

RTAMM 841

Chapter 841 How Dare He Be At Odds?

Zhai Hua almost fainted from anger. Each of her family members was more stubborn than each other. If they said that they disagreed, it meant that they really did.

Many years ago, the old master disagreed letting her father marry Qi Minlan. In the end, was it not true that Qi Minlan was not qualified to marry into the family?

It was already such a tough journey for them and Wei De had to increase the level of difficulty on his own accord. "If you don't wish to be together with me or if you're sick of this, tell me earlier. I won't waste your time too. Your mom's health is poor and she has been pining for a grandson. After we break up, given your current situation, it's still quite easy for you to marry another woman. Maybe both of us will feel more relieved thereafter."

Zhai Hua gave a mocking laugh and simply hung up the phone.

Thereafter, Wei De made over twenty phone calls before Zhai Hua was willing to pick it up. "Hua Hua, why did you say that? You're the only woman that I want to marry in my entire life. Don't you understand my feelings for you? Since I've been in business, I can't help but attend some entertainment events. Nevertheless, haven't I always been disciplined and have never committed the mistakes most easily committed by men? Of course I want to marry you. I... I admit that I am wrong in Qiao Nan's issue. I didn't handle it well enough. It's not that I'm biased against Qiao Nan. Perhaps I feel a little awkward toward Regiment Commander Zhai because of what happened when I left the army previously. If I marry you, he will be my brother-in-law and vice versa. We will become one family. He didn't help me even with such a small matter and caused me regrets in life about my time in the army."

Break up?

How was that possible?!

His life had just picked up and this platform was given to him by Zhai Hua.

It had been so easy for him to start a business previously. He had amassed so much wealth in just one year.

If Zhai Hua was gone, the extent of the difficulty that he would face doing business now would be the same extent as the ease that he had when he first started out.

The money that he had earned in his entire life would be reduced to nothing, not even a single cent, within a month.

Wei De was clearly aware of the importance of Zhai Hua for his company's existence.

He had not gained a strong footing and did not have sufficient connections and capital. He was not even experienced in business, and neither did he possess any investment sense.

If he were to leave the wide network of connection given to him by Zhai Hua, Wei De was still Wei De. He would still be that poor lad that came out of the poor ravine, one that was a good-for-nothing.

“Then?” Zhai Hua did not accept any of the many reasons mentioned by Wei De. “Wei De, I always thought that you're quite reasonable, that you're a true man. Why couldn't I tell that you also have such a petty side in you?”

In front of the Zhai family, Zhai Hua would always try her best to put in good words for Wei De. That was because Wei De had not been accepted by the Zhai family. However, this did not mean that Wei De only had merits and no demerits.

When she was alone with Wei De, Zhai Hua would never only say the good things and omit the bad ones. “Clearly, one year ago, you told me that, in fact, you were in the wrong and left the army. However, that platoon leader not only left the camp but also broke a limb. Didn't you say that you felt quite guilty toward him?”

If he truly felt guilty about it, why did Wei De still put the blame of this matter on Zhai Sheng?

That was fine. If he was resentful toward Zhai Sheng, Wei De should be at odds with Zhai Sheng directly and not bother Qiao Nan. “Wei De, you didn't fight with Zhai Sheng directly but you laid your hands on Qiao Nan. Why do I feel that you're afraid of the strong and choose to bully the weak? You're just picking on the opponents who are easier to bully!”

Wei De knitted his brows, feeling a little sullen. “Isn’t Zhai Sheng your younger brother? If I really lay my hands on him, can you bear to see it happen? I didn’t do that because of you.”

Wei De had been pretending too much in front of Zhai Hua normally. At this juncture, he had gone overboard in his pretense.

“What’s so unbearable? I’ve already told you long ago that our Zhai family favors the strong ones. If you really have the courage to be at odds with Zhai Sheng or even win against him, maybe it’ll be easier for the two of us to become together. Do you want to give this method a try?”

“...” Wei De had a headache and he rubbed his temple. He was very speechless at the serious attitude of Zhai Hua when she gave this suggestion.

Being at odds with Regiment Commander Zhai?

If he truly had this capability, he, and not Zhai Sheng, would be the one assuming the regiment commander role now.

As humans, who would not pick the weaker ones to bully? Who would be foolish enough to go head-on with the stronger ones? Could Zhai Hua not be so naive?!

It was fine that she pretended to be righteous in front of outsiders. There were only the two of them in a private setting now. Sometimes, he really did not know how to respond to these unrealistic words of Zhai Hua.

Wei De was unhappy, and Zhai Hua felt more depressed. “Wei De, my parents told me that I have not seen your true side. Tell me, have I really not seen that true side of you?”

After knowing each other for a few years and dated, Wei De did not have any demerits in Zhai Hua’s eyes. He was conscientious during training sessions in the army, was good to his comrades and filial to his parents. After he was together with her, he was very caring and would not expect her to take more care of him just because she was the deputy battalion commander.

However, when Wei De came into contact with her family, the number of conflicts increased. Hence, Zhai Hua’s opinions of Wei De did not always remain the same.

For example, at this moment, Zhai Hua was very doubtful.

Clearly, he was someone quite smart but he had to fumble the ball and perform very badly at critical times. He even caused her mother to faint from anger.

The Wei De in the past had backbones and was only willing to rely on his own capability. However, it was the truth that he had wanted to get in through the back door one year ago. Although it was for the sake of his bed-ridden mother, it could not change the fact that Wei De had wanted to get in through the back door and be in Zhai Sheng's team.

Moreover, he was not familiar with Qiao Nan and the latter had not offended him before.

Anyone who saw a stranger being bullied by such a muddleheaded mother would step out to voice justice and help her. However, Wei De did the exact opposite.

The more she thought about it, the more confused Zhai Hua felt. "Wei De, what kind of person are you exactly? Is my impression of you right or wrong?"

When Zhai Hua said this, Wei De then truly panicked.

Wei De had been pretending in front of Zhai Hua most of the time.

Besides, Zhai Hua and Qiao Nan had the same problem. They assumed that someone in a soldier's uniform was definitely the most adorable person, righteous, and responsible person on earth.

This was the first impression that Qiao Nan had toward soldiers. However, after some interaction, Qiao Nan could also have a change of her first impression very easily.

Zhai Hua was lacking a little in this aspect. Given that Wei De was a soldier, she admired a man such as Wei De very much. Naturally, she transformed all her admiration and approvals into love after they became a couple.

Wei De was someone who was good at currying favor. When they were first together, Wei De dared not reveal too much of his character. Thereafter, he had been observing Zhai Hua and found out what kind of man she liked.

In the end, Wei De worked on transforming himself toward the kind of man that Zhai Hua liked.

The truth was unquestionable, and so were lies.

As time passed, Wei De would eventually let the cat out of the bag in front of Zhai Hua.

Once Wei De was not the man that Zhai Hua had wished for, this relationship would not be able to proceed.

Chapter 842 What Kind of Logic Was That?

How Wei De had relied on Zhai Hua to rise previously, he would definitely fall in the same way.

“Alright, Hua Hua. I admit that I’m in the wrong in this matter. I didn’t handle it well enough. I apologize to you. Actually, I didn’t target Qiao Nan because of Zhai Sheng. I’m afraid that you will laugh at me if I tell you. Qiao Nan’s background is not much better than mine but she’s smart and your mother treats her like her own daughter. I’ve been thinking. Why do humans have different fate? I’m jealous of her. She can easily receive your family’s affirmation while your parents are not even willing to address me as Xiao Wei after I tried so hard for so long.”

Once Wei De acted pitiful, Zhai Hua really could not bring herself to flare up. “Don’t be like this. In comparison, Qiao Nan has worked harder than you. She has known Zhai Sheng for more than four years. My mom has also known her for more than four years. In the initial few years, my mom clearly expressed that she would not accept a daughter-in-law such as Qiao Nan. Nevertheless, it has not even been two years since I first brought you to see my parents. Qiao Nan did not have it easier than you.”

The only edge that Qiao Nan had over Wei De was that she appeared early and she was young when she did. She did not miss out on much of her youth during these four years.

Even if it was another four years, Qiao Nan could also afford to go through them.

She was different from Wei De. She was already thirty years old and Wei De was older than her by a couple of years. At the thought that very few people at this age were not married or did not have kids, Zhai Hua felt very vexed too. “How is auntie’s health recently?”

“How else can she be? Yearning for a grandson has almost become her psychological problem. Actually, my parents prefer grandson to granddaughter but I’m already at this age. A few days ago, they called me and told me to quickly give birth to a grandchild, be it a grandson or a granddaughter, for them. There are so many people in the countryside. Peers of my age already have kids who are schooling. I’m the only one left. Clearly, I’m the most successful one but I have not married, let alone have kids.” Wei De smiled grimly and he sounded very pitiful.

“Since auntie has already said that, why didn’t I see you try harder? Instead, you keep provoking my parents, testing their limits. Even Zhai Sheng is annoyed with you now. Everyone says that he that loves the tree loves the branch. You know that Zhai Sheng loves Qiao Nan. Although you shouldn’t be the one currying favor with Qiao Nan, you’re in a relationship with me and my parents approved of Qiao Nan earlier. You can’t be jealous of her. We will be one family eventually. If you can gain Qiao Nan’s favor earlier and let Qiao Nan help you put in a few good words in front of Zhai Sheng, it’s much more useful than you doing ten things.”

If they could not succeed by working on Zhai Sheng first, then they would work on Qiao Nan first.

If Qiao Nan was willing to acknowledge Wei De, this brother-in-law, Zhai Sheng would certainly silently approve of him as time passed.

After winning over Zhai Sheng, as long as he nodded in front of their father occasionally, her father’s attitude would soften and her mother would not be a problem anymore.

This was a chain with links. It was just that from now onward, Qiao Nan was the first link in their family!

It was fine that Zhai Hua did not mention this. Once she talked about it, Wei De’s face turned black. It was not as if he had not tried it before. In the beginning, he had tried to work on Qiao Nan but failed.

Now, in hindsight, Wei De admitted that he had looked down on Qiao Nan being just a senior high school student then. He felt that with the existence of Qiu Chenxi, this bright pearl, the Zhai family would not be so muddleheaded to really allow Zhai Sheng marry Qiao Nan. At most, he would date Qiao Nan to pass time.

Who would have expected Qiao Nan to have such great capability? She actually sweet-talked Zhai Sheng into marrying her and even the two main elders in the Zhai family had agreed.

If he had known that there would be today, he would have treated Qiao Nan with a better attitude during that time. At the very least, he would not act and think so highly of himself.

Between Qiao Nan and him, whoever entered the Zhai family first had won. Qiao Nan was the victor. He had to concede defeat even if he did not wish to do so.

“Qiao Nan... Teacher Xiao Qiao is not old but she’s quite mature. Most likely, she won’t be cajoled so easily. After much difficulty, she has finally been acknowledged by the old chief and Madam Zhai. Once she knows that the old chief and Madam Zhai did not acknowledge me, will she be willing to care about or even help me?” If it were him, he certainly would not lest he became implicated in the end.

“Qiao Nan is quite a good person. She’s different from those mercenary people. Shi Qing, the daughter of your former Officer Shi in the army, actually likes Zhai Sheng since she was a child. Initially, she was studying at Mo Du but she specially transferred to Ping Cheng High School to compete with Qiao Nan for Zhai Sheng. It is just that Shi Qing is a good lady. Even if she needs to compete, her methods are open and honest. She never uses underhand methods. Qiao Nan is so big-hearted. She became good friends with Shi Qing. Now, Shi Qing has forgotten me, her sister. She sides with Qiao Nan so much. As such, one can definitely trust Qiao Nan’s character.”

How many women had the capability to transform her rival-in-love to friend, let alone best friend?

When she thought about how much Shi Qing sided with Qiao Nan, Zhai Hua still felt so jealous even today.

The praises that Zhai Hua had for Qiao Nan angered Wei De so much that he rolled his eyes. “Fine, then I’ll give a good thought on how to make Qiao Nan affirm me and be willing to help us.”

Shi Qing was the good one, so although she was Qiao Nan’s rival-in-love, she could receive Qiao Nan’s affirmation.

That said, he had looked for Qiao Nan twice but she rejected by him without any hesitation or giving him any face. That meant that he was the bad one?

What kind of great logic was that?!

After Wei De hung up the phone, Zhai Hua frowned and continuously stared at the phone.

Qiao Nan had guessed one thing correctly. Zhai Hua liked Wei De so much because she experienced from Wei De all the love, care, and concern that her parents did not give her sufficiently during her childhood.

Wei De, who was usually cared for and doted on her in all ways, now treated her like any other lady and hung up the phone first. How would Zhai Hua feel in her heart? Furthermore, Wei De was the one who was in the wrong.

Since that phone call until today, Zhai Hua had not contacted or even met Wei De.

Since the two had been in a relationship, this was the first time that Zhai Hua had not contacted Wei De for such a long time. On the other hand, Wei De wanted to let Zhai Hua use this period of time to calm down and think carefully about their future.

Given such thinking and behavior of Zhai Hua, god knows when he would be able to marry Zhai Hua. One could not always be so inflexible. She should know how to improvise.

As such, the situation between the two became somewhat stagnant. Undoubtedly, the Zhai family was very pleased to see such a scene.

Marriage was not dating. There were many opportunities to quarrel in the future because of matters pertaining to daily necessities or even children.

During dating, before a couple was married, the couple should quarrel more. After more quarrels, they would have an idea on whether they were suitable for each other without the need for others to advise them.

Zhai Hua did not mention Wei De in front of the Zhai family members. The atmosphere in the Zhai family became more harmonious. "I think when the old master knows about this, he will be quite happy. The old master should arrive tomorrow, right?" Zhai Hua reminded them.

"I'll go and fetch him," Zhai Sheng immediately replied.

Chapter 843 Zhai Hua Came Looking for Qiao Nan Too

Zhai Hua snorted. “Don’t be so nervous. I have no intention to have Wei De pick up the old master.”

As far as Wei De’s situation in the army was concerned, unless Old Master did not ask, he would either be angered by what Wei De had done and be sent to the hospital, or he would beat Wei De to a pulp such that the latter was sent to the hospital.

“Thankfully, you know your own limitations,” Zhai Sheng said with satisfaction. It was rare that the atmosphere was jovial in the house. She must not spoil the mood by bringing up Wei De.

Looking at the gloomy look on Zhai Hua’s face, Zhai Sheng swallowed the words that were at the tip of his tongue: Time was the best inspector. Time revealed a man’s heart.

However, seeing that Zhai Hua was troubled by Wei De’s problems, Zhai Sheng could not bear to nag at her further.

Miao Jing let out a long sigh. They had quarreled for days, but Wei De had yet to make a single call to pacify Hua Hua.

Some women needed time to calm down, but that tactic was unsuitable for the women in the Zhai family. Time would not help them calm down. Instead, the sparks would gradually fade!

True enough, Wei De did not really like Hua Hua. After being together for some time, he still did not know her temper.

Zhai Hua, who felt gloomy, went out early the next morning. Everyone in the Zhai family felt that she must have gone to look for Wei De. If this went on and she was always the first person to give in and look for him, there would only be two outcomes — Zhai Hua would eventually be under Wei De’s control or she would call off the relationship.

However, the Zhai family did not know that the person whom Zhai Hua looked for was not Wei De. In fact, the person was taken aback when she saw Zhai Hua. She widened her eyes in surprise, looking as if she was a frightened squirrel. “Sis... Sister Zhai Hua, what brings you here?”

“Am I not allowed to be here or am I not welcome?” Zhai Hua pulled a long face and walked impolitely into the Qiao family’s residence.

Qiao Dongliang had already left for work. He had divorced Ding Jiayi and there was no need to divide their money and properties. No matter whether it should belong to her or not, Ding Jiayi had either spent all the money or she had already gotten her hands on them.

Qiao Dongliang was left with no possessions or property. What he had to do now was to preserve the status quo. As for Ding Jiayi, who was still hospitalized, she still had her elder daughter to look after her.

He had to support his daughter who was in college. If he did not work, no one would help him provide for her.

Therefore, when Zhai Hua reached the Qiao family's residence, Qiao Nan was the only person at home. "Where's Shi Qing? Didn't she follow you around, refusing to leave your house? I heard that she is too close to you that Zhai Sheng is jealous. He finds her an eyesore."

After entering the house, Zhai Hua scanned the house thoroughly.

The Qiao family's residence was quite old. It had not been renovated, so it was not in good condition. The house had cemented floor, which was miles apart from the Zhai family's residence.

However, those who had been to the Zhai family's residence would not feel uncomfortable when they visited the Qiao family's residence. The reason was simple. It had been kept very clean.

Those who entered the house would feel particularly comfortable in the clean environment.

There was a saying that even if something was small, it could still contain the essentials. This was an apt description of the Qiao family's residence.

The house, though small and plain, exuded a warm and comfy feeling. Visitors would feel peaceful and at ease.

Compared with mansions that were as luxurious as the palace, the Qiao family's residence gave off the comfy feeling of home.

It was no wonder that for the past three years, Zhai Sheng and her mother liked to visit the Qiao family's residence and her father did not object to it. This place made people feel at ease. She sat down and could not help but relax.

Zhai Hua, who had been tensed for all sorts of reasons, relaxed and started to feel sleepy. She yawned and leaned on the bamboo mat on the floor of the living room, mumbling to Qiao Nan, "I am tired. Let me rest for five minutes."

Zhai Hua drifted off to sleep right away. Her even breathing sound could be heard in the living room.

"..." Qiao Nan, who had yet to say another word, widened her eyes and stared at Zhai Hua, who had taken her spot on the bamboo mat and was fast asleep. Even though she said she would sleep for five minutes, she lay sprawled on the mat comfortably.

Qiao Nan clasped her forehead. What did Sister Zhai Hua mean by coming over here today?

Shi Qing, who leaned on the wall next door, tried to listen to what was going on, but she could not hear any more voices. She decided to climb over the wall to take a look. "Why is Sister Zhai Hua here? I didn't hear any conversation between the two of you."

"Why did you climb over the wall again?" Qiao Nan lectured Shi Qing. "Is everyone who has been through military training addicted to climbing over the wall? Look at you. Ever since you moved to the house next to mine, how many times did you come into my house through the front door?" What Qiao Nan could not accept was that Shi Peng did not seem to mind that his daughter had the habit of climbing over the walls.

Instead, in order for her to climb over the wall with ease, Shi Peng not only repaired the connecting wall for it to be sturdy and solid, but he also made an opening such that the protruding stone tiles would not make a tear in Shi Qing's blouses or pants.

Initially, Qiao Nan was so exasperated that she felt like buying cement and stone tiles to fill up the opening.

The pair of father and daughter was too willful!

“Don’t take issue with this. We are so close with each other.” Shi Qing did not take Qiao Nan’s words to heart. She placed her hand on Qiao Nan’s shoulder and walked into the house. “Hey, Sister Zhai Hua of the Zhai family has her bed to sleep on, so why did she come to your house to sleep? Could it be that she is sent out of the house because of her relationship with Wei De? Could it be that she is here to plead with you to take her in? If so, things are getting interesting.”

“Don’t make matters worse without getting the facts right.” Qiao Nan slapped Shi Qing’s hand away. “It’s so warm. Upon arriving here, Sister Zhai Hua asked about your whereabouts. She feels that it is rare that you are not here. To her surprise, you came over five minutes later.”

Shi Qing lifted her chin. “I have been selected by Brother Zhai to protect you during the four years in college. It is nothing wrong for me to stick close to you.”

If she did not dirty her blouse when she ate the watermelon just now and needed to go back to change her blouse, she would have been at the Qiao family’s residence no matter what time Sister Zhai Hua arrived at the house.

“Alright, stop saying nonsense. Hurry, help me analyze the reason why Sister Zhai Hua is here.” No matter how Zhai Hua treated her, Qiao Nan was able to figure out her intention and to be mentally prepared. However, she could not tell what she meant by falling asleep at her house. She felt clueless and worried.

On the other hand, Shi Qing looked particularly relaxed. It could be that because this had nothing to do with her, so she did not feel burdened.

Qiao Nan always kept the house sparkling clean. Especially the area where they had their meals and watched television, Qiao Nan would use the cooling water from the well to wash two to three times. After which she would wipe them dry.

By the time the floor was dry, she would use the water from the well to wipe the bamboo mat several times before placing it on the floor.

Their house had the best ventilation among all the other houses.

If one was to sit down on the floor during the summer, it felt cool and comfortable. Therefore, Shi Qing would drop by the Qiao family’s residence whenever she was free. She felt that it was too troublesome to do it herself at home. She would rather enjoy the effort of others.

Chapter 844 The Problem Was with Wei De

In 2000, the size of the bamboo mat was usually 1.2 meters or 1.5 meters. The bamboo mat at the Qiao family's residence was 1.5 meters wide. After Zhai Hua lay down to sleep, there was still a wide empty space on the mat.

Without another word, Shi Qing found a comfortable spot and sat cross-legged on the mat. She switched on the television and turned to the channel that she was interested in. It was a special program that was shown during the summer break. "Qiao Nan, I feel that you are being overly anxious. After being with Wei De, Sister Zhai Hua has changed a lot. But I feel that there are some habits that would never change. If there was anything that she was unhappy about, she would have blurted it out the moment she entered the house. Now that she is asleep, I don't think it is anything serious. It could be that Wei De did something to upset Sister Zhai Hua. She is thus troubled and wants to take a walk. She is here to have a peace of mind."

Shi Qing took a bite of a peach. It had a nice aroma and it was delicious, soft, and juicy. Shi Qing devoured it in no time.

"Do you really not intend to take any classes this summer break? The parents offer you very good prices." This was the only issue that Shi Qing was curious about.

Qiao Nan took a seat on the mat, watching television with Shi Qing. "No, ever since... my third year in junior high school, I feel like a wound-up spring. My results have always been so much better than my sister's. However, my mom does not allow me to study, whereas my dad likes people who study well. During the summer break of my second year in junior high school, I found out that my mom wanted me to quit school to finance my sister through school. I told myself that I have to fight for the opportunity to study. It was useless to talk reasons to my mom. Therefore, I had to prove to my dad that I am capable so that he would be on my side. If my dad did not allow me to continue with my studies, it would only mean that my results were not good enough."

In fact, Qiao Nan felt that she had indeed tired herself out these past four years.

She was not a robot. She would definitely feel tired following such tight schedules and timetables.

However, these four years were very crucial to her. She did not dare to relax. She was worried that if she relaxed slightly, she would not be able to get back to momentum.

“In order to score exceptionally good grades such that my dad would stop being biased toward my sister, I had to work extra hard. I know that my dad feels the burden of supporting my sister and me through school. It is indeed tough on him. Besides, my mom has spent all the savings on my sister. Therefore, if I want to continue with my studies, it is not good enough that I have good results. My dad has to pay the school fees for the two of us. I have to lighten his financial burden as well. If I cannot meet either requirement, I may have to quit school.”

Therefore, she tried to think of ways to earn money. If the parents wanted her to tutor their children, she would try to offer a price that was slightly higher than the other tutors.

If she did not work hard, she might have to quit school anytime.

“Qiao Nan, it is so tiring on you.” Shi Qing gazed at Qiao Nan. Uncle Qiao seemed to dote on Qiao Nan. She had no idea that he had given her tremendous pressure and stress.

“Tiring?” Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. “If you want to study but everyone forbids you to study and wants you to take a totally different path that will destroy your future, you won’t be feeling tired. You will only feel scared! I thrive in calamity and perish in soft living. Now that my parents have gotten a divorce, and Principal Meng has helped me to apply for a few scholarships which will be awarded to me before school starts, together with the government subsidies that I have, I can finally study in college with a peace of mind. I am freed of all burdens. Of course, I hope that I can lead a simple and carefree life. I don’t wish to be tired to the bones.”

Qiao Nan had suffered in the past four years in order to enjoy a moment of peace and quiet now.

If one could lead an easy life, no one would wish to be dog tired.

There was no such person in this world.

“True...” Shi Qing did not know what else to say to comfort Qiao Nan. After all, Qiao Nan had a thorough understanding of her situation. There was no need for her to advise or console her.

Given that she lived in such a family, Qiao Nan had to think for herself and work hard. If not, among the two children in the Qiao family, she would be the child that was to be sacrificed.

Since Qiao Nan already knew what she wanted, she had to put in ten times the effort and hard work of others in order to get what she wanted.

At least for now, Qiao Nan was successful. All her hard work in the past was worthwhile.

In the past, Shi Qing might not understand the situation that Qiao Nan was in as well as the mentality of the Qiao family. However, under Qiao Nan's influence, Shi Qing began to understand the workings of society and the complicated and changing relationships between people.

She was fortunate that she was an only child. She was able to get all the love and attention of her parents.

As for her grandparents, apart from being slightly biased toward Qiu Chenxi when she was around, they were good to her.

Zhai Hua, who lay on the floor, had, in fact, woken up from the time Shi Qing entered the house. She grew silent at the conversation between Shi Qing and Qiao Nan.

One must know oneself well. This was very true.

If one knew themselves well, they would work harder to get what they wanted.

It was useless to sit and wait for good things to come their way. Nobody could gain anything without putting in any effort!

She seemed to understand the reason why her parents and Zhai Sheng was so against Wei De. What Wei De did a year ago indeed lacked self-awareness.

Qiao Nan was so young and she was a young lady, but she knew and understood such profound logic, while Wei De, who was no longer young, did not seem to know.

Furthermore, Qiao Nan knew that her parents were biased toward her sister. Therefore, she had to work harder to prove that she was capable. Wei De knew that her parents did not like him. Should

he not put in extra effort to perform well and show them his abilities, so as to change her family's opinions of him?

For a long time, Wei De kept telling her what she should do so that they could have a brighter future.

Wei De seldom said that he wanted to work hard so that her parents would accept him and to work hard for their future...

Zhai Hua came to the Qiao family's residence today as she had no other place to go to. She came out from the Zhai family's residence but she could not go to Wei De's house. She had no other place where she could relax and feel comfortable.

Zhai Hua remembered that Miao Jing loved going to the Qiao family's residence. Therefore, she decided to go there.

Perhaps she should have a heart-to-heart talk with Qiao Nan so that she would not feel so depressed.

However, to Zhai Hua's surprise, she had yet to ask to speak with Qiao Nan, and she was already enlightened by the conversation between Qiao Nan and Shi Qing.

There was no need to be doubtful or to hesitate. The problem was with Wei De!

Chapter 845 Much Worse Than Qiao Nan

After figuring out this, Zhai Hua was able to relax totally and she fell into a deep sleep. She did not hear a single word of the remaining conversation between Shi Qing and Qiao Nan.

By the time Zhai Hua woke up from her sleep, it was already five o'clock in the afternoon. There was a fragrant smell of food in the Qiao family's residence. Shi Qing's voice could be heard in the distance. "Qiao Nan, hurry up. I am starving! I am still growing and developing. I have to eat a lot every day. If not, I will not grow up well."

"Developing? Do you think you are going through another round of development? Your digestion and metabolism are too good. I have to prepare six meals a day for you! You have your snacks in the afternoon, but now you are hungry again..." Qiao Nan was close to tears at the number of times

that she had to serve food for Shi Qing. She had never seen a young lady who had such a good appetite. No matter how much she ate, she would not put on weight. It was so irritating!

If Shi Qing would put on weight from eating too much, she would want to lose weight and cut down on her food intake. In that case, she did not need to prepare so many meals for her.

“Are the meals ready? I am hungry as well.” Zhai Hua yawned and walked lazily toward them. “Egg fried rice? Alright, I will make do with it.”

Shi Qing and Qiao Nan rolled their eyes. Nobody intended to invite Zhai Hua to join them to have the egg fried rice. How dared she find fault with the rice! Zhai Hua behaved like Miao Jing when she first came to her house. They were indeed mother and daughter.

“Sister Zhai Hua, you are the deputy battalion commander. People like you should have the best. The egg fried rice is mine. Maybe you can go back to the Zhai family’s residence. There will definitely be fish and meat dishes waiting for you!” Shi Qing was famished, yet she still had to share her food with Zhai Hua. Besides, since Zhai Hua seemed to disapprove of the food, Shi Qing had no wish to give her any.

Since she did not like the food, she should not have them. She already did not have enough to eat!

“A guest should suit the convenience of the host. I will have whatever the host prepared. I should not be picky. Isn’t this how a soldier should behave?” Zhai Hua was unhappy. Did Shi Qing, the little girl, intend to have all the food to herself? Even if the food was not nice, she would not let Shi Qing have them all to herself. Shi Qing had to pay for badmouthing her just now.

Shi Qing watched helplessly as half of her food was given to Zhai Hua. She glared at Zhai Hua angrily. “Why are you here? You slept the whole afternoon away at the Qiao family’s residence and now you snatch my food from me. Let me warn you. Don’t go overboard!”

“What can you do to me?” Zhai Hua acted like a hooligan. “Let me give you a piece of advice. You should dig in. If I feel hungry after finishing my food, I will have yours.”

“Crap...” Shi Qing was anxious. She had no time to waste. She devoured her rice quickly.

She had no way to get her food back if it was indeed snatched away from her.

Zhai Hua sipped some green tea after filling her stomach. She burped slightly, satisfied with the meal. “Was this the fried rice that you prepared for my mom last time? After going back home, she asked the helper to prepare it in the same way. It was a pity that the helper could not get the taste right. My mom got tired of it after trying a few times. It tastes different from the fried rice that is sold outside. Did you add preserved vegetables?”

It was obvious that the fried rice had preserved vegetables.

“Yes. I like to prepare it in this way.” Qiao Nan would prepare it according to her preferences. “I prepared the preserved vegetables by myself.”

“You are indeed virtuous.” A lot of effort was put into preparing the egg fried rice. Qiao Nan prepared everything by herself. Perhaps men would want to look for wives like Qiao Nan. “Zhai Sheng is fortunate. Old Master will reach Ping Cheng soon. It’s time to settle the engagement between the two of you.”

“This is a good piece of news. Sister Zhai Hua, it is rare that you bring good news with you when you visit the Qiao family’s residence. You left me with a bad impression after what happened last time.” Shi Qing smiled. She would welcome Sister Zhai Hua if she would bring good news with her every time she was here.

“It has been one or two years ago, yet you remember them so clearly. You are so petty.” Qiao Nan was the person who was bullied, not Shi Qing. Why did Shi Qing bear grudges against her? “Qiao Nan, I am sorry for what happened in the past.”

Zhai Hua had owed her an apology for years. Zhai Hua felt more at ease now that she had said her apology.

“Actually, I came here today for a reason. Whenever my mom is in a bad mood, she will feel better after she goes to your place. Can you have a talk with me? If not, I may fall sick from being so vexed. One should be happy when in love, so why is it that I feel so vexed?”

Qiao Nan and Shi Qing turned silent. Sister Zhai Hua was indeed here because of Wei De.

The difference was that this time, Sister Zhai Hua did not ask Qiao Nan for help. Instead, she was here to seek her advice.

Qiao Nan thought for a while. “Shi Qing, bring me the Chinese chess set that your dad gave to me. Sister Zhai Hua, I suppose you know how to play Chinese chess?”

“Of course. The old master brought me up. Even if I do not know how to play Go, I definitely know how to play Chinese chess.” Since a young age, she was ‘trained by the old master. How could she not know how to play?

“Alright. Shall we play a game of Chinese chess to clear our minds?” Qiao Nan took the Chinese chess out of the box. “Do you want to go first or shall I go first?”

“You can go first, lest you say that I bully you,” Zhai Hua said proudly.

Qiao Nan accepted it smilingly. She took out the red chess pieces and placed the chess pieces on the chess paper. Zhai Hua took out the black chess pieces. The red pieces would make the first move.

Qiao Nan started the game by moving her cannon.

Zhai Hua then moved her horse.

Qiao Nan took the offensive from the start of the game. She used the strategy of Pan Tou Ma.[1] The game started off quickly.

In the blink of an eye, Zhai Hua felt that her chess pieces seemed to be trapped.

“Who taught you how to play the Chinese chess? Is it your dad?” Zhai Hua thought that it would be easy to defeat Qiao Nan. Even if she allowed Qiao Nan to have a huge advantage over her, Qiao Nan would not be able to defeat her, let alone letting her take the first move.

However, Qiao Nan was pretty skilled. She did not seem like a layman in Chinese chess.

“In the past, Elder Lee would play chess with me. I have some interest in it. Whenever I am free, I will borrow some books related to Chinese chess from Elder Lee.” Qiao Nan commented as she made her move.

“...” From what she knew, Qiao Nan was very busy. Apart from coping with the hectic life in high school, whenever Qiao Nan was on holiday and was free, Elder Lin would bring her around for her to hone her skills and to gain relevant experience.

Qiao Nan had been busy like a bee, yet she still had the time to learn Chinese chess and enrich herself.

Unlike Wei De...

She had told Wei De long ago that the old master loved playing Chinese chess. If he was able to play chess with the old master, he would at least be able to leave a good impression on him.

She even taught Wei De briefly about Chinese chess.

However, after learning the different moves in Chinese chess, Wei De gave up learning Chinese chess. He felt that it was too difficult and taxing on the brain, and that he could not master it.

Chapter 846 Qiao Nan's Doubts

Actually, it was fine as long as he knew the moves and the rules.

He did not need to defeat the old master. In fact, if he defeated the old master, he might be angry and would have a bad impression of him.

Wei De was just a layman in Chinese chess. Apart from the moves, he knew nothing about it.

Unlike Qiao Nan, who was very skilled at it.

Although Old Master Zhai had not reached Ping Cheng, Zhai Hua was certain that he would definitely accept Qiao Nan as his granddaughter-in-law.

Old Master Zhai liked women who were down-to-earth and hardworking. She heard that he used his wife as a yardstick to choose his daughter-in-law and granddaughter-in-law.

Household chores...

Her mother was better in farming than Qiao Nan. Apart from that, they were both skilled in household chores. As for culinary skills...

Back when Qiao Dongliang was hospitalized, Zhai Sheng had put on weight from eating the food that Qiao Nan prepared. Zhai Hua had a share of the food as well.

As a result, Zhai Hua knew that Qiao Nan was better in culinary skills than her mother.

She had good results and she managed the house well. Furthermore, she knew how to play Chinese chess. She had a lot of positive traits. The old master might be much more pleased at Qiao Nan than when he first saw her mother.

Zhai Hua would always worry that when Old Master Zhai was here, he might have the same reaction as the Zhai family, or perhaps reacted even more strongly, objecting to her relationship with Wei De.

Zhai Sheng did not have to worry about this at all. If the full score was one hundred marks, the old master might even give a hundred and two points to Qiao Nan when he was in a good mood.

Why was there such a big difference between people?

“Sister Zhai Hua, if you continue to be in a daze, you will lose half of your army.” After Qiao Nan captured another soldier in Zhai Hua’s army, she was left with half of the army.

As for Qiao Nan, she only lost one horse and two soldiers.

“!” Zhai Hua was shocked. She took a closer look at the chess set. Half of her army was gone.

Zhai Hua focused her full attention on the game. Her intention was to prove to Qiao Nan that she was good at the game. She did not want to look like a fool in the end.

Zhai Hua concentrated on the game and dared not let her thoughts wander off. Her moves became more and more lethal.

Even so, Zhai Hua had lost half of her army. She was not Qiao Nan's opponent. Within a minute, Qiao Nan shouted loudly. "Checkmate."

"Let's have another game!" Zhai Hua did not like to make the final struggle. This was just a game of chess. If she lost, she could play another game. She would not underestimate Qiao Nan in the next game. "You can take the first move."

"Sure." Qiao Nan placed the red pieces on the chess paper again. She started with Pan Tou Ma[1] again.

Zhai Hua believed that she was very serious in the second game and that she would never lose to Qiao Nan again.

A lot of the red pieces and the black pieces were being captured. However, Qiao Nan was the final winner. "Checkmate."

"..." Zhai Hua threw the pieces away. "Three games, two wins. You keep winning. I shall not play anymore!"

Since Zhai Hua said that she wanted to play no more, Shi Qing kept the chess pieces immediately. Whenever Qiao Nan was free, she would play Chinese chess with her father. Sister Zhai Hua might not know, but Qiao Nan was being easy on her.

Forget it. She had to preserve Sister Zhai Hua's dignity, lest she felt too depressed.

Zhai Hua sat on the floor and took a peach that Qiao Nan had washed from the table beside her. She took a bite and said, "I am here because I want to lighten my mood. Are you sure you should be doing this to me?" She felt more depressed than before.

"Shall we have another game and I will go easy on you?" Should she let her win?

"No!" Zhai Hua refused. Went easy on her? What was the point in that?

Qiao Nan ate a peach and watched the television after being rejected by Zhai Hua. "Sister Zhai Hua, don't blame me for being a busybody. I heard that Wei De has a younger sister who has a child out of wedlock. Is that true?"

“...” Zhai Hua blushed. This was not something to be proud of. “Yes. The sister is not blood-related to them. The family took her in and took care of her as if she were their daughter. Wei De told me that the child was abandoned by her parents at a young age. They left her outside their house. Actually, nobody knows who her biological parents are. Many people said that somebody must have passed by the village and left the child randomly outside the Wei family’s residence. Wei De’s parents feel sorry for the child. Therefore, they decided to take her in.”

“Is it that easy to adopt her?” Qiao Nan took another bite of the peach. “I remember that the country implemented family planning in the 70s. However, many places still feel that it is a good fortune to have lots of children. Although the first child is a boy, I find it strange that the Wei family only has one child, and that the second child is an adopted child.”

“Wei De said that... his mother has been in poor health ever since giving birth to him. She could no longer bear another child.”

“Do you mean that the reason for not having another child is not due to poverty?”

“It could be part of the reason.” The Wei family was not doing well. Before Wei De joined the army, they had difficulties to make ends meet.

“Even if they could no longer have children, they may not necessarily adopt another child. Besides, the Wei family is not doing well. Since they have difficulties to make ends meet, why were they willing to adopt a child whose parents they know nothing about? Furthermore, the child is five to six years younger than Wei De. Back then, given the Wei family’s situation, how could they have the ability to adopt a child? How did they complete the procedures?”

The Wei family already had Wei De as their son. Since it was not allowed to have a second child, they could not adopt a child as well.

However, the sister was not an unregistered resident under the household.

No matter what, if the sister was to be registered under the household, they would be fined a huge sum of money.

In order to register the child under the household, the Wei family would have to pay the fines. Besides, it would be another expense to take her in and raise her up. The Wei family was not doing well, so why would they do that?

“I am sorry. I am used to being frank and straightforward. You should know the situation in my family. I may not understand the complicated issues, but I pay a lot of attention to details. There are some problems that have been bothering me. Since you are here, I decided to check with you. If you are unhappy, you can choose not to answer.”

The Zhai family was a political and military family. Furthermore, Zhai Hua was born during that time. She knew very well about the policies back then.

Take for instance the Zhai family. They went through a lot to have Zhai Sheng.

If the Zhai family was a family of farmers and the first child was a girl, they would be allowed to have another child.

However, the Zhai family and the Qiao family were classified as non-agricultural household registers. Therefore, they were not allowed to have another child. Qiao Dongliang had to leave the army and pay a fine to have a second child and to register Qiao Nan under his household.

Therefore, after having Zhai Hua, the Zhai family was not allowed to have a second child.

However, Miao Jing was pregnant with another child.

Old Master Zhai felt that it was a pity, but he could not take the lead to go against the national policy as well. His intention was for Miao Jing to have an abortion at the hospital.

Chapter 847 The ‘Great’ Mother

Old Master Zhai had given the order. Even if the people from the Zhai family did not take the lead to follow the national policy, they could not go against it openly and set a bad example. Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing could not bear to part with the child, but they had no choice but to go to the hospital.

After examining Miao Jing, the doctor told her that she did not have enough nutrition when she was young. She might look healthy, but she had a weak constitution. Furthermore, she had a second child soon after she had her first child, causing her to be weaker.

Under normal circumstances, it would be good for the pregnant lady to abort the unborn child.

However, Miao Jing's condition was different. If she aborted the baby, she might endanger her life. Therefore, the doctor recommended her to give birth to the baby.

Miao Jing went to several hospitals to seek advice, and all the doctors gave her the same recommendation.

Zhai Yaohui submitted the report and the higher-ups allowed them to have a second child.

Although the government implemented family planning, they could not disregard human lives. Miao Jing's condition was a special case. Therefore, it had to be handled differently.

As a result, Miao Jing was able to give birth to Zhai Sheng

The Zhai family had been through a period of stress and anxiety because of this. Although Zhai Hua was still very young, she had some recollections of it till today.

The Zhai family got into a lot of trouble because of having a second child. Although the Wei family merely adopted a child, it would not be easy on them as well. Even if they were from the countryside, they still could not go against the policy.

Unless Wei De's sister was unregistered in the household.

But it was a fact that his sister was registered under the household. If so, how did the Wei family settle their problem back then?

"Isn't it strange?" Zhai Hua blinked rapidly, but she could not answer the question. Qiao Nan threw the seed into dustbin easily and washed her sticky hands in the toilet. "I keep hearing that both of you have been talking about marriage. Wei De knows very well about the situation in the Zhai family. But Sister Zhai Hua, you don't seem to know much about the Wei family. Even if both of you are to stay in Ping Cheng after marriage, you still have to take care of matters related to the Wei

family. As I have said, dating only concerns two persons, while marriage involves two families. Actually, you should know why my dad is in a hurry to divorce my mom.”

Zhai Hua knew nothing about the Wei family as they lived far away from Ping Cheng. She heard everything about the Wei family from Wei De, but nobody knew whether he was telling the truth.

“...” Zhai Hua was silent. “Will this have any impact on my life with Wei De in the future?”

She had no contact with people from the Wei family. She only learned about them through Wei De. Now that Qiao Nan mentioned it, Zhai Hua felt a sense of panic that she knew nothing about them.

“Let me put it this way. We know that his sister has a child that is born out of wedlock. She must be very brave to do so in a rural village where it is very conservative. She has to be very capable as well to continue to make a living there. In fact, the sister has good fortune. She was abandoned by her family, but she was adopted by another family right away. As a woman, she has an illegitimate child, but she still has a good life in the village. She is a special woman.”

“Do the villagers take pity on the young lady?” Shi Qing interrupted.

“I suppose. Let’s get back to the topic. The sister has always been staying in the village. The village will grow their own crops and vegetables. It is sufficient for them to survive, but they are unable to make money from farming. I am sure Wei De used to take care of this child. Perhaps it is due to the family environment that I grew up in, or that I am selfish and narrow-minded, but undoubtedly, Wei De will have to take care of the child for three to five years. He may even be responsible for the child even when the child graduates from school and has a job. Perhaps Wei De will earn the money to buy him a house and a car so that he can get married. I heard that the child takes Wei De’s surname, no?”

Shi Qing rolled her eyes. “That is such an exaggeration.”

“You don’t understand.” Qiao Nan shut Shi Qing up. In the future, the economy would be booming and the price of housing would increase tremendously. If a man wanted to get married, the first question that he would be asked was whether he had a house.

China was a nation with a vast amount of land and a very large population. Every place had their own cultures and customs. She also heard that in some places, if the men did not have a house, a car, or money, they could never find a wife.

“Wei De is running a business. He... he does not lack money.” It was nothing much to raise a child.

“Let me ask you. If both of you arrange for the child to study in Ping Cheng, and you have your own children and you need to go to a parent-teacher conference, who will attend whose parent-teacher conference?”

“Sister Zhai Hua will attend the parent-teacher conference of her own child while Wei De will attend the parent-teacher conference of his sister’s child, right?” Shi Qing was confused. She had no idea how this was related to their topic.

“If so, I feel so sorry for Sister Zhai Hua’s child. The child has a father, but the father has no chance to attend the parent-teacher conference.”

“I can go as the child’s aunt!” That would not be a problem. “Qiao Nan, the child is innocent.”

Qiao Nan was exasperated. She looked upward and gave Zhai Hua a thumbs-up. “Sister Zhai Hua, you are so great. You are truly ‘the most adorable’ person in the world. Our fingers have different lengths, and Zhai Sheng is your brother. However, you always complain that Old Master Zhai and the old chief value Brother Zhai more than you, and that they underestimate you as you are a woman. But right now, you are telling me that the child is innocent, and you intend for your child to watch helplessly as someone else’s child gets the love and attention of the parents? I have to thank you on behalf of your future child, for teaching the child since young to share the parents’ love and not to be selfish.”

Zhai Hua was jealous of her brother and bore grudges because of that. Whenever she felt unhappy with her elders at home, she would bring that up and complain that she had suffered all these years.

She could not do what she preached, yet she wanted her child to be able to share the love with someone who was unrelated.

It was the child’s luck to have such a mother. Qiao Nan could only feel sorry for the future child. The child was so pitiful.

“Yes, it can be done. When you have a child with Wei De in the future, you can teach your child to share the parents’ love with someone else. This is what you can tell her: When I was young, I was jealous of my own brother. I am being foolish and I have yet to sort out my thoughts even today.

Therefore, as my child, you must do what I am unable to accomplish. Look at your cousin. He is so pitiful. He does not have a father since he was born. You must not be unhappy that your parents treat him well. You must agree to your parents treating him like their own.” Qiao Nan showed Zhai Hua how she should teach her child, imitating the way she spoke. “Sister Zhai Hua, what do you think? I have come up with a way to teach your child. Is it touching? Will your future child be moved by what you say?”

Chapter 848 Brainwashing Zhai Hua

Zhai Hua’s face turned black instantly. She was not angry at Qiao Nan for being too mean in her words. She was angry at herself for what she had said as it was too high-sounding and unrealistic. She felt like giving herself a slap.

She was on such good terms with Zhai Sheng, yet they would be jealous of each other from time to time. If her baby had to lead such a life, she would rather not give birth to one!

She had told herself as well as Wei De countless times that unless she was childless in the future, she would definitely give all her love to her own child.

Certainly, she would not be like her parents who were so irresponsible to have ‘dumped’ their children to the elders. This had caused the children to lack paternal love and care since they were young.

At this moment, Zhai Hua felt that she was hitting herself in her own face. “You’re not selfish. All humans are selfish.”

Shi Qing shook her head, feeling confused. “No, I think Qiao Nan exaggerated a little. Since this is a problem that can be resolved with money, it is not much of a concern. Think about it. This child doesn’t have a father but he has a biological mother. At most, you can ask Wei De to give more money to his younger sister and let them move out of the countryside to let the child receive a better education. Won’t that do? Why do Wei De and Sister Zhai Hua have to bring that child along and raise him up?”

This was not right. Shouldn’t Qiao Nan persuade Sister Zhai Hua to leave Wei De? Why did she talk about Sister Zhai Hua and Wei De’s child?

“It’s not exaggerating.” Zhai Hua let out a frustrated sigh. “Qiao Nan is not exaggerating. I’ve been too naive.”

“Wei De had brought his up?!” Qiao Nan looked stupefied. “The two of you have not even sorted out your relationship?!”

“I want to wash my face.” Zhai Hua stood up silently. She went to the toilet and splashed water onto her face so that she could sober up.

Why was it that Qiao Nan, who was at such a young age, could foresee a problem that she had not even thought of? This was despite that she was much older than Qiao Nan. Moreover, she had neglected this issue again and again.

Wei De not only brought up the matter about this child but also thought of bringing the child here after this summer vacation to take care of him.

That child was already four years old this year. Wei De said that children nowadays had to receive a better education so that they would not lose out from the start.

There were many children of wealthy families in Ping Cheng who went to nurseries and hopped around lessons to learn many things at the age of two or three.

As this child bore the surname of Wei, Wei De’s parents treated him like their biological grandson. Hence, as the child’s uncle, Wei De certainly could not shortchange him and wished to nurture him.

Zhai Hua had been together with Wei De for a long time and the Zhai family had not even approved of their relationship. Hence, it was still too early to have a child.

Nevertheless, they would become parents eventually. It was also good to have some practice beforehand.

Zhai Hua was a woman. Now that she was of this age, she was yearning for children as well. Thinking that Wei De’s words were right, she had nodded and agreed to Wei De’s request.

Wei De not only wanted to spend money to rear the child but he also wanted to take care of and raise him up on his own. He even wanted Zhai Hua to help him along!

“Qiao Nan, I would like to ask you a question. Help me analyze it.” After washing her face, Zhai Hua walked out and sat opposite Qiao Nan. “Perhaps I am naturally lacking in this aspect. I didn’t consider too clearly or thoroughly on some real-life issues.”

“No, you are not objective because you’re the party involved.” Most would think that she was with Brother Zhai as she was lusting after the Zhai family’s wealth. That was a common reaction by a typical person, and so did Sister Zhai Hua. That went to show that Sister Zhai Hua was actually conscious of such details in life. “Nevertheless, please continue.”

“It’s like that. Wei De wants to make a trip back to his hometown next month and bring this child over. He hopes that I will be able to nurture a relationship with this child. Wei De said that that child is quite smart, good-looking, and very obedient. He said that when the child is able to behave better and not so mischievous, he will let me bring him back to the Zhai family for my parents to look after and relieve their boredom. He said that a child will definitely bring a lot of joy and laughter to a family. After getting along with this child for some time, my parents may wish that our future child will be as adorable. Their hearts may soften and they will agree to our relationship. Do you think this situation is simple?”

Simple?

Not at all!

Qiao Nan simply told Zhai Hua about the situation between Zhu Baoguo and Wang Yang. “Sister Zhai Hua, do you think that Wang Yang is simple?”

Wang Yang ostracized Zhu Baoguo from Elder Zhu. He then tried to get close to and gain favor from Elder Zhu every day. Did Wang Yang purely want to be a good grandson to let Elder Zhu enjoy the joy of having his family and grandchildren close to him?

He must be kidding!

“This is just the son of his adopted younger sister, not even his biological nephew. Why is he taking care of him and making arrangements as if this is his own son?” Shi Qing asked, speechless.

Zhai Hua had a headache and she scratched her head. “I didn’t think that this matter would be so complicated earlier. I have already agreed to this. If I tell him not to let that child come now, it’s not that good, right?”

“Sister Zhai Hua, since you look for me today, I will be blunt with my words. If Wei De wants that child to come, that’s fine. You can also take the chance to make more observations. You’re a soldier and you don’t spend a lot of time at home. How will you have so much time to spare to help them take care of the child? You don’t need to intervene in how he brings up this nephew. Let Wei De arrange it on his own. If Wei De wants you to bring that child to the Zhai family, you can just decline. Without much thinking, you should understand that the old chief and Auntie Miao may not welcome the child even if he is Wei De’s biological nephew, let alone the fact that the identity of this child is a little awkward now. You don’t need to make it too obvious. You can just say that Auntie Miao’s health is not very good and can’t be disturbed by the noise of children. Furthermore, this matter is in your hands. If you don’t wish to, will Wei De have the capability to bring the child to the Zhai family on his own?”

If Wei De really had the capability, he would not have pleaded with Sister Zhai Hua.

Sister Zhai Hua was the prerequisite for Wei De to enter the door of the Zhai family. Regardless of what Wei De had in mind, he would not be able to accomplish anything without Sister Zhai Hua’s help.

“Fine, I’ll do that.” Zhai Hua immediately slapped her hand on the floor. “My parents have not even accepted the matter between me and him. It’s definitely not appropriate for the nephew to come into the picture at this point in time. In the future, I won’t be cajoled in this way by Wei De anymore. Why have I been coaxed into a brainless person?”

“Sister Zhai Hua, don’t get too worked up. Remember that a woman in love is blind. If you can’t decide or feel that it’s not appropriate to tell me, I think you can look for Shi Qing. Shi Qing will still be able to give you a few earnest opinions.” Qiao Nan pushed Shi Qing out and let Shi Qing become her scapegoat.

It was tough being a good person. In particular, it was tougher to be a ‘good person’ that was in between lovers.

If this was not handled properly, perhaps Zhai Hua would put all the blame on Qiao Nan. It would be so awkward for the two of them to live under the same roof in the future.

Shi Qing, who had been ‘pushed forward’, did not flare up either. Anyway, she did not see eye to eye with Wei De. “It’s fine, Sister Zhai Hua. You helped me in the past. Now, I’ll help you.”

Zhai Hua gave a nod and agreed. She really could not do this alone.

Chapter 849 Could Not Bear To Do So

Just as Zhai Hua arrived home, Wei De's phone call came.

The auntie told Zhai Hua in a hushed tone, "That Mr. Wei has called for the fifth time today. Miss, do you want to take the call?"

"No." Zhai Hua declined flatly. "If this really won't do, you can hang up the phone and leave it aside. Don't bother about this."

He had been keeping mum and did not call her for so many days. Today, he made five phone calls. He must be looking for her to talk about that child's matter.

So, Wei De was only willing to look for her when he had some issues. In the absence of any matter, there was not even a call from him for so many days.

"Oh, okay, miss." The auntie knew that this partner of Zhai Hua was not very well-liked by the Zhai family. She was thus very frightened and careful whenever she picked up Wei De's call. The auntie felt more relieved when she heard Zhai Hua's words.

Without a word, the auntie acted according to Zhai Hua's instructions. She picked up the phone and immediately hung it up. She then put the phone aside. In this way, one could no longer get through the phone line directly.

"Hello..." When the call got through, just as Wei De wanted to ask if Zhai Hua was back, unexpectedly, the other party simply hung up the phone.

Wei De was so angry that he smashed a cup. "Aren't you just a housekeeper of the Zhai family? You dare to hang up my phone? When I manage to contact Zhai Hua, I'll make things difficult for you!"

After the smashing, Wei De looked a little sullen. He had been in some business talks recently. He did not contact Zhai Hua deliberately these few days as he hoped that Zhai Hua could restrain her temper a little.

If she really wished to be together with him, she had to spare more consideration for him, think in his shoes, and affirm his views. She should not always restrict him as she always did. Was that meaningful?

However, Wei De had a phone call with his family yesterday and his parents urged him to bring Wei Wei here as soon as possible. Wei De had no choice but to make this call.

That child's name was not under Ping Cheng's household register. If they wished to change it, it was quite cumbersome and there would be a lot of administration work.

In particular, Wei De wanted to let Wei Wei study in a better kindergarten but he did not have any resources in this area. He tried to seek help from the friends introduced to him by Zhai Hua but they declined. They said that it would be more convenient for the Zhai family to handle this.

These people were all childhood friends of Zhai Hua. They helped Wei De on the account of Zhai Hua. Of course, they would be on Zhai Hua's side.

Wei De wanted to bring his nephew over. Were his brains damaged?

If they were to participate in this matter, they could forget about being friends with Zhai Hua in the future.

Hence, besides Zhai Hua, no one dared to poke their nose in this matter.

Hence, Wei De could only look for Zhai Hua as he hoped that Zhai Hua could help him resolve all these problems.

Before bringing the child over, he certainly had to clarify all these matters. Otherwise, if he was clueless and did not have any idea about what to do when the child arrived, August would be over in the blink of an eye and Wei Wei's admission to kindergarten would be delayed again by six months.

Zhai Hua would not pick up his call. Wei De did not have a way either.

He lighted up a cigarette and started smoking. He had gotten used to smoking cigar previously but had spent a long time to quit the habit and return to smoking cigarettes. This was because Zhai Hua

said that her family did not need people who appeared 'corrupted' and smoking cigars was too eye-catching.

Now, he could not get in touch with Zhai Hua. It seemed that he had to look for her personally in the quad.

At the thought that the Zhai family did not like him at all, and perhaps the auntie dared to hang up his call as she was acting on the Zhai family members' instructions, Wei De was so furious that his face turned gloomy.

What was not good about him that the Zhai family did not look up to him?

Furthermore, Zhai Hua was an 'old woman' that was almost thirty years old. The Zhai family should feel fortunate that he was willing to marry her. Why were they putting on airs?

However, Wei De only dared to think about these words. He dared not voice them out. Regardless of how old the women in the Zhai family were, there would be people who were willing to marry them. Furthermore, they might even possess better qualities than him.

It was only when Wei De was alone that he dared to say such words to himself to deride Zhai Hua. He consoled himself for being so benevolent that he was able to accept Zhai Hua, this 'old lady'.

After finished smoking his cigarette, Wei De stomped his feet and could only drive to the quad to look for Zhai Hua. "Comrade, good day. I am Zhai Hua's partner. I am here to look for Zhai Hua. We met before. Can you let me go in?"

The young comrade was very insistent. "This won't do. I have to either ask the family members of the old chief or ask Zhai Hua to come out and meet you. You can't drive your car in like that."

On the previous occasion, Zhai Hua was sitting beside Wei De. Of course, Wei De could drive his car in. However, today, without Zhai Hua, Wei De could not even enter the entrance of the quad.

"I won't go in then. Can you help me pass a message to Zhai Hua?" Wei De did not throw a temper at the young comrade. This was because he would only embarrass himself if he did so. The regulation of the quad was as such.

“Fine, you can wait here,” the young comrade replied and then passed Wei De’s message to the Zhai family.

After thinking, Zhai Hua decided to go with the young comrade to meet Wei De.

At the sight of Zhai Hua, Wei De’s eyes lit up. “Hua Hua, maybe you should tell the young comrade not to do this when he sees me in the future. It’s so inappropriate and it makes people feel embarrassed.”

Zhai Hua pursed her lips. “This is the regulation of the quad. I don’t have a choice as well. When my dad is willing to give an instruction, even without the need for me to say, this kind of embarrassing situation won’t occur anymore.” They could not just allow Wei De to enter or leave the quad as he wished.

If Wei De was given this right, in other words, Wei De could bring the child here even if Zhai Hua did not want to.

At the thought that Miao Jing’s health was really not too good, Zhai Hua could not possibly let such a matter occur. “Alright, why did you come here? Is something the matter?”

“Isn’t it regarding that nephew of mine? My parents insist that I bring him here personally. But when the child comes over, his household register, where to study at-all these are problems. Hua Hua, can you see if you can help me settle these matters? You handle these while I go and fetch the child over. We can split the work.” He could not enter and leave the quad as he wished now. Well, he would be able to do so one day.

Zhai Hua sighed. “You did not contact me for a few days. Today, you look for me just because of this matter. Without the matter about your nephew, you would still be busy with your business, right? That child belongs to your family. He does not have anything to do with me. You can make your own arrangements as you wish. It’s not convenient for me to intervene.”

“Hua Hua, didn’t you...” Wei De was anxious now. If he was able to resolve this problem, he would not need to look for Zhai Hua and embarrass himself. “Hua Hua, didn’t we agree on this? Please consider. Do you want to come out? We can find a place to have a good talk about this. Let’s go home, okay?”

Clearly, he was not that physically distant from Zhai Hua. One was residing in the quad and one was just outside the quad. However, albeit the short distance, Wei De felt that the Pacific Ocean was in between Zhai Hua and him. Due to this distance, Zhai Hua was not as easy to talk to as before.

“Okay.” At the sight of Wei De looking so anxious and sweating badly, Zhai Hua ultimately could not bear to see him in such a state. She thus agreed to go to a café with Wei De.

Chapter 850 ‘Learn’ from You

As soon as he sat down, Wei De was anxious. “Hua Hua, haven’t we talked about Wei Wei’s matter long ago? You have also agreed to it, no? Why are you reluctant now?”

“It’s not that I’m reluctant. You can still bring the child here. I’m not stopping you from doing that.”

“Then, what about Wei Wei’s household register and school?”

“You can settle that on your own. You’re his uncle. I’m not related to him in any way. Hence, as I’ve said, it’s not convenient for me to interfere.” Zhai Hua declined.

“How is he not related to you? You’re the biological aunt-in-law of Wei Wei. Can this have nothing to do with you?” Wei De was sullen. Why did Hua Hua’s attitude change? Clearly, Zhai Hua was still very happy when he brought up Wei Wei’s issue previously. At that time, she seemed to be very fond of Wei Wei.

“Biological aunt-in-law?” These three words made Zhai Hua feel most sullen. “Truly biological? You’re his biological uncle?”

Even if it was a biological one, just as Qiao Nan said, children would still compete with and throw tantrums at each other. The problem was how was this child ‘biological’?

Zhai Hua had heard Shi Qing complain about Qiu Chenxi more than once. At that time, she also felt unjustified for Shi Qing and had been consoling her.

The more she recollected on past matters, the more regretful Zhai Hua felt about agreeing to this matter too soon previously.

“Hua Hua, he’s no different from a biological one. Haven’t I told you before? Please don’t mention this in front of the child. The child is innocent, and so is my sister. We can only blame it on them not encountering good parents. Since my family has accepted her, we should not think about all this. If Wei Wei hears it, he will feel very sad. He’s already four years old and knows how to comprehend.” Wei De’s eyes were filled with awkwardness. “Hua Hua, you can’t think in the same way that common folks do. You’re a soldier. Why do you have such thoughts? Where’s your cognitive awareness?”

“It’s been eaten by a dog!” Zhai Hua said without hesitation. “Wei De, do you still remember... I have said before that if I have a child in the future, I will definitely give all my love to my child?”

“Remember, of course I remember. How will I not dote on our own child?!”

“If you keep your ‘biological’ nephew by your side all the time, will you not have any feelings toward him? Our children will you still be able to give all your love to them?”

“...” At this moment, Wei De was at a loss for words.

Since he wanted to take good care of Wei Wei, how was it possible that he would not have any feelings for him? As long as the child was by his side, it would not be easy to retract his feelings as he wished.

“See, you can’t do it. Don’t use the benchmark of a soldier to bind me. If I really use the soldier’s benchmark as a reference, I would have listened to my family and broke up with you.” Based on the requirements of the Zhai family, Wei De did not pass!

Wei De was so furious that he was clenching his fists. The veins on his neck were on the brink of exploding. “Hua Hua, what do you mean? So, you’re prepared to listen to your family and break up with me?”

If that was truly the case, then what would happen to him?!

No, they must not break up!

If he had known that the outcome would be as such by letting Zhai Hua calm down for four to five days, he would have given Zhai Hua ten phone calls a day.

He just did not contact her for a few days, and she had undergone great changes.

Break up?

Zhai Hua gritted her teeth. She really could not bear to do so. She still had a lot of feelings for Wei De. It was just that she could not accept Wei De's attitude all this while.

Zhai Hua was gritting her teeth. Wei De really believed that Zhai Hua was going to break up with him. He quickly grabbed Zhai Hua's hands. "Hua Hua, you clearly know that I only want to marry you in my lifetime. Besides you, I don't want anyone else. For your sake, I have worked so hard for so long. I've become an old lad of thirty years old. You're breaking up with me now. Are you trying to take my life? I've been together with you for so many years. I treat you as my precious one and my life. If you break up with me, I'll lose my life!"

"I'm wrong. I'm really in the wrong. If there's something that you don't like, I'll change. Won't that do? I won't break up. I won't break up with you. If you don't like Wei Wei, I... I'll give my mom a call to tell her that we're not bringing Wei Wei here anymore. Wei Wei is already four years old and he has not seen his dad before. I just feel that he is very pitiful and want to treat him better. I'm good to him but it won't possibly exceed my love for our children in the future. Every time I was in a phone call with him, I felt bad when Wei Wei asked me how his father looked like. Sometimes, Wei Wei would say 'I have never seen my dad before, but can I see you?' When I heard that, I felt even sadder. The child is still so young..."

"Stop saying all these." Zhai Hua was in a dilemma. When she heard Wei De's description of Wei Wei, her heart could not help softening. "You're a man. You have to call the shots for the Wei family. When the two of us are together, you also need to make a decision for many things. If you feel that Wei Wei is very pitiful, just bring him here. It's just that you have to settle all his matters in Ping Cheng on your own. I can't help you. You feel that Wei Wei is pitiful but I also have to spare a thought for my parents. They have not even accepted you, and yet, I continuously help you till today. I have to explain to my parents as well. Now, I even have to bother about your non-biological nephew. When others look at it, won't it seem that I'm at odds with my parents? You've done better than me in this aspect. You care very much about your family's feelings, whereas I've been willful."

She had always felt that her parents and grandfather treated Zhai Sheng better than her. Hence, she had to take charge of her lifetime happiness. She had to find someone that she truly liked.

Zhai Sheng was more strong-tempered than her. Nevertheless, didn't he and Qiao Nan also work hard together to gradually let their family accept them?

It was so unlike her. All of a sudden, she brought Wei De and appeared. Her family was caught off guard. Unfortunately, Wei De also had to fumble the ball several times.

In comparison to Qiao Nan's outstanding qualities, if it were her, she would also accept Qiao Nan and not Wei De.

"I have to learn from you and consider more of my family's feelings. Your mother is not in good health and she has to take medicine regularly. Actually, my mom's health is also not that good. Her life had been in danger previously when she gave birth to Zhai Sheng. We have to be married eventually but we certainly need to take good care of our family members. This matter is decided as such then. I'm going home. You can decide on Wei Wei's matter on your own."

As for breaking up, Zhai Hua eventually could not bring herself to say that.

However, Zhai Hua felt very uneasy about Wei De's insistence to bring Wei Wei over.

Today, after chatting with Qiao Nan, Zhai Hua became a lot calmer. She began to think about the meaning behind every word that Wei De said to her.

Wei De was clearly aware that at her current age, she was pining for children. He continuously described to her how pitiful Wei Wei, who was fatherless, was. It was hard for her not to soften her stance.

Wei De said all that to aim at this weakness of hers so that she would agree to let Wei Wei come to Ping Cheng.

Qiao Nan was right. If Wei De wanted to let that child come, so be it.

Her relationship with Wei De had not yet been acknowledged by her family. Wei De wanted to take care of this nephew who was not related to him by blood. However, she did not need to do so.