

RTAMM 651

Chapter 651: Hurry, Give Me a Clear Explanation

The outcome would be Qiao Nan dying, or better off being dead, while she would continue to live well and have the last laugh.

To find someone to accompany her in her misery, or even let someone be more miserable than her, was this not something that would make one feel elated?

Qiao Nan tugged at Shi Qing's shirt. "Why do I feel that Qiu Chenxi is behaving oddly?"

Her pair of eyes, in particular, looked confused at one point in time and vicious in another. It was as if she was going to devour someone.

"I feel the same too." Shi Qing took a deep breath and prepped herself in a defensive mode. The Qiu Chenxi now was not a normal human being. If anything happened, she had to protect Qiao Nan well. Otherwise, how was she going to face Brother Zhai?

"What are we going to do now?" At the sight of the large sticks in the hands of these people, Qiao Nan was so worried that even her breathing became weaker.

These people were more vicious than those who were slowly regaining their feet on the ground. The look in their eyes was especially different. It was as if they were wild dogs that were accustomed to wandering in the roads, those who were used to being fearsome when competing with their kin for the meager food available.

Shi Qing pursed her lips. Given the current situation, she also wanted to ask as well. What should they do?

If she did not escape with Qiao Nan now, she and Qiao Nan would have to die here today.

Shi Qing could not help regretting. "I shouldn't have brought you here to con this meal. The price for this is too great."

For the sake of letting Qiao Nan have a good meal, most likely, they had to be bashed up before leaving. They would really suffer a huge loss in this case. “Qiao Nan, I’m sorry. I didn’t expect...” She did not expect that Qiu Chenxi would be like a mad dog that was driven to desperation, doing something so out of her mind.

“No need to be sorry. After all, I earned a good meal. Most importantly, I feel that if you didn’t bring me here today, most probably, I’d become more miserable.” Qiao Nan smiled bitterly.

She finally understood why Qiu Chenxi reacted so strongly when she saw her appearing here. Qiu Chenxi even spoke to her in such an unruly manner to provoke her into leaving.

It seemed like Qiu Chenxi hired two groups of people. One group was those who were lying on the ground now. The target of this group was Shi Qing.

As for the group of people who were holding sticks, they were supposed to ambush her.

Her physical strength was not only incomparable to that of Shi Qing but also simply nil.

In front of this group of fierce and merciless men, she did not even have any ability to retaliate.

Most importantly, if she resisted or did not cooperate, these people would definitely break her limbs, let alone get fresh with her and destroy her virginity of two lifetimes.

As such, how could she have been able to have a good meal like just now?

Hence, Qiao Nan knew in her heart that she had been fortunate that Shi Qing brought her along. Otherwise, she would have suffered more badly because of Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi gave a snort and silently agreed with Qiao Nan’s words.

“Qiu Chenxi, your brains are really leaking!!” Shi Qing could not tolerate this further. “No matter what, your father is a civil servant and a leader who works for the well-being of the citizens of the country. Damn, you spent money to hire a group of hooligans to bash the citizens up. Do you wish

for a life-and-death battle with your father? Even if you do, you don't need to drag others into this dead pit!!!”

Out of her mind, she was really out of her mind. She dared to confirm that the Qiu Chenxi today was certainly abnormal.

In the past, when Qiu Chenxi flared up, she would kick up a fuss or small fight at most. She would personally go knocking on someone's door, or curse and shout in public.

Today, Qiu Chenxi had completely taken the plunge.

Shi Qing only had one reason for saying this. If Qiu Chenxi did not wish to drag Qiu Qin down with her, she could not possibly have chosen to do this in broad daylight, especially at a time when students were just being dismissed from school. It was too easy to be spotted by others.

Once someone discovered this and called the police, although Qiu Chenxi had achieved her objective, within a few hours, everyone in Ping Cheng would know that the daughter of a high-ranking official in Ping Cheng had masterminded an attack to injure others on the streets in broad daylight. The situation would be extremely adverse.

As such, the person who would be invited for a 'tea session' would be Qiu Qin and not Qiu Chenxi.

“Whoever makes my life miserable, I'll do the same to them!” Qiu Chenxi said viciously. “Uncle has resigned, so I can't drag him down. Otherwise, I wouldn't let you and your father off either.”

If she could not maintain her place in the Qiu family, everything else would mean nothing to her.

Qiao Nan refused to tell her who that woman was. Hence, Qiao Nan deserved a beating.

Her father had an affair behind her mother and her back and wished to give birth to an illegitimate child.

She wanted to see whether his father's mistress would still be willing to stay with him and share his woes if he reverted to his situation before he married her mother, or even got into a worse plight than before.

Qiao Nan held her forehead. Each time she met Qiu Chenxi, she had to encounter unjustified calamities.

To have met a lunatic like Qiu Chenxi was Brother Zhai's bad luck and also her misfortune.

True enough, it was necessary for her to keep her relationship with Brother Zhai under the wraps.

Otherwise, Qiu Chenxi would not just have hired such a group of people to beat her up and let her leave after retrieving the information today. The situation would have been much worse than this.

At the thought of that scary possibility, Qiao Nan's face turned as white as a sheet. She felt cold and she could feel chills down her spine. Her hands gripped the collar of her shirt tightly.

The outcome of that possibility was truly not something that she could endure.

"Qiao Nan, don't feel scared. I'm here." Shi Qing's expression looked just as bad. At this juncture, she had the exact same thoughts as Qiao Nan.

Nobody could predict the extreme things that Qiu Chenxi would eventually do even in a lawful and orderly society when she turned so merciless.

Qiu Chenxi was a member of the party. Even if she had committed a major crime, was expelled from the party and imprisoned, her imprisonment term could be reduced given that she was a former party member.

In addition, the Qiu family could fork out some money and exert their influence. While Qiao Nan's entire life would be ruined, Qiu Chenxi would be released from the prison and she would remain safe and sound after a few days.

It was simply too unfair!

"You? Shi Qing, you're not useful now. Qiao Nan, let me ask you one last time. Who is Brother Zhai's girlfriend and what's her name? Where does she live and what's her family situation? How long have they been together? What's their progress! Shi Qing, don't you want to protect Qiao Nan

and be friends with her? No matter who says the answer that I wish to know first, I'll let you go once there's an answer."

There was a look of notoriety in the cold-looking eyes of Qiu Chenxi, exuding a sinister aura. It was nothing like the style of that rich man's daughter of the Qiu family.

"She..." At the sight of those men approaching, Qiao Nan and Shi Qing wanted to escape but there was no way to do so. Qiao Nan hesitated for a while before she finally spoke.

"Don't waste my time and make me run out of patience. I don't care what they will do to you. If you're decisive, I'll also let you leave soon. Anyway, you're not Brother Zhai's girlfriend. Whatever means I have, I'll only utilize them on that vixen!"

Chapter 652: Half-Truths

Qiu Chenxi bit her molars and spoke every word through the cracks of her teeth.

It was not difficult to imagine that if Qiu Chenxi really knew who Zhai Sheng's girlfriend was, that woman would definitely suffer badly in Qiu Chenxi's hands.

"The situation in her family is not quite good!" Qiao Nan nervously popped these words.

"Not quite good?" Zhai Sheng had never formally introduced this woman to the Zhai family. Although he rejected Qiu Chenxi, he had never mentioned this woman. At the thought of all these, Qiu Chenxi had already guessed that the family situation of this woman was not comparable to that of the Qiu family. "I've already guessed it. Do you have more information? Tell me something specific!"

"I can't give you anything more specific. I don't interact that much with the Zhai family. At most, Auntie Miao likes me and wishes to acknowledge me as her goddaughter. I have declined as I don't think it's appropriate. Thus, the one that I interacted with most is actually Auntie Miao!"

Shi Qing had her hands on the waist. She nudged Qiao Nan and wanted very much to ask Qiao Nan what she was trying to do by saying that.

If Qiao Nan exposed too much information and led Qiu Chenxi to guess that she was actually the woman Qiu Chenxi had been yearning to find, Qiao Nan would certainly be in dire straits. It would definitely be more than just a beating.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. Of course she knew. She did not wish to end up in a more miserable state, and neither did she want a beating. Now, she could only buy time.

She did not believe that no one would find the huge commotion earlier strange.

Most importantly, when the second group arrived, there were many of them and everyone had sticks in their hands. Any typical person would feel frightened at the sight of that. Would they not give a call to the police?

Qiao Nan, who had been cornered, had no choice but to take a gamble with humanity.

“I consider you knowing your limits.” Fortunately, Qiu Chenxi did not notice the interactions between the two. She even agreed with Qiao Nan’s words. “Qiao Nan, remember this. I don’t want any god aunt springing out of nowhere and adding woes to my family.”

Qiu Chenxi shunned Qiao Nan badly. If Qiao Nan became Miao Jing’s goddaughter, then Qiao Nan would have to call Zhai Sheng brother. If Qiu Chenxi was married to Zhai Sheng, she would become Qiao Nan’s sister-in-law.

There were so many issues in the Qiao family. What if the Qiao family constantly sought the Zhai family for help when they were in trouble? Most likely, both the Zhai family and the Qiu family would have to help the Qiao family clean up their mess in the future.

She was not even willing to have a relative related by blood, let alone one that was not.

Shi Qing pursed her lips. She looked at Qiu Chenxi in extreme disdain.

God aunt? In this lifetime, Qiu Chenxi could forget about getting married to Brother Zhai.

It was no wonder that although Qiu Chenxi and Brother Zhai were in contact for so many years, Brother Zhai never took a liking to Qiu Chenxi. If he did, then Brother Zhai would be blind. Otherwise, Brother Zhai was actually not as outstanding as she believed him to be.

“As such, Auntie Miao argued with Brother Zhai because of that woman. Auntie Miao came to chat with me. I then got to know this little piece of information. There are no new developments recently. Actually, even Auntie Miao doesn’t know who that girlfriend of Brother Zhai is. She doesn’t know her name, where she lives, and who’s in her family. Everything that I know came from Auntie Miao. I’ve already told you what Auntie Miao knows. If you insist on asking me what Auntie Miao doesn’t know, then I will be conjuring things.”

Qiao Nan gradually calmed down. It was not that she could not give Qiu Chenxi an answer today.

Since Qiu Chenxi did not know anything, Qiu Chenxi would not be able to decipher whether she was telling the truth.

After successfully overcoming the hurdle today, she and Shi Qing would be more careful next time. They certainly would not let Qiu Chenxi have another chance to harm them.

“Really?” Qiu Chenxi asked as she knitted her brows.

“It’s true.”

“I heard that you managed to persuade Auntie Miao and the rest of the Zhai family to reconcile after she argued with them. Why did they argue?” Qiu Chenxi did not believe that Qiao Nan knew so little. She might as well test Qiao Nan with that information that she heard of.

Qiao Nan was stunned for a moment. She did not know for sure how much Qiu Chenxi knew about this matter.

Nevertheless, there was one thing that was very fortunate for Qiao Nan.

Regarding this matter, it was almost unrelated to the fact that she was Brother Zhai’s girlfriend. There would not be any problem even if she told the entire truth. “Miao, Auntie Miao doesn’t really like Brother Zhai’s current girlfriend. She promised Brother Zhai that she won’t object to or break them up. However, Auntie Miao has her own plans. This time, Auntie Miao arranged a blind date for Brother Zhai.”

“Blind date!” Qiu Chenxi was so furious that she slammed the table. “She actually dared to arrange a blind date for Brother Zhai?!” Did she treat her as the dead?

No wonder Brother Zhai would argue with Miao Jing. She deserved it!

“This doesn’t concern your family, so why are you such a busybody? Let me warn you. In the future, don’t poke your nose into the matters of the Zhai family. Do you understand?!” Qiu Chenxi was hoping very much that Zhai Sheng would quarrel with Miao Jing, such that the mother-son pair would go separate ways. This was in case Miao Jing continued to come in between them and hinder her marriage with Zhai Sheng.

“Understood.”

“What else do you know about that woman? Tell me everything at once.”

“Okay.” Qiao Nan looked like a wise man who understands their situation and talked about ‘that woman’. “These are all that I know of.”

“Fine.” Qiao Nan’s cooperative attitude made Qiu Chenxi feel that she had gained the upper hand. “Shi Qing, Qiao Nan had told me everything she knows. It should be your turn now? Sorry, I forgot to inform you that, as long as one of you doesn’t cooperate, there’s no use. I won’t be softhearted when I need to be merciless!”

“You...” Shi Qing’s face turned extremely black. Qiu Chenxi was resorting to trickery.

Qiu Chenxi lifted her chin and sneered at Shi Qing. So what if she was resorting to this?

Now, Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were in her territory. They had to obey her. Otherwise, they would leave the place lying down. “Shi Qing, don’t drag your classmate down because of your own arrogance. Look at how well your classmate performed just now. If you don’t cooperate, your classmate’s earlier words and effort will go down the drain.”

Shi Qing gave Qiu Chenxi a sneer that was worse than the previous one. “No need to say that to sow discord. It’s useless.” Qiu Chenxi really thought that she was the stubborn one and Qiao Nan the soft one. Hence, she deliberately said all those to sow discord between Qiao Nan and her. She was an idiot!

Shi Qing was infuriated. That ball of fury had jumped from her throat to her eyes.

However, discretion is the better part of valor. Given the current situation, it was not wise to fight head-on with Qiu Chenxi. Where there's life, there's hope. They would have opportunities in the future if they were able to endure the anger now.

Hence, Qiao Nan tugged at the clothing behind Shi Qing's waist, hinting to Shi Qing to calm down and avoid being led astray by Qiu Chenxi's momentum.

At least, they had not suffered any major loss.

The most important thing now was to think of ways to buy time and let someone discover the situation in this private room, or smoke Qiu Chenxi such that they could escape this place.

Chapter 653: Unsuitable to Jump Down

“What I know is similar to what Qiao Nan knows. I confessed my love to Brother Zhai, and he told me directly that the only woman that he likes in this life is that young lady. If he is not able to marry that lady, he will stay single forever.” Shi Qing bit her teeth. “Since Brother Zhai has made it so clear, and it's not that I am unworthy of him, why should I be so stubborn? I have my pride and I want to preserve my dignity. Brother Zhai may not like me, but it doesn't mean that I will be left on the shelf.”

“Stop agitating me with your words.” Qiu Chenxi's demeanor changed. “How dare you ridicule me right now? Are you not afraid of death? All I can say is that you may be fearless, but surely you don't want to implicate your classmate. Did Brother Zhai really say that?”

All along, Brother Zhai never acknowledged that she was his girlfriend. She did not expect that Brother Zhai would tell Shi Qing that he would marry nobody in his life except for that lady. It was too detestable!

“Of course it is true. Everyone has their pride. If Brother Zhai did not reject my feelings bluntly, would I give up on him? Back when you were with Brother Zhai, I did nothing because you are my cousin. If not, do you think I would let you have Brother Zhai? When you were with Brother Zhai, he never made his intentions clear that he only had eyes for you. If Brother Zhai said so, I wouldn't be secretly in love with him for so many years.”

Qiao Nan looked sullen and pulled at Shi Qing's clothes. If Shi Qing continued to say things like that, Qiu Chenxi would really hate her to the core.

Was Shi Qing trying to get Qiu Chenxi to detest her?

Shi Qing ignored Qiao Nan. Once Qiu Chenxi knew that Qiao Nan was the woman, even without her saying anything, Qiu Chenxi would do anything to take Qiao Nan's life so that she could take her position, unless Qiao Nan broke up with Brother Zhai.

In this case, she had no qualms about saying things that would upset Qiu Chenxi.

"You shut up!" Qiu Chenxi's face turned blue in anger. Zhai Sheng was not gentle or considerate when he was with her, yet he made such promise to another woman, that he would only marry her in his life. It was too much. "Why did Brother Zhai tell you but keep it from me?!"

She was Brother Zhai's ex-girlfriend. She was the one who refused to give up her feelings for Brother Zhai and had made trouble for Qiao Nan multiple times all because of Brother Zhai. It was more logical that he told her everything to make her give up on him. "Shi Qing, are you lying to me?"

"If I lie to you, then I am a coward!" Shi Qing felt unjustified. Although Brother Zhai did not tell her the exact words, this was what he meant. She was no liar. "As to why Brother Zhai told me but not you, you shouldn't be asking me. Don't you think that it has to do with you? Brother Zhai told me his feelings and I decided to give up my feelings for him, but if Brother Zhai tells you as well, will you be able to know what's good for you and give up your feelings for him?"

Qiu Chenxi was silent, because she knew that she would never give up.

"Do you finally understand now? After all, Brother Zhai has known you for years. He knows your temper and that you won't listen to reasons, hence he did not waste his effort to talk to you for fear of agitating you. What he did was for your own good." Shi Qing was proud of herself that she had finally calmed Qiu Chenxi down. "We have already told you everything that we know. Can we leave now?"

"Leave?" Qiu Chenxi refused to give in. "You don't seem to have told me who exactly the girl is, what her name is, and where she lives, have you?"

There was no way that she would let Shi Qing go after saying a bunch of useless stuff.

“Crap, do you not understand the human language? Brother Zhai has never told anyone who his girlfriend is. Since Auntie Miao does not know, how could I have known?” Shi Qing was exasperated and she felt like swearing. Why would her auntie have such a slow-witted daughter? She was slow to catch on to things.

Had she not been clear enough?

Shi Qing thought about it and calmed herself. “Let me tell you. Auntie Miao doesn’t like you at all, and she doesn’t want you as her daughter-in-law. Auntie Miao should be the happiest person now that Brother Zhai has a girlfriend. If you go to look for Auntie Miao, she may just tell you who Brother Zhai’s girlfriend is and that you have no hopes, telling you not to come to the Zhai family’s residence again.”

Qiu Chenxi sat there and pondered for a good five minutes before looking at Shi Qing and Qiao Nan. “In that case, have I thought too highly of the two of you?”

“What do you mean?!” Shi Qing stared at Qiu Chenxi and dared not lower her vigilance. “If we had not told you what we know, you would have been kept in the dark.”

“Regardless, both of you have not given me any accurate information. Sorry, I am very dissatisfied with whatever you have told me.” Qiu Chenxi had an evil smile on her face. Yes, she went back on her words. What she said just now was merely to fool Shi Qing and Qiao Nan.

If the two of them would tell her who Brother Zhai’s girlfriend was, she might tell the group of people to go easy on them, and not to give them too many punches.

Unfortunately, the clues Qiao Nan and Shi Qing gave her were too general and unspecific. They did not give her the details. She would need to spend a lot of time to find out. Hence, she was unwilling to accept the clues that Qiao Nan and Shi Qing gave her. They would still need to take punches. In fact, she would not be lenient to them!

“Hehehe.” Shi Qing sneered. “Qiu Chenxi, let me tell you. Since you want to make us suffer for what happened to the Qiu family, you are not the only one who would resort to life and death struggles. I will do so as well!”

Qiu Chenxi had a lot of people with her. If a fight were to break out, she and Qiao Nan would be on the losing end.

Since they were bound to suffer, she could not allow Qiu Chenxi to leave unscathed. If she had to take the blows, then she would not let Qiu Chenxi leave so easily as well!

Shi Qing used her hands to push against the overturned table deftly and made a somersault to land behind Qiu Chenxi and grabbed Qiu Chenxi's neck from behind. Her movement was so quick and agile. It was way more exciting than the fighting scene in the movie. She was impressive.

Since a young age, Shi Qing underwent training that was sufficient for her to become a member of the special forces. It was a piece of cake to take down Qiu Chenxi.

“Qiao Nan, come over here.”

Not waiting for Shi Qing's orders, Qiao Nan had already run over to her. She did not want to become the target.

Qiao Nan leaned against the window and opened it right away. She looked down and her heart jumped a beat. “It's too high.” It was not suitable for them to escape through the window.

Shi Qing glanced down as well. She could still jump down, though she would suffer some minor scratches. But Qiao Nan definitely could not do it. If she jumped down, she might suffer serious injuries.

Qiu Chenxi had indeed planned everything right from the beginning.

Chapter 654: Behaved Like a Hooligan

With that, Shi Qing smacked Qiu Chenxi hard on the head. “Qiu Chenxi, go ahead and order your people to beat us. I would like to know whether most of the punches will land on you or on us!”

She was going to use Qiu Chenxi as her human shield!

“And all of you here, even though my dad is a retired soldier, he still works in the government. I have remembered most of you here. Unless I die here, those who dare to lay a finger on me can get ready to be sent to jail. If you don’t wish to go to jail, I will give you a chance. Scram right now. I will take it that nothing has happened.”

Shi Qing’s threat was useful. Everyone was hired to help Qiu Chenxi. Once they received the money, they would have to flee. At least, they could not return to Ping Cheng for the time being.

However, they did not know that their target was not ordinary people and was the daughter of a soldier. Even after her father was discharged from the army, he would be a government official in Ping Cheng. They were just hooligans. They could not afford to offend her father.

“What’s there to be scared of? You have the strength in numbers. Besides, she had said that she isn’t able to remember all of you. After getting the money, all of you can leave Ping Cheng for the time being. She will forget your faces in a few days. Even if she goes to the police, how is it possible for them to arrest all of you?” Qiu Chenxi analyzed calmly. “Rescue me, and I will give you another five hundred yuan.”

Qiu Chenxi saw herself as a piece of beautiful jade, while Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were rubble and debris. She would not clash head-on with them. If she did, she would be the one who suffered the most.

“Five hundred yuan?” Hearing that Qiu Chenxi was willing to spend so much money in order to deal with Qiao Nan and her, Shi Qing gave her five slaps on the face. “If not for the Shi family, the Qiu family would not be living in luxury now. You refuse to let your dad’s woman spend the Qiu family’s money, yet you are willing to use the money the Qiu family made with the help of the Shi family to hire people to beat us. You are indeed capable!”

Qiu Chenxi’s expression darkened after being slapped by Shi Qing. She glared viciously at Shi Qing.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath and walked to stand behind Qiu Chenxi. She placed her hand lightly on Qiu Chenxi’s back where the zipper to her dress was. “Qiu Chenxi, are you sure you still want to make more trouble?”

“What are you trying to do!!” Qiu Chenxi widened her eyes in panic. She was no longer as confident as before. She tensed and had goosebumps all over her arms.

“Nothing, I am merely behaving like a hooligan.” Qiao Nan’s voice was as soft as the spring breeze in April, but Qiu Chenxi was scared stiff, her face turning pale. Her body tensed up instantly. She was like a high-strung bow that would break any time. “You are Qiu Chenxi. The Qiu family indeed has money, power, and social status. Poor folks like us cannot be compared to you. There are so many people here. We are seriously outnumbered. I suppose if a fight breaks out, you will be rescued by them in no time. By then, Shi Qing and I will have to suffer. In this life, what I hate most is to be on the losing end. I don’t care whether the other party is an outsider or family, I will do anything to avoid being on the losing end.”

Since she could not escape being beaten to a pulp, she could not take it lying down that Qiu Chenxi was watching happily by the side.

Then, Qiao Nan moved her fingertips slightly and pulled the zipper.

Qiu Chenxi’s hairs stood on end as she listened to the sliding sound of the zipper. “How dare you!!!”

“How dare me?” Qiao Nan smiled and slid the zipper down to the end.

If Qiao Nan let go of the dress and stopped Qiu Chenxi from moving, her bare skin would definitely be exposed.

“Your lingerie looks pretty nice. I know how to unclasp it. Qiu Chenxi, if I unclasp the lingerie and your dress falls even further, do you think you will make it to the headlines of Ping Cheng newspaper tomorrow? What headline should we give it?” Qiao Nan smiled happily.

All of them were women. Qiu Chenxi was not afraid of being beaten as she knew that when a fight broke out, Shi Qing and Qiao Nan would take more blows than her.

“All these people have worked so hard and made so many trips to help you. Merely giving them money is not good enough. You should give them some other perks.”

That said, Qiao Nan slid her fingertips across Qiu Chenxi’s bare back, resting on the clasp of her lingerie.

As long as she tugged at it gently, the clasp would be undone and Qiu Chenxi would be exposed.

“Wait a minute!!” Qiu Chenxi was boiling with anger. The people whom she hired with money widened their eyes and fixed their gazes on Qiu Chenxi, lest they missed any details. “You are shameless!” She had not expected that Qiao Nan, who was so young, would use such underhanded methods to threaten her.

Qiao Nan laughed. “Yes, I am shameless. It’s good enough that you care about preserving your dignity.”

So long as Qiu Chenxi could not withstand the humiliation, then she and Shi Qing would have the chance to leave safely.

Shi Qing eyes brightened. This method was brilliant. Why did she not think of it? Qiu Chenxi was fearless when they tried to use force on her, hence they had to resort to tricks. “Since the beginning, Qiao Nan has said that she is going to behave like a hooligan. Hooligans don’t have a sense of shame.”

“Alright, don’t haggle with me. If you order your people to come at us, I will make sure that you expose yourself completely. Anyway, you’re the one who hired these people. You chose them by yourself, so there’s nothing to be angry about.” Qiao Nan was running out of patience.

“I...” Qiu Chenxi could feel the tingling coldness on her bare back. She gritted her teeth and spoke in anger.

“Get them to stand aside!” Qiao Nan curled her fingers at the clasp of the lingerie and Qiu Chenxi’s pale face turned red immediately.

“Get out of the way!” Qiu Chenxi gritted her molar teeth and spoke through the cracks of her teeth.

These people were hired by Qiu Chenxi and they only listened to her words. At her command, they stepped aside right away. Of course, those who harbored evil intentions stepped further behind to get a good spot so that they could have an unblocked view of Qiu Chenxi.

Qiao Nan sneered. “Qiu Chenxi, we are women after all. If you are not so ruthless to us, I will not resort to this. So let me remind you. The zipper of your dress is undone. It’s up to you if you want to expose yourself and allow these people to feast their eyes on you.”

“Pull it up for me!!!”

“That won’t do. At least, you will have to wait until Shi Qing and I have left the second floor before I can pull them up for you.” With the zipper undone, Qiu Chenxi would not be able to play any tricks on them.

Even if Shi Qing loosened her grip on Qiu Chenxi, she would not dare to run as her clothes would drop right away.

As long as Qiu Chenxi was afraid of being exposed, she and Shi Qing would be able to escape from the restaurant by stirring up confusion.

Qiu Chenxi had no other choice but to give in. She looked at the group of burly men, who widened their eyes, getting ready for the show, and growled. “If you want to get the money, close your eyes right now. If you dare to open your eyes, not only will you not be paid but you will also be...”

Chapter 655: Continued to Being a Hooligan

Since Qiu Chenxi could get two groups of people, one group to hold back Shi Qing, and the other group to go at Qiao Nan, she naturally had a way to deal with them as well.

Unless these people fled to the ends of the earth and never to come back in this life, they would be caught by Qiu Chenxi. Qiu Chenxi would use the methods that she used on Shi Qing and Qiao Nan on them, and would probably give them harsher punishments.

They might want to leer at Qiu Chenxi but they were more worried about their personal safety.

Most of them shut their eyes tight immediately.

Some even turned their back to Qiu Chenxi in order to prove their innocence.

Right then, they finally understood that the lady who hired them was the daughter of a government official, and the ladies that they were hired to deal with were the daughters of government officials as well.

The children of the government officials plotted against each other, while they, who were clueless, were caught in their fight unwillingly.

When people in power engaged in a power struggle, the commoners would always be the ones who suffered.

“Block...” Qiu Chenxi was about to scold them for being blockheads. She did not really mean to let Qiao Nan and Shi Qing off. She merely did not want to be stripped of her clothes in front of so many people.

Once they turned their backs on Qiao Nan and Shi Qing, it would be difficult to chase after them.

Qiao Nan curled her fingers at the clasp deftly and one of the buttons of Qiu Chenxi’s lingerie came undone.

Qiu Chenxi felt that something came loose at her back. Her expression changed as fast as the revolving door. Minutes ago, she was fuming, but now, she became subdued. She finally kept quiet and no longer dared to make further comments.

Qiao Nan and Shi Qing walked toward the door with their back facing each other and left the private room.

Shi Qing cast a glance at Qiao Nan. “Those people will definitely chase after us.” At least, Qiu Chenxi would not give up on chasing after them.

Qiao Nan curled her lips into a smile. After reaching the staircase, Qiao Nan undid all the buttons of Qiu Chenxi’s lingerie at the fastest speed, while her other hand pulled the zipper up halfway.

As long as Qiu Chenxi was flexible, she would be able to reach the zipper.

Without another word, Qiao Nan pushed Qiu Chenxi toward the room. “Let’s go!”

Shi Qing pulled Qiao Nan and started to run. She did not check how Qiu Chenxi was doing.

What happened today was all because of Qiu Chenxi. She was only concerned about Qiao Nan's and her safety. She had no time to worry about Qiu Chenxi. Even if she was to die, she deserved it.

"Chase after them! Once you get a hold of them, give them a harsh beating but don't kill them!" Qiu Chenxi, who got up from the floor, held tightly to her clothes as her other hand grabbed at her back collar. She was afraid that her clothes would be left gaping open at the back, exposing herself to everyone present.

"Yes." These people could not help but let their gazes drifted over Qiu Chenxi's chest, where they suspected that her lingerie had come undone.

They had a long history with women and they could tell from one look that Qiu Chenxi's lingerie had come undone.

It was a pity that the zipper of the dress had been pulled up halfway. Otherwise, they would be in for a good show.

"What's there to look at? Chase after them now!" Qiu Chenxi gripped her clothes tightly and gave them a ferocious look.

After being yelled at by Qiu Chenxi, everyone did not dare to stay behind and gave chase right away.

Qiu Chenxi also wanted to give chase. She wanted to witness Shi Qing and Qiao Nan being badly beaten by the thugs. But as her lingerie had been unclasped, she had no choice but to go to the restroom to clasp her lingerie and zip her dress before giving chase.

"Where should we go now?" Shi Qing asked with a headache. "Do you want to split up?"

Qiu Chenxi would definitely not give up. She would send those men after them.

"Run to the police station!!" Qiao Nan knew the location of the police station and ran in that direction. "No matter what, we are on the streets now. It is better than being trapped in the private room in the restaurant. If we are stopped by the thugs, we can always shout for help."

Previously, Qiao Nan could not do anything and was trapped in the private room. That was more of a headache than the situation now.

At least, the streets were full of people. To Qiao Nan, this was much safer.

“You’re right.” Shi Qing stopped after running for a short while. “Since we are already on the streets, why are we running? If there’s anything, we can scream and other people will help us.”

“The streets are quite empty. The schools ended early due to the monthly exams. There aren’t many people on the streets. How can you count on them to help us? Stop chatting. We must run now.” It was risky to hope for people to come to their assistance on the empty streets. Qiao Nan hoped to secure a better way to ensure their safety. “When we reach the police station, indicate your father’s identity and make a phone call to your dad. What Qiu Chenxi did will drag the Qiu family and the Shi family down as well.”

Since it was Qiu Qin who had an affair, Qi Minlan should be the one who was driven to desperation. Why was Qiu Chenxi behaving in such a crazy manner?

Qiao Nan was puzzled.

“Brother, over there.”

Shi Qing ran fast enough, but Qiao Nan was lagging behind. The thugs were hot on their heels and they caught up to them in no time. They surrounded Qiao Nan and Shi Qing, blocking their way. “The two young girls over there, I shall see how you intend to escape now!”

“The problem now is not how we escape. Instead, you should be worried about being sent to jail.” Qiao Nan gasped for breath. The pedestrians on the road saw this scene, and some of them stopped to watch what was happening. However, most of them quickened their footsteps to leave, seemingly did not want to get involved.

Given the number of thugs present, anyone who had the common sense knew that they had better not get involved.

“Stop talking nonsense! Give them a round of beating!” The thugs knew that it was a waste of their time to talk with Qiao Nan. For all they knew, they might not be able to complete their task.

On the contrary, if they did not waste their time talking to them but gave them a good thrashing instead, they would already beat them and flee from the scene by the time the police officers arrived.

It was alright not to have any women. Money was more important. With the money, they could have any number of women that they wanted.

Shi Qing gritted her teeth. It seemed that she had to deal with them by force. Qiao Nan could not win them in a fight and could only outwit them.

The thugs were just about to use their weapons on Shi Qing and Qiao Nan when another group of younger people came out from nowhere. They sported spiky hairstyles and looked like a bunch of hooligans as well. They did not seem easy to deal with.

“Who dares to lay their fingers on our big brother’s friends? Are they courting death?” A young man who adopted a hairstyle similar to that of a chicken head walked out from the crowd, looking very full of himself. “Are you the ones?”

“Who is your big brother?” The thugs that Qiu Chenxi hired halted. The number of people in the new group was almost the same as the number of people on their side.

Chapter 656: Saved from Disaster

His people came armed with weapons, and so did the other group. The two groups of people looked as if they were going to break out in a fight.

If a real fight was to occur, the people that Qiu Chenxi hired would have to think twice.

Originally, their job was to give the two young ladies a thrashing and flee right away afterward.

But if the two groups of people were to break out in a fight, they would suffer injuries as well. By then, the money that they received might not be enough to cover their medical expenses.

“It’s me!” Zhu Baoguo said grumpily. “Who sent you here?”

“Zhu Baoguo?”

“Zhu Baoguo!”

Qiao Nan and Shi Qing, who were still confused, finally put their hearts at ease upon seeing Zhu Baoguo. As long as the group of people was on their side, they did not have to worry about anything.

“What brings you here?” Qiao Nan breathed a sigh of relief. Thankfully, it was Zhu Baoguo. Otherwise, she and Shi Qing would have to suffer today.

“If I were not here, you... both of you will be bullied by others. Who is behind this?” Xiao Qiao never provoked others. She put all her attention on her studies. She would not retaliate even when she was provoked. Her temper was as soft as the bread dough.

So there was only one possibility for such an incident to happen. It must be that other people had taken the initiative to provoke Xiao Qiao.

“Qiu Chenxi.” Shi Qing had no wish to cover up for Qiu Chenxi and gave her name right away.

“Why did she make trouble for Xiao Qiao?” Zhu Baoguo could not understand.

Zhu Baoguo was used to the fact that Qiao Nan would go home with Shi Qing after school every time. They did not need him around.

Thinking of the conversation that he had with Qiao Nan last time, he tried to restrain himself from looking for Qiao Nan. He did not admit that he had not grown up, but he hoped he could be more mature so that Qiao Nan could accept him.

Today, he went back home as usual as he knew that Qiao Nan would have gone back home with Shi Qing.

Given Shi Qing’s skills, the average person would not be able to bully Qiao Nan.

In the past, his only worry was Shi Qing.

Since Shi Qing was no longer a threat to Qiao Nan, and Xu Tingting and the rest were behaving themselves, Zhu Baoguo put all his focus on himself.

Since Xiao Qiao felt he was not mature enough and was like a child, then the first thing he had to do was to grow up.

But one of the lackeys who used to mix with him told him that a group of thugs seemed to be hovering on a certain road, and that path was the road that Qiao Nan would always take.

People who were close to Zhu Baoguo knew that Qiao Nan was under Zhu Baoguo's protection, and that Zhu Baoguo always addressed her as his younger sister. She was someone they needed to protect.

Even though Qiao Nan did not take that path, after seeing the group of people, the hooligan sensed that something was wrong and told Zhu Baoguo right away.

Zhu Baoguo knew that something was amiss upon learning of the large size of the other group of people.

If they were after Qiao Nan, no matter how strong Shi Qing was, she could never defeat all of them.

Besides, women were not as physically strong as men. Shi Qing might be tough, but if faced with a large group of men, she would not have the stamina to deal with all of them. By then, Qiao Nan would have to suffer.

After ascertaining the situation, Zhu Baoguo headed there right away.

By the time he arrived, the group had already received word from Qiu Chenxi and had gone to the restaurant.

Luckily, the large group was too conspicuous and eye-catching. Zhu Baoguo randomly asked the owners of the shops along the road about their whereabouts, and almost most of them could tell him in which direction the group went. That was why Zhu Baoguo was able to arrive in time.

“She is sick and abnormal. Her parents have an unhappy marriage, and so she catches others to make them suffer with her.” Shi Qing exploded in anger. She was really unlucky.

She had said long ago that she did not intend to be involved with her auntie’s affairs. If her father had not told her grandpa about the investigation results so that he would be mentally prepared, her auntie would not have known about the affair.

When she met her father next time, she must make things clear to him.

Since her grandpa did not place the Shi family’s interests as his priority and went all out to help her auntie, why must her father be so concerned about the Shi family’s affairs? Now that her father had left the army, her auntie and Qiu Chenxi were much more important than her father in her grandpa’s eyes.

“She is indeed sick.” Zhu Baoguo did not expect that Qiu Chenxi would create trouble for Qiao Nan because of such ridiculous reasons.

“What’s there to look at? Right now, all of you have two paths to choose from. First, let’s fight it out. We shall see which group is more capable and has a larger number. Second, get out of my sight now.” ‘Little Chicken Head’ looked disdainfully at the group of thugs hired by Qiu Chenxi. His demeanor was much more unruly than the people that Qiu Chenxi spent money to hire.

“Big brother, what should we do?” The people that Qiu Chenxi hired were undecided.

“What do you mean? Do you want to spend all the money you earned to buy medicine? I have taught you long ago that we cannot accept deals that have no gains but losses.” When both sides were badly mismatched in terms of strength and number, and their side was able to crush the enemy, they had to fight.

However, if they were well-matched in strength, just like right now, he was unwilling to join the fight.

He thought that his targets were just ordinary young ladies who were nerdy. That was why he did not find out more about his targets and accepted the task.

But they were children of the government officials! He could not afford to offend them!

“Let’s go back!” The people that Qiu Chenxi hired could tell that the situation was not to their favors and had no wish to continue the fight. The leader made a decision right then and turned to leave.

The group of people was quick to retreat. Some of the passersby who gathered on the streets felt disappointed that everything ended without a fight, while some were glad that things had returned to normal.

In short, it could have been a brutal fight, but everything ended right then like smoke that evaporated into thin air. The streets were back to normal.

“What’s there to look at?” Zhu Baoguo glared at the passersby impatiently. The people who crowded around felt guilty and dispersed under Zhu Baoguo’s stare.

Such people would not lend a helping hand when others were in trouble, but they were more than happy to watch the show.

Zhu Baoguo could see through such people and found them particularly annoying.

“I will send both of you back. If you don’t hurry back, Uncle Qiao will be worried.” After shouting at the passersby to leave, Zhu Baoguo gave some money to ‘Little Chicken Head’. “Thank you for today. Take this and treat the brothers to a meal.”

“Brother Baoguo, that’s nothing.” ‘Little Chicken Head’ was elated. They were willing to be under Zhu Baoguo not only because he had a high social status, but it was also because he had never looked down upon them who came from a humble background. Most importantly, Zhu Baoguo was generous enough to give them money for meals.

Chapter 657: Lodged Complaint

“Thank you, Brother Baoguo.” All the people who came with ‘Little Chicken Head’ smiled at the sight of the money.

“Alright, go and have a good meal.” Zhu Baoguo waved his hand nonchalantly. He used to like to mix with these people, but Xiao Qiao had changed this habit of his. Now, he had no wish to mingle with them.

However, on account of their past friendship as well as that ‘Little Chicken Head’ having helped Qiao Nan this time, Zhu Baoguo did not ignore them.

Zhu Baoguo sent Shi Qing and Qiao Nan back home, but he kept his silence during the whole journey.

Zhu Baoguo would usually talk nonstop when he was with Qiao Nan. However, he was particularly quiet today and never took the initiative to say a word.

Shi Qing had wanted to start a conversation, but she felt like her tongue was twisted upon seeing Zhu Baoguo’s expression. She touched Qiao Nan lightly, hinting for her to start the conversation.

It was because of Qiao Nan that Zhu Baoguo was able to arrive in time today. In other words, she was saved all thanks to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan ignored Shi Qing and continued to walk in silence. She stopped when she almost reached her house. “Zhu Baoguo, thank you for what happened today. If not for you, Shi Qing and I would be in big trouble.”

“It’s nothing. You used to help me, so it’s right that I helped you.” Yes, in the past, Xiao Qiao used to help him and teach him. It was no wonder that Xiao Qiao would say that he had not grown up. “Since you have arrived at your house, I will go back.”

Zhu Baoguo took a glance at the Qiao family’s residence. Unlike two years ago when he would follow his heart and spend some time at the Qiao family’s residence, he walked off right away today.

“Hey, do you feel that Zhu Baoguo behaved strangely in front of you?” He was totally different from the deskmate that she used to see in school.

Qiao Nan sighed. "Everyone has a price to pay for growing up." Since Zhu Baoguo had changed, it showed that he had really grown up.

"Nan Nan, Shi Qing, both of you are finally back." The door in the living room had to be opened from the inside. Seeing that his daughter had yet to return, Qiao Dongliang had thought of going outside to look around. He had just opened the door when he saw her in the doorway. "Why are you both so late today? You mentioned that it's the monthly exams day and that you would be back early, didn't you?"

"Something cropped up today, so we are late. Dad, I am hungry." Qiao Nan did not mention that she was detained by Qiu Chenxi and was almost beaten up by hooligans. She did not wish to frighten Qiao Dongliang.

"Hungry? Then, come on in. I have already prepared some food. If both of you still weren't back, the food would turn cold." Qiao Nan and Shi Qing looked fine except that their clothes and hair were slightly messy. It was nothing to be surprised about. Hence, Qiao Dongliang did not feel that anything was amiss. "Come on in and have a meal."

"Thank you, Uncle Qiao." Shi Qing took a deep breath. To her, staying in the Qiao family's residence was the best decision she ever made.

As for Qiao Nan, Shi Qing did not know whether Qiao Nan had any regrets for allowing her to live with her.

After the three of them finished their meals, Qiao Dongliang handed the keys that Shi Peng left with him to Shi Qing. "This is the key to the new house that your dad bought. It is just next door to us. Your dad said that he can leave the army soon and will work in Ping Cheng in the future. He bought this house as it is convenient for you to go to school. In the future, it will be your home. You have to keep it safe."

"My dad bought a house again?" Shi Qing had no idea about investing in houses. "In fact, my dad didn't have to go to all the trouble. He has bought a house for me previously, and now he bought another house. It is too wasteful. He should sell the previous house."

"Don't sell it!" Qiao Nan stopped Shi Qing right away. "You are not in need of money. You can just leave the house as it is, and you won't stand to lose."

Qiao Nan, who had been through rebirth, did not remember any winning lottery number, and neither did she master any skills to earn lots of money, or know which businesses would be thriving.

However, Qiao Nan knew that housing prices in the country would rise in the future.

If the location was good, the price would be several dozens times that of the current price. If the location was not good, the price would also be dozens times that of the current price.

After the 21st century, there would be inflation. Compared to saving money, investing in a house was a better way to earn money.

Furthermore, the house that Shi Qing had would not cost too much.

After all, housing price was relatively cheap now.

If not for her family's situation, she would encourage her father to buy a few more houses with the extra money that he had. By the time the housing prices rose, her father would be able to retire and enjoy old age using the profit that he made from the rise in housing prices.

"It's useless to have so many houses. I can't stay in so many houses either." Shi Qing was baffled.

Qiao Nan smiled. "The Qiu family is considered wealthy and has lots of money. Do you think people from the Qiu family will dislike that they have too much money and have nothing to spend the money on?"

"Well, these are two different matters. Can we make such a comparison?" Shi Qing was confused. They were talking about money and houses. "The size of the house is so much bigger than money."

Qiao Nan stared upward in exasperation. "Fine, then you can go ahead and tell your dad. I could not help it if you find having too much money an issue. But I feel that investing in houses is better than keeping the money in the bank."

The house that Shi Peng bought for Shi Qing would, at most, cost a few thousand yuan.

Ten years later, such houses in this location would cost at least a few million yuan. It was about one thousand times more!

Forget it. The Shi family was just as wealthy as the Qiu family. Since the Shi family was not short of money, she did not need to be worried on Shi Qing's behalf.

"Dad, it's getting late. Do you want to rest first? Shi Qing may want to give Officer Shi a call." Qiao Nan glanced at the clock. She knew that if they delayed any further, Officer Shi would be asleep.

"Alright, the two of you must go to bed early as well." Qiao Dongliang nodded and left, leaving the living room to Qiao Nan and Shi Qing. "Nan Nan, remember, the two of you must sleep early as well. Don't stay up late."

"I won't stay up late."

"Good night, Uncle Qiao."

Shi Qing waited for Qiao Dongliang to close the door before calling Shi Peng. "Qing Qing, why do you call me at this time? Is anything the matter? Are you short of cash?"

Shi Qing shook her head. "No, but then again, it is related to money. Qiu Chenxi must be crazy. Just because uncle has an affair, she was so riled up that she hired a group of people today to deal with Nan Nan and me. If not for Zhu Baoguo, who appeared in the nick of time, Nan Nan and I would be lying in the hospital now."

"Are you sure that it's Qiu Chenxi's doing?" Shi Peng's tone turned serious. He had thought that though his niece was haughty, she was kindhearted.

However, after hearing what Shi Qing said, Shi Peng thought otherwise.

"It's definitely her. Today, she asked me out to a restaurant to have a meal. I brought Qiao Nan along to eat for free. But I did not expect that the hooligans have been lying in ambush in the restaurant."

Chapter 658: What's the Motive?

“It was not just that. Those that she hired to hold me back were still considered polite as they intended to win against me with numbers. However, the group that Qiu Chenxi sent to target Qiao Nan was much more vicious. All of them had weapons. She wanted to know who Brother Zhai’s girlfriend is. Qiao Nan did not expose herself but she gave hints and no lies. Besides not letting out the identity, we told Qiu Chenxi the rest. However, Qiu Chenxi went back on her words and ordered the two groups of people to surround and attack us. Fortunately, Zhu Baoguo appeared in the nick of time. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be sitting here talking to you over the phone now. I would have been sent to the hospital in a stretcher long ago!”

“So serious?”

“I think the reality is more severe than my words. Dad, has Qiu Chenxi lost her mind?” Shi Qing peeped at Qiao Dongliang’s room. When she observed that there were no movements in Qiao Dongliang’s room, she covered the phone receiver and said in a hushed voice, “Isn’t uncle just having an affair? As for the so-called illegitimate child, not even a shadow of him could be seen yet. Or, is that mistress really pregnant with my uncle’s child? And that’s why Qiu Chenxi was so agitated?”

She had stayed in the house of the Qiu family for some time before. Could she not tell if her auntie and uncle were on good terms with each other?

During breakfast times, there was minimal eye contact between her auntie and uncle. Each of them minded their own businesses while taking their breakfasts. The two could not even be bothered to give each other a simple look of concern.

Given such a way of interaction, would she find it strange that her uncle had an affair?

Wouldn’t Qiu Chenxi have guessed it earlier too?

They were already not on good terms. Hence, the more Shi Qing could not understand why Qiu Chenxi was so greatly affected by the affair and did something so overboard today.

“Dad, do you think Qiu Chenxi has some mental issues?” Otherwise, there was no other explanation for this. Her auntie had not even become like that. Qiu Chenxi had turned mad first.

If Qiu Chenxi continued to mess around like that, then the Qiu family just had to await their doom in Ping Cheng.

“Alright, don’t talk nonsense.” Shi Peng took a deep breath. “Was Qiao Nan frightened badly?”

“It’s all thanks to Qiao Nan’s quick wit today. If not, she and I would not be able to survive until Zhu Baoguo arrived. So, don’t underestimate Qiao Nan. She’s very brave.” At the thought of Qiao Nan’s tactic today, Shi Qing felt embarrassed to describe it in detail.

There was a word that Qiao Nan had used to describe it correctly: rogue.

Shi Qing asked herself if she would be able to come up with such a solution if Qiao Nan had not taken the lead. Most probably, this idea would never cross her mind in her entire lifetime.

It was rogue. Nevertheless, it was useful.

Qiu Chenxi had already hired hatchet men to break their limbs. What Qiao Nan did was already considered lenient. After all, in the end, Qiu Chenxi did not suffer a full wardrobe malfunction. At most, they just frightened Qiu Chenxi.

Compared to Qiu Chenxi who really wanted to go hard on them, she and Qiao Nan were really too benevolent.

At the end of the whole saga, they even helped Qiu Chenxi save a little face.

As Shi Qing sounded a little hesitant when she said that, Shi Peng could certainly tell that his daughter did not tell him everything, probably because she felt a little embarrassed to do so. It was not that she wanted to withhold information.

Shi Peng could imagine the situation too. Qiu Chenxi hired so many people to surround and attack his daughter and Qiao Nan. If the two ladies did not utilize some extreme methods, then they might really die on the spot.

Instead of letting his daughter and Qiao Nan end up being beaten by Qiu Chenxi’s hatchet men, he would certainly prefer that the two ladies used extreme means to protect themselves. There was nothing more important than that. “Fine, since I’m aware of this, there won’t be a next time.

However, Qiao Nan and you have to stay alert as well. Also, if she has any mental issues, it is most probably inherited.”

“Inherited?” Shi Qing was dumbfounded. “You’re saying that my auntie...”

“It’s not considered an illness. It’s extreme stubbornness. When your auntie was young, she had such impulsiveness too. It’s just that I held her back.” Many years ago, when she heard that Zhao Yaohui wanted to marry Miao Jing, Qi Minlan’s reaction was much stronger than that of Qiu Chenxi today.

Initially, Qi Minlan did not talk about stopping the marriage. Instead, she said she wanted to find a few men to teach Miao Jing a lesson.

As to how they would teach her a lesson, it was up to one’s interpretation.

“Hahaha.” Except for this deprecating laugh, Shi Qing did not know what to say anymore. “Dad, I’m hanging up.”

“You heard all of it?” After the phone was hung up, Shi Qing looked at Qiao Nan, who was sitting beside her.

“Heard it.” Qiao Nan nodded.

“What do we do next?” She really could not tell that her auntie and Qiu Chenxi would do such a crazy thing when they were agitated.

“Alright, put away that expression of yours. Everyone has an extreme side. In other words, almost everyone has some mental problems. It can be termed as psychological barriers. The difference is that some people’s conditions are more severe. If so, this will be termed as the mental issues that you mentioned earlier. Some people’s conditions are not severe. At most, they will be considered as being emotional. Don’t look at Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi as if they are lunatics. Given the laws in China, we will have to cry if they are really crazy.”

Qiao Nan was determined to treat these two women as normal beings.

“Why is it that we have to be the ones crying?” Shi Qing did not get it. They were not the ones who were crazy. Shouldn’t her auntie and Qiu Chenxi be the ones crying?

“The laws in China are more lenient toward certain special groups of people, such as crazy people and the underage.” Such people were regarded as not having any legal liability. Nothing much would happen to them if anything happened.

“...” With this, Shi Qing understood what that meant. “I’ve decided. When I have time, I’ll read up more on the laws in China. Damn, there’s such a thing?”

“As a military personnel, you don’t even know this. Don’t you feel ashamed?” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. “So you understand now. You can think about it, but you must not express it. If you express it, you’ll be giving Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi a trump card to protect themselves with. They don’t need to be afraid of carrying out illegal activities anymore.”

“Will they be considered mad just because they claim themselves to be? There’s a need to ascertain it too, right?” Shi Qing was in disbelief. These were the laws of the country and not those of her auntie or Qiu Chenxi. The laws were not meant to serve only the two of them.

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. “Even if they need to ascertain it, you’re not the one doing so. Can you control the outcome of it? You can’t but other people can. There isn’t a clear distinction between black and white in this world. Anyway, we’re deviating from the main point. We’ve not reached that extent yet. I’m just reminding you. After all, your auntie and Qiu Chenxi are smart people. They may take advantage of the loopholes of the laws.”

Today, Qiu Chenxi had hired people. Nevertheless, she had been sitting by one side and did not go near Shi Qing and her. This went to show clearly that Qiu Chenxi did not want to go head-on with her. Instead, she protected herself very well.

Hence, Qiu Chenxi did not intend to sacrifice herself for the sake of dealing with a nobody, a poor and ordinary citizen such as her.

“But I keep having this strange feeling. Do you think Qiu Chenxi did what she did today intentionally or unknowingly? If it’s intentional, then what was her motive?”

Chapter 659: Teacher Xiao Qiao Was Beaten Up

Shi Qing slumped backward. "If it's something that you can't even guess, the more I can't possibly know. I've never known what was on Qiu Chenxi's mind."

It did not matter even if Qiao Nan and Shi Qing did not know Qiu Chenxi's motive. It was enough that Qiu Chenxi herself knew what she was doing.

Qiu Chenxi, who nearly landed herself in great embarrassment today, looked extremely sullen. After she returned to the house of the Qiu family, she called Qian Yanyan, who was in the army. "Qian Yanyan, it's me."

"I know. I've been waiting for your call. What would you like me to do for you?" When Qian Yanyan picked up Qiu Chenxi's phone call, she felt quite guilty. Previously, when Qiao Nan lost her lesson plan in the army, everyone had blamed it on Qiu Chenxi alone.

Nevertheless, Qiu Chenxi and Qian Yanyan were both aware that Qian Yanyan was the one who took the lesson plan. Furthermore, Qian Yanyan was the one who came up with the idea and spurred Qiu Chenxi on. In the end, she even acted on it personally and stole the book, giving it to Qiu Chenxi.

When Qiu Chenxi left the army, she took all the blame and did not mention Qian Yanyan's name at all.

Now that Qian Yanyan was of use to Qiu Chenxi, of course, the latter would not have any reservation when seeking her help. "Find a way to spread this news to Regiment Commander Zhai."

Qian Yanyan's face turned pale. She felt that this was a very difficult task. "This... How am I going to say that? Even if I do, Regiment Commander Zhai won't possibly believe me. Qiu Chenxi, you, you wouldn't really have..." Really have found someone to beat Teacher Xiao Qiao until her limbs were broken, or did she?

Once, Qian Yanyan looked down on Qiao Nan and addressed her as 'that high school student'.

Nevertheless, the situation was different now. Song Yin, who had been taught by Qiao Nan, would soon be promoted to platoon leader after receiving the third-class merit. Qiao Nan had taught so many students at once, yet a talent such as Song Yin could result from her teaching.

On the contrary, if one looked at Qiu Chenxi's case, over the past ten days of classes, Qiu Chenxi only taught about over twenty students. However, amongst these students, none of them had made any 'splash'.

Given such a comparison, even Qian Yanyan had to concede defeat and address Qiao Nan as Teacher Xiao Qiao.

Although Qiao Nan had left the army, along with Song Yin's promotion to platoon leader, the three words 'Teacher Xiao Qiao' became increasingly famous in the army.

At the thought that she had done something that had let Qiao Nan down in the past, Qian Yanyan felt guilty. She was worried every day that she had been seen by someone when she went to 'take' Qiao Nan's lesson plan that day and that she would be exposed one day.

If that was truly the case, then her army life would come to an end. The party would definitely remove her rank and expel her from the army.

The more famous Qiao Nan was in the army, the more afraid Qian Yanyan was. Today, Qiu Chenxi even said such things to her. Qian Yanyan was so scared that her face was as white as a sheet.

"She escaped!" At the thought of what happened during the day, despite speaking through the phone, Qian Yanyan could feel the hate and viciousness in Qiu Chenxi's tone.

Qian Yanyan secretly heaved a sigh of relief. It was good if Teacher Xiao Qiao was not hurt. "How am I going to spread the news to Regiment Commander Zhai? It's not easy, is it?" She was just a military performer in the dance troupe. Usually, there was basically no opportunity for her to come into contact with a figure such as Regiment Commander Zhai.

"Think of it yourself! Don't ask me what to do. I only want the results. I don't care about the process. Qian Yanyan, if you still wish to remain in the army, it's best that you help me settle this matter. Otherwise, although I can't return to the army, I still have a hundred, or even a thousand, ways to make you leave the army!"

Qiu Chenxi left a pawn like Qian Yanyan in the army for the purpose of fulfilling her needs one day, such as now. This was in case she did not have anyone else to make use of in the army.

If Qian Yanyan was not even of such a minor use, then, as the abandoned pawn, Qian Yanyan was not even qualified to remain in the army.

“Alright, don’t get angry. I, I know. I’ll think of a way.” Qian Yanyan was scared out of her wits. She completely dared not question further.

“Hurry, you have to tell Regiment Commander Zhai the news today. Understand?” Qiu Chenxi gave such an ultimatum. She did not leave any rooms of negotiation for Qian Yanyan.

“Yes, I know. I’ll definitely settle it.” At this juncture, Qian Yanyan was beginning to have regrets. She started to realize how difficult it was to deal with Qiu Chenxi. If she had known that this would be the case, she would certainly not have fawned on Qiu Chenxi previously. She was too scary.

After hanging up the phone call with Qiu Chenxi, Qian Yanyan felt that she was at a loss of what to do.

Even if she was willing to pass the message to Regiment Commander Zhai, like what she said just now, she was just a junior military performer. She did not have any chance to come into contact with Regiment Commander Zhai. How was she going to pass the news to him?

She had no choice. After circling the army a few times, Qian Yanyan finally thought of a way.

Today, the purchasing officer in the army had made a trip to Ping Cheng. Hence, Qian Yanyan used the method of creating rumors. She widely spread the news that Qiu Chenxi had wanted her to pass to Zhai Sheng in the army.

She did not believe that Regiment Commander Zhai would not hear of it when so many people were spreading the news.

Zhai Sheng did hear it eventually. Nevertheless, something happened in between.

The first person to know that Qiao Nan had been surrounded and beaten until she was injured was not Zhai Sheng but Zhou Jun.

When Zhou Jun first heard of this news, he was frightened to the point of turning pale. “I need to look for Regiment Commander Zhai regarding something.”

“Come in.” When he heard Zhou Jun’s voice, Zhai Sheng allowed him to come in. “It’s already so late. Do you still have any matter?” If Zhou Jun had been here later, Zhai Sheng would have returned to his dormitory.

“Regiment Commander Zhai, I wish to take two hours’ of time off to make a trip to Ping Cheng tomorrow.”

“Go to Ping Cheng?” To see Nan Nan again?

At the thought of this answer, Zhai Sheng was quite reluctant to approve his request. “Is there any matter?”

“...Hmm, something happened to a friend that I know, so I have to go and take a look.” Zhou Jun was too embarrassed to say that the lady he liked could have been beaten by someone, and that he had to go and take a look as he was worried.

“Something happened?” In that case, it was not Nan Nan then. Zhai Sheng tidied up the stuff on his desk. “Fine, you can go ahead tomorrow noon. You can apply for backdated leave when you’re back.”

“Thank you, Regiment Commander Zhai!” Zhou Jun heaved a sigh of relief and then returned to the dormitory.

The next day, Zhou Jun was extremely conscientious and serious when he was attending the training session in the army. He even requested his own men to do the same. Training efficiency was thus extremely high.

When the morning training session ended, Zhou Jun left the army without a word and found a way to Ping Cheng. “Uncle Qiao?”

“...”

There was silence in the house. Then, the voice of a woman could be heard. “Who’s that? Who’s looking for Uncle Qiao?”

Zhou Jun, who was standing at the door, was stunned for a while. This was not Nan Nan's voice. Of course, it was not Uncle Qiao's voice either. Could it be that Auntie Ding or the elder daughter of the family was back? "I'm Zhou Jun. I'm here to see Nan Nan."

Yes, Uncle Qiao needed to go to work. Nan Nan was injured. If Auntie Ding and Qiao Zijin did not come back, there would be no one to take care of Nan Nan.

Chapter 660 The 'Flowers' Bloomed so Well

There was something amiss. Would these two people take good care of Nan Nan when they were back? 1

Knowing how unreliable that mother-daughter pair was, Zhou Jun was now more worried about Qiao Nan's situation. What if these two people took the chance to bully Nan Nan when Uncle Qiao was not at home?

"Hey, it's really you? Why did you come?" Shi Qing knew Zhou Jun. After all, Shi Peng had mentioned Zhou Jun to Shi Qing before. Coupled with the fact that she was taking note of Zhai Sheng's matters, she knew that Zhou Jun was a soldier that had been nurtured and promoted by Zhai Sheng. "Why aren't you in the army? Why did you come to the house of the Qiao family?"

"You, you are..." Zhou Jun hesitated for a while at first. "You're Shi Qing, the daughter of Officer Shi?"

"Yes." Shi Qing nodded. "Uncle Qiao is working now. Since you came looking for him at this hour, is there any matter? You can leave a message. I'll pass it to Uncle Qiao in the evening."

"You're staying here?" When he saw Shi Qing in casual wear and did not seem like she was simply paying a visit, Zhou Jun had a look of puzzlement all over his face.

"I've been staying here for a long time. Right, why exactly are you looking for Uncle Qiao?" Shi Qing had run out of patience. She had asked the same question three times.

"I, actually, I came to look for Nan Nan. How's Nan Nan now? Is she doing fine?" After enduring for some time, Zhou Jun finally revealed the objective of his visit today.

Shi Qing looked sullen. “What’s with Qiao Nan? Isn’t she doing quite well? Did something happen?” Why was Zhou Jun so concerned about Qiao Nan? Initially, he was even asking for Uncle Qiao.

Shi Qing sized up Zhou Jun a few times. She sensed something and then she looked at Zhou Jun in surprise. Could it be that Zhou Jun like Qiao Nan?

It, it could not possibly be...

Didn’t Zhou Jun know Brother Zhai’s feelings toward Qiao Nan, and that they were already a couple long ago?

Double-crossing his regiment commander, this Zhou Jun was too daring.

“Nan Nan is fine? Didn’t they say that Nan Nan was beaten up and badly injured? Why did someone attack Nan Nan? Has this been reported to the police and did the police investigate this clearly? What’s the situation of those people?” Nan Nan was just a high school student. She spent most of her time at school. During the holidays, she usually stayed at home and never went out. Even if she did, he believed that Nan Nan was not the type who would provoke others. She was such a sensible girl.

Hence, if Nan Nan was attacked, the other party must be in the wrong.

“Qiao Nan, Zhou Jun came to look for you.” Shi Qing did not explain further. Whether Qiao Nan was fine, she just had to call Qiao Nan out and let Zhou Jun see for himself. Would that not do?

“Brother Zhou is here?” Having met Zhou Jun a few times, it was impossible that Qiao Nan did not have a deep impression of the son of her father’s former ward mate. “Brother Zhou, why are you here?”

Zhou Jun looked at Qiao Nan from tip to toe. When he saw no signs of injury on Qiao Nan, he let out a sigh of relief. “Perhaps there’s a problem with the news that I received. Or maybe, they’re talking about someone else.”

Having said that, even Zhou Jun did not believe it himself.

The news spread with such vivid details in the army. It was said that Teacher Xiao Qiao had been beaten up and was seriously injured.

However, facts spoke louder than words. Qiao Nan was well and standing in front of him. That must be a rumor then.

“What news is spreading?” Qiao Nan’s eyes flashed as she pursued the matter. “Brother Zhou, you’ve always been staying in the army. You came here to look for me at this hour and asked me if I’m injured? Is it because there are some baseless rumors in the army? Can you tell me?”

“They said that you have been beaten up, that you’re seriously injured and hospitalized.”

It was just that Zhou Jun had just heard the news and arrived here. Hence, he could only come to the house of the Qiao family to find more information. He did not know which hospital Qiao Nan was staying at. Hence, he could not head directly to the hospital.

“No wonder you came here to look for Uncle Qiao.” Shi Qing finally understood. Qiao Nan only had one relative by her side. If Qiao Nan was really hospitalized, then Uncle Qiao certainly would not go to work. He would be at home during this time, preparing food for Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan lowered her eyes and hid the flash in her eyes.

Yesterday, she and Shi Qing had been ‘hijacked’ by people. Besides the two of them who were the main parties concerned, only Zhu Baoguo knew about his matter.

Zhu Baoguo would definitely not spread such rumors. Why would there be such rumors in the army when this was a matter that even her father did not know about?

“Brother Zhou, thank you for your concern. They were probably not referring to me. I’m doing quite well. I can walk and jump. I have not been beaten.” Zhou Jun was an outsider. Qiao Nan did not explain it too clearly either. She just wanted to assure Zhou Jun. “Brother Zhou, judging from your attire, you just left the camp and most probably have to rush back. I’m doing quite well and there’s nothing wrong with me at all. Please don’t delay your matters.”

At this juncture, Zhou Jun was still in his soldier attire. He had not even changed into his casual clothing.

“Really?” Zhou Jun asked as he did not feel assured. The rumors were so vivid and detailed. There would not be smoke without a fire.

“It’s real. Brother Zhou, why don’t I jump a few times in front of you? I’m really doing fine. If I were truly beaten by others, could my dad still go to work today? He’d definitely have to take care of me.” Her father was away. That was the best proof of her well-being.

“Fine. It’s great that nothing happened.” Zhou Jun nodded and felt more relieved. “No matter what, Nan Nan, you have to be more careful. You’re kind but it doesn’t mean that others are the same. Some people can be very unreasonable when they wish to harm others. You have to pay more attention to your own safety. Don’t be paranoid too. You’ll be a mediocre person if you don’t draw jealousy from others. If something really happens, the problem definitely doesn’t lie with you.”

“Brother Zhou, I understand what you’re saying. I won’t sell myself short or lose confidence.” Qiao Nan smiled gently. Because of such untruthful rumors, Brother Zhou made a special trip to look for her. There might be many bad guys, but there were also many good guys around.

“I’m leaving then. If there’s anything, remember to ask me for help.” He had been living in vain for more than a year. He had not confirmed his relationship with Nan Nan and his mother had been urging him.

At the thought that Qiao Nan was only a second-year high school student, Zhou Jun held back that impatient heart of his. He had to wait a while longer. There was still one more year to go. When Nan Nan had completed the college entrance examination and started studying at college, he would then confess his love to Nan Nan and confirm the relationship.

Zhou Jun had a plan but he was totally unaware that someone had long discussed all these with Qiao Nan.

He who strikes first prevails, while he who strikes late fails. The words of our forefathers were not lies.

The two ladies sent Zhou Jun off with their eyes. When Zhou Jun was a distance away, it suddenly occurred to Qiao Nan that she should have at least invited Zhou Jun in for a drink before he left. It was quite hard on him to rush to and fro. Furthermore, Zhou Jun made this trip out of concern for her. 1

“Alright, don’t feel bad. You’re not the one who summoned him. He came here to see you on his own accord.” Shi Qing leaned on Qiao Nan. “Qiao Nan, you’re still so young but there’re so many ‘flowers’ blooming on your end.” One flower bloomed consecutively after another. Even that Chen Jun who had an ulterior motive, yes, that Chen Jun, also wanted to have something to do with Qiao Nan, right?