

RTAMM 861

Chapter 861 What Kind of Taste Is That?

Five years ago, Sister Zhai Hua had just come into contact with Wei De. At most, they just began to have positive feelings for each other and were in the midst of confirming their relationship as a couple. How could they possibly have a child then?

“I see...” Miao Jing heaved a sigh of relief. It was fine as long as it was not Hua Hua’s child.

As to whether this child was Wei De’s nephew, Miao Jing did not care. Of course, if this child was Wei De’s son, her reaction would be much stronger. This was because, in that case, Zhai Hua could just directly break up with Wei De.

“Auntie Miao, good day.” Wei De could only address Miao Jing as ‘auntie’ in front of Qiao Nan. On the contrary, Qiao Nan could now openly address Miao Jing as ‘mom’, and Miao Jing smiled happily when she heard that. He thus felt very unhappy. “I heard that Regiment Commander Zhai and Qiao... Teacher Xiao Qiao are engaged. I came here specially to congratulate them. Wei Wei, greet everyone.”

Wei De put Wei Wei down on the ground and then gently waved Wei Wei’s hands.

Wei Wei, who was dark-skinned and quite sturdy-looking, lifted his tiny head and called ‘maternal grandma’ with his baby voice.

At the sound of this ‘maternal grandma’, Miao Jing nearly fainted.

Wei Wei was just a child and could not read the change in Miao Jing’s expression. He then turned his tiny head and looked at Qiao Nan. “Little auntie-in-law?”

Qiao Nan nearly spat out her saliva. Wei De really knew how to teach Wei Wei. Wei De had really assumed that he was the son-in-law of the Zhai family. He had taught the child to address them directly as such. “Little friend, what is your name?”

“Wei Wei.”

“Oh, how old are you this year?”

Wei Wei showed three of his fingers but said, “Four years old.”

“Oh, Wei Wei is already four years old. Wei Wei, are you going to study here in the future?”

Wei Wei nodded honestly.

Qiao Nan smiled. “If Wei Wei is going to study at the school here, when you see someone like her in the future, you should call ‘grandma’, and when you see someone like me, you should call ‘sister’. In this way, people will adore Wei Wei.”

Given Qiao Nan’s age, she was not pretending to be young when she asked the children to address her as sister.

With Wei De’s teaching, was he not afraid that the child would address others wrongly at school? He would become a joke.

In the eyes of a child, one form of address represented a category of people. Depending on how the adults taught him, he would simply categorize the same kind of people and address them in the same way.

“Grandma? Grandma is at home.” At the thought of Mother Wei, Wei Wei said with some longing, “Uncle, I miss grandma. I miss Mom. I miss home.”

In this place that was full of strangers, there was no one familiar by his side. Actually, Wei Wei could not adjust well at all. He had been crying every two or three days. He had even lost weight.

One week ago, when Wei De just brought Wei Wei to Ping Cheng, Wei Wei was truly a little dark-skinned and plump boy.

As Wei Wei said that, he started to cry and throw tantrums. His two legs were kicking nonstop. The sound of wailing made people feel like they were going to have a headache. The sound of the cries proved that Wei Wei must be a very healthy and lively child at normal times. His lung capacity was quite huge.

“Wei Wei, how did uncle teach you before you came here?” Wei De was so angry that his face looked scrunched up. Clearly, he had taught Wei Wei so many times at home. In order to coax Wei Wei to be obedient, he had even bought many toys and mini cars for Wei Wei.

At home, he had agreed to be obedient. However, he had to fumble the ball at the most critical juncture when he was at the Zhai family.

Wei De, who had initially wanted to make use of Wei Wei to gain favor, was extremely angry. He felt the child had dragged him down instead.

Miao Jing’s expression turned increasingly sullen. Finally, she could not endure it any longer. She could not even be bothered to ask what had happened at the entrance to make the old master and Zhai Yaohui’s faces looked so black. She simply said, “I’m exhausted today. I’m going back to my bedroom to rest.”

After saying that, Miao Jing simply passed the authority of controlling the situation to Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan, take care of the guests in the house.”

In short, the difference between Qiao Nan and Wei De was akin to the borders of two opposing powers. There were very clear boundaries drawn.

The Wei family was just an unwelcome guest in the Zhai family whereas Qiao Nan was part of the family.

Qiao Nan had no choice but to take over this mess. She grabbed a few sweets that were beside her and squatted in front of Wei Wei. “Wei Wei, right? You’re already four years old. You’re a big boy now. Let’s not cry. As long as you don’t cry, sister will give you these sweets, okay?”

A child was always like that. They became content very easily. When they heard that there were food and toys, they would be distracted very easily.

Seeing that the sweets in Qiao Nan’s hands looked nice and seemed delicious, Wei Wei really stopped crying. He even nodded.

As promised, Qiao Nan passed the sweets to Wei Wei. She even unwrapped one of the sweets and placed it in Wei Wei's mouth. At this moment, Wei Wei completely quieted down. He was no longer kicking up a fuss. This also gave the adults an opportunity to talk.

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Once Miao Jing left, Zhai Sheng dominated Qiao Nan again.

At the sight of this scene, Zhai Sheng whispered into Qiao Nan's ears. "Next time, when we have children, you will definitely be able to raise them up well."

Zhai Sheng looked forward to how Qiao Nan and their children would look while they were standing together. Of course, he was looking forward more to when the child would arrive and the process of having one.

Qiao Nan blushed. She shot Zhai Sheng a glare before she said to Wei De, "Keeping the guests standing is not a practice of our Zhai family. Everyone, please have a seat. Grandpa, don't forget that your legs are not good. You can't stand for too long. Auntie, make some tea and also bring some cakes and pastries out. It's not good if the child becomes hungry."

Those guests had left after eating at the banquet. Although Qiao Nan was still around, Qiao Dongliang and Shi Qing had already gone home first.

Zhai Sheng said that he would send Qiao Nan home.

The two of them were engaged today. The couple also needed some private time together. This time, Qiao Dongliang could not stop them anymore. They were already an official couple. He could not possibly forbid them from having some time together, right?

Judging from the way Wei De and Wei Wei looked, they must have been waiting outside for a long time. It was just that they did not have a chance to enter the Zhai's residence.

They had waited for such a long time. The adults could endure hunger but the child could not.

True enough, just as the auntie served the cakes and pastries, Wei Wei's eyes lit up. Without the need for anyone to prompt him, his two little hands grabbed the cakes and stuffed them into his mouth. Wei De could not even stop him.

"Auntie, could you get a cup of warm water for the child, please?"

"There is a lot of fruit juice at home. Do you want that?" There was a lot of fruit juice leftover after the banquet today. The auntie asked as she did not want to waste them.

"No need. Just get some plain water." Qiao Nan did not like the packaged juices nowadays as there was too much artificial sugar and flavoring in them. If they had too much of it, it was not good for the health of an adult, not to mention that of a child.

In fact, Qiao Nan meant well but Wei De was not aware. He thought that Qiao Nan was petty and could not even bear to let Wei Wei drink some fruit juice. His expression turned black on the spot.

Old Master Zhai snorted in displeasure. "Hua Hua, what kind of taste of yours is this?!" There were some people who looked good but had no substance. At the very least, they were good-looking. However, the Wei De before him should be described as someone who had neither looks nor substance.

His looks were average but he was not down-to-earth at all.

Chapter 862 Zhai Hua Refused To Get Married

"Nan Nan, it's a good habit of yours to drink plain water. Nowadays, there are all types of fruit juices and coke, but they are not healthy for the body. Plain water is the best." Old Master Zhai either drank plain water, tea, or wine. He would not drink other drinks.

"Grandpa, I have the same sentiments. The fruit juices are not a hundred percent pure juices. They are not as good as those that we blend by ourselves. As for coke and soda, they have high sugar content. It is not healthy for the body." In the previous life, Qiao Nan was too poor to have these drinks. She remembered that these drinks were unhealthy. Hence, she did not have them in this life.

Zhai Hua pulled a long face. "Auntie, please give me a glass of boiled water as well. When I was young, grandpa only allowed me to drink boiled water. I would only drink boiled water when I go to the Qiao family's residence or at my house." Wei De was too narrow-minded. Qiao Nan would never be stingy with a child. It was just a glass of juice or coke. It was not an expensive drink.

The child liked it, but the adults did not know how to teach the child and taught him the wrong ways.

Wei De felt embarrassed. He did not know that there were so many stories behind a glass of drink.

When he first came to Ping Cheng, he knew that a small glass of soda would cost a few yuan. Therefore, he could not bear to spend money on soda. He could only have boiled water which was much more hydrating and cheaper.

Who would have expected that these expensive drinks were unhealthy. But everyone kept drinking them.

Qiao Nan was too much. She should have said it directly to avoid causing a misunderstanding. He would not have embarrassed himself in front of the Zhai family.

This must be Qiao Nan's motive. The more mistakes he committed in front of the Zhai family, the better it would look on Qiao Nan. She was too despicable.

Wei Wei did not understand what was going on between the adults. He only knew to keep his stomach full. Since he was thirsty, he gulped the water down happily. He did not stand on ceremony with them. There was no need for anyone to feed him as well. He was considered a very well-behaved child.

"Are you here to see the old master?" Zhai Yaohui, who had been silent for a long time, spoke up.

"Yes... yes." Wei De pulled Wei Wei, who had eaten to his heart's content, to stand beside him. He stopped him from moving around.

Wei De felt somewhat embarrassed and disgraced that the Zhai family witnessed the scene just now. But he had no other choice.

Almost all of the guests who left the Zhai family's residence saw Wei De with a child, hovering around the doorway as if he was very close to the Zhai family. He would address the guests as 'uncles' as if he was their relatives. He also said things that would lead to misunderstandings. For

instance, he told them that Hua Hua would mention them to him and he knew that they watched her grow up.

What was worse was that Wei De carried Wei Wei in his arms. Everyone whom Wei De greeted looked awkward and confused. They did not know who Wei De was and what his relationship with Zhai Hua was.

Today was Zhai Sheng's and Qiao Nan's engagement ceremony. Zhai Hua was a few years older than Zhai Sheng. If Zhai Hua had plans of marriage, the Zhai family would have told them.

Old Master Zhai and Zhai Yaohui noticed what Wei De was up to. Of course, Zhai Hua was present at the scene as well.

If not, Zhai Hua would not have the guilty look as if she had done something wrong and trailed behind Zhai Yaohui and Old Master Zhai. Zhai Hua could not accept what Wei De had done this time.

She had told Wei De that if he wanted to come to the ceremony, she would not help him, and he had to think of ways by himself. She did not expect that he would really turn up, and with Wei Wei as well. She also did not expect that he would sputter nonsense to the Zhai family's guests.

Zhai Hua was so angry that she felt like punching Wei De. All the uncles that left just now darted their glances over her and Wei Wei. It was as if Wei Wei was the child of Wei De and her.

She was a decent unmarried young lady. In all the years that she had been with Wei De, she did not do anything that overstepped the boundaries. How would she have such a big son like Wei Wei?

Initially, Zhai Hua had a good impression of Wei Wei. After what happened today, she had no liking for him anymore.

Wei De wanted to make use of the opportunity today so that the friends and relatives of the Zhai family would know of his relationship with Zhai Hua. Once words of their relationship spread—unless the Zhai family did not care about their reputation—Zhai Hua would have to marry him sooner or later. They might get married earlier than Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan.

Although Zhai Hua was the elder sister, it was a new age now. No one followed the old tradition that the elder sister had to get married before the brother could marry.

However, since Zhai Hua had a boyfriend, they could either hold the marriage ceremony together or for Zhai Hua to marry Wei De first. After all, they were older than Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan.

Wei De wanted to make use of public opinion to force the Zhai family to agree to the marriage.

“Hua Hua, what are your thoughts?” Old Master Zhai had a sullen expression on his face as he stared at Zhai Hua. He did not care what Wei De’s attitude toward this matter was. “Have you thought about how you want to handle this? I will give you a chance. Tell me what you want to do with today’s situation and I will agree to whatever that you say.”

Old Master Zhai was waiting to see if Zhai Hua would take the bait and say that since things had come to such a state, she would go along with it and get married to Wei De. If she really said that, Old Master Zhai would agree to it.

But there was no doubt that after this incident, Old Master Zhai would be very disappointed with Zhai Hua. He would not attend her marriage ceremony. He would take it that he did not spend all those years to nurture and raise her.

Wei De’s eyes lit up. He looked at Zhai Hua with anticipation. He wished that she would say the answer that he had been longing to hear.

Zhai Hua gulped a mouthful of water. She looked at Qiao Nan to calm herself down. “What is there to think about? Things are simple. I am in a relationship, and my boyfriend is here at the Zhai family’s residence with his nephew. It is just a misunderstanding. I am an unmarried young lady. How would I have such a big son? Rumors stop at the wise. It is foolish to waste time and effort to clear up misunderstandings. There is no need to bother about it. Perhaps it will die off after a while. Besides, the guests that came to our house have close relationships with us. We only need to give them a brief explanation at the right time and they will definitely believe us. They will not spread any rumors. Therefore, what happened today is not serious. Just let it be.”

Marriage?

No!

She would never agree to marry Wei De under today’s circumstances.

A few months ago, she really wished to marry Wei De as soon as possible and to bear him a child so that he could answer to his aging parents.

Right now, the more that she was driven into a corner, the more she would not agree to a marriage. She had this unexplainable fear at the thought of marrying Wei De.

Many people would have gamophobia before marriage. Zhai Hua might be emotionally strong, but she had gamophobia as well after what Wei De did.

Chapter 863 Made the Move Too Early

“Are you sure?” Old Master Zhai, who frowned deeply, relaxed at Zhai Hua’s words.

He was not very satisfied with this answer, but at least, it did not disappoint him terribly. It was better than Hua Hua saying that she would marry Wei De.

“I’m sure.”

“Alright, then it is settled.” Zhai Yaohui made the final decision. It was rare that his daughter was not muddleheaded. Given the way she behaved in the past year, Zhai Yaohui did not have high expectations of her.

Zhai Sheng raised his hand to make his stand. “I support it.”

“Me too.” Qiao Nan followed suit, standing on her husband’s side.

“Alright. The Zhai family has always been democratic. Everyone has voted to go ahead with it.” Old Master Zhai felt much better now. “Comrade Wei, I am sorry. We are having a personal gathering today. It is inconvenient to invite you. It is late, and the child is tired after eating his fill. You should go back now.”

“Brother Zhai, I should go back too.” Qiao Nan pulled at Zhai Sheng’s clothes.

Zhai Sheng grabbed Qiao Nan’s disturbing hands. “You can stay.” Now, Nan Nan could stay at the Zhai family’s residence openly. Nobody would dare to gossip about her.

“No, I have to go back.” Qiao Nan insisted. “My dad is waiting for me at home.” The most important thing was that Shi Qing might be waiting for her as well.

If she did not go back today, Shi Qing would tease her even if nothing happened between her and Brother Zhai. She would let her thoughts wander.

Qiao Nan could not afford to be misunderstood.

“Yes, Nan Nan’s attitude is right. Even if the two of you are engaged, you cannot do as you wish.” Zhai Yaohui had to set the rules straight for Zhai Hua. “Unless you are married, it is wrong for a single man and a woman to stay together. You can’t blame other people for misunderstanding you. You have to behave with propriety. Particularly for girls, you have to learn to protect yourself. I don’t care what the social norms are. In the Zhai family, you have to follow the rules and be conservative. We do not accept the so-called modern and latest trends.”

Zhai Yaohui used Zhai Sheng to set a good example for Zhai Hua. Qiao Nan smiled secretly at Zhai Sheng. She did not insist on it. It was Chief Zhai who said so.

Zhai Sheng gave Qiao Nan a pinch. She could keep the smug expression to herself. His father might have said that, but he would do as he pleased. If anyone provoked him, he would make Qiao Nan stay by force. No matter what, Uncle Qiao could not object to it from today onward.

However, since there were outsiders around, Zhai Sheng preserved Zhai Yaohui’s dignity and listened to him.

Zhai Sheng could not be bothered to feign civility with Wei De. He did not deserve it.

Zhai Sheng stood up and reached out his hand to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan blushed slightly. She clasped Zhai Sheng’s hand as he helped her up. “Let’s go. I will send you back.”

“Okay,” Qiao Nan replied softly.

The man had a tall and upright frame, looking righteous and strong in his green military uniform.

The woman was petite, looking feminine and delicately pretty in her bright pink cheongsam that reached her knees.

True enough, they were a perfect match.

On his way out, Zhai Sheng gave Zhai Hua a meaningful glance as if to say, 'It is your fault that I have to send Nan Nan home today. I will remember this and settle it with you in the future.'

Zhai Hua's scalp felt tight. Her brother was good at bearing grudges. He was not young anymore and he had a girlfriend, yet he could not do what he wanted as she was still young.

He had waited for four years before they were finally engaged. But he was implicated by her and now, he had to behave properly toward Nan Nan.

As his sister, Zhai Hua felt sorry that Zhai Sheng had such a difficult love life.

But she could not help it as well. She did not ask for things to turn out like this.

If it was up to her, she would forbid Wei De from showing up with Wei Wei.

Zhai Hua could sense Zhai Sheng's warning stare, but she felt that she was an innocent victim as well. She was misunderstood by so many people today. They thought that Wei Wei was her son with Wei De.

Zhai Sheng ignored the distressed expression in Zhai Hua's eyes. Since Zhai Hua was ready to ignore what happened today, Zhai Sheng would not breathe down her neck anymore. It was more important to send Qiao Nan home.

As for Wei De, Zhai Hua had made her decision. Without her support, Wei De could not come up with any more tricks.

Zhai Sheng sent Qiao Nan back home in the car. Perhaps they were perturbed by Wei Wei and Wei De, keeping their silence on the way back. They had their thoughts on the Zhai family.

During the journey, Qiao Nan was the one who broke the silence. “Brother Zhai, do you find that Wei Wei bears a resemblance to Wei De?”

If Wei Wei did not resemble Wei De, why would Auntie Miao... her mother suspect that Wei Wei was the child that Sister Zhai Hua had with Wei De when she saw him for the first time? All the outsiders thought so as well.

It was not a given that the person who carried the child must be the parent of the child. If not, human traffickers would have an easy time abducting children.

There was a flicker in Zhai Sheng’s eyes. “I did not pay attention just now.”

“Brother Zhai, it could be a woman’s intuition. If possible, can you send someone to check on Wei De’s hometown and keep an eye on Wei Wei’s mother?”

Upon seeing Wei Wei for the first time today, Qiao Nan observed that Wei Wei was wearing new cotton clothes.

In general, men would not know how to take care of children and they would not pay attention to small details. Besides, there was no one to guide Wei De. He must have learned from others that it would be better for children to wear cotton clothes.

Moreover, Wei De had been carrying Wei Wei all the time. He only allowed him to walk by himself when they were at the Zhai family’s residence.

Wei De was furious when she gave plain water to Wei Wei. He was not merely angry at her for being stingy. There seemed to be other reasons as well.

In general, people would be angry under such circumstances. They felt furious as they were being looked down upon and not recognized by others.

It was different in Wei De’s case. He seemed to be angry because she was stingy with a small child like Wei Wei. He felt angry that she did not want to offer the child a glass of juice or soda.

There seemed to be a different reason behind his anger. There were so many possibilities behind it.

“Okay.” Even if Qiao Nan did not say anything, Zhai Sheng could sense that Wei De seemed to value Wei Wei very much.

Wei De had yet to be approved by the Zhai family. To put things bluntly, if Wei Wei was the child between Wei De and Zhai Hua, he might be able to make use of the child to gain the approval of the Zhai family.

However, the Zhai family had not accepted Wei De. It was unsuitable for him to bring Wei Wei to the Zhai family at this time.

Chapter 864 Wished to Throw Wei De Out

Wei De seemed to be anxious for the Zhai family to accept Wei Wei. He had gone overboard this time.

“Sister Zhai Hua told me that Wei De asked her to find a good kindergarten for Wei Wei and decide on a good elementary school, junior high school, and high school for him. Not only that, Wei De seems to have asked Sister Zhai Hua if my master can give him an early education in English.”

“Does Zhai Hua look for you often?” Nan Nan seemed to know more about Zhai Hua and Wei De than him.

“Not really. Sister Zhai Hua likes the egg fried rice at my house. Therefore, she will come by occasionally. When she does, she will chat with me about her situation.”

“It is no wonder...” It was no wonder that Zhai Hua canceled her leave briskly previously and went back to the camp. It turned out that it was related to Nan Nan. “Zhai Hua is your sister. You must pay more attention to her. She is the type of simple lady whose intelligence level will drop to zero when she is in love. You must look out for her. If not, it will be a problem in the future.”

Her intelligence level did not drop to zero. It dropped to a negative value.

“Well, in short, Wei De is definitely not suitable for Sister Zhai Hua. Sister Zhai Hua has an idealistic view of love and she is hoping to have someone who loves her for herself. Wei De is after material gains. He does not really love Sister Zhai Hua. He is most probably faking his love for her. This is not what Sister Zhai Hua is after. By the time she discovers it, they will still have to go their

separate ways. However, it is difficult to predict when that will be. Wei De is too good at putting up pretenses in front of Sister Zhai Hua.”

Qiao Nan could tell from her conversations with Zhai Hua that Wei De would say honeyed words to her.

Every woman in the world loved to listen to sweet, honeyed words. They were eager to listen to mushy and endearing words.

Shi Qing, who was full of anticipation for a good show, looked disappointed when Qiao Nan got down from Zhai Sheng’s car. “I thought you wouldn’t be back today. I was about to tell Uncle Qiao to go to sleep. Is Brother Zhai a man? He is finally engaged to you. Why would he allow you to go back home? Is he Liuxia Hui[1]? He doesn’t look like it!”

Whenever Brother Zhai came to the Qiao family’s residence and she was around, Brother Zhai would give her a death stare, telling her to leave them alone to have their private time.

She had thought that Brother Zhai would be like a ravenous wolf that could no longer wait to be intimate with Qiao Nan.

Actually, it was fine as long as it did not result in a pregnancy.

“Haven’t you seen it?” Qiao Nan was surprised.

“What?”

“Wei De carried Wei Wei in his arms and stood at the entrance of the Zhai family’s residence today. He greeted everyone that he saw. Every relative and friend of the Zhai family must have known by now that Sister Zhai Hua’s boyfriend is Wei De.”

“Crap, when did it happen? Why did I not see such an ‘interesting’ scene?” Shi Qing widened her eyes. “Did I go to another Zhai family’s residence? Why is it that everyone has seen it except for Uncle Qiao and me?”

“...” Qiao Nan touched her chin, deep in thought. “You know about Wei De and his relationship with Sister Zhai Hua. You will definitely not have any misunderstanding about their relationship.

Perhaps, if you see him, you will say the truth out loud and clear everyone's doubts and misunderstandings. Therefore, if you were Wei De, would you let yourself be seen by someone who knows you and will thwart your plan?"

Shi Qing's eyes lit up. "Are you saying that Wei De was hiding from me when I came out? It is indeed possible that he was hiding from me!"

She would have known that the child that Wei De carried did not belong to Sister Zhai Hua. He was the child of Wei De's adopted sister.

"Wei De and Wei Wei were still at the Zhai family's residence when I left."

"It is no wonder that you were able to come back today. Wei De is too thick-skinned. You have already come back home, yet he still refuses to leave the Zhai family's residence. I have to hand it to him to be so thick-skinned." Shi Qing finally understood why Qiao Nan was able to come back home today.

With Wei De around, it was inconvenient for Qiao Nan to stay at the Zhai family's residence. "Is Wei De still at the house?"

"I don't know. I set an example for Wei De by leaving. After I left, I have no idea whether he gets the drift and leave as well." Qiao Nan shrugged her shoulders. "I am so tired. I have perspired a lot. I have to bathe and sleep. You can do as you please." Qiao Nan yawned. The engagement ceremony was already so tiring. She could not imagine what it would be like when she married Zhai Sheng a few years later.

"The good show is over. I have to go back home." Shi Qing felt very tired being the bridesmaid today.

When Zhai Sheng reached home, he was able to find out the answer to the question that both Qiao Nan and Shi Qing did not know the answer to.

Zhai Sheng was not the least surprised that Wei De was still at his house.

However, Wei Wei must have been tired. He lay in Wei De's arms like a shrimp that curled its body, fast asleep.

“Have you sent Nan Nan back home?” Zhai Yaohui looked grim. He did not know that Wei De could be so tactless. The child was asleep, yet he refused to leave. This was the first time that he saw such shameless ‘guests’.

Zhai Hua took a very long breath. It was as if she was filling her lungs to its maximum capacity. “Wei De, it is late. Bring Wei Wei back with you. The child needs his rest.”

Previously, Wei Wei felt sleepy and grumpy. Wei De simply coaxed the child at the Zhai family’s residence, refusing to leave.

In this case, no one in the Zhai family could make him leave. They could not send them away just because the child was wailing.

If they did that, it would tarnish the Zhai family’s reputation.

Now that Wei Wei was fast asleep, Zhai Hua had no wish to be polite to Wei De.

“...” Wei De had no wish to leave without accomplishing anything. In the beginning, he felt smug that he was close to accomplishing his goals. However, in the end, he did not get what he wanted. Wei De did not want to leave under such circumstances.

Furthermore, Wei De could sense that Zhai Hua was being cold toward him. She was no longer deeply in love and attached to him.

Regardless of the method that he used, he had to think of a way to marry Zhai Hua as soon as possible.

Everyone could tell that Wei De had no intention of leaving.

But it was impossible for Wei De to be the son-in-law of the Zhai family because of a child.

If it was long ago, when Old Master Zhai was still young and had a bad temper, he would have exploded at Wei De’s rascal behavior and grabbed him by the collar, throwing him out of the house.

However, it was the civilized society and Wei De was quite tall. Even though he wished to send him away, Old Master Zhai was getting on in years. He no longer had the strength to do that.

Chapter 865 Don't Understand what You Are Saying

Zhai Sheng stood up and leaned close to Wei De, whispering three words to him.

Wei De's countenance changed instantly. He carried Wei Wei in his arms. "Hua Hua is right. It is late. I won't disturb you. When there is a chance next time, I will visit again. We can have a meal and a good chat then."

What was there to chat about?

It had to be about his relationship with Zhai Hua.

Old Master Zhai and Zhai Hua were surprised that Wei De was willing to leave. Zhai Yaohui was the only person who knew what Zhai Sheng told him just now to make him leave.

"Hua Hua, can you walk me to the door?" Wei De did not dare to ask Old Master Zhai or Zhai Yaohui to walk him to the door, but it was embarrassing for him to leave by himself. He had to get Zhai Hua to send him to the door.

"Alright..." Zhai Hua stood up. As long as Wei De was willing to leave with Wei Wei, she would not mind accommodating him.

"There is no need for that." Zhai Sheng reached out to stop Zhai Hua. He had yet to change out of his shoes after he came back home from sending Qiao Nan. "I will walk him to the door."

"You?!" Zhai Hua was shocked. "Are you serious?"

Zhai Sheng had better not start a fight with Wei De as soon as they left the house.

Wei De could not defeat Zhai Sheng. He would definitely be on the losing end. More importantly, Wei De carried Wei Wei in his arms. He had no way to fight back.

"Yes," Zhai Sheng replied. "Let's go."

Wei De knitted his brows unwillingly, but he did not say anything. "Then... then I will have to trouble Regiment Commander Zhai."

Zhai Sheng pursed his lips, an icy cold expression on his face. "You are welcome."

Wei De had a lot to tell Zhai Hua, but he could not say anything to Zhai Sheng. He carried Wei Wei in his arms, trying not to feel so awkward.

They walked in silence until they stopped at Wei De's car.

Wei De carried Wei Wei in his arms and smiled reluctantly. "Regiment Commander Zhai, my car is here. There is no need to send me further. We will have lots of chances to meet in the future. I hope that Regiment Commander Zhai will look out for me in the future."

Under the cold moonlight, Zhai Sheng seemed to be as cold as snow. The hard stare in his eyes was like an unsheathed blade, giving off chilling stares. "Do you still remember the name that I said to you in the house just now?"

"Yes... yes. She is one of the comrades in the army. She used to be Regiment Commander Zhai's fiancée..." What did Regiment Commander Zhai mean by mentioning Qiu Chenxi now?

He should not have panicked just now and should have maintained his composure. No matter what, no one would find out what happened.

He heard that Qiu Chenxi would be leaving Ping Cheng soon. By then, nobody would know what happened.

"She is never my fiancée. You should have heard that Qiu Qin was arrested. Before that, Qiu Chenxi met me and told me something very interesting. Do you think I should tell Zhai Hua about that?" He did not know his limitations. How dared he appear at the Zhai family's residence without the slightest scruple? He was extremely daring!

"You should know better than me what kind of man Zhai Hua has fallen in love with. I will not say further. You should know what I mean."

“...” Wei De wanted to say that no matter what Qiu Chenxi told Zhai Sheng, they were all lies. She was slandering him.

However, Zhai Sheng did not make things clear. If Wei De really said so, he would be exposing himself. Therefore, he did not dare to claim that he was innocent or to make a confession without duress.

“Regiment Commander Zhai, I don’t understand what you are saying. I don’t know what you mean by saying this.” In the end, Wei De had no other choice but to deny everything.

Back then, he merely told Qiu Chenxi about Qiao Nan’s relationship with Regiment Commander Zhai. He did not do anything else.

Qiu Chenxi targeted Qiao Nan because of her own reasons. It had nothing to do with other people.

Besides, there was no evidence to say that he was the person who introduced Qiu Chenxi and Chen Jun to each other. No one would dare to malign him without any proof. He could sue the other party for defamation!

Zhai Sheng was not surprised that Wei De would deny everything. There was no way that he would admit his involvement in everything

Zhai Sheng narrowed his eyes slightly. There was a flicker in his eyes. “It is alright that you do not understand. I will discuss with Zhai Hua to see what her views are on this. Qiu Chenxi is still alive. Even if she leaves Ping Cheng, it is not difficult to find her. We can always confront her about what happened.”

Zhai Sheng did not reveal that he had the cassette tape which was the crucial evidence.

Zhai Sheng did not really want to frighten Wei De or for him to ask for forgiveness.

If he really admitted his mistakes and confessed everything, it would be even more difficult for Wei De to break up with Zhai Hua.

He wanted Wei De to know that he was aware of what he had done and to alert him so that he would be in a fluster. People would usually make mistakes when they panicked and were in a hurry to defend themselves.

By then, it would be the right timing to deal him a serious blow.

Zhai Sheng had read a lot of books on psychology. He was happy to use psychological tactics on Wei De. He wanted to know how determined Wei De was in getting in through the back door with the help of the Zhai family.

“It is late. You should leave.”

After sounding him out and accomplishing what he had in mind, Zhai Sheng had no wish to waste his time on Wei De. He turned and walked off briskly, leaving Wei De to ponder over what happened.

Wei De locked his dark gaze on the back of Zhai Sheng as he walked off, his heart thumping loudly. He was shocked by Zhai Sheng’s words.

If it was in the past, he did not have to worry about Zhai Hua’s reaction to what Zhai Sheng said. She would not be suspicious of him. But he was not too sure of what Zhai Hua would think right now.

If Zhai Hua discovered that he was not the type of man that she was looking for and was the exact opposite instead, his road to success would be cut off forever.

Wei De put a sleeping Wei Wei on the back seat. His thoughts were racing as he made his way back home.

He remembered that a month ago, whenever Zhai Hua returned to Ping Cheng, although she did not share his bed, she would always stay with him in the house. Wei De felt gloomy that things had changed so much now.

There was no other road left for him now. If he wanted to succeed as soon as possible, the only method was to be intimate with Zhai Hua, and if possible, for her to be pregnant with his child!

At the thought of this, Wei De quickly made a call to his secretary. “Get me a few boxes of those sweet and sour wines that have a similar taste to juices but have a higher concentration of alcohol. They should make one drunk even from taking a small amount. Remember. You have to find it according to my requirements. If you do this well, I will give you a five hundred yuan red packet during the Lunar New Year.”

Chapter 866 Zhai Sheng Was Without Any Flaws

“Thank you, boss!” The secretary was overjoyed when he heard that he would have a five hundred yuan red packet during the Lunar New Year. He accepted the task with joy.

Anyway, he only had to make sure that the wine met all the requirements of his boss. It did not matter how much they cost. The boss would pay for them.

However, Wei De might have come up with a plan, but God had other plans.

The day after Zhai Sheng was engaged with Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua were called back to the camp for a secret mission.

The day after Zhai Sheng left, Qiao Nan received someone’s invitation to have tea with her.

Shi Qing laughed at Qiao Nan. “What do you think? Are you going to accept the invitation? It is not easy to have tea with her. The last time she treated us to a meal, we had yet to finish the meal and we almost ended up being punched by them. Back then, she did not know that you are Brother Zhai’s girlfriend. But right now, everyone knows that you are Brother Zhai’s fiancée.”

Everything that was related to Qiu Chenxi — regardless if it was treating her to tea or to a meal — came with the risk of being punched by her henchmen.

“Do I seem like someone who is starving and thirsty?” Qiao Nan shot a disdainful look at Shi Qing. “If not for Brother Zhai and my master, there was no way that I would be acquaintances with people like Qiu Chenxi. After all, we are from two different worlds and we do not have common topics to talk about. Now that I am engaged to Brother Zhai, if I meet her now, Qiu Chenxi may feel that I am mocking her. No matter what I do now, I will be in the wrong.”

If she agreed to having tea with her, it would be like showing off her new status; if she did not agree to it, it would seem as if she ignored her and was arrogant.

When dealing with such troublesome matters, Qiao Nan was used to ignoring it. People could interpret it in whichever way they liked.

However, Qiu Chenxi was determined to meet Qiao Nan. There was no way that Qiao Nan could refuse to see her.

“Hey, she is here looking for you?!” Shi Qing, who idled around at the Qiao family’s residence, heard a knock at the door. She opened the door and found her cousin at the entrance.

“I am here to look for Qiao Nan.” Qiu Chenxi was slightly surprised at seeing Shi Qing. But she felt it was expected of her to be here. “Your relationship with Qiao Nan is really beyond the ordinary. You are so... beyond words.”

Back then, Shi Qing liked Zhai Sheng very much and she even wanted to vie with her for his affection.

But right now, Qiao Nan was Zhai Sheng’s fiancée and Shi Qing became good friends with her.

She had never seen relatives like Shi Qing who bit the hand that fed her. She could not tell her relatives apart from the outsiders. She was a complete fool.

There was one thing that Qiu Chenxi felt most jealous about: Qiao Nan used to be Shi Qing’s love rival, but she became close friends with Shi Qing and was engaged to Zhai Sheng. Yet, Shi Qing had no issue with them being together.

Shi Qing was her relative. Back when she was still with Zhai Sheng, Shi Qing would not give up her affection toward Zhai Sheng. She insisted that it was her right to like Zhai Sheng.

“Did you tell Qiao Nan the words that you used to tell me? Did you tell her that you love Zhai Sheng and you will never give up?” Qiu Chenxi could not help but ask.

Shi Qing leaned against the door and answered lazily, “No.”

“Why?!”

“Because of Brother Zhai.” Shi Qing smiled. “When you were with Brother Zhai in the past, you would brag about Brother Zhai to me, making it difficult for me to forget him. I know that instead of being angry at me, you felt smug and happy at that time. You must have felt smug that the man that I couldn’t have was your fiancé and that he would marry you in the future. However, do you know how terrifying Brother Zhai has turned into after telling me that he is in a relationship with Qiao Nan?”

“Terrifying?”

“Yes, terrifying!” Shi Qing could not help but widen her eyes. “Whenever he goes to the Qiao family’s residence, he will give me the murderous stare when he sees me. He does not need to say anything and I understand what he means. He wants me to leave right away. He does not want me to be their third wheel. If I am tactless, he will make sure that I leave right away. You spent more time with Brother Zhai than me. You should know better than anyone else that Brother Zhai is cold and indifferent toward everyone. However, Qiao Nan is the only special person in his eyes.”

As a woman, Shi Qing knew very well that if Zhai Sheng saw her around when he came looking for Qiao Nan, he hoped for nothing but for her to leave right away.

All these years, even without Qiu Chenxi, Shi Qing also had other chances to be in touch with Zhai Sheng.

However, whenever she was around Zhai Sheng, he would treat her indifferently.

But when there was Qiao Nan around, Zhai Sheng would only have eyes for her. He felt that others were redundant and wished for them to get as far away as possible.

He loved Qiao Nan wholeheartedly and there was no need for him to express it in words. People around him could feel his deep love for her.

Zhai Sheng had put his whole heart into loving Qiao Nan. Shi Qing was envious of the affection that he had for her and she gave her blessing to them. She knew that no one could be able to come between them. If she tried to intrude on their private moments, she would be sent away by Zhai Sheng.

One would bring bad things upon oneself as a result of one’s bad character.

But Zhai Sheng had no flaws!

“Qiu Chenxi, do you know what it takes for a woman to give up on a man? It is not the presence of another woman, but the man himself. Qiao Nan did not do anything to me or say anything to me. It was Brother Zhai’s attitude that made me give up thoroughly and willingly!”

“...” Qiu Chenxi tried to come up with ways to rebut Shi Qing, but she could think of nothing to say.

Qiu Chenxi thought hard about what Shi Qing said, especially the part about the attitude of the man that made a woman give up on him. She was rendered speechless. “Can... can you really take it lying down?”

Qiu Chenxi could not understand why Shi Qing could be so unaffected.

Could it be that Shi Qing was not serious about Zhai Sheng? Could it be that she was pretending and lying to her all the while?

If not, why was it that she felt heartbroken upon learning that Zhai Sheng was engaged to Qiao Nan and could not sleep for nights, whereas Shi Qing slept soundly and continued to be friends with Qiao Nan?

If not for Shi Qing who helped Qiao Nan a year ago, even if she had yet to find out that Qiao Nan was the vixen that Zhai Sheng had been protecting, she would have already sent her men to give her a thrashing.

Shi Qing shrugged her shoulders. “Did I not make myself clear enough?”

“I want to see Qiao Nan!” Qiu Chenxi had no wish to speak to Shi Qing any more. She peered into the house. “This is the Qiao family’s residence, not the Shi family’s residence. I am here to look for Qiao Nan. I am not here to look for you. Please stand aside.”

Chapter 867 You Would Not Be Smug for Long

“As you have said, this is the Qiao family’s residence. You may be looking for Qiao Nan, but it depends on whether she wants to see you or not. Rest assured. I will not shut you outside the door.

At the very least, I will pass the message for you. Wait here.” Shi Qing smiled dryly at Qiu Chenxi before she slammed the door on her, almost knocking her nose.

There was a strange and terrifying woman at the door. She had to close the door for her safety.

The woman might sneak into the house to steal or hurt someone while she turned to call for Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan stopped what she was doing, turning to face Shi Qing. “Did you say... that Qiu Chenxi is here?”

Qiao Nan scanned the surroundings. There were not many defensive weapons in her house. “How many thugs did Qiu Chenxi bring with her? Shall we call the police? Otherwise, by the time the police officers are here, we may already be dead.”

“Stop teasing. Qiu Chenxi is alone. She did not bring any hatchet man.”

“How could it be!” Previously, when she was Brother Zhai’s girlfriend, Qiu Chenxi was already dying to destroy her. Now, she was Brother Zhai’s fiancée. Qiu Chenxi should be dashing to her house with a knife, no?

“You can see it for yourself.” Shi Qing was amused. “You are too timid. If Qiu Chenxi brings thugs with her, do you think this house of yours will be able to keep them out? If Qiu Chenxi was so vicious, would I pass the message for her? Do you take me for a fool? By the way, even if she wants to see you, you can choose not to see her. There is no need to be so afraid.”

“It is better that I don’t see her. We are not friends. We have nothing to say even if we meet.” Qiao Nan refused outright.

Shi Qing had meant to pass Qiao Nan’s message to Qiu Chenxi, telling her to leave. But in the end, she brought Qiu Chenxi into the house for them to have a talk.

“Alright, hurry up to say whatever you want to say. I will send you out afterward.” Shi Qing looked unhappy. She crossed her hands, looking like a big shot, standing between Qiu Chenxi and Qiao Nan. She shot cold looks at Qiu Chenxi, telling her to say whatever that she wanted to say.

Qiao Nan glanced at Shi Qing, askance, reminding her that since she dared to let Qiu Chenxi in today, Brother Zhai would settle scores with her next time.

“I will be going to Mo Du tomorrow. Before I leave, I want to see you.” Qiu Chenxi sat down impatiently.

Qiao Nan drank some water. “Fine, as long as you don’t get someone to beat me.”

“If you are afraid of being beaten, you should leave Zhai Sheng for good. I don’t deny that Zhai Sheng has chosen you. You have won, but I did not lose to you. It is just that Zhai Sheng is not the person that I want. But Zhai Sheng is such a good catch. Do you think you can sit back and relax after I am out of the picture? Impossible! There are a lot of women who like Zhai Sheng. I have heard that one of the female doctors in the military hospital is particularly fond of Zhai Sheng. In the past, with me around, the woman may have a good impression of Zhai Sheng, but she did not dare to confess her love for him. Now that Zhai Sheng’s fiancée is someone like you, do you think that the female doctor will suppress her affection for Zhai Sheng?”

Qiao Nan snatched Zhai Sheng away from her. There would be a day where another girl would appear and snatch Zhai Sheng away from her.

Justice had long arms.

Qiao Nan would not be smug for long.

Qiao Nan was surprised to hear this piece of news from Qiu Chenxi. “I did not know of such things and Brother Zhai did not mention it to me. When he is back, I will ask him if he knows such a person.”

Qiu Chenxi pulled a long face, while Shi Qing gave Qiao Nan a thumbs-up. Qiao Nan’s reply was brilliant.

It seemed like Qiu Chenxi did not understand what she had said just now. If not, she would not have made such foolish comments.

Qiu Chenxi took a few deep breaths. “Qiao Nan, don’t be too cocky. Do you really think that everything will go smoothly for you now that you are engaged to Zhai Sheng? Even if I leave Ping

Cheng, I will keep a watch on the two of you. I will wait to see whether you will really get married to Zhai Sheng when you graduate from college!”

Zhai Hua’s boyfriend, Wei De, had a strong objection to Qiao Nan, his sister-in-law.

With Wei De by Zhai Hua’s side, Zhai Hua would definitely be influenced by him.

She would wait to see what Wei De would do to make Zhai Sheng abandon Qiao Nan.

Whatever humiliation that she had suffered now, Qiao Nan would have to suffer twice the amount years later.

“I have taken note of your ‘advice’. Is there anything else that you want to say? If not, bon voyage.” Qiao Nan was not affected by Qiu Chenxi at all. To her, Qiu Chenxi was like a three-year-old kid who was throwing tantrums. She did not take the vicious words that she said to heart.

Qiu Chenxi was all too familiar with Qiao Nan’s overly calm and nonchalant look.

It made her feel all the more humiliated. This was the expression that Zhai Sheng always had. Apart from Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was the second person who had that look in her eyes.

Qiu Chenxi stood up. “Qiao Nan, I grew up in Ping Cheng as well!”

With that, Qiu Chenxi left the house.

“Hey, what was she trying to do? She insisted on seeing you just to say those nonsensical words? Did she think that you would behave like her and go crazy when you learned that someone else likes Brother Zhai? Is she sick in the mind?” Qiao Nan could not be bothered with Qiu Chenxi, while Shi Qing was fuming mad. “If I had known that she would behave in such a manner, I would not have let her in. What did she mean by saying these?”

“She did not mean anything. But it is you who is more interesting.” Qiao Nan cupped her chin and looked at Shi Qing.

“What... what about me?” Shi Qing did not understand. She shifted further away from Qiao Nan.

“I am curious about what Qiu Chenxi said just now in order for you to let her in. Do you think this is interesting?” Qiu Chenxi was capable enough to make Shi Qing open the door for her.

“Hehehe...” Shi Qing could not deny that she had indeed opened the door for Qiu Chenxi. “Don’t worry. I know what I am doing. Didn’t you see that I stayed by your side all the while? If she dared to harm you, I would run to your rescue and kick her out of the house right away.”

Qiao Nan leaned on the sofa, acting like she was the master in the house. “I am thirsty.”

“I will get you some tea right away.”

“My shoulders feel sore.”

“I will massage it for you.”

“Are you willing to go now?” Qi Minlan had packed her luggage and was waiting for Qiu Chenxi in the hotel. Qiu Chenxi could not bear to leave.

Chapter 868 Did Not Care About It

“Yes.” Qiu Chenxi came back to the hotel. She bit down hard on her lip, her eyes brimming with tears.

Qi Minlan sighed. Her heart ached for her daughter. “Don’t be too hard on yourself. You are very outstanding. Zhai Sheng may have been engaged to another woman, but one day, he will regret choosing Qiao Nan over you. He lacks discerning power for not choosing you. He mistook the fish eyes for the pearls. He will pay a price for his foolishness. What you have to do now is to live your own life and do so much better than Zhai Sheng.”

Qi Minlan felt bitter as well.

Back then, although it was her family who arranged for her to marry Qiu Qin, she was the one who agreed to the marriage.

When she married Qiu Qin, she told herself that she must live a better life than Zhai Yaohui so that he would regret his wrong decision for having married Miao Jing instead of her.

She wanted to be the greatest regret in Zhai Yaohui's life.

She had thought of many plans and had sworn to be happier than him. But in the end, it was Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing who led a blessed life, while she was the one who was sorrow-stricken and full of regrets.

Zhai Sheng was as good as the young Zhai Yaohui back then. In other words, like Zhai Yaohui, Zhai Sheng would have great achievements in the future.

It was not easy to find someone who was better than Zhai Sheng and to lead a better life than the Zhai family.

Qi Minlan was a very good example.

Qiu Chenxi let out a breath. "Mom, I will. I understand your words. It is difficult to find someone who is better than Zhai Sheng, but it is easy to be more capable than Qiao Nan. I will become stronger. I want Zhai Sheng to know that he has made a wrong decision. I am the pearl while Qiao Nan is just a fish eye. He has given up on the pearl for a simple fish eye. He will regret it!"

"Yes, Chenxi, I am relieved that you have sorted out your thoughts. Let's go to Mo Du now. Your grandparents are waiting for us." In the end, her parents were the only people that she could rely on.

"What about Dad?" Qiu Chenxi frowned at the thought of Qiu Qin, who was arrested.

"Regardless of what happens to your dad, it has nothing to do with us anymore. We are divorced. Besides, he has a mistress. As the saying goes, husband and wife might be living in the same forest, but when faced with adversity, they would fly away in different directions. Some say a friend in need is a friend indeed. I have left him. Let's see if your dad has good judgment and whether the woman will face hardships with him. It is a pity that I will not be able to know the outcome."

There was resentment in Qi Minlan's words. It was an insult to her that the man that she had never liked would dare to betray her.

“Mom, are you no longer angry at Dad?” If not, why did her mother tip her father off on the day they divorced each other? Why would she help her father such that he was almost able to get away?

Qiu Chenxi still felt uneasy at the thought of that.

The first thought that crossed Qiu Chenxi’s mind when she learned that Qiu Qin had fled was whether Zhai Sheng would give her any trouble.

After all, she had all the information. She told her mother everything and therefore, she had the chance to tip her father off.

“How could it be possible that I am no longer angry with him? Your dad is the one person that I hate the most in this life. Back when your grandparents gave me to another family and I changed my surname to Qi, I did not feel as much hatred toward them.” She was betrayed and her dignity was trampled by the person that she spurned the most. Qiu Chenxi, who was still young, would not be able to understand her hatred. “Do you know why I helped your dad when he asked me for help outside the court?”

“Why?” It seemed to be for another reason that she had not thought of. Her mother should no longer have any feelings for her father. If so, what could be the reason?

“Because I want him to have a taste of being disowned dogs. The Qiu family has me to thank for their success today. He owes it to me for what the Qiu family has today. Without me, the Qiu family would not be what they are today. Your dad did not know what it is like to lose one’s house. That’s why he committed such mistakes. We all know what Zhai Sheng is like. If he has targeted someone, there is no way that one can get away from him. At most, your dad will be on the run for a few more days before he is arrested by Zhai Sheng. Do you think it is easy to be on the run? Even if he has a lot of money with him, he has no place to spend them. Do you think I am really helping your dad?”

The most ridiculous thing was that she treated Qiu Qin quite well, yet he dared to have another woman.

She schemed against him and set a trap for him when they filed for divorce. Qiu Qin was so stupid to fall for her trick and to be moved by her, believing that she was sincere in helping him.

Qi Minlan had a chilling look on her face.

It seemed that she had been too nice to Qiu Qin in the past. This was the reason why he dared to have another woman. He wanted a woman who was honey-mouthed and stone-hearted.

Qiu Chenxi sighed. It turned out that this was her mother's real intention. "Mom, say no more. Let's go. You have to keep this to yourself. If Dad learns about it..." If he knew the truth, he would hate Qi Minlan to the core.

Qiu Chenxi knew that it was sheer torture to be on the run.

"He will never know about it." Qi Minlan smiled confidently. "This is the present that I leave for the woman. Since she dares to snatch your father from me, she has to pay a price for it."

The woman had just started going out with Qiu Qin and he was sent to the prison. Qi Minlan wanted to know what the woman would do now that Qiu Qin was in prison.

She wondered whether the elderly in the Qiu family would be able to realize their dreams of having a grandson or not.

Shi Qing told Shi Peng that Qi Minlan was leaving with Qiu Chenxi. "Dad, Auntie is back to lick grandpa's boots. What are your thoughts on this?" Shi Qing just realized that her grandpa who was concerned about keeping up appearances had some connections and influence.

Shi Qing was upset that her grandpa who liked to boast never brought this up to her. "Does he have to guard against me just because I am a granddaughter? He did not tell me all these but he was willing to tell them." Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi were not better than her. Qi Minlan was his daughter while Qiu Chenxi was his maternal granddaughter.

"No, your grandpa did not share this with Qi Minlan. I was the one who told her. In this aspect, your grandpa treats everyone equally." Shi Peng shook his head, clearing the misunderstanding for his father.

"Hehehe." Shi Qing sneered. "I don't care at all!"

Her father knew about her grandpa's connections and influence, but he never once used them. It turned out that her grandpa might have shared it with her father, but it was never her father's turn and right to make use of the connections.

Since her father was willing to tell her auntie, it meant that her father did not care about the influences that her grandpa had. He was willing to give the chance to his sister and Qiu Chenxi.

Chapter 869 Have Confidence in Qiao Nan

“Although you don’t care about it, there will be someone who does. Actually, you should tell Qiao Nan that Qiu Chenxi went to Mo Du to ask for help from your grandparents. Qiu Chenxi bears a grudge and her only target is Qiao Nan. The connections that your grandpa has are very helpful to Qiu Chenxi.” Qiu Chenxi was Qi Minlan’s daughter. Shi Peng knew Qiu Chenxi’s personality very well.

The mother and daughter had a similar personality.

“What is there to be scared of?” Shi Qing lifted her chin proudly like a rooster. “Even if Qiao Nan does not have the backing of the Zhai family, she still has Elder Lin. With his help, Qiu Chenxi can never dream of winning against Qiao Nan.”

If Elder Lin did not have the ability, her grandpa would not send her to learn from him when she was at a young age.

She was certain that Elder Lin had as many connections as her grandpa.

If Qiu Chenxi wanted to make use of the Shi family’s connections to turn defeat into victory and defeat Qiao Nan, she had a long way to go.

“In terms of backing and support, Qiao Nan is the future daughter-in-law of the Zhai family as well as Elder Lin’s disciple. In terms of capabilities, Qiu Chenxi is no match for Qiao Nan right now. In terms of aptitude, Qiu Chenxi suffers a crushing defeat under Qiao Nan. In terms of who is more hardworking, Qiao Nan is the winner once again. No matter how much effort Qiu Chenxi puts in, I don’t believe that she can overtake Qiao Nan.”

Shi Peng was amused. “Do you have that much confidence in Qiao Nan?” She was not so confident of herself.

“Yes!” She had total confidence in Qiao Nan.

If Qiu Chenxi refused to give up and wanted to fight it out with Qiao Nan, she would wait to see if Qiu Chenxi would be able to get a new lease of life in a few years' time and defeat Qiao Nan!

“Dad, have you really made up your mind not to go?” It was August now. The weather was very hot and stuffy. She felt as if she was a candle, melting under the hot sun. Qiao Nan, who was about to go to college, could not help but complain about the ridiculous weather.

As a new first-year student in college, Qiao Nan still had to go through a long period of military training.

It was a hot summer day. Qiao Nan began to pack her belongings that she would need when she reported to the school.

Qiao Dongliang helped Qiao Nan pack her belongings. In no time, he was drenched in perspiration. He took the towel that he draped over his neck to wipe his face. “No, you are going to the capital to study. There is no need for me to go and increase your burden.”

He heard that the prices of housing in the capital were alarmingly high. It would cost a lot to buy houses or even to rent houses.

Initially, Qiao Dongliang had the intention to go to the capital with Qiao Nan. That was because he felt insecure.

But right now, Qiao Dongliang felt more at ease. He felt that there was no longer the need for him to accompany his daughter to the capital as it would only add on to her burden. This was not what a father should do. Besides, he was a man. How could a man be so clingy to his daughter?

“When you are in the capital, study hard and don't worry about me. If I run into any problems, I can discuss it with Director Shi. There will not be any problems. As for your mom and me, we are divorced. Apart from you and Zijin, we are not any different than strangers. Moreover, now that your school is starting soon, Zijin will have to go to school as well. I will have a lot of free time.”

Qiao Dongliang straightened his back after packing everything for Qiao Nan. “Have you kept the money?”

“I have deposited them into the bank. When I reach the capital, I can withdraw the money at the bank. I don't feel safe carrying so much cash with me.” Qiao Nan shook her head. She might have

heard too many stories from other people. Therefore, she did not have the habit of carrying too much cash with her.

Now that she had deposited the money in the bank, when she reached her school, she only needed to go to the bank to withdraw the money. It was safer to bring the passbook than to bring the cash with her on the journey.

If a thief stole her money during the journey, she would have no way to get the money back.

“This is a good idea.” Qiao Dongliang praised her. “You are indeed someone who is going to college. You have considered everything thoroughly. Nan Nan, you are really an adult now. Unlike me, you have thought of everything. Did you share this method with Shi Qing?”

Qiao Dongliang treated Shi Qing like his niece. He would share every good food and stuff with her.

“There is no need to teach her this method.” Qiao Nan snorted. “Given her physical strength, one will be courting death to steal money from her.”

Qiao Dongliang drank some water and smiled helplessly. “But she still has to be careful. No matter how powerful she is, she will let her guard down at times.”

“I have told her the method long ago. That was what she told me. If not, how about you try talking to her?” Qiao Nan blinked. Shi Qing was confident in her physical strength, and she would not listen to her words.

“...” Qiao Dongliang drank some more water. He turned silent before saying, “It’s alright. There is still Director Shi.”

As Qiao Dongliang had expected, Shi Qing was confident of herself, but Shi Peng was worried about her.

After Shi Peng found out about Qiao Nan’s method, he felt that it was indeed a good idea. He did not discuss with Shi Qing. Instead, he took all her cash from her and handed her a passbook instead. It was obvious what he meant by that.

“Nan Nan, are you sure you want to take the train with so many people?” It was the day where Qiao Nan and Shi Qing had to report to their school at the capital. Miao Jing came to send Qiao Nan off personally.

Two days after Zhai Hua went back to the camp, Zhai Sheng was asked to go back as well. Otherwise, he would be the one who sent Qiao Nan to school today. After all, they were already engaged.

“Actually, I can get someone to send you to school.” Miao Jing shot a worried glance at the train that was packed with people. She had a terrible headache. “I heard from Zhai Sheng that you will lose your appetite and weight in summer. It is such a hot, sunny day. It is torturous to be cramped in the train cabin.”

Miao Jing took a look at the train and she felt that she could not tolerate the heat. “Why don’t you take the plane? Although it is more expensive, it is faster and you do not have to go through all these troubles.”

“Mom, there is no need for that. I will get used to it.” Qiao Nan looked toward the train. In fact, she felt uneasy and worried. However, she had to encourage herself to get used to it. “Everyone takes the train. I... I can endure hardships.”

Shi Qing checked the time. “Auntie Miao, if we don’t get on the train, it will leave soon.”

“Let’s get on the train. When I reach the capital, I will give you a phone call to tell you that I am safe.” Qiao Dongliang stood beside Miao Jing. Qiao Nan could not address them as her mother and father, lest other people thought that they were a couple.

Qiao Dongliang nodded. “Alright. The two of you should get on the train. When you reach the school, if you lack anything, don’t be stingy with the money and buy whatever that you need. You must also have proper meals. Don’t worry. I will be able to finance you through college!”

“That’s right. Nan Nan, your dad is right. Money is not an issue. After you reach the school, you only have to concentrate on your studies.

Chapter 870 Maintain His Pride

“As for other matters, the adults will handle them,” Miao Jing replied. She placed more importance on Qiao Nan’s studies than Qiao Dongliang. She hoped that Qiao Nan could focus on her studies.

“Alright,” Qiao Nan replied. She carried her luggage onto the train with Shi Qing’s help. She waved at them as the train started to move. She watched as their figures looked smaller as the train moved further away till she could no longer see them.

It was summer now. It was not the Spring Festival travel season, but it was a time where many students returned to their schools. Hence, it was very crowded on the train.

Thanks to Shi Qing, she and Shi Qing were able to purchase two tickets to two sleeping berths. Therefore, they could lie down to rest.

Both of them bought the lower deck berth tickets and their berths faced each other. They did not need to go to the trouble of climbing onto the upper deck.

Shi Qing put her luggage aside and sat down comfortably. “Why do I feel that Uncle Qiao behaves strangely today? Is he in a bad mood because he could not bear for you to leave?”

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. “It is a miracle if he is in a good mood.”

“Why?” Shi Qing did not understand. “Is your mom or Qiao Zijin back? It cannot be. I did not hear any news. Did you encounter any problems recently? Why is Uncle Qiao unhappy?”

“Because of the Zhai family.” Qiao Nan massaged her temples. “Ever since I am engaged to Brother Zhai, Auntie Miao wants to take care of everything for me. After knowing that I am going to a college in the capital, she has taken care of the clothes, luggage, and everything else for me. Look, if I did not insist, Auntie Miao would want me to stay at the Zhai family’s residence during the past half month. If it was up to Auntie Miao, she would ask someone to send me personally to the capital or buy air tickets for me to fly to the capital. She is simply a rich lady.”

Shi Qing widened her eyes. “Why would Uncle Qiao be unhappy that Auntie Miao treats you so well? Would he be happy if Auntie Miao treats you badly?”

Qiao Nan sighed once again. “To put it bluntly, it is because of his pride. My dad has divorced my mom. I am his only relative. My dad is unhappy that I am engaged to Brother Zhai at such a young age. You should know that given my dad’s abilities, it is not even easy for him to buy a regular seat ticket for me. It is thanks to your family that I have a sleeper seat. If the Zhai family is to take care of my expenses, they will send me to college in a private car or by plane.”

Her father was not able to afford all of these.

No one would be happy or be able to accept the fact that he could not provide for his own daughter and she was being provided for by someone else.

At the very least, a prideful Qiao Dongliang was not able to stomach it.

It finally dawned on Shi Qing what Qiao Dongliang was unhappy about. “No wonder you insist on taking the train. It turns out that it is for Uncle Qiao’s sake.”

“He is my dad. I have to consider his feelings.” Qiao Nan’s throat was hoarse. She drank some cool water to soothe it. “Forget it. Let’s bear with it for a while. Once I reach the capital, I will be a student at Peking University. I can endure all kinds of hardships!”

In the previous life, going to university was her dream. Qiao Nan was ecstatic that she was able to realize her dream in this life. She was full of excitement at the thought that she was going to Peking University in the capital.

“But come to think of it, Qiao Nan, this won’t do. No matter how much effort Uncle Qiao puts in, he will not be able to compare to the Zhai family. What if he is not able to overcome his psychological barrier? It won’t do to be so accommodating in the long run.” Shi Qing took out the boxes of fruits that Qiao Nan had prepared beforehand. It had been kept in the fridge before they brought it with them on the journey. She took out a cherry tomato and placed it into her mouth. It was very juicy and cooling.

Qiao Nan let out a breath before she smiled at Shi Qing. “Don’t be anxious. We have your dad to count on.”

“My dad? What does he have to do with this?”

“My dad’s initial plan was to go with me to the capital, and I agreed to it.” However, her father changed his mind recently. He took the initiative to tell her that he was not going to the capital anymore and would continue to work in Ping Cheng.

Shi Qing pointed at her nose. “Do you mean it was because of my dad that Uncle Qiao changed his mind?” When did this happen? Why did she know nothing about it?

Qiao Nan nodded. “It must be Director Shi who persuaded my dad.”

“Since Director Shi persuaded my dad to stay, he must have known about my dad’s feelings toward the Zhai family. With your dad around, I feel assured. My dad will be alright. My dad has one positive flaw-if he feels that what one says makes sense, he will be willing to listen to their advice.”

Back then, her father used to believe everything that her mother said. Right now, her father was beginning to listen to Director Shi’s advice.

He was used to being a soldier. He had the habit of listening to what the leader said.

Shi Qing arched her eyebrows. “Did you talk to my dad?”

“There is no need for me to say anything. I know Director Shi’s personality.” Qiao Nan was amused. “I am in charge of taking care of his daughter, while he will help give advice to my dad.” This was a tacit understanding between the two of them.

“...” Shi Qing pursed her lips. “We still can’t say for sure who is taking care of whom. Perhaps my dad and I will have to take care of your dad and you. Don’t forget that my maternal grandparents and my mom are in the capital. I am returning to my base camp.”

Qiao Nan was not angry. Instead, she said lightly, “Well, then, since you are the host, please take good care of me when we reach the capital.”

“...” Shi Qing was angry at her teasing. “You are very good at playing along.”

“There is no need for the two of us to be so calculative. I did not take issue with you and told Brother Zhai that you allowed Qiu Chenxi to enter my house that day.”

Shi Qing leaned back onto the bed. She refused to talk with Qiao Nan anymore.

It was too annoying to communicate with such smart people.

Shi Qing closed her eyes to rest while Qiao Nan stared at the book that she had with her.

There was something else that Qiao Dongliang was unhappy about. Qiao Nan did not tell Shi Qing but kept it to herself.

Her father was unhappy because Brother Zhai did not send her off today.

Her father used to be a soldier. He understood that Brother Zhai had to carry out his mission, and hence, he was unable to send her off. But as her father, he could not help but feel angry. It would be some time before her father would be able to sort out his thoughts.

Fortunately, there was Shi Peng around. Qiao Nan was able to leave with a peace of mind. Qiao Nan was certain that if Qiao Dongliang was upset or troubled, Shi Peng would be a positive influence on him.

As the party concerned, Qiao Nan was slightly disappointed that Zhai Sheng did not come to send her off. However, she hid her emotions well.

Qiao Nan knew right from the start what Zhai Sheng's job was and the nature of his work. Since a young age, Qiao Dongliang had told her about the life of a soldier.

Therefore, Qiao Nan did not appear to be upset that Zhai Sheng did not turn up today. She was able to take care of Qiao Dongliang's feelings and insist on taking the train to school so as to maintain Qiao Dongliang's pride in front of the Zhai family.