

RTAMM 761

Chapter 761 Unable to Disperse the Crowd

She had finally understood. Today's matter was arranged by someone. "My mom doesn't only have me as a daughter. These two years, my mom didn't come back. She only raised Qiao Zijin up and not me. My mom met with a car accident but where is Qiao Zijin? Why didn't Qiao Zijin care? When my dad had a car accident two years ago, both Qiao Zijin and I drew our blood for him. If my dad's blood type is suitable for my mom, it doesn't matter if I don't go. On the contrary, if my dad's blood type is not suitable for my mom, we will only be waiting anxiously for nothing if Qiao Zijin and I drop everything and proceed to the hospital!"

"You can't put it that way. Your mom had an accident and her life is at stake. You're her daughter and yet you're so cold-blooded and aren't concerned at all. I've already told you. You can take the college entrance examination many times but you only have one biological mother." The neighbor was anxious too. If this were to continue, Qiao Nan would enter the school soon.

"That's my mom, my biological mother. I can't help when she got into a car accident. If my mom dotes on me, do you think she will insist that I visit her after my college entrance examination or let me wait by the side at the hospital for nothing? You're also an uncle from our quad. Don't worry. Regarding your 'extreme kindness' today, I will definitely remember you forever!"

There were so many coincidences today. Her mother met with a car accident in front of Ping Cheng High School's entrance. This should also be part of the 'coincidences', right?

"Why are you talking so much nonsense!" Nan Nan was a child and it was not appropriate for her to be rude to the elder. Nevertheless, he was of the same seniority as the neighbor. The neighbor was holding Nan Nan back from taking the college entrance examination. Did he have the gall of a leopard?

Qiao Dongliang's face turned sullen. With a twist, he clamped the neighbor down, just like how Shi Qing dealt with the thief earlier.

Everyone was not young and the joints were no longer that flexible. The neighbor's face turned as white as a sheet immediately and he screamed in pain. The thief shrank his neck as he could completely empathize with this. He dared not even try to recollect the feeling. It was akin to losing his soul.

“Old Qiao, we’re long-time neighbors. Can you go easy on me? Clearly, you’ve always been so polite.” Even gentle and indecisive.

Qiao Dongliang sneered. “You are taking my politeness as your fortune. You seem to have forgotten that I was from the army. I can’t deal with too many people. Nevertheless, it’s a piece of cake for me to deal with one or two of you. The thief won’t be able to escape. You’re someone from the quad. After today, I will definitely pay you a visit to ‘thank you’ properly next time!”

Qiao Dongliang kicked away the old neighbor. He then took off his outer shirt and tied the thief up.

After knowing that something was amiss with today’s matter, would Qiao Dongliang still be so polite to others?

That aura of his seemed like he would chase after anyone and kill them regardless of who they were.

The neighbor landed on his buttocks with a hard fall and the end of his spine felt a little painful. He was so furious and he grimaced in agony. Suddenly, he shouted loudly, “The family of the woman being knocked down is here. Here are her husband and daughter. Hurry, the family members have to keep the victim company. The victim is badly injured.”

“Where are the family members? Quickly get into the car!” The doctor and nurses also broke out in a sweat. At the sight of the victim who was seriously injured, they quickly tried to stop the bleeding for Ding Jiayi.

“Hurry, Old Qiao, quickly bring Nan Nan over. Can everyone please make way? Make way, please? Saving a life is akin to putting out a fire. Let the victim’s family go over.” As the neighbor talked, he even dragged Qiao Dongliang toward Ding Jiayi’s direction with strength, and the swarming crowd also pushed Qiao Dongliang and Shi Qing in that direction.

“Don’t squeeze. Everyone, please don’t squeeze and step on others. Take your time!” When Shi Peng saw the situation, twenty minutes had already passed. However, the size of the crowd on the street had not reduced at all. What was happening? “Secretary Feng, what is happening? Why isn’t the crowd on the street dispersing? How are we going to resume the traffic?”

Secretary Feng was continuously wiping away his sweat. “We are already giving directions to disperse the crowd. The strange thing is that these people seem as though they are in for a good show. They refuse to move away. Our people have no way with them too.”

“Then, where’s the police?”

“A few came just now. As the police are here, they managed to disperse a few people. Fortunately, this is not a key traffic area. Otherwise, there would be greater issues.”

Ring! Ring! Ring! The people around the school could clearly hear the anxious ring of the bell in Ping Cheng High School.

Qiao Nan and Shi Qing’s expressions changed greatly. Shi Qing said anxiously, “Qiao Nan, this is the first bell!” If they did not manage to enter the examination hall in ten minutes, they would have to take the examination next year.

Upon hearing what Shi Qing said, Qiao Dongliang’s eyes were red with hatred.

He could not think of who the Qiao family had offended that the other party had to be so merciless in harming Qiao Nan such that she could not take the college entrance examination this year.

If not for the fact that Qiao Dongliang had been a soldier and had been restraining himself with the sense of justice that told him not to act rashly, Qiao Dongliang would have liked to go crazy for once at this moment. He wanted to beat down everyone that was standing in Qiao Nan and his way. Why were they so noisy?

“Wow, a green jeep?!”

Shi Qing was so anxious that she was perspiring badly. Beads of sweat were dripping from her head, drenching her clothes and blurring her eyes.

Fortunately, although her eyes were flooded by tears, her eyesight was still as good. Hence, she could clearly see two green jeeps coming toward them on the road. On each jeep, there were more than ten soldiers wearing the camouflage army uniform.

These soldiers’ uniforms were straight and neat; the collars also seemed quite stiff.

The first one that came down from the front passenger seat was Zhai Sheng. He was wearing the green camouflage army uniform and a green military cap. His eyes were strict and his expression solemn. Those thin lips of his were pursed and the thick and dark eyebrows knitted, expressing his state of mind and the severity of the current situation.

As Zhai Sheng alighted from the green jeep, that unique aura and murderous feel of a soldier immediately made the few who were near him as silent as the cicadas during the winter. They shrank their necks like small quails and abidingly moved out of the way for Zhai Sheng.

At one glance, Zhai Sheng saw Qiao Nan, who was looking anxious. His frown deepened. "Where's the police?"

"Here, here!" When those from the police station saw that the officer from the army was also here, their previously warm sweat turned into cold ones.

"Summon all the policemen from the nearby stations."

"Reporting, officer, they've already been summoned. See, they are here!" Fortunately, at this time, the sirens of police cars could be heard as they arrived. The chief of the police station wiped his sweat as he heaved a sigh of relief.

Zhai Sheng took a glance. "Now, how many people do you have? To disperse a small group each."

"We are unable to disperse them!" The chief of the police station was also in a difficult position. These people seemed to be playing a game, or rather, they were in guerrilla warfare with them.

Chapter 762 Zhai Sheng Saved the Day

When they dispersed a group of people, the same group moved to another place in the crowd. When the group was dispersed again, they returned to the original place where they were first dispersed.

"They can't be dispersed? These people are disrupting the safety and order of society. They should be arrested to teach them a lesson!"

"The law cannot be enforced when everyone is an offender." The chief of the police station revealed a smile that was uglier than a cry.

Upon hearing the words of the chief of the police station, the slight fear that the ordinary citizens felt when they heard that they would be detained by committing such acts vanished. They became more arrogant instead.

Wasn't that so? There were so many people. How were they going to arrest them all?

Zhai Sheng shouted coldly, "The law cannot be enforced when everyone is an offender? It also doesn't mean that they should not be punished. Disperse immediately. The initial action is to disperse. Those whom you have dispersed earlier but appear again, each police officer will simply arrest five of them and fine them 300 yuan each. For those who resist, each police officer will arrest two of them and fine them 500 yuan each. If anyone retaliates or attacks the police officers, they should be detained for a period and fined an amount in accordance with the law. Also, if these people are employees, simply report this matter to their respective employers. Intentionally stirring up troubles, disrupting the peace of the society, refusing to obey law and regulations, and going against the law by attacking the police—all these will result in severe punishments. Police officers, army officers, and law are meant to protect and defend the interests of legitimate citizens who are law-abiding. These resources are not for these mobs to abuse!"

"Yes, officer!" Earlier, the chief of the police station did not dare to do this as they were afraid of bearing the responsibility. If the matter were to blow up, they would be easily accused by public opinions, saying that they had gone overboard or something.

Now, this officer had given orders and he would bear the consequences if there were any issues. He just had to follow the orders and carry out the tasks accordingly.

The police officers who had just arrived happened to hear Zhai Sheng's orders. Hence, without any word, they started to deal with the traffic flow.

More than ten people who were standing around Zhai Sheng ran away in fear when they heard clearly what Zhai Sheng said.

They were paid at most fifty yuan for their labor to stand here for half a day. If they were arrested, taken to the police station, and fined hundreds of yuan, the money that they earned was not even enough to cover their fine. In addition, they had to bear the heat of the sun for half a day. After suffering, they still had to pay for it. Only a fool would continue to stay.

"Make way."

“Yes, Regiment Commander Zhai.” Thirty soldiers alighted from the jeeps. Under the orders of Zhai Sheng, they formed two lines with a distance of about two meters between every two soldiers. If anyone dared to break through the soldiers’ line of defense, the latter could easily grab the collar of the offender with one hand and fling them to the police without a word.

The police officers also understood what was expected. Without any words of exchange and without giving a second chance, they would catch hold of the offender and immediately push them into the police car.

It was not only that. There were many police officers but very few police cars.

Hence, the police officers even mobilized the four-wheeled cars of families nearby who were not involved in the commotion to help them send the people to the police stations for fining.

With one wave, Zhai Sheng offered the green jeep.

A typical car could at most sit a few people while there was no problem at all for the green jeep that Zhai Sheng drove here to sit ten or twenty people. Its one trip was equivalent to four or five trips with the police car.

Killing one to cause fear in the rest.

With this kind of swift and sweeping action, within five minutes, thirty soldiers had immediately paved two ways out.

One path was a direct route to the entrance of Ping Cheng High School, while the other path was to the scene of the car accident.

If there were any areas with insufficient manpower, those men brought by Shi Peng immediately made up for it. Under the collaborative efforts of government, police, and the army, the entrance of the school that was disorderly and messy a second ago quieted down immediately.

“Students who are taking the college entrance examination, please enter the school now!”

Under the order of Zhai Sheng, the students, including Qiao Nan and Shi Qing, immediately entered the route for the students.

After all, the first bell had already rung. Many students from other schools who were stuck at the entrance had been crying due to anxiety. Without a word, they rushed into the school and hoped to reach the examination hall within the remaining period of ten minutes.

“Nan Nan, Shi Qing, quickly, the two of you.” Qiao Dongliang heaved a sigh of relief as he hurried the two young ladies into the path for the students.

“Aye.” Shi Qing wiped the sweat off her face and pulled Qiao Nan along as she ran. She had glanced at the time. There were only three minutes left.

Fortunately, all the students had already familiarized themselves with the location of the examination hall before the examination. They ran toward their respective examination halls without the need to search for them. Otherwise, these three minutes would be terrible.

At the last minute, Qiao Nan managed to rush to the examination hall with her hair drenched and plastered to her face.

“You’ve finally arrived. Fortunately, fortunately. Hurry, come in!” The invigilator was apparently aware of the commotion at the school’s entrance. The people in the school had also tried to make arrangements for the students to come in but to no avail.

Notwithstanding the students, the teachers in the school were also anxious.

Fortunately, with the group of students that streamed in, many teachers heaved a huge sigh of relief.

If the students taking the college entrance examination at Ping Cheng High School this year did not do well as they lost the rights to take the examination, there would be major implications. It would be a big issue and many people would be criticized, punished, and even demoted.

“Thank you, teacher.” Qiao Nan gasped. She could feel her heart thumping loudly in her chest.

“Don’t mention it. Calm down. Don’t be nervous and don’t panic. When you receive the papers later, review the questions carefully and don’t be anxious to attempt the questions.” Toward those with special circumstances and had just arrived at the examination hall, the invigilators were more lenient.

Ten minutes ago, the number of students who did not turn up was not just one, two, three, or four. The head of the invigilators at Ping Cheng High School had contacted the Education Bureau immediately to check with the director of the Education Bureau on how to resolve the problem.

After taking out the exam admission ticket and the basic stationery, Qiao Nan put down her schoolbag. She then took out her little handkerchief and the medicated oil before she walked back to her seat at the fastest speed.

Qiao Nan first used the water to wet the handkerchief and wiped her sticky and wet face three times.

Coincidentally, the bell rang to signal the start of the examination!

Qiao Nan patted her face a few times to calm herself down, perking herself up and regaining her senses so that she could feel energized to deal with the examinations.

Xu Tingting, who was in the same examination hall as Qiao Nan, was wide-eyed as she stared at Qiao Nan in disbelief. When the first bell rang, she had thought that there would be no chance for Qiao Nan to enter the examination hall. How did she come in?

Compared to Qiao Nan who was gradually calming down, Xu Tingting was feeling both angry and resentful.

There is a saying which suggested that there's an occasion of reaching a state where there are favorable climate and geographical position and the support of the people.

Xu Tingting had felt that today was the day that all things were in her favor. Qiao Nan, this arrogant and boastful woman, was finally having her well-deserved retribution and could not participate in the college entrance examination anymore.

With one less major opponent such as Qiao Nan, it did not matter even though she might not fare better than others.

Chapter 763 Arrived in Time

As long as she could get into a top tier key university earlier than Qiao Nan, she would have won against Qiao Nan in this lifetime. Qiao Nan would not be able to make a comeback anymore.

In the heat of things, who would have expected that Qiao Nan would rush in during the last three minutes?

When Qiao Nan received the examination papers and was reviewing the questions, Xu Tingting was still in a daze. She was thinking about how Qiao Nan managed to enter the school when so many people did not manage to do so. Had wings grown on Qiao Nan and so she flew into the school?

When the teacher announced that they could start to attempt the questions, Xu Tingting was not even holding her pen.

When the examination began, the invigilator paid more attention to those students who came in during the last three minutes. They were observing their state of mind and if they were calm enough to take the test.

After confirming the extent to which these students were affected, they then began to invigilate the rest of the students in the entire classroom.

After one round of invigilation, five minutes had passed and the teacher discovered that Xu Tingting had not penned anything despite having held the examination paper for five minutes.

The teacher knocked on Xu Tingting's table with his finger. "Student, please quickly make use of the limited time to attempt the questions."

After saying that, the invigilator left.

Xu Tingting jumped in shock. Panic filled her eyes as she quickly lifted her pen and attempted the papers directly without even reviewing first.

During the college entrance examination, gel pens were used. They were different from pencils in which the writings could be erased with an eraser and rewritten.

The more Xu Tingting panicked and answered the questions without preparation, the more hiccups occurred. She had already made a few mistakes in her writing after answering a few questions.

For the humanities examination, there were marks awarded for keeping the handwriting neat and papers tidy. One could attain about two marks if they were neat when attempting the questions.

People like Xu Tingting who made many corrections would no longer be able to receive any of such marks.

When Qiao Nan was working hard in the examination hall, Shi Peng and Zhai Sheng were also busy. Qiao Dongliang pulled that thief caught by Shi Qing directly to Shi Peng and Zhai Sheng. “He is a thief. He only tried to steal from Nan Nan and not anyone else.”

As soon as they heard Qiao Dongliang’s words, both Shi Peng and Zhai Sheng felt that something was amiss.

Undoubtedly, Qiao Dongliang was the one who sent Qiao Nan and Shi Qing to school for the examination.

With this trio, it was impossible that the thief would set his eyes on Qiao Nan.

“If Shi Qing had not caught him, he would have stolen Nan Nan’s examination admission ticket!” At the mention of this, Qiao Dongliang could not help giving the thief a few punches. The thief simply wailed in pain.

“Arrest him and interrogate him thoroughly.” Zhai Sheng already sensed that this so-called incident was clearly a masterminded acclivity.

If he had not given the orders for those who were caught twice to be fined, those people would not even be willing to leave. It was not because they wanted to join the crows. They would simply refuse to leave.

Who would one drop one’s proper work and come here to ‘sunbathe’ in such hot weather?

Fortunately, the people who were involved in the commotion today were ordinary citizens. After arresting a group of them, it would not be difficult to investigate this matter thoroughly.

“Rest assured, officer. We will definitely ‘entertain’ them properly. They actually harbored ill intentions on the buds of our motherland. In particular, it’s the college entrance examination today. We definitely can’t spare them lightly.” The chief of the police station nearly rolled up his sleeves and expressed that he would definitely go all out regarding this.

“Please don’t...” The thief was very frightened. “I, I’m not going to the police station. I, I didn’t steal anything.”

“But you’ve been caught red-handed. There are both a witness and proof. Be more honest. You can’t escape from this!” The chief of the police station got someone to cuff the thief up immediately. “Officer, please rest assured. We will definitely get to the bottom of this matter. Once we have the findings, we will report to you immediately.”

“Call this number.” Zhai Sheng passed his office number to the chief.

The chief took a glance and straightened himself respectfully. “Officer, please rest assured. I will certainly do.”

“Be honest and get into the car now.” The police officer immediately shoved the thief into the police car. “You dared to lay your hands on a student taking the college entrance examination. You’re so daring. You’re of this age and not married yet, right? You did something so mean. When you are married and have kids in the future, and your kids encounter the same thing during their college entrance examination, that will be your retribution!”

“Regiment Commander Zhai, Officer Shi, I, I’ll make a trip to the hospital.” After handing the thief to the police officer, Qiao Dongliang certainly felt more assured. However, he had not forgotten about the person who had caused this traffic jam today. It was Ding Jiayi, the wife that he had separated from for two years.

After the crowd was dispersed, Qiao Dongliang could clearly see a pool of red and eye-catching blood on the ground.

They had been married for more than a decade. Even if Ding Jiayi did not have any conscience, Qiao Dongliang could not bring himself to helplessly watch Ding Jiayi die.

Shi Peng knitted his brows and took out two hundred yuan immediately. “I only have this much on me. Take them first. If it’s not enough, I’ll send you more later.”

Shi Peng had already heard that the woman who was sent to hospital was the 'masked' Ding Jiayi of the Qiao family, the wife of Qiao Dongliang whom he had not met.

"I..." Qiao Dongliang's face swelled and turned crimson immediately. He felt ashamed to take these two hundred yuan from Shi Peng or wait for Shi Peng to send him money. Even if the money was borrowed, he did not have the shame to take them.

It was not because of other reasons. It was obvious that everything that happened today was targeted at Qiao Nan. Someone wanted to harm Qiao Nan and make her miss the college entrance examination.

As Shi Qing was always together with Qiao Nan, Shi Qing was directly implicated and nearly could not make it in time for the college entrance examination. At this juncture, Qiao Dongliang just felt ashamed when he saw Shi Peng.

In addition, Ding Jiayi's accident was used by someone as an excuse to drag down Qiao Nan and they insisted that she followed Ding Jiayi to the hospital.

It was obvious from various clues that Ding Jiayi's appearance itself entailed a very big problem.

After connecting the dots and recollecting all the previous deeds of Ding Jiayi to make Qiao Nan quit school, Qiao Dongliang felt that he had a reason to suspect that it was highly probable that Ding Jiayi was the mastermind behind all that happened today.

If he had guessed it correctly, if those who had been arrested earlier only needed to pay a fine and leave the police station thereafter, then, given Ding Jiayi's crime, she must be detained at the police station for at least a few days.

"It's fine. Hurry and take it. I will get someone to help at Qiao Nan and Shi Qing's side. Do whatever you should now. Qiao Nan is a sensible and obedient child. She won't be unhappy that you're not around. Furthermore, she should have already been used to such situations." The flaring Shi Peng also put all the blame on Ding Jiayi.

For the sake of letting Qiao Nan miss taking the college entrance examination, Ding Jiayi, this mother, could use all ways and means. These methods made people boil with anger!

Regardless of how angry he was, on the account of giving Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang face, Shi Peng had to offer the money.

He could not possibly let the reporters make news headlines such as a heartless daughter did not care about the life and death of her mother, choosing her future over her dying mother by taking the college entrance examination. This kind of news had an adverse influence on society.

Chapter 764 Indeed, It Was Him

As a government official of Ping Cheng, of course, Shi Peng had to think of ways to prevent such untrue and adverse news at all means.

“Thank you.” Indeed, Qiao Dongliang did not bring much money with him. In order to save up for Qiao Nan’s college fees, Qiao Dongliang never carried more than twenty yuan with him.

After taking the money from Shi Peng, Qiao Dongliang rushed to the hospital immediately. He then paid to the hospital the two hundred yuan that Shi Peng lent him for Ding Jiayi’s medical expenses.

Obviously, if Ding Jiayi’s injuries were very severe, two hundred yuan was grossly inadequate.

When Qiao Dongliang was hospitalized for a similar situation previously, the expenses were about a thousand to two thousand yuan.

After Qiao Dongliang left, Shi Peng then looked at Zhai Sheng. “What are your thoughts on this matter?”

“It’s not done by Ding Jiayi.”

“What proof do you have?” Why did he sound so certain?

“Ding Jiayi wouldn’t run to the main road alone to be knocked down by a car just to let Nan Nan quit school. In her eyes, she’s the jade and Nan Nan is the tile.”

“...” All of a sudden, Shi Peng felt that he could not refute this. “If it’s not Ding Jiayi, then who would stir up so much trouble just to deal with one Qiao Nan?”

Given today's situation-manpower, resources, finance-none of these was dispensable.

In other words, the person who wanted to deal with Qiao Nan was not a simple figure.

“Have you forgotten? Among the people that you know, one of them is capable of doing so.” Zhai Sheng's eyes looked very gloomy and dark. He had many suspects in his mind.

“Who?” It did not come to Shi Peng's mind initially but he had a realization thereafter. “Are you saying that it's Qiu Chenxi?!”

Certainly, if it was Qiu Chenxi, she would certainly be able to do this if she was willing to.

Ring! The cell phone in Shi Peng's pocket rang. Secretary Feng was the one who made the call. “Director Shi, we've already interrogated them. All of them gave the same statement. They said someone paid them fifty yuan and told them that they had to stand in front of Ping Cheng High School's entrance no matter what, and they could only leave after half-past nine.”

“Okay, I got it. You've worked hard. You can come back.” Shi Peng was not surprised by this answer. “Secretary Feng called and said that these people were indeed paid to do this. The average monthly wage of an individual is only a hundred or two hundred yuan. Someone is willing to pay them half a month's wages to invite them to stand under the sun for half a day. It's no wonder so many people came.”

“...” Counting the number of people present earlier, the money dumped in today was enough to buy more than one house in Ping Cheng. This person had really gone all out. “Besides Qiu Chenxi, there's another person who is very suspicious.”

“Who?”

“Qiao Zijin, Nan Nan's biological sister. She has been living together with Ding Jiayi. Ding Jiayi has not appeared for more than two years and Qiao Zijin not more than a year. Last year, Qiao Zijin took the college entrance examination for college admission but she didn't once look for Uncle Qiao. With Ding Jiayi one woman alone, it's very tough to raise Qiao Zijin and herself, let alone let Qiao Zijin continue her studies in a college. It is already strange enough that Ding Jiayi, after disappearing for more than two years, appeared today in front of Ping Cheng High School. Nan Nan told me before that Ding Jiayi listens very much to Qiao Zijin. Hence, the reason that Ding Jiayi would come here should be related to Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin didn't appear...”

“She’s hiding in a dark spot then?!” Shi Peng narrowed his eyes. His sharp eyes that resembled those of an eagle were scanning the dead-end corners surrounding the main street, wanting to search out Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin was so frightened by those extremely sharp eyes of Shi Peng that her heart almost jumped out of her chest.

Qiao Zijin squatted down. She dared not peek at Shi Peng and Zhai Shen anymore. Instead, she waited quietly for these people to leave.

After some time, Qiao Zijin then took out her cell phone and redialed a certain telephone number. “Our greatest fear has come true. My mom has been sent to the hospital by someone else. Now, my dad is bringing some money to the hospital to see my mom. As for Qiao Nan...”

Clearly, they had spent so much effort. How was it possible that Qiao Nan could still enter Ping Cheng High School and participate in the college entrance examination?!

“Zhai Sheng appeared?” Chen Jun sneered. Among the people that Qiao Nan knew, Zhu Baoguo was a kid that had not grown up. He even needed Qiao Nan to help him. Hence, Zhu Baoguo did not have the capability to help Qiao Nan resolve any real problems.

Besides Zhu Baoguo, Chen Jun could only think of Zhai Sheng, who had both the capability and resources.

“It’s not just Zhai Sheng. There’s another person who’s a government official. I heard them address him as Director Shi or something. Who is he?” One year ago, she had never seen this man when she went to the small courtyard of the Qiao family. “This man is the one who gave my dad the money for my mom’s hospitalization expenses. He’s so generous. He offered two hundred yuan just like that.” Her mother worked hard during the day and stayed late at night. Despite this, she might not even earn two hundred yuan a month.

“Someone with the surname Shi?” Chen Jun hesitated for a moment. “How do you feel about this person?” Although Chen Jun had someone in mind that fulfilled Qiao Zijin’s description, he stubbornly refused to acknowledge it and wanted to confirm.

“He gives me the feeling that he’s similar to my dad. Right, oh, I know. Is this person previously from the army?” The charisma that a soldier exuded from his inner self could not be easily emulated by others. It was also something that a soldier himself could not hide.

“True enough, it’s him.” Chen Jun sighed sullenly. “The money that he gave your dad, do you think it’s purely because he’s a government official or...”

“He seems to be on quite good terms with my dad and Qiao Nan. There’s a young lady by Qiao Nan’s side and she’s the daughter of this Director Shi.”

“Hahaha...” Chen Jun felt extremely sore and regretful. The remorse in his heart hit him like huge and raging waves, almost drowning him.

From the moment that he met Qiao Nan, he already knew that she was a useful woman.

Qiao Nan was ultimately a great master. Zhai Sheng took a liking to her, and even a character such as Shi Peng was related to her.

If his plan two years ago was successful, making Qiao Nan his girlfriend, he would have the help of not only the Zhai family but also the Shi family. Did the Chen family still have to worry about their future?

If he had known that today would come, he should have been more caring and meticulous toward Qiao Nan in the past. A stubborn woman would eventually succumb to a persistent man. He should not have simply given up after his thoughts had been exposed by Qiao Nan just once or twice.

If there was another chance, he would definitely use his utmost sincerity to make Qiao Nan become his girlfriend and even his wife!

Qiao Zijin did not know who Shi Peng was but Chen Jun knew.

Chen Jun was even aware that Shi Peng was indispensable to Zhai Sheng, who, despite his young age, could be so successful today.

Shi Peng could nurture another Zhai Sheng as long as he was willing to. Even if Chen Jun could not be the second Zhai Sheng, at the very least, he would only be slightly worse than Zhai Sheng and also become an outstanding soldier or politician!

Chapter 765 Has Not Failed Completely

It was a sheer pity that all these slipped away from him just because Qiao Nan did not become his girlfriend.

If he had known that today would come, he should have learned from Wei De, that son-in-law of the Zhai family. He should have spent more time and effort to sweet-talk Qiao Nan into believing him. After some time, everything would have belonged to him no matter what!

Qiao Zijin broke out in a cold sweat. “You... Why are you laughing?”

The plan was a fiasco. Those people whom they had hired were arrested. Upon interrogation, the truth of the matter would definitely be revealed. After half an hour of torture, Qiao Nan still entered the school eventually and took the college entrance examination.

They had not achieved any of the objectives that they had set out to do. On the other hand, her mother had really been hit by a car and was admitted to the hospital lying down.

At the thought of that pool of blood darkening by the street, Qiao Zijin could not help feeling panic.

Wasn't it supposed to be a minor injury? Why was there so much blood? Would anything happen to her mother?

“I'm not laughing at anything.” Qiao Nan did not have that kind of feeling for him and yet was outstanding beyond his imagination. In fact, she was more stunning than the wife that he had imagined and wished for. Then, at the sight of the Qiao Zijin before him who had feelings for him but performance-wise could not be compared to a single strand of Qiao Nan's hair, Chen Jun felt that destiny was fooling with him.

If these two people's situations were reversed, how great that would be?

“Right, Brother Chen, didn’t you say that you’ll only let my mom suffer some minor injury, that you’ll find someone to look after her and not let anything happen to her? Today, it seems that...” Her mother’s condition was more serious than she had imagined.

“Of course, I will do as I promised you. Why are you interrogating me in this way? Is your mom dead?” He was already annoyed and angry that he let slip such a good lady like Qiao Nan. After all, Qiao Nan’s qualities and conditions were exactly the same as the bride that he had wished for. She was even a little better.

Hence, his temper simply exploded when Qiao Zijin spoke.

“No, Brother Chen, don’t be angry. I know that you’ll definitely be able to carry out what you have promised me. I don’t doubt you. That’s my biological mother after all. At the sight of her lying in a pool of blood and not moving, I, wouldn’t I panic and feel my heart ache?”

In fact, after Ding Jiayi had the car accident, Qiao Zijin had been refraining herself from looking at the scene where Ding Jiayi was lying down and bleeding. She was fearful that it would leave a phobia on her.

“Your heart aches now? You’re panicking now? Before the plan started, I’ve already made everything clear to you. I didn’t lie to you, right?” Chen Jun was full of disdain. Wasn’t this considered shedding crocodile tears? He would not buy this kind of tactic.

If Qiao Nan was the ideal bride in his heart, Qiao Zijin was someone of his kind or even more vicious than him.

Knowing that there would be a car accident, not everyone would dare to lure her own biological mother out for the sake of her own interest. Before the biological mother was going to be knocked down by a car, she did not even remind her mother to be careful on the road or something.

“No, you didn’t lie to me. I, I know all these.” Qiao Zijin wanted to cry but there were no tears. She did not intend to blame Brother Chen. She was just worried about her mother and was frightened by what happened today. She was hoping that Brother Chen would say something nice to console her.

She was not expecting too much. Why did Brother Chen flare up so badly?

“Brother Chen, are you unhappy because all the plans have failed?” Qiao Zijin asked in a cautious manner.

“Partially.” Chen Jun leaned back against his chair. “The plan is not successful. Who can feel happy? Nevertheless, we may not have failed completely. Just wait and see. The show has not ended.”

Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng caused him to be in such dire straits. Zhai Sheng’s status and reputation were too high and he could not deal with or be on par with him. However, who was Qiao Nan? She was a nobody and yet she dared to destroy his many years of effort and hard work.

Qiao Nan made him lost everything painfully. She also caused his father to lose the results of half his lifetime. Therefore, he also wanted to let Qiao Nan experience the same pain and despair of having someone suddenly take away all the interests and good things that were already before one’s eyes!

His admiration for her was a separate issue. He still had feelings of anger and annoyance.

Whether it was the new scores or old hatred, Chen Jun had never forgotten about it for a moment.

Although Qiao Nan had already taken the college entrance examination, he had a backup plan that could make her pay a high price and experience the pain of being compelled to do something against her wishes.

“Brother Chen, so you do have a way. I know that Qiao Nan can forget about being happy again with you around.” When she heard what Chen Jun said, Qiao Zijin felt more assured. She was afraid that Qiao Nan would not lose anything in the end after they had gone through so much trouble. All her effort and hard work would be in vain then. Her mother would have been knocked down by a car for nothing. “Brother Chen, what should I do next?”

“Don’t do anything. Find a place to hide. Unless your mother recovers and can defend you in front of your father, you just have to hide abidingly. The good thing is that it’s summer vacation now and you don’t need to go out. If you don’t listen to me and pretend to be a filial daughter to sabotage Qiao Nan, I can’t guarantee you the final outcome. If any unexpected circumstances arise because of this, you have to be responsible for it too. Understand?”

Ding Jiayi’s lone appearance had already exposed Qiao Zijin, this pawn.

If Qiao Zijin wanted to remain peaceful and well in the hands of Qiao Dongliang without being beaten to death, she would have to wait for Ding Jiayi to regain consciousness to defend her.

Although the plan this time was not successful -in fact, it was not close to perfect at all Qiao Zijin was still of some use at this point in time.

Before Qiao Zijin completely lost her worth and usefulness, of course, he had to protect this pawn.

“Brother Chen, don’t worry. I, I will certainly not do that.” Those little thoughts and cheap tricks of Qiao Zijin which had just arisen in her mind were immediately wiped out by Chen Jun’s words.

“Ha.” Chen Jun sneered. In this world, an intelligent woman was not scary. In fact, she was adorable. However, a woman who was not intelligent but believed herself to be was more scary and detestable!

Upon hearing Chen Jun’s sneer, Qiao Zijin felt her goosebumps rose immediately. She had a feeling that Chen Jun had seen through her mind. “Brother Chen, I...”

“Regardless of what you have been thinking, I only look at what you will do in the future. Understand?” Chen Jun interrupted Qiao Zijin’s words as he could not be bothered to listen to Qiao Zijin’s explanation.

“Brother Chen, rest assured. You... you just have to wait for me to perform.” At this juncture, Qiao Zijin dared not have any further thoughts of her own. She would act according to Chen Jun’s every order. Despite her good intentions, she might end up making more mistakes if she did more things. Chen Jun would feel more annoyed then.

After hanging up the phone call with Chen Jun, Qiao Zijin breathed a sigh of relief.

In the past, when she did not know Chen Jun well, she was full of hope and longing for him. However, after more interactions, Qiao Zijin always felt that she no longer had those initial feelings.

Moreover, she would often fear facing this man whose exterior seemed as warm and sunny as the April sun in spring. It was just very strange.

Chapter 766 Whose Side Are You On?

Among all the men of high social status that she met, Chen Jun had the best temper and the brightest smile. Why would she be fearful of him?

In the meantime, after ending the phone call with Qiao Zijin, Chen Jun dialed another number right away to report the progress. “This is the case... There is no need for you to be angry. Things have not come to an end. We are not defeated. Ding Jiayi is already in the hospital. Her medical fees will cost a lot. But do the Qiao family have the money? Regardless of how close Ding Jiayi is with Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan, if they leave Ding Jiayi in the hospital and do not take care of her, all I have to do is to tell a reporter about this and their reputation will be tarnished. They can no longer stay in Ping Cheng. By then, you will attain your goal. Even if Qiao Nan and Qiao Dongliang have no choice but to take care of Ding Jiayi, the problem is, do they have the ability to take care of her?”

The other party seemed to be appeased for the time being at Chen Jun’s words and was not as agitated as before.

“Yes, you can rest assured that Qiao Nan is our common enemy. You will not let her off, while I will make sure that she suffers. In fact, apart from Qiao Nan, we have many other things to talk about.”

Chen Jun’s tone changed. There was a hint of romantic feelings in his tone.

No matter how outstanding or brilliant Qiao Nan was, she was his enemy and he could never marry her.

What he wanted was a wife who would be helpful to him and the Chen family. Furthermore, Qiao Nan was guarded closely by Zhai Sheng. He might be daring, but he would never dare to have designs on Qiao Nan. He had already learned his lesson from what happened previously.

Qiao Nan was his first choice as a future wife. It was such a coincidence that now that it was no longer possible to be with her, his second-best candidate appeared right before him.

In the past, she would never take a fancy to him given her social status. However, that was in the past. Right now, if he put in more effort, things might work out between them.

“Hehehe...” Qiu Chenxi smiled dryly. Chen Jun, who was on the other end of the phone, was dealt a harsh blow by her fake smile. “Chen Jun, don’t think of having things that do not belong to you. Don’t make me regret to work with you.”

He was thinking of punching above one’s weight. He must be dreaming!

“Were you the one who looked for me? Why do I remember that I was the one who approached you?” Chen Jun corrected her on purpose.

“Fine! From today onward, I will deal with Qiao Nan by myself. This is the end of our deal!” Qiu Chenxi did not have a good temper. Furthermore, what Chen Jun said was equivalent to poking at her weakness.

Qiu Chenxi had left Ping Cheng for a year. Although she had been behaving herself, she had no intention of giving up on Zhai Sheng. She was merely waiting for the best chance to strike.

Two months ago, Chen Jun went to look for Qiu Chenxi and told her a fact-Qiao Nan was the poor and young girlfriend of Zhai Sheng.

It was conceivable that upon hearing the news, Qiu Chenxi felt as if she was struck by lightning. She took a long time to react.

She had never expected that the vixen whom she had been dying to winkle had been around her all along. In fact, she was the bait that she had been using to lure the vixen!

Therefore, whenever she went to look for Qiao Nan, asking her to tell her who the vixen was, Qiao Nan must be laughing at her foolishness and stupidity.

Right now, Qiu Chenxi recalled that all the information that Qiao Nan had revealed about the vixen matched Qiao Nan very well.

If she had known that Qiao Nan was the vixen, when she treated Shi Qing to a meal, she should have gone all out to destroy Qiao Nan!

“Don’t... don’t be angry. You must know that gentlemen will look for gentle and graceful young ladies to be their wives. It is my right to pursue you, and you can choose to ignore me. It has

nothing to do with our collaboration. If you are not willing, I will not bring it up again. Is that alright?” It would do no good for Chen Jun to provoke Qiu Chenxi.

Furthermore, he was not joking. He was serious about marrying Qiu Chenxi in order to have a brighter future.

He had learned from his experience with Qiao Nan that when pursuing a lady, he must not be impatient. He must put in more effort and show the other party his sincerity.

He had not succeeded in wooing Qiao Nan, let alone Qiu Chenxi, who had always been haughty and arrogant as if she was high up in the air.

No matter whether it was Qiu Chenxi or Qiao Nan, they were not the girls that he used to be with in the past. Those tricks that he used to coax them would not work anymore.

It was true that he had failed to win Qiao Nan’s favor. However, if he was able to learn his lessons and succeed in pursuing Qiu Chenxi, then his failure would be worthwhile. It was a chance for him to learn and understand how to succeed in wooing Qiu Chenxi.

“What should we do next!?” Qiu Chenxi had only one goal in mind when she contacted people like Chen Jun—that was to destroy Qiao Nan-so that she could no longer fight with her for Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng was such a good catch. She could never shortchange herself to be with Chen Jun, who was in all ways worse than him.

Qiu Chenxi used to be with Zhai Sheng, the perfect man. She would never take a fancy to people like Chen Jun. If not because of Qiao Nan, she would never be in touch with people like him.

“Don’t worry. According to what I have said just now, Qiao Nan is in deep trouble now. You should understand that money is not everything in this world, but one cannot do without money. Ding Jiayi’s medical fees would amount to a huge sum. With that, Qiao Nan will not have the money to go to college.”

“Zhai Sheng will not leave her in the lurch...” Qiu Chenxi bit her lip. She was very reluctant to admit this fact.

Zhai Sheng really liked Qiao Nan. He would help her in everything that she did.

It was no wonder that when she used to find trouble with Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng would always arrive in time to help her. It turned out that Qiao Nan was the vixen that she was looking for.

All along, she had been fooled by Qiao Nan's good results!

“Help her? It is best that he helps her!” Chen Jun narrowed his eyes. “Qiao Nan's social status and family background are so far off from Zhai Sheng. She must have high self-esteem. If Qiao Nan is willing, Zhai Sheng will definitely help her.”

The Zhai family had no lack of money. It was easy for Zhai Sheng to provide for Qiao Nan.

As long as Qiao Nan was willing, she could lead an easy life. But what happened was the opposite.

Qiao Nan had been studying hard and working hard, tutoring students, in order to earn money for her school fees. She was trying her best not to rely too much on others.

Qiao Nan might seem to be frail and weak, but she was still young. She had high self-esteem and was eager to succeed.

“Are you on my side or on Qiao Nan's side? Why are you saying all these to hurt me?” Why was it that after being with Zhai Sheng for so many years, he was not the slightest bit concerned about her?

Chapter 767 Blood Transfusion at No Cost

In the blink of an eye, Zhai Sheng showered Qiao Nan with love and concern, shielding her from all worries and problems, helping her whenever she needed him.

“Don't be angry. I am just telling the truth.” Chen Jun was both amused and exasperated at her words. Qiu Chenxi had a nasty temper. Zhai Sheng, who came from a better family background, must have a temper as well. There was no need for him to tolerate her temper.

It was no wonder that although Qiu Chenxi knew Zhai Sheng before Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan, the 'Cinderella', won Zhai Sheng's affection in the end.

“You should know very well that Qiao Nan is very smart. If you want to deal with her, you must not be anxious. You must maintain your calm and composure. What I mean is that it is to our advantage that Zhai Sheng will do his best to help Qiao Nan. Two years ago, Qiao Dongliang was sent to the hospital after he got into a car accident. Back then, the medical fees were paid by Zhai Sheng. Although it was said that Zhai Sheng lent them the money, it has been two years and Qiao Nan has not returned the money to him. If my source is correct, Zhai Hua even made use of this to dig at Qiao Nan.”

Of course, after which Zhai Sheng got back at Zhai Hua on behalf of Qiao Nan.

However, Chen Jun kept this from Qiu Chenxi, lest she blew her top and lost her sanity.

When Qiu Chenxi heard that Zhai Sheng went to Ping Cheng in two military cars today and had with him thirty soldiers to control the situation and make the way for Qiao Nan to enter the school, she was so furious that she smashed the phone.

There was a buzzing sound before the phone went dead.

When Qiu Chenxi reconnected the call, she had switched to a cell phone.

“...” Qiu Chenxi took a deep breath and tightened her grip on the cell phone. “I understand what you mean. Alright, we will continue with our collaboration.”

“It’s good that you feel that we can continue with our plans. I will hang up first. I will contact you if anything crops up.” It would take time to win Qiu Chenxi’s affection. Since she disliked the sight of him right now, it was best that he did not push her too hard.

Chen Jun knew that Qiu Chenxi did not like him; in fact, she hated him. He was the person who told her the truth and made her suffer in embarrassment.

Since she was disgusted by him, he was not in a hurry to pursue her.

No matter what, it was impossible for Zhai Sheng to like Qiu Chenxi and she would not like anyone besides Zhai Sheng. Therefore, he had lots of time to move Qiu Chenxi with his sincerity.

Qiu Chenxi hung up the phone on him.

Chen Jun smiled at Qiu Chenxi's ruthlessness and heartlessness. He had already failed to win Qiao Nan's affection. He would not fail the second time. He would make Qiu Chenxi fall in love with him.

No matter how arrogant and haughty Qiu Chenxi was, he would make her fall for him sooner or later!

Chen Jun's expression turned cold at that thought. "Come in."

"What's the matter?"

"Go to the hospital and keep an eye on Ding Jiayi. I want you to give me a detailed report of her injuries. You have to bear in mind that if her injuries are not serious, try to make sure that she spends a longer time in the hospital. I want her to spend a bomb on her hospital bills. Do you understand my meaning?"

"Yes." What he meant was to aggravate Ding Jiayi's condition on the premise that she would not die.

"Go on."

"Yes."

While Chen Jun carried out his plan with Qiu Chenxi on the sly, Qiao Nan had finally finished her first exam.

When Qiao Nan came out of the examination hall, her clothes were so wet that they were plastered to her back.

"Qiao Nan, how did you do for the exams?" Shi Qing had already been waiting for Qiao Nan at the exit.

“Judging from your looks, you were not affected by what happened this morning?” Qiao Nan smiled. Indeed, Shi Qing could withstand mental stress. But she had implicated the rest of the candidates.

“Of course not. I am my dad’s daughter, and I grew up in the army since a young age. I have seen lots of more intense and chaotic situations in the past.” Shi Qing patted her chest with a look of pride on her face.

“Okay, let’s go to have our meals. There is another exam in the afternoon.” Qiao Nan urged Shi Qing to stop thinking about it. Since it was over, they should not think about it or check the answers. It was more important to calm oneself down and prepare for the next exam.

When Shi Qing and Qiao Nan came out of the examination hall, both Qiao Dongliang and Shi Peng were not around.

If not for the sudden and urgent situation today, Shi Peng would not hurry to the school.

Since the crowd in front of Ping Cheng High School had been dispersed, Shi Peng had to return to his work and continue with his duties. He was a government official. As a party member, he had to serve the people.

Therefore, they were not surprised when they did not see their fathers. They had intended to have their lunch together.

Perhaps it was due to what happened in the morning. Although the crowd was dispersed, there were a few security officers at the school entrance.

Other than Ping Cheng High School, the government had sent people to be on guard at the other examination venues in all districts. This was to prevent the incident at Ping Cheng High School this morning from happening again.

“You are here.” The two of them were about to walk toward the canteen when they saw Zhai Sheng. He had changed out of his military uniform into casual clothes.

“Brother Zhai, why have you not gone back?” Qiao Nan was surprised. “I suppose the soldiers have already left?” She thought that Brother Zhai had left with the soldiers.

“As a family member of the exam candidate, I certainly have to stay.” Zhai Sheng took the schoolbag from Qiao Nan. “Are you on the way to the canteen to have your meal?”

“...” Shi Qing had enough of their public display of affection. She was so full that she did not need to have her lunch.

“Yes,” Qiao Nan replied. “My dad...”

“He has gone to the hospital to check on Auntie Ding. Her injuries are quite serious.”

“...” Qiao Nan clasped her forehead in exasperation. Her mother was hurt badly. She would need a lot of money for her operations, medicine, and blood transfusion. It would be similar to the amount of money that they spent when her father was hospitalized back then.

But somehow, when she was spotted by the neighbor and was almost being dragged to the hospital in the morning, she felt particularly assured that her mother was not in a critical condition.

She knew that no matter how serious her mother’s injuries were, it would not be life-threatening.

Since her mother was not in a critical condition, she could sit for her exam with a peaceful mind.

Now that she had finished the exams, she had the time to worry about the huge amount of money that they needed to spend this time.

It was no wonder that it had been more than a year but Qiao Zijin never appeared to ask her father for money. She had planned to use this money for her mother’s medical bills...

“Do not worry.” Zhai Sheng touched Qiao Nan’s ponytail lightly. “When the thirty soldiers that I brought with me today heard that Teacher Xiao Qiao’s mom was in a car accident and needed a blood transfusion, all of them went to the hospital to donate blood before going back to the camp.”

Chapter 768 Zhai Sheng Was the Powerful Assurance

“Really?!” Shi Qing’s eyes lit up. She was more excited than Qiao Nan. “In this case, no one can say that Qiao Nan is cold-blooded. Do you know that the former neighbor we caught was so terrible

to say that Qiao Nan disregarded her mother's condition and insisted on sitting for the college entrance examination? He insisted that Qiao Nan went to the hospital to donate blood to her."

Today was the day they had their college entrance examination. If Qiao Nan went to the hospital, she would not make it in time for her exams.

If she donated blood to her mother, not only would she miss two subjects today, but she would also not be in her best condition to sit for the two other subjects' exams tomorrow.

"I know." There was a cold glitter in Zhai Sheng's eyes.

"Other people will always protect their children. In the Qiao family, it is Qiao Nan who helps her mom. Argh..." Shi Qing felt unjust on Qiao Nan's behalf. The Qiao family's situation was indeed rare.

In general, other people would render their help to someone else's children on account of their parents.

But for the case of the Qiao family, people rendered help to Qiao Nan's mother on account of Qiao Nan.

It was the other way round.

"Alright, say no more lest we lose our appetite." Qiao Nan was relieved that the soldiers donated blood to Ding Jiayi on account of her.

At the very least, she had done what she should be doing as a daughter.

"Brother Zhai, what happened today was very strange. Have you made a thorough investigation? My dad will not just brush it off, will he? If he does that, I will settle with him at home!" Her father was supposed to serve the people. Qiao Nan was part of the citizens of China. Her father had to serve her as well.

Her father had to defend the people's interests!

“Does Director Shi need his daughter to remind him?” Zhai Sheng glanced askance at Shi Qing. “We have already started to conduct the investigations. Most of the people were dispersed, but we have caught several of them, especially the thief. We will focus our investigations on him. He will not get away.”

“Qiao Nan, all of them are after you. Do you have any suspects in mind?” The three of them took their meals and sat down. Zhai Sheng took two bowls of soup for Qiao Nan and himself. As for Shi Qing, she had to take care of herself.

Shi Qing rolled her eyes at Zhai Sheng, but she still went to take a bowl of soup for herself. She did not harbor any hopes that Zhai Sheng would remember that she was his younger sister and his little junior.

“There are only those few people who want to get back at me.” Qiao Nan drank the soup that Zhai Sheng took for her to hydrate herself.

Zhai Sheng made use of the time to refill Qiao Nan’s drinking cup with warm water and placed it next to her. She had finished the water in the morning.

“Since your mom is here, what about your sister?”

“She must be here to watch the show. If not, my mom would not be here at Ping Cheng High School at this timing. In this world, Qiao Zijin is the only person who can order my mom around. I can’t do it, and my dad can’t do it as well.” After finishing the soup, Qiao Nan started to eat her rice.

“However, there are so many people this morning. They would not have followed the orders to block the streets for nothing. They must have stood to gain from this. Qiao Zijin does not have so much money, and she may be ruthless, but she is timid. Although she doesn’t mind that Mom gets into an accident, she will not be so vicious to arrange for the accident to happen.”

Of course, if someone else arranged the accident, or if it was really an accident, Qiao Zijin was someone who would watch by the side and pretended that she knew nothing.

“Qiao Zijin is working with someone.” This person was very rich.

Shi Qing stared at Zhai Sheng after figuring that out. “Brother Zhai, after spending so much time to interrogate the people that you have caught, have you found out anything from them?”

“...” Zhai Sheng stretched out his hand with an open palm.

“Fifty yuan? The person is very generous.” Qiao Nan curled the corners of her lips. It seemed that Qiao Zijin was working with a tycoon.

If it was the year 2000, people would generally have a pay of around a few hundred yuan. Today, they only needed to crowd around on the street and they would be awarded half a month of salary. It was no wonder that so many people turned up on the street.

“...Fifty. The person is very generous.” Shi Qing had to admit that the mastermind must be a tycoon.

Qiao Nan could not help but yawn. “Alright, let’s not talk about this. We will do a thorough check. When we finish the college entrance examination, we can do investigations. I have finished eating, but I feel sleepy.”

“You should go back to your dormitory to have a nap.” Zhai Sheng suggested.

“What about you?” Boys were forbidden from entering the girls’ dormitory. Even if Brother Zhai said that he was one of the parents of the exam candidates, he would not be allowed entry. There were many other students at the school now.

“I’m okay. I can find a place to rest.” Zhai Sheng sounded as if he was very easy-going and could rest anywhere.

“That’s right. Qiao Nan, let’s go back to the dormitory to take a nap. Now that you have mentioned it, I feel sleepy as well. Those exam candidates who are assigned to our school could only rest in the big classroom. Since this is our school, we can rest at our dormitory.”

Qiao Nan felt sorry that there was no place that Brother Zhai could rest at. “Brother Zhai, how about you go back to the Zhai family’s residence? You have nothing to do but wait here. You can wait at your house as well.”

Zhai Sheng cleared the table for Qiao Nan. As for Shi Qing, she had to clear them by herself. She had to blame herself for not having a boyfriend. “No, I have to stay at Ping Cheng High School. Alright, since you are sleepy, you should hurry back to the dormitory to rest. As for me, you are not

the only reason that I stay behind. I have to stay in case anything happens in the afternoon. I will then be able to deal with it right away.”

“That’s true. Qiao Nan, hurry up. Let’s go back to the dormitory to take a nap.” Shi Qing caught Zhai Sheng’s eyes. She dared not waste any more time. She pulled Qiao Nan in the direction of the dormitory.

Previously, it was Zhai Sheng who carried Qiao Nan’s schoolbag. Right now, Shi Qing carried her bag under Zhai Sheng’s supervision.

Shi Qing did not know what to say in this awkward situation. “Stop being so long-winded. With Brother Zhai around, do you feel more assured when you sit for the exams? Do you feel that Brother Zhai will definitely settle it for you no matter what happens?”

“That’s true.” Qiao Nan nodded.

What happened in the morning was indeed dangerous. Someone spent a huge sum of money to create trouble for her. Although she had been through rebirth, it was normal for her to feel apprehensive.

But Zhai Sheng made her feel at ease. He was a powerful assurance to her. She could take the exam with a peaceful mind and focused on the exams.

If Zhai Sheng did not turn up today, Qiao Nan was not confident that she would be able to maintain her standard or do better than usual.

Chapter 769 Could Not Stand Others Doing Well

Without Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan might do badly for the important college entrance examination this time.

“It seems that Brother Zhai has a great influence on you.” Shi Qing gently pushed Qiao Nan. “Since he is willing to stay to give you moral support, why do you insist on pushing him away?” Though Brother Zhai said that he stayed behind in case something would happen, Shi Qing did not believe a single word he said.

Those people were after Qiao Nan. What happened in the morning was very serious. It would definitely be on the news today and on the headlines for the newspaper tomorrow.

Even if someone planned this deliberately, they would be fearful of the consequences. They would not have planned another similar event in the afternoon.

The reason why Brother Zhai stayed behind was so that Qiao Nan would be assured and could sit for the college entrance examination with a peace of mind. It was important to have the correct mentality when sitting for the exams. If one had the correct mindset, one might be able to perform better than usual.

Because of what happened today and the issue of whether Zhai Sheng should stay, Shi Qing realized that Zhai Sheng was a powerful assurance to Qiao Nan. This was the first time that she felt that Zhai Sheng was not the only person who cared very much for Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan might seem to be tough on the outside, but in fact, she was very attached to Zhai Sheng. She relied on him and had the utmost trust in him.

Brother Zhai was like an anchor that provided assurance and confidence to Qiao Nan.

“Brother Zhai is an adult. He can decide for himself what to do. You do not need to worry about him. Alright, I have to sleep. I am very sleepy.” Shi Qing pushed Qiao Nan back to the dormitory.

“I feel sleepy too.” Qiao Nan yawned. Fang Fang and the rest of them had already returned to the dormitory. All of them were busy reading and revising.

“Well, since you are going to sleep, I will sleep as well. I will wake you up before the exams.” Shi Qing felt well-prepared for the exams as well. There was no need for her to do a last-minute reading. She was indeed sleepy and was not merely coaxing Qiao Nan. Upon returning to her dormitory, she lay down and fell asleep.

It was the same for Qiao Nan. She went back to her dormitory, took off her shoes, and went to sleep.

Tang Mengran turned to look at Qiao Nan after she had fallen asleep. “Nan Nan seemed to be very tired.”

“She is not tired but in a shock. Anyone would feel this way after what happened outside the school this morning.” Tao Zhenqin had a terrible headache.

The five of them had agreed that if Nan Nan came back for a nap in the afternoon like usual, they would not bring up what happened in the morning, lest they reminded her of it and she was scared once again after recalling it.

“I...” Zheng Lingling hesitated. She heard that the person who was hit in the traffic accident this morning seemed to be Qiao Nan’s mother. She had been away for two years.

Fang Fang pulled Zheng Lingling’s sleeves, gesturing for her to say no more. Did she not see that Qiao Nan had fallen asleep?

It would upset Qiao Nan further to talk about the accident in the morning.

“I really envy her.” He Yun bit on her small handkerchief. “I feel like sleeping as well. I am tired.”

“Go ahead to sleep. No one is forcing you to revise.” Fang Fang pushed her glasses. She turned and focused on her books.

He Yun sighed. “I feel like sleeping too, but we do not have the same confidence as Qiao Nan. I am reading as much as I can now.”

Zheng Lingling smiled. “Since we are not as confident as Qiao Nan and Shi Qing, stupid fools like us will have to study hard now.”

The five of them in the dormitory looked at Qiao Nan, who was sleeping soundly. They were envious of her. To think that they were worried that Qiao Nan would still be in shock after what happened in the morning.

She was indeed the top student. She was stronger than everyone in this aspect. They were worried sick for Qiao Nan, yet she behaved as if nothing had happened.

Fang Fang did not let Qiao Nan sleep for too long. She woke her up one and a half-hour later.

After looking at the time, Qiao Nan took a set of clothes and took a shower at the bathroom to wake herself up.

When Shi Qing came looking for Qiao Nan, she had already changed into a new set of clothes, looking refreshed from her shower and was waiting for Shi Qing in her dormitory. “Crap. I feel I should take a shower as well.” She had been drenched in sweat this morning.

Shi Qing did not feel any discomfort when she was sleeping, but she felt uncomfortable in her smelly clothes. “Why not you wait for me while I change my clothes?” Even though she did not shower, she could change into a new set of clothes.

“Okay, be fast.” Qiao Nan felt much more comfortable after the shower. She had put Ding Jiayi’s accident at the back of her mind for the time being.

After Shi Qing returned in a new set of clothes, the seven girls brought their stationery, water bottles, and exam admission tickets and exited the dormitory building to head to their respective examination halls.

Qiao Nan had finished the exam in the morning with a peace of mind. As for the exam in the afternoon, Qiao Nan was not the least worried. She looked through the exam papers before she started to write on the exam papers.

“We have finally finished the exams for the two subjects.” After handing in her exam papers, Qiao Nan stretched herself. She had no intention of comparing her answers with other students. She let out a sigh. Her day that was filled with troubles was finally over.

Right then, Qiao Nan had goosebumps. She had a strange feeling that someone was staring at her.

Qiao Nan turned and looked around. Her gaze dropped on Xu Tingting, who was in the same classroom as her. Her eyes were full of hatred. She gave her vicious stares through her reddened eyes.

Qiao Nan arched an eyebrow. “Xu Tingting, why are you staring at me? Did you get bitten by a dog today?” Xu Tingting looked ferocious. It was as if she had rabies.

The students who had yet to leave the classroom smiled at Qiao Nan’s words.

“Qiao Nan, stop being so smug. There will be a day when you will fall from grace!” Xu Tingting ran off with red eyes after cursing at Qiao Nan.

“...” Qiao Nan curled the corners of her lips. She was certain that Xu Tingting was bitten by a dog.

Right then, someone came close to Qiao Nan. This person seemed to be a student from Ping Cheng High School as well. Qiao Nan had some impression of this person, but she did not know the person’s class and name. “Qiao Nan, you may not know about it, but during noontime, Xu Tingting cried for half an hour in the dormitory. It seems like she did not do well in the exam this morning. From the looks of it, she did not do well for the exam in the afternoon as well.”

Xu Tingting’s grades were considered to be among the top in Ping Cheng High School.

Now that Xu Tingting might have had a slip-up in one or two of the subjects, many of the students were waiting to see a good show unfold.

“What has that got to do with me?” Qiao Nan was baffled. It was Xu Tingting’s problem that she did not perform well in the exams. Why would she lose her temper at her?

“Do you know that when one stands on the balcony of the classroom building, one can have a clear view of the school entrance? Before the bell went off to signal that the students had to enter the examination hall within ten minutes, I noticed that Xu Tingting stood on the balcony with a book in her hand. She was not looking at the book. Instead, her gaze was fixed on the school entrance. She stared at it while laughing happily to herself. It was as if there was a treasure at the school gate. Initially, I was puzzled. But then I knew what was going on when you came into the school at such a late time.”

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“However, you should know as well what Xu Tingting was laughing about then. Do you know that Xu Tingting pulled a long face when you made it to the examination hall in the last three minutes? Do you know why would the invigilator remind us to make use of the time to answer the questions during the exam in the afternoon? That was because Xu Tingting stared at the exam papers for a long time without writing anything.”

This classmate was someone who liked to gossip. It was the college entrance examination, yet she had the time to observe Xu Tingting for her reactions and could remember them clearly.

“Do you understand?” The classmate was amused.

Those who enjoyed watching the show would never find it a bother.

“Thank you.” Qiao Nan let out a breath, indicating that she understood.

“There is no need to thank me. Instead, I have to thank you.” The female student patted Qiao Nan on her shoulder. “The revision materials that you gave us were very helpful. Our school will definitely do better than The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China in this year’s college entrance examination. Qiao Nan, you are awesome!” She benefited from Qiao Nan’s revision materials. Unlike Xu Tingting, she was well-prepared for the exams and knew the answers to the exam questions.

She sat behind Xu Tingting and could hear the sounds of the correction tape coming from Xu Tingting’s table. She must have written the wrong words, and she kept using the correction tape to correct them.

She had been wondering whether Xu Tingting would use the correction tape all over her exam papers.

“See you tomorrow.” The student seemed to feel even much better after speaking her piece. She left while humming a song.

“You are here.” Zhai Sheng walked forward upon seeing Qiao Nan and Shi Qing. “Let’s go back.”

“...” Qiao Nan seemed to hesitate upon hearing that. Her house was very near to Ping Cheng High School. This was the reason why the teacher allowed her and Shi Qing to stay at home to revise and rest. After all, not every student would be able to have a good sleep during the college entrance examination.

The rest of the students had similar studying pace and habits.

However, Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were the oddballs.

Before the school allowed Qiao Nan and Shi Qing to study at home, the whole of Ping Cheng High School would be uptight about the upcoming college entrance examination. Everyone could not wait to have more time for their studies.

But Qiao Nan and Shi Qing would behave differently from all of them. They would go to the physical education room to borrow badminton rackets to play badminton or to borrow a table tennis ball to play table tennis.

On top of that, everyone would stay in the classroom under the electric fan to revise after dinner, whereas Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were the only two students who had the time to stroll around the field to aid in their digestion.

Qiao Nan's and Shi Qing's behavior had garnered the ruthless stares of all the other third-year students.

In order to prevent these two groups of students from affecting each other, and since Qiao Nan and Shi Qing stayed close to Ping Cheng High School, Principal Meng allowed the two of them to revise at home.

But no one would expect that a full-scale drama would unfold at Ping Cheng High School today. The school used to be a quiet and good environment for study.

Previously, Qiao Nan was relieved at Principal Meng's special arrangement. Now that this had happened, she was somewhat worried.

"Don't worry. I will send you to school tomorrow."

Shi Qing was hoping that Zhai Sheng would send her to school as well. But he did not make the offer.

"My dad sent Shi Qing and me to school today." If something cropped up, one person alone would not be able to cope.

Zhai Sheng arched his eyebrows. How could she compare him to his father-in-law? "It is different. Alright, go back home now." He took everything from Qiao Nan and started to move toward the school gate.

“Hey, wait for me.” Qiao Nan could not help but follow him. Shi Qing had no choice but to go after them as well.

Of course, she had to carry her schoolbag by herself.

Nothing happened on their journey back home.

Zhai Sheng returned the schoolbag to Qiao Nan. “Shi Qing, you will stay at the Qiao family’s residence tonight. You may not be highly skilled, but you should be able to take down the average person.”

Shi Qing was pleased when she heard that she could stay with Qiao Nan tonight. However, her face fell when Brother Zhai belittled her with his words. “Brother Zhai, are you sure it is okay to say that? Aren’t you worried that I will not do my best to protect your girlfriend?”

“Wrong, she is my fiancée.” Zhai Sheng corrected. “I have filed the marriage report. We will be engaged after Qiao Nan finishes the college entrance examination. Qiao Nan, once you are of the legal age, we will collect the marriage certificate.” In the future, he would be able to have the right to meddle in Nan Nan’s affairs.

Shi Qing gaped in shock. She was in a bigger shock than the party concerned. “Brother Zhai, do you intend to turn Qiao Nan into a married person with that little sincerity?”

“What else do you want me to do?”

“Qiao Nan, don’t give your consent. I have seen a lot of marriage proposals. This is the first time that I have seen one that is without any sincerity. You have given her nothing. You simply tell her that you want to marry her? There is no free lunch in this world!” How could he possibly think that he would be able to get a wife by doing nothing? If this was possible, all men in the world would be thrilled. It was such an easy task to be married.

“Shi Qing...” There was no need for Zhai Sheng to say anything else. He called her name lightly and stared grimly at her. Shi Qing seemed to shrink under his gaze and hid behind Qiao Nan. Gone was the courage she had when she talked back to him.

Qiao Nan clasped her head in exasperation. "Alright, the college entrance examination is not over yet. No matter what, let's wait until the exams are over." Qiao Nan was amused and exasperated. She had known all along that Shi Qing was a funny fellow.

But she did not expect that Brother Zhai, who was reserved and reticent, to be so funny. He sounded serious and he did not seem to be exaggerating, yet he was so amusing. "You don't have to worry about me. I am in a good mood now. I would have to trouble all of you for what happened this morning. There will be more to come. However, I will never be affected by these people and perform badly in the college entrance examination. If so, those people who are after me will be thrilled."

Qiao Nan knew that someone had been squandering money to stop her from sitting for the college entrance examination. The amount of money was enough to buy two houses.

If she was in a bad mood and was affected badly by this matter, the person behind the whole incident would be overjoyed.

Qiao Nan took a few deep breaths. She suppressed the anger that she felt at the thought of this lest she was affected. "Alright, say no more. It will take some time to straighten this out. I have to clear my mind of every distraction during the college entrance examination."

"You are right." Shi Qing sighed. Her heart ached for Qiao Nan. Why did Qiao Nan encounter every such annoying matter?

"Nan Nan, I think it is better that you stay at the Shi family's residence." Zhai Sheng changed his mind.

"Sure." Qiao Nan nodded. She could share a room with Shi Qing. It was more reassuring that there was an adult at home.

Now that everything was settled, Zhai Sheng sent Qiao Nan to the Shi family's residence. He made sure that they had entered the house before he left, feeling assured.