

## RTAMM 791

### Chapter 791 Not Too Positive

Shi Qing quickly came to her senses about the identity of the caller. “Why did you...” Call only after such a long time? It had been five days since the incident.

Given the time, Shi Qing had doubted countless times if this man loved or had ever loved Qiao Nan, and whether he had given up on Qiao Nan.

Zhu Baoguo sounded melancholic as he said, “I took the college entrance examination in a different school from you all. In order not to feel nervous and to focus on the examination, I didn’t watch the news or read the newspapers during those three days. On the afternoon of the seventh, I left for my dad’s camp immediately...”.

He hoped that he could become stronger as soon as possible so that he would have the ability to protect Xiao Qiao.

Unexpectedly, the more he cared about something, the more easily he made mistakes.

He wished to have the strength and power to prove to Xiao Qiao that he was not only a mature man but also someone who knew his own feelings. In addition, he was someone capable of giving her happiness.

Who would have known that each time Xiao Qiao met with difficulty or encountered serious trouble, he was never by her side to protect her and not let her suffer any harm.

Even Zhu Baoguo could not figure out why the reality was always against his wishes.

“No wonder...” It was no wonder that Zhu Baoguo had not responded for so many days since the incident. He did not even appear at all and only phoned her now. “What are your thoughts now? I’ve already told you that Qiao Nan is in a romantic relationship long ago, right? Qiao Nan’s boyfriend is great. Whenever Qiao Nan needs help, he will always appear by her side. Given your situation now, how are you going to compete with him?”

Zhu Baoguo was not as good looking as Brother Zhai. His status was also lower than that of Brother Zhai. Even in terms of protecting and caring for Qiao Nan, Zhu Baoguo was not qualified to compete with Brother Zhai.

Sigh. From her perspective, Zhu Baoguo should just give up.

Qiao Nan was a good person. Precisely because Qiao Nan was good, she deserved a better man who could treat her well.

Zhu Baoguo was too young and green and could not achieve this.

“How do you know that I won’t be his match before I even try? Unless Xiao Qiao is married to that man, I still have a chance!” Zhu Baoguo was stubborn and unwilling to give up.

Shi Qing turned away such that she had her back facing Zhai Sheng. “As you wish. This is your problem and it’s up to you. I’m telling you this because we are deskmates after all. I won’t interfere in what you want to do.”

“Alright. I have a guest in my house and it’s not convenient for me to chat too much with you. I’ll hang up first.”

“Wait, I wish to know how Xiao Qiao is doing now. I called the house of the Qiao family but no one picked up the phone. Is Xiao Qiao alright?” During the day of the college entrance examination, there was a huge traffic jam. Moreover, her mother was also hospitalized due to a car accident that happened in front of Ping Cheng High School.

At the thought of this matter alone, Zhu Baoguo felt that it must have been a truly miserable and tough day for Qiao Nan.

“How should I say this? Someone wants to deal with Qiao Nan, so Qiao Nan has been staying at my house recently. She’s preparing lunch for her parents in the kitchen now. After Qiao Nan’s mother is hospitalized, Qiao Zijin ran away after appearing once. Uncle Qiao has been taking care of Qiao Nan’s mother all this while. You should understand.”

“I know...” Qiao Zijin. So, it was Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi again!

“Okay, I’m hanging up.” If she did not do so soon, she would become dead first because of Brother Zhai.

After hanging up the phone, Shi Qing felt extremely guilty. She looked at Zhai Sheng, who was glancing coldly at her, and simply laughed continuously in a silly manner. She laughed until her face and mouth turned stiff.

Fortunately, Qiao Nan brought out the rice and dishes at this moment. “Quick. Have them while they are hot. I’ve already packed my parents’ shares. After we finish our meal, Brother Zhai will send me to the hospital. Shi Qing, you can have a day off today.”

“That’s good. It’s so hot today. I really don’t feel like going out.” The weather was hot enough. She would die from heatstroke if she remained a light bulb.

The three of them were quick in having their meals and finished in five minutes.

“Alright. Both of you, go ahead. I’ll clean up the things on the table,” Shi Qing said graciously.

“Right, I forgot to tell you that I have prepared one more lunch box. It’s in the kitchen. Take it and send it to your dad.” Who said that Shi Qing would have nothing to do if she did not send Qiao Nan to the hospital? It was a day off for her in that sense but it was only right for her to send meals to Director Shi. “Recently, your dad has been very tied up because of the incident that happened during the college entrance examination. He’s definitely not going to take his meals on time. It’s good that it’s summer vacation now. You have more time to keep a watch on your dad.”

“That’s right. I’m going out then,” Shi Qing replied. It was seldom that she had spare time. Of course, she had to care more about her biological father and ‘conveniently’ inquire about the progress of his investigation on Qiao Nan’s matter.

After agreeing on the arrangements, Qiao Nan and Shi Qing went on their ‘separate ways’ and sent the meals to their respective fathers.

“You’re delivering the meals again?” The young nurse in the hospital was already familiar with Qiao Nan. At the sight of Qiao Nan, she recalled the latter’s objective of coming to the hospital. “Actually, you don’t need to worry. Your mom is starving now and her temper is not as bad as before. She will finish the porridge that you send. Do you wish to deliver them yourself today?”

It should be a form of happiness to watch her biological mother finish drinking the porridge that she had painstakingly prepared, no?

Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry. She was very grateful to the young nurse for her kindness. However, she really had no use for it. "My mom's health is not good. I'm afraid she will get angry when she sees me. She's willing to eat my porridge, but it doesn't mean that she's willing to see me. When her health is better, I'll visit her again."

She did not wish to receive an unreasonable scolding from her mother.

"That's fine too. I'll send them to her for you. Pass them to me. I believe this is yours?" The young nurse returned the lunch box that Qiao Dongliang had sent down to Qiao Nan. "You are so well prepared. There are two lunch boxes?"

"Yes." Qiao Nan did not explain further. These two lunch boxes were purchased when her father was hospitalized due to a car accident two years ago.

At the thought that she died due to a car accident and both her parents encountered car accidents as well, she realized that only Qiao Zijin had not met with such a situation among their family of four.

"Sorry to trouble you today. Thank you. Bye." Qiao Nan was very polite in her manners. She then left with Zhai Sheng.

The young nurse held her chin. "Wow, that man is so dashing. Could it be her elder brother or something?" If that was the case, then she would have the chance to woo the handsome man?

The atmosphere was not bad when Zhai Sheng was with Qiao Nan. Besides those who knew Zhai Sheng, anyone who saw that emotionless and icy cold expression of Zhai Sheng at this juncture would have their romantic dreams dashed.

In comparison to Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan, when Wei De and Zhai Hua were together, the difference was that the atmosphere on Wei De's side did not seem too positive.

## Chapter 792 In a Bad Mood

Previously, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had been analyzing who was the one who told Qiu Chenxi about their relationship, which caused Qiu Chenxi to vent all her frustration on Qiao Nan.

Their suspicion of Zhai Hua disappeared in the blink of an eye. However, they suspected everyone except for one person-Wei De.

Besides their own family and friends, Chen Jun was not the only outsider that knew about Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan's relationship. There was Wei De as well.

One must know that once Zhai Hua was aware that her younger brother had that kind of feelings toward Qiao Nan, she immediately shared this 'gossip' with the one that she loved most-Wei De.

All the while, Wei De had been reluctant to accept Qiao Nan as his 'sister-in-law'. Only someone of comparable status and family background such as Qiu Chenxi was qualified to be married into the Zhai family and fit for him to address as sister-in-law.

It was just that Zhai Sheng was willing and Zhai Hua did not object. Old Chief had also quietly acknowledged this. The only one left was Madam Zhai who was quite useless. As such, Wei De decided to rely on himself regarding this matter.

He would resolve it 'in a satisfactory and proper manner'.

On a random occasion, Wei De heard from Zhai Hua about Qiu Chenxi's temperament and found out that Qiu Chenxi, who was always trying to be smart, never once suspected that Qiao Nan was the 'vixen' that she had been looking for. A bright idea thus flashed in Wei De's mind. He immediately asked someone for Qiu Chenxi's telephone number and gave her a call.

During his last visit to the Zhai family, Zhai Sheng and Miao Jing did not give him any face. Wei De did not show any displeasure but that did not mean that he did not take it to heart or bear any grudges.

All men are the same. They bully the weak ones over the strong ones.

Wei De, who felt humiliated, dared not vent his frustration on Zhai Sheng and Miao Jing, the two parties concerned. He simply pushed all the blame to Qiao Nan.

Clearly, he visited the Zhai family for a meal as the marriage partner of Zhai Hua. If Qiao Nan was clear-minded and understanding, she should have known better and not let Regiment Commander

Zhai and Madam Zhai remain in the house of the Qiao family for dinner. She had to make them leave even if she had to chase them away.

Clearly, he and Qiao Nan were in a similar predicament. It was unethical of Qiao Nan to have done that. Hence, she could not blame him for being heartless and unruly.

Wei De temporarily vented part of his resentment and anger caused by the Zhai family on Qiao Nan. He spent money to get someone to specifically investigate Qiao Nan's situation.

It was also at this juncture that Chen Jun appeared before Wei De. Wei De felt that this person by the name of Chen Jun would be useful to him.

It could be said that Wei De had not only told Qiu Chenxi about the true relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan, but he even personally linked up Chen Jun and Qiu Chenxi.

Without Wei De, Qiu Chenxi would not even have known that an individual like Chen Jun existed in Ping Cheng.

Wei De thought that, notwithstanding Qiu Chenxi, even Chen Jun's status and reputation were much better than that of Qiao Nan. How could Qiao Nan, who was just a daughter of a poor and ordinary former soldier, win against Chen Jun? Furthermore, there was Qiu Chenxi providing him with such fabulous help.

It was a pity that this fabulous help was not comparable to another fabulous help.

It was all thanks to Qiu Chenxi that Qiao Nan could take the college entrance examination successfully.

Wei De was the one who took the lead in this matter. Hence, Wei De paid more attention to the development of this matter more than anyone else.

When the news was out that day, Wei De's face turned black.

After hiring many people and dumping in so much money, there was not a single student who was late for the college entrance examination. In other words, Qiao Nan successfully entered the examination hall and took the college entrance examination?

Due to this matter, despite learning how to put on a false front after starting a business, Wei De pulled a long face for the entire day. Even his secretary dared not enter his office.

Having thought about what Zhai Hua said to him about Qiao Nan's situation, Wei De's expression turned even more solemn.

There was nothing great about the Qiao family but Qiao Nan was different from him. He was the only one from the lower clan.

Qiao Nan's parents were not capable but she had a formidable master-Lin Yuankang. He was once China's leader in foreign affairs.

With such a capable master, how could one say that Qiao Nan did not have any political background?

After knowing this fact, Wei De's worries increased.

Qiao Nan had a master that far exceeded him. If it was as per what Zhai Hua said, Qiao Nan was very intelligent and she was good in her studies. If she were to get into a top tier university, she would have a bright future ahead even without a master like Lin Yuankang.

At the thought that he only graduated from junior high school, Wei De felt so embarrassed and anxious.

The reason Wei De took the lead and initiative this time was that he wanted to stop Qiao Nan from taking the college entrance examination so that her name would be dropped from the roll of honors and she could not further her studies. She would then break up with Zhai Sheng. That would be the best outcome.

Taking a step forward, even if this matter could not make Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng break up, as long as Qiao Nan did not graduate from a prominent school, he could still accept Qiao Nan addressing him as brother-in-law.

The Zhai family members were all giants among men. Their status and reputations were high. Wei De did not want to become the only one in the family whose identity was the most debatable after he married Zhai Hua.

In short, he wanted to drag Qiao Nan down to be his 'cushion'.

After the matter failed, Wei De's biggest worry was the extent of Zhai Sheng's investigations in this matter and whether he would be discovered and implicated.

Although he had a little success in his career now, the attitude of the Zhai family toward him was not just neither hot nor cold. They completely ignored him.

If the Zhai family found out that Qiao Nan's matter had something to do with him, Wei De was aware that Zhai Sheng would certainly not acknowledge him as his brother-in-law, let alone Miao Jing.

Looking at the bright and spacious office with top-notch renovations, cow leather sofa, and red office table, all these were things that he dared not wish for in the past.

He wanted to be successful in the army. Never did he expect that he would have some achievements in business.

Smart Wei De was clearly aware of this point. All that he had today was not reliant on his own effort alone. If he did not ride on Zhai Hua's connections and the identity as the future son-in-law of the Zhai family, given his situation, he could, at most, carry bricks at the construction site. He would not be a boss.

Hence, power and influence were so important. With power and influence, getting money was as simple as just talking.

"Wei De, what's wrong with you recently?" Zhai Hua, who just came back from the army simply entered Wei De's office without knocking on the door. "I heard from the secretary that you're in a bad mood. Did you encounter any difficulties in your business?" Logically, it should not be. She clearly heard from her few childhood friends that business had been quite smooth recently.

"No, it has nothing to do with the business." Wei De's heart leaped. "Why did you come?" Shouldn't you be in the army?



“You should have heard about the matter that happened during Qiao Nan’s college entrance examination. I came back to take a look at the situation.” Zhai Hua frowned. “Ping Cheng has always been quite a safe place. I’m quite surprised that this happened.”

#### Chapter 793 You Are Very Pleased

“I heard that it’s not just the education department in Ping Cheng. Even the education department in the province is anxious and paying great attention to this matter.”

Wei De lighted a cigar and took a deep smoke. “This matter is... so serious? For how long are they going to investigate this? And to what extent are they going to mess with this?”

“What do you mean? If the government sectors do not care about this matter, how can they say that they’re serving the people? This matter has an adverse impact. Moreover, I believe there will be many repercussions. How long? We’ll have to see ten days later.” Zhai Hua felt troubled and vexed. In fact, she should feel happy that Qiao Nan encountered this.

If Qiao Nan was too outstanding, Wei De would seem too useless in comparison.

However, everyone had known each other for so long. It was unreasonable for Zhai Hua to hope for Qiao Nan to fare badly in the examination.

There more outstanding Qiao Nan was, the prouder the Zhai family would feel when Zhai Sheng married Qiao Nan, no?

“What do you mean? Why do we have to wait for ten days?” Wei De felt his heart tightened. Could it become worse?

Zhai Hua gave a bitter smile. “Zhai Sheng really has good judgment. Without Zhai Sheng’s help, Qiao Nan’s future will not be that bad either. I heard from my mom that Qiao Nan has always been the top student of the cohort in the school. All the teachers in the school said that it’s very likely that Qiao Nan will be able to compete for the place of the top humanities student of the province this year.”

The words that followed next... Wei De understood even without Zhai Hua saying it.

Once Qiao Nan became the top humanities student of the province, all of those who caused her to nearly miss the college entrance examination or robbed her of this honor would immediately become Ping Cheng's enemies!

The top humanities scorer of the province, how could the education departments of Ping Cheng as well as the province not pay great attention to this matter?

There was a top scorer in the province every year, but to Ping Cheng, a top scorer in the college entrance examination was a great fortune that would only happen once in a blue moon!

Clearly, the sun outside was scorching to one's eyes but Wei De's forehead started to break out in cold sweat. "Although she usually did well in her examinations, it doesn't mean that she would necessarily do so in the college entrance examination. She was only the top student of the cohort in Ping Cheng High School. Why are they so certain that she would achieve such good grades and become the top scorer of the province?" Top humanities student of the province?

To a slacker in studies like Wei De, that was a term that was beyond him.

When he was schooling, Wei De's grades were not good but he was very envious and respectful of his classmates who were good in their studies.

"It's not that I want to curse Qiao Nan. I heard that she entered the examination hall during the last three minutes. How old is Qiao Nan? This is the first time that she encountered such a matter. Even as adults, it's impossible for us not to be affected, let alone youngsters. Her mind would be in a mess. In such a situation, would Qiao Nan be able to do well? If she fares badly in just one of the subjects, it will be difficult for her to adjust her mindset and take the examination for the rest of the subjects properly."

Right, that would certainly be the case.

In a situation filled with fear and panic, how was it possible for Qiao Nan to achieve the grades of the top humanities student of the province?

At this juncture, the badly shaken Wei De was no longer praying that Qiao Nan would fall through the ranks or could not enter a top tier university in the capital. He only wished for one thing—that Qiao Nan did not become the top scorer of the province.

Wei De totally did not expect that such a small and obscure matter of stopping Qiao Nan from successfully taking part in the college entrance examination could kick up such a huge commotion.

He wanted Qiao Nan to fall into the water but definitely did not plan to make his shoes wet in the process.

“It’s tough but it doesn’t mean that there’s no hope of it happening. If Qiao Nan really becomes the top humanities student in the province, Zhai Sheng will be overjoyed.” At the thought that the road ahead for her younger brother would be smoother on this matter, Zhai Hua was, in fact, happy for Zhai Sheng.

Furthermore, with this glory, Qiao Nan could reduce the gap between her and the Zhai family, becoming more compatible with the family.

Naturally, Zhai Hua would feel happy to see outcomes that were beneficial to the Zhai family.

Yes, there would be joy. Zhai Sheng would be overjoyed but he would be very miserable!

At the thought that he could not even be compared to a young girl, that he would be under her mercy as he would be the lousiest one in the Zhai family—the lowest one in the food chain—Wei De felt so bad. It was as if a thousand ants were crawling in his heart and biting him from time to time.

Wei De endured the impulse to vomit blood as he looked at Zhai Hua, who was smiling gently. “You’re quite happy?”

Zhai Sheng had not been giving Zhai Hua face. He had been objecting to Zhai Hua’s relationship with him. Zhai Sheng’s girlfriend was going to do well and become the top humanities student of the province. Why was Zhai Hua so happy? Were her brains damaged?

“Of course I’m happy. Qiao Nan could achieve such good grades. Coupled with a master such as Lin Yuankang, this is a great matter for the Zhai family,” Zhai Hua said honestly.

Wei De smoked the cigar deeply again. That fishiness and spiciness of the cigar were tossing in his lungs. “If Qiao Nan really becomes the top scorer in the province, your younger brother and Qiao Nan will be happy. But when will it be our turn to be happy?”

They had not even resolved their own issues. How could Zhai Hua still have the mood to feel happy for others?

“Don’t be anxious. If Zhai Sheng is happy, perhaps he’ll soften his stance and change his attitude toward you. It’s not that you’re not aware. In the past, Zhai Sheng has always been a very principled man. But there are always exceptions. He’s different toward Qiao Nan.” If Qiao Nan were to meet with something good, Zhai Sheng would definitely become more easy to talk to and more benevolent.

“Ha.” Wei De sneered. He had already heard about this long ago. It was a pity that Qiao Nan was so snobbish. She thought that she had played up to people of power and influence and she could look down on him or ignore him. Her attitude toward him was extremely detestable and arrogant.

She was such an individual. Even if she could influence Zhai Sheng, he could not possibly wish for her to help him.

Furthermore...

“Right, after so long, you have not told me why you are unhappy. Even the secretary is afraid of you.” Zhai Hua reverted to the topic. The matter that happened during Qiao Nan’s college entrance examination did not have anything to do with them. When the results were out, they just had to send their congratulations over.

Wei De helplessly gave a sigh. “Nothing. Perhaps the weather is too hot recently. I’m not in a good mood. I’ll be better after a few days.”

Having found a partner like Zhai Hua, was it his fortune or misfortune?

Why did Zhai Hua’s thoughts never align with his? Why was it that Zhai Hua could not understand him no matter how much he hinted? She had never sung the same tune as him before.

If Zhai Hua were to think alike as him, she would be able to understand his thoughts and he would not have left the army. Moreover, the two of them should be getting married this year.

Wei De left the army but his heart was still with it. He had been keeping in contact with his former comrades.

When he heard from his former comrades that Song Yin had already been promoted to deputy company commander this year, Wei De's mood was as gloomy as the dark clouds.

It was also Song Yin's promotion that ignited Wei De's dissatisfaction with Qiao Nan, which led to the series of events pertaining to the college entrance examination.

#### Chapter 794 Aged in Vain

Wei De always felt that Song Yin progressed so quickly and achieved what he had once set for himself not because he was mentored by Qiao Nan. It was purely because he was in Zhai Sheng's team and thus had higher chances and probability to gain credit. That was the reason that he was promoted so quickly.

Hence, if he was the one who followed by Zhai Sheng's side, he, and not that lousy Song Yin, would be the one becoming the deputy company commander today!

Having said so much, Qiao Nan was a troublemaker, and Zhai Hua was not true enough to him. She did not love him that much.

As the only daughter of the Zhai family, if Zhai Hua had deployed all tricks and means such as crying, kicking up a fuss, and even threatening to commit suicide, he could become the company commander too!

Wei De, who was dissatisfied at heart, could not see eye to eye with Zhai Hua at this point in time. "Alright, I have to handle some work. You're seldom back, so you should go home. It's not good for you to always come over to my side. If your parents know about this, their impression of me may worsen. It'll be more difficult for them to accept the matter regarding us."

"..." Zhai Hua was confused. Wasn't Wei De the one who had asked her to look for him more often here whenever she had the spare time? Why did he change his mind today?

What did he mean by 'his side'? The house that they bought and the company that they set up—had they not always been jointly owned by the two of them?

There was now a distinction between him and her?

Zhai Hua felt that Wei De's words were a little unexpected but she consoled herself soon after. She felt that she must have been paranoid. Wei De was in a bad mood and he probably did not choose his words properly.

As lovers who would have to live with each other for the rest of their lives, naturally, there had to be situations of give and take. "Alright, then I'll go home. If you feel warm..." She would think of a way to get her childhood friend to install two units of good air-conditioners.

She heard that centrally controlled air conditioners were quite good.

"Alright, you should go back." Wei De interrupted Zhai Hua's words and repeatedly asked Zhai Hua to leave.

If there were a third party at the scene, he would definitely be able to tell that Wei De was not asking but chasing Zhai Hua to leave.

Of course, Zhai Hua, who was totally blinded by love, could not tell. She even stood up patiently and prepared to leave. It was as if she was on Wei De's beck and call.

"Oh, it's a rare visitor." When Miao Jing saw Zhai Hua coming home, she was both happy and angry.

Her daughter had not gotten married but she seemed to belong to another family. Since the last dinner, this was the first time that Zhai Hua came back to the Zhai family since the Lunar New Year.

"What's wrong? You're not pleased to see me? Why don't I leave then?" Zhai Hua gave a cheeky smile and pretended to be a rogue.

"You're really..." Miao Jing was so angry that she could not say a word. She sat on the sofa with all her might and was unwilling to look at Zhai Hua any longer. Zhai Hua had to anger her biological parents in such a way for the sake of a man. That was so capable of her.

Zhai Hua was amused as she moved to sit beside her mother. "Mom, don't be angry. Women tend to age faster when they are angry. Wasn't I just joking with you? Earlier, there were many newbies in the army and I didn't have time to come back. I finally have some spare time now, so how can I leave home?"

Previously, Zhai Hua was unhappy that Miao Jing and Zhai Sheng did not give Wei De any face.

Nevertheless, they were family members. How long would Zhai Hua feel angry at Miao Jing and Zhai Sheng?

In fact, last year, Zhai Hua was no longer angry within a month. After all, Zhai Yaohui had said a lot to her.

Besides not giving Wei De any face, the Zhai family had not done anything extreme.

Compared to other families, the Zhai family was truly considered gentle.

Without Wei De holding her back, the number of times that Zhai Hua was home would be at least twice or three times more.

The corners of Miao Jing's lips curled up into a smile. She was not speaking from her heart. "How would I know if you are telling the truth? You can come back if you want. If you don't like to come back, it's up to you wherever you want to go."

"Didn't I wish to come back to Mom's side and am sitting by your side obediently now?" Zhai Hua leaned her head against Miao Jing's shoulders and pouted.

At that moment, Miao Jing felt extremely perplexed.

Zhai Hua was a lady and she was almost thirty years old. This was the first time Miao Jing experienced her daughter's coquettish behavior on her.

Zhai Hua knew how to bicker with Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing but she never behaved in this manner before.

Undoubtedly, Wei De was the one who caused Zhai Hua to have this habit.

All of a sudden, the happiness of seeing her daughter went away as Miao Jing clutched her forehead in pain due to a headache. She was having mixed feelings in her heart.

“The weather is so hot. Why are you sitting so near your mom? Even if you don’t mind the heat, your mom does.” Zhai Yaohui knew best what Miao Jing’s thoughts were. He ordered Zhai Hua to sit further away from Miao Jing so that Miao Jing would have some time and space to calm down.

“Humph.” Zhai Hua snorted proudly. It was summer and her mother shunned her for making her feel warm. Nevertheless, in this world, there was someone who would not shun her at all times!

Zhai Hua was neither sad nor angry because of the existence of this person. “Mom, the weather is so hot. I’m perspiring all over. I’ll go and wash up. Chat with you later.”

At the sight of Zhai Hua having the coquettish manner of a daughter and hopping like a girl instead of walking straight like a soldier, Miao Jing felt even more worried. Zhai Yaohui’s face also turned darker.

Miao Jing took out a bottle of medicated oil and applied some of it onto her temple. Zhai Yaohui sat over and helped Miao Jing massage them.

Miao Jing let out a sigh and said worriedly, “Zhai Yaohui, this is our only daughter. Are you really not going to think of a way? She’s a woman. Even if she’s of an older age, she’s also a woman. She keeps staying at someone else’s home and that place belongs to a man... Our Zhai family does not accept this kind of new trend. Tell me, if Hua Hua...”

Her daughter was not a child and Wei De was a man. A man and woman together alone. Even if Hua Hua did not wish to, could Wei De control himself?

If something really happened, Hua Hua would be the one losing it big time!!!

At the thought of such a possibility, Miao Jing felt so painful in her heart as if a piece of her flesh had been taken away from her.

For the sake of Zhai Hua, this daughter, Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui had been so worried. Miao Jing could not even be bothered about Zhai Sheng’s matter because of this.



Miao Jing had never approved of the relationship between Zhai Sheng and that 'young lady'. Nevertheless, Zhai Sheng and that young lady had not behaved strangely or gone overboard in their actions.

Zhai Sheng was always in the army. When he was back, he would sleep in the house of the Zhai family every night. Miao Jing had never seen Zhai Sheng's career impeded by that lady for any matter. Clearly, his son was not that young anymore but the two of them did not even seem to be in a romantic relationship.

With this point alone, Miao Jing had some positive feelings towards that 'young lady' whom she 'had not met before'. The lady was not the clingy type and she was very supportive of Zhai Sheng's career.

If not for this, the young lady could have easily threatened to break up with her son with the reason that her son did not have time to keep her company or something. Her son would not have been behaving so normally.

In addition, logically, this 'young lady' that Zhai Sheng fancied was younger and should not be that sensible. Nevertheless, she never caused any trouble.

On the contrary, the one that Hua Hua found was already over thirty years old, an age where he could stand on his own feet and be independent on all matters. However, after Hua Hua was together with him, Miao Jing had never worried less about her.

#### Chapter 795 Worried That She Would Be Pregnant

Although she was not pleased with both of her children's partners, Hua Hua's boyfriend was being too much!

She remembered that not too long ago, one of the youngsters from the quad got his girlfriend pregnant. In the end, he had to marry her in a hurry.

The quad laughed about it for a while.

Miao Jing was worried that Zhai Hua might be pregnant. By then, what should she do?

“Zhai Yaohui, I... I feel uneasy. I am worried that Hua Hua...” Miao Jing pointed to her stomach and hammered her chest. She felt gloomy and had difficulty breathing.

Zhai Yaohui did not feel that Miao Jing had groundless worries. “I believe Hua Hua would not do such things given our family upbringing. But if it really happens, we can only say that we have failed in educating her. At the same time, it is time for Hua Hua to be responsible for every decision that she makes in her life.”

Although Wei De had caused a huge change in Zhai Hua, Zhai Yaohui did not feel that Zhai Hua and Wei De would last for long.

If two people were not suitable for each other, their relationship might last for one to two years, or even seven to eight years under the constant giving in and compromises made by one party. However, it would not last forever.

When they finally broke up, Zhai Hua would have to pay the price for making the wrong decision.

Zhai Yaohui could tell that Miao Jing was deeply perturbed by her daughter’s problems. He frowned and there was a stern look in his eyes. Something had to be done. “We will let nature takes its own course. There will definitely be a solution to it.”

“When would it be?” Miao Jing needed to have a clear answer.

Zhai Yaohui smiled. “Being anxious won’t help. You will only worry yourself sick. Will Wei De break up with Hua Hua just because you are worried? Perhaps if you stop nagging at Hua Hua, she may not do the things that you dread.”

Miao Jing slammed her palm on the sofa. “This won’t do!”

Qiao Nan was right. She did not discipline Hua Hua and Zhai Sheng when they were young. Now, she was worried sick for her children. She indeed had to pay for all her debts!

“What do you mean by ‘this won’t do’?” Zhai Hua changed her clothes and walked out of her room. She wrapped her dripping hair in a dry towel.

She had a sullen expression on her face. She must have heard Miao Jing’s words.

Were her father and mother talking about her relationship with Wei De? Was her mother saying that she would never allow them to be together?

Zhai Yaohui said in a low but angry voice, “I can tolerate you seldom coming home as you have your own commitments. When Zhai Sheng and you were at a tender age, we seldom stayed at home as well. However, one must have principles and abide by a code of conduct. What is with your behavior now?!”

Zhai Hua looked around herself. Her dripping hair had left drops of water on the floor. She realized belatedly that this was the Zhai family’s residence. It was not the house that she had been staying with Wei De in.

Back at that house, whenever Zhai Hua came out of the shower, Wei De would dry her hair with a towel.

Zhai Hua had been used to it that she forgot that she was at the Zhai family’s residence. It was no wonder that Zhai Yaohui was angry at her.

“The old master has spent so much effort to make sure that Zhai Sheng and you would develop good habits, yet you change so easily under other people’s influence?” Zhai Yaohui was enraged. “Come back only if you want to. Don’t force yourself to come back and display such an attitude in front of us. It’s fine if you are not back at home. Your heart is not with us. It is useless even if you are here. Zhai Hua, I can’t be bothered to tell you that I am disappointed with you. Given your performance, do you still want me to agree to your relationship with Wei De? Don’t you think that it’s ridiculous?”

Zhai Hua used to be someone who had discipline and good habits. She was a good daughter of the Zhai family, yet she was led astray by Wei De.

Regardless of whether Wei De was a good person or not, this alone made it impossible for him to accept Wei De as his son-in-law!

One’s behavior was a reflection of one’s personality.

Sometimes, a man might dote on a woman excessively. This might not be due to love. It could be overindulgence and would cause her to fail due to excessive praise!

Zhai Hua had lost reasons this year. If not, Zhai Yaohui felt like giving her a round of beating to knock some sense into her.

To put it bluntly, if Zhai Hua was not without reason, Zhai Yaohui would be willing to beat some sense out of her as she would feel ashamed and realize her mistakes.

On the contrary, Zhai Hua had lost all reasons. Even if he beat her, scold her, or punish her to kneel down, she would not listen to what he said. He would only be wasting his efforts.

“Zhai Sheng is back.” Zhai Hua felt wronged. Why was it wrong of her to come back home?

She had merely forgotten that she had not dried her hair. It was nothing serious. Why did he make it sound as if she had committed a serious crime and implicated Wei De? She felt wronged for Wei De as well.

If it was Miao Jing who reprimanded her, Zhai Hua would definitely rebut her.

But it was Zhai Yaohui who scolded her. She was fearful of him and dared not rebut him. Instead, she diverted everyone’s attention to Zhai Sheng, who just came back.

It proved that Zhai Yaohui was the master in the house. Whenever there was any conflict in the house, he was the one who had the final say.

“Isn’t it normal for me to be back at home?” Zhai Sheng changed into another pair of shoes while making a double-edged remark.

It was normal for him to come back to the Zhai family’s residence. Instead, it was strange that Zhai Hua was at home today.

Zhai Hua was angry. Why was it that everyone at home was targeting her?

Wei De told her that since she seldom went home, her family would treat her nicely. However, the situation was the opposite. Why was that?

Miao Jing, who felt much better, looked at Zhai Sheng. “How is it over at Nan Nan’s? I hope you did not ask her how she did for the exams. Since the exams are over, if her performance was affected, she can study for another year and retake the exam next year.”

Miao Jing felt her anger rising at the thought that Qiao Nan could have been the top student, but her performance could have been affected by the accident.

Nothing seemed to be going well for the Zhai family this year. Could they have run into some bad luck?

Miao Jing had, in fact, treated Qiao Nan as part of the Zhai family.

There was a look of pride on Zhai Sheng’s face at the mention of Qiao Nan. However, Miao Jing, who was concerned about Qiao Nan, did not notice it. “Mom, don’t worry. Nan Nan said that she cannot say for sure if she did better than usual. However, she maintained her usual standard.”

“...” Zhai Yaohui turned his head at the prideful gleam in his son’s eyes. But then again, he was pleased to hear that.

It was not easy for Qiao Nan to keep her cool and maintain her standard. She had extraordinary courage and she composed herself well in difficult situations. She was impressive!

#### Chapter 796 Zhai Sheng’s Advice

“That’s good.” Miao Jing breathed a sigh of relief. This was the best thing that happened to them this year.

“Is Qiao Nan that confident?” Zhai Hua dried her hair with the towel and sat down to join in the conversation. “Actually, Mom is right. You should not put too much pressure on Qiao Nan. With her results and ability, it will not be a problem to retake the exam next year.”

Instead of going to a school that was not to one’s satisfaction, it would be better to retake the exam and go to the first-tier university in the capital.

“It will be a problem to me,” Zhai Sheng replied bluntly. If Nan Nan was to retake the exam next year, it would mean that his engagement plans would have to be postponed for at least a year.

There was a huge difference between a boyfriend and a fiancé.

Zhai Hua shot Zhai Sheng a disdainful look. “That is so pitiful of you.” Zhai Hua had to admit that it was right of her brother to be anxious.

Zhai Sheng raised his eyebrows. It was kind of him not to bring up Wei De right now. He would let her have her way this time.

“Why will it be a problem to Zhai Sheng? What is he anxious about?” Miao Jing blinked, perplexed.

“Nothing.” Zhai Yaohui passed a piece of watermelon to Miao Jing. “This is between the siblings. They will settle it by themselves.”

Ever since Zhai Hua knew Wei De and was in a relationship with him, her behavior only served to disappoint Zhai Yaohui. However, he felt slightly comforted that she helped Zhai Sheng keep his relationship with Qiao Nan a secret.

But Zhai Yaohui did not know that Zhai Hua had told Wei De about Zhai Sheng’s relationship and Wei De had made use of this information to come up with all sorts of troubles for Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. It was just that he had not succeeded until now.

Miao Jing ate the watermelon while she wondered what was going on between the siblings. She did not understand their conversation.

After Zhai Sheng returned to his room, Zhai Hua came looking for him. Zhai Sheng looked at Zhai Hua and asked, “What’s the matter?”. If it was regarding Wei De, there was nothing to say between them. In fact, there was nothing much to be said.

“I don’t know if it’s because of the weather, troubles seem never-ending. You are upset because of what happened to Qiao Nan. I heard that Wei De is not in a good mood recently. Wei De is under immense stress due to our family. At times, I hope that I was born into a simple family. But then again, I should be seen as an individual. You should not lump me with my family. I have always hoped that all of you and Wei De will not view the Zhai family and me as one whole. If you are to disregard that I am from the Zhai family, will it be easier for all of you to accept Wei De?”

Zhai Hua wanted to find a way to their problem. She wanted her family to abandon any prejudices of Wei De.

“Has Wei De been under immense stress recently or has he always been under immense stress?” Zhai Sheng was quick to catch on to a piece of important information from Zhai Hua’s words.

“Well...” What was the difference? Wei De had been under huge stress ever since he started to date her. “It may have been due to the recent weather. He is vexed nowadays. Ever since he dated me, he is under immense stress.”

“In the end...” During his analysis of the accident near Ping Cheng High School with Qiao Nan, there was a brief instant when he suspected Zhai Hua. But both of them hoped that Zhai Hua had nothing to do with Qiu Chenxi.

But they had forgotten about one other person-Wei De.

Zhai Hua had told Wei De everything. Therefore, Wei De knew very well what was going on between Zhai Sheng and Nan Nan.

Wei De also knew that Qiu Chenxi had some relations with Zhai Sheng.

It seemed that apart from Chen Jun, there was one other person that he had to investigate.

Given Wei De’s personality, Zhai Sheng felt that he had reasons to suspect and investigate him.

“What are you thinking about? Why do you ignore me when I am talking to you?” Zhai Hua, who had calmed down, felt that it was better for her to use the soft approach. She had no confidence in winning by staying at loggerheads with her family. She also felt that there was no need to take things so far.

Zhai Sheng sat straight. “What else could I be thinking of but about what happened to Nan Nan. You should know the seriousness of the matter. Once I find out who is behind this even if the person is not the mastermind-I will not let the person off.”

“That’s for sure!” Zhai Hua slapped her thigh. “What happened this time was way overboard. Someone is out to destroy Qiao Nan. I feel that instead of destroying Qiao Nan, the person seems to want to ruin your relationship with Qiao Nan.”

If Qiao Nan failed to do well in the college entrance examination, it would be more difficult for her to be with Zhai Sheng.

“I have the same sentiments.” Seeing that Zhai Hua did not avoid the topic and gave him a positive answer, Zhai Sheng felt much better inside.

If this had to do with Wei De-unless he made sure to leave no clues behind-he would definitely find a chance to deal with Wei De.

In any case, he would not make life easy for Wei De.

Fortunately, Zhai Hua had not turned into a different person completely and still had her principles. “Alright, you have said your piece. You can leave now. I need to read over some information.”

“Crap, you have no time for your family now that you are dating.” Zhai Hua knew that Zhai Sheng must have spent a lot of time at the Qiao family’s residence with Qiao Nan to have come back at such a time. “You seem to be in high spirits today. Have you taken advantage of Qiao Nan?”

It was rare that there was a flicker of emotions on Zhai Sheng’s usual indifferent face. It must have to do with Qiao Nan.

“You should not stick your nose into this.” Zhai Sheng shot Zhai Hua a disdainful look, but he did not rebut her words.

“Hehehe, Qiao Nan is still so young. How could you do that to her?” She wondered how things were going on between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. She blushed when she thought of her relationship with Wei De.

Zhai Sheng did not feel guilty at all. He replied steadfastly, “Nan Nan is an adult. I am in the midst of arranging for us to be engaged this year.”

After the engagement, it would be legal for him to be on intimate terms with Nan Nan.



“Crap. Don’t tell me you have filed your marriage report?!” To soldiers, filing the marriage report is tantamount to marriage. After filing the report, the two of them would be considered as married and they could do what married couples do. “Isn’t it a bit too early? Qiao Nan is still not of the legal age. Do you want to go against the law?”

“Don’t worry. I will not do anything to shame the Zhai family.” He was not Zhai Hua. “After filing the marriage report, I will be engaged to Nan Nan. By the time she is of the legal age to marry, we will collect the marriage certificate.”

“You are really fast.” His situation was unlike Wei De and her. Although they were of legal age, they could not get married.

“True blue will never stain. If Wei De is true to you, what are you afraid of? If he is as good as you have made him to be, you don’t have to worry or be anxious. The Zhai family has no reason to reject such a good son-in-law. We hope that you will find your true happiness.”

#### Chapter 797 Suspect Wei De

Zhai Sheng set a trap for Zhai Hua. She was oblivious to it as she was thrilled by what Zhai Sheng said.

Zhai Hua could only marry Wei De if he was true to Zhai Hua and was a good man like what Zhai Hua had said. He had to meet these conditions in order to be a good son-in-law.

However, from his choice of words, Zhai Sheng did not agree with Zhai Hua that Wei De was the kind of person as she had described.

“Rest assured. I understand that these are required of him. You are a good judge of character to have chosen Qiao Nan as your girlfriend. I am just as good as you. I admit that Wei De did not do as well in the army. But he is good at running business. Every trade has its master. I believe Wei De will be able to succeed in running a business and his efforts will be recognized by all of you and you will agree that he is a good person.”

Zhai Hua was full of confidence and downright naive when she made these remarks.

“I am relieved that you think this way. In fact, you don’t have to care about our attitude toward Wei De. If he is a good man, you don’t have to insist that we accept him right away. You never know

what you can until you try. Although we cannot accept Wei De, our parents did not insist that you break up with him. Similarly, even if you want us to accept him, you must not do so in a hurry. You must take things slowly. You have a temper, and so do we. The more you force us to accept him, the more we will feel repulsive of him. Give us some time. We will eventually realize that Wei De is a good man. Perhaps with time, when conditions are ripe, your relationship will be accepted by the family and you will not hurt anyone's feelings. Do you understand?"

Zhai Sheng changed his tone and turned to give Zhai Hua advice.

Since Zhai Hua wanted to use the soft approach on him, Zhai Sheng would set her own spear against her own shield.

As expected, Zhai Hua softened her tone as well. "This..." It seemed to make sense.

She had total confidence in Wei De. She absolutely believed in his personality and ability. Sooner or later, he would get her family's approval.

"It's good that you understand. When I came back today, I noticed that mom doesn't look too well. I suppose it has to do with Wei De and you. I won't say that mom is more important than Wei De and she is your only mom in the world while you can find other men. This is ridiculous. What I want to say is that she is your only mom and Wei De is your only man. However, Mom is not as strong as Wei De. You have to take considerations of her health and feelings. Why do you think I keep my relationship with Nan Nan a secret for such a long time? It is because we are worried that Mom will not be able to take it if we break the news to her. Given her temper, she may go down a dead end. Whenever she was in a dead-end in the past, she could chat with Nan Nan. If we tell her the truth, she will have one less person to talk to."

Zhai Sheng was telling Zhai Hua that he had been setting an example for her. He had been considerate of his mother's feelings all along.

He practiced what he preached.

Zhai Hua could not rebut him. What Zhai Sheng said was the truth. He was not lying.

Zhai Hua knew her brother well. It was unlike him to keep his relationship with Qiao Nan a secret. Back then, he was very honest about his dislike for Qiu Chenxi.

It turned out that Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng were worried about Miao Jing.

It was easy to give advice while it was difficult to practice what one preached.

“Well, I understand what you mean. I will think about it. You are not the only person who is worried about Mom. I love her as well. In the future, I will not do so anymore...” Zhai Hua stood up awkwardly. She had created a lot of trouble for her parents because of her relationship with Wei De.

Zhai Sheng was smarter and more tactful than her.

Her mother had always objected to the relationship between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. But Zhai Sheng was not in a hurry to gain her approval. They had been in a relationship for two years and her mother had no idea that Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng’s girlfriend. He had been waiting patiently for the right time to disclose their relationship.

Unlike her...

Furthermore, their relationship was discovered by the family under very awkward circumstances.

The family had found out about her relationship at a bad timing. Wei De left a bad impression on them. Her bad attitude also made matters worse. Everything just turned from bad to worse.

She could only sum it up in one sentence: It was an indescribable mess!

Zhai Hua left Zhai Sheng’s room. She had a vague feeling that something seemed to have happened, but she had no idea what it was.

Wei De, who was in a bad mood, did not know that his efforts of brainwashing Zhai Hua for half a year would be wasted. He tried to convince Zhai Hua to use all means and methods so that the Zhai family would agree to their marriage plans and that they could marry and have children soon.

However, Zhai Sheng was smarter than him. He made Zhai Hua change her mind within three minutes. All his efforts had gone down the drain.

That was why when Wei De was still in the army, he was only an ordinary soldier while Zhai Sheng was the regiment commander.

Wei De could not win against Zhai Sheng. He was merely older in age, but he was not smarter than Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng felt much at ease after settling Zhai Hua's problem.

While Zhai Hua slept soundly, Zhai Sheng went to Zhai Yaohui's study room.

Zhai Yaohui put down his reading glasses. "What are you doing here so late into the night?"

"Are you going to send someone to investigate Wei De?"

"Is there such a thing?" Zhai Yaohui looked to be unaffected.

"Do some investigations. I suspect that Wei De may have something to do with what happened to Nan Nan during the college entrance examination."

Zhai Yaohui frowned slightly. "What's the proof?"

"Zhai Hua said that Wei De is in a bad mood recently."

"Alright, I understand." Wei De had been onto Zhai Yaohui's blacklist. He had a lousy personality.

Zhai Sheng worked very hard in order to find out the truth behind what happened during the college entrance examination. He would investigate every single clue that he had.

On the same night, Zhai Sheng had received evidence that Qiu Chenxi had transferred a large sum of money to an unknown account recently. According to the police officers' deduction and investigation, the sum of money matched the amount of money that the mastermind paid the helpers.

Without a doubt, Chen Jun was involved in the matter.

Zhai Sheng did not forget about Qiao Zijin either. She had used his money and completed her high school with his help. Not only was she not grateful, but she also turned against Qiao Nan.

He would not let all these people off.

Fifteen days had passed since Ding Jiayi was hospitalized. Her injuries had begun to heal but she was still unable to exert her strength. However, she was able to sit up by herself and to take a few steps.

#### Chapter 798 Would Not Be So Kind-Hearted

The doctor told Ding Jiayi that there was no hurry for her walk by herself. The priority now was for her wounds to heal and recover.

“Old Qiao, you haven’t been home for a long time. I am feeling much better now. Why don’t you take a rest at home and come back tomorrow?”

It had been half a month. Qiao Dongliang was the only person who stayed by Ding Jiayi’s side.

Although Qiao Nan would bring clothes for Qiao Dongliang to change during this half a month’s time, it was, after all, the hospital. He had to live and eat simply and could not sleep comfortably like when he was at home. Qiao Dongliang looked haggard and had lost a lot of weight.

Qiao Dongliang’s eyes grew dark and he looked at Ding Jiayi intently. “How can you be so kind-hearted?”

A few days ago, he had only been away for a while and Ding Jiayi made a fuss about it, saying that he felt it was a hassle that she was hospitalized and that he had to spend a lot of money on her.

“I... I was just talking nonsense. You must know that if one is bored for a long time, one will think too much. I must have been out of my mind. But I have calmed down now. I heard from others that women will go through meno... yes, that’s right, menopause. Women will lose their temper easily during this time. Rest assured. I will try to calm down and will not create any trouble for you. Old Qiao, go back and have a good sleep. I still have to rely on you to take care of me.”

As for Qiao Nan, that wretched girl, she harbored no hopes that she would take care of her.

She was an adult, yet she had been drinking plain porridge for almost two weeks. Qiao Nan might have been good at cooking plain porridge, but Ding Jiayi was sick and tired of having plain porridge.

Qiao Nan was vicious. She knew that Ding Jiayi could not fault her for cooking plain porridge. She also knew that Ding Jiayi preferred savory food. In fact, Ding Jiayi had been very patient to eat plain porridge for three consecutive days.

Ding Jiayi, who could no longer bear the taste of plain porridge, insisted that Qiao Dongliang bought some savory food at the small retail stall near the hospital for her to go with the porridge.

Qiao Nan came up with a solution after she learned about this.

In the previous life, Qiao Nan had been skilled in doing household chores under Ding Jiayi's strict training.

Qiao Nan bought fresh cucumbers and pickled mustard at the market and went back home to pickle them.

Qiao Nan did not spend a lot of money, but the pickled dishes were more than enough for Ding Jiayi. She could have it if she was hospitalized for the second and third time.

In the previous life, whenever Ding Jiayi took all her money and left her without any money to buy food for herself, Qiao Nan would prepare pickled dishes for herself.

In this life, it was rare that she had the chance to let Ding Jiayi have a taste of her own medicine. She was using what Ding Jiayi taught her on Ding Jiayi herself.

With the pickled vegetables as side dishes, Ding Jiayi was able to have the plain porridge for a few more days. But it was not too long before she grew sick of the dishes. However, Qiao Dongliang no longer gave in to her requests. When she asked him to buy some dishes for her—especially those that were expensive—he would ignore her pleas.

Ding Jiayi's mood changed like the weather. At times, she repented her past deeds and promised to behave herself in the future.

At times, she would throw her tantrums and pick on everything that he did. It really seemed as if she was undergoing menopause.

“Alright.” Qiao Dongliang felt exhausted to the bones after taking care of Ding Jiayi for half a month. He might be a man, but he was drained as well.

Qiao Dongliang stood up slowly. “I will go back first. I will visit you tomorrow morning.” The only thought that Qiao Dongliang had in mind right now was to go back home to have a bath. After scrubbing himself clean, he wanted to have a good sleep right away. He had no plans to eat dinner.

“Dad, how come you are back?” Qiao Nan was cleaning the house. She had finished washing the bedsheets and quilt cover in Qiao Dongliang’s room. She had just laid out the dried bedsheets when Qiao Dongliang was back at home. “Mom...”

“Your mom is much better now. She can take care of herself. Therefore, I can come home to rest for a night and go back tomorrow.” It was summer now. The freshly washed blanket gave off a nice soapy smell. It felt fluffy and warm to the touch. Although Qiao Dongliang felt tired to the bones from taking care of Ding Jiayi, he felt much refreshed at the warm and clean sheets.

That was what a house should be like.

“Dad, there is hot water at home. Do you want to take a shower and have a nap?” Qiao Nan’s heart ached at the sight of Qiao Dongliang. He looked listless and was so tired that he did not wish to engage in a conversation.

Qiao Nan spread the blanket that she had just folded deftly on the bed. She did it so that the heat from the blanket would dissipate. She made use of the time while Qiao Dongliang showered to use the water from the well to wipe the mat that Qiao Dongliang would be sleeping on. She repeated it several times to cool it down, making sure that Qiao Dongliang could have a comfortable sleep.

By the time Qiao Dongliang came out of the bathroom feeling refreshed, Qiao Nan had finished cooling down the mat. Her face was flushed red and she broke out in a sweat. “Dad, I have switched on the electric fan in the room. You can take a nap now. It is five o’clock now. Director Shi will only be back at half-past seven. Shall I wake you up at eight to have dinner?”

“Sure.” Qiao Dongliang’s neck felt stiff. He nodded slightly. “I will go to sleep. If you can’t wake me up at eight, all of you can go ahead to have dinner. Don’t wait for me.”

“Oh, okay.”

Qiao Dongliang was too tired to think of anything else. He opened the door and windows, took off his shirt, and fell right onto the bed. The bamboo mat felt cool to the touch. Qiao Dongliang smiled. Nan Nan must have wiped it with the water from the well.

Qiao Dongliang had one thought in his mind before he drifted off to sleep: Such a good child...

Qiao Nan had just finished with her chores when Shi Qing came over. “Why are you taking your time today? Aren’t you coming over to my house?”

“I can’t go to your house today. My dad is back. He will go to the hospital tomorrow. Tonight, I will stay at my house. When it’s dinner time, Director Shi and you can come over to my house for dinner.” No matter where they had dinner, she would be in charge of preparing dinner.

“Uncle Qiao is back! How is he?” Ding Jiayi was very good at tormenting people. It was lucky that Uncle Qiao came back alive.

“He is okay, but exhausted. Even saints would be tired from taking care of people like my mom.” Qiao Nan knew that Ding Jiayi was temperamental and Qiao Zijin was not by her side to cajole her.

As long as Qiao Zijin was around and did not egg Ding Jiayi on to be up to no good, the latter would not throw her tantrums easily.

Shi Qing was full of sympathy for them. “It must have been hard on Uncle Qiao and you. Why did both of you end up with such a person?”

“What was done could not be undone. It is useless to complain further. Let’s not think about it lest we are upset by it.” Qiao Nan was able to take things in stride and did not continue to dwell on this matter.



Qiao Nan turned silent afterward. She seemed to be thinking about something. Shi Qing tapped her on the shoulder. “Uncle Qiao is back. What is on your mind? Could it be about the college entrance examination?”

“No.” Qiao Nan shook her head. “I am wondering why my dad came back today. What is my mom up to this time? I feel that something is wrong.”

## Chapter 799 Give Her a Thrashing

“What could be wrong?” Shi Qing was puzzled.

Qiao Nan reorganized her thoughts. “How should I put it? It is not without reason that my mom dotes on Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin has a sweet tongue but a bitter heart. On the surface, she would treat my mom like a princess. Over time, my mom feels like a princess. She feels that the world should be centered around her. If she is in trouble, everyone must wait on her. Otherwise, it will be our fault. My mom was in a car accident, and she has been hospitalized for half a month. She also has difficulty in walking. Given her condition and her temperament, she would want everyone to put aside whatever they are busy with and to wait on her by her bedside.”

“The reason why my mom would always lose her temper at me was that I did not give her my utmost attention. Back when my dad was hospitalized, I took good care of my dad, giving him nutritious food and tonics. My mom feels that now that she is hospitalized, I have to treat her twice as well. This is what a daughter should do. As a mother, she has the right to be treated as such. But I did not visit her at the hospital, and neither did Qiao Zijin. My dad is the only person who stays by her side. Therefore, how can my mom possibly allow him to go back home and rest?” Her mom had no one by her side. If she acted up in the middle of the night, there would be no one to take care of her.

This was unlike her mother’s usual behavior.

“Then...” It was impossible for that woman to turn kindhearted all of a sudden. She could not possibly have felt that on account they had been married for years and Uncle Qiao was exhausted, thus he should have a good rest at home. “Your mom... What do you think is the reason behind her behavior?”

There was definitely something fishy. The way her mother behaved was unlike her usual self.

“Goodness!” Qiao Nan cursed in a low voice.

“What’s wrong?” Shi Qing jumped in shock.

Qiao Nan looked to check if Qiao Dongliang had been woken up by them. Thankfully, he was sleeping soundly. She then lowered her voice. “If I am not wrong, the reason why my mom allowed my dad to go home is to meet Qiao Zijin!”

As long as her father was around, Qiao Zijin would not dare to appear.

Her mother was willing to be fooled by Qiao Zijin. She would never associate any bad deeds with Qiao Zijin. However, that was not the same for her father.

Qiao Zijin might be crafty, but it was useless in front of her father.

Qiao Zijin must have informed her mother. Therefore, she allowed her father to go back home...

“If we rush over to the hospital, will we be able to catch Qiao Zijin?!” Shi Qing rolled up her sleeves at the mention of the infamous Qiao Zijin. She had decided to go all out to get her.

“What can you do to her after catching her?” There was a moment where Qiao Nan had the impulse to hurry to the hospital to catch Qiao Zijin.

But she dismissed the notion after hearing what Shi Qing said thereafter.

“Give her a beating!” She was her sister, yet she was capable of such things. She deserved a beating!

“Beating her up?”

“You can’t bear to beat her up?”

“How could it be? Shi Qing, I have to remind you that you are already eighteen years old. If you beat Qiao Zijin in public, you will be taken to the police station right away. Our results for the college entrance examination will be out in two days. Do you want to leave a criminal record when you go to the new school? Are you kidding?”

“Uh...” Shi Qing was embarrassed.

“And Qiao Zijin will be alive and kicking days after you beat her. She will never be defeated. Even if you beat her, she will continue with her ways. She will not change. Do you believe me? By then, you will suffer a double loss and implicate yourself.”

Besides, they did not have any evidence to prove that Qiao Zijin was involved. They merely had their doubts about her.

If there was evidence to prove that Qiao Zijin was related to what happened moments before the college entrance examination commenced, Qiao Zijin would be charged for stirring up trouble and disrupting the peace of the society at the very least.

“In that case, does it mean that we should let her off?” Shi Qing was upset. The good should be well rewarded and the bad should be punished.

How could she escape without any punishments after doing bad deeds?!

“Actually... Brother Zhai told me something a few days ago. I think this will have a certain impact on Qiao Zijin.” Qiao Nan cupped her chin. She was still pondering about what Zhai Sheng told her previously.

She did not expect that after dragging on for two years, her father would come to his decision now.

“What is it? Don’t leave me hanging. If not, I will force you to tell me. Hey, Brother Zhai drops by my house often. Why did he tell you everything but did not even give me any heads-up?” Qiao Nan was Brother Zhai’s girlfriend. Since Qiao Nan stayed at her house, it could be said that Brother Zhai left his girlfriend and fiancée at their house.

Brother Zhai was too heartless. He should be worried that he might anger her and she would wash her hands off them!

“My dad wants to divorce my mom. Brother Zhai said that my dad will wait until my mom is better before he brings up divorce. He doesn’t seem to be threatening my mom this time. He isn’t joking as well.” Qiao Zijin and her father had to bear the responsibility that her mother had such a nasty temper.

Once her parents divorced, her mother had no one to rely on and she would no longer be so stubborn to admit to her mistakes.

They had only been apart for two years. Two years ago, her mother still looked to be in her thirties, but she seemed to be in her forties now. Qiao Nan was certain that in the two years that they left Ping Cheng, her mother and Qiao Zijin did not lead an easy life.

Shi Qing's eyes lit up. "Uncle Qiao intends to divorce your mom?! This is good news. If they divorce, you will be with Uncle Qiao while Qiao Zijin will go with your mom, right?"

"Of course." Her mother would not want anyone besides Qiao Zijin.

"My mom has a deep-set notion since we were young that Qiao Zijin is smart and she will be successful in the future. My father used to tell me not to harbor grudges for what my mom said because she had led a harsh life when she was young. She sees Qiao Zijin as herself when she was young. Hence, she is particularly good to Qiao Zijin." Her mother would never give up being with her 'former self'.

Shi Qing waved her hand. "Regardless of what happened, it is good news that they are thinking of divorce. I don't care about the rest. By the way, will your mom agree to it?"

"..." Qiao Nan was not sure. If her mother had been repulsed by the idea, she would not have left for two years without coming back. But she was not sure of her mother's attitude toward her marriage. She felt that her mother would not bear to part with her father no matter what.

Qiao Nan was uncertain, but Ding Jiayi was sure of what was on her mind. "Zijin, you are finally here. Half a month has passed. Where have you been? Why did you wait until now to visit me?"

#### Chapter 800 Strive to Maintain the Relationship

At the sight of her most beloved daughter, all the suffering, fear, and pain that Ding Jiayi had accumulated over the past two weeks gushed out immediately. She hugged Qiao Zijin and started to cry. "Do you know that Mom nearly died in a car accident in order to support you in your studies by selling the house? Mom nearly couldn't see you anymore!"

Qiao Zijin, who had been hugged by Ding Jiayi, felt stiff all over. She was compelled to reach out and pat Ding Jiayi's back. "Mom, aren't I'm here now? Previously, I... I was tied up with some

matters and I couldn't come over. I found out about this after I read the news of Ping Cheng. I also know that you wouldn't have a car accident if not for the selling of the house. Mom, I have let you down. I didn't dare to come and visit you. I'm even more afraid of facing Dad. If Dad knows that I'm going to sell the house, I'm afraid he will look down on me and treat only Qiao Nan as his daughter. Mom, I still wish to have this father."

"About this matter..." Ding Jiayi pushed Qiao Zijin away at one go. "You still want to have this father. I still want to have this husband too. During the past two weeks when your dad was taking care of me, he behaved strangely. I nearly died but he did not even say a word of concern or care about me. I keep having the feeling that your dad wants to divorce me. Zijin, what should I do? I don't wish to get a divorce. If your dad divorces me, I may not be able to support you throughout your college studies even if we sell the house. Furthermore, you also won't be able to find a job and earn money immediately after you graduate. I'm only afraid that the two of us may not even have a place to stay."

Ding Jiayi was a little woman. She subjected to the belief that a house and a family coexisted.

If she had not been brainwashed by Qiao Zijin for three days before the car accident, given her temperament, it would have been very difficult for her to make the decision to sell the house.

If she was truly willing to sell the house, the small courtyard of the Qiao family would not have been empty for two years.

Now that she had come to her senses, Ding Jiayi was certainly unwilling to do so.

"Mom, I know. Don't be anxious. The small courtyard of the Qiao family was a place that you stayed with Dad since both of you got married. It's also a place where I grew up in. I also feel a lot for that home and can't bear to sell it. Mom, back to the topic, do you really think that Dad is going to divorce you?" If that was truly the case, it would be horrible!

"Your dad... The second day after I woke up, he said that he would like to have a thorough discussion with me about the matter between him and me when my body is better. Listen, doesn't this sound like he wants to divorce me? Initially, I thought that he was threatening me so that I would treat Qiao Nan better. However, Qiao Nan did not appear anymore thereafter, but your dad's attitude toward me remained the same. He's always looking so cold every day. Unless he needed to take care of me, he wouldn't even take one glance at me, let alone speak to me. No matter what I said or how I flared up, your dad really... just ignored me!"

Half a month had passed. Ding Jiayi was not as confident as before that Qiao Dongliang's words were just a form of threat.

If she was not fearful, she could still reflect the threat and then grab hold of the authority in the family again.

At this juncture, she was more concerned about whether Qiao Dongliang's words were just words of threat.

"Mom, don't be anxious. There will be a way." Qiao Zijin was panicking too. Her mother had already been injured to this extent by the car accident. Her father was too hard-hearted. He not only did not cherish and take good care of her mother but also wanted to divorce her. What kind of person was that?

The reason Qiao Zijin would agree to Chen Jun to act in this true drama was that, besides stopping Qiao Nan from taking the college entrance examination, she also wanted to make use of Ding Jiayi's car accident to bring out true love in the midst of adversity.

At the sight of her mother's miserable state because of the car accident, her father would feel that life was fragile and many accidents were possible. If he did not cherish the marriage and love between her mother and him properly, they might be separated by life and death at any point in time.

Qiao Zijin wanted to make use of this car accident to make Qiao Dongliang realize the importance of Ding Jiayi so that his heart would soften. He would then forgive the mistakes that Ding Jiayi had committed and understand the meaning that nothing was more important than one being alive.

Unfortunately, out of the many objectives that Qiao Zijin had in mind, she did not achieve any of it. Qiao Dongliang did not bury the hatchet and reunite with Ding Jiayi because of this car accident. Instead, they were going to divorce each other.

Qiao Zijin's brows were so distorted that they were almost becoming a butterfly knot now. She did not understand which step of the plan was missing to have caused such a different, reversed even, outcome.

"What way?" Ding Jiayi asked anxiously. "This hospital is not bad. Only two weeks have passed. Besides my bones, there aren't many issues with the rest of my injuries. Now, I can still lie in bed and ask your dad to take care of me. After some time, I won't be able to do so anymore."

“Mom, this method is actually quite simple. Didn’t Dad say that he will settle the matter between the two of you when you’re better? What if you ‘don’t recover’ and need someone to take care of you as you are not independent in your daily needs? If the pretext that Dad mentioned does not exist, he can’t possibly strike a man when he is down and divorce you at this juncture? Right, you should do this!”

“What should I do?” Ding Jiayi still did not understand.

“You do this...” Qiao Zijin leaned closely to Ding Jiayi’s ear and whispered something into it.

Ding Jiayi was feeling apprehensive. “Will this work? Don’t forget that this is a hospital. They have a bunch of doctors and equipment. Will we be able to put up with such a pretense as we wish?”

“Why not? Don’t think that the hospital is very great. Many medical conditions and sickness in the hospital can’t be explained or treated by the doctors. This is just one of the special circumstances. Who says this won’t do?” Qiao Zijin insisted. “Anyway, this is the only way out. If you don’t try and Dad really wishes to divorce you, don’t look for me to give you suggestions. I can only come up with this.”

“You, you let me consider it carefully.” Ding Jiayi was hesitant. She was torn between doing it or not. “Zijin, in order to see you, I asked your dad to go home. Why don’t you stay at the hospital to keep me company tonight? I, I’m by myself. There’s no familiar kin by my side. I, I won’t be able to sleep at night.”

Qiao Zijin was both angry and amused. She was already of such an age and a mother of two children, yet she did not even have such courage. It was ludicrous. “Mom, I can’t. I have to go back. The house cannot be empty.” Moreover, she still had to meet Chen Jun early tomorrow morning to understand the current situation.

“Why can’t you? Can that be called your home? It’s a rented apartment and there are not many things inside either. What’s there to be anxious about? Moreover, if you make a trip to and fro, you’ll waste a lot of time. I’ve been staying at the hospital for two weeks. Are you not concerned about me at all? It’s so difficult for you to be here, and your Dad is away. Who is going to take care of me if you don’t? You even said that you will be filial to me after you become successful? Zijin, were you just sweet-talking me?” Ding Jiayi held on to Qiao Zijin and refused to let go because she was truly afraid of staying alone in the hospital.