

RTAMM 711

Chapter 711 Saving Up for College Fees

After Director Shi left the army, his routine had also been disrupted. At the sight of the situation, Qiao Nan frowned and looked at Shi

Qing.

If Shi Qing did not keep a tighter watch on Director Shi, his health would only become poorer.

Qiao Nan's worries were, in fact, the greatest fear of Shi Qing at this point in time.

Despite having hesitated about it before, Shi Qing was now determined to carry out the plan of the three-minute phone calls.

Her father was already behaving this way in front of her. In that case, when no one was watching him during his normal working time, it would most probably be worse. "Dad, did you eat properly when you're working recently? Qiao Nan suffers from some ailments during summertime and has thus become skinnier. But why do I feel that you have also lost weight during this period?"

"..." At the sight of his daughter's hands touching his arms, he looked embarrassed. "Imagination. It's just your imagination!" He then took back his hand quickly to prevent his daughter from touching him.

"Imagination? It's easy to confirm. We'll know after some weighing." Qiao Nan smiled and added a stab at Shi Peng.

Neither Shi Qing nor Shi Peng could prove whether the latter had lost weight with their words. Only the weighing scale could do so.

Shi Peng really had no other ways to deal with these two children. He could only look helplessly at Qiao Dongliang, hoping that Qiao Dongliang could put in some good words for him.

Qiao Dongliang buried his face into the bowl of rice, expressing that he did not have the capability to help.

In his house, Nan Nan was basically the head of the family. Even he, as the father, had to listen to Nan Nan.

As for the Shi family, it seemed that Shi Qing was also the head of the family. Director Shi also had to listen to his daughter.

Initially, Qiao Dongliang doubted if he was being too much to let his daughter run the household. Nevertheless, with Shi Peng as a living example right before him, Qiao Dongliang did not feel burdened by this thought anymore.

This was the case even for a senior leader. As a small employee, he felt that he was not abnormal to do the same.

With the two pairs of eyes of the two little housekeepers staring at him, Shi Peng had no choice but to slow down when having his meal. He even had to strictly follow Qiao Nan's request of chewing thoroughly and swallowing slowly before he could pass their 'quality inspection'. He was released only after he received the approval of the two little housekeepers.

"Right, Shi Qing, accompany me to the bank tomorrow," Qiao Nan said as she put down her bowl of rice.

"Why are we going to the bank?"

"When we go to the bank, it's either to deposit or withdraw money. Can there be a third reason for it?"

"Yes, borrow money!" Shi Qing lifted her chin complacently.

"Isn't borrowing money also considered a form of withdrawing money?" Qiao Nan laughed. So thick-skinned and big-hearted to dare to show off such little tricks.

"Deposit money?" After thinking, Qiao Dongliang put down his utensils, turned, and walked into his bedroom. He then took out a stack of money and passed it to Qiao Nan. "Since you're going to deposit money, deposit these too."

“These...” Qiao Nan was a little surprised. These should be the money that her father had saved up over the past two years. He could leave it for Qiao Zijin. Why did he pass it to her?

“Save it. Save it directly in your bank account. When you need it for your studies in the future, you can withdraw them yourself. You have grown up. You have the ability to control and allocate the money. I feel quite assured to give you the money.”

Qiao Dongliang spoke frankly.

He felt quite assured to give the money to Qiao Nan. In other words, if he were to continue to keep the money with him, he might feel more worried instead.

Qiao Zijin was Qiao Dongliang’s daughter. However, it was already mid-August and there was still no news from Qiao Zijin. Qiao Dongliang was concerned but also angry at the same time.

Anyway, if Ding Jiayi and Zijin were that capable, they would be able to get money without him, the head of the family.

Previously, all his twenty years of earnings had been spent on Zijin. Now, there was nothing wrong with handing what he earned to Nan Nan.

As time passed, the concerns and worries that Qiao Dongliang had for Qiao Zijin had almost turned into anger.

Both Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had never mentioned to him where their current residence was.

It was fine that Ding Jiayi did not do so. The couple had not seen each other for almost two years. However, Qiao Zijin had come back a few times and the duration of the stay was not considered short. However, she also did not mention where they were staying.

Qiao Dongliang was afraid that, if he took the initiative to ask, Qiao Zijin would feel smug and go overboard again. Hence, he had been enduring his urge.

One did not tell and the other did not ask.

The family had been separated for one and a half years. Qiao Dongliang still did not know where his wife and elder daughter were staying at during this period of time.

At the thought of this, Qiao Dongliang was furious.

As they approached August, Qiao Dongliang's fury had accumulated to a certain extent. Today, when he heard that Qiao Nan would be depositing money in the bank tomorrow, Qiao Dongliang simply took out all the money that he had saved for Qiao Zijin for her college admission and gave them to Qiao Nan. He did not save a single cent for Qiao Zijin.

When she saw that Qiao Nan was still in a daze, Shi Qing swiftly grabbed that stack of cash from Qiao Dongliang's hands over. "Uncle Qiao, thank you. You're so good to Qiao Nan. You're really such a good father. Qiao Nan, hold this. Didn't you always tell me that it was not good to decline an elder's request? I really didn't expect that Uncle Qiao had earned you so much tuition fees within two years. He's good. Qiao Nan, you're really blessed to have such a great father."

If Uncle Qiao were to give this sum of money to that elder sister of Qiao Nan, then how much money could Uncle Qiao fork out to let Qiao Nan attend college in one year's time?

He said he would not bother about Qiao Zijin but he eventually did. He even sacrificed Qiao Nan's interests.

No wonder.

Previously, she had found it strange that Qiao Nan would ask for such a high fee before she would agree to provide tuition to the neighbors' children, as Qiao Nan was not a materialistic person.

Initially, she purely believed that Qiao Nan purposely raised the fees as she was not willing to provide tuition and wanted the parents to back out on their own accord. No one expected the parents to be so determined.

At this moment, Shi Qing had a realization.

It was not that Qiao Nan did not have such intentions. Another important reason was that Qiao Nan was short of money.

She had long guessed that Uncle Qiao would definitely save up all his earnings over the past year for Qiao Zijin's urgent use first so that Qiao Zijin could register for college and settle one year of school fees before making further plans.

Although it would be tough, with the one year buffer, Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi should be able to settle the college fees for the subsequent two years as long as they were not lazy and could think of ways.

In comparison, Qiao Nan, who could only receive one year of earnings from Uncle Qiao then, would have a greater shortfall for her tuition fees in the coming year.

If Qiao Nan did not find ways early to save up for the shortfall, could Qiao Nan still attend college one year later?

The appearance of this sum of money made Shi Qing both happy and angry.

If not for the fact that Qiao Zijin had not come home or given Qiao Dongliang any news, Qiao Dongliang would have left this sum of money for Qiao Zijin. Qiao Nan would then have to suffer one year later.

The happy thing was that this sum of money eventually belonged to Qiao Nan and was not taken away by Qiao Zijin.

Chapter 712 Not Typical of Zhai Sheng

At this juncture, Qiao Nan would be too silly not to take the money. In fact, she would be an idiot if she did not do so.

Shi Qing dared not let Qiao Nan had the chance to be so silly. She grabbed over the money and tucked them into Qiao Nan's hands. She made the decision for Qiao Nan first and then said, "Why are you standing there in a daze? Quickly put away the money in the room. If you lose it, do you deserve the well-meaning intention of Uncle Qiao?"

After it was stored away properly and deposited in the bank tomorrow, this sum of money would really belong to Qiao Nan.

This would not do. Tomorrow, she would come and look for Qiao Nan early in the morning and accompany her to the bank to deposit the money. This was in case Uncle Qiao decided to change his mind.

Also, she should go home later today. If not...

Shi Qing's bright eyes rolled a few times. "Qiao Nan, we've not had late chats for some time. Why don't I stay here tonight so that we can chat? We can chat about the students that you are giving tuition to or chat about your study plan for the next semester. I want to use your study plan as a reference to decide on my own study plan, can I?"

As long as she was around, she did not believe that Uncle Qiao would have the shame to take back the money that he had given out and leave it for Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan could not help smiling. "No need. I suffer from summer ailments. I feel hot even when I sleep alone. I'll shun your presence."

Her father gave her this sum of money in front of Director Shi and Shi Qing because he did not want to give himself a chance to regret it.

Once her father took out the money out in front of others, he would definitely not take it back regardless of the reason.

This time, it was truly strange. In the past, Qiao Zijin would definitely appear as long as there was money to be taken. There was such a good opportunity and excuse but why didn't Qiao Zijin appear at all?

"You're sure?" Shi Qing pouted to express that she was concerned if Qiao Nan alone would be able to deal with the situation of Qiao Dongliang regretting.

Qiao Nan nodded with certainty. She had never been crafty toward her father. It was rare that this sum of money would go into her pocket. She, too, wanted to be the mythical creature in ancient China for once, which would only receive and not give out wealth.

Given her understanding of her father, her father would not take this sum of money back regardless of the reason.

However, if there was a possibility of it happening, Qiao Nan expressed that she also had a way not to return the money.

“Fine, then I’ll keep a watch on my dad.”

“Why are you keeping a watch on me?” At the sight of the two ladies hinting to each other, Shi Peng was initially happy to watch the show. Suddenly, his name was called. Shi Peng had not come to his senses and realized what mistake he had committed that his daughter had to use ‘keep a watch’ to describe him.

“Keep a watch on you. You have no self-awareness. Alright, it’s already half-past eight. Let’s go home. Fortunately, Qiao Nan did not need to attend classes at school today. Otherwise, you’d have not only affected Qiao Nan’s meals but also her tuition classes which she needed to conduct to earn money. Dad, see, just because of you, so much of Qiao Nan’s time was taken. Don’t you feel ashamed?” Shi Qing pulled Shi Peng home, chiding him along the way. Those seemingly impatient words of hers were filled with her concern for Shi Peng.

“Dad, it’s late. You rest early too. The weather in summer tires people out. You still have to go to work. I’ll clean up.” Qiao Nan asked Qiao Dongliang to go to bed. She had already almost finished cleaning up.

“I’ll help you put away the table first. You can wash the utensils when you wake up tomorrow. You didn’t have it easy today either.” In this home, he was only afraid that it was never easy on Nan Nan.

Earlier, Shi Qing had been fighting injustice for Qiao Nan. How could Qiao Dongliang not sense it? It was just that he tolerated it and did not speak out. Of course, he was ashamed to say anything.

“Okay.” Qiao Nan agreed.

The father-daughter pair quietly cleaned up the table of utensils. Thereafter, Qiao Dongliang returned to his bedroom without a word.

Qiao Nan pursed her red lips. She was frowning so much that her brows were wrinkled.

After some time, Qiao Nan sighed sadly. After she soaked the utensils in water, she bathed and calmed down. She then continued to study.

If you lean against a hill, it will collapse. If you lean against a person, he will run away. The only one that she could really rely on was herself.

As such, regardless of the situation, she could do away with anything except for her studies. She must not give it up.

As for Qiao Zijin, she could appear as she wished. If she did not appear, it did not have anything to do with her. If there was anything troublesome, her father should be the one feeling troubled.

At ten o'clock, Qiao Nan went to bed as per her usual routine.

“Hi, is this the house of the Qiao family?” The early morning of the next day, someone visited the Qiao family before Qiao Nan and Shi Qing left the house to deposit money.

“Yes, this is the house of the Qiao family. May I know who you are?” As Qiao Nan opened the door and looked outside. She saw a male stranger.

“You’re little sister-in-law?” The man had a look of surprise. She was really young, much younger than he had imagined. Zhai Sheng was really too much. This was a student, a child!

He wholeheartedly wanted to look at how beautiful his future little sister-in-law was. When he saw the answer, the surprise in his eyes was more apparent than his words.

“Little sister-in-law? You are?” Brother Zhai did not have a younger brother. Was he at the wrong place?

The man perked up. She was young but very pretty. Since ancient times, when the emperor was already in his 70s and 80s, he still had to marry a few sixteen or seventeen-year-old teenagers as concubines. Men would typically not mind women for being young. “Little sister-in-law, good day. I’m considered a childhood friend of Zhai Sheng. In the past, I lived in that quad too. Thereafter, we left Ping Cheng for about five to six years because of my dad’s job. This is our first time meeting. My name is Zheng Liang. I’m sending some information to you on behalf of Zhai Sheng.”

“Oh, Zheng Liang. Good day.” Upon hearing that he was Zhai Sheng’s old friend and that he was sending something here on behalf of Zhai Sheng, all of Qiao Nan’s doubts disappeared. “It’s been tough on you. Do you want to come in and have some tea?”

“No need.” Initially, Zheng Liang did have this intention. He wanted to understand what kind of woman would enlighten Zhai Sheng, this huge block of ice and wood.

However, when he looked at Qiao Nan and Shi Qing’s dressing, he knew that the two of them were preparing to go out.

“Right, little sister-in-law, can you tell me how old you are this year?” Before he left, Zheng Liang asked in a busybody manner.

In fact, he could ask Zhai Sheng about it but his sixth sense told him that Zhai Sheng might not be willing to answer him. He might as well ask Qiao Nan in person. That would be more effective.

“... Twenty.” And this was even a false age. “Is there a problem?”

“There isn’t any problem...” Zheng Liang laughed slyly. “I just feel that it’s not typical of Zhai Sheng to do this.”

Such a tender and soft young girl, how could the King of Demons Zhai bear to do that? He was so shameless.

In the past, Zhai Sheng did not like women. This time, when he took action, he actually targeted such a young lady who had not even grown up.

Chapter 713 All Positions Closed

Calling her little sister-in-law was really appropriate. “Little sister-in-law, this is my name card. I live in Ping Cheng now. If you encounter any trouble in the future, don’t hesitate to look for me. You know Zhai Sheng’s situation too. He has too little time to spend with you. As his brother, I can’t help much in other things but I certainly can’t let you be bullied by others in my territory.”

“Alright, thank you.” Having been addressed so many times as little sister-in-law by Zheng Liang, Qiao Nan felt quite embarrassed.

“Little sister-in-law, I’m on very good terms with Zhai Sheng. His matter is equivalent to mine. Then, I’ll be leaving first.” Zheng Liang was quite a straightforward person. Having said his words, he simply left.

Shi Qing leaned over. “Your jump in progress is really fast. Clearly, that man is much older than you, yet he still has to address you as little sister-in-law respectfully. Won’t he feel shortchanged?”

“How will I know?” Qiao Nan replied smilingly. “Regardless, do you want to take a look at his name card? It’s quite interesting.”

“What name card is so interesting?” Shi Qing did not believe her as she took over and read it. “This...” This place... She recalled that Qiao Nan had mentioned it to her before. Where was it?

Qiao Nan took back the name card. “Have you forgotten? This position is the former role of Chen Jun’s father. It’s a little less senior than the police commissioner role.” If Chen Jun had not met Wang Yang and been spurred on by him to deal with her, then the Chen family would not have suffered such a great set back.

“Ah, is it?” Shi Qing had previously heard about Chen Jun’s matter, but today was the first time she really came into contact with Chen Jun’s matter. “Do you think Brother Zhai did it on purpose?”

He made Chen Jun and his family move away, and then let his childhood friend return and take over the role of Chen Jun’s father. This had caused Chen Jun and his family to lose the opportunities to turn the tables.

“Should be.” The return of the Zheng family this time had filled the previous roles of the Chen family. Not to mention the position of the police commissioner, it would not be possible for the Chen family to seize back even the position of the deputy commissioner. “Zheng Liang is a childhood friend of Brother Zhai. He seems to be of a similar age to Brother Zhai. He’s so young and already in the second-top position in the police station. Isn’t he capable? Most likely, he’s another perverted young talent like Brother Zhai. Do you know what I am most curious about?”

“What?” Shi Qing asked naturally.

“Zheng Liang has taken over the previous role of Chen Jun’s father. Logically, Zheng Liang’s father can’t possibly have retired. What do you think is the career path of Zheng Liang’s father?”

“This...” At this juncture, Shi Qing’s curiosity was also aroused. “This won’t do. After you deposit the money, I have to give a call to my dad. He surely knows.” It would be much better to ask him directly than guess blindly.

“Aren’t you silly? I asked you to keep a watch on your dad so that he would have his meals on time. You want to make a call now? You should simply send the lunch box over to your dad and then ‘conveniently’ ask him about this situation.” Qiao Nan expressed that the position Zheng Liang’s father took over was certainly a more dazzling one.

With the appearance of Zheng Liang, Qiao Nan’s fear of Chen Jun greatly lessened. It would be safer in the future.

“But I don’t know how to prepare meals.”

“I know. I’ll prepare them. You just need to take them to your dad.” Qiao Nan handled the entire matter of preparing the lunch box. She first deposited all the earnings from her tutoring and the money from Qiao Dongliang yesterday into her bank account. She then led Shi Qing home and cooked a meal for Shi Qing and herself. Thereafter, she prepared a nice, fresh, and nutritious lunch for Shi Qing to bring out. “Remember, watch after your dad and ask him to finish it soon. Now, the weather is hot and food can’t be left out for too long, unless your dad wishes to eat spoiled food.”

“Don’t worry, I know.” Could she let her father eat something spoiled? What a joke!

Holding the lunch box prepared by Qiao Nan, Shi Qing arrived at Shi Peng’s office building soon after.

The good thing was that when the reception found out Shi Qing’s identity, a quick phone call was made and Shi Qing saw Shi Peng within five minutes.

“Dad, this office of yours is much better than the previous one at the army camp. It has many more facilities.” Shi Qing started to remark once she stepped into the office. “Not bad. Your working environment has changed for the better.”

“Alright, why did you come? Speak if you have any matter. I’m busy. There’s nothing for you to play with here. Quickly go back. If you want to have fun, look for Qiao Nan.” Shi Peng was having a little headache. After the meeting at noon today, Shi Peng then realized that it was, in fact, quite difficult to meet his expectations. He had a pile of work on his hands. He very much wished that he was a superhuman with three heads and six arms, and also had forty-eight hours a day.

“It’s already eleven o’clock. Have you taken your meal?” Shi Qing sat down and refused to leave.

“I’ll eat later.”

“No need to wait. Eat now.” Shi Qing opened the lunch box and pushed it in front of Shi Peng. She then crossed her arms and stared at Shi Peng.

Watching helplessly at the lunch box, Shi Peng smiled bitterly. “Qing Qing, can you wait a while? Dad is busy with decent matters now!”

“Taking a meal is the most important matter of all. I’ll go back after you take your meal. If you don’t... Anyway, your office environment is not bad. Why don’t I keep all my homework in your office from tomorrow onward so that I can keep you company when you’re working?” It was already so late and he still refused to take his meal. Was her father prepared to take his lunch and dinner together?

Shi Peng rubbed his face. “Fine, you’re more merciless than me. Wait for me. I’ll go and wash my hands. I’ll eat when I’m back.”

Having known that Shi Qing would not give up if she did not achieve her objective this time, he would rather finish his meal instead of wasting his breath with her. That would do. “Qiao Nan was the one who prepared this lunch box?” Although Qing Qing had been getting along with Qiao Nan for so long, she had not picked up the culinary skills to date.

“Yes, Qiao Nan was also the one who reminded me to come today. Dad, you’re too boring. Qiao Nan’s predictions about you are so accurate. Can you not let Qiao Nan guess it right occasionally and give me a surprise?”

Shi Peng was amused. “The two of us are alike. Are you qualified to talk to me about this? When can you be more meticulous and care about me, this father of yours, without the need for Qiao Nan to remind you? I will then be able to give you a surprise.”

“Uncle Qiao is really so blessed to have such a good daughter like Qiao Nan,” Shi Qing said, feeling bad. She could not be compared to Qiao Nan.

Shi Peng finished the fragrant and tasty food. His tummy was full and he felt warmer and relaxed. He then said, "I'm afraid that someone doesn't realize how fortunate they are. Really, one can't choose his next of kin."

Unfortunately, Qiao Nan also encountered such biological parents. She could not change this fact.

"Same situation." Shi Qing leaned back on her chair. The situation in her family was not any better than that of the Qiao family. They were all unlucky.

Chapter 714 The Good Game of Chess by Zhai Sheng

"Right, Dad, I wish to ask you about something. Help me."

"What is it?"

"Brother Zhai has a childhood friend who has just been transferred back to Ping Cheng this year. His name is Zheng Liang. Help me find out the positions currently held by the other Zheng family members after they returned to Ping Cheng."

"Fine, I'll make a call." After eating and drinking to his fill, surprisingly, Shi Peng's temper was less impatient than before. He dialed a number quickly and was prepared to give Shi Qing an answer. "Hello, good day, I'm Director Shi. Right... I'd like to find out more about someone from you. He's called Zheng Liang. Okay, okay... Fine. Thank you."

Within three minutes, Shi Peng hung up the phone.

Shi Qing had only consumed half a glass of water. "So fast? You've found out?"

"Yes." Shi Peng revealed a very odd smile. "This time, Zhai Sheng was really harsh. He's so merciless."

"It has something to do with Brother Zhai again?" Shi Qing asked curiously. "What's happening? Quickly tell me."

“Zheng Liang’s father is called Zheng Chenggong. How should I describe this person? He does everything in moderation. He’s not radical but he’s also not passive such that he will create trouble for himself. His only merit is that he does everything in moderation.

This makes it easy for him to sustain a business but difficult to start one. This is really quite rare. Since ancient times, it has always been easier to start a business and difficult to sustain it. He’s the opposite. Zhai Sheng made Zheng Chenggong come back. This will really change Ping Cheng’s political scene.”

Shi Peng was well aware that he belonged to the pioneering kind while Zheng Chenggong belonged to the kind that would keep things going in a steady way.

With these two kinds of politicians in Ping Cheng, the future development of Ping Cheng would certainly not go wrong.

Zheng Chenggong’s appearance coincidentally made up for his shortcomings. His pioneering and progressive style also complimented Zheng Chenggong’s weakness.

“Dad, isn’t Brother Zhai working in the army? Can he intervene in the matters of the police?” Shi Qing did not understand. Wasn’t this beyond his scope?

“As long as you have the ability, there’s nothing impossible in this world.” He was aware right from the start that Zhai Sheng was very capable. Nevertheless, facts had proved that Zheng Sheng’s capability was beyond his imagination. “Do you know whose position did Zheng Chenggong assume?”

“Who?”

“Qiu Qin.”

“Oh my god!” Shi Qing was utterly stunned.

“After one year of hard work, Qiu Qin really ran into some luck and encountered something good. I heard that an archaeological site was discovered and one of the territories was managed by him. As it was discovered early and managed well, it was thus in good condition. The provincial archaeologist team even came to look at it. Riding on this chance, the Qiu family pulled all the strings available and hoped to send Qiu Qin back.”

“I understand now. Once Zheng Chenggong is back to assume that role, although uncle-in-law has contributions, it’ll be awkward for him to return to Ping Cheng and be part of the leadership team again. This is because there’s no longer any role suitable for him.”

There were no more roles!

The Qiu family was ambitious. They could not wait to climb up the corporate ladder through the Zhai family and the Shi family.

It had not been easy to encounter such a good matter. The least the Qiu family would do was to use various means to let Qiu Qin resume his previous role. They would then think about the future later.

Of course, if Qiu Qin could take on a role that was more senior than his former one, that would be the best. If that was the case, the one-year demotion might be a blessing in disguise as it created an opportunity for him to succeed.

However, now with Zheng Chenggong’s appearance, the Qiu family would not be able to fulfill even their smallest wish.

Moreover, given Qiu Qin’s ability and the Qiu family’s means, they were not good enough to make Qiu Qin take on a more senior role.

In short, although Qiu Qin was able to return as the leadership team in Ping Cheng, there were no longer any good roles available. It was useless even if he had contributions.

Was there anything that could be more shameful and frustrating than this in the world?

There was another advantage if Qiu Qin could not resume his previous role. After Qiu Chenxi and Qiu Qin returned to Ping Cheng, Qiu Chenxi was no longer fit to display her arrogance in front of Qiao Nan.

That incident last year—the offspring of the government official and veteran revolutionary hired a group of triads to hurt others—was apparently the biggest scandal in Ping Cheng. It had badly tarnished the reputation and image of the Chinese government officials in the hearts of the citizens.

The impact of that incident was extremely adverse.

If not for the fact that there had been no deaths and injuries, and if this matter had been blown up further, Qiu Qin would have most likely been implicated by Qiu Chenxi. He could then bid farewell to his political career forever, let alone just having a demotion.

If Qiu Qin was the one who gave Qiu Chenxi the power to do that, then Qiu Qin could face the danger of being expelled from the party.

In short, that mess created by Qiu Chenxi last year had vividly portrayed a drama of betraying one's father.

Since Qiu Qin could not resume his previous role, Qiu Chenxi had to restrain herself when she returned to Ping Cheng. At the very least, she should not provoke Qiao Nan again.

Otherwise, if a similar incident happened again, the Qiu family would have to return to the place they had just come from.

There was truly no room for leniency regarding such a situation.

“Brother Zhai has destroyed the lifeline of the Qiu family for Qiao Nan's sake.” The Chen family was not exempted from this too.

Once the father-son pair returned, Brother Zhai helped Qiao Nan deal with her two annoying enemies. Full of admiration!

Wasn't Brother Zhai very tied up recently due to the increase in the number of missions? Half a year had passed and she had only seen Brother Zhai once. Brother Zhai was so busy. How was he able to spare the effort to plan these small plots and subdue the two enemies of Qiao Nan in such a deadly manner?

As long as he kept this up, even if Brother Zhai's missions increased and he was so tied up that he had no time to take care of the situations at Qiao Nan's side, most probably, nothing much would happen to Qiao Nan.

In other words, Brother Zhai was trying to build an impregnable stronghold around Qiao Nan.

Shi Qing exclaimed. Shi Peng felt even more regretful. “Qing Qing, this can only prove that you really did not like the wrong person all this while. But it’s a pity that you lack a little luck.”

Zhai Sheng was a good child. If Qing Qing could be together with Zhai Sheng, he could completely let down his worries and focus on his career without any reservation and fear.

It was fine that Qiao Nan, such a good daughter, was not his. But even an outstanding youngster such as Zhai Sheng was not his son, and neither could he be his son-in-law. Shi Peng felt depressed thinking about it.

Why was it that all the good ones had to get together? Did that mean those like him, who were not that outstanding, would not have the chance to change the genes of their future generations?

Shi Qing curled the corners of her lips. “Dad, do you want to make Qiao Nan and me go against each other and cause a rift between us? I don’t have that kind of feelings toward Brother Zhai anymore. No matter how good Brother Zhai is, it doesn’t have anything to do with me.” By saying that, wasn’t her father trying to create misunderstanding and trouble between her and Qiao Nan? Had her father become muddleheaded after starving too much?

“Forget it. Let’s not talk about it. If it’s not ours, it’s not ours. No matter how good, it doesn’t have anything to do with us.”

Chapter 715 Qiao Nan, Give Me an Idea

Shi Peng smoothed his frown. Of course, he would not sow discord between Qiao Nan and his daughter. However, he liked to remind his daughter from time to time, lest she became too complacent and thought that she was the smartest person in the world.

With Qiao Nan as the living example, Shi Peng would be wasting resources if he did not make use of it fully.

“Dad, it’s already so late. Aren’t you going to bed soon?!” Shi Qing snorted as she pushed Shi Peng to his bedroom.

“Don’t. I’ve not finished reading two sets of documents. I’ll sleep after I read them.” Shi Peng brought the documents home and was prepared to work overtime so that he could quickly decide on the solutions and then implement the reformation plans to develop township enterprises.

To Shi Peng, he very much wished that he was a superhuman with three heads and six arms, and that he could have seventy-two hours a day. It was only as such that he would have enough time for his use.

How could Shi Peng be willing to sleep when Shi Qing asked him to?

“Documents, information? These are the ones right?!” Shi Qing glanced and took out the full stack of papers from Shi Peng’s document bag. “This is your home, not office. I won’t allow you to work overtime at home. You’re only allowed to rest and sleep at home. To prevent you from knowingly doing these things, I’m confiscating these items. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely return them to you tomorrow morning. I have no use for these items anyway.”

“Wait.” Shi Peng wanted to snatch them back. Unfortunately, he was not as agile as Shi Qing. “Qing Qing, don’t mess around. This is Dad’s work.”

“I’m not messing around. Didn’t you always ask me to emulate Qiao Nan? Qiao Nan was the one who taught me all these. Qiao Nan told me that if I wish to continue to be a child who has a father, then I can’t be soft on you or indulge you too much. Fine, quickly sleep. I’m switching off the lights.”

Earlier, Shi Peng was just trying to use Qiao Nan to make Shi Qing feel sullen. At this moment, Shi Qing was making use of Qiao Nan to make Shi Peng feel bad.

“...” Watching helplessly as the documents were being taken away, Shi Peng was simply dumbfounded. Was this considered as shooting oneself in the foot?

Shi Peng wanted to use Qiao Nan to set an example for Shi Qing. He did not expect the turnaround of things whereby Shi Qing wanted to take him in hand strictly because of Qiao Nan’s advice.

Even when he was ill and hospitalized in the past, the supervision of the doctors and nurses was only that much.

“Ah, supervise as you wish.” Shi Peng felt quite good to be taken in hand so strictly by his daughter.

After going to the toilet, Shi Peng really went to bed obediently. After all, all those documents had been taken away by Shi Qing. Shi Peng did not have anything else to do even if he did not wish to sleep.

After putting away the documents, Shi Qing glanced at the clock. She waited for ten minutes before opening the door of Shi Peng's bedroom to take a look.

She only saw a dim and dark room. The lights had been switched off long ago. Most importantly, she heard Shi Peng breathing in a stable manner. This sound obviously meant that Shi Peng had not only fallen asleep but was also in a deep sleep.

At the thought that her father was in such a deep sleep within ten minutes, Shi Qing frowned in worry. "Falling asleep once he hit the bed. Dad must have been exhausted, yet he still wanted to hang on. She could not be any less strict!"

"Goodbye, Teacher Qiao Nan."

"Goodbye."

Qiao Nan could finally send off the second batch of students before August came to an end. Although there were still more than ten days until the end of the summer vacation, Qiao Nan rejected all the parents that subsequently came to her. She stuck to her words of not accepting any more students.

"Look at how happy you are." Shi Qing was flipping her fan. "When there's no student, it means you have no income."

Uncle Qiao was not reliable. If Qiao Nan wanted to study in college in the future, she most probably had to rely on herself.

"It's enough. Don't forget that I still have next year's summer vacation. I initially didn't intend to rely on this to earn money, but I've done some basic preparations this summer. When the college entrance examination ends next year, and including this year's batch that is willing to send their children to me, there will only be more parents who will let me tutor their kids. It won't be less."

Qiao Nan had thought about it. She definitely wanted to work hard to earn her college fees.

There were too many uncertain circumstances at her father's end. It would be best to rely on oneself and not others. Furthermore, she still had the time and space to work for it.

"That's true. There are only so many days in summer and you only took in ten students per class. You can't take in that many students during one summer. If the grades of the twenty students that you taught this year improve after they return to school, then your tuition fee for next year will definitely become higher, right? Qiao Nan, do you think it's too much to demand such a high fee?" Shi Qing was a little hesitant. She had seen tutors raise their fees but not one whose fees rose so quickly.

"Wrong. I won't raise my fee." Qiao Nan shook her head. "Regardless, it'll depend on fate." However, Qiao Nan felt that it would not be possible for the fee to remain the same.

"Smart." Not taking the initiative to raise the fee and let the market bring the price up. "Qiao Nan, have I told you before that you actually have the potential to be a sly businessman?"

"This is the first time I hear it."

"Great." Shi Qing really took her hat off Qiao Nan.

"Don't mess around. It's only a few days until school reopens. You decide for yourself how much homework you wish to do." Qiao Nan gave a small reminder. This was in case Shi Qing procrastinated and, like others, had to rush out or copy her homework when school reopened.

"Don't remind me." Shi Qing clasped her head. "The summer weather is quite hot but it passes very quickly." At the thought of returning to school to study, she felt a little tinge of sadness.

Qiao Nan took a glance at Shi Qing. "You're worried about your dad. You're afraid that you can't keep a watch on your dad like what you did these past few days after you return to school?"

With Shi Qing's intelligence, would she, like other students, hate to go to school and feel that schooling is a very difficult matter?

No, to Shi Qing, learning textbook knowledge was just a piece of cake, something at her fingertips.

Shi Qing snorted. “Don’t expose my thoughts so soon. I didn’t feel it that much previously. After you asked me to keep a watch on my dad more, I realized that my dad is quite crazy when he’s working. He doesn’t take his lunch properly. When he’s back at night, he will stare at the documents and make preparations until very late at night if I don’t stop him. When I asked the secretary who assists my dad, he told me that it’s, in fact, better when I’m around. When I’m not around, it’s so difficult to get him to have his meal. It would drag on until over two o’clock, and most of the time, he would always take two mouthfuls and that’s it.”

“Okay... You’ve said so much, but what do you really want to say?”

“Help me think of a solution to this.” She was helpless when it came to her dad, but wasn’t Qiao Nan very smart? Qiao Nan would always be able to help her think of a way.

“...” No wonder she found it strange for Shi Qing to tell her so many things, wondering what she was trying to do. So, she was trying to entrap her. “What solutions can I have? You’re his daughter. He should be willing to listen to you. If it is others, even me, it’ll be useless.”

Chapter 716 Qiao Nan’s Brilliant Trick

Shi Qing refused to give up. “Is there really no other way?”

Qiao Nan raised an eyebrow. “Why don’t you record your voice in a tape? When it’s time to have meals, you can tell your dad’s secretary to play it continuously to remind him to have his meals.”

“It’s worth a try.” The recording might not be as good as the real person, but it was better than nothing.

“Are you serious?” She was just joking.

“Of course I am serious. This method is feasible and operational. It can be done.” Shi Qing decided on it. She went back to her house to get a recorder and a tape to record her voice.

In order to check its effect, Shi Qing asked Qiao Nan to listen to it after she finished with the recording. She wanted to know if it would work.

After listening to the recordings, Qiao Nan gave Shi Qing an idea. “It is too boring to record one version only. Your dad may be immune to it after listening for a long time. Perhaps you can record a

few more versions using different tones—like when you are angry, furious, exasperated, and gloomy. It will be a good idea for your dad to listen to different versions. Let's do it this way. I will write down the wordings. You can memorize them and use different tones to say them. In this case, your dad will not be tired of them and his secretary will have an easier job.”

“Great!” Shi Qing eyes brightened. Her interest was piqued.

It was a test of her acting skills to use different emotions when saying the same words. “I will go all out for my dad!”

It could have been an annoying task. However, it turned out to be full of fun due to Qiao Nan's suggestion.

At Qiao Nan's request, Shi Qing spent the whole afternoon making the recordings in different versions, having a lot of fun in the meantime.

Shi Qing went to Shi Peng's workplace before school reopened and had a talk in secret with Shi Peng's secretary.

“Xiao Qing, you can rest assured that I will make sure that it's done properly. If the director is in poor health, it will spell trouble for us as well.” The secretary laughed slyly after listening to the recordings. He believed that the recordings would definitely work on Director Shi.

Shi Peng was clueless that Shi Qing was working secretly with his secretary.

By the time he learned about it, it was when he heard the recordings that Shi Qing made to remind him to have his meals.

“The weather is very good.” Shi Qing summed up her feelings while standing at the door of Ping Cheng High School.

Qiao Nan squinted, shielding her eyes with her hands from the bright and glaring sun. She looked at Shi Qing, dumbstruck by her remarks. “Is the weather very good? Perhaps you want to stand here for half an hour to enjoy the sun?”

Shi Qing smiled, looking embarrassed. “Don’t be so serious. I am referring to a feeling. I am not really saying that the weather is good today. The heat during autumn is unbearable. How can the weather be good? I am just kidding.”

“Hehehe, your joke is really funny.” Qiao Nan smiled dryly at her joke. “I won’t stand under the sun with you. I don’t have to pay school fees, but you have to. If you don’t hurry, there will be a long queue. Surely you don’t want to stand in the queue with others, do you?”

“There’s no need to queue. Have you forgotten that third-year students start school five days earlier than the rest of the students?”

“Are there any classes that start late in Ping Cheng High School?” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. Ping Cheng High School was a first-rate high school. If it did not have classes during summer break, it would always start school earlier than the rest. It had been a tradition.

Shi Qing’s face fell at her words. “Qiao Nan, don’t you feel that the banner at the school gate is a bit exaggerated? The wordings are so large. People with presbyopia and myopia will be able to see them clearly.” The word ‘congratulations’ was in large prints. Unless one was blind, nobody would miss it.

Qiao Nan walked toward the school. “You must understand.”

“Understood!”

“Nan Nan, my dearest Nan Nan.” All of the ladies who shared the dormitory with her last semester had arrived at the dormitory.

As soon as Tang Mengran saw Qiao Nan, she called her affectionately and pouted with her arms outstretched toward Qiao Nan, like a hungry tiger pouncing on its prey. Qiao Nan darted to a side to escape from her. “What is the situation?” When did Tang Mengran start to hug people around her?

“When somebody humbles herself before you, she must have some request to make of you.” Fang Fang adjusted her glasses and reminded Qiao Nan.

“Request? What request is it?”

“Nan Nan, I have to rely on you for the college entrance examination a year later. Our school has done so well in this year’s college entrance examination. Nan Nan, you will definitely ensure that this current batch of students that you are in will have better results than the previous year, right? Nan Nan, I have entrusted my whole life to you.”

The third-year students heard of Qiao Nan’s proud achievements when they arrived at school. Tang Mengran, in particular, wanted to stick close to Qiao Nan and get her promise to help her spot questions for the college entrance examination so that she could do well in the exams.

Qiao Nan gestured for Tang Mengran to move aside. “You made it sound as if I have never spotted questions for you in the past.”

She thought it was for something else. It turned out that it was for the college entrance examination.

Tang Mengran paused momentarily and scratched her head. “You are right.” Nan Nan had never shortchanged her. “I have turned into a fool after a summer break.”

“Are you unwell due to the hot weather or having eaten too much food?” He Yun made a dig at Tang Mengran, who had gained weight after the summer break.

Tang Mengran pouted, covering her face with her hands and leaning toward Zheng Lingling. “League branch secretary, you must have seen how He Yun bullied me. You must seek justice for me. Today, He Yun bullied me. She may target the rest of you tomorrow.”

“Alright.” Zheng Lingling pushed at Tang Mengran’s forehead. “How dare you compare with us? You asked for it. If He Yun didn’t bully you, we would bully you. We have been in the same dormitory with Nan Nan for two years. Why would you panic at small things? Aren’t you worried that Nan Nan will laugh at you?”

“That’s right. If we were Nan Nan, we would have ignored you ages ago. You are such an annoying fool,” Tao Zhenqin said helplessly while tidying the bed.

Tang Mengran was a big fool.

If they had not been staying in the same dormitory for years, and if she was given a choice, she would not have gotten close to Tang Mengran.

“All of you are bullying me.” Tang Mengran was upset that her roommates seemed to shun her. She was just joking. Why was everyone being so serious?

Qiao Nan looked exasperated. “I think it’s good that Tang Mengran is in our dormitory. After all, there are many people who are more exaggerated than her. Tang Mengran is indeed foolish at times, but she knows her limits. With her around, she can uplift the atmosphere in the dormitory.”

“Listen to what Nan Nan said. She is such a fair person. Without me, all of you would be nerds and Nan Nan would feel bored.”

Chapter 717 Teacher Xiao Qiao, Double the Fee

“Nan Nan, you are the best. I love you the most! Let me give you a kiss.” Tang Mengran puckered up and leaned toward Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was speechless. She raised her hand and covered Tang Mengran’s mouth without another word. “I am not a man. I don’t need you to give me kisses. Thank you.”

“Hahaha...”

The four of the girls broke into laughter at the scene. Nan Nan was right. It was fun to have Tang Mengran, the foolish girl, around.

Of course, if Tang Mengran changed from a small fool to a big fool, they would not be able to withstand her.

Qiao Nan was in her third year now, and the learning atmosphere became tense.

Ever since school reopened, Qiao Nan and the rest of them could feel the tension and pressure.

Tang Mengran would moan and groan every day. She used to be full of energy, but now, she was no longer in high spirits when she reached the dormitory. Instead, she would be tired to the bone. She would fall asleep as soon as she lay on the bed.

The pace of learning was fast, and there was a lot of revisions to be done. One was highly worn out in such a learning environment. All these resulted in Tang Mengran feeling more and more somnolent.

Of course, other than Tang Mengran, all the other girls in the dormitory, including the entire batch of third-year students, were in the same condition. They wished they had forty-eight hours a day so that they could have thirty-eight hours for their studies and ten hours for sleep.

One month after school reopened, Qiao Nan went back home with Shi Qing after finishing her exams.

The two of them had yet to reach the doorway to the small quad when they saw a big crowd in front of the Qiao family's residence. It seemed as if they were after the Qiao family to return their debts. They kept pushing toward the house.

Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were startled. "Qiao Nan, does your family owe the loan sharks? Why are there so many people who seem to be after money?" What was the matter? Why did they borrow from the loan shark? She and her father had not heard about it.

"If you are short of money, you can tell us. I don't have a lot of money, but we still have some money to lend should you need to settle urgent needs."

Judging from the current situation, if the neighbors were to witness the scene, the Qiao family might not be able to continue to live in the small quad.

Qiao Nan frowned. She was worried sick. "You have been with me every single day. Do I seem like I need a large sum of money and that I owe so much money that such a big group of people will be here to collect debts?"

"It's not you?"

"No."

"Who would it be? Why would they come to your house to collect debts?"

Qiao Nan took a deep breath. “Don’t forget that apart from my father and me, there are other people in the Qiao family. I am not the only daughter. Given my dad’s temper, he will not borrow from the loan shark.”

This was what Qiao Nan was most baffled about.

Her father was a soldier. He would always abide by a certain code of conduct.

Her father would never break the law or borrow money from loan sharks.

He would not go against his principles and make such mistakes even if it was for Qiao Zijin.

“Wait, these people look familiar though?” Qiao Nan walked closer to take a look and realized that she seemed to have seen these ‘debtors’ before. “They seemed to be the parents of the students whom I have taught during the summer break.”

“Ah, the parents of your students. Why are they here at this time of the day? You no longer conduct any classes.” Shi Qing was relieved. It was fine as long as they were not triads who were here to collect debts.

The people from the secret society would not dress up like normal citizens would.

“I have no idea. Let’s go and take a look.” Qiao Nan had to pass by them in order to go home.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao is back. Teacher Xiao Qiao!” When the parents heard footsteps, they turned and realized that it was Qiao Nan. All of them rushed toward Qiao Nan at one go. Qiao Nan was overwhelmed by their enthusiasm.

If Shi Qing did not support her from the back, Qiao Nan might have been knocked sideways by one of the mothers.

“Nan Nan!” Qiao Dongliang was worried about his daughter. Had he known that this would happen, he would not allow Qiao Nan to conduct any classes in the first place.

What kind of neighbors were they?

They knew that Nan Nan was in her third year and she had to focus on her studies.

Nan Nan's performance in the college entrance examination was more important than the results of the children from the other families.

"Please give way. Nan Nan has just come home from school. Can you let her come into the house to put aside her schoolbag? If there's anything, you can wait for a while."

"No. Teacher Xiao Qiao, can we send our child to your class during the seven-day holiday for this year's National Day? Since it's a holiday, I will give you double the tuition fee." In this case, her children would be studying while the other children were playing. Their results would definitely be better than the other students'!

"Yes, we will pay you double the tuition fee. Teacher Xiao Qiao, you can feel free to decide what to teach during the seven days. We do not have any opinions."

Shi Qing, who was pushed by the parents to a side, was flabbergasted at the conversation.

Qiao Nan had yet to say anything and they had already decided to offer her double the tuition fee?

"N-national Day?" Qiao Nan was too busy to keep track of time. It was indeed the National Day. "Sorry, there are only seven days of holiday for the National Day. I don't intend to conduct any classes."

"Teacher Xiao Qiao, there are seven days of holiday. If you don't conduct classes, our children will play all day. They will lose the focus of their studies and it may affect their results."

One of the parents was too anxious that he blurted out his concern.

"Affect their results?" Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows. It seemed to suggest that their children had made an improvement in the first important exam since school reopened?

"I have to rest and study during the seven days of holiday as well. How about you look for someone else?"

Qiao Nan's habit was to take a class of a maximum of ten students. There were only seven days of break during the National Day. There was not enough time for her to finish one series of lessons. Qiao Nan had no intention to make use of every single minute to earn money.

"Teacher Xiao Qiao, this won't do. Since you have to study as well, how about allowing my child to do his homework by your side while you study? I will still pay you the money. I will pay you double!" He could not let his child fool around outside during the holiday.

It was alright if they did not improve their academic performance after attending the class. He felt that it was good enough to supervise the little brat and keep him in check, making sure that he finished all his homework for the seven days instead of playing around only to copy from his friends at the last minute.

They worked so hard to earn money so that they would be able to provide for their children when they had the need for money in the future. They would not shortchange them or hold back their future.

Whatever they earned was to be spent on their children.

At least, the current situation proved that it was worthwhile to spend money on tuition during the summer break!

Chapter 718 All of Them Came to Express Gratitude

"That's right. Please let our children do their homework by your side so that they will not fool around or play dangerous games." During the seven days of holiday for the National Day last year, their child insisted on learning to cycle from his classmates and master drifting.

And what was the final outcome?

He had a bad fall and broke his leg. His leg had to be encased in plaster and it took a few months before he recovered.

The parents were more than willing to spend money for their children to study at the Qiao family's residence rather than spend it at the hospital. At least, their son would not be in pain.

Shi Qing touched her chin, deep in thought. She did not lack money, but it seemed to be easy money.

If Qiao Nan had no intention to conduct the class, she could be Teacher Xiao Shi and conduct classes during the seven days of the National Day holiday.

Qiao Nan was not really eager to conduct a class, but the parents were very persistent. They crowded around her such that she could not even get close to her house. “Well, why not let me think about it? During the summer break, it was my first time to conduct classes. All of you must have known that I did not take in a large number of students. Therefore, I have to consider whether to conduct a class. I have to think about how many students to take in. How should I select the students so that it will be fair to everyone? There are so many of you here, while there are only seven days of holiday. I can only have one class in this short period of time.”

Qiao Nan decided to come up with an excuse to dismiss the parents. Otherwise, she would never be able to get inside her house.

“You are right.” The parents agreed. It was true that many parents had the same idea as them—to ask Qiao Nan to tutor their children. Hence, it was better to leave first for Qiao Nan to think it through. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, the National Day is a week away. You have to let us know as soon as possible.”

All the parents could not bear to leave Qiao Nan’s house. They turned back several times on their way back. They were hoping that Qiao Nan would be softhearted and decided to agree to their request right away.

“Hey, I finally reach the doorway of your house. It is too tiring.” Shi Qing let out a long sigh. She was about to enter the house when she noticed that there were fruits, health supplements, and a chicken outside the door.

The old hen flapped its wings around the courtyard of the Qiao family’s residence. Shi Qing could not help but laugh at it.

“Qiao Nan, you don’t have to buy any food or fruits.” Shi Qing bent down to take one of the apples and took a big bite unabashedly.

Qiao Dongliang was in a difficult position. “Nan Nan, I refused to accept their kind intentions, so they left them on the ground. I intended to give it back to them, but they have all left.” Since Nan

Nan had accepted the food, did it mean that she had to start a class during the short break for the National Day?

Qiao Dongliang was full of regrets. Had he known things would turn out to be like this, he would not have agreed to let Qiao Nan conduct classes during the summer break.

He did not care that those students would be sitting for their middle school examination or college entrance examination. What was important was that Nan Nan's studies must not be affected.

“Nan Nan, listen to me. You are still young. You are a student, and your most important task is to study hard. As a father, I will be responsible for making money. Don't worry. I promise you that I will be able to pay for your college tuition fees. If you are interested in making money, you can wait until you graduate. By then, you will have the time and opportunity to earn money. Right now, you just need to do a good job, studying hard and maintaining your standard.”

“Dad, you can rest assured that if I really start a class, I know what I am doing. It will not affect my studies.”

She had been through rebirth. It was impossible for her to lose herself in making money. Initially, she was worried that Qiao Dongliang would be affected. Now, she realized that she did not need to worry about that.

“It's better if you don't hold any more classes.” Qiao Dongliang waved his hands again and again. If this continued, Nan Nan would not have enough time for her studies. “Nan Nan, you have to consider carefully. Once you hold a class during the seven days of the National Day holiday, you will have to do so during the winter break as well. You will be sitting for your college entrance examination in the coming summer break. Nothing is more important than the college entrance examination. Do you understand?”

“I understand. Dad, let's go in. If we don't enter the house now, Shi Qing will eat all the food.” Shi Qing would not stand on ceremony with them. She did not care that all the food was given by the parents. She was such a foodie and a glutton. She would eat anything that was edible.

Qiao Dongliang jumped up anxiously. “Shi Qing, don't eat it all in one go. How can you behave in such a manner? You are a young lady. If you have all the food, your body will not be able to take it!”

If Tang Mengran was the funny girl at school, Shi Qing would be coined the foodie.

In fact, aside from Shi Qing, her father, Shi Peng, was a foodie as well.

Otherwise, both of them would not be coming to the Qiao family's residence for meals.

Qiao Dongliang was worried that Shi Qing would stuff herself with food and get a stomachache.

Shi Qing was about to reach for another fruit when she was stopped by Qiao Dongliang. Shi Qing looked at the fruits that were before her yet out of her reach. She was dying to have more of them. "Uncle Qiao, as I have said, I am young and I exercise a lot. Therefore, I will digest the food well. I am really hungry. I can have them just well. I will not have indigestion."

"You have eaten enough." Nan Nan did not eat as much as Shi Qing, yet she did not feel hungry.

The amount of food Shi Qing consumed all by herself was equivalent to two to three meals of Nan Nan's portion.

As a result, Qiao Dongliang would be very mindful of the amount of food Shi Qing had at his house. If she had too much and was way over her limit, he would stop her right away.

"Dad, do you know why those people crowded outside our house?" Qiao Nan helped Qiao Dongliang bring all the food that was piled outside into the house. As for the chicken, she would ask her father to slaughter it and prepare some chicken soup.

It was impossible to return the food that the parents left for her.

Instead of letting them go to waste, Qiao Nan decided to take it as a form of gratitude from her students.

"I heard that there was a monthly exam recently. I suppose the children had good results, so all the parents came looking for you." Qiao Dongliang sighed. Having an extremely capable daughter was also a headache.

Nobody would have expected that a student like Nan Nan would be able to teach the students well and help them improve their results. Hence, all of them gave money and food to Nan Nan, hoping that she would continue to tutor their children.

Qiao Dongliang fully realized the true meaning of the saying that knowledge could change one's fate.

As long as she had the knowledge and ability, even though Nan Nan was only a high school student, she was as good as grown-up men when it came to earning money.

While the children in other families only knew to spend the money earned by their parents, his child was able to earn money in a relatively easy way.

Chapter 719 Soldiers Are Handsome

In this way, she could help lighten his burden. It made a lot of difference.

“All of them acted wisely after seeing the results.” During summer break, the parents were full of worry when they sent their children to attend Qiao Nan's class. Some of them even hinted to Qiao Nan to prepare homework for their children.

They were worried that their children might forget everything that they had learned at the Qiao family's residence. “By the way, given today's situation, Qiao Nan, are you sure you are not going to change your career path to be a teacher? Even if you find being a teacher at school tiring and troublesome, what you are doing now will work as well. You can be a private tutor. In my opinion, you can earn more as a tutor than a teacher at school if you are good.”

“Don't try to lure me into being a tutor. I am not merely after money.” Qiao Nan shook her head firmly. Tutoring others was only a way to earn her university tuition fees. It was just a transition period.

She would never change her career aspiration.

“Nan Nan, you and Shi Qing can do some reading first. There is no way to rear chicken at home. I have to slaughter it now. We will have dinner later than usual tonight.” Qiao Dongliang was already dripping with sweat from bringing in the food. He wielded a knife in his hand and charged toward the chicken.

Qiao Nan said, "Okay, Dad. You can take your time. I suppose Director Shi will be late today. Shi Qing and I... I am not hungry." Shi Qing just had two apples. She must not be feeling hungry. She only needed to let her father know that she was not hungry.

"Alright, don't waste your time here. You should do your reading." Qiao Dongliang went to slaughter the chicken after replying to his daughter.

"What is this?" Shi Qing, who had already entered Qiao Nan's room, had some papers with her. After checking that Qiao Dongliang was not around, she came out of the room to show Qiao Nan the papers.

"Have you forgotten about it? These papers were sent to my house last time by Zheng Liang. Fortunately, you are the one, instead of my father, who noticed them today." Otherwise, there would be trouble.

Shi Qing nodded to show that she understood. "Well, where did Qiao Zijin get so much money to enroll in college? I always thought that Qiao Zijin and your mother were so poor that they did not even have money for their underwear."

"She is lucky." In the previous life, she toiled her guts out for Qiao Zijin. She wondered who rendered help to Qiao Zijin and gave her financial aid in this life.

"Did Brother Zhai order Zheng Liang to continue with the investigation?"

"I told Brother Zhai there is no need for that. Now that I know that Qiao Zijin has enrolled in a college and has paid the tuition fees, I do not wish to care or ask about other matters." If she knew, she would be bothered by it constantly.

Actually, Qiao Nan still felt uneasy about things related to Qiao Zijin. It seemed that she was still affected by what happened in her previous life. Her name alone, 'Qiao Zijin', seemed to be like a yoke on her shoulders. Even though it was nonexistent, she could feel its weight on her shoulders all the time.

Once it was tugged, it would be terrible.

“It’s good that you know what you are doing.” Shi Qing no longer made other comments. “It’s better to burn these papers. If Uncle Qiao reads them, it may stir up trouble. Uncle Qiao has never given up on these two people. He still treats them as his family.”

It was better for Qiao Nan that Uncle Qiao did not know anything about Qiao Zijin’s latest news, no matter whether it was good news or bad news.

“That may not be the case. Let’s keep it.” Qiao Nan chuckled. Her father might think differently from others.

Although Qiao Zijin had settled her tuition fees, her father would not accept the fact that an unknown person paid for the tuition fees.

Qiao Nan tidied up and put aside the information regarding Qiao Zijin. It was Zhai Sheng who instructed someone to do some investigations.

She would leave it to destiny as to when her father would notice them.

If Qiao Zijin was smart enough to never appear before her again and minded her own business, she would ensure that her father would never know of this information in his life.

In the blink of an eye, it was the National Day.

During the seven days of the National Day holiday, Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua went back to the Zhai family’s residence. But they did not look to be in a good mood.

Because of Wei De, both of them ended up in quarrels and serious conflicts.

Zhai Sheng went to the Qiao family’s residence to look for Qiao Nan and saw ten young children sitting at the Qiao family’s residence.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, this is...” They had been taking lessons at the Qiao family’s residence for a long time. This was the first time they saw this man. “Is he a soldier?”

Zhai Sheng, who looked smart in his military uniform, was the envy of all the boys. They could not wait for Zhai Sheng to lend them his uniform and hat to wear.

“My... friend.” Qiao Nan blushed.

“Boyfriend?” The children at this age were most imaginative; they were at a sensitive age. Therefore, at the mention of friends, they all had the look as if they knew what was going on.

Qiao Nan’s face turned grim. The children nowadays were too mature for their age. “Brother Zhai, I am giving lessons to the students. There is half an hour before the lesson is over.”

“I will take a stroll and come back half an hour later. I have something to tell you,” Zhai Sheng replied solemnly. The junior high school students dared not behave impudently in front of him.

The boy who teased Qiao Nan sat upright. He held his breath, fearing that he would garner Zhai Sheng’s attention.

After Zhai Sheng left, several students patted their chests out of fright. “It’s frightening. Are all the soldiers so grim-looking? It’s as if they can silence the enemies with a glance.” It was unbelievable.

“Now you know to be fearful. Watch what you say in the future.” Qiao Nan gave them a lecture. “I believe all of you should have heard that soldiers are the most adorable people in the world. All of you must show respect for them. Do you understand?”

Qiao Nan realized that not only must she impart knowledge to the students, but she must also teach them the right way of thinking and conduct, as well as talk to the students about politics.

The boy came to his senses after a while. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, the big brother from the People’s Liberation Army is so handsome. When I am older, I want to be a soldier. The military uniform is awesome.” The most important thing was that the big brother of the People’s Liberation Army had a cool and suave expression!

He was the masculine image that all the boys had been looking up to.

He had steely body and eyes as cold as the guns. He was swift as the leopard as well. He was simply dashing!

Qiao Nan clasped her forehead in exasperation. It seemed they did not hear a single word that she had said just now.

Chapter 720 Not Afraid of Being Blacklisted

These children were not taken aback by Brother Zhai's cold demeanor. Instead, they were all the more interested in the army.

Brother Zhai was indeed charismatic.

In the future, the army should send Brother Zhai to recruit new soldiers. They might have an unexpected outcome.

“Goodbye, Teacher Xiao Qiao.”

“See you tomorrow.” Qiao Nan went looking for Zhai Sheng after she finished the last half an hour of the class. “Brother Zhai, what brings you here today?”

“I don't want to stay at home. I want to see you.” Zhai Sheng sounded slightly annoyed. This feeling of annoyance and unease could only go away after seeing Qiao Nan.

“Let me pour you a cup of tea first.” Qiao Nan thought hard. Brother Zhai was definitely not feeling vexed because of the army. The only thing that would unsettle him must be...

Qiao Nan placed the tea in front of Zhai Sheng before sitting down. “Is it because of Sister Zhai Hua?”

“What else could it be?”

“What's the problem?”

Zhai Sheng had a sullen expression on his face at the mention of Zhai Hua and Wei De.

Though he was hurt, Wei De carried out the mission and returned in glory. However, it was through this mission that Zhai Sheng realized that Wei De was indeed not a good man.

He was only an outsider, but he kept on encouraging Zhai Hua to interfere with the Zhai family's affairs.

This happened three days ago.

Wei De failed to form an alliance with Qiao Nan and was helpless. Therefore, he could only treasure the chance that Zhai Sheng gave him and carried out the anti-drug mission.

Zhai Sheng had set a few conditions for Wei De for this mission. First, the mission required teamwork. He must not be individualistic.

If Wei De did not obey the command and undermined the unity of the group, he would be penalized for that.

Second, since it was a group mission, Wei De had to work together with the team and serve with distinction if he wanted to be promoted.

Wei De did not have to worry about this. After the mission, Zhai Sheng would find out from other teammates about Wei De's performance. As long as he contributed to the team's success, even if it was a minor effort of his, Zhai Sheng would not let it go unnoticed.

This was the best leeway that Zhai Sheng was able to promise Wei De.

Zhai Sheng had made himself very clear. Unless he was hard of hearing or could not understand simple words, Wei De should know very well what was required of him.

It was a pity that although Zhai Sheng might have made himself very clear, he did not take into account that Wei De was unreliable.

In group missions, one must not be individualistic and there was no room for selfish heroism. Zhai Sheng had stressed its importance time and again to Wei De. Yet, when they were carrying out the mission, Wei De still committed this crucial mistake.

In order to take the credit and prove himself, Wei De disobeyed orders at the crucial moment and rushed to the fore.

In the end, not only was he injured, but he also implicated one of the comrades who carried out the mission with him. He was still in critical condition. Even if he managed to survive, one of his legs had to be amputated. He had to wear a prosthetic leg henceforth.

How was it possible for a soldier who had to wear a prosthetic leg to stay in the army?

In other words, Wei De sacrificed the future of others to gain military credit.

Zhai Sheng flared up because of this.

Given that things had turned out to be like this, it was without a doubt that Wei De had committed mistakes and should be given a warning

However, Wei De came back injured as well and was still recovering in the hospital. However, his injuries were not as serious as those of the other soldier. His condition had stabilized and he had regained consciousness.

Zhai Sheng wanted to give Wei De a demerit, but Zhai Hua refused. She insisted that Wei De was injured as well.

Zhai Hua could not accept that Wei De was not given merits but had to be given demerit instead after risking his life.

In the end, the siblings ended up in a quarrel.

Qiao Nan massaged her temple. "I have heard a lot about Wei De. What about the platoon leader who was implicated by Wei De and has lost a leg? Is he still receiving emergency treatment? What do you intend to do with the platoon leader? What is Sister Zhai Hua's view on this?"

Sure enough, Wei De did not deserve any chance at all.

Wei De was eager to make contributions and achievements and to be promoted as soon as possible so that he could marry Sister Zhai Hua. This attitude of his made it such that he was unsuitable to carry out risky missions. He would only jeopardize the situation at hand, resulting in a serious disaster.

“What thoughts does she have?” Zhai Sheng sneered. “Zhai Hua knows that Wei De is in the wrong, and she dared not bring up the platoon leader. After being with Wei De, not only has Zhai Hua gone against our family’s code of conduct, but she is also without any principles now. Wei De is just a man. It’s just a relationship, but she has gone crazy for that man!”

“Dared not bring it up? This is a joke. Even if she keeps silent, does it mean that nothing happened? Does it mean that she can ignore it?” Qiao Nan was speechless. “We have implicated the platoon leader.”

Qiao Nan did not push all the responsibilities to Zhai Hua and Wei De. If she and Zhai Sheng did not interfere, Wei De would not have the chance to participate in this mission and implicate the platoon leader.

Wait a minute, platoon leader?

“Brother Zhai, according to Wei De’s situation, he must be promoted to platoon leader first. It is impossible for him to be promoted to company commander directly. From what I heard, there is no opening for Wei De at all. Do you think he did it on purpose?”

Since the platoon leader was injured and had to wear prosthetic limbs, he could no longer be a soldier.

After the platoon leader left, there would be vacancies in the army. If Wei De performed well, he would have a higher chance of being promoted.

“Would he go to that extent?” Zhai Sheng frowned. He might have said so, but he was deep in thought.

Zhai Sheng wanted to believe that his soldiers had been of high caliber all these years. But no matter what, it proved that there were people like Wei De in the army.

In order to be promoted, Wei De indeed had the motive to implicate the platoon leader on purpose.

If the platoon leader was not injured, it would be a long time before there would be any vacancies.

Once the platoon leader left the army, the position would be open. As long as Wei De performed well, and with Zhai Hua's influence, it was possible for him to be promoted to platoon leader within this year.

Qiao Nan knitted her eyebrows. If this was the case, Sister Zhai Hua would be plotted against by Wei De in the future. "Brother Zhai, since you think it may be possible, should we remind Sister Zhai Hua? Wei De seems to be a very dangerous person."

He was capable of doing anything in order to succeed.

Previously, she had thought that Wei De was a coward, and that he would not dare to participate in the mission. Even if he did, he would return empty-handed.

To her surprise, he created such big trouble.

"Brother Zhai, isn't Wei De worried that he would be blacklisted after what he did?"