

RTAMM 901

Chapter 901 Brother Zhai Is the Best

Qiao Nan was confident that if she could finish washing all the curtains at this point in time, they would have turned dry by night time.

The curtains were dirty but there was no oil or moisture. As such, many thick layers of dust had accumulated on it. A small flick on the curtains would cause all the dust on them to fly all over the place like snowflakes, let alone washing them.

Qiao Nan soaked the curtain in water. She had only stepped on it a couple of times and the water in the basin had turned grey.

Without a word, Qiao Nan poured away the dirty water, replenished the basin with clean water, and continued washing the curtain. After repeating this step until the water was clear, Qiao Nan then dragged the thick curtain that was dripping with water and threw it on the existing long rows of laundry poles on the patio.

After settling the curtain for one window, Qiao Nan then carried out the remaining three curtains that had been taken down by Feng Meng earlier. Using the same method, she stepped on these few pieces of curtains and washed them clean.

After Qiao Nan hung the curtain of the second window up to dry, she turned back and squeezed with all her might the lower part of the first piece of curtain that she had hung earlier and water came splashing down.

In less than five minutes, the first piece of curtain had been wrung.

After two hours, when it was almost half past one in the afternoon, Qiao Nan had finished washing all the curtains. She then stepped into the house to help Shi Qing.

While Feng Meng was helping Shi Qing with minor tasks, he was also secretly observing Qiao Nan. No, in fact, he was keeping his eye on Qiao Nan because he was afraid that Qiao Nan would laze around and bully Shi Qing.

After confirming that Qiao Nan had not stopped cleaning for the past two hours, and she went to help Shi Qing immediately after she finished washing the curtains, Feng Meng looked more at ease.

After taking a glance at the room whereby the two young ladies were wiping the bed, tables, and chairs, Feng Meng went out of the house and stood in front of the four pieces of curtains that Qiao Nan had washed and inspected them.

He recalled that Qiao Nan's earlier steps were a little special. Feng Meng had just reached out his hands when he saw that they were grey and black.

Feng Meng tugged the corners of his lips. He resisted the urge to wipe his hands on the curtains from Qiao Nan's room and consoled himself continuously. If he were to really dirty the curtains and Qiao Nan saw it, the arduous task of washing the curtains might land on Qing Qing next time.

For the sake of Qing Qing, he held back from playing a prank on Qiao Nan.

After washing his hands, Feng Meng then went to touch the curtains. He was shocked to discover that these curtains were half dry by then, especially the top parts. They were almost dry.

It was not strange for the top parts of the curtains to be dry. As such, Feng Meng touched the bottom parts of them.

Similarly, they were only slightly wet and no more water could not be wrung from it. They were in half-dry states.

As long as they dried them under the sun for another two to three hours, these few pieces of curtains would become dry by today. It would not be difficult to hang them back in the rooms then.

Feng Meng was a smart person. At the sight of this phenomenon and recalling what Qiao Nan had done earlier, he understood the reasons for Qiao Nan's earlier actions immediately.

The top parts of the curtains were nearest to the sun and had more exposure to it. As such, the temperature would be the highest. In addition, due to gravity, all the water in the curtains would drip toward the ground. Hence, the top parts would certainly dry the fastest.

Regardless of how dry they were wrung earlier, it was inevitable that the bottom parts of the curtains would accumulate many droplets of water from the hanging.

As such, Qiao Nan might as well hang them up to dry immediately without wringing them. When the forces of gravity had taken effect and most of the water dripped to the bottom, Qiao Nan only needed to squeeze the lower ends of the curtains to complete the wringing process.

The curtains were huge. Not to mention a young lady such as Qiao Nan, even a grown-up man like him would need a lot of strength to wring them.

By using such a small technique, Qiao Nan not only resolved the problem but also saved various resources.

She had saved time and energy!

To a businessman like Feng Meng, he was very willing to find an employee who was so smart and resourceful.

“Qiao Nan, what are you looking at?” Shi Qing, who was conscientiously cleaning up the room, asked Qiao Nan curiously when she saw her looking outside.

Qiao Nan retracted her glance and smiled nonchalantly. “See for yourself.”

Shi Qing reached out her neck. Naturally, she saw Feng Meng, who was the boss of top enterprises, foolishly staring at the curtains that Qiao Nan had just finished washing. “What is my brother doing?”

“Hahaha...” Qiao Nan answered with laughter instead of words.

What was Feng Meng doing?

He was checking on her and at the same time, he wanted to see her make a fool of herself.

The curtains were huge. Not to mention wringing them, it was not easy for her to hang them up.

Feng Meng was very certain that she would not be able to do it as she was just a petite young lady who did not have much strength. As such, she would have to plead for his help. He could then reject her harshly and make her look bad.

So sorry. In her previous life, she did not know anything. Under the continuous trampling of her mother, she had picked up various life skills. It was a guarantee that she would be able to rely on her own effort to complete any kind of problems in life that she faced.

If she had to find a man to help her wring the curtains after she washed them, given her mother's temperament, she would have to endure even more suffering in her previous life.

Qiao Nan had lived for two lifetimes. Amongst the people that she had met, there was never a lack of people like Feng Meng who were waiting to see a good show and to see her embarrass herself.

Qiao Nan could not let this kind of people fulfill their wish. If she did, she would have forsaken the great love that heaven had for her and wasted her two lifetimes of experiences.

Shi Qing raised her brows. She was puzzled by Qiao Nan's laugh.

Qiao Nan placed the greyish cloth into the water to wash it. "Don't look at your brother anymore. Quickly continue with the chores so that we can finish them in time and sleep comfortably tonight." It was terrible to clean up this small courtyard.

Shi Qing curled the corners of her lips as she focused on the tasks at hand. It was just a few pieces of curtains. She did not know why her brother was looking at them so eagerly.

Should she discuss with his uncle that her brother was already of this age and should marry a wife in case his hormones malfunctioned? He was becoming abnormal.

Qiao Nan was not experienced in other things except for doing household chores.

Under the arrangements and delegations of Qiao Nan, she and Shi Qing were the 'main army forces' while Feng Meng occasionally stepped in to help.

Of course, Feng Meng would only help when Shi Qing was doing the chores. As long as it was something that Shi Qing needed to shift, Feng Meng would definitely step out to take on the chores. As for other mundane chores such as wiping, Feng Meng would never roll up his sleeves.

Shi Qing was quite satisfied with this. “Qiao Nan, this brother of mine is not bad, right? He dotes on me a lot all this while.”

When she heard this, Qiao Nan, who had seen all that was happening, responded to Shi Qing with two words: Ha, ha.

Such actions of Feng Meng were considered as doting? When she was doing household chores in Ping Cheng’s house, Brother Zhai even helped wash the dishes and vegetables as well as served the rice. What would she say of that?

Qiao Nan shook her head. Feng Meng was Shi Qing’s relative. Besides, the status of the Feng family was not low. She heard that Feng Meng was a businessman and a major boss of a big company. Feng Meng felt that he had already done enough. In addition, Shi Qing agreed that Feng Meng doted on her, this sister. However, Qiao Nan wanted to say that in this world, only her Brother Zhai was the best.

Chapter 902 Would Not Relent

Shi Qing pouted her lips. “Why are you shaking your head?”

Qiao Nan gave a snort. “If you can’t figure it out yourself, forget it. I don’t want to explain myself too clearly, lest someone will say that I’m sowing discord in the future. It’s not as if you don’t have a man in your family. Your dad is one of them. You have also seen how my dad behaves at home. Whether he is good or not, assess it for yourself. Don’t need to boast to me.”

So what if Feng Meng was a big boss? Brother Zhai was the regiment commander now and he would be the chief in the future. He would be a great hero that would capture the nation’s attention.

Many years later, Qiao Nan dared not say with certainty about Brother Zhai’s attitude toward her.

Nevertheless, as a regiment commander, his status was much higher than that of Feng Meng. Regarding the protection and care that Brother Zhai had given to her during the past few years, Qiao Nan had always been aware and remembered them at heart.

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Qiao Nan felt that in this lifetime, besides her father, Qiao Dongliang, who was willing to wash his hands and prepare soup for her, the only other person who was willing to roll up his sleeves, wash the dishes, and serve the meal for her was Zhai Sheng.

Feng Meng was like an individual or a big boss who would always sit on the chair and wait for others to serve him a meal.

In short, the tall and handsome CEO that the Tang Jiayun trio pined for not only fell short of Qiao Nan's liking but also left a bad impression on her.

Fortunately, Feng Meng was only Shi Qing's relative. As he was a big boss, he would normally be busy with his business and would only be able to help out like today occasionally.

If Feng Meng were to look for Shi Qing frequently, Qiao Nan really needed to know and avoid him when Feng Meng came the next time.

It was also a form of redemption from God when two individuals who disliked each other meet less often.

"Brother is brother and father is father. Are you expecting my brother to treat me as well as my father does?" Shi Qing shook her head. She only had one father and vice versa. The relationship between them was different. Her brother did not treat her as his own daughter anyway.

"Okay, you win." Qiao Nan raised both her hands and surrendered. Shi Qing had already said so. What else could she say?

Alright, Feng Meng was not bad toward Shi Qing. Whether it was good or not was a matter of opinion. If Shi Qing felt that it was good, then it was so. Furthermore, in comparison to Qiu Chenxi's family, Qiao Nan suddenly realized why Shi Qing would feel that the relatives from the Feng family were truly good to her. The Qiu family's contribution to this thinking was not minor.

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Qiao Nan gave Shi Qing's head a rub. Regardless of the truth of the gossip mentioned to her by her mother in her previous life, Shi Peng had already stepped down from his role in the army in this lifetime. He had also let down his worries and could already wash his hands off the matters of the Shi family and the Qiu family.

As long as Shi Peng was alive, Shi Qing, this silly girl, did not need anyone else to be good to her. As long as Shi Peng was the one that did not harbor any selfish intention toward Shi Qing and was the protector who loved and protected Shi Qing wholeheartedly, the rest was all unimportant. "How many times did you call your dad recently? Without you hovering over him, is his daily routine normal?"

"Don't worry. I give my dad a call every day now. If his secretary tells me that he is not eating properly, I will give him three calls a day. There are not many other benefits of studying in college except that I have a lot of freedom to make calls. If my dad doesn't want the phone in his office to be hoarded by me, he will have to take proper meals." After hanging out with Qiao Nan for a long time, Shi Qing was quite experienced in this now.

Shi Qing did not need Shi Peng to assume such a senior role and give her the status of the daughter of a senior government official.

Nothing was more important than her father's health. It was more important for her father to live to a hundred years old.

"This one is worthy of teachings." Qiao Nan felt assured now. In the future, she should not need to remind her regarding this matter anymore.

Qiao Nan and Shi Qing planned to clean up their bedrooms first followed by the kitchen. Lastly, they would clean up the living room that they could live without.

However, after cleaning up the bedrooms and kitchen, it was already four o'clock in the afternoon when Qiao Nan took a glance at the time.

Qiao Nan straightened her aching and stiff back and patted on it a few times. "Alright, let's stop cleaning up. At the very least, the chores that we did today can let us stay here. As for the other areas, we can clean them tomorrow. Let's move the luggage into our bedrooms and tidy up our clothes and beds. Otherwise, we won't be able to sleep today."

The good thing was that the power supply of the small courtyard of the Lin family was never terminated. That well in the courtyard could also be used. As such, everything could function normally when Qiao Nan and Shi Qing moved in.

Shi Qing used her fastest speed to move her luggage into the bedroom. She then put on the mattress cover on the bed and hung her clothes. Thereafter, she slumped on the chair. “Qiao Nan, I’m starving.”

That meal during lunch had been fully digested. There was nothing left.

“Qing Qing, let’s go. Let brother treat you to a feast.” At this moment, Feng Meng started appearing again.

When Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were tidying up the place, Feng Meng left the house for a while. When he was back, his hands were full of things, which he placed on the table. “The two of you have to cook at home, right? You should need these items.”

Feng Meng made a trip to the supermarket and sought the supermarket personnel’s help to buy all types of seasoning and sauces needed for the kitchen.

Shi Qing did not know how to cook at all. Qiao Nan was certainly the one who would use all these items after they were purchased.

Shi Qing only needed to sit and eat while Qiao Nan prepared the meals. The Feng family was more willing to see such a situation.

“Brother, you’re so good.” This would save her and Qiao Nan a trip. “Qiao Nan, let’s go and have a feast. My brother is treating us.”

Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. “I’m not you. I don’t have so much energy. I’m dying of exhaustion. I’m not going. You can go ahead. I will just cook a simple meal at home to eat.” She was really not willing to face the Feng family and also this Feng Meng.

Shi Qing wanted to pull Qiao Nan along but the latter managed to avoid her. “Exhausted? My brother has a car. You just need to sit in it.”

Qiao Nan pursed her lips. She shot a firm stare at Shi Qing with a sullen expression.

It was now Shi Qing's turn to raise her hands and surrender. "Alright, alright... It's fine if you don't go. Take a rest at home. I will bring some nice food back for you."

"Go."

Shi Qing, who felt helpless, went to tug at Feng Meng. "Brother, let's go. I am so hungry that I can eat a cow."

"Don't worry. I can even let you eat a pig or a tiger, let alone a cow. Brother will find them for you." Qiao Nan was not coming. Feng Meng felt quite happy. He was willing to feed his own family's sister but was not willing to treat his sister's rival-in-love, who had snatched away the one that his sister liked, to a meal.

Qiao Nan, this young lady, was certainly quite smart. She was also able to tell what others were thinking and knew her limits.

If Qiao Nan was one that was oblivious to what was going on, she should not blame him for being unruly to her. He would not give Qing Qing face and would take action against Qiao Nan.

After Feng Meng left, Qiao Nan finally felt more relaxed.

After today's matter, Qiao Nan had confirmed one matter. She would definitely not visit the Feng's residence. As for the members of the Feng family, she would avoid meeting them as much as possible. It was the best that they did not meet at all.

Even if Shi Qing was in the picture, she would not relent on this matter.

Chapter 903 Will Not Acknowledge the Fictive Kinship

The Feng family was Shi Qing's maternal grandfather's family, not hers.

She had a maternal grandfather's family too. However, her mother had already severed all ties with them.

She was not even going to meet her own maternal grandparents who were still alive. Wouldn't it be funny if she were to meet Shi Qing's maternal grandparents instead?

Qiao Nan went out and bought some basic necessities at a small stall nearby. She also bought a cup of instant noodles.

When Qiao Nan was in Ping Cheng, she would dry and make preserved vegetables on her own. As she was going to study in college, Qiao Nan brought along a few bottles of such preserved vegetables. Now, it could be put to good use.

After filling her tummy with a bowl of noodles, Qiao Nan then returned Brother Zhai Sheng's call. "Brother Zhai, it's me."

"Have you settled everything in the house?"

"Almost." Qiao Nan was sitting down and resting

"Where's the Feng family?" At the thought of the words that he had heard before he hung up the phone, Zhai Sheng's face turned sullen. He did not sound happy either.

Needless to explain, Qiao Nan was also aware that Zhai Sheng was not unhappy with her. "That's Shi Qing's second eldest cousin. I think he is called Feng Meng. Brother Zhai, don't need to bother too much about it. The Feng family is Shi Qing's relatives, not mine. I won't come into contact with the Feng family in the future."

After hearing Qiao Nan's words, Zhai Sheng's expression looked more at ease. "That's good too. The Feng family... is a little complicated. Please don't be influenced by Shi Qing."

Zhai Sheng knew a little about the Feng family. From a personal perspective, he could understand the Feng family's behavior. However, if he were close to them, he would not be able to understand or forgive them.

One had to assess for themselves what was right and wrong.

Zhai Sheng had never spoken about the Feng family in front of Shi Qing. However, he did not want Qiao Nan to be brainwashed by what Shi Qing said about the Feng family.

“Brother Zhai, don’t worry. I know.” Qiao Nan nodded. It was expected that there was nothing pure and simple in the social circle that Shi Qing was living in.

“I may make a trip to the capital in the near future. I will look for you then.” Regardless, the Feng family’s matter was a problem. Zhai Sheng would not feel assured if he did not go over and take a look at the situation.

“Is it because of work or personal matter?” If it was the latter, then there was no need for him to come.

Whether the Feng family was good or not did not have anything to do with her. As long as she did not provoke them, they would not waste their time and energy to target a student like her who was still schooling.

Zhai Sheng smiled gently. “It’s pertaining to work. Most likely, my parents will be going as well.”

Qiao Nan counted her fingers. “The bimillennium national day celebration?”

“Yes.” The national day was a major occasion. Of course, the Zhai family had to go to the capital.

Initially, Zhai Sheng was injured and it would suffice that only Zhai Yaohui attended. Zhai Sheng’s presence did not matter.

In the past, in order to keep a low profile, Zhai Sheng never attended this kind of event unless it was necessary. The headquarters of the Zhai family was in Ping Cheng while that of the Feng family was in the capital.

Of course, Zhai Sheng himself did not come into much contact with the Feng family.

This time, he wanted to attend because he wanted to give Qiao Nan backing and support.

The reason the Feng family disliked Qiao Nan was not important. Most importantly, he had to make the Feng family understand that Nan Nan was his fiancée and she was the daughter-in-law acknowledged by the Zhai family.

If the Feng family's style of behavior had not changed, then could they please keep their feelings to themselves and hide them silently in their hearts? As long as they could bear in mind Nan Nan's status and treat her with due courtesy on the surface, that would be enough.

Basically, the Feng family and the Zhai family did not have much interaction with each other and were on average terms. It was fine that they just maintain a 'hi and bye' relationship.

If the Feng family dared to bully the Zhai family because they were based in Ping Cheng and plot against or be rude to Nan Nan, then this time, the Zhai family would teach the Feng family a lesson.

When he thought of Feng Meng's ugly words, Zhai Sheng still felt quite unjustified. He was trying to contain his anger.

Feng Meng was a grown-up man, yet he was so petty and said such things to a young lady. Feng Meng's attitude also represented the Feng family's attitude toward Nan Nan.

The Feng family in Beijing had to target a young lady who had just been admitted to college. If words were to spread around, wouldn't the Feng family be afraid of being a laughingstock?

The more that was so, the more Zhai Sheng had to go to the capital.

Very soon, Shi Peng heard about this decision of Zhai Sheng.

Shi Peng sighed. He had not advised Qing Qing much regarding the Feng family. He hoped that Qing Qing could sort out her thoughts on this through her own effort.

The situation of the Shi family was already so complicated. The old master in his family was so muddleheaded. Would the clever Feng family not be aware of this?

Regardless of how much the Feng family doted on Feng Cheng, this daughter, didn't they still marry Feng Cheng to him and let her become the daughter-in-law of the Shi family? As such, the maternal granddaughter of the Feng family also became the granddaughter of the Shi family.

The old master of his family was a little muddleheaded but the good thing was that the interpersonal relationships of the Shi family were very simple.

The difference between the Shi family and the Feng family was that the Feng family could be considered rather complex and corrupted. It was like a huge vat of dye. There were diverse characters in the generations of the Feng family. There were all kinds of people.

The most ludicrous thing was that the Feng family had been staying in the capital but they boasted that they were an affluent and powerful family with a profound and deep history. There was also a differentiation between their direct and secondary lines of descent. This resulted in complicated and confusing roots in the huge Feng family.

The more people there were, the more gossip there would be. Naturally, the hearts of the people would become more complex.

Shi Peng had never told Shi Qing about these situations of the Feng family. It would certainly be a great blow to the child if he were to speak badly about her maternal grandfather's family in front of her. In particular, due to Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi, Shi Qing had always felt that the relatives from her maternal grandfather's family were very good.

The relatives from the paternal grandfather's family were not good. Moreover, those relatives from the maternal grandfather's side were not good either. In addition, Shi Qing was the only daughter in the family. Since young, she was very smart but she hardly made any friends. Under the pressure of various factors, Shi Peng was worried that Shi Qing would become rebellious if she could not take this well.

Now, Shi Qing had grown up and had the ability to assess for herself. She had also begun to come into contact with these matters where there was a fine line between right and wrong. Shi Peng might as well let go of his hands and take a gamble. He allowed Shi Qing to interact with the Shi family and grow up after suffering some setbacks.

As a college student and an adult, it was also time for his daughter to grow up.

“Zhai Sheng, are you really going to the capital? You should know that if both your father and you support Qiao Nan, the Feng family will change their attitude. Are you sure that this won't backfire?” Shi Peng gave Zhai Sheng a phone call and reminded him not to do the wrong things despite having good intentions.

There would not be much impact if the Feng family continued to detest Qiao Nan. After all, the Feng family would not do any bad things to Qiao Nan.

However, if the Feng family were to fully understand the status and influence of Qiao Nan in the Zhai family, they would certainly make use of Qing Qing's relationship with Qiao Nan to get close to the latter. "If we're careless, perhaps Qiao Nan will have another fictive family? Do you understand?"

Zhai Sheng, who was in the midst of removing his stitches, replied nonchalantly, "Do you think that Nan Nan will be similar to your daughter? The people from your Feng family are too complacent. They have forgotten the initial difficulties that they faced when they first started out in the capital. The saying of thriving in times of calamity and death in times of pleasure is very true. Now, the Feng family can only play such cheap tricks. It is hard to find someone that is truly capable and down-to-earth in the family."

Chapter 904 The Feng Family's Wish to Acknowledge Fictive Kinship

"I had a call with Nan Nan. Without the need for me to persuade her, Nan Nan expressed directly that she will avoid the people from the Feng family."

Feng Meng's behavior today had made the Feng family lose their footing

Nan Nan was such a sensitive and cautious person. Given the Feng family's performance, if the Feng family wished to acknowledge a fictive kinship with Nan Nan, she had to be possessed before she would be willing to agree.

Shi Peng laughed. "That's true. Nan Nan is eccentric and clever. She is obviously very young but she has a lot on her mind. Clearly, she does not belong to our social circle but she is very sensitive about what is happening. Your Zhai family will have fewer worries moving forward."

The Feng family was a family that one should keep out of reach. Qiao Nan had already avoided them without the need for others to advise her to do so. Qiao Nan seemed to be born to pursue good fortune and avoid disasters. She was always spot on in her foresight.

He then thought of his own silly daughter. Shi Peng believed that she would eventually improve in this aspect if he let her mix around more with Qiao Nan.

Besides Shi Peng, the Feng family also found out that Zhai Sheng would be going to the capital. That was because Zhai Sheng's striking name had appeared on the list.

Despite being a soldier, Zhai Sheng was not willing to come previously. If his name appeared on the list, it meant Zhai Sheng would certainly appear in person when the time came.

Old Master Feng called his elder son, who was a politician, over. His elder son was called Feng Liang. "What do you think about this matter?"

At one glance of the item on the table, Feng Liang knew what this was pertaining to. After all, he had received the news long ago. "Dad, what are your thoughts?"

"It's hard to say." Old Master Shi's tone was apprehensive. "This son of Zhai Yaohui is under a lot of limelight despite being so young. He understands this point very well. Hence, he never attends this kind of event."

To say that Zhai Sheng was very low profile was very true. Zhai Sheng rarely made an appearance in the capital.

If he had not been clearly aware of Zhai Sheng's valiant achievements, he nearly believed that Zhai Yaohui, this tiger dad, had given birth to a son that was as meek as a dog.

The problem was that such a low profile individual was as fierce as an ancient beast in the army. His power and influence were unstoppable.

Many years ago, although his son-in-law had nurtured and guided Zhai Sheng, everyone could see for themselves Zhai Sheng's brilliant contributions. No one could deny that.

It could be said that Zhai Sheng's own performance alone in the past would earn him a similarly bright future. Nevertheless, with Shi Peng's support coupled with Zhai Sheng's ability, all things were in Zhai Sheng's favor. As such, he went through promotions at the speed of a rocket.

In our great and proud China, who had not reached the age of over forty years old when they assumed the role of a regiment commander? Where could you find anyone like Zhai Sheng who was under thirty years of age?

Given the performance of Zhai Sheng, the word 'low profile' did not seem that suitable to describe him either.

In the face of Zhai Sheng, a junior of his grandchildren's generation, Old Master Feng was having a headache too. He had always felt that this child was very unpredictable and not easy to manage.

"However, he is coming this year." Feng Liang sat down. "So, Dad, you're suspecting that he is coming because of that female college student?" The look of disdain in Feng Liang's eyes told Old Master Feng that he was in disbelief.

Zhai Sheng was someone destined for big things. Unless there was a need to, he would not break his previous practice and come to the capital.

Since Zhai Sheng was coming, it must be because of work-related reasons. How could he be here for the sake of just a woman? Was this a drama whereby King You from Western Zhou Dynasty tricked the marquis with beacon fires just to make his concubine

smile?

Feng Liang was not this kind of person. Hence, he felt that Zhai Sheng was certainly not.

It was just that the matter of the female college student gave Zhai Sheng one more excuse. Her existence had become a cover-up for Zhai Sheng to come to the capital to attend to work-related matters.

Instead of wasting his time and effort on that female college student, he would rather keep a watch on the actions of the Zhai family. He could then assess what was happening. In that way, he would be able to plan his next steps.

Old Master Feng gave Feng Liang a stare. "Have you forgotten what I have told you? I said before that your greatest weakness is that you're too full of yourself. The situation of the Feng family in the capital now seems as though we are strong and impregnable. However, change is always constant here. Many people have been struck with sudden calamities. I have asked you to be more cautious when you do things. Think thrice before you act. Did you not take my words seriously?! Don't refer to her as the female college student. If others, especially your grandson, hear of this address and get into trouble, the whole Feng family will be implicated!"

“Dad, you’re being too paranoid.” Was it that serious?

“You seem to have forgotten that that female college student is Zhai Sheng’s fiancée. She is also the daughter-in-law acknowledged by Zhai Yaohui.” There was a great difference between these two things.

If Qiao Nan had only been approved by Zhai Sheng, then Qiao Nan was someone that did not matter much.

The problem was that Qiao Nan was not only the wife selected by Zhai Sheng himself. She had also received Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing’s affirmation.

As such, Qiao Nan’s identity as the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family was stable and secure. No one could make that waver.

With the status of Chief Zhai’s daughter-in-law alone, countless people would be pleased to fawn on Qiao Nan.

Although the Feng family did not go to such an extent, there was no need for them to be so bold and arrogant and offend others deliberately.

“Dad, you’re worried that the Zhai family will deal with us if we have any conflict with that female college student?” Feng Liang had a look of ‘Dad, are you kidding me?’ written all over his face when he stared at his father. “The Zhai family is very smart. Isn’t she just a woman? They have not even collected the marriage certificate. The Zhai family won’t spoil the ship for a halfpenny worth of tart. You have overestimated that female college student.”

“So, are you going to use the Feng family’s future to gamble and find out the extent to which the Zhai family cares about that female college student?” Old Master Feng’s face turned cold, becoming unruly.

He did not care about how much the Zhai family liked and approved of that female college student. The only thing that he was concerned about was how much benefit the Feng family could derive from this matter. He did not want the family to be implicated such that the Zhai family would target them. If that were to occur, the two families might become enemies.

If the Zhai family were to become an enemy of the Feng family, then it would not be too long before the Feng family lost their hold.

Old Master Feng was aware that the Zhai family was successful based on their own merit and capability. It had been like that since the times of Old Master Zhai. Until Zhai Sheng, all three consecutive generations were alike.

On the other hand, the Feng family belonged to the kind that would defend one's ground. They safeguarded the businesses passed down from their ancestors. It was easier to sustain a business than starting one. Hence, it had not been easy for the Feng family.

Of course, Old Master Feng hoped that his grandchildren could bring the family to greater heights so that they could become a truly powerful and affluent family in the capital.

However, before they could do so, Old Master Feng wanted his own children and grandchildren to be more abiding so that they would not ruin the family businesses that the ancestors had built over the years.

Up to this day, the Feng family had been safeguarding the businesses well. It was certainly foolish to be at odds with the Zhai family, especially if they had to involve a female college student who was not even related to the Feng family in any way.

How much the Zhai family cared about Qiao Nan—what did it have to do with the Feng family?

Was there a need to place the whole Feng family at stake to confirm his guess?

Chapter 905 Qiao Nan's Value Is at the Zhai Family

Seeing that Old Master Feng was truly angered, Feng Liang softened his attitude. "Dad, don't be angry. Aren't you overthinking? She is just a female college student who is not related to our Feng family in any way. The Feng family has a huge family business and there are many things to do every day. Why do we have to waste our time, effort, and energy on someone that doesn't matter? It's not possible for me to have so much spare time to idle around and purposely make things difficult for her."

He would, at most, retort his father with a few words. After all, he really could not agree with his father's guess.

As a normal man, who would not like beautiful women?

However, an individual like Zhai Sheng was certainly not the type that would fly into a rage just because of a beautiful woman.

He was just refuting his father based on this reasoning. If he had the spare time to target a college freshman, he would rather spend more time and effort on his own political career.

“Humph!” Old Master Feng was slightly satisfied as he snorted. “You’re wrong. If Qiao Nan’s status in the Zhai family is really so high, actually, it is also the Feng family’s good fortune for Qing Qing to have such a friend.”

Qing Qing’s friend was akin to the Feng family’s friend.

Since they were relatives, after Qiao Nan was really married to Zhai Sheng, shouldn’t Qiao Nan provide some help to the Feng family if they encountered any issues in the future?

Moreover, if there were good things, shouldn’t Qiao Nan also help and persuade the Zhai family to give the Feng family support?

To put it bluntly, the Feng family was also drooling after the power of the Zhai family.

Earlier, the Feng family heard that Qiu Chenxi had been engaged with Zhai Sheng.

The Feng family was clearly aware that Shi Qing liked Zhai Sheng but they had never intervened in this. Why? That was because the Shi family was the Feng family’s in-laws. When the granddaughter of their in-laws family was married to Zhai Sheng, wouldn’t the Feng family benefit from it?

Of course, if the one whom Zhai Sheng were to marry was Shi Qing, the Feng family would naturally become even closer to the Zhai family, who would be a huge backing for them.

However, there was also another problem that would come with it.

At most, Shi Qing was only the maternal granddaughter of the Feng family. There was a layer of connection separating them. The marriage of the maternal granddaughter was as good as the marriage of the paternal one.

Unfortunately, there was a lack of female offspring in the Feng family. Shi Qing was their only maternal granddaughter.

If Zhai Sheng had expressed the slightest feelings for Shi Qing many years ago, then the Feng family would have taken a gamble to snatch over Zhai Sheng for Shi Qing.

However, the most annoying thing to the Feng family was that although Zhai Sheng seemed indifferent toward Qiu Chenxi, his attitude toward Shi Qing was not any better.

At the very least, when the Qiu family and the Zhai family tried to arrange the marriage, Zhai Sheng did not express much revulsion. Hence, he seemed to have acquiesced to the marriage.

With that attitude of Zhai Sheng, the Feng family could not help feeling hesitant.

If Qiu Chenxi was truly the one that Zhai Sheng liked and the Feng family acted rashly to help Shi Qing grab the man—even if they did not succeed—this might destroy the relationships between the Feng family, the Shi family, and the Qiu family. They would also provoke the Zhai family.

So to speak, when that happened, the Feng family would offend three families at the same time.

The Feng family was worried about the Qiu family and the Shi family. However, they could not help being concerned about the Zhai family.

As such, although they were clearly aware of how much their maternal granddaughter liked Zhai Sheng, the Feng family chose to do nothing and did not help Shi Qing at all. They also did not tell Shi Qing to take the initiative to fight for what she wanted. Instead, they had persuaded her to tolerate it.

Without the Feng family's cajoling, it was not possible that under the constant stimulation by Qiu Chenxi, the strong-tempered Shi Qing would see Zhai Sheng as her own brother-in-law just because Qiu Chenxi was her cousin. She would not have felt that she could not compete for Zhai Sheng and could only stand aside to give them her blessings.

Each time Qiu Chenxi bullied Shi Qing, the relatives from the Feng family would console Shi Qing but they had never thought of teaching Qiu Chenxi a lesson. They also did not persuade Qiu Chenxi not to go overboard as everyone was relatives.

Old Master Shi favored Qiu Chenxi. The Feng family was aware but they did not utter a word.

The love that the Feng family had toward Shi Qing was always shown using their 'mouth'.

This attitude of the Feng family could deceive Shi Qing, who had been influenced by Feng Cheng and had always felt that her relatives from the maternal grandfather's family were good. However, they could not deceive Old Master Shi and Shi Peng.

As in-laws, everyone had a tacit understanding on this.

The only one who was unhappy with the Feng family regarding this matter was Shi Qing's father, Shi Peng.

Many years ago, the Feng family had designs on Qiu Chenxi. Similarly, Old Master Feng now had designs on Qiao Nan. "Qiao Nan is clever and she knows what to do. She's quite a good child. When Qing Qing is back next time, I will ask her to bring Qiao Nan along. For so many years, the Feng family doesn't have any other ladies besides Qing Qing. It's just nice. Don't you and I lack a daughter and granddaughter respectively? Do you understand what I mean?"

Initially, Old Master Feng purely wanted to let Shi Qing bring Qiao Nan back for a meal in the Feng family so that they could get to know what kind of lady Qiao Nan was.

Although the Feng family's feelings toward Shi Qing were complicated, it was not that they did not love her at all.

She was the only lady in the Feng family. Of course, they doted on her. It was just that in their hearts, the only granddaughter in the Feng family was not more important than the family's future.

In the absence of a conflict between the two, the Feng family's love for Shi Qing was pure.

When there was a conflict between the two, without a doubt, the Feng family would choose to sacrifice Shi Qing for the sake of the Feng family.

If the Feng family was successful, naturally, they could use other ways to make amends to Shi Qing and let her lead a better life. In that case, they would not be considered shortchanging Shi Qing.

Feng Liang knitted his brows. “Dad, is there a need to do so?”

“Yes!” Old Master Feng’s tone was firm. There was no room for negotiation. “I would rather acknowledge a thousand wrong ones than to let slip the right one. Furthermore, isn’t there a high possibility for this to happen? It’s not a big deal for the Feng family to acknowledge fictive kin. If we acknowledge the right one, it will be a big deal.”

Anyway, before this young lady called Qiao Nan came to the capital to study, Zhai Sheng seldom came here.

With the change in Zhai Sheng now, he had a reason to suspect and guess that this was due to Qiao Nan.

When this matter was confirmed, it would be too late.

Hence, they would have to acknowledge this fictive kin before it was confirmed.

It was easy to add brilliance to one’s present splendor but difficult to provide help in one’s hour of need.

If the Zhai family had confirmed Qiao Nan’s importance to them, not to mention the Feng family, many others would be willing to acknowledge her as their kin. When that time came, it would be too late if the Feng family wanted to make their move.

“When Feng Meng is back, ask him about today’s situation. Focus on the important point. Is there any animosity between him and Qiao Nan?” Old Master Feng was aware that there was no conflict now. As such, the love that the Feng family had toward Shi Qing was real.

Chapter 906 The Feng Family’s “Sugar Coated Bullets”

When they knew that Zhai Sheng had abandoned Qiu Chenxi, got engaged with another woman, and 'deserted' Shi Qing once again, everyone in the Feng family felt injustice for Shi Qing.

Their own family's Qing Qing was such a fine and outstanding lady. Zhai Sheng was blind to let her slip away again and again.

As for that friend of Qing Qing who snatched Zhai Sheng away from Qing Qing's hands despite being Qing Qing's friend, she was too shameless. Why was Qiao Nan so shameless and despicable, doing this to a friend?

This was what Qiu Chenxi told the Feng family when she called them.

Qiu Chenxi told the Feng family that she had always believed that if Zhai Sheng did not get engaged to her, he would certainly be together with Shi Qing. She was aware that Shi Qing had liked and admired Zhai Sheng so much all these years.

If she was the one that Zhai Sheng liked, she would certainly not withdraw from the relationship.

However, if Zhai Sheng did not look up to or like her, she would give up the relationship and Shi Qing was the only one that she would concede defeat to thereafter. She felt that Zhai Sheng should choose Shi Qing. She would also give her sincere blessings to both of them.

However, who would have expected Qiao Nan to suddenly appear and snatch Zhai Sheng away.

Qiu Chenxi also told them many things about Shi Qing and Qiao Nan's friendship and emphasized how close they were. She said that Shi Qing and Qiao Nan were on such good terms that Shi Qing was very protective of Qiao Nan in front of her. She would flare up at her, this cousin, because of Qiao Nan and conflicts would arise.

In short, Shi Qing was so good to Qiao Nan as if the latter descended from heaven. She, as the cousin, totally could not be compared to Qiao Nan anymore.

The most annoying thing was that despite Shi Qing being so good to her, Qiao Nan's repayment to Shi Qing's kindness was to snatch away Zhai Sheng. She even got engaged to him.

Qiu Chenxi deliberately muddled the fact that Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng's romantic relationship had started long before Qiao Nan and Shi Qing became good friends. She made it sound as if Qiao Nan had shamelessly and hypocritically snatched Zhai Sheng away from Shi Qing and got engaged to him in front of Shi Qing. This was despite Shi Qing always defended Qiao Nan and that Qiao Nan was aware of Shi Qing's feelings toward Zhai Sheng

Unfortunately, Shi Qing was a silly girl who had been 'poisoned' by Qiao Nan. She had been trampled badly by Qiao Nan, yet she still treated the other party as a friend.

Upon hearing all these, the Feng family was filled with anger.

However, after they digested the information wherein Qiu Chenxi had purposely muddled the sequence of the events, did the Feng family not see through Qiu Chenxi's ploy or did they not bother to think over it? Only those few main characters in the Feng family knew the truth.

The Feng old couple and Feng Cheng were already filled with anger. In addition, they saw Shi Qing help Qiao Nan carry many bags at the entrance of Peking University. The Feng family did not openly spit at Qiao Nan on the spot or call her full name, furiously scolding her for being shameless, as they felt that they were civilized people. How could they curse and shout in public?

Besides, Shi Qing was the one who willingly carried the luggage for Qiao Nan. They were elders and Qiao Nan was a junior. If they spoke much, it would inevitably seem as if they were bullying the younger ones.

The Feng family was very particular about their face. Naturally, they would not commit such a lowly mistake.

The Feng family restrained themselves again and again. At most, they just made Qiao Nan feel the dislike and revulsion that they had toward her. The Feng family elderly couple and Feng Cheng really did not do anything else that was overboard.

Feng Liang began to show his sense of reluctance. However, after some thinking, he seemed to be slightly enlightened. Feng Liang immediately felt more at ease. He even maintained a smile that was learned and refined. "Dad, rest assured. I understand. Certainly, the Feng family doesn't lack anything except for girls. Of course, we support national family planning policies. Now, heaven has certainly sent a daughter to the doorstep of our Feng family."

Regardless of the importance of Qiao Nan to the Zhai family, the fact that Qiao Nan was the future daughter-in-law of the Zhai family would not change.

Even if the Zhai family had settled for Qiao Nan due to some unspeakable reasons or even if Zhai Sheng did not have any slightest feelings for Qiao Nan, the Feng family would only stand to benefit if he were to acknowledge Qiao Nan as his goddaughter. There was no disadvantage to the family at all.

At this juncture, Qiao Nan did not have the slightest idea that she had been ‘accepted’ by the Feng family because of Zhai Sheng and the Zhai family. Clearly, the Feng family had shown their dislike of her so blatantly. They were just short of detesting her looks.

Once Old Master Feng and Feng Liang, the father-son pair, collaborated, they had even decided to acknowledge her as their god granddaughter and goddaughter respectively.

It was true that when one was successful, those around them would ride on their success.

The Zhai family was a formidable one. As she was related to the Zhai family now, even those who disliked her wanted to gain her favor and acknowledge her as fictive kin. One could imagine how much power and prestige the Zhai family had.

This was something that Qiao Nan could have possibly contemplated, while Feng Liang had already sorted out his thoughts on this matter.

The Feng family would not suffer even if Qiao Nan’s importance to the Zhai family was just a delusion. What if his father had guessed it right—that Zhai Sheng truly loved Qiao Nan and the Zhai family sincerely accepted Qiao Nan as their daughter-in-law?

He would have gained much just by acknowledging this goddaughter.

At the sight of Feng Liang’s smile, Old Master Feng heaved a sigh of relief. “Have you sorted out your thoughts?”

“Yes. Dad, there is still you in our family.” Feng Liang had to admit that the older ones were wiser. In certain areas, he did not think as thoroughly as his father.

He would only stand to gain, so why would he not do it?

Regardless of how the Feng family treated Qiao Nan, Qing Qing, this party concerned, was very close with Qiao Nan anyway.

If the Feng family was willing to acknowledge Qiao Nan as their fictive kin, Qing Qing would certainly be overjoyed. Wouldn't that be a happy situation for all?

"However, Dad, there's one thing that I don't understand." Feng Liang could not help frowning. The Feng family had met Qiao Nan twice. His nephew had not returned home. Feng Liang could also guess that the interaction between Feng Meng and Qiao Nan this time was certainly not better than the Feng family's first meeting with her.

The Feng family had shown their displeasure to Qiao Nan twice. At this juncture, would Qiao Nan agree if the Feng family said that they would like to acknowledge her?

"Hahaha..." Regarding this, Old Master Feng was not concerned at all. "Women. Regardless of their age, they are always the same. You can't pamper them. If you do, they will be too arrogant. We will be courteous after being impolite. Qiao Nan has had a taste of being given cold shoulders by the Feng family. Next, we will divulge what Qiu Chenxi told us and express that all these are all a misunderstanding, that we have been misled by Qiu Chenxi."

After the explanation, the Feng family was willing to be good to Qiao Nan. Would Qiao Nan not accept that?

Furthermore, the attitude of the Feng family was entirely caused by Qiu Chenxi. If Qiao Nan had any anger in her heart, naturally, she would direct it at Qiu Chenxi.

The Feng family had foolishly believed Qiu Chenxi initially. Hence, after they acknowledged Qiao Nan, the more they should treat Qiao Nan well.

With an array of sugarcoated bullets, Old Master Feng was not afraid that the twenty-year-old Qiao Nan would not be tricked. He was not concerned that she would not feel grateful for the Feng family's kindness and not treat them as her relatives.

Chapter 907 Everyone Has a Past

Qiao Nan was not in their presence. If she was and heard these words of Old Master Feng, she would say, “Does Old Master Feng want me to contract the Stockholm syndrome?”

This tactic of Old Master Feng might be successful if it was used on others.

The problem was that the one that Old Master Feng encountered was Qiao Nan. She was not a real twenty-year-old young lady who would be bribed by this method of ‘giving a sweet date after a slap’ of Old Master Feng.

When Feng Meng was home, Feng Liang summoned him to the study room and carefully questioned him. True enough, he received an answer that was similar to Old Master Feng Liang’s guess. “Feng Meng, next time, Old Master Feng will ask Qing Qing to bring Qiao Nan back for a meal. At that time, I will acknowledge her as my goddaughter. She will become your god cousin in the future. Do you understand what I mean?”

Feng Liang knew that his nephew, Feng Meng, was very smart. He would certainly understand what he meant.

Feng Meng knitted his brows. “Is there a need to do so?”

She was just a wild girl that sprang out of nowhere. Why did the Feng family have to acknowledge Qiao Nan as fictive kin and benefit her?

“A need to do so?” Feng Liang snorted coldly. “Do you look down on the fact that Qiao Nan came from the countryside?”

“...” Feng Meng did not mutter a word, admitting to Feng Liang’s words.

Feng Liang sat down and leaned back on the chair. His eyes looked deep and profound. His tone was sullen. “Do you know that the old master has actually toyed with the idea of acknowledging a god sister for me, a god aunt for you, thirty years ago? That person also came from the countryside. After all, Qiao Nan came from Ping Cheng while that girl was truly a country bumpkin who had not seen the world.”

“Uncle, you’re referring to...”

“Have you guessed it? That’s right. I’m referring to Chief Zhai’s wife, Miao Jing. At that time, when everyone knew Miao Jing’s identity, no one believed that this couple’s relationship would last. They felt that given Zhai Yaohui’s pride, he would divorce Miao Jing sooner or later. This woman from the countryside would then have to return to where she came from. Most importantly, Qing Qing’s auntie was somehow involved romantically with Zhai Yaohui at that point in time. When this woman appeared, who would have expected Zhai Yaohui to abandon Qi Minlan because of her?”

When Miao Jing appeared, no one really believed that she would make it. Moreover, no one felt that Miao Jing could really be married into the Zhai family, becoming Zhai Yaohui’s wife as well as giving birth to Zhai Yaohui’s children.

However, what was the outcome?

Qi Minlan lost!

Miao Jing not only married Zhai Yaohui but also gave birth to one son and one daughter for him. Thirty years had passed and Zhai Yaohui would bring Miao Jing along wherever he went.

Someone said that Miao Jing was the one who wanted to stick to Zhai Yaohui. However, given Zhai Yaohui’s capability, it was not difficult at all for him to dump Miao Jing a hundred or a thousand times if he was not willing to let Miao Jing follow him around.

One had to know that Zhai Yaohui was the king when he was in the army!

The minds and ways of thinking of the Feng family were complex. They had always hoped that Qi Minlan could safeguard the romantic relationship between Zhai Yaohui and her.

Thereafter, everyone received the Zhai family’s wedding invitations. Old Master Feng then brought up the fact that Miao Jing did not have any relatives. In the happy event of a lifetime, it was not good that she did not even have a maternal family for her marriage.

Since it was fate that brought them together, Old Master Feng was willing to acknowledge Miao Jing as his goddaughter. In the future, Miao Jing could visit the Feng family often. As such, Miao Jing would have a maternal family and it was a huge family.

Of course, be it Miao Jing herself, Zhai Yaohui, or Old Master Zhai, all of them declined this suggestion.

When some words were said at a later time, it was no longer worth anything.

Hence, this time, the Feng family had revived their previous idea. They wanted to take advantage of the fact that Qiao Nan was young and inexperienced and let Qiao Nan acknowledge the Feng family as her fictive family.

“I think the situation is different.” Of course, Feng Meng was aware of Miao Jing’s matter.
“Furthermore, this kind of situation may not occur again.”

“There is a second time.” Feng Liang let out an exasperated sigh. “Zhai Sheng will be coming to the capital for the upcoming national event.”

“!” Feng Meng was taken aback. “Uncle, do you mean... I don’t think so, though?”

Zhai Sheng broke the tradition in order to give Qiao Nan his support? That was impossible. How could Zhai Sheng be this kind of person? Qiao Nan should not have such an important place in the hearts of Zhai Sheng and the Zhai family.

Feng Liang lighted a cigarette and smoked deeply. “At the very least, before Qiao Nan became a college student in the capital, have you seen Zhai Sheng coming?”

“It may be a coincidence.” He was not sure why but Feng Meng was unwilling to admit that Qiao Nan was so important to Zhai Sheng and that Zhai Sheng cared so much about Qiao Nan. “Zhai Sheng doesn’t seem like a muddleheaded man that will commit mistakes because of a woman.”

Feng Liang gave a snort. “The Zhai family is different from our Feng family. If they had as many considerations as us, do you think Miao Jing would be able to get married to Zhai Yaohui in the past? Like father, like son. Zhai Yaohui is very proud. Most likely, Zhai Sheng resembles him. They feel that the Zhai family doesn’t need to have a marriage to unite two families. It is more important to find someone that they like.”

When Feng Liang mentioned this, he felt very upset.

When he was young, he had met someone whom he adored and liked very much. The two of them thus dated for a long time.

However, when the lady chased for marriage, Feng Liang did not agree even after a long time.

It was not because of other reasons. It was because Old Master Feng had already found a woman for Feng Liang, this elder son, and wanted the two families to unite by marriage.

This woman herself, as well as her maternal family, could help Feng Liang.

Feng Liang was ambitious. He felt that Old Master Feng's arrangements were excellent. When this lady whom he liked requested for marriage with Feng Liang, Feng Liang had already collected the marriage certificate and became an official couple with his fiancée. The preparation for the wedding banquet was almost completed as well.

Feng Liang was very clear that the woman whom he married was who he needed but the one before him was who he loved.

Feng Liang hoped that this woman could understand his difficulties and support his career. One day, when he truly became powerful, he would definitely give the woman that he loved most a name. However, prior to that, this woman would have to endure and suffer a little for the time being.

He swore to the woman that he only loved her. Besides a name, everything that he had would belong to her. The wife in his family would not get a single thing from him. That wife would not intervene in his matters outside the home as well.

Feng Liang really loved this woman and had made plans. When he felt that the Feng family had achieved enough and his wife was no longer of help to him, he would then marry the one that he loved. Regardless of the number of years that it would take, his love for her would never change.

Until today, Feng Liang knew that if that woman was willing to appear before him, he would immediately divorce his wife and marry her.

Unfortunately, many years ago, when that lady knew about this cruel truth, she ran away after giving Feng Liang a slap.

Feng Liang thought that the other party did that out of a fit of anger. After a few days, when her anger had subsided, he would appease her and his loved one would definitely understand his

situation. Feng Liang did not expect that when he went to look for that lady one week later, she had already moved out. Moreover, she did not leave any message for him.

Chapter 908 Qiao Nan's Life Plan

Many years had passed and Feng Liang had never seen that woman again.

Perhaps the best things were always those that one could not get. As Feng Liang rose in his ranks and led an increasingly complacent life, that woman was like a red mole in Feng Liang's heart that could not be erased.

For the sake of his family and career, Feng Liang could only choose to sacrifice his marriage. He was almost fifty years old but he did not even know where the woman that he loved most was, how her life was, whether she married another man after leaving him and whether she gave birth to children with another man.

Each time these thoughts came to his mind, Feng Liang could feel an inextinguishable fire burning his heart.

In the past, when Zhai Yaohui was firm and resolute in giving up Qi Minlan and marrying Miao Jing, he ignored all consequences. He was so decisive that he was not influenced by external factors. There was not a single hesitation that arose out of him due to other considerations.

Comparing himself to Zhai Yaohui, the latter not only married the woman whom he truly loved but also had a smooth and successful career. He had become someone that the Feng family wanted to fawn on.

On the contrary, he lost the love of his life. Every day, he had to sleep in the same bed with his sallow-skin wife. He did not feel happy about his life every day. Until now, he still had to think of ways to acknowledge that future daughter-in-law of Zhai Yaohui as his goddaughter.

Zhai Yaohui was the true victor in life. He was forthright and candid for half of his life, yet he was still so successful.

Feng Meng did not know about the sad past of his uncle, Feng Liang. Since Feng Liang had already told him this, of course, he had to listen to him. "Uncle, I understand what you mean. Regardless of whether this will be successful, as long as it will benefit the Feng family, we have to give it a try. If it is successful, the Feng family will benefit tremendously. If it doesn't, we won't lose much either."

Feng Meng was a businessman. He could analyze the risks and returns of a matter thoroughly in the shortest time possible.

A business like this, in which they would only earn and not lose, regardless of how much he detested Qiao Nan, he could tuck away all his feelings and affectionately address Qiao Nan as his sister. He would treat Qiao Nan as well as he treated Qing Qing.

“When you do things, I feel more assured. You have interacted with Qiao Nan today and have gained some initial understanding of her. What are your thoughts on this lady?” After making up his mind, Feng Liang had to do a little homework as well.

It was impossible for him to tell Qiao Nan ‘I will acknowledge you as my goddaughter’ once Shi Qing brought her back home. Who would agree when they encountered such a situation?

Feng Liang had to understand Qiao Nan’s temperament and likes before he could properly bond with her.

Feng Liang was a politician while Feng Meng’s father was a businessman. The reason Old Master Feng asked Feng Liang to acknowledge Qiao Nan as his goddaughter was that Feng Liang could benefit directly from Qiao Nan.

Old Master Feng had already spared so much consideration for him. Next, Feng Liang himself had to grab the opportunity and work on this.

“She is quite clever to be able to get into Peking University.” From this point, Qiao Nan was qualified to become fictive kin of the Feng family.

Feng Liang was a little surprised. “You have just come into contact with her. Moreover, you have not given her any pleasing looks right from the beginning. In the end, you even brought Qing Qing out for a meal. In such a short time, you’re so certain that she is a smart person? Or is it just because she is a student of Peking University?”

“No.” Feng Meng shook his head. He spoke about Qiao Nan’s behavior. “This may be a very small matter. However, from my perspective, Qiao Nan has saved a lot of time and energy resources. She has also increased the job efficiency. This made a great difference. If I have an assistant like Qiao Nan working alongside me, I think I will do better in my business.”

Qiao Nan would be a very outstanding manager. She had a strong ability to make wholesome plans. She was even better at delegation and arrangement of duties.

This was an all-rounder top talent!

If Qiao Nan's identity was not as such and if Feng Meng had met Qiao Nan in an ordinary setting, he knew that he would utilize all ways and means to poach Qiao Nan over to become his assistant.

Even if Qiao Nan did not study business, he was willing to invest in Qiao Nan and let Qiao Nan undergo a few years of professional education. After she had completed the learning, she could help him.

He would not lose out in this kind of investment. Instead, he would receive large returns with a little investment.

As a shrewd businessman, Feng Meng had assessed Qiao Nan's value very clearly.

Feng Liang was not a businessman. Initially, he did not understand why one could infer so many things with the hanging and drying of the curtains.

After listening to the analysis of Feng Meng, Feng Liang understood. "I see. No wonder..."

So as to speak, if Qiao Nan was not capable herself, would the Zhai family be willing to let her get engaged to Zhai Sheng?

"Right, what is Qiao Nan's specialization in Peking University? Business?" It would be great if that was the case. After she acknowledged Qiao Nan as her goddaughter, once Qiao Nan graduated after completing her four years of studies, she could immediately work in the enterprises of the Feng family and help Feng Meng

From this perspective, the value of Qiao Nan, this goddaughter, had far exceeded the considerations of the old master and him.

Feng Meng shook his head. "Foreign language."

Qiao Nan was clearly very talented. It was good whether she studied business or management. She was wasting away her talent. She was simply letting God's gift go to waste.

"Foreign language?" Feng Liang felt a pinch when he heard that. "Forget it. She is young and insensible. That's right too. Now, many people think that it's better for girls to learn something quiet and gentle. What's so good about it? Not promising at all. When Qiao Nan becomes my goddaughter, I will arrange for her to change her course of studies immediately. Feng Liang, which course do you think Qiao Nan should study?"

Qiao Nan was not even Feng Liang's goddaughter yet and Feng Liang had already begun to take over and manage her life, planning for Qiao Nan's future.

Of course, all these had to be in the interests of the Feng family.

When Feng Meng calmed down and considered carefully, he then discussed with Feng Liang which course Qiao Nan should be transferred to so that she would be of greater help to the Feng family.

In the small courtyard of the Lin family, Qiao Nan's nose felt extremely itchy. She kept sneezing until she had a headache.

After Shi Qing and Feng Meng had their meal, Shi Qing brought back a lot of takeaways for Qiao Nan, all spread on the table. "Qiao Nan, did you catch a cold? Why are you sneezing so much?"

"I don't think so." Qiao Nan denied. "I don't feel feverish. Besides sneezing, I don't have any other symptoms. I'm really just sneezing. I don't even have a runny nose. Most likely, there is too much dust in this house during the daytime and I'm not used to it."

Qiao Nan, who came from the future, knew that if the house was too dusty, it was easy to breed a certain kind of living thing: dust mites.

When those who suffered from a sensitive nose entered this kind of house, they would sneeze continuously and could only visit the hospital to stop the sneezing. In comparison, Qiao Nan was considered alright.

Chapter 909 Could Not Always Help for Nothing

“Most likely, wiping the place another two or three times tomorrow will do.” Qiao Nan covered her nose. “Let me tell you. I have already eaten. You have to finish all the food that you have brought back.” She had already decided to distance herself from the Feng family.

Hence, she dared not consume anything from the Feng family.

Shi Qing gave a scream in shock. “I specially brought them back for you. It’s a roasted duck, the most famous roasted duck in the capital. Are you really not eating?”

“I’m full. It’s already so late. I’m not eating. Moreover, I don’t wish to become fat.” Qiao Nan turned her head. Not to mention eating them, she was not even willing to look at the roasted duck. “Alright, I’m exhausted. There are solar energy panels in my master’s house, and I stoked the fire the moment we arrived today. Fortunately, there was no explosion. We can have warm showers now. Do you want to go first?”

“The weather is so hot. Why are you taking a warm shower? It feels better to have a cold shower.” Shi Qing was unhappy that Qiao Nan insisted that she bathed with warm water.

“Then, I will bathe first. Don’t shower with cold water. If I find out... Haha, you will bear the consequences. You will have to settle your daily three meals yourself.” Shi Qing was more extroverted. She was like a fake lad. Qiao Nan could not be bothered to tell Shi Qing so much about feminine care. This was because she knew that Shi Qing might not care even if she did.

What female ailments and cold uterus? At this point in time, Shi Qing could not register any of those words. Unless Shi Qing had suffered from these ailments, she would not understand them.

“Please don’t. For the past few years, have I not listened to you every summer? Warm water... It’s comfortable to bathe with warm water! Especially when you come out of the toilet, you will feel much cooler. Your highness Qiao, go ahead and bathe first. I will bathe later.” Shi Qing spoke as if she was a lackey. If Qiao Nan did not cook for her anymore, she would have to starve to death. The food outside was not only expensive but also tasted awful.

Qiao Nan patted Shi Qing’s ‘dog head’ satisfactorily as she took her pajamas into the toilet. She then gave herself a good wash from head to toe.

Although Qiao Nan had worn many precautionary gears during the daytime, Qiao Nan still felt that she was covered in dust. In particular, she felt that her strands of hair were sticking together.

From this day onward, Qiao Nan and Shi Qing formally began their life in college.

Qiao Nan copied the college timetable for Shi Qing and herself. She wrote a few copies and pasted them at various places lest she forgot the schedule if she were to lose any piece of them.

Besides attending compulsory lessons, Qiao Nan began to spend her spare time in the library.

As for the clubs, Qiao Nan had registered for a few of them.

Qiao Nan thought it would be hard to get into the most popular clubs. After all, she was not Tang Jiayun and did not have the latter's social skills. Hence, she could only register for a couple of small and new clubs that were related to language studies.

It was easy to get into this kind of club. Besides, there would be fewer activities.

Why were there fewer activities?

It was a new club and there were only a few members. Hence, they would have an even lesser budget.

Under the pretext of an insufficient budget, what were the major things that the club could do?

Out of convenience, Qiao Nan naturally opted for such clubs.

However, Qiao Nan was aware that this kind of club could not achieve anything great. Hence, to gain experience in social practice, Qiao Nan was very smart to look for the management of the Palace Museum. She volunteered to become a tour guide and interpreter for the museum.

Of course, although it was voluntary work, there were also requirements in order to volunteer at such a place.

If one did not meet the requirements, others would not accept them even if they forked out money, let alone doing voluntary work.

At this moment, as a student of Peking University, she seemed to hold a prerequisite certificate for the job. Once they heard that she was a student majoring in foreign language at Peking University, the management of the Palace Museum was willing to give Qiao Nan a chance.

Qiao Nan's standard of English in both speech and writing was good.

In addition, Qiao Nan was majoring in foreign language. She not only had come into contact with English but was also beginning to study other foreign languages, albeit not as much as English and was not as fluent in them.

In terms of international languages, it was, in fact, sufficient for Qiao Nan to be familiar with English only.

"Student Qiao, we welcome you to join us. Moving forward, unless you have lessons, you should come here during weekends or peak periods when there are many tourists. We are in desperate need of fresh blood and college students like you to help us." Who would not be happy to get a top student of Peking University's foreign language department to help them at no cost?

"I appreciate your guidance." Qiao Nan was happily smiling as well. After settling this voluntary job, Qiao Nan believed that she would do very well in her social practice.

After shuffling for an entire day, Qiao Nan's clothes were drenched when she returned to the small courtyard of the Lin family.

When Shi Qing saw Qiao Nan look so disheveled, she was puzzled. "Where did you go? Why do you smell of sweat? Quickly go and bathe. Didn't you say that Brother Zhai will be coming to the capital soon? You are always out of sight. Aren't you afraid that Brother Zhai can't find you when he arrives in the capital? Moreover, with you looking like that, you will scare Brother Zhai away."

Fortunately, Qiao Nan's skin was very fair and it was not easy for her to become tanned.

If others went out in this way like Qiao Nan, they would become little tanned ladies.

“If a man will run away so easily, why do I still want him? Is Brother Zhai someone so superficial?” Qiao Nan snorted proudly. In her previous life, she was blind. In this lifetime, she wiped her eyes until they were so bright.

Shi Qing curled the corners of her lips. “Qiao Nan, why do I feel that you blindly trust and admire Brother Zhai most of the time?”

No matter how outstanding or capable Brother Zhai was, he was an ordinary man. He would have to eat, drink, pee, poop, and sleep. He would reproduce. He would bleed like an ordinary man when he was injured.

To put it in a cliché way, actually, Brother Zhai would also have the common habits that a typical person had.

For example, Brother Zhai liked pretty girls.

If Qiao Nan was not pretty enough, she did not believe that Brother Zhai would be able to see through that so-so looks of her and admire her inner beauty.

Qiao Nan laughed guiltily. She did not elaborate further.

In actual fact, she did not only feel this way toward Brother Zhai. As long as it was soldiers wearing the army uniform, she would feel the same toward them.

Of course, Wei De, that weird one, was an exception.

Qiao Nan took a glance at the pile of materials on the table. She casually picked some of them up to read. Coincidentally, it was a book about guns. There were many pictures and explanations of various guns in it. It was very detailed. Qiao Nan flipped the book as she asked, “You’re reading these? These are what Zhu Baoguo sent to you?”

“No.” Shi Qing yawned. Qiao Nan was busy today but Shi Qing did not idle either. “I borrowed some of them from the library. Brother Zhai got someone to help me find some of these.”

Qiao Nan closed the book. “Brother Zhai?” Did she hear her correctly?

Didn't Brother Zhai get Shi Qing to follow and protect her so that she would not be taken away by other 'wolves'? Now, would Brother Zhai support Shi Qing in changing the latter's course of studies?

Chapter 910 Decline to Jump into the Pit

Shi Qing held her head and yawned. "He can't possibly let me work for nothing. Furthermore, your suggestion is good. I will ponder over it for some time and then bring up the matter of changing the course of study. During this period of time, Brother Zhai still has to depend on me to take good care of his wife, right?"

It had been so many years. One is marked by the company one keeps.

Ever since hearing Qiao Nan's suggestion, Shi Qing had already begun plotting on Zhai Sheng. She not only asked Zhai Sheng to keep this from her father but also requested Zhai Sheng to find information and materials for her.

Shi Qing knew that Zhai Sheng was the best person to seek help from on this matter.

The reality was as such. Zhai Sheng did not need to search for these materials at all. He only needed to casually throw a couple of those reading materials that he had used before to Shi Qing. That was enough to keep Shi Qing occupied for some time, researching.

Without any more romantic love, Shi Qing and Zhai Sheng should talk about something more practical. He could not just keep holding on to her and bullying her, this sister. Zhai Sheng should also behave like an elder brother. This would make her more willing to help.

Zhu Baoguo was just a student. His materials were definitely not complete.

Change was the only constant thing nowadays. The knowledge in this area was also advancing progressively.

Given Zhu Baoguo's current situation, he certainly could not keep up with the progress. On the other hand, Zhai Sheng's research and studies in this area would definitely not fall behind.

It was rare for Shi Qing to use some of her brains on this. As such, she had truly found herself an excellent and readily available ‘great master’.

“Qiao Nan, it’s great to have you around.” Countless people had once requested to borrow these notes and materials from Zhai Sheng, and Zhai Sheng had always said that he no longer kept them. In the end, they landed in her pocket. At the thought of this, Shi Qing was so glad and grateful that she had met Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan chuckled. “Alright, stop sucking up to me. I’m going to bathe first. It’s almost time for you to wash up and sleep. If you ruin your grades now, your dad will most likely dash to school before you can change your course of study. For the sake of your ambitions and hobbies, it will be tough on you.” Shi Qing was basically studying two courses simultaneously. Even if her grades for the main course of study were not too outstanding, it should not be too lousy either.

Those who knew Shi Qing were aware that her grades had never fallen below those of the top three students in the class.

If there was a great disparity in her grades between now and before, given Shi Peng’s sensitivity, how would he not suspect anything?

“I know.” Shi Qing was not angry. She knew that Qiao Nan was stating the facts and the latter was sparing a thought for her in all areas. “Right, I’m going back to the Feng’s residence this weekend.”

“Go ahead.” Qiao Nan took her clothes and went into the bathroom directly to bathe.

Shi Qing was the maternal granddaughter of the Feng family. No matter how much Qiao Nan disliked the Feng family, she certainly could not show any slightest reluctance of letting Shi Qing keep in touch with the Feng family.

When she heard the sound of water splashing in the bathroom, Shi Qing bit her books. This was not what she wanted to say. The sentence thereafter was what she wanted to say most.

Having been friends with Qiao Nan for a few years, Shi Qing was aware of Qiao Nan’s temperament.

Her maternal grandmother’s and mother’s words put her in a difficult position.

Earlier on, the attitude of the Feng family was too negative, but Qiao Nan never complained to her about it. She also did not distance herself from her or lose her temper over this. However, she was aware that Qiao Nan did not have any positive feelings about the Feng family. She only wanted to avoid them.

Sigh...

Her mother and maternal grandmother told her that this was all a misunderstanding, that they had been misled by Qiu Chenxi. Those things that happened earlier-could they smoke their way through just with the word 'misunderstanding'? Would Qiao Nan be able to accept that?

If it was her, Shi Qing would not be pleased, let alone Qiao Nan.

Since they said that it was a misunderstanding, so be it. Anyway, they were not related to each other and did not have any interaction. After the 'misunderstanding' was cleared, they could go on their separate ways. They did not need to keep in touch at all.

Although she was aware of this, Shi Qing could not completely pretend that she did not hear her biological mother's and maternal grandmother's words. Furthermore, one was her maternal grandmother's family and the other was her good friend. If these two parties could get along amicably, she would feel very happy.

After thinking for some time and seeing that Qiao Nan had come out from the bathroom, Shi Qing mustered her courage and said, "I will be going back to the Feng's residence this weekend."

Qiao Nan, who was drying her hair, raised her brows. "You told me about this just now, and I heard you clearly. Go back then. Right, are you planning to stay overnight at the Feng's residence that day? If you are coming back, I will leave the door open for you. If you are not, I will lock it up."

"I..." Shi Qing wanted to say that she was not coming back but she almost spat when she recalled that this was not her main point. "My grandmother and my mom asked me to invite you to come along. I have explained to you about their previous attitude toward you. Qiu Chenxi was the one who sowed discord. Now, the misunderstanding has been cleared. They also know what kind of person Qiu Chenxi is. Her earlier phone call was made to smear your name. We wish to invite you back to have a meal and also apologize to you. Qiao Nan, come with me, please."

After this matter was resolved, perhaps she would be able to go everywhere with Qiao Nan again. They could return to the Feng's residence and the small courtyard together, just like they did when they were in Ping Cheng. That would be great.

Qiao Nan stopped drying her hair for a moment. She then smiled casually. "There is no need to apologize. They are all my seniors. I am just a junior. The misunderstanding has been cleared. That will do. They are even going to specially apologize to me. I will be shameless if I dare to think about getting an apology. You should stick to the plan and don't mind me. I am not going with you. I have something on during the weekend."

She did not even want to eat the food from Feng Meng that Shi Qing brought home. Would she dare to eat at the family banquet in the Feng's residence?

She did not know why the Feng family showed so much displeasure toward her initially. Now that the misunderstanding had already been cleared, they even enthusiastically invited her for an apology meal. Qiao Nan would like to say, "So sorry, I'm not available!"

"You don't have any lessons this weekend." Shi Qing was a little worried. "Are you still angry?"

"My goodness, missy, have you forgotten? I am someone that needs to do social practice. It's not that you don't know my family's situation. I have to continue to work hard to achieve good grades and obtain scholarships. Otherwise, how would I graduate from college?"

Angry?

Why would she spend so much energy being angry at the Feng family? If she had the energy to do so, she would rather read one more book, memorize one more word, or understand one more phrase.

"You have decided on it?" Shi Qing recalled that Qiao Nan had told her about this before while they were on the way here. She had forgotten it for a moment.

"Yes. Otherwise, what do you think I was busy with today?" When she felt that her hair was half dry, Qiao Nan was not willing to waste her time anymore. "I am tired and would like to sleep. You shouldn't sleep too late as well. Quickly wash up and go to bed."

"Okay."

When Qiao Nan closed the door of the bedroom, Shi Qing then recalled that she had to return to the Feng's residence during the weekend.

Shi Qing sighed. She did not know whether her maternal grandmother and family would be able to accept it if she were to tell them Qiao Nan's reason. The problem was that Qiao Nan was merely stating facts. Between accepting an apology and doing social practice to obtain good grades, which one was more important?