

RTAMM 641

Chapter 641: You're the First One Who Discovered It

Clearly, Qi Minlan was the victim that had been betrayed and hurt. However, Shi Peng could not associate the word 'sympathy' with Qi Minlan at all.

Qi Minlan was completely taken aback. Upon hearing Shi Peng's words, she then recalled that she seemed to have mentioned these to Shi Qing before.

Shi Qing suspected that Qiu Qin had a mistress with just those few words of hers. Was Shi Qing too sensitive or was she, the wife, just too slow to react? "You didn't lie to me? Qing Qing is just a child. How would she know so much?"

Shi Peng took a sip of water. "Yes, Qing Qing is just a child. She doesn't know a lot but even she suspected that there's a problem with Qiu Qin. As his wife, you knew anything. Qi Minlan, tell me where the problem lies. Since you know that Qing Qing is just a child, please don't disturb her again in the future. After she came to Ping Cheng, she had not received much help from you, her auntie. At the very least, as an elder, you should not look make trouble for Qing Qing. Now, you want to trouble me, and honestly, you've basically troubled me a lot."

Qi Minlan held the cup of coffee in her hands tightly. "Brother, you're really not going to bother about me?"

"What do you think?" Shi Peng sneered. Until this moment, Qi Minlan had yet to realize how serious he was this time?

"Brother, you only have one biological sister, and I've been bullied by others. Will you really let Qiu Qin tread on me and watch how pitiful I become?" Qi Minlan refused to believe this. Since a young age, her brother had been very good to her. Regardless of how willful and bad-tempered she was, her brother had never taken any issue with her.

Her brother had been so good to her. How could he not bother about her anymore? He did not bother about her in the previous incident and then now. He must be deliberately frightening her to make her restrain her behavior a little.

“Qi Minlan, you still don’t understand my words? Now, it’s not whether I wish to bother about your problems. It’s because I don’t have the capability to do so. I’ve already submitted my resignation letter. The superiors have approved my resignation in principle. Hence, I’ll be leaving the army very soon. Even if I don’t return to Mo Du and continue to stay in Ping Cheng, you should know that I’ll be holding a retirement job at most. You’ve been married to the Qiu family for so many years, so you should be more aware of the temperament of the Qiu family than me. If I’m doing worse than Qiu Qin, do you think the Qiu family will give me face even if I wish to intervene in this?”

“Since you knew that it would turn out in this way, why did you have to quit! Don’t tell me you wish to see me dead?!” Qi Minlan knew she was used to behaving like a tyrant in the Qiu family these last few years. In the past, the Qiu family had to give her face and show her respect. If she lost her backing, the situation would be reversed such that she would have to yield to the Qiu family.

Clearly, she had been leading such a good life. Why did her brother have to resign?

“If you want to die, can I stop you? It’s your happiness. Should I be the one to promise you that? Qi Minlan, do you take it that I owe it to you?” Shi Peng gave a ridiculous laugh. So, the purpose of his existence was to provide for Qi Minlan’s happiness?

“I don’t know when you will change that temperament of yours. You have to see what to do yourself. After all, you’re the one leading your own life. If you wish to look for someone to back you up, I can’t. I can’t do so in terms of both literary and military aspects. I can’t help you in any way. You can look for Dad directly regarding all your future matters.”

Shi Peng was also disappointed and tired of this. He had forsaken so much for his family, yet his biological father had never spared a thought for him and his sister had been taking him for granted. If he did not treat her well, she would take it that as a crime.

He had a family, wife, and daughter. The family members he really had to give more to were his wife and daughter, not his father or sister.

“I’ve said my piece. I’ll treat you to tea this time.” However, this would be the last time.

“Brother, you’re not giving me any help and you told me so much nonsense. You’re not afraid that I’ll make trouble for the Qiao family again?”

Shi Peng stood up and paused in his steps. A complacent smile appeared on Qi Minlan's face. She was determined to manipulate her brother. In this lifetime, her brother could forget about ditching her. He had to protect her till her death.

Shi Peng turned and looked at Qi Minlan firmly. Qi Minlan lifted her chin and had the intention to go against Shi Peng.

After some time, Shi Peng laughed. His laugh was relaxed but cold. "Qing Qing likes to be with Qiao Nan. They have company when they study. After meeting Qiao Nan, Qing Qing then realized that she's not as outstanding as she thought herself to be. It had not been easy for Qing Qing to make such a good friend. For Qing Qing's sake, I'll buy a property near the house of the Qiao family. What do you think?"

Qi Minlan toppled the cup of coffee with a bang. "Are you serious or are you lying to me?"

"No hurry. You will know when the time comes. I'll be leaving the army and taking a retirement job. There's no reason for me to hoard the resources of the army. It's rare that I have spare time. Since she was a child, Qing Qing has never really been with me much. It's not good to let Qing Qing continue to stay at other people's house either. I think this idea is quite good."

"Fine, I want to see if you're really going to buy a property near the house of the Qiao family!" He wanted to frighten her. It was not as if she would be afraid of it!

After settling the bill, Shi Peng returned to the camp immediately.

Initially, when Shi Peng received a notification that his resignation had been approved, he felt empty at heart and did not know what to do next.

The army had certainly approved Shi Peng's resignation. However, in the case of someone like Shi Peng, who had great contributions to the army and country, the country would definitely not make him suffer. At the same time, they had arranged for a civil servant job for him at Ping Cheng.

Of course, prior to the final decision, the superiors had sought Shi Peng's inputs on whether he wished to return to Mo Du or continue to stay at Ping Cheng.

Shi Peng thought about it. He would rather return to the capital than Mo Du. However, after going to the capital, it was not easy to explain to the people at the Mo Du side. In the end, he simply decided to continue staying at Ping Cheng. That would be the best option.

Today, with Qi Minlan kicking up such a fuss, Shi Peng had decided on buying another property and also its location.

Shi Peng had good judgment. He knew there was potential capital appreciation in Ping Cheng's properties. He would not be shortchanged if he bought a few more properties now while the price was cheap. In the future, he could leave it to Shi Qing as dowry.

Shi Peng did not touch the property that he bought for Shi Qing previously. Instead, he spent another sum of money and bought a small courtyard house near the house of the Qiao family and moved there.

When Qiao Dongliang saw Shi Peng becoming his neighbor, he was very shocked. "Officer Shi, you, why are you staying here now?"

"My health is not too good, so I might as well retire from the army. Qing Qing had been inconveniencing you. I'm really sorry."

"No, don't say that." When he heard that Shi Peng was really going to stay there, Qiao Dongliang turned away and returned to his house. At the sight of this, Shi Peng was puzzled.

After a while, Qiao Dongliang came out, holding a huge sum of money. "Officer Shi, Shi Qing was staying at my house previously and you asked someone to send so much money here. Now that you're just staying at the house beside me, Shi Qing will definitely stay with you. Take the money back. These are the receipts of the expenses incurred for buying Shi Qing's bed, etc. Keep them as well."

Chapter 642: Might As Well Be Neighbors

Holding the sum of money in his hands, Shi Peng did not decline. "Okay, we'll be neighbors from now onward. Let's help and support each other more. Although I've bought the house, there's still some time needed for the change of ownership and related paperwork. There'll be another few months before I move in. During this period, I'll need to seek your help to keep a watch on my

house. I'll pass the keys to you. When Qing Qing comes back during the weekend, you can pass it to her."

Qiao Nan was a good lady. Qiao Nan's father was not bad either. He was honest and not greedy.

"That's certainly not an issue." After he had given back the money, Qiao Dongliang felt much more at ease now.

Toward the fact that Shi Qing was the child of an army officer, Qiao Dongliang was more willing to take care of her. Nevertheless, Qiao Dongliang did not feel comfortable taking Shi Peng's money.

"Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

After Shi Peng passed the house keys to Qiao Dongliang, he immediately returned to the army.

Just as Qi Minlan returned to the house of the Qiu family, she received a phone call from Shi Peng. "I've already bought a place near the house of the Qiao family and passed the keys to Qiao Dongliang. When Qing Qing comes back, Qiao Dongliang will pass the keys to her. As my sister, it's rare that you've been of help to me. Thanks for reminding me to find such a good neighbor."

After saying these few words, Shi Peng immediately hung up the phone.

The mood and expression of Qi Minlan were not something that Shi Peng cared about.

"Too much!" Qi Minlan, who did even have the chance to scold, turned red with anger.

Qi Minlan knew that, when Shi Peng made the call, he had definitely bought the house and was not just frightening her. Her brother had always been action-oriented. He was not the type who was all talk and no action.

However, she never expected Shi Peng to act so quickly without any hesitation. He seemed so firm and determined.

The courtyard near the house of the Qiao family was not cheap. It was within the school's vicinity and near Ping Cheng High School. It was not just expensive but also difficult to find.

In other words, Shi Peng bought a house near the school just because Shi Qing still had to study at Ping Cheng High School for another two years. Shi Peng definitely had a lot of money in his hands.

However, Qi Minlan would never be able to get a single cent of the money!

Qiu Chenxi, who made her face fairer during the past month and was finally willing to go out and meet people, asked when she saw Qi Minlan's expression, "Mom, what's wrong again? Dad and that woman still refuse to break up with each other? Won't grandpa and grandma persuade him?"

"Hahaha." Qi Minlan sneered. "Your uncle's resignation has been approved. Soon, he will be working in the government sector in Ping Cheng. There's nothing great about the Shi family anymore. Will the attitude of your grandparents toward me remain unchanged? Your grandmother had said that as long as your dad still remembers to go home and I remain as the daughter-in-law of the Qiu family, I don't need to bother about other matters."

"..." Qiu Chenxi fell silent for a moment. "Mom, you can't listen to grandpa and grandma. You can't just let this matter rest. He's rearing a mistress outside. Is Dad not afraid of investigations or disciplinary actions against him, that they will expel him from the party because of integrity issues?"

Did her father lose his mind because of a woman?

"I can't say that. You can say it yourself. Your surname is Qiu, whereas my surname is Qi. Your grandparents had been suppressed too harshly in the past. Once your uncle leaves the army and there's no one to subdue them, they will become cheap and bad!" Qi Minlan snorted and ugly words came out of her mouth.

Qi Minlan was aware that her temper was strong. In the past, because of the Shi family and the Zhai family, the elderly couple of the Qiu family was all smiles when dealing with her.

Qi Minlan knew that Qiu Qin could rise through the ranks all because he married her. Hence, while she was tyrannical in the Qiu family, she felt that it was within her rights to do so.

Now, the marriage between Zhai Sheng and Qiu Chenxi had come to a standstill. Shi Peng even left the army and became an ordinary civil servant, holding a cradle-to-grave job. Within a short time, all the advantages held by Qi Minlan in the Qiu family vanished.

Without Qi Minlan's suppression, at the very least, Grandmother Qiu had finally turned into a real mother-in-law. Naturally, she had to show her prowess.

Qiu Chenxi nodded. "Fine, I'll speak out on this. But, Mom, you should know. My grandpa and grandma..."

The reasons the elderly couple of the Qiu family indulged Qiu Qin was twofold. First, they knew that even if Qiu Qin had a mistress outside, as long as he was not too obvious and no one looked for trouble, there should not be a major problem. Second, the root cause was that the couple, in fact, preferred a grandson and not granddaughter.

In the past, the status of their daughter-in-law was high and she was even connected to the Zhai family. Due to this, their granddaughter nearly became the daughter-in-law of the chief. Regardless of how much the elderly Qiu couple loved grandsons, they had never mentioned this in front of Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi before.

It was just that, when the neighbors had a grandson, the elderly couple would always join in the fun, sending over some gifts and hugging the newly born male baby more.

With this point alone, Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi had already seen through the minds of the elderly couple.

In the past, it was uncertain whether Qi Minlan's health was too poor or she did not nurse herself well during pregnancy. She had a difficult birth and lost a lot of blood when she gave birth to Qiu Chenxi.

Although both mother and daughter were safe thereafter, Qi Minlan's body had weakened and she could not conceive anymore.

Qi Minlan could not conceive, and now, Qiu Qin had another woman. Then, there would be a chance that the woman would give birth to another grandchild for the elderly couple. How would they hold Qiu Qin back and not let him find that woman?

“They wish to have a grandson? Next lifetime? Unless the Qiu family could repay me with all the interests and benefits that they deprived of me all these years, they can forget about having a grandson in their entire life till they die.” Qi Minlan sneered continuously.

“What if that woman becomes pregnant?” Qiu Chenxi was more anxious than Qi Minlan. Would the Qiu family be willing to pay back all the benefits that they had gained?

If the woman her father had outside was pregnant and gave birth to a son, her grandparents would definitely allow this child to enter the Qiu family and become her younger brother.

Given what her mother had said, all the good things the Qiu family gained due to her mother would belong to this illegitimate child in the future. She was just a lady who would be married off. Most likely, she would not get anything.

On what grounds!

The Qiu family rose because of her mother. All the good things would be given to the illegitimate bastard of that woman outside. It would be unfair!

Her status in the Qiu family had been threatened. Qiu Chenxi had no time to bother about Zhai Sheng and that hidden ‘vixen’ of his now.

If she lost the glory as the only granddaughter of the Qiu family, Qiu Chenxi knew that she would not have much more competitive advantage over that young girlfriend of Zhai Sheng.

The marriage between her and Zhai Sheng was called off. As such, her status in the Qiu family would become increasingly lower. The lower her status was in the Qiu family, the less possibility that she could be married to Zhai Sheng. It was simply a vicious cycle that was unresolvable.

Hence, she definitely could not allow any of the ‘segments’ go wrong.

Chapter 643: Wish to Be a Stepmother

“Don’t be anxious. I’ll think of a way to resolve this matter.” Qi Minlan patted her daughter’s head. The Qiu family had all they had today entirely because of her.

As such, everything in the Qiu family could only belong to her daughter, Qiu Chenxi. She certainly would not let other illegitimate bastards benefit from it.

“Mom, do you really have a way? Judging by the situation of grandpa and grandma, they seem to be very hard-hearted.” Qiu Chenxi frowned, terribly vexed. There were so many problems at home and she had not even found out who the vixen that Zhai Sheng was hiding was. Why couldn’t there be one matter that went smoothly!

“Is there a way?” Qi Minlan was amused. “There must be. The Qiu family rose because of me. I can make the Qiu family and Qiu Qin rise, and I can also make them crumble. If the Qiu family forces me to this extent, then there’s nothing that I can’t do!”

She would rather ruin those things that belonged to her than to let others benefit from them.

“Mom, the reason grandpa and grandma’s attitude toward us is so problematic is the marriage between Brother Zhai and me. Do you have any solutions to this?”

If she could marry Brother Zhai, not to mention that his father’s mistress had not even given birth to the grandchild of the Qiu family yet, even if the child was born, as long as she did not agree, she was very certain that her grandparents would not dare to bring the child into the family. They would not even dare to admit the identity of this child.

Qiu Chenxi was well aware that the reason her grandparents doted on her so much when she was young, despite her being a granddaughter, was her relationship with the Zhai family.

If she and Brother Zhai was engaged and had already fixed a marriage date, even her father would not dare to find a woman behind her mother’s back, let alone her grandparents.

“It’s good that you’re aware of the crux of the problem. Chenxi, you’ve known Zhai Sheng for so many years. Does he really have no feelings for you at all?” When Qi Minlan asked about this, she could not endure her anger anymore.

Her daughter grew up with Zhai Sheng. When she was a child, she followed Zhai Sheng around, addressing him as Brother Zhai. Logically-speaking, the two of them were certainly considered young playmates and childhood sweethearts.

However, if Zhai Sheng had any feelings toward Qiu Chenxi, he would not have done what he did.

Even if Zhai Sheng did not have any feelings for Qiu Chenxi—Qi Minlan refused to admit that her daughter was such a failure—Qiu Chenxi must have had many opportunities. There were so many years of relationship, yet she could not even catch hold of a man's heart.

“Brother Zhai only has that vixen in his heart now. If we can find out who that vixen is, Brother Zhai won't be so bad toward me. Mom, tell me, what kind of person is she? It's like Brother Zhai has been drugged and bewitched. In the past, Brother Zhai was cold and nonchalant toward everyone. He only bothered about me once in a while. Why did he break up with me for the sake of a woman now?”

During this period of time, Qiu Chenxi had been thinking thoroughly over this matter. She had pondered many times, from the beginning until the current situation.

The time Zhai Sheng spent in the army was extraordinarily long. She had investigated the situation in the army. None of the women in the army, be it young or old, were close to Zhai Sheng.

As such, this vixen was definitely not from the army.

However, the time Zhai Sheng spent in Ping Cheng after leaving the army was so short. Almost every time that he was back, she would look for him.

If Zhai Sheng had looked for that vixen during those times, there was no reason that she had failed to notice it.

Brother Zhai was a soldier but that vixen was not. That being said, that vixen really could hide well.

“Mom, I've thought about it. I feel there's something strange. It's been such a long time, but besides Qiao Nan, no other women have appeared around Brother Zhai.” However, Qiao Nan's grades had always been so good. She did not seem like she was in love at all.

“Do you suspect Qiao Nan?” When she recalled what she had seen before, Qi Minlan’s heart wavered.

Qiu Chenxi sneered, her eyes full of disdain. “Mom, don’t make me laugh. Even if I suspect someone, I can’t suspect her. Yes, over these two years, Qiao Nan is the only one who appeared around Brother Zhai. The problem is that Qiao Nan and Brother Zhai grew up in the same quad. If she had the intention and Brother Zhai felt the same way, then she, and not me, would be Brother Zhai’s childhood sweetheart. It’s not possible that Qiao Nan would only appear in Brother Zhai’s life in these two years. It doesn’t make sense.”

Qi Minlan knitted her brows, deep in thoughts. “Chenxi, don’t underestimate this Qiao Nan. Both of us know that Qing Qing likes Zhai Sheng. Logically, since you have told Qing Qing that Qiao Nan is the girlfriend Zhai Sheng has outside, Qing Qing will definitely be at odds with Qiao Nan. However, if you look at the situation carefully, Qing Qing treats Qiao Nan better than she does you now. Qiao Nan is capable of winning over other people’s hearts. Besides Qing Qing, I remember that the grandson of the Zhu family is also on good terms with her. Most importantly, I’ve not told you one thing yet. One month ago, I saw Zhai Sheng bringing Qiao Nan to the shopping mall to shop for clothes. Furthermore, Zhai Sheng helped Qiao Nan carry shopping bags.”

Qiu Chenxi’s expression changed. “Is it true? Brother Zhai has never accompanied me shopping, and neither has he helped me carry any bags. Could there be a reason behind this? Could it possibly be related to Miao Jing? Doesn’t Miao Jing quite like Qiao Nan?”

“You’re so certain that that woman of Zhai Sheng is definitely not Qiao Nan?” Qi Minlan was not assured. Any woman that was close to Zhai Sheng should be suspected. Furthermore, although Qiao Nan was young, she had her means and should not be underestimated.

Shi Peng even bought a house near the house of the Qiao family. After all, he did that for the sake of Shi Qing. Nevertheless, it was because Shi Qing wanted to be close to Qiao Nan.

“Of course I’m certain. Qiao Nan is young and her grades are good. Moreover, have you ever seen her pestering Brother Zhai?” She was better than Qiao Nan in every way and Qiao Nan was also within her sight. What tricks could she play? “As for the occasion that you mentioned, I’ll find out more at the Zhai family. I’m sure it’s not that Brother Zhai wanted to accompany Qiao Nan shopping. The greatest possibility is that this is related to Miao Jing.”

When she heard her daughter being so spot-on, Qi Minlan’s head ached and she said, “It may be so. Miao Jing had an argument with the other Zhai family members. Qiao Nan was the one who made them reconcile. This Qiao Nan is too detestable!”

Why was it that each time Miao Jing was muddleheaded and did something so foolish, Qiao Nan had to poke her nose into it?

She had been in a relationship with Zhai Yaohui for so long. If not for Miao Jing, she would have become the wife of the chief.

If Miao Jing continued to quarrel with Zhai Yaohui, both of them would divorce sooner or later.

If Zhai Yaohui regained singlehood, so what if Qiu Qin had a mistress outside? She could also divorce Qiu Qin and then be married to Zhai Yaohui and become the wife of a chief.

Qiu Qin had always been her second choice. The one she truly loved and wished to be married to was only Zhai Yaohui.

If that really happened, she could entirely make use of her status as a stepmother to subdue Zhai Sheng and force him to marry Chenxi.

Chapter 644: Kids Are So Scary

Anyway, they were only stepbrother and stepsister, not biological siblings. If the two of them got married, to put it bluntly, it was not a major issue and not even considered incest.

It was a pity that all these were Qi Minlan's own imagination. Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing did quarrel but they reconciled within one day. Not to mention Qi Minlan getting married to Zhai Yaohui, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing did not even quarrel to the extent of getting a divorce, and Qiao Nan had already thwarted Qi Minlan's dreams.

When she heard the news, this thought flashed across Qi Minlan's mind.

However, since she found out that Qiu Qin had committed adultery behind her back and the elderly couple of the Qiu family even sided with him and let her suffer, this desire of Qi Minlan had grown much stronger than before.

What if, what if she divorced Qiu Qin and Zhai Yaohui also divorced Miao Jing? Then, the happiness that she had lost for almost thirty years should come back to her, right?

“Mom, I’ve called you many times. Why are you ignoring me? What are you thinking of?” Qiu Chenxi nudged Qi Minlan, who was lost in her own thoughts.

Qi Minlan regained her senses. “Nothing much. You should not be happy too soon. Even if it’s really not Qiao Nan, at most, you’re only striking off one person. Actually, finding out who that woman is is both good and bad. If we can make that woman leave Zhai Sheng voluntarily, I believe it’s still possible between Zhai Sheng and you. In this way, it won’t affect the relationship between Zhai Sheng and you. However, you have to make Zhai Sheng fall for you. Only then will you be considered having true capability.”

Qiu Chenxi pulled a long face. She knew what her mother said was the truth. “Then, what should I do? I’m at my wits’ end. I’ve tried self-torture to gain pity. I nearly became as dark as the South Africans. In the end, I did not even manage to meet Brother Zhai. Making Brother Zhai fall for me and giving up on that vixen is tough. Therefore, the only way is to find out who that woman is and chase her away, isn’t it?”

She had nearly been troubled to death by this matter.

“I’ve also considered many ways but I don’t have any conclusion. Mom, why don’t you help me think? Is there a way to con that woman out?”

“Con her out...”

Tough.

How were they going to do that when they did not even know who that person was?

“Right, how can I forget her!”

“Who?” Qiu Chenxi blinked. “Mom, who have you thought of?”

“Shi Qing!!!”

“What about her?” Qiu Chenxi did not feel enthusiastic. No matter what, the young lady that Brother Zhai liked would not be Shi Qing, that fake lad.

“What about her? I’m saying that it’s possible that she knows who that woman is.” Qi Minlan’s eyes lit up. This important matter had been overshadowed by the trivial stuff. She nearly forgot about the existence of Shi Qing.

“Her?”

“Think about it. Shi Qing has liked Zhai Sheng for so many years. Even when you were with Zhai Sheng, she did not really give up. This time, although Shi Qing knows that you have broken up with Zhai Sheng, she did not kick up a fuss, and neither did she pester Zhai Sheng. Don’t you think that, judging from Shi Qing’s current state, she no longer harbors any hopes on Zhai Sheng?”

When Zhai Sheng was still Shi Qing’s future brother-in-law, it did not seem like Shi Qing knew her place then. But such a situation had occurred now. Was it not odd?

“Impossible.” Qiu Chenxi’s brain was getting entangled. “When I was with Brother Zhai, even though she did not do anything, her heart has always been with Brother Zhai. Hence, when she heard that I broke up with Brother Zhai, she simply transferred school to Ping Cheng to get closer to Brother Zhai and gain an advantage. What reason did she have to give up?”

“You can go and ask her.” Qi Minlan was both amused and angry. “Don’t just think about everything. Perhaps you’ll get a simple and quick answer if you seek and ask directly.”

“Alright, I’ll find a chance to get to the bottom of this.” Even she could not make Shi Qing give Brother Zhai up. What kind of woman could make Shi Qing know her place such that she did not even care about her own happiness anymore?

Shi Qing, who was in the school, sneezed.

Qiao Nan passed a piece of tissue paper to Shi Qing. “You didn’t believe me. The rainy weather in October is very cold. Don’t think it’s not an issue just because it’s hot during the day. It’s very cold during the morning and night time now, not to mention that it’s also raining.”

At the sight of the stuffy-nosed Shi Qing, Qiao Nan's headache worsened.

She took out Shi Qing's cold medicine pills one by one and placed them in front of the latter. She then placed a cup of warm water with just the right temperature in front of her as well.

She had just finished taking care of Zhu Baoguo. Now, she had to take care of Shi Qing.

In her previous life, besides giving students tuition, she had not been a nanny before, and neither had she taken care of any child. In this life, how did she meet 'big children' such as Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing?

"Where are the few pieces of clothing that I asked you to bring?"

"I didn't bring them," Shi Qing cleared her nose and said, sounding justified and righteous.

"Uniform?"

"...It's been washed." She purposely washed it.

If the uniform was not dry, she could wear the clothing that she brought herself.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath. "I'll lend you my jacket. If you spoil it, you have to pay me back with ten pieces of them."

"Crap." Shi Qing narrowed her eyes. "Qiao Nan, have you been waiting here for me for a long time?"

"Are you borrowing it or not?" Qiao Nan twisted the corners of her lips coldly. Was she happy to do so? She had no choice!

Qiao Nan truly took her hat off Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing. They were already grown-ups but they behaved like children.

For some unknown reasons, the two of them 'fought' in the school field. When the form teacher rushed to the scene, both swore genuinely and expressed that they were not fighting, and that they were just having an exchange of blows as part of a normal martial arts challenge.

Such a situation had never occurred in Ping Cheng High School.

The two of them were not fighting. In front of the teacher, they seemed to be on quite good terms.

During normal lessons, the two deskmates did not interact as much as when they were exchanging blows. They did not have any major conflicts that would affect the teacher teaching in the class.

All of a sudden, Teacher Liu did not have a way with these two.

With no other alternatives, Teacher Liu then thought of Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan had been able to 'take Zhu Baoguo in hand' in the past. He hoped Zhu Baoguo would still listen to Qiao Nan. It would be good if he could be abiding for some time thereafter.

However, to the surprise of Teacher Liu, Qiao Nan not only held back Zhu Baoguo but also amazingly subdued Shi Qing.

The two demons that gave him extreme headache had completely bowed to the quiet and gentle Qiao Nan, who did not have any physical strength to speak of.

At the thought of the situation, Qiao Nan wanted to punch Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo.

What did the fight of the two have anything to do with her? Why was it that she had to manage the fight between these two children who could not grow up every time? It was as if she were their parents.

Qiao Nan slapped her forehead. She conceded defeat to these two individuals more than ever.

If this continued, when she married Brother Zhai in the future, she would lose her confidence in having kids. Kids were too scary.

Chapter 645: Could Not Pick Up the Skills

“Yes, I am. Let me borrow it.” Shi Qing was frightened when Qiao Nan’s face turned sullen. “Don’t worry. I’ll wear it with care.”

“Will you wear it with care? Or will you pay attention such that you’ll take it off before you bond with Zhu Baoguo?” Qiao Nan snorted coldly. She completely saw through Shi Qing’s mind.

She lent her clothing to Shi Qing and set the rule of paying ten pieces for one because she wanted Shi Qing to restrain herself. There should be a limit to her ‘challenge’ with Zhu Baoguo.

Qiao Nan understood Zhu Baoguo very well.

If Shi Qing did not provoke Zhu Baoguo and the two maintained the attitude of minding their own businesses, Zhu Baoguo would not be willing to bother about Shi Qing, whom he had lost to and hurt his pride as a man before.

In other words, Shi Qing was most likely the one who deliberately provoked Zhu Baoguo each time this happened.

Fixing the crux of the problem, Qiao Nan did not even need to lay her hands on Zhu Baoguo. She just had to keep a watch on Shi Qing.

“Me, bonding with that pigheaded fellow? Qiao Nan, are you kidding me?” Shi Qing’s expression changed. She was taken aback and terrified by these words of Qiao Nan. “I was bashing! I was clearly bashing him up!”

“Oh, you’ve had so many exchanges with him this semester. How many punches have you given Zhu Baoguo? Did Zhu Baoguo’s eyes and nose swell? Or did he have any internal injuries that I can’t tell?” When Qiao Nan opened her mouth, the sharp words made Shi Qing speechless.

“Did Zhu Baoguo boast to you?!”

“What do you think?”

“Certainly yes. He’s a bigmouth. I really don’t understand. He’s a man. He had to make everyone know just because he didn’t lose to me. Did he need to be so proud and happy that he didn’t win against me previously?” At the thought that Zhu Baoguo’s physical skills had improved tremendously, Shi Qing felt unjustified.

She had attained her skills after many years of consistent training. How could Zhu Baoguo catch up her within a short time span of six months just because of his congenital gender advantage? It was too unfair.

“Yes. After all, he was not even able to retaliate previously when you defeated him. Now, he is on par with you. Don’t feel unhappy. Your father’s background is in the literary arena, whereas Zhu Baoguo’s father was from the armed forces. The situations of your fathers are different. To put it bluntly, Zhu Baoguo’s genes are better than yours by a little. It’s not difficult to understand that he improves faster in this area than you.”

The draw with Shi Qing had made Zhu Baoguo feel happy for a long time.

Zhu Baoguo had been telling Qiao Nan many times that the pain and suffering he endured during the summer vacation were all worth it.

Shi Qing looked at her surroundings. When she saw that no one was paying attention to Qiao Nan, she then pulled Qiao Nan close to her and lowered her voice. “Qiao Nan, I’ll give you a suggestion. By your side, you have two... Forget it, there’s only one. Brother Zhai’s physical skills are so good. You can learn from him. This is in case Qiu Chenxi, that moron, comes knocking at your door. You’ll only be beaten up.” Shi Qing was also worried that Qiu Chenxi would come looking for trouble when she was not around.

Nevertheless, if Qiao Nan knew a few moves, as long as Qiao Nan was slightly better than Qiu Chenxi, then she would not be afraid that Qiao Nan would be at a disadvantage.

“I don’t know how...” Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. “If you ask me to run, I know how to. But if you ask me to fight, I really don’t know how to.” It was not that she did not want to learn a few self-defensive strokes to protect herself. Brother Zhai had tried to teach her previously as well.

However, unknowingly, she did not pick them up in the end. It was too difficult!

“You have not even learned them. Why did you say that you don’t know how to? Bring out that attitude of yours when you study and follow Brother Zhai’s guidance. You’ll definitely be able to do it.”

“I’ve tried before. It didn’t work.” Qiao Nan was not afraid of embarrassing herself. She openly admitted that she lacked the talent in this aspect. “Alright, don’t waste your effort on me. There’s no use. Facing someone who is very strong in this aspect, even if I learn it, I can’t win against the other party and won’t have the ability to self-defend either. If I’m facing someone who has the same physical strength as me, I’ll win against the other party with my brains. So, I won’t put in any effort in this area anymore.”

“You’re giving up just like that?”

“Don’t change the topic. I’ll lend you my jacket. Wear it with care. If there’s a hole, pay me back with ten pieces of them!” Qiao Nan was nearly muddled by Shi Qing and forgot the original topic.

Other people could take on ten people with physical strength. At most, she could only fight three people with mental strength. She thus did not think much about it.

Shi Qing snorted quietly but she dared not oppose Qiao Nan’s decision.

This was not a piece of clothing that could provide Shi Qing warmth. It was a magic spell that Qiao Nan cast on Shi Qing. If Shi Qing dared to commit any wrongdoing, Qiao Nan would recite a spell and punish her.

Covering herself with Qiao Nan’s clothing, Shi Qing sighed. This piece of clothing was no different from the Wuzhi hill in China where the Gautama Buddha used to subdue the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal, many years ago. It felt so heavy!

“Alright, don’t stare at me anymore. Qiao Nan lent me this. If I dare to spoil her clothing, she will kill me. We will put a temporary stop to our challenge. After I’ve recovered and put on another piece of clothing other than this, we’ll challenge each other again.” She did not believe that, given her many years of foundation, she would lose to Zhu Baoguo, who gained an advantage through trickery and spent just one to two years of effort to catch up with her!

Zhu Baoguo tugged the corners of his lips with disdain. “I stopped being keen on challenging you a long time ago. You’re the one who didn’t know your limits and kept pestering me. Besides, don’t

misunderstand. I'm not looking at you particularly, but your clothes. True enough, it belongs to Xiao Qiao and not you."

He could recognize Xiao Qiao's clothing even if Shi Qing did not say anything.

"You know that this belongs to Qiao Nan?" Shi Qing raised her eyebrows and looked at the clothing on her.

Zhu Baoguo, who had held himself back for some time, pursed his lips. "Shi Qing, I won't put some words so bluntly, but this piece of clothing does not belong to you. It doesn't suit you." So ugly!

"Do you think it does not suit me, or do you feel I don't deserve to wear Qiao Nan's clothes? Zhu Baoguo, toward Qiao Nan, you..."

"Shut up. I don't have that kind of feelings toward Xiao Qiao. I treat her like my sister!" Zhu Baoguo blushed. He shouted softly and denied Shi Qing's words. However, that quick and leaping heartbeat in his chest told him that the truth might not be completely aligned with what he had said.

"If you don't, then so be it. Look at how agitated you are. Whether it's for Qiao Nan's sake or for your own good, I have to tell you something. There's someone that Qiao Nan likes." Shi Qing was simply amused in her heart. If he did not like Qiao Nan, then why did he react so strongly?

It was no wonder that when she asked Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan told her with certainty that Zhu Baoguo treated her as his sister.

In that case, it was not Qiao Nan, but Zhu Baoguo, who was slow to react. He liked someone but did not even realize it. He kept addressing that person as sister all these while.

Hence, even if there were no outstanding men around Qiao Nan, it was impossible that she would take a liking to Zhu Baoguo, who preferred to be her brother.

Chapter 646: Invited to a Meal

Besides, Qiao Nan already had a very outstanding Brother Zhai as her boyfriend.

Since he insisted to walk to a dead end, nobody could stop him.

“Who is it?!” There was a murderous look in Zhu Baoguo’s eyes. “Xiao Qiao is still young. She is only in her second year of high school, which is the most crucial time in her life. Who is so daring to have designs on Xiao Qiao? If he affects her future, I will beat him to a pulp and feed him to the dogs!”

“You want to beat him with your shoddy skills? Forget it. He has been kind to you on account of Qiao Nan. You can rest assured that Qiao Nan is a good judge of character. The person that she likes is definitely outstanding. They make a good match. You should wish her all the best.” Shi Qing cleared her nose.

Since he was the first person who was willing to be her sandbag for such a long time, she would give such a fool a gentle reminder, but she would only do so once.

As for whether Zhu Baoguo would understand or not, it would depend on him.

“Why do you know but I don’t? I don’t believe that Xiao Qiao is in a relationship.” Zhu Baoguo took a deep breath. “Are you lying to me?”

“It doesn’t benefit me if I lie to you. Not only is Qiao Nan in a relationship, but she has also been dating for a long time. It has been about a year. In the past year, has her results been affected? This proves that the person Qiao Nan is in love with did not affect her grades. Don’t you treat Qiao Nan as your sister? You should give her your blessings since she has found a good boyfriend.” As expected, he was slow in such matters. Qiao Nan had been in a relationship with Brother Zhai for quite some time, and Zhu Baoguo was her deskmate last semester, yet he had not discovered anything.

Shi Qing finally understood why Qiu Chenxi and Qi Minlan were so sure that Qiao Nan could never be the lady that Zhai Sheng was dating.

People believed that students in love would not do well in their studies. Nobody would suspect that Qiao Nan was in a relationship with her good results.

“I...” Zhu Baoguo was at a loss for words. He had no reason not to give his blessings, but he felt unhappy doing so. “You have a cold. You should drink lots of water, and say no more!”

The irritable Zhu Baoguo glared at Shi Qing before walking out of the classroom unhappily, heading off to run a few laps.

“Fool, it seems like you don’t understand.” Shi Qing was amused. “Anyway, since you have been my sandbag for such a long time, I gave you a reminder. The sandbag is indeed filled with sand. It is without a brain.”

Shi Qing had never seen such a slow person like Zhu Baoguo.

But it might be good to be slow and foolish. By the time he realized his own feelings, he might no longer have any crush on Qiao Nan and he would not feel upset anymore.

She was envious of such an innocent kid. He was simply foolish.

“What are you doing?” The lessons were over. Qiao Nan carried her schoolbag on her back and was getting ready to go back home. She had walked past the school gate when Shi Qing grabbed hold of her schoolbag, refusing to let her leave. “Let go, I have to go back home.”

“It’s still early. What’s the hurry?” Shi Qing refused to let go.

Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. “The monthly exams were just over. It’s still early. If you don’t want to go home, don’t tell me you want to play around? It’s too early to do that.” At least, during the time they stayed together, Shi Qing did not have the habit of killing time at a bar and staying up late.

“How about I treat you to a meal? We will have a sumptuous meal. You can order any amount of abalone and lobster that you want. As long as you feel like eating, I will treat you to it.” Shi Qing patted her chest, flaunting her wealth.

Qiao Nan sized up Shi Qing suspiciously. “Did you win a lottery? Recently, I didn’t hear that there would be a big prize.”

“You don’t have to care whether I struck the lottery or not. Anyway, I will not be the one who pays for the meal today. You can eat all you want.” With that, she pulled Qiao Nan, not caring if she was willing or not.

Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows at the polished restaurant. “Are you sure you have the money? If you don’t have enough money to pay for the bill, you will stay as a mortgage.” It would cost a few hundred yuan to dine at such a restaurant.

It was the end of the twentieth century now when a piece of clothing would only cost a few yuan, and a meal that cost a few hundred yuan was equivalent to a person’s monthly salary.

“Sure. Are you reassured now?” Shi Qing was indeed daring to agree to it.

Qiao Nan glanced askance at Shi Qing. “What’s up with you today? Do you have nothing else to spend your money on?”

“Alright, stop making guesses. I have already said that someone will pay for the bill. I am not the one who will be paying.” Shi Qing grabbed Qiao Nan’s shoulder, sounding like a hooligan.

Compared to Zhai Hua, Shi Qing looked like a delicate and petite pretty girl. It looked somewhat odd that she adopted the mannerism of a hooligan. Unlike Zhai Hua, who wore a short hairstyle and was physically stronger, it was difficult to tell whether she was a boy or a girl.

“Who will be paying for the meal?”

“Qiu Chenxi!” Shi Qing curled her lips into a smile. “I have been to Ping Cheng for so long, but this is the first time Qiu Chenxi invited me to a meal. I have to eat to my heart’s content today. If not, I will be ill-treating myself. If I miss this chance, the next meal may be one hundred years later.”

The Qiu family had taken advantages of the Shi family. Letting Qiu Chenxi treat her to a meal was her being easy on Qiu Chenxi and the Qiu family.

Qiao Nan curled her lips. “Since Qiu Chenxi invited you to a meal, you can have the meal by yourself. Why did you bring me...”

“What’s there to be afraid of? Don’t worry.” Shi Qing looked to be sure of herself, pulling Qiao Nan into the restaurant with her. “Alright, we have already made a reservation. Yes, this is it.”

After giving her name to the service staff, Shi Qing was led into a private room. When the door opened, a few dishes were already laid on the table, and Qiu Chenxi was sitting there, waiting for them.

Qiu Chenxi, who was running out of patience, had a smile on her face at the sound of the door opening. She was about to say something when she spotted Qiao Nan, who stood next to Shi Qing, and her smile froze on her lips. “Why did you bring her along?”

Shi Qing strode forward, chose a good seat, and sat down. She pulled the chair next to her for Qiao Nan to take a seat.

Qiao Nan, who was just as unhappy as Qiu Chenxi, narrowed her eyes, intending to deal with Shi Qing later. She then took her seat beside Shi Qing reluctantly.

“It’s rare for you to invite me to a meal. Can’t I bring someone with me? My dad told me not to eat outside or accept other people’s treats. My dad said that Qiao Nan is a good girl and he wants me to learn from her and to be like her. If you don’t welcome her, then I will go back home with her. Otherwise, my dad will be worried.”

Qiu Chenxi’s expression changed. “Am I nobody to you? Those people uncle mentioned shouldn’t include me.” They were relatives!

Qiao Nan massaged her forehead. It was no wonder that Shi Qing brought her here. They were here to quarrel. Shi Qing would have a bigger chance to win given that she had Qiao Nan with her while Qiu Chenxi was by herself. “Stop quarreling. Say whatever you want to say. If not, just have a meal and leave!”

Qiu Chenxi widened her eyes. “You’re an outsider! It’s not your turn to speak up!”

Chapter 647: One Never Visits Unless They Need Something

She only invited Shi Qing. Since Qiao Nan was shameless enough to tag along, she must know her place. How dared she interrupt when they were talking? Had she thought too highly of herself?

Qiao Nan glanced at Shi Qing. She really did not understand. Since Shi Qing knew Qiu Chenxi's temper, why did she bring her here? "The two of you can take your time to talk. Since I am just a guest, I will make a move first."

"Together." Shi Qing, who had been smiling all the while, was not angry. She took her schoolbag and put her hand on Qiao Nan's shoulder, wanting to leave with her.

"Qing Qing, wait a minute. I am asking you out for a meal today!" Qiao Nan could leave, but Shi Qing had to stay.

Shi Qing placed her hand on Qiao Nan's shoulder, refusing to let go. "If Qiao Nan leaves, I will leave with her. If she stays, I will stay as well. Since you asked me out, and not the other way round, I won't stop you if you want to leave."

Qiao Nan, who was dragged along by Shi Qing, glanced at Shi Qing, wondering what she was up to.

Shi Qing lifted her chin, gesturing her to stay if she wanted to know what was going on.

"Qing Qing, are you serious?" Qiu Chenxi stiffened. She felt odd that Shi Qing would bring Qiao Nan along when she only asked Shi Qing out. It turned out that Shi Qing did it on purpose.

Shi Qing touched her face. "Do I look like I am joking?"

Qiu Chenxi relaxed slightly. "Qiao Nan, since you are Qing Qing's good friend, have a seat. Let's have a meal together."

Qiao Nan was not so poor that she could not afford a meal. "No, the two of you are relatives, whereas I am an outsider. Both of you can have a chat. I will go back now."

Shi Qing grabbed Qiao Nan, refusing to let her go. "Don't leave. Qiu Chenxi was just joking with you. It's rare that Qiu Chenxi is willing to treat us to a meal. You have to show due respect for her feelings. If not, just take it that you are accompanying me."

“That’s right. Since we know each other, it’s not a big deal as it’s just a meal. Qiao Nan, take a seat.” Qiu Chenxi needed a favor from Shi Qing. Hence, she had to respect Qiao Nan, who was an outsider, as well. If Shi Qing was unhappy, she might leave with Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan glared at Shi Qing. Since Shi Qing and Qiu Chenxi were out to irritate each other, and she was just an outsider, why did Shi Qing insist that she joined them?

Shi Qing smiled. The reason why Qiu Chenxi came to look for her today had to do with Qiao Nan. She was not an outsider.

Qiu Chenxi ordered several dishes according to Shi Qing’s preferences. “Qing Qing, if you feel like having other dishes, feel free to order. You have come to Ping Cheng for such a long time, but I have not treated you to a proper meal. This is to make up for that. We are one family. In the face of difficulties, we must support each other through hardships. You can rest assured that as long as we have time, we can often meet up to chat and have meals together in the future.”

Shi Qing ate the dishes and was amused. “It’s not easy. I have never had a proper meal at the Qiu family, yet you were able to find out my eating preferences. It seems like you have checked with grandpa.”

She was still better than her auntie who bought a stack of cheap clothes to dismiss her.

While Shi Qing and Qiu Chenxi were plotting against each other, Qiao Nan acted as if she was not there and ate her meal.

Although Qiu Chenxi was unhappy that Qiao Nan stayed behind, it was good that she knew her place and did not interrupt their conversation.

Qiu Chenxi thought to herself that Qiao Nan’s good scores at school were not for nothing. She knew her limits and to behave herself.

Since Qiao Nan remained silent, Qiu Chenxi talked to Shi Qing as if she was not there. “Qing Qing, I admit that my mom and I have neglected you. But in Ping Cheng, aside from uncle, we are your closest kin. We have upset and hurt you. However, Qing Qing, we are relatives. My mom is uncle’s only sister and I’m your only cousin. You have to help me. Since a young age, I have never begged you to help me. This is the only time that I beg you to help me. Please, can you do me a favor?”

Shi Qing, who was happily eating, paused when Qiu Chenxi put on a pitiful act. “What do you want me to help you with?”

Qiu Chenxi was glad that she finally got a response from her. “Qing Qing, do you already know who the woman that Brother Zhai likes is? Did she force you to give up on him? Qing Qing, I have liked Brother Zhai from a young age. The two families have been discussing our marriage. I, I really can’t live without Brother Zhai. I can do anything for him. I can give up everything, including my dignity and pride for him. I don’t want to live in pain. I want to give another try to fight for my happiness. Qing Qing, since you took the initiative to give up, can you help me?”

One did not allow benefits created by one’s own work to accrue to others.

Since Shi Qing had already given up, she should help Qiu Chenxi get such a capable man like Zhai Sheng. She should not let some other women benefit from it.

Qiao Nan’s chopsticks halted before she resumed eating.

“One never visits unless they need something. This saying is very true indeed.” Shi Qing had a full meal. She knew that Qiu Chenxi had a hidden agenda when she invited her for a meal.

Just like what happened back when Qiu Chenxi coaxed her to come to Ping Cheng, she supposed it was for Brother Zhai as well. “Why should I help you now that I have given up?”

“Because we are relatives. We are sisters. Qing Qing, can you bear to see me being so heartbroken?” Why? She did not need to give her any reason. Brother Zhai was hers originally. She merely wanted Brother Zhai to return to his original owner, which was to return to her side.

In fact, even if she had not made this request, after giving up on Brother Zhai, Shi Qing should have thought of ways to make Brother Zhai return to her side.

Shi Qing had a drink, amused. “Can’t bear it? Qiu Chenxi, I can only say that you think too much. The hurt that you felt when you gave up Brother Zhai is equivalent to the pain that I felt back then. It was so painful for me to see you with Brother Zhai.” How could she help her love rival gain Brother Zhai’s affection? What was Qiu Chenxi thinking? “Qiu Chenxi, do you think that I am without any emotions? Do you think that I will not be upset when both of you are together?”

“How, how could I?” Qiu Chenxi looked guilty. She did not care how Shi Qing felt as long as Zhai Sheng returned to her side. It was not within her consideration.

She did not care about Shi Qing’s feelings and was only concerned about herself.

That was why she would find all sorts of reasons to make phone calls to Shi Qing back then, telling her about Zhai Sheng, and that she was blessed to be with such an outstanding man.

Chapter 648: Don’t Cause Any Deaths

“Qing Qing, how could you misunderstand me?” Qiu Chenxi’s eyes turned red and she looked at Shi Qing as if she had been wronged.

“Misunderstood you? Then, what did those phone calls you gave me back then mean?” Shi Qing was interested to know what ridiculous reasons Qiu Chenxi was going to come up with to explain her past deeds.

“I, I just wanted to share my happiness with you. Qing Qing, I have never thought of building my happiness on your misfortunes. I feel that since we are sisters, you must feel happy for me. I am sorry. Now, I realize that what I did in the past hurt you.” Since it pained Shi Qing to listen to those updates about her relationship, she had not wasted her money making those phone calls. The money was well-spent.

Shi Qing wrapped her arms about her chest. “Fine, let’s say what you did in the past was unintentional. Now that you know, what are you going to do? Do you intend for me to continue to help you, or are you going to help me so as to compensate me for the hurt that you made me go through?”

Qiao Nan, who had finished her meal, put down the chopsticks and looked at Shi Qing, feeling bored. Why must she seek trouble for herself? No matter what Qiu Chenxi said, it would not be the answer Shi Qing wanted to hear.

“Qing Qing, can’t we talk nicely?” Qiu Chenxi could not stand it anymore. She did not have a mild temper. If she did not have a favor to ask of Shi Qing, she would never speak humbly to Shi Qing in her whole life.

“Hey, if you say so, then there’s no way that we can talk it over nicely. Qiao Nan, let’s go.” In the past, Qiu Chenxi took delights in her pains. Now, the table had been turned on her. Today, she would have a free meal from Qiu Chenxi and she would get to see her being upset. It was a good deal.

“Sure.” Qiao Nan, who had eaten to her heart’s content and had been silently sitting by the side, stood up. It was no wonder that Shi Qing insisted that she came along. It turned out that Qiu Chenxi was here for Brother Zhai.

“Don’t go!” Qiao Nan and Shi Qing had finished most of the dishes on the table. It cost her a huge amount of money, yet Shi Qing did not agree to help her. Qiu Chenxi could not take it lying down. “Qing Qing, what can I do to make you help me? You can state your conditions. Aside from Brother Zhai, I will agree to everything that you say. Qing Qing, don’t blame me for being selfish. Yes, I know that you also like Brother Zhai. Now that I am separated from Brother Zhai, I finally realize that back when I shared with you everything about Brother Zhai, I must have caused you great heartache and pain. But you can’t compare to my many years of relationship with Brother Zhai. I promise you that I will take good care of Brother Zhai in the future. I will never let you down. Qing Qing, please help me. Tell me who that woman is!!”

As long as she knew who that woman was, she would not need Shi Qing’s help anymore. Shi Qing could no longer act high up in the air like how she did today.

What Qiu Chenxi said might sound nice, but she did not say anything concrete and she still dared to make empty promises. Shi Qing was amused. She enunciated each and every word. “I—have—no—idea.”

Since Qiu Chenxi wanted an answer, this was her answer.

“Qing Qing, with that attitude of yours, aren’t you afraid that we can no longer be relatives?” Qiu Chenxi did not understand. She had been acting humbly and begging Shi Qing to help her. She gave her all due respect, yet she was so firm in her attitude.

If not for Brother Zhai, she would not have acted so meekly and humbly in front of Shi Qing today.

“You were the reason why my dad had to leave the army. Do you think our families can still be relatives?” Shi Qing was amused by Qiu Chenxi’s shameless remarks. “It has only been a few days. Have you forgotten what you did in the camp? To tell you the truth, I knew the reason why you asked me here today. However, I am going to make it clear that, yes, I know who Brother Zhai’s girlfriend is, but I am not going to tell you. I came today so that I could see how you behaved like a

clown in front of me and the miserable antics that you are capable of. I am merely teasing the monkey.”

She had been fooled by Qiu Chenxi for so many years. It was time to let Qiu Chenxi have a taste of her own medicine. If not, how could they be considered relatives?

“Shi Qing, bear in mind that you forced me into it!” Qiu Chenxi dropped her pretenses and shot a fierce look at Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was puzzled. Shi Qing was supposed to be Qiu Chenxi’s target, but why did it seem like Qiu Chenxi’s real target was her instead?

Shi Qing’s expression turned cold and she pulled Qiao Nan to her side. “If you dare, show me what you have got.”

She had long known that Qiu Chenxi was up to no good.

There was a cup that had been placed in front of Qiu Chenxi but was untouched. Qiu Chenxi took it and slammed it on the floor, making a loud crashing sound.

This sound seemed like a signal. A group of ferocious-looking men dashed out of the adjacent room and surrounded Qiao Nan and Shi Qing.

“Really?” Shi Qing was amused. “Fine, it’s rare that you have such interest. I will play along with your lackeys. Let’s see if these people are qualified to be your henchmen.”

“You must be courting death!” The group of men was furious that they were looked down upon by a young lady. Even without Qiu Chenxi’s instructions, they could no longer hold back their anger and wanted to show Shi Qing what they were capable of, to warn her not to talk nonsense if she did not want to be beaten to a pulp.

Qiao Nan turned pale. She did not know how to fight and she seldom encountered such situations.

She remembered that the first time she encountered such a situation was to save Zhu Baoguo from a group of hooligans. Back then, she called someone for help and did not resolve it by herself.

Looking at the situation right now, Qiao Nan had the feeling that she would experience something new again.

Qiao Nan was not worried that it was something she had never encountered before. However, she was in a panic as she did not know how to fight.

She was unable to find a piece of wood or cardboard to defend herself. She did not want to hinder Shi Qing.

At the sight of the pale-looking Qiao Nan, Shi Qing smiled instead. “Qiao Nan, don’t be afraid. Today, I will show you what I am capable of. Back then, I was able to defeat Zhu Baoguo not because he was too weak. It was because I am too strong an opponent.”

Shi Qing looked down upon the people that Qiu Chenxi hired. In fact, she seemed to be provoking them.

“Now! Remember, don’t cause any deaths. Minor injuries are alright, but don’t make them sustained major injuries.” Since Shi Qing refused a toast only to drink a forfeit, she could not blame her for being ruthless. She asked for it.

Chapter 649: More to Come

After all, they were relatives. She would not allow her men to beat Shi Qing so badly that she had to go to the hospital.

“Miss, what about the other lady?” Several men leered at Qiao Nan and sized her up.

Shi Qing was better-dressed than Qiao Nan and Qiu Chenxi kept on saying that they were relatives. They knew they could not give it their all when they fought with Shi Qing.

But Qiao Nan was not the same. She was not well-dressed. She looked as if she was there for a free meal.

The young lady had fair and smooth skin. She looked tender like the scallion that would ooze water at the slightest squeeze.

As a man, they would definitely harbor evil thoughts at the sight of such a tender-looking young lady.

Besides, in order to ensure that her goal would be achieved, Qiu Chenxi had only one requirement for the people that she hired, and that was to be skilled in fighting. She did not care if they had a good moral character or not.

They only had to fulfill one condition, and since they were paid, they would do the dirty job for Qiu Chenxi.

“Don’t cause any deaths. As for the rest, I don’t care.” If Qiao Nan thought she would treat her in the same way as she did Shi Qing, and that she could do nothing to her, she was in for a big mistake.

Originally, she had other plans for Qiao Nan. She did not expect that Shi Qing would be such a busybody and bring Qiao Nan with her, causing both of her plans to fail.

But it did not matter. She still managed to trap them.

Qiao Nan curled the corners of her lips. It turned out that relatives and outsiders would have different treatment.

Qiao Nan hid behind Shi Qing and grabbed a bowl. “Let me warn you. You brought me here. If I have the slightest injury, you should know what will happen.”

Shi Qing was the one who brought her here. Qiao Nan was not upset with Shi Qing that they ended up in such a situation, but she felt that since she was of no help to her, she should not have brought her along.

“Don’t worry. You can hide behind me. Let me show you how I deal with this group of people.” Shi Qing narrowed her eyes. It seemed that Qiu Chenxi had gone all out.

“Come on!” Shi Qing looked as if she would protect Qiao Nan from danger. Qiu Chenxi sneered at her. She was interested to know how she was going to accomplish that today.

Since she refused to help her when she talked to her nicely, she would have to use force on them.

If she did not get an answer from Shi Qing and Qiao Nan today, she would not be Qiu Chenxi anymore.

“Brothers, now!” As long as they completed the task today, with the money they earned, they could rest for half a month, eating, drinking, and having all the women they wanted.

In order to enjoy life for half a month, they had to succeed in today’s mission.

The room was covered with sounds of cracking plates and shattering bowls.

Though Qiao Nan did not know how to fight, she was sharp and observant. She hid behind Shi Qing while avoiding those hooligans who were trying to pull her to them, or rather, to touch her hands. She tried her best not to be a burden to Shi Qing.

Strictly speaking, since there was a fight in the private room, the people outside should be able to hear the loud sounds coming from the room.

The diners in the restaurant and the owner should have heard the sounds and checked out the situation in the room, or stopped such brawls in public places.

The strange thing was that they had shattered all the plates and bowls in the room, but nobody came to check on them. There was not even a single person who was a busybody and came to see the fun.

Qiao Nan noticed that Qiu Chenxi deliberately chose to stand right in front of the window. She had also closed the window tightly while they were not looking.

There was no way that Qiao Nan could throw the plates downstairs to get other people’s attention.

Qiu Chenxi looked at Qiao Nan and Shi Qing with a slight lift of her chin, certainly a look of arrogance. She was well-prepared today.

Since both Qiao Nan and Shi Qing refused to tell her who Zhai Sheng's girlfriend was, she would no longer go easy on them. She would show them what she was capable of.

Shi Qing might be well-versed in martial arts, but Qiao Nan would not be able to withstand these blows.

Qiao Nan was pretty. The group of hooligans leered at Qiao Nan and harbored evil intentions toward her. If Qiao Nan did not want to suffer, she had to wise up and do what she should do.

Everything that happened today was arranged by Qiu Chenxi, so she had already taken the best spot in the room, which was at the window. As for the door, she had already arranged for her men to block them. There was no way that Shi Qing and Qiao Nan could escape.

Therefore, she would not possibly let Qiao Nan find a chance to escape.

Though the hooligans were grown-ups, they did not have any advantage over Shi Qing, who was merely a student. Speaking of it, Shi Qing had to deal with all of them. At times, she was not in time to protect Qiao Nan and the hooligans would find a chance to grab her.

Shi Qing noticed it and narrowed her eyes. There was a malicious look in her eyes. She threw out more and more vicious punches at them.

If she was not ruthless enough, after being knocked down by Shi Qing, the hooligans would be able to stand up and come at her again. This would spell trouble for her.

When Shi Qing was in the army, Shi Peng was the one who trained her, and she had spent time training with Zhai Hua as well. Hence, she knew what she should do in order to knock down the opponent once and for all.

Shi Qing held back the anger in her eyes, and all her punches turned to be ruthless and lethal. She gave a 1.78-meter tall man a strong kick, sending him flying to the floor and throwing up on the ground. He could no longer stand up to fight.

“Hehehe...”

Qiao Nan darted to the side and heard a peal of creepy laughter. Her expression darkened. The hooligan must be crazy.

A black, ugly-looking hand was about to grab hold of Qiao Nan when she smashed a plate at the hand.

The plate shattered into pieces and the hooligan howled in pain, ranting and yelling at Qiao Nan. Though Qiao Nan seemed to be an easier opponent than Shi Qing, he dared not go at her again.

Half an hour had passed when Shi Qing took down everyone that Qiu Chenxi hired.

Shi Qing sneered at the floor of men who were knocked down by her. “Qiu Chenxi, what other tricks do you have up your sleeves? If not, I shan’t play with you. It’s really boring.” These people were just hooligans. How dared they fight with her? Unless they had weapons with them, they must be courting death fighting with her.

Qiu Chenxi glanced at the people who had fallen to the ground, but she was not in the least alarmed. “I already knew that you are difficult to deal with, so right from the beginning, I have never thought of dealing with you.”

“Then, did you bring these people here for me to practice with?” Shi Qing smirked. It was too late to find an excuse for her behavior.

“Of course they are not here for you to practice with. They are here to hold you down, but it’s a pity.” Qiu Chenxi sighed and shook her head. But she narrowed her eyes and darted a malicious look at Qiao Nan. There was a murderous gleam in her eyes.

Shi Qing moved to stand in front of Qiao Nan. “What do you want? Haven’t you created enough trouble?”

Qiu Chenxi stomped her foot. “Of course I am not done. Unless you tell me what I want to know today, there will be more to come!” Her father had an affair. If she was not able to make up with Brother Zhai, she would no longer have any place in the Qiu family.

Chapter 650: Considered Nothing

At this juncture, Qiu Chenxi hated the Shi family to the core.

As the family of her mother, why couldn't they be like other families who would support and back their married daughter? To demand the father not to bully the mother and also to have a clean break with that mistress.

She was most puzzled about why the Shi family was so dysfunctional. In particular, the family of Shi Peng. They were so heartless. Clearly, they could help her, but they just chose to watch her lose her lifetime of happiness. They also constantly stabbed her behind the back.

Her mother was Shi Peng's only sister. Who else could Shi Peng be good to if he was not good to her mother?

But there seemed to be holes in the brains of this family. They would not get it despite her many conversations with them. She was thus forced to resort to such extreme ways.

Since Shi Peng's family was unkind to her in the first place, then they should not blame her for doing the same.

The Shi family refused to fulfill the happiness of her mother and her. In that case, she would fight for it herself!

"Haven't you created enough fuss? What else can you do?" Shi Qing gave Qiu Chenxi a belittling look. She had defeated everyone. Now, was Qiu Chenxi prepared to roll up her own sleeves?

Qiao Nan was having a strange feeling about Qiu Chenxi's words. She tugged at Shi Qing. "Alright, let's not talk anymore. Let's go back quickly. My dad should be waiting for us." It could be said that this was the harshest thing that Qiu Chenxi had done so far.

In the past, whether Qiu Chenxi wanted to get physical or be polite before resorting to forceful means, she did it herself.

Today, Qiu Chenxi hired hatchet men. If Qiu Chenxi really had a backup plan, even if Shi Qing's martial arts skills were not weak, the problem was that she would be a burden to her.

As the individual who was the real target of Qiu Chenxi, Qiao Nan felt very uneasy. She only hoped to leave this place as quickly as possible.

Shi Qing's mouth shriveled. The hatchet men hired by Qiu Chenxi had been defeated by her. Now, Qiu Chenxi would not be the one looking for trouble. Instead, if she was in a bad mood, she might give Qiu Chenxi a beating.

They had the upper hand. What was Qiao Nan afraid of?

It was a good thing that Shi Qing was someone who knew her boundaries. Seeing that Qiao Nan was really unhappy, she nodded and said, "Fine, we'll leave. It's not good to let Uncle Qiao wait."

"You're leaving so soon? Are you scared?" There was a flash in Qiu Chenxi's eyes and a tint of nervousness in her voice. It was obvious that she did not want Shi Qing and Qiao Nan to leave so quickly.

At this juncture, the sound of footsteps of people coming up the stairs could be heard. These footsteps sounded quick and consecutive. Obviously, there was more than one person ascending the stairs.

Shi Qing snorted. "What kind of hotel is this? I'll definitely have to tell my dad. There's so much commotion in the hotel and someone is only rushing here now. It's too lousy. If anyone comes here to create a fuss in the future, and the numbers are larger, this hotel will definitely close down. The security arrangements are too poor."

Now, Qiu Chenxi would have to cut the crap.

At the sight of a smile forming at the corners of Qiu Chenxi's mouth, Qiao Nan's expression changed greatly. She grabbed Shi Qing and ran toward the exit. "Hurry, we should leave!"

She feared that the sound of footsteps was not that of their saviors but the second batch of 'ambushing soldiers' arranged by Qiu Chenxi!

Qiu Chenxi laughed complacently. "You only realize it now. It's too late!"

She did not deny that Qiao Nan was smart. However, she had Shi Qing, who was overconfident, with her. True enough, Qiao Nan still had to yield to her clutches.

With a loud bang, before Qiao Nan and Shi Qing had the chance to leave the room, the door was pushed open and a group of people who looked similar to those whom Shi Qing had defeated earlier came in.

The difference was that this group of people was actually holding offensive weapons. Although the weapons were not those scary and gleaming choppers, they were wooden sticks the size of a baseball bat. If the sticks came hitting down, even someone as strong as Shi Qing would be beaten to the ground after a few hits.

At this juncture, Shi Qing's expression could not help changing as well. She did not expect Qiu Chenxi to have lost her mind to this extent. Qiu Chenxi had reached the point of being a lunatic.

Given the current turmoil, if the police were present, she could definitely sue Qiu Chenxi for disrupting public order and safety and request the police to bring Qiu Chenxi to the police station to 'have tea'.

If someone was hurt because of the fight, Qiu Chenxi should then be detained as a punishment.

The group of people was perspiring badly. "Miss, we didn't find... Eh, why are you here?"

The leader of the group had just wanted to update Qiu Chenxi that they did not manage to find that young lady whom she described when he expressed surprise upon seeing the young lady in the photo was already with his hirer. "Miss, are we still going ahead with this business?"

The target figure appeared in a different location. He was most concerned about whether to continue with the mission and whether his remuneration would change.

"As long as you all take her down and find out something that I want to know, I won't give you any money less than promised. It's still the same words. Just go ahead and have fun as much as you like. As long as no life is taken, I'll bear full responsibility if anything else happens." This time, Qiu Chenxi was truly vicious.

Her words obviously hinted at these men to take away Qiao Nan's virginity and destroy the latter's life.

“Qiu Chenxi, you’re crazy!!!” Shi Qing’s eyes widened. She regretted her overconfidence and negligence. Who would have imagined that Qiu Chenxi had lost her mind to this extent? She not only hired hatchet men but also gave such an order that would lead to crimes.

“You all cornered me into doing this. I’m giving you one last chance. As long as you tell me about that woman, I’ll let you all leave the way you came here today.” Qiu Chenxi smiled grimly.

She lost her mind?

Perhaps.

The Qiu family achieved all they had today because of her mother. Without power, how could the Qiu family become wealthy?

Now, her father had a mistress outside. If he had a son with the mistress, the great fortune that the Qiu family relied on her mother to amass would eventually benefit that wretched illegitimate bastard outside.

Instead of letting outsiders spend the money that belonged to her, she would rather get herself into such trouble. Anyway, the Qiu family did not lack money. She would let the Qiu family resolve this matter with money then.

Great. She was still worried about having nothing to spend the money on as this would only make the Qiu family so rich that they would conceive so many bad ideas.

If her father could not belong to her alone, then she would not have any qualms about doing something extreme. She would let that illegitimate bastard feel shameful from birth because he had a father like Qiu Qin, such that he could not even lift up his head as a person.

A father is responsible for his child’s wrongdoing, for he did not teach them well.

Regardless of the wrong she committed, Qiu Qin should bear all the responsibility in the end!

For Qiu Chenxi, Qiu Qin’s adultery broke the last straw.

Now, she was working hard to regain her future with Zhai Sheng. She also wanted to make use of this matter to completely destroy the foundation of the Qiu family.

Once, the Qiu family's reputation was so good because of her mother and her. Now, she would let the reputation be ruined to an equivalent level because of her mother and her too.

She was so badly down on luck. Qiu Chenxi would drag a few people down with her even if she was going to die.

The Qiu family had power but the Qiao family was considered nothing in Ping Cheng.