

RTAMM 701

Chapter 701 “Potential Stock’ That Was Underperforming

Zhai Hua might be tough, but she became teary-eyed at Zhai Sheng’s lecture. “Actually, Wei De is really good. He is not as bad as you said. I don’t deny that Wei De has his opinions on this, but you can’t blame him for what I have done.”

Zhai Hua was in a panic. She had pushed Zhai Sheng too hard and resulted in him having a bad impression of Wei De.

Zhai Hua was anxious and frustrated that her efforts turned out to be counterproductive, but she could do nothing about it.

“Please, Zhai Sheng. This is the only time that I am begging you in this life. Wei De’s mom is sick and she is in serious condition. If his mom knows that Wei De has good future prospects, she will be happy and it will be good for her illness. Zhai Sheng, please help me this one time. I promise that I will treat Qiao Nan as my younger sister after this. I will treat her better than how I treat you. I can promise that this will never change no matter what happens in the future. Is that alright?”

Zhai Hua took a deep breath. This was her last-ditch effort. She did not want to give up and she could not give up as well.

Once she gave up today, she would have to give up her many years of relationship with Wei De sooner or later. She could not bear to let go.

Zhai Hua knew that Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng’s only Achilles’ heel. Apart from bringing up Qiao Nan, anything else that she said would be useless. Qiao Nan was the only hope that she and Wei De had.

Zhai Hua smiled bitterly. She did so many things that had disappointed Zhai Sheng and she had been unpleasant to Qiao Nan. But at the crucial time, she could only rely on Qiao Nan when she had a favor to ask of Zhai Sheng.

Now that she thought about it, it was unnecessary for her to be indifferent and suspicious of Qiao Nan.

Zhai Hua might not have said so, but she knew that Qiao Nan would have a brighter future than Wei De.

Gender equality existed in the society they lived in. Seeing that women had better development than men, the latter would be discouraged, thinking they were worse than their female counterparts.

“Are you sure?” Zhai Sheng softened his tone since Zhai Hua had changed her attitude toward him.

One must be humble if one had a favor to ask of others.

Zhai Hua used to adopt a bossy attitude with Zhai Sheng. He was not Qiao Nan. He was not willing to accede to her request or go along with her attitude. He did not have to do this. It should be the man from the other family who had to take this attitude of Zhai Hua.

“I am sure.”

“It’s impossible for him to work under me. But you said that what he lacks is an opportunity. I can do something about this. Today, I received an order from the higher-ups. The mission is very dangerous. If your boyfriend is capable, this will be a great chance for him. But don’t try to be individualistic and hog the credit. In the army, what matters most is teamwork. Do you understand? If the mission fails because of him, and his comrades are implicated, I do not have to remind you what the consequences are. I am sure you know there will be no place for him in the army. On the contrary, if he really has the ability, I will not stand in his way. Instead, I will be willing to go easy on him such that he can be promoted.”

But what mattered most was that Wei De must have the capability and he could not make any mistakes.

If Wei De was able to do that, Zhai Sheng would be able to push for his promotion.

As for other matters, Zhai Sheng was not willing to give him any leeway.

“What is the mission?”

“Drugs.”

“Investigate drug smuggling...” Zhai Hua turned pale. She understood right away how dangerous the mission was.

“That’s right. Both of you can discuss if you want this opportunity or not. But you have to remember, this is the first and the last time. You must keep your promise to me until the end.” If not for Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng would not have given Zhai Hua a single chance. He had even thought of finding out who Wei De was and kick him out of the army.

Zhai Hua sniffed. “Alright, I will discuss it with him.”

“Okay.” Zhai Sheng gave a faint reply. Afterward, he saw Zhai Hua left the house in her car.

There was no doubt that Zhai Hua was on her way to meet the man to have a face-to-face discussion.

If Zhai Hua used the phone at home to make the call and was overheard by someone, Zhai Hua and Wei De would lose the tiniest chance that Zhai Sheng was willing to give them.

Zhai Sheng called Qiao Nan after Zhai Hua left. “Nan Nan, if Zhai Hua bullies you again in the future, you have to tell me. I will make sure she behaves herself.”

Qiao Nan remained silent for a while. “What makes you so certain? She is your sister.” Was he not worried that he would cause trouble at home?

“Don’t worry, she owes you.”

“Brother Zhai, did you agree to her request?” And on account of her?

“Not really.”

“What do you mean? Make yourself clear. If not, Sister Zhai Hua may be able to be with her boyfriend, but both of us will have to go separate ways. I don’t like what you are doing.” Qiao Nan was unhappy.

Back when her family was in serious arguments, she did not wish for her father to divorce her mother for her sake.

Similarly, she did not wish for Zhai Sheng to go against his principles for her sake and to help Zhai Hua's boyfriend get in through the back door.

Zhai Sheng, who was vexed, felt much better upon hearing Qiao Nan's words. "People of the same family will have similar views and thoughts. Nan Nan, you are destined to be mine." The only thing that Zhai Hua was right about today was that he and Nan Nan had telepathy.

"Don't worry. Things aren't what you thought to be. Her boyfriend wants to work under me. But I won't allow it. My men are disciplined, capable, and with high caliber. They obey orders well. Everyone is used to working and cooperating with one another in the team. Unless I need manpower or the person is very capable, I will not take in another person. Bringing a newcomer with me will only increase the difficulty of completing our task. I will give Zhai Hua the opportunity that she wants. However, it is up to them if they can utilize it or not."

The people under Zhai Sheng cooperated well with one another. If Wei De joined their team, there was simply no room for him.

It would be a great help to the team if he watched on by the side and did not hinder the team from carrying out their mission.

However, Zhai Sheng would not agree to it if Wei De's aim was to take the credit of others without contributing at all. Even if Zhai Yaohui or Old Master Zhai made the requests, he would refuse as well, let alone Zhai Hua.

"That's good." Qiao Nan sighed with relief. "Brother Zhai, when Sister Zhai Hua came looking for me just now, it was inconvenient for me to probe, and I had to reject her request. What is going on with her boyfriend?" She felt something amiss.

Zhai Sheng could not keep it a secret from Qiao Nan. He told Qiao Nan about their situation. Qiao Nan felt funny and annoyed after hearing it. "He is an ugly duckling man. He has been dating Sister Zhai Hua for a long time. Not to mention knowing Sister Zhai Hua, even without knowing her, as a man, doesn't he have any career aspirations? How could it be possible that he has been in the army for seven to eight years but doesn't have any achievements?"

“Back then, he did not have any career aspirations, but now that he is dating Sister Zhai Hua, he begins to think about his future. But he didn’t do anything for two years. He is trying to drag it on. When Sister Zhai Hua is older and is in a hurry to marry, she will try means and ways for the Zhai family to let Wei De get in through the back door. Crap.”

She would never believe that Sister Zhai Hua’s boyfriend was a good man.

“Brother Zhai, this man does not have a good temperament. If Sister Zhai Hua is with him, she will not be happy.”

If there was no problem with the man, Sister Zhai Hua would not need to go around begging for help. Moreover, nobody was willing to help her.

“Didn’t you say that women in love are irrational?” Though it was plain for everyone to see that the man was not a good person, Zhai Hua was not able to see it. No matter how others tried to stop her, she would plunge headlong into it.

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. “Does that mean we are not going to do anything and simply watch as Sister Zhai Hua becomes muddleheaded for her whole life?”

Sister Zhai Hua was very obstinate. Since she could go to great lengths for this man, it meant that she had the intention to marry him.

Zhai Sheng was not anxious. “Don’t be so sure. According to Zhai Hua, he will only marry her when he is promoted to company commander. Although I give him a chance this time, even if he grabs hold of the chance, he still needs a year before he will be promoted to platoon leader. It will take very long before he will be able to be promoted to company commander. Zhai Hua will definitely have the time to see through his true colors.”

Although she did not say it out loud, Qiao Nan did not agree with Zhai Sheng. “Brother Zhai, she is your only sister. She may be muddleheaded, but she is a good person. You must keep a lookout for her. I fear that there will be more to come.”

In the unlikely event that something happened to Sister Zhai Hua, Brother Zhai was the only person who could help her.

“Don’t worry. I know what I am doing.”

“Alright.” Qiao Nan sighed. “Brother Zhai, I will hang up the phone. Shi Qing is staring at me.”

“Qiao Nan, how can you behave in such a way...” Zhai Sheng’s expression darkened at the sound of Shi Qing’s displeased and flustered voice.

Shi Qing was upset. “Qiao Nan, how can you do this to me? What if Brother Zhai decides to take it out on me?” She was not Brother Zhai’s opponent.

Usually, when Brother Zhai came to look for Qiao Nan, she would try her best to leave them alone, avoiding being the third wheel. Since they were on the phone, what was wrong with her doing her homework by the side?

Qiao Nan chuckled after hanging up the phone. “If you were not listening intently to the conversation, your words would be more credible.”

Qiao Nan would not fall for Shi Qing’s lies. Besides, Zhai Sheng would not go too hard on Shi Qing

As she spent more time with Shi Qing, Qiao Nan realized why Zhai Sheng was not afraid that she would misunderstand the two of them when he sent Shi Qing personally to Ping Cheng High School.

Anyone who had a little understanding of Zhai Sheng and Shi Qing would know one thing for sure—Shi Qing’s character was like a giant asteroid striking the earth, and Zhai Sheng would never fall for her.

“Forget it. I won’t talk to you about this. I am right. I have already told you that Sister Zhai Hua’s boyfriend has problems. Last summer break, he only went to Qiu Chenxi’s English class. His reasoning was that Qiu Chenxi was Brother Zhai’s fiancée, so he had no choice but to go to her class on account of Brother Zhai. What a load of crap! He was definitely after Qiu Chenxi’s looks and felt that since Qiu Chenxi was related to Brother Zhai, he should show his support for her.”

Sister Zhai Hua was so outstanding, yet he did not feel that he was unworthy of her. He waited until today to say that he wanted to buck up. Sister Zhai Hua was a fool to believe his words.

“He is indeed not a good person.” Qiao Nan agreed with what Shi Qing said.

Sister Zhai Hua was devoted to that man. Although Brother Zhai gave him a chance, he might not make good use of it.

Therefore, there would be more to come in the future.

Qiao Nan had predicted that this matter would not be resolved easily, but she did not expect that she would meet the man in the near future.

“Hello, are you Qiao Nan?” Qiao Nan came back from the market and saw a tall man in military uniform. He had short-cropped hair and there was a gleam in his eyes.

Qiao Nan felt uneasy under his gaze. He seemed to be hiding a lot in his eyes.

She felt as if she was being surveyed like a piece of good that would be sold for a good price.

“You are...?” Qiao Nan lowered her face to avoid his gaze. She was about to push open the door but halted upon hearing him introduce himself.

“My surname is Wei, I am Wei De.” Wei De smiled bitterly. There was evident disdain in his eyes. It was no wonder that Regiment Commander Zhai gave up Qiu Chenxi, who was beautiful and came from a good family background, for this young lady.

He did not expect that it had only been a year, but Teacher Xiao Qiao’ had grown beautiful.

Girls usually developed into young ladies when they were in junior high school. ‘Teacher Xiao Qiao’ must be well-nourished to be able to undergo another phase of development and growth.

Compared with the arrogant Qiu Chenxi, men would usually prefer women who were gentle and sweet.

However, he was not so superficial. A woman had to have the temperament and character to be a good woman.

He was used to seeing women who were like ‘Teacher Xiao Qiao’ in the countryside.

“Hello.” Wei De... She had no impression of this name.

“I am Zhai Hua’s boyfriend.” Wei De smiled and introduced himself.

Qiao Nan’s face dropped. She felt like going into the house and close the door on him.

She did not have any good impression of Wei De. Now that he was here to look for no one else but her, she felt that he treated her as if she was easy-going and docile, one who would be easily bullied.

As Wei De was Zhai Hua’s boyfriend, Qiao Nan did not feel the least surprised that he would come looking for her. After all, Zhai Hua had come looking for her a few days ago with regard to Wei De’s matter.

“Is it convenient to talk?” Wei De continued on since Qiao Nan was silent.

“What’s the matter? You can say it directly.” She had no intention of inviting him into her house.

Wei De’s smile froze. “Can we talk inside?” She could not possibly want him to talk while standing under the hot sun, could she? This would only happen when he was training in the army.

“It’s inconvenient.” He could go ahead and talk, but he could not enter her house.

A few days ago, Zhai Sheng had told Qiao Nan not to accede to Zhai Hua’s request. She was not afraid of Wei De.

Wei De took a breath and masked the displeasure in his eyes. “Since we will be one family sooner or later, I think it is better to go inside the house to talk. In fact, I have to seek your advice on a lot of things. You are doing better than me, and you have more experience than me. When we are one family in the future, we are bound to have more contact with each other.”

Chapter 703 Form an Alliance

It was from the recent talk with Zhai Hua that he discovered that Chief Zhai knew that Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng’s girlfriend but did not do anything about it.

Back then, Wei De felt that Chief Zhai must be crazy to accept Qiao Nan, who came from a humble background, instead of people like Qiu Chenxi as his daughter-in-law.

Even if the Zhai family had the power and influence now, they would eventually be outshone by other more influential families if they did not build on what they had.

As long as he had the opportunity in the future, he would never allow his children to do such things.

“Is it?” Qiao Nan chuckled. She did not take Wei De’s words seriously. “I am alone by myself, so it’s inconvenient. If you have anything to say, just say it now. Of course, if you don’t know the way to the Zhai family’s residence, I can show you the way.”

If Wei De really had something to say, he should not look for her but the Zhai family instead.

“Well, even if I can’t enter your house, can we change a place to talk? It isn’t convenient here.” Wei De was quite particular, but his excuse was useless before Qiao Nan.

It was the start of 2000. There were not many shops like cafes or dessert shops, but at least, there were tea houses where the elderly would chat with each other. The two of them could sit down and have a good chat at a tea house.

“Alright, what’s the matter? Just say what you are here for.” Qiao Nan could not help but ask as soon as she sat down in the tea house.

She had to clean the vegetables that she just bought. Otherwise, they would not be fresh anymore.

Wei De, who seemed to be cheerful just now, looked grim and somber as if he was holding himself back. There was a chilling look about him. “First of all, congratulations to you. I heard from Hua Hua that your efforts have finally paid off. You are one step to success.”

He meant that her only obstacle was Miao Jing.

“Thank you.” Compared with Wei De, Qiao Nan did not deny that it was indeed the case.

Wei De smiled bitterly. "Compared to you, I am too far off. Ever since I started to date Hua Hua, I've been under a lot of pressure. I really like Hua Hua, and I want to give her happiness, and for her to be proud of me. I want to prove to everyone that Hua Hua has made the right decision to be with me. Unfortunately, I may have aspirations, but the reality is otherwise. It's a tough path. I don't know whether I will be able to persevere until the end."

Qiao Nan's face was filled with confusion. She stared at Wei De, puzzled by his words.

She was not a counselor. Was Wei De pouring out his grievances to her?

"I envy you. At least, you have made it through the tough times. Hua Hua has told me about you. She likes you very much and feels that your temperament is very good. You are just like her younger sister. As long as Regiment Commander Zhai and Hua Hua are on your side, and with Chief Zhai's tacit approval, your last obstacle will no longer be an obstacle. You will make it through." Wei De frowned, as if he was deeply troubled by matters of the heart.

Other women would deeply sympathize with Wei De's situation, but Qiao Nan turned serious at his words.

However, Wei De was happy at her reaction.

Sure enough, he and Teacher Xiao Qiao' belonged to the same type of people. Other people might not understand his words, but

Teacher Xiao Qiao' understood what he meant.

Qiao Nan did not miss the flicker of smugness in Wei De's eyes. She pursed her cherry lips in displeasure. "I believe that faith will move mountains. I don't know how much Sister Zhai Hua has told you, but in fact, I have a good relationship with Auntie Miao. I've been working hard for the past two years. Brother Zhai feels that if he is to tell everyone that I am his girlfriend, Auntie Miao may not accept me right away, but she will not be averse toward me. You may not know. Auntie Miao comes to my house often, especially during the weekends. She likes to visit my house to chat with me. Compared with Brother Zhai, Auntie Miao spends more time having meals at my house. If not for Chief Zhai stopping her, Auntie Miao would treat my house as her second home. It is just that my house is too small. Otherwise, Auntie Miao would sleep over often. She has slept over in the past."

Wei De's hands which were holding a teacup shook slightly, spilling some of the tea. "Is, is that so?" Why did Hua Hua not bring this up to him?

He always thought that Chief Zhai knew of Qiao Nan's existence, but he did not object or agree to their relationship, whereas Madam Zhai was strongly against their relationship, feeling that Regiment Commander Zhai should not be with a lady of humble background. In fact, she even arranged a blind date for Regiment Commander Zhai.

Wei De had thought that Zhai Yaohui was too muddleheaded and that Miao Jing was the only one in the Zhai family who was rational and smart.

After listening to what Qiao Nan said, Wei De no longer felt that way.

Everyone was as muddleheaded as Chief Zhai!

Now that Miao Jing was on good terms with Qiao Nan, Wei De no longer posed any threat to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan did not need to form an alliance with Zhai Hua to gain her approval. She had already established a good relationship with Miao Jing based on her own hard work.

If Qiao Nan needed Zhai Hua's help, it would mean that she needed Wei De's approval as well.

Wei De was planning to form an alliance with Qiao Nan.

However, Qiao Nan had no need for that, and the alliance that Wei De had been thinking of could no longer be formed.

Qiao Nan took a sip of her black tea. It did not taste good but it had a distinctive taste. She sat there, waiting to see Wei De's response.

Wei De looked annoyed and beads of perspiration broke out on his forehead. Qiao Nan put down the teacup. "Comrade Wei, may I ask if there's anything else? It's not early. I have to go back to prepare meals for my family."

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, it is not easy to lead a life in this harsh society. It is even more difficult to be with Hua Hua. Other people may not understand my pain and difficulties, but surely you can understand. Can I ask a favor from you?” Wei De, who was perspiring profusely, held on to the teacup, feeling uneasy. He hoped it would dispel the chill that he felt in his palms.

“You can say your request, but I may not be able to help.” Seeing that Wei De was all tensed up, Qiao Nan calmed down. Wei De no longer had any advantage over her.

Wei De tightened his grip on the teacup, almost breaking it into pieces.

He had underestimated Teacher Xiao Qiao’. For her to be able to stay in the army for a month, earn the respect of others in the army, and to be addressed as ‘Teacher Xiao Qiao’ by them, she was clearly a capable woman. She was able to be in a relationship with Regiment Commander Zhai and receive the implied consent of Chief Zhai. No matter how young she was, she was no ordinary person!

Wei De took a few deep breaths and suppressed the injustice and anger that he felt. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, I hope that you can help me. Now, you are the only person who can help me.”

Wei De no longer had any advantage over Qiao Nan. He could only beg for her help. It was no longer as what he envisioned—to form an alliance and to gain mutual benefits.

Chapter 704 Failure in Forming Alliance

In this way, Wei De was being pinned down by Qiao Nan, and in the future, he would end up in an inferior position before her.

This was what Wei De feared the most.

She came from a humble background, was young, and was without any influence or power. However, he had to put aside his pride in front of her. This was a hard blow to Wei De, who had high self-esteem.

However, at this time, he had no other choice but to beg Qiao Nan for help. Zhai Hua had told him that she was Zhai Sheng’s Achilles’ heel.

Unless Wei De did not want to follow in Zhai Sheng’s footsteps, he had to swallow his pride in front of Qiao Nan—at least for the time being

“So serious?” Qiao Nan pretended not to understand. “You are a soldier in the army, while I am an ordinary high school student. What is it that only I can help you with?”

“Yes, you are the only one who can help me,” Wei De said with great certainty. Since he had already swallowed his pride, he must make it worthwhile. “I have told you about my situation with Hua Hua. Regiment Commander Zhai does not seem to approve of it.”

Qiao Nan almost spat her tea. “Is it? Why do I feel that Brother Zhai does not object to it as well?”

Seeing that Wei De was about to say something, Qiao Nan quickly raised her hand to stop him. “You have said your situation just now. I remembered. Yes, our situations are slightly similar. Compared with the siblings in the Zhai family, we are too ordinary. If it is just this, you can rest assured that I will help with whatever I can. I also hope that Sister Zhai Hua will be happy. I will try my best to remind Brother Zhai not to judge someone based on their family background. I think he can do it. Otherwise, I will not be here today.”

“It’s not just this problem.” Wei De’s face turned red and he looked so uncomfortable that it was painful to look at. “Hua Hua feels that it will be better for us if we are together after I am promoted to company commander. It’s just that there are so many people in the army. I may not get the promotion. If possible, can you... say a few good words for me in front of Regiment Commander Zhai?”

“Are you sure that it’s Sister Zhai Hua who said that? I seem to have heard something different.” Qiao Nan pulled down the corners of her lips, her expression turning cold. “Comrade Wei, you should know my situation at the Zhai family. Is it good for you to tell me this? Who says that you can only talk about marriage after you are promoted to company commander? I heard another version previously. As for your so-called putting in good words, I have tried and hence you are given a chance now.”

However, Wei De might have felt that the mission was too difficult and dangerous, so he was not willing to take the risk in order to gain military achievements. He wanted to benefit from the hard work of other people and had planned the easy route for himself.

Wei De never imagined that Qiao Nan would know what was going on between Zhai Hua and him.

Qiao Nan exposed his lies outright, not giving any respect to his feelings.

Wei De, who was caught lying, flushed red in embarrassment. He could not bring himself to say anything

After a while, Wei De revealed a distorted smile. "I am sorry to have wasted so much of your time today. I have to say that there is one thing that I am right today. You are indeed capable."

He had kept his relationship with Zhai Hua a secret, but Qiao Nan knew everything about them. He could not say anything that was helpful to his situation and he had become a laughingstock in front of Qiao Nan.

"Thank you for your compliments." Qiao Nan accepted Wei De's 'praise' unabashedly. "If I did not have the ability, I would not be able to go to the army camp to teach English. It's a pity that you addressed me as 'Teacher Xiao Qiao', but I don't deserve it. I have not taught you before."

Fortunately, Shi Qing had told Qiao Nan about Wei De's situation and made it clear that he never attended her class as he only went to Qiu Chenxi's class.

"Of course not. There is nothing to be undeserving of. No matter what, I have been to two of your lessons." Although these two lessons were not useful to him at all.

Qiao Nan put down the cup of tea. "I see, then it seems that I can still accept being addressed as a teacher by you. Comrade Wei, is there anything else?"

"No, I am sorry to disturb you for so long." Wei De stood up. He no longer wished to humiliate himself in front of Qiao Nan. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, you are indeed very awesome."

"That's too flattering." Qiao Nan smiled modestly. "I am not awesome. It's just that some people are used to judging people by their looks. There has to be a comparison to know whether one is awesome or not. Perhaps I am lucky and I have yet to encounter someone better than me. But there will always be people who are better than oneself. I will run into them sooner or later."

"Is that so?" Wei De sneered. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, it's getting late. I will not disturb you any further. Goodbye. I believe if there's fate, we will meet again."

Even without Qiao Nan's help, he would marry Zhai Hua and become the son-in-law of the Zhai family. By then, Qiao Nan would have to address him as 'brother-in-law'.

“I hope so.” Qiao Nan took her belongings and went to the doorway, leaving some money for her own cup of tea.

When Wei De came out to pay for the tea, he was given a strange stare by the salesperson. Wei De turned green with anger when he realized that Qiao Nan had paid for half of the bill.

He might not be willing to spend his hard-earned money on Qiao Nan, who was vain, selfish, and vicious, but no matter how poor he was, he could afford to treat her to tea.

Qiao Nan did it on purpose. She wanted to embarrass him in public so that he would beat a retreat in the face of difficulties and give up on Zhai Hua.

He had schemed against Qiao Nan, but now, she gave him a taste of his own medicine. Wei De had a sullen expression on his face. He could not believe that the tables were turned on him.

However, he would not give up. He would like to know which of them would have the last laugh.

As long as he had the opportunity, he would use every means to stop such a useless person like Qiao Nan from marrying Zhai Sheng. He feared that she might bring bad influences to the Zhai family, and in turn, affect his future.

Qiao Nan was useless, yet she dared to look down on him. Wei De had a burning need to be promoted to company commander and to marry Zhai Hua.

“Qiao Nan, where have you been?” Qiao Nan had just reached her house when Shi Qing shouted out loud. She had been waiting for Qiao Nan and saw her right away from a distance.

“Let’s get inside the house first.” Qiao Nan opened the door. She cleaned the vegetables that she bought today while she talked to Shi Qing. “Today, I met Sister Zhai Hua’s boyfriend.”

“Where did you see him?!” He should be busy in the army.

“In Ping Cheng. He came to Ping Cheng today to have a ‘good talk’ with me.”

Shi Qing widened her eyes and grabbed Qiao Nan's hands. "You... you did not agree to meet him, did you?"

Chapter 705 Some People Could Not Be Spoiled

Qiao Nan gestured for Shi Qing to let go. "If I didn't go, would I be back later than usual? Of course I had to go. If not, I wouldn't know what kind of person Wei De is and whether he is as what I have guessed."

"So what's the result? How is he?"

"Results? It is the same as what I have guessed. He does not have a good temperament. I suppose Sister Zhai Hua only told him that Auntie Miao doesn't like ladies from a background similar to mine, but she didn't tell him that Auntie Miao likes me very much. He thought that I would be pinned down by him because of that. He wanted to join hands with me and work together to become one family with the Zhai family."

As a woman, Qiao Nan knew the reason why Zhai Hua did not tell Wei De that she had a good relationship with Miao Jing.

Given that the Zhai family was an established and prominent family, Wei De had no hopes of marrying Zhai Hua.

Although she was the most typical example, Wei De was in a worse situation than her. It was most likely that the Zhai family would object to their relationship.

In order to encourage Wei De so that he would not lose his confidence and give up their feelings, Zhai Hua certainly did not dare to tell Wei De everything about Qiao Nan.

If Wei De knew that there was a girl like Qiao Nan who wanted to marry Zhai Sheng and be one family with the Zhai family, but faced some difficulties, he would not feel that he was worse than her or that it was impossible for him to marry Zhai Hua.

If Wei De was given the impression that Qiao Nan had no hope of being welcomed by the Zhai family, he would feel hopeless at his own situation.

On the other hand, if Qiao Nan had no problem in gaining the acceptance of the Zhai family, Wei De would feel pressured as well.

Zhai Hua had gone to great lengths to be considerate of Wei De's feelings. However, as soon as Wei De met up with Qiao Nan today, Zhai Hua's efforts went down the drain.

Shi Qing seemed to be at a loss. "Wei De does not have a good temperament, so why does Sister Zhai Hua like him so much and did so many things for him? Qiao Nan, now that you have told Wei De about it, Sister Zhai Hua's efforts must have been in vain. Aren't you worried that she will be upset with you? Don't you sympathize with Sister Zhai Hua?"

"Don't be foolish. If Wei De is a good man, I won't be sympathetic because I will try my best to help Sister Zhai Hua secure her happiness. Brother Zhai treasures his sister. He has done a lot for me. Whatever I do will be to repay his kindness. I will not sit back and do nothing about it. However, it is obvious that Wei De is not a good man. Even if I did not make things clear today, given his temper, he would definitely quarrel with Sister Zhai Hua."

"What about that?" They would always make up after their quarrel. Did it mean that they wasted their time quarreling?

"What about that? After talking to Wei De today, I feel that as he does not have a good temper, he will not be considerate toward his girlfriend. We still do not know if he is comforted by the fact that Sister Zhai Hua is so considerate of his feelings. If he feels that Sister Zhai Hua lied to him on purpose, causing him to be humiliated by me, how do you think he will treat Sister Zhai Hua?" Wei De would break out in a fierce quarrel with Sister Zhai Hua.

"It can't be. He is dating Sister Zhai Hua because he wants to have a connection with the Zhai family. If he wants to rely on the Zhai family to be promoted, he will have to please Sister Zhai Hua. He will only be able to achieve his motive if she still loves him." Therefore, Wei De would treat Sister Zhai Hua well.

Qiao Nan had a deep smile on her face. "You don't understand. Some people, when spoiled, do not know their own limitations. Although he is at a disadvantage and has to depend on others to be able to lead a good life, he has no self-awareness. Wei De has been spoiled by Sister Zhai Hua. Sister Zhai Hua should be the first person to suffer from her wrongdoings."

"Do you want Sister Zhai Hua to fall out with Wei De?" She believed that the two of them might quarrel because of what happened, but she did not believe that they would go their separate ways because of that.

Sister Zhai Hua could not bear to break up, and neither could Wei De.

Both of them could not part with each other. However, they might use breaking up as an excuse to force the other party to compromise.

“Although they will not break up right away, this can create misunderstandings between the two of them at least, resulting in cracks in their relationship. Over time, these cracks will deepen and affect their relationship. By then, we don’t have to do anything and they may break up because of minor misunderstandings and issues.” This time, she might have sowed discord between them, but they would not break up so easily.

They needed to go slowly with regard to Sister Zhai Hua and Wei De.

“Aren’t you worried that Sister Zhai Hua will be angry?” Qiao Nan was scheming blatantly against Sister Zhai Hua.

“She won’t. She has an agreement with Brother Zhai.” Sister Zhai Hua had already promised Brother Zhai that she would not pick on her anymore. “If Wei De could stand the test, then everyone will be happy with the outcome. If not, we have to think of ways for Sister Zhai Hua to see things clearly.”

Shi Qing looked at Qiao Nan, feeling puzzled. “Qiao Nan, aren’t you angry at Sister Zhai Hua who treated you badly previously? Why are you so worried about her now?”

“I am not worried about Sister Zhai Hua. The person I am concerned about is Brother Zhai all along. Do you think that now that Brother Zhai has agreed to help Wei De on account of Sister Zhai Hua, everything will be over? After Wei De is promoted to company commander and marries Sister Zhai Hua, will everything be okay? I am afraid that Brother Zhai will have to deal with endless trouble and requests. I am helping Brother Zhai get rid of this trouble by making sure that Sister Zhai Hua forgets about Wei De as soon as possible.”

Qiao Nan tapped Shi Qing’s forehead, reminding her not to oversimplify things.

Shi Qing looked disappointed but broke into a smile. “Qiao Nan, you can go ahead and put up pretenses. You are firm in speech but soft at heart. I am a pig if I fall for your lies!”

“You are not much smarter than a pig.” Qiao Nan made a dig at her.

Apart from Shi Qing, Qiao Nan never told anyone that she had seen and talked to Wei De.

Upon Qiao Nan’s request, Shi Qing did not mention a word about Wei De to other people as well. The two of them pretended that he had never appeared before them.

“Qiao Nan, why do I feel that you have been acting strange these days? You don’t look good. Are you losing appetite because of the summer heat?” Ever since the day Wei De had a talk with Qiao Nan, he never appeared before her again. Shi Qing was unable to direct her pent-up frustrations and anger at him.

She had thought of all sorts of colorful swear words to use on him. It was a pity that she never saw him again.

Qiao Nan propped her head with her hand, looking lethargic. “Yes, there’s something troubling me. I could not buck myself up.”

“What is it that you are troubled with?”

Qiao Nan sneaked a glance at Qiao Dongliang, who was busy in the kitchen. She lowered her voice and whispered to Shi Qing.

Chapter 706 Not a Good Guy

“Don’t forget, Qiao Zijin sat for her college entrance examination this year as well.”

It was already August. She should have known her results and decided on which university to enroll in.

Her mother might be capable enough to provide for Qiao Zijin through high school, but her mother would not be able to pay for her university’s tuition fees all by herself.

Unless Qiao Zijin had a change of mind and decided not to go to college, Qiao Zijin would come asking her father for money.

Qiao Nan could not tell if Qiao Dongliang had really forgotten about it or was pretending.

Shi Qing relaxed slightly. “It turned out that you are worried about this. Relax. Let’s adopt measures appropriate to the actual situation. If she really dares to ask for money, it’s Uncle Qiao who has to deal with her. If she dares to bully you, I will not let her off. You don’t have to worry about people like her.”

“I hope so.” Qiao Zijin was not someone who would be contented with one’s lot. Therefore, Qiao Nan felt extremely uneasy at the notion that there was no news from her. It was as if she was plotting something.

Shi Qing tapped on Qiao Nan’s forehead. “Why do you worry about so many things at such a young age? Whatever happens, someone else with the ability will be able to solve it. How are the five junior high students that you have been tutoring? How are their results? Their parents paid you to help their children in their studies. You must make sure they do well. If not, you will tarnish the reputation of ‘Teacher Xiao Qiao’ and nobody will pay you to tutor their kids anymore.”

The tutoring session Qiao Nan conducted during the summer break was popular in the neighborhood. All the neighbors seemed to have heard of it.

However, Qiao Nan insisted to teach five students at a time and tutor them for a maximum of ten days.

Otherwise, Qiao Nan might not have any spare time for herself and she would have too many students.

The tutors who held jobs through tutoring students were not as highly sought after as Qiao Nan.

“You can rest assured. Even if I am not interested to be a teacher in the future, I won’t do anything that will tarnish my reputation. I just don’t wish to teach anymore. It’s too tiring. I finally managed to gain some weight last winter, but I have lost a lot this summer.” Qiao Nan felt gloomy. She did not set an ideal weight for herself and neither did she feel that she must be as thin as possible.

She simply did not want to lose weight. Instead, she wanted to gain weight. However, she had lost all the pounds that she gained last winter.

“You’re not admitting that you have received a benefit. Many girls yearn to be like you.” Shi Qing was one of them. Shi Qing gained weight easily. Her body would take in all the nutrients that she had, reflected in her body weight.

Luckily, Shi Qing liked to exercise and spent a lot of time exercising. If not, she would gain all the weight that Qiao Nan could not even begin to imagine having. By then, she would be a plump young lady.

Qiao Nan smiled at the jealousy in Shi Qing’s eyes. “I know you are one of them. It’s stressful to gain weight from whatever you eat, but it’s equally upsetting to lose weight easily like me.” Moreover, she still had to give tuition to junior high school students. She was losing weight at an alarming speed.

Shi Qing suddenly lowered her voice and knocked her shoulder against Qiao Nan’s shoulder. “Hey, I heard that Wei De took on the mission that Brother Zhai suggested in the end.”

After going around in circles and embarrassing himself in front of Qiao Nan, Wei De ended up not getting in through the back door and had to take on the mission. He had wasted his time for nothing.

“I am not surprised.” Unless Wei De gave up his relationship with Sister Zhai Hua, this was the only way out. “But to be honest, I don’t know what the outcome will be and I still don’t think that they will make a good match. After talking to Wei De last time, I just feel that there is something strange about him.”

“What makes you think so?” Shi Qing was amused. “You have not met many guys. How could you make such a judgment? I agree that Wei De is not a good man, but you said that Wei De is strange. Can you tell me in detail? Maybe we will be able to figure out what is strange with him and solve the problem between Wei De and Sister Zhai Hua. Let’s put other things aside. It’s a fact that Wei De already intended to make use of Auntie Miao’s attitude toward you to threaten you to join hands with him the first time he met you. Moreover, there was Sister Zhai Hua’s odd attitude toward you previously. All these are enough to prove that Wei De is a troublesome man, one who will only cause trouble.”

With Wei De around, there would be endless trouble to deal with in the future.

“I can’t say for sure. It is just a feeling, a woman’s intuition. Wei De is not a good guy.” Qiao Nan frowned, certain of the vibe that Wei De gave her.

After her rebirth, Qiao Nan had not met any stranger that gave her a bad and ominous feeling. Wei De was the first person to do that.

Qiao Nan felt uncomfortable and uneasy after their first encounter. She did not feel the same way when it came to Chen Jun.

But in the end, it proved that Chen Jun was indeed problematic. Qiao Nan was worried that Wei De would be a larger problem than Chen Jun. By then, Zhai Hua would be in serious trouble.

“Is it so difficult to pinpoint? Alright, anyway, Wei De has already gone to carry out his task. To put it bluntly, he may not come back this time.” If so, they would not need to worry anymore.

Qiao Nan rubbed her forehead. “If so, I am afraid Sister Zhai Hua will never forget Wei De in her life and she will not accept other men. She may even hate Brother Zhai and me forever.”

Therefore, she did not wish that Zhai Sheng became involved in this matter. If it turned out well, he would be upset. If it did not turn out well, Zhai Hua would be upset. There was no way that everyone would be pleased.

Shi Qing clasped her forehead in exasperation. “Is it so troublesome and difficult to find a solution?”

No matter whether Wei De came back alive or dead, it would spell trouble. It was no wonder that Qiao Nan seemed at a loss at the mention of Wei De.

Shi Qing knocked on her head all of a sudden. “This is not right. I am not related to the Zhai family, and I will not marry into the Zhai family as well. Wei De may be troublesome, but it has nothing to do with me, so why should I fret over it?” Wei De was trouble, but she would not be affected. Rather than being worried about him, she should be worried about Qiu Chenxi.

The Qiu family might have left Ping Cheng for the small town in the countryside, but the Qiu family’s residence was still intact.

If given the chance, Qiu Chenxi would definitely not give up. She would make a comeback and treat the Zhai family and the Shi family as her enemies. Shi Qing already had a lot on her plate. She should not be worried about other people’s affairs.

Chapter 707 Parent Who Thinks Too Much

“There’s so much that we have to worry about. After you help me with my problem, I will help you with yours.” Qiao Nan was amused by Shi Qing’s behavior. She could be so funny at times.

Shi Qing gave her a disdainful look. “Thanks but no thanks. I don’t need your help to deal with Qiu Chenxi. When Qiu Chenxi finds out that you are the ‘vixen’ that she has been looking for, we shall see who the one who needs help is.”

“Then, you will have to render your help to me.” Qiao Nan did not mind that she needed help from Shi Qing.

“There you are at it again, not admitting that you have received a benefit. Alright, aren’t you suffering because of the summer heat?” Shi Qing blushed shyly at Qiao Nan, who leaned close to her, and darted to a side.

Qiao Nan straightened her body and sat up straight. Shi Qing was indeed firm in speech but soft at heart.

Last year, Shi Qing was very furious at Zhai Hua’s behavior. However, it was also because she treasured her that she was angry at her.

Now that Wei De was such a big trouble, Shi Qing was concerned about the problems that Zhai Hua would face in the future more so than anyone.

Man would marry a woman for her virtue, and it was the same for women as well. There was a saying that when a woman was married to a man, it was tantamount to going through reincarnation again.

Shi Qing was very worried about Zhai Hua. However, the Zhai siblings had the habit of keeping their relationship from their family.

The relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan was an open secret, while Zhai Hua’s relationship with Wei De was kept a secret from everyone.

Shi Qing felt that it was necessary for Zhai Hua to keep it a secret. Wei De did not have a good temperament and any discerning person would not be able to accept him.

Therefore, in a way, Zhai Hua was aware of that as well.

“Alright, the tuition class will end here today. All of you can go home now.” Qiao Nan had finished the lessons for today and she dismissed the class and her five ‘young students’.

All of her students were as tall as her. In fact, some of them were taller than her. Qiao Nan looked at them and felt helpless. She was busy with her studies, yet she had to give them tuition.

Fortunately, she had set the rule that she would not teach too many students and the class would not be too long, only a few hours at most. If not, her time would be packed with work.

“Thank you, Teacher Xiao Qiao.” Qiao Nan had become ‘Teacher Xiao Qiao’ at the army, her school, and at her house.

“See you later.”

Qiao Nan yawned after watching the five students leave her house. She was getting ready to take a shower and do some reading before going to bed.

It was too hot during the day and Qiao Nan could not stand the heat. She felt that the students must have felt the same way. Therefore, she arranged the class to be around seven to eight o’clock.

The news broadcast happened to be around the same time.

Nowadays, few children were interested in the news. After the news, the drama would start at eight o’clock. The students would be back home just in time for some entertainment.

After finishing the tuition and leaving Qiao Nan’s house, one of the students threw his schoolbag to a side upon reaching his house. He took half a watermelon and ate it while sitting down to enjoy the television shows.

The student's mother witnessed the scene and frowned in anger. "Qiao Nan didn't give you homework for today again?" Her child had been going for tuition for a few days. Aside from spending an hour at the Qiao family's residence, the teacher did not prepare any homework for her son. After the lessons, her child would watch television as usual. She was worried that she had wasted the money to send her child to tuition.

"My son, tell me, do you think that the tuition is useful? Your tutor may be a young lady and a high school student, but her tuition fee is much higher than that of the teachers at your school!" The tuition fee was way too high. The mother regretted signing up for the lessons. She should not have believed in the gossip and hired a high school student to tutor her son.

She had to pay a huge sum and she was worried that it would be useless, spending the money for nothing.

"Mom, don't say that. Since she is my teacher, you should not address her as some young lady. You should address her as 'Teacher Xiao Qiao'. Teacher Xiao Qiao is a good teacher. She may not have a loud voice, but we are able to take in what she says. She has taught us everything during lessons. Therefore, she does not need to give us homework. Teacher Xiao Qiao said that as long as we are able to grasp the content of the lessons within an hour, there is no need for homework."

Look, she was such a good teacher.

Since they had already grasped the content, it was unnecessary to do homework.

If every teacher was as good as Teacher Xiao Qiao, he would not be sick of studying.

"Alright, stop making a ruckus. You have already paid for the tuition. Are you having second thoughts?" The child's father came out and heard the conversation between the two of them. He reprimanded his wife. "I feel that it's good for our son to learn from a young teacher."

"Good? Crap!" The mother widened her eyes in anger and glared at her husband. She was all ready to give him a lecture.

The father pulled his wife, stopping her from shooting her mouth off. She should not spout nonsense in front of their child.

It was obvious that their son liked the teacher. If she bad-mouthed the teacher in front of their son, he would definitely end up in a quarrel with his mother.

The son stretched himself after watching the television drama and went to take a shower.

The mother kept a check on her temper for the whole night. She noticed that her son was tired and showered him with concern. “You should go to sleep after your shower while you are still feeling cool.”

“No, Teacher Xiao Qiao said that one would feel fresh and alert after taking a shower. I have to make use of this time to do some of my summer break homework. In this way, I will be more accurate in my work and it will leave a deeper impression.”

Her son turned on the lights and spent more than half an hour on his homework. He switched off the lights and went to bed slightly before ten o'clock.

The mother showed her displeasure and argued with her husband as soon as her son went to bed. “Why did you stop me from saying what I want to say? That is my son. Am I wrong to be concerned about him? I am very worried as he is full of praise for Teacher Xiao Qiao. Our son is still young, and the teacher is at a young age as well. Do you know that there is something called puppy love? The young lady is pretty-looking and has good results. If our son...”

She wanted her son to go for tuition so that he could have better results. If his son fell for the young lady and did not focus on his study, she would have wasted her money and destroyed her son's future.

“Look, you can't deny that you have been thinking too much. You are our son's mother, You should know him well. Our son keeps addressing her as 'Teacher Xiao Qiao'. Why does he use this form of address? He is full of respect for her. Our son treats her as his senior. Look at how narrow-minded you are. You turn jealous just because our son listens to what the teacher says. What a sight you are.”

Chapter 708 Teacher Xiao Qiao Who Was Highly sought After

His father was not muddleheaded. In fact, he was very clearheaded.

He was tired to the bone at work and did not have the time to let his thoughts wander.

“Humph!” The mother was unconvinced. She did not wish to admit that she was being jealous.

“Alright, he is my son as well. How can I not care about him? As you said, his tuition fee is expensive, and it’s my hard-earned money.” He was more concerned than his wife whether the money was well-spent. “Our son has been learning from the young lady for a short while. But have you noticed that he would sleep right away at ten o’clock recently? You don’t have to nag him nowadays. Moreover, do you still remember how he used to do his summer break homework in the past? He would start to do them three days before school reopened, and he would ask his classmates to come to our house, where they would each do some homework and copy from each other. But as you can see now, he just spent half an hour on his homework. I am sure that you have seen it for yourself. How is his learning attitude?”

“Well...” The mother was at a loss for words at the hard facts. “But it is our son who is working hard. What does it have to do with the young lady?”

“Of course there is. Our son has said that it was Teacher Xiao Qiao who taught him all these. The teacher had to teach him in order for him to develop this habit. You must know it is far more important and far-reaching to teach good habits than to teach new knowledge. Don’t be unconvinced and jealous. The young lady is capable. Your son is very stubborn. When we hired a tutor for him in the past, he did not appreciate your effort and we wasted money for nothing. This time, he is serious and he is happy at the mention of the teacher.”

His son used to have a revulsion to studies. He was worried that, like what others had been saying, his son would grow weary of studying.

But right now?

He no longer had such concern.

Without his wife or him pushing his son or reminding him to study, he would spend half an hour on his homework by himself. It was not too taxing on him and he would do his homework every day, managing his time well. It was a very good learning habit of his.

“Other things aside, if you are able to help our son develop such a good habit, then there is no need to get him a tutor. If not, I don’t care how much the young lady is able to teach your son, it’s worthwhile to spend some money as long as he can keep the habit!”

He would wake up at six o’clock in the morning to jog around the small quad.

He would work hard, play hard, and study hard. He would also leave aside enough time for rest. His day was packed with activities. Even if he was playing around outside, he would behave with propriety. He would let his family know who he was hanging out with and where they were at.

He would not play game consoles or play at dangerous places like in the water.

It might be insignificant habits and behavior. However, even the tallest buildings built with bricks and mortars were constructed from scratch.

“Aren’t you exaggerating?” The mother had never felt that the small habits had such an important significance. Now that her husband mentioned it, it seemed to make sense.

“Exaggeration? Not at all. Last summer break around this time of the year, your son wouldn’t listen to you when you urged him to do his homework, read his books, or go to sleep. He would sleep until ten in the morning the next day and he was nowhere to be found after he woke up. I have asked around. All the students who are in the same tutoring class as our son are in a similar situation. Parents who are savvy will be glad of the changes in their children and that their money is well-spent. You’re the only person who is so narrow-minded, blaming the tutor for not preparing homework for our son. Have you forgotten how difficult it was to get him into the class back then?”

At that time, he had thought that his wife must be crazy to believe what others said about the young lady and treated her as a miracle worker.

“I... I was going with the crowd back then.” The wife smiled, embarrassed.

Women had the habit of jumping to conclusions from insignificant evidence and they would end up doing irrational things. “But you’ve not seen the lady before. You are too protective of the lady. Anyway, can’t I complain within my own house?”

Her son might feel that the young lady was a good teacher, but her husband had not seen the young lady before, so why would he defend her?

“Hey, aren’t you glad that I am helping you?” The husband smiled in anger. “Are you stupid? Our son cannot stop talking about Teacher Xiao Qiao. It seems that he is in awe of her. Don’t you feel that he views her as a celebrity, similar to those in the television shows? If you tell it to his face that she is not a good teacher, he may be upset with you.”

The mother pouted at the thought of her son's temper "Fine, you know your son best, while I don't understand. Are you happy now? Let's sleep now. We still have to wake up early in the morning tomorrow." Her son had only been to a few of the lessons. The teacher was not that capable. Why would her husband made it sound as if her son was full of respect for the teacher?

The mother did not know that the situation was similar in other families.

Qiao Nan might be young, but she had charisma.

In the beginning, the people in their community were merely joining in the fun. They heard that Qiao Nan had a part to play for the good results that Ping Cheng High School had in the college entrance examination this year. However, nobody really went to find out whether it was true and whether Qiao Nan had real abilities.

Since Qiao Nan's results had been good, after hearing the rumor, they took it to be the truth and wanted Qiao Nan to tutor their children during the summer break. They hoped Qiao Nan would be able to help their children score well in their exams in two months' time such that they would be able to enroll in top-tier and second-tier universities.

However, Qiao Nan had set a limit for the class. She only took in a small number of students, and the fee was quite high, while the duration was short.

Qiao Nan was hoping that the parents would withdraw after learning of the harsh conditions.

But to her surprise, one of the parents agreed right away and paid Qiao Nan on spot.

Luckily, Qiao Nan did not do any advertisement or worked to attract more students. If not, she would have suspected that the parent was a phony customer who pretended to sign up for her class so as to lure real customers.

But never twice without three times. The Chinese people had the habit of joining in the fun and following what others did.

When one parent started to sign up for the class, more and more parents signed up their children for the class.

The other parents who were slow to react were not in time to sign up for the classes. Qiao Nan had stopped taking in any more students after having taken in ten students. No matter how much money the parents offered, she would not take in any more students.

Parents who hesitated due to the tuition fee or other reasons were upset at Qiao Nan's firm attitude.

Chapter 709 Your Father was a Good Official

Qiao Nan refused to take in any more students once she had ten students. The parents regretted that they had missed out on a good chance due to not making a decision earlier.

All of the parents who came looking for Qiao Nan had children who were about the same age. They were in junior high school and would sit for the middle school examination at the same time.

In the event that their children had a weaker foundation and lagged behind others as they did not take the tuition class, it would affect their performance in the middle school examination and even the college entrance examination!

Qiao Nan had just finalized the students for her first class when the second class was already fully booked.

To Qiao Nan, she had spent a quarter of her time during summer break to spot questions for the third-year students.

If she had to tutor so many students, she would not be able to cope with her own studies.

Hence, she insisted that she would only take two classes of ten students each. She would not start another class.

Among the large number of parents who wanted to sign up for Qiao Nan's class, only twenty slots were given to them.

Those parents who signed up successfully for the tuition class were proud of themselves, especially when they saw for themselves how the other parents were rejected by Qiao Nan.

However, these parents were worried when they realized that Qiao Nan did not have the habit of giving homework to her students.

Those who did not know what was going on would behave like the mother who was doubtful of Qiao Nan's abilities and worried that they had wasted their money. Those who knew what was going on would be able to tell that Qiao Nan was capable from the small habits and changes in their children.

Therefore, Qiao Nan had a busy and eventful summer break, dealing with all these parents.

Other than the tuition classes, Qiao Nan also had to worry about Zhai Hua and Wei De. In the blink of an eye, half of the summer break had passed. She was so busy that she had almost forgotten that Qiao Zijin sat for her college entrance examination this year as well.

“By the way, if Uncle Qiao has not brought up Qiao Zijin, I feel that you should keep quiet as well. Uncle Qiao has been very happy recently. Bringing up Qiao Zijin will only be another source of worry to him. Although you are busy with lessons, you still remember that Qiao Zijin sat for her exams this year. As a father, how could Uncle Qiao have forgotten about it? Since he keeps quiet about it, you should not bring it up as well.” Shi Qing gave suggestions on how to deal with Qiao Zijin.

Shi Qing felt that it was better not to have any contact with such a troublesome pair of mother and sister.

It was a good thing for Qiao Nan that those people did not appear in her life now. It would be unlucky to bring them up.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. “Don't bring it up? I'm afraid my dad is waiting for me to mention it.” Her father was waiting for an excuse to talk about them. He was worried that Qiao Nan would be angry if he took the initiative to show concern for her mother and Qiao Zijin.

Once she brought it up, her father would be able to show his concern for Qiao Zijin and ask about her results in the college entrance examination, or even which university she planned to study at.

“Since that is the case, all the more you have to keep quiet. Even if Uncle Qiao has been particularly uneasy recently, felt uncomfortable or listless, you have to hold yourself back. You must not bring it up.” Shi Qing insisted that Qiao Nan pretended that she did not know anything and kept silent since Qiao Dongliang did not say anything as well.

“I understand.” Qiao Nan had a grim but firm look on her face. She sucked in a long breath. “Since I don’t want to be cruel to myself, I can only be cruel to others. If my dad is having a good time, it means I have to suffer.”

She had been suffering for years. This time around, she had decided to be selfish. She wanted to lead her own life. She had no wish to take care of other people’s benefits and well-being, especially when it came to her mother and Qiao Zijin.

Shi Qing tapped Qiao Nan’s shoulder. “I am relieved that you understand. Although I have not seen your mom and sister, these two women are clearly no saints. To sympathize with them is equivalent to being cruel to yourself. Uncle Qiao is different from you. His actions will naturally be different from yours. These are two different matters.”

“Alright, let’s not talk about this anymore. Have you finished your homework for the summer break?”

Shi Qing rolled her eyes. “It is impossible to finish so much homework. Are you kidding? Moreover, don’t treat me like you would your students. I won’t fall for it. Are you addicted to being a teacher? Do you want to supervise me as well? Dream on!”

“Fine, I won’t supervise you. Anyway, I am not paid for it.” Qiao Nan smiled happily at the thought of the money that she earned from tutoring. She had the crazed look of a gold-digger.

She had wanted to use the money to repay the debts that she owed Zhai Sheng. However, it was not enough.

But Qiao Nan must get her priorities right. It was good that she repaid what she owed Zhai Sheng so that she would not owe him anything. However, her studies were more important.

She should save the money to go to university in the future.

“You stink of money.” Shi Qing snorted, giving her a disdainful look.

Qiao Nan was not angry. Instead, she laughed at Shi Qing. “I stink of money, while you smell of sweat!” Nobody was better than the other. What was Shi Qing being smug about?

Shi Qing lowered her head to sniff at herself. It was true indeed. “Crap, I won’t talk to you. I will take a shower.”

“Don’t wash now. Take your shower some time after dinner so as to digest the food well. Do you know how to stay healthy?” Qiao Nan grabbed Shi Qing. “Wait a minute. Your dad should be back from work. What is he busy with recently? He seemed to be coming home later than usual. You should show your concern for him. Don’t forget, your dad is not in good health. He finally left the army to have a good rest, but he seems to be busier than before after working in the government.”

Director Shi was working as hard as he was in the army. Did he intend to have a good rest after discharging from the army or did he intend to work his guts out?

“My dad is such... Forget it. Let’s not talk about this.” Shi Qing looked frustrated at the mention of her father. “My dad may have been discharged from the army, but I feel that he is busier now than when he was in the army. There is not much difference. I tried to persuade him to take things slowly to no avail. He said he must be responsible for his job no matter which position he is in. He must be accountable to the country, the party, and the people and their trust in him. Crap!”

The country and the party wanted her father to have a good rest, but he did not heed their words.

Qiao Nan said after a moment of silence, “It is the fortune of the country and people to have your father as an official. You can’t stop him from doing his work, but you can keep a watch on him, especially during the summer break. You must make sure that he takes three meals a day. He must not go without a meal or have late meals. It is hot at noon, so it’s impossible for you to go to his workplace. But you can make a phone call to him. Call him every three minutes to make sure that he has his meals. He will have to eat his meals with you keeping a check on him. At noontime, he can have half an hour of nap. When he is back at home at night, you can make sure that he goes to sleep early after his dinner and shower as long as he has digested his food.”

Chapter 710 Qiao Nan Gave a Good Suggestion

Director Shi was indeed a good director. She believed Ping Cheng would have better developments under his leadership than in the previous life.

In the next decade, China would undergo rapid development and growth. Qiao Nan began to understand why the children of the retired teachers would show interest in the Chinese market even when they had good developments abroad.

These businessmen had good foresight and knew how to seize opportunities.

Only when one had good foresight would they be able to succeed earlier than others.

She fully understood what Brother Zhai meant when he talked about building up the image previously.

“Will this work?” Shi Qing had not thought of such a method, but it seemed that it might work. “Qiao Nan, you must have similar experiences to come up with such brilliant ideas. If my dad doesn’t want me to keep calling him, he will have to listen to what I say. I will give him multiple phone calls. Let’s see how he will deal with it!”

“Rest assured. You are the only one who is by your father’s side. He will listen to you.” Qiao Nan was amused. As long as the director was in good health, the residents in Ping Cheng would then be able to have good days ahead of them.

Shi Peng, who was still working overtime, did not know that his daughter had been plotting against him. She listened to what others said and planned to use the tactics to make sure that her father listened to her.

Shi Peng, still in the office, sneezed loudly. He rubbed at his itchy nose and flung his head.

“Director, have you caught a cold? If you have a cold, you have to take the medicine now. You must take care of yourself.” The secretary was worried about Director Shi’s health.

Shi Peng smiled, unconcerned about his health. “It’s okay. It’s just a sneeze, not a big deal. We must work overtime to finish this project. It concerns the development of Ping Cheng and the interests of the residents. We must speed up and work hard for their future.”

Usually, one would make drastic changes to an organization upon taking charge. This was not the case for Shi Peng. However, as a newly appointed director and someone who had career aspirations, Shi Peng certainly hoped to be promoted to other positions.

However, he would need results and good performance in order to be promoted. He had to work hard to get the results, and he had to make sure that the people in Ping Cheng led better lives and their living standards were improved.

Therefore, he was busy since the first day of his job.

If not for the people around him who kept reminding him, he would be so busy that he would skip lunch.

“Director, no matter how busy you are, you have to take care of yourself. You have to be in good health to work on projects to improve Ping Cheng.” The secretary could feel Shi Peng’s enthusiasm and passion to make Ping Cheng a better place for its people. Ever since working with Shi Peng, he was reminded of the days when he was at school and was dedicated to serving the society, the country, and the people. It reminded him of the times when he was sincere and passionate about contributing to society.

“Yes, you are right.” Shi Peng smiled.

“In this case, Director Shi, it’s already late. Should you be going home now? You said that your daughter is alone at home and are worried about her being by herself at home. If there’s other work to do, we can do it tomorrow. The project that you have in mind will take some time to complete. It will not be completed right away. We can continue to work on it tomorrow. What do you think?”

“It’s seven o’clock now? Oh, right, they must be waiting for me to start dinner.” Shi Peng realized that it was very late and packed his things quickly. “Xiao Liu, come to work at an earlier time tomorrow. I want to have a meeting at half-past eight in the morning. Make sure that everyone is present and punctual. For those who fail to turn up, it will be reflected in their performance evaluation.”

After leaving the army, Shi Peng noticed a character flaw in the government officials. They would not fulfill their duties and were slipshod in their work. They would procrastinate and try to delay the instructions that were given by the higher-ups. They would also come up with all sorts of excuses to not complete their tasks. This was an eye-opener for Shi Peng.

Back when he was in the army, everyone followed instructions well and nobody dared to disobey the officers. They would be punished otherwise!

If they still refused to obey the orders, more severe punishment would be meted out until they relented.

One could not do that in the government sectors.

“Sorry to keep all of you waiting.” Shi Peng rushed to the Qiao family’s residence. He felt bad that the three of them were waiting for him. “If I am late again in the future, all of you should have dinner first. You can leave aside some food for me. I have been busy with my work recently and tend to lose track of time.” Shi Peng could not bear for his daughter to go hungry while waiting for him.

He felt even worse for the Qiao family to wait for him.

“No. If you aren’t back, I will wait until you are back. When I was in Mo Du in the past and you are in Ping Cheng, we only got to have meals together a few times in a year. Now that both of us are in Ping Cheng, and I am on summer break, how can we not have a meal together at least once a day? Dad, you are too much.” Shi Qing did not preserve Shi Peng’s dignity. She refused to listen to him and stated clearly that she would wait for him to have dinner.

Since they were having dinner with the Qiao family, Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan would have to wait with her if she insisted on waiting

Shi Peng looked at Shi Qing, feeling somewhat unhappy. “You are too insensible. Are you doing this on purpose?”

“Did you just realize that I am doing it on purpose?” Shi Qing had been worried that Qiao Nan’s suggestion would be going overboard and whether she should really keep such a close check on her father.

But looking at the current situation, Shi Qing was certain that she had to do that!

It seemed that Qiao Nan knew her father better than she did. If she did not keep a close watch on her father, he would not have any self-awareness.

Her father’s lifestyle might be even more disorderly than when he was in the army.

“You...” Shi Peng did not know whether to smile or to cry. However, he could not reprimand his daughter, knowing that she was concerned for him. “Alright, it’s late. Let’s

eat.”

Shi Peng was starving. He did not realize it when he was at work just now, but when he reached the Qiao family’s residence, his stomach started to grumble when he took in the smell of the delicious dishes.

He was already starving and did not need anyone to urge him to have dinner.

Shi Peng finished half a bowl of rice in no time. Shi Qing’s heart ached at the sight of it. “Dad, have more of the dishes.” He should not be having his rice only.

“Alright.” Shi Peng responded, feeling hungry.

Qiao Nan frowned. “Director Shi, don’t bring your habits in the army to our house. In our family, we are used to eating slowly. Eating too fast will not be good for the stomach and is not good for digestion. Director Shi, are you sure you will be able to digest well at the way you are eating?”
Director Shi was not in good health. His eating habits would be another burden to his health.