Miao did not believe that she was Brother Zhai’s girlfriend, she supposed that in this way, Auntie Miao would not introduce other girlfriends to Brother Zhai at least.

“Yes, I understand and feel much better now.” Sure enough, Nan Nan was the only one who could make her see reasons whenever she encountered problems.

Nan Nan was fair and reasonable. She would spell the facts in a straightforward way, unlike Hua Hua, who said hurtful words to her.

“Auntie Miao, what’s wrong with you now?” Qiao Nan felt a jarring headache when she saw that Miao Jing pulled a long face again.

“Hua Hua said such harsh words to me this time and was so fierce to me. I’m worried that Hua Hua...” She was worried that Hua Hua would no longer treat her as her mother.

“Hey, Auntie Miao, why aren’t you afraid when you are being self-assertive? Who do you take Sister Hua Hua for? She is a smart person! You are her mother. That’s why she said such harsh words to you without beating about the bush. She wanted you to feel the pain so that you can realize your mistakes. If you were not her mother, she would not care that you are being silly, or that your behavior is affecting your relationship with your son. This is what family members do for each other. Family members will remind us when we make mistakes and they will stay by our side no matter what.”

“Then what about you? If your mom and sister repent for their mistakes, will you forgive them?” Miao Jing asked naturally.

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. Her eyes were gloomy. “Auntie Miao, can I not answer this question? What I want to say is that not everyone in this world can repent for their mistakes. Some people just

will not change. What's more, some people simply don't feel that what they did is wrong. They feel that it's the faults of other people."

Since her mother and Qiao Zijin did not feel that they were in the wrong, there was no way that they would repent. In that case, there was nothing for her to forgive them.

"Well... It's my fault. I shouldn't have brought up this topic. Don't be upset." Miao Jing felt like smacking her lips. She had heard of Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin, and knew of their wrongdoings. She had even seen it for herself.

This pair of mother and daughter still had not realized their mistakes.

"Nan Nan, why is the daughter from the Shi family staying at your place? Shouldn't she be staying at the Qiu family's residence?" Shi Qing was Qiu Chenxi's relative. Was it suitable for her to stay at the Qiao family's residence?

Qiao Nan pressed on her cheeks that felt painful. "Auntie Miao, Shi Qing is a good girl, unlike Qiu Chenxi. You must not lump Shi Qing together with Qiu Chenxi or even the entire Qiu family, especially Qi Minlan."

As for the problems in the Shi family, though other people would learn of it sooner or later, it was inappropriate for her to reveal the details.

"Alright, it's fine as long as you know what you're doing." Since Qiao Nan knew what she was doing, Miao Jing would say no more.

Qiao Nan found it both funny and annoying. "Auntie Miao, do you know what you are doing then?"

"Don't worry. I won't make Zhai Sheng go for blind dates anymore."

Chapter 606: Headache

As long as she did not make Zhai Sheng attend blind dates, both her children would not be angry with her anymore. There would not be any other issues then?

Qiao Nan massaged her temple. “Auntie Miao, didn’t you make Brother Zhai attend a blind date with a lady yesterday? Brother Zhai’s attitude is not good, but what about that lady and her father? Did they lose their temper and say things such as why Brother Zhai still came for the session when he already has a girlfriend?”

“No, they said to meet up for a meal again when there’s a chance.” Miao Jing then came to a realization. “You’re saying that the Qian family has not given up their hopes on Zhai Sheng although he addressed that lady as Auntie Qian?”

Wasn’t that too exaggerated? Normally, a lady who encountered such a matter would have been driven to the grave.

“Do you think that’s possible?” A family like the Zhai family would be one that the Qian family wished to be related to but could not find an avenue to do so. The current situation was that Auntie Miao initiated the meet-up. As such, why would they give up just because of the words ‘Auntie Qian’? “Auntie Miao, you’re the one who initiated this blind date. It’d be better if you pay more attention to it. If you’re unable to resolve it, you can deflect it to Chief Zhai. It’s not because of other things and it’s also not that you’re targeting the father and daughter of the Qian family. After all, which family does not have a few worrisome relatives? It’s just that if someone knows that both families attended the blind date, they may make use of it and spread to everyone that the Zhai family is their in-law-to-be to benefit themselves. If it negatively affects Brother Zhai, it won’t be good then. Brother Zhai has just returned after completing his mission. He’s in strong limelight and many people are watching him.”

If this was not resolved properly, it would be equivalent to letting others catch a handle of them.

“...” Miao Jing’s face turned red and then pale. She finally understood and knew the grave mistake that she had made through the blind date. She could have brought huge trouble to the Zhai family.

Certainly, a family like theirs had to be more cautious in their dealings and should not leave any opportunities for others.

“What you said is right. I’d better tell your Uncle Zhai about this.” Miao Jing sighed and picked up the phone in the house of the Qiao family.

Qiao Nan immediately held on to Miao Jing’s hands. “Auntie Miao, since you’ve already sorted out your thoughts, knowing that you were in the wrong in the matter yesterday, and won’t intervene in

such matters of Brother Zhai again in the future, why don't you simply go back instead of making a call? You're one family. Isn't it better to talk openly?" Making a phone call was akin to running away from the problem. Auntie Miao could not possibly stay at her house and not go home, right?

If she did, she could stay for one night at most.

Miao Jing smiled wryly. "You, this little girl, are too capable. Why do you have to interfere in everything?"

"I don't want to. Can you not look for me?"

"I can't."

Before Qiao Nan could persuade further, regardless of how embarrassed and awkward Miao Jing felt, she did not remain in the house of the Qiao family. She requested the chauffeur to send her back to the Zhai family.

"Oh, she finally left?" As soon as Miao Jing left, Shi Qing walked out. "What do you think is wrong with Auntie Miao? Clearly, she gets along quite well with you. Why does she have to object to Brother Zhai being with you? It's so strange."

"I don't know either." Qiao Nan felt disappointed at heart but she could not voice it out.

"I've heard some of the conversations between the two of you. You're quite good-looking and your results are good. Why can't Auntie Miao believe that you're Brother Zhai's girlfriend? Brother Zhai and you are quite compatible." Disagree and disbelief—facing these two attitudes of Auntie Miao, Shi Qing could not understand despite thinking over the matter.

Qiao Nan tugged the corners of her lips and returned to the house. "Don't ask me. My head hurts badly now. I've been double-crossed and I still had to console the person who did that to me. Is there someone as pitiful as me in this world? If the same situation occurs again a few more times, I'm also not sure how much longer I can endure. True enough, occasional gunfire and bombs can't break up Brother Zhai and me, but what can cause us to separate are daily occurrences."

"Pitiful child, I sympathize with you." Fortunately, it was impossible between her and Brother Zhai. There would not be an outcome between them. Otherwise, she would be the one suffering from such torture.

She was unable to be with Brother Zhai in this lifetime. Seemingly, it was not all loss. There were some gains as well.

Just as Miao Jing alighted from the car, Zhai Hua also arrived at the house of the Zhai family.

At that sight of her mother, Zhai Hua was speechless as she asked, “Just because of the blind date yesterday, you lost your temper and ran out? You went to look for Nan Nan again?”

“You all are not willing to bother about me, and you also don’t allow others to do so?” Miao Jing still could not forget her daughter’s cruel words in the phone call. “Comparing you to Qiao Nan, I don’t know who I actually gave birth to.” Why was she not even comparable to a child that she knew?

“Hahaha...” Zhai Hua laughed. ‘Concede defeat’ was written all over her face. Her eyes were full of sarcasm and ridicule. “I really wonder whether Qiao Nan had been a terrible villain who committed all sorts of crimes in her previous few lifetimes.” That she would meet so many people who would take advantage of her in this life. “Forget it. I can’t be bothered to talk to you.”

Zhai Hua smelled of sweat and her hair was oily.

Zhai Hua left Miao Jing behind and returned to her bedroom. She took a thorough hot water bath and came out only after twenty minutes.

As for how the other family of three outside her room interacted during these twenty minutes, Zhai Hua completely did not bother and could not intervene as well. Two of the three outside were her elders and one was the younger brother that she doted on most. All these three were more opinionated than one another. Who did she dare to take in hand? Who could she take in hand?

Miao Jing seemed to be having thorns on her bottoms. She was restless and could not sit still. She looked at Zhai Yaohui from time to time, hoping that Zhai Yaohui could open his mouth and ask her what happened.

However, today, Zhai Yaohui also wanted to frighten Miao Jian intentionally. He had clearly seen through Miao Jing’s thoughts but he held back and did not open his mouth to ask.

In the end, Miao Jing was still the one who could not hold back further. “Zhai Yaohui, if Zhai Sheng doesn’t like it, as his mother, I can’t possibly force him to marry the lady of the other family. Yesterday’s matter will be put to a close. Nevertheless, to prevent the other party from misunderstanding, do you want to pay the Qian family a visit and give them an explanation?”

Whether a blind date was successful or not, both parties had to give each other a response. It was also to prevent causing any unnecessary misunderstanding or delaying the other party’s time.

“You have thought about it?” Zhai Yaohui looked at Miao Jing in an unfriendly manner. “Miao Miao, we’re already at this age. In the future, create less trouble and don’t kick up a fuss regarding our children’s matters.”

“I’m asking you to clarify with the Qian family now!” Yes, she was only a wild and wretched girl from the countryside. She was ignorant. She could not help Zhai Yaohui and the Zhai family and could only cause trouble for them. Today, it seemed like the words that Qi Minlan had told her in the past was not wrong at all.

Regardless of how stubborn she was and no matter if she refused to admit defeat, in the end, even her son and daughter did not want to be on her side.

Zhai Hua came out with a towel wrapped on her head. She was full of anger as she said, “Mom, you’re clearly the one in the wrong in this matter.”

Chapter 607: Will You Accept Someone Like Qiao Nan?

“You want Dad to help you clean up the mess that you’ve created. Aren’t you being too much with this attitude?” Zhai Hua sat down hard on the sofa. The soft feel on her bottom made her sigh. True enough, home was the most comfortable place. “Dad, when Mom was with you outside in the past, was her temper always like that?”

Zhai Yaohui did not deny.

At this juncture, Zhai Hua laughed. “Dad, why didn’t I hear you mentioned this before? All these years, I have been thinking that mom was the one accommodating you. She doesn’t even bother about Zhai Sheng and me anymore. So, you’re the one who became mom’s scapegoat. Given

Mom's such temper, it seems that you didn't live as good a life as Zhai Sheng and I thought for these twenty years."

So what if his wife was always by his side? The wife was occasionally muddleheaded and had an extremely strong temper.

She did not understand what her grandfather saw in her mother that he insisted that her mother married into the Zhai family.

Zhai Yaohui gave Zhai Hua a look of warning and hinted at her not to go overboard. No matter what, Miao Miao was Hua Hua's biological mother. Could Hua Hua treat her elder in such a manner?

"Mom, did you see that? My dad treats you much better than what we think. He has to see your frowning and sulky look occasionally, especially when the Qiu family visited us. You looked so bitter as if you're nursing a deep hatred. I really once believed how much Dad made you suffer. Mom, you have to cherish your fortune. It's not easy to meet someone like Dad. Don't be too much."

Zhai Hua only knew today that the way her parents got along was not as simple as what she thought previously. Her mother, because of her family background, not only had low self-esteem but was also looked down upon by people around her.

Moreover, her father was also not the kind of male chauvinist that would entirely disregard his wife's feelings and turn a blind eye to her mother's pain.

So, over these years, it was not her mother accommodating her father but her father tolerating her mother?

After all, every time the Qiu family visited and left, her mother would flare up. Also, each time, she and Zhai Sheng would cast ugly looks at their father as they felt that he had bullied their mother. It had been so many years and her father had endured it silently. Hence, the one who was really suffering was not her mother but her father.

Zhai Hua looked at Zhai Yaohui with eyes full of empathy: To have such a worrisome wife and two biased children...'Dad, you're so pitiful.'

Zhai Yaohui saw through Zhai Hua's thoughts immediately. He was so furious that he nearly threw the newspapers in his hands at Zhai Hua's face. Pitiful? How was he pitiful? His wife was virtuous and he had few worries. Moreover, both his children were capable and completely unlike those from other families who had so many bad habits. "The matter regarding the Qian family, I've already contacted them."

Miao Jing, who nearly stood up upon hearing her daughter's words, felt a little surprised when she heard this good news. "You've contacted them?"

"Yes, the Qian family understands now."

The minute Miao Jing stepped out of the door to look for Qiao Nan, Zhai Yaohui had found out what the phone number of the Qian family was. He gave a call to Secretary Qian and expressed that Zhai Sheng did not inform the family that he was in a romantic relationship. Hence, Miao Jing was unaware of this matter and thus arranged the blind date. Everything was a misunderstanding and they were very sorry to have wasted Qian Mufang's one day of time.

As soon as these words were out, it was clear that the Zhai family did not object to the relationship between Zhai Sheng and his current girlfriend.

Secretary Qian was not willing to give up yesterday because of Miao Jing's attitude.

However, Zhai Yaohui, the head of the family, had already said that the Zhai family did not have an objection to the current relationship of Zhai Sheng. Hence, Secretary Qian no longer had anything to yearn for. He immediately told Qian Mufang that he would find another good man for her.

After Qian Mufang finished the conversation with Secretary Qian and hung up the phone, she was so furious that she threw a huge fit.

Find another good one?

Would he be as good as Regiment Commander Zhai? Would he be better than him?

To put it bluntly, they were going to find a substandard product that was not better than Regiment Commander Zhai.

“So what if there’s no longer any issue with the Qian family? It is the Qian family this time. Maybe it will be the Zhao family, the Sun family, or the Lee family next time. Dad, our Zhai family will be very lively in the future.” Zhai Hua, who was sitting on the sofa and drying her hair, spoke menacingly and nastily again, giving no face to her mother, Miao Jing, at all.

Zhai Hua’s character was as such. In the past, when she thought that Zhai Yaohui was not good enough to Miao Jing, she also spoke to Zhai Yaohui in such a bizarre manner with implied meaning in her words. It was just that the party she was aggravating was changed from Zhai Yaohui to Miao Jing today.

“Hua Hua, restrain yourself a little. Even if you’re at home, there’s still someone who can discipline you!” Zhai Yaohui’s face turned black. Hua Hua was getting overboard.

“Hahaha.” Zhai Hua did an action of zipping her mouth and expressed that she would shut up.

Miao Jing’s hands trembled a little. In the past, she had seen her daughter using such an attitude toward Zhai Yaohui. She did not expect that she would suffer from the same kind of ‘treatment’ one day. “Don’t worry. There won’t be any Zhao, Qian, Sun, or Lee families. Since Zhai Sheng already has a girlfriend, even if this young lady’s birth status is not good enough, as long as there isn’t much issue in her character and she won’t drag the family down, I won’t object to it.”

“Really?” Zhai Hua, who had just shut up, looked at Miao Jing in shock. “Mom, Zhai Sheng is someone who is very determined. He’s getting along very well with that young lady. It’s impossible that he will be willing to meet that lady from the Qian family. If you say this, the more Zhai Sheng won’t change his mind. You have to know that if you relent on this, basically, it’s almost a certainty that your daughter-in-law will be this young lady.”

This time, Zhai Yaohui did not hold Zhai Hua back. This was because, he, too, thought alike.

Once Miao Miao said this, if Miao Miao regretted what she said today, Zhai Sheng would not care about Miao Miao’s feelings. He would act first and inform later. He would submit the marriage report and collect the marriage certificate. The situation would become awful and difficult. The mother and son would become like enemies with each other.

“It’s real. More real than real gold. If I’m unwilling, I’m unwilling. Previously, I didn’t agree to his relationship with that young lady. I only said that we need to observe more. Of course, if Zhai Sheng really wants to be with that young lady, it’s not that I won’t have any requirements. Given the status of our Zhai family, when Zhai Sheng marries his wife, it will be different from the time that your dad married me. I can have no expectations regarding her family background but not in other

areas. If she does not meet my expectations at the very least, I won't agree to let her marry into the house of the Zhai family. She has to be a good person without malicious intents. She has to be smart, presentable, and able to handle things in a gracious manner. She has to meet all these criteria!"

Her requirements were not low either.

If that young girlfriend of Zhai Sheng had no problems meeting all these requirements, then she would really have nothing to say.

On the contrary, if she did not meet her requirements, then it would not do. It was not just her. The Zhai family could not agree either!

Zhai Sheng, who had been crossing his arms and displaying the attitude of refusal all these while, suddenly opened his mouth and said, "Mom, if I find you a young lady like Nan Nan, whose family background is not the best but not the worst either, is pretty and smart, has top-notch grades, has contributed to the country, and is commended by the army before she even steps out of the society, will you accept?"

Chapter 608: That Was Mean

"..." Miao Jing was stunned. "Don't use Nan Nan to make such a joke. This is not a joke. This is you being mean."

"..."

"..."

Both Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng were silent for a moment. Zhai Hua raised her eyebrows and snorted. "Anyway, if Zhai Sheng finds you a young lady like Qiao Nan, tell me, will you agree? Is Qiao Nan pretty enough? There's no issue with her character either. Regarding the handling of matters, you've sorted out your thoughts because of Qiao Nan's advice. At the very least, Qiao Nan's thoughts are more mature than you. Her character and interpersonal skills are definitely not poor. Furthermore, everyone knows how well Qiao Nan performed in the army this time. Mom, is there anything you're dissatisfied with?"

Miao Jing was both angry and amused. "If Zhai Sheng can really find a young lady like Nan Nan, I should be able to accept. However, I have to say this again. We're just having a chat at home. You can't spread these words outside. Nan Nan is just a young lady and you all are so mean to her. She's really down on her luck. Nan Nan has no dealings with Qiu Chenxi and the latter already went to her place to look for trouble. If you keep using her as a comparison, do you want Qiu Chenxi to go after Nan Nan tirelessly and target Nan Nan for the rest of her life?"

Miao Jing was not shunning young ladies with such a family background. She was just sparing a thought for Nan Nan. Hence, such an attitude made the other three in the family at a loss for words.

"Did you hear that!" Miao Jing slammed the table once. "I'm saying this not just for Nan Nan's sake. I'm also reminding you, Zhai Sheng. Your father and I watched Qiu Chenxi grow up. This lady is strong-tempered and arrogant. She feels that all the good things in the world belong to her. Zhai Sheng refuses to be with her. If the status of the lady that Zhai Sheng marries in the future is higher than hers, she may not even feel justified. On the other hand, if you marry one whose family background is worse than hers, if Qiu Chenxi catches anything that's lacking in that lady, she will definitely not let this lady off. Like mother, like daughter. This certainly can't be wrong."

In short, whoever Qiu Chenxi targeted would be very unlucky.

"Is it so excessive?" Zhai Hua asked, seemingly doubting it.

"You don't believe me?" Miao Jing gave Zhai Yaohui a glance. "I've already said that if the young lady you all mentioned is really similar to Nan Nan, I won't agree. But, at the very least, I won't object. Furthermore, I won't arrange anymore blind date like the one yesterday for Zhai Sheng. I can promise that I won't do anything to this young lady, but once you expose the identity of this young lady, what Qiu Chenxi will do to her... Don't say that I didn't remind you today. Zhai Sheng, having a romantic relationship is your own business. Don't torture others. You can't drag Nan Nan into this. Understand? If the same thing happens again, Qiu Chenxi looking for her and scolding her vixen, will Nan Nan still have a good reputation? Will she be able to find a boyfriend and get married in the future? You will be building your happiness on someone else's pain and suffering. Zhai Sheng, is this what you should do as a soldier?"

Although all that Miao Jing had just said were not issues, Zhai Sheng could not help thinking deeply about the worries in Miao Jing's words.

"Zhai Sheng, I objected previously, but I've never told you my concerns before. Nan Nan is right. We are one family and there's nothing we can't tell one another. The young girlfriend that you're

with now definitely doesn't belong to our social circle. She doesn't have any connections. If you bring her to attend other people's events, how many people will she know?"

"This is not an issue. She's very intelligent. If you give her some time, she can completely handle the situation well," Zhai Hua said it first.

Miao Jing laughed in a mocking manner. "Even if this young lady is really very smart, she needs to spend some time to understand and get a handle on things. However, you have to understand that trouble will always come knocking at her door. If no one targets her, she may have enough time to learn. But will Qiu Chenxi allow that? Qiu Chenxi has a lot of friends in this circle. She's different from Zhai Sheng and you. Both of you stay in the army every day and carry out your missions. You are the down-to-earth type that rolls up your sleeves. But what Qiu Chenxi likes most is to attend various events and functions. Previously, this was also the reason why I wanted Zhai Sheng to marry Qiu Chenxi."

"I understand now." Zhai Hua made a fist with one hand and punched her other hand. "Mom, what you mean is that, as soon as Zhai Sheng's girlfriend appears, Qiu Chenxi will never give her any time to learn and grow. Once there is a chance to attend a public event, Qiu Chenxi will bring along her group of foxy and bitchy friends to make things difficult for my sister-in-law?"

In that kind of social circle and setting, if one had been surrounded and made a fool of, then the blow was really not going to be little. If it was not handled properly, she might not dare to face others again.

"I'm sure that will happen."

"Mom, you said it as if you're very experienced. Was it because Qi Minlan dealt with you in the same manner when you first married Dad?!" Zhai Hua discovered that she had found the crux of the problem.

The only explanation that her mother understood the situation so well was that she had already experienced it.

If that was really the case, she could then understand why her mother was insistent on finding a daughter-in-law with better family status and background.

At the very least, ladies who came from good family backgrounds could handle such major occasions and would not be bullied too harshly by Qiu Chenxi. Her mother was concerned that Nan Nan would be bullied and humiliated?

Clearly, her mother had good intentions but she never made herself clear.

If this was not brought up today, she really could not understand why her mother had always been rejecting ladies with a family background such as that of Nan Nan.

At the sight of her father's expression, she was certain that even her father did not know that there was such a matter as well.

Knowing that her biological mother had suffered so greatly under Qi Minlan, Zhai Hua raged with righteousness and indignation. "Mom, you only know how to be fierce in front of us and make us listen to you. Why do you act like a weakling before Qi Minlan? She made you suffer so much when you're young that you made such a fool of yourself and yet you're still willing to let her daughter marry your son? I'm going to be driven to my grave. Everyone says that the daughter-in-law suffers and finally becomes the mother-in-law. Judging from past grievances, if you really wanted Qiu Chenxi to be married into our family, you should have used the identity of the mother-in-law to subdue Qiu Chenxi. However, you would rather suffer and make yourself unhappy. You allowed Qiu Chenxi to come to our house and have so many meals over the years. You watched the mother-daughter pair sitting in our house, happily laughing and chit-chatting with each other. Mom, what were you thinking then?"

If it was her, she would have long taken revenge.

"Nan Nan is right. I feel very sorry about what happened in the past. I felt guilty and I wanted to make up for it. Hence, I could only suffer alone." She snatched Zhai Yaohui away from Qi Minlan and destroyed the happiness between Zhai Yaohui and Qi Minlan. In the end, she had to sacrifice her only son to make up for the regrets of Zhai Yaohui and Qi Minlan.

Nan Nan was right. She was selfish. She selfishly wanted to be with Zhai Yaohui for the sake of her own happiness.

Chapter 609: Dad, You're a Moron

Next, she made her son lose the opportunity to choose his love so that he could help her make it up for everything.

What Hua Hua said was not wrong. As a mother, she did not give anything, yet she always wanted to control her children and make them do something for her.

Perhaps, Qi Minlan was right when she called her a jinx in the past.

Because of her existence, everyone she was related to did not have a good life and had to be burdened by her.

Zhai Yaohui lost Qi Minlan. Today, she forced her son, who already had someone he liked, to attend a blind date. Certainly, none of those who were slightly close to her could lead a happy life.

When Miao Jing said such words that gave up on herself, both Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua looked at Zhai Yaohui angrily.

After all, Qi Minlan, this trouble, was drawn in by Zhai Yaohui. After saying so much, the world rotated 360 degrees and returned to its starting point. The problem was still with this good father of theirs.

This time, Zhai Yaohui did not look at his two children with blame. In actual fact, today was also the first time he found out that Miao Jing had encountered such matters when she just married into the Zhai family.

When Miao Jing first came to the Zhai family, she was aware that her status was not compatible with the Zhai family. She thus felt very ill at ease even when she was at the house of the Zhai family. Although Old Master Zhai told her to treat it as her own home, Miao Jing restrained her behavior and was so careful, even when she was holding a cup of tea. She was fearful that she would break the cup or crack any corner or porcelain of the cup.

If anyone had spoken harshly to Miao Jing, to Miao Jing, who did not have any confidence then, that would certainly have been a great blow.

Zhai Yaohui felt uneasy at heart. So, without him knowing, Miao Miao had already been bullied before. Moreover, Qi Minlan was the one who bullied her.

When Zhai Yaohui thought of some of the things that he did in the past, he asked, “Did it happen when I asked you to follow Qi Minlan around so that she could guide you more many years ago?”

“...” After some time, Miao Jing then answered bitterly, “Yes...”

She was not compatible with Zhai Yaohui. There was nothing about her that was compatible with him. Then, Zhai Yaohui still had to throw her to her rival-in-love and asked her rival-in-love to bring her around in a social circle that was completely different from that of hers. He made her become the laughingstock in many people’s eyes.

“Dad, you’re a moron!” Zhai Hua could not help spurting out these words of scolding. “I’ve not seen Qi Minlan when she was young but I’ve seen much of Qiu Chenxi. Qiu Chenxi is Qi Minlan’s daughter. Their tempers are definitely alike. Mom had just snatched you over from Qi Minlan and you handed her over to the latter and asked her to guide Mom. Dad, had your intelligence been eaten by a dog in the past?”

“Dad, it seems like you don’t really understand this little childhood friend of yours,” Zhai Sheng said in disdain, his eyes full of blame.

Her mother was to be married to his father but his father did not protect her well. He even let her suffer such humiliation. Firstly, his father’s judgment of character was poor and he trusted the wrong person. Secondly, he did not fulfill his duty as a husband!

Nan Nan had been saying that there was a knot in her mother’s heart. It was indeed true. Moreover, it had something to do with his father and Qi Minlan.

“Hahaha, it’s really so amusing now. Our whole family is going to be a laughingstock.” Zhai Hua was angered beyond words. Her father was the chief. Amongst their peers in the army, she and Zhai Sheng were considered the victors.

After so long, their family of four had actually been toyed by the Qiu family, which had a lower status than that of the Zhai family.

Miao Jing sniffed. She was not like when she was twenty-over years old where she would cry after being bullied. She could nearly be a grandmother soon. She would not cry. “Anyway, Zhai Sheng, I’m a living example. There’s an illness in my heart that I can’t cure. I feel bad and made you all

feel bad too. Zhai Sheng, if you really like that young lady, you have to think carefully about Mom's situation and then consider how you will treat the young lady."

"Actually, I disagreed previously not because of the young lady's status. It's because I've suffered too much. There's no need for our family to take advantage of the young lady of another family. If she's bullied, you may still live happily if you don't know anything. But when you know about it, the matter will become complicated. In short, it's difficult either way."

Qiu Chenxi was definitely not a kind one. She seemed to be more merciless than the Qi Minlan in the past. "Zhai Sheng, regarding the matter between your dad and me in the past, Qi Minlan has never dared to address me as a vixen before others at the very least. She only knows how to harm me behind other people's back. However, look at Qiu Chenxi. Nan Nan is not related to you in any way, yet she had already knocked on her door and scolded her. Reputation is so important to a young lady. You can't afford to provoke Qi Minlan's daughter."

"Since we can't afford to provoke her, yet you still..." Zhai Hua was sullen. Wouldn't there be less trouble if they had drawn the line with the Qiu family earlier?

"Hahaha." Miao Jing sneered. She did not explain because she could not do so.

As a lady from the countryside, of course, Miao Jing felt uneasy and unhappy when she saw the graceful and elegant Qi Minlan. She was not willing to interact with such a person.

Furthermore, Miao Jing felt that she was the one who took away something that belonged to Qi Minlan. She felt guilty and was unwilling to face Qi Minlan. The best course of action would be the Zhai family completely ceasing all interactions with Qi Minlan and her family.

The problem was that Zhai Yaohui and Qi Minlan felt that they could still be siblings although they could not be spouses. He had been telling Miao Jing that Qi Minlan's character was not bad and that she was quite good. She was cheerful and knowledgeable and would be a good sister. If there was anything that Miao Jing did not understand, she could look for Qi Minlan if she needed help.

Zhai Yaohui initially thought that since Miao Jing was a woman, whereas he was a man, there must be many things that while he did not know, Qi Minlan did.

He was hoping that Miao Jing could quickly find a friend that she could get along with so that she could become familiar with Ping Cheng and get used to life there. However, he had neglected the hidden competition between women. In particular, he had underestimated Qi Minlan's persistence.

Zhai Yaohui insisted that Qi Minlan was a good younger sister and asked Miao Jing to learn more from her. Miao Jing did not have any choice or alternative.

The good thing was that Qi Minlan also got married later and gave birth to Qiu Chenxi thereafter. Miao Jing then let her guard down a little.

“Miao Miao, do you really think that Qi Minlan really likes me so much?” Zhai Yaohui was a man, but he also knew about the persistence that a woman had toward love.

“Otherwise? She is unable to forget you. Although she couldn’t marry you, she hopes that her daughter will marry your son. Aren’t your feelings toward her the same?” Miao Jing could tell that Zhai Yaohui and Qi Minlan had reciprocal feelings. At most, she simply wanted to help them and sacrifice her son to make up for her selfishness when she was young.

The ones who took the lead in tying the knot between Zhai Sheng and Qiu Chenxi were ultimately Zhai Yaohui and Qi Minlan.

Zhai Yaohui did not know whether to laugh or cry. Toward this situation, he really could not explain it clearly.

Chapter 610: Look On the Bright Side of Things

“If I had not won Shi Peng and became the chief, most likely, Qi Minlan would have given up on me long ago and happily become the sister of the chief. She tried all ways and means to marry her daughter to Zhai Sheng not because of her feelings toward me when she was young, but because she knows that Zhai Sheng is outstanding enough and will eventually take over my position through his own efforts. What she has always wanted is the glory associated with the position of the chief.”

He was, in fact, not that important to Qi Minlan.

“Oh, since you know it so well, why have you been making such mistakes?” Zhai Hua could not understand. Her father sounded smart but his actions differed from his words.

Zhai Sheng interrupted Zhai Hua's question. "Alright, now that everyone has spoken out, we know what's going on in our minds. Mom, it's best that you have sorted out your thoughts. That girlfriend of mine, I treat her as my wife. If not for her age and her fear of you being unhappy, I would have submitted the marriage report long ago. Therefore, whether you're willing or not is not within our consideration. It won't affect the outcome of us being together. It's just that she wants to try as she's not willing to make you feel sad. As for Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi, they should not appear in any of our family topics in the future."

Zhai Hua was a woman. Although she was a soldier, she was more feelings-oriented than Zhai Sheng and thus not as rational when it came to analyzing problems.

Zhai Sheng could understand why the two families maintained contact although Zhai Yaohui saw through Qi Minlan so well. There was only one reason. Qiu Chenxi had the status and family background. She thus had wide connections in that social circle. At the very least, as the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family, Qiu Chenxi would be able to manage everything well.

For the sake of the word 'convenience', Zhai Yaohui silently agreed to Qi Minlan's plan and allowed Zhai Sheng to interact with Qiu Chenxi since they were children.

In the eyes of the soldier, there was love for comrades, relatives, organization, and the country, but not a romance between a man and a woman. There were only liked-minded soul-mates. As such, Zhai Yaohui did not believe in love between a man and a woman at all.

Hence, there was no need to go deeper into this topic.

Zhai Hua was stunned for a moment. Soon after, she agreed with Zhai Sheng's suggestion. "Zhai Sheng is right. This matter will end here. I won't bring this up again in the future." If they continued talking about that mother-daughter pair, their moods would worsen.

"After letting it out, I feel much better now. You all continue to chat. I'll go back to my room and take a rest." Having said all these, Miao Jing felt so relieved. Last night, Miao Jing did not sleep at all. Now, she was sleepy.

Miao Jing returned to her bedroom and fell asleep in seconds as soon as she hit the bed.

She felt much better, but the remaining three who bore the surname of Zhai could not see eye to eye with one another. The atmosphere was extremely awkward.

“What are we going to do now?” Zhai Hua picked an apple from the table and started chewing it loudly. “Obviously, Mom did not believe at all that Nan Nan is the one that is with Zhai Sheng. Now that Mom has bared it all, the knot in her heart has loosened. She can finally accept a lady with such a family background. Why can’t she let Zhai Sheng marry Nan Nan despite liking Nan Nan so much?”

This was simply the mystery of the Zhai family. She could not find the answer at all.

“Marry, what marry! Qiao Nan is only eighteen years old this year and has not reached the legal age of marriage. She still has three to four years to go!” Zhai Yaohui said strictly. “Zhai Sheng, don’t tell me you wish to go against the law?”

“I wish to!” At the sight of Zhai Yaohui flaring up, Zhai Sheng calmly added, “But Nan Nan refuses to.”

Her mother did not believe that Nan Nan was the one that he was with?

Fine. He would submit the marriage report and collect the marriage certificate. He would hold it in front of his mother and see if she believed him then.

“Good-for-nothing!” Zhai Yaohui was having a headache. So, Zhai Sheng had such thoughts but Qiao Nan did not agree.

“Alright.” Zhai Hua threw Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng an apple each. Both the old and the young men reached out and caught their respective apple. “Whether Mom accepts Nan Nan or not, the situation ahead doesn’t seem too bad at least. Zhai Sheng, Nan Nan and you have to continue to persist. The hard work will soon pay off. Fine, take it that I did not say anything.”

Zhai Sheng had already wanted to kidnap other people into their house. Did he still need her advice?

“I’ll give Nan Nan a call.” Zhai Sheng’s head was aching badly. He should have called Nan Nan yesterday but had not done so.

Zhai Sheng wanted to do so early this morning. He arrived home too late last night and was afraid of disturbing the Qiao family and troubling Qiao Dongliang if he made the call then.

But this morning, Miao Jing immediately went to the house of the Qiao family. It was thus not convenient for Zhai Sheng to make the call.

“Dad, now that both Mom and Zhai Sheng are not around, I have something to tell you.” Zhai Hua threw the core of the apple into the dustbin. “In the past, Qi Minlan bullied Mom and made Mom so pitiful. Are we going to let this matter go?” Her father was willing but she was not!

Zhai Hua was Miao Jing’s biological daughter. She was not a fake or adopted one.

Zhai Hua used to be annoyed with Miao Jing’s irrationality as she did not know the reason for the latter’s behavior.

But Miao Jing had changed for the better and spoken out what was troubling her. Now, Zhai Hua completely stood on Miao Jing’s side.

“Let it go like that?” Zhai Yaohui sneered for a moment. “Do as you wish. I won’t obstruct you.”

“With your words, that will do. All these years, the Qiu family did not benefit little from the Zhai family when they climbed up the corporate ladders. First, not to mention other matters, I can’t let whoever was close to Qi Minlan in the Qiu family and depended on Qi Minlan off. I want to investigate clearly who were the ones who helped Qi Minlan bully my mom many years ago!”

The prestigious wife of a chief had been bullied so badly and did not even utter a word. This was not the style of Zhai Hua.

“You’ll see to it. Know your limits and don’t overdo it. That will do.” As long as Zhai Hua knew her limits, no matter what would happen in the future, Zhai Yaohui would help Zhai Hua clean up the mess.

“With your words, that will do. Otherwise, Zhai Sheng and I would definitely look down on you,” Zhai Hua said satisfactorily. With her father’s backing in the family, there was really nothing that she did not dare to do.

“Oh, I see.” After Zhai Sheng ‘reported’ what happened to her, Qiao Nan, who felt very bad initially, was much at ease now. “It had not been easy for Auntie Miao. Sister Zhai Hua and you have to be more understanding toward her. The good thing is that she let it out. If not, there’d certainly be a problem among your family members.”

Qi Minlan was so shrewd. When Auntie Miao just stepped into the social circle and even before she became the wife of a chief, she had already given Auntie Miao such a direct blow.

Most probably, any typical woman who suffered such humiliation would have long chosen to run away from all the problems.

“Brother Zhai, actually, Auntie Miao loves Chief Zhai. No, it should be that she loves him very much. Otherwise, there wouldn’t be Sister Zhai Hua and you today.” What would she do without Brother Zhai?