

RTAMM 971

Chapter 971 Stepping on Your Achilles' Heel

At that time, Old Master Feng brought up this matter suddenly. In addition, Feng Liang, her biological elder brother, was going through some job-related transitions recently. Feng Cheng thus relented and agreed to Old Master Feng's suggestion. She was also thinking that her daughter was not young anymore and it was time to pick a good man for her. The two could get engaged first and then interact with each other thereafter. When her daughter was of an appropriate age, it was not bad to get married and have children then.

After all, this was an experience in life that every woman had to face.

However, when Feng Cheng calmed down, she felt that this matter came too soon. She had been muddleheaded to agree at that point in time. It was thus not strange that Qing Qing reacted strongly to it.

Many years ago, Feng Cheng and Shi Peng already knew each other before they dated. They had some interactions during childhood and only started dating later after they grew up and studied in the same school.

"I've already said my reasons. It's not that we don't have other ladies in the Feng family, but I don't think it's appropriate." Old Master Feng was not in a good mood these few days. "I've also told you clearly the family background of that man. I'm the one who calls the shots in the Feng family now. I wish to pass down the authority to your elder brother. However, if another lady in the Feng family gets married to that man, I am not sure if your brother will be able to take my place after I relinquish it. If that person is not my closest next-of-kin, his heart may not be with us."

"But..." Feng Cheng began to understand Old Master Feng's intention. "Qing Qing is not willing to. I don't have a choice either. Although it is for the sake of the Feng family, the prerequisite is that Qing Qing has to like him and be a willing party, right?"

"What do you know?" Old Master Feng said unhappily. "You're already a mother. Don't tell me you really believe that love and romance are most important? Qing Qing is young and doesn't know this. You, as a mother, should advise Qing Qing well. If this marriage is successful, it will benefit both the Feng family and Qing Qing. Don't you hope that your daughter will marry well? Do you want to let Qing Qing do as she wishes? Qing Qing is so pure and simple at heart. All of us know that. If Qing Qing marries a poor man in the future, you might not mind providing for your daughter, but are you willing to provide for your son-in-law and his family?"

No matter what, he must not let his maternal granddaughter marry someone that had nothing.

Feng Cheng's mouth moved. She nearly could not respond. "Dad, you're exaggerating. Qing Qing is simple and pure. She is also naive. I don't deny that. However, I know that besides liking Zhai Sheng in the past, she didn't like anyone else."

Her daughter did not even have someone that she liked. Did her father need to imagine Qing Qing's future partner to be so lousy such that he did not have money and house, and that he also needed his mother-in-law to provide for him?

She did not believe that her daughter's judgment of people would be so poor. "Dad, you're being paranoid. I believe that this won't happen to Qing Qing."

With Zhai Sheng, this bright pearl, before Qing Qing, she really did not believe that her daughter would take a liking to a broken stone by the roadside in the future.

"Believe?" Old Master Feng snorted. "If you don't believe it now, forget it. When the time comes and this matter really happens, don't come back crying to us."

After Old Master Feng finished his words, he walked away feeling very vexed, leaving behind his back view for Feng Cheng.

In fact, the Feng family was responsible for raising their daughter and maternal granddaughter to be so naive.

The current problem was that, when Feng Cheng and Shi Qing used this 'naivetés' on the Feng family, Old Master Feng could not bring himself to feel happy.

Sitting in the study room, Old Master Feng started to reflect on whether he had done it wrongly in the past.

Compared to Qi Minlan, his own daughter Feng Cheng did not have anything worthy of mentioning

His daughter would not behave like Qi Minlan, who would run back to the maternal family to compete with her biological brother on the things in their father's hands. Nevertheless, his daughter also did not have the capability and mind of Qi Minlan. She would not continuously pull strings for her own family.

From every single drink to every single bite, there is nothing that is not preordained. True enough, nothing is perfect in this world.

In fact, this wedding engagement was truly an opportunity for the Feng family.

The fiancé that Old Master Feng found for Shi Qing, although his family background was not as good as Zhai Sheng, it was not much worse off. The family of this man had risen in status recently. It seemed that they were going to progress further. This was an up and rising star.

In other words, if Shi Qing was not willing to, there would be many others who were more than willing

Old Master Feng's plan was very simple. If Qiao Nan really treated Shi Qing as a good friend and was not willing to let Shi Qing sacrifice her lifetime happiness for the sake of family interests, then Qiao Nan would persuade Zhai Sheng to help Feng Liang climb up the ranks.

As such, the Feng family would naturally interfere less in Shi Qing's marriage. They would let Shi Qing find someone that she was satisfied with.

If Qiao Nan and Shi Qing were not on such good terms and she refused to persuade the Zhai family to help Feng Liang, there was no issue too. When Shi Qing got engaged to the young lad, the latter's family would also support Feng Liang and help the latter progress further.

Old Master Feng just wanted an outcome. He did not care about the process.

Unfortunately, it seemed that neither of his plans would work.

Old Master Feng could not control or impact things at Qiao Nan's end.

The day before, Feng Liang met Zhai Shengor rather, Zhai Sheng specially went to find Feng Liang.

Although Zhai Sheng was the junior, he pulled a long face and warned Feng Liang without any reservation. This made Feng Liang lost a lot of face.

Zhai Sheng clearly told Feng Liang that the Feng family should not be up to no good. Otherwise, the Feng family would not be able to receive any gain that they hoped for. He would also let the Feng family lose the things that they cared about most.

He had ways to pull Feng Liang up the ranks. On the other hand, he could pull Feng Liang down as well. He could simply get in touch with someone who wished to replace Feng Liang and take the latter's current role. This matter would be settled then.

As Zhai Sheng stepped directly on Feng Liang's Achilles' heel, Feng Liang could not help feeling fearful.

Because of Zhai Sheng's warning, regardless of how many plans the Feng family had, they dared not target directly at Qiao Nan. They also dared not bring up or insist that Qiao Nan become their fictive kin. They could only make a veiled attack and give various hints to save the 'nation' through indirect means.

means.

That was how Shi Qing's engagement came about.

If they really could not rely on the Zhai family, Old Master Feng wanted Feng Liang to rise further in the ranks and improve the status of the Feng family in the capital, letting Shi Qing get engaged and married to that man was undoubtedly the best and fastest method.

It was a pity that, no matter how good old Master Feng's plan was, it was completely not within his control on how things would develop.

Old Master Feng was totally unaware that Shi Qing had listened to Qiao Nan's suggestion. Under the assistance of the Zhai family, they were secretly settling the administrative matters to transfer Shi Qing to PLA National Defence University.

When all the paperwork had been settled, Shi Qing would just simply inform the Feng family about the situation. It would be too late for Old Master Feng to stop her by then.

“Nan Nan, will you be going back to Ping Cheng during the seven days of National Day holiday?” Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng, the father and son pair, would be extremely busy. As for Miao Jing, unless the events called for her presence, she did not need to attend them. She thus had much more spare time than Zhai Yaohui and Zhai Sheng.

Chapter 972 Nearly Relented

“Mom, it has been so long. Did you contact Sister Hua Hua?” Qiao Nan shook her head. It would only be seven days. If she had to return to Ping Cheng, she would first need to spend two days traveling to and fro in a car. It would be too tiring.

If she could afford it or when there was high-speed rail, she could return to Ping Cheng during such a seven-day long holiday then.

At the mention of Zhai Hua, Miao Jing looked perplexed. After some time, she gave out a sigh. “I’ve seen Hua Hua before I came. She has lost a lot of weight. When I saw Hua Hua in that state, I nearly relented. I was thinking that I should just allow her to be with Wei De. When she was a child, I was not by her side. This has caused her to feel a lack of love and care. I will have to pay her back what I owe her eventually.”

Before Miao Jing could tell Zhai Hua that she would agree to the latter’s relationship with Wei De, Zhai Yaohui pulled Miao Jing away. Thereafter, he only reminded Zhai Hua to do well in the army and redeem the loss and hurt caused by her previously.

Miao Jing would relent at such times but not Zhai Yaohui.

In the past, Zhai Hua completely refused to listen. At this juncture, Zhai Hua was still willing to listen a little and persist in her decision. How could Zhai Yaohui soften his stance at this time? Clearly, he knew that her daughter’s choice of man was wrong. He could not allow her daughter to continue with the mistake just because his heart ached for her.

Before she could completely let go of this, it was necessary that his daughter suffered a little.

In the future, when his daughter had calmed down and found her own happiness, she would naturally understand that the suffering and persistence that she had endured in the past were worth it.

Zhai Yaohui was a man. Regardless of how much his heart ached when he saw Zhai Hua lose weight and become haggard and not as happy as before, he would not talk about it. Miao Jing was a woman. Today, when Qiao Nan asked about it, she spilled everything. “You don’t know. That Wei De is very mean. Hua Hua did not come back to Ping Cheng and she refused to see him. He couldn’t enter the camp, so he actually sent letters to Hua Hua directly. He kept sending photos of his nephew and him. He even said that his nephew knows how to address her as auntie-in-law now.”

At the thought of these words, Miao Jing was so furious that her liver hurt.

Her daughter was not married yet. She was a virgin. Yet, Wei De wanted her to help him raise a child after marriage.

Although this was his nephew, it was not reasonable!

“Without these letters and photos, I think Hua Hua’s life will certainly be much better. Perhaps this is why Hua Hua lost weight. She has been tortured!” The more that was the case, the more Miao Jing could not look up to Wei De.

If not for the fact that the Zhai family never did things under the table, would Wei De, this kind of person, be able to continue leading a good life in Ping Cheng?

Qiao Nan’s expression changed. “Mom, don’t be upset. I will give Sister Hua Hua a call later and chat with her.” If what her mother-in-law said was true, Wei De was being too much then.

“That’s good too.” Miao Jing nodded. “Hua Hua is very stubborn. In the initial years, her dad and me... No matter what, Zhai Sheng and your words, she will still listen to some of them.”

“Yes, Sister Hua Hua is still quite rational. As long as our words make sense, she will listen to them. Don’t worry. I have a feeling that Sister Hua Hua and Wei De can’t remain together anymore.” She really did not look up to Wei De. Although she vaguely recalled that Sister Hua Hua seemed to have married Wei De in her previous life.

Qiao Nan could not describe clearly how she felt that day. However, she felt revulsion to Wei De from the bottom of her heart.

Wei De felt that she was not worthy of Brother Zhai due to her humble status. On the other hand, she felt that Wei De was not a good person and was not worthy of Sister Hua Hua.

Qiao Nan said 'our'. However, Miao Jing understood in her heart that it was just 'my' and not 'our'.

Miao Jing had been thinking. Was it because she and Zhao Yaohui were not by Zhai Hua's side when she was a child? In addition, Zhai Sheng was her younger brother. Was that why Zhai Hua was especially unwilling to listen to them?

It was great that Qiao Nan was a neutral party and did not have any conflict with Zhai Hua. Both of them were also ladies. Hence, Zhai Hua was willing to listen to Qiao Nan. "I can only trouble you on Hua Hua's matter." Miao Jing knew that she did not have any other way regarding this.

"No trouble." Qiao Nan shook her head. "I feel that many things may happen if Wei De joins the family." If anything were to happen to the Zhai family, Brother Zhai would certainly be the one resolving the problems. She did not want it to be so hard on Brother Zhai. She hoped that he could focus wholeheartedly on his passion, which was the army. At the very least, she must not let family matters become Brother Zhai's stumbling block.

"Okay." Miao Jing nodded. Although Hua Hua was the elder sister and Zhai Sheng the younger brother, if it were a few decades ago, once Nan Nan married into the Zhai family, she would be in charge of the family's domestic affairs. She would have to manage her sister-in-law as well.

Fortunately, despite Nan Nan's young age, she was very responsible and capable. If she were weaker, her prior worries would certainly happen.

Nan Nan was able to hold the fort. Naturally, his son would be the one enjoying life.

After advising Miao Jing, Qiao Nan did not stay behind. She left before Zhai Sheng and Zhai Yaohui came home. She returned to the small courtyard of the Lin family and helped Shi Qing pack her luggage. "How is your packing going along?"

“My goodness, you’re still worried about me? I’m almost done with the packing. But you have to consider this carefully. After I leave, you will be staying here alone. Do you feel afraid?” A young lady staying alone-no matter what, it was quite worrying.

“Not afraid.” Qiao Nan shook her head honestly. Was it scary to stay alone?

This house belonged to her master. In her previous life, she had twenty years of experience staying in a rented apartment alone.

Although she certainly felt afraid in the beginning, she had stayed alone for about twenty years. No matter how timid she was, she was already numb to it.

Shi Qing could tell that Qiao Nan was telling the truth. She was surprised. “I thought that you were timid. I didn’t expect... Not bad.” Shi Qing patted Qiao Nan’s shoulders. She was daring enough to stay alone. Not many people of their age could do that. “Alright, since you are not afraid, I will feel more assured when I leave.”

“Continue packing. I am going to make a call.” After confirming that Shi Qing did not need her help anymore, Qiao Nan remembered Zhai Hua’s matter. She quickly gave Zhai Hua a call.

When Zhai Hua picked up the call, Qiao Nan could hear a listless voice. “Hello, good day.”

“Sister Hua Hua, it’s me.”

“Nan Nan!” Zhai Hua, who was at a loss, perked up immediately when she heard Qiao Nan’s voice. “Nan Nan, it’s such a coincidence. I wanted to contact you recently. I wish to discuss some matters with you.”

Zhai Hua was aware that she had a soft heart. In particular, the more Wei De talked into her ears, her heart would become as soft as her ears no matter how determined she was.

Zhai Hua knew that it was not right for her to behave in this way.

Unfortunately, there was no one by her side to remind her again and again and sober her up. She really had no choice. As such, Zhai Hua had thought of giving Qiao Nan a call.

Chapter 973 What Do You Desire from Him?

Earlier on, Qiao Nan had used the school's public phone to call Zhai Hua. Hence, if Zhai Hua wanted to look for Qiao Nan now, dialing back that number would not work.

In fact, she had been pondering if she should look for Zhai Sheng to get Qiao Nan's contact number. It was just nice that Qiao Nan took the initiative to call her.

"I have heard about your situation from Mom. Wei De sent you many photos and wrote you many letters? Did you keep those items that he had sent you previously?" "Yes." She did not throw any of them away. Qiao Nan sighed. True enough, that was the case.

"In this case, if you don't mind, send me all the letters and items from Wei De. Also, if Wei De sends anything to the camp for you, don't read them. Send them all to me directly." It was not appropriate, but it was also most appropriate to send these items to her.

These things that Wei De sent to Zhai Hua made both Zhai Hua and the Zhai family feel vexed. Even Zhai Sheng might not be able to keep his cool when he faced them.

Qiao Nan was considered an outsider. She was also a student. Regardless of her thoughts, she could not possibly do anything to Wei De.

Hence, it would be safest for Qiao Nan to take care of these items.

Zhai Hua was able to understand her point. "Fine, I will send the items to you. Nan Nan, I really want to calm down, but..." Wei De had been sending her letters every two to three days. The heart that she had quieted down with much difficulty was, again, wavering.

The items were already in her hands. She could not help but look at them.

As such, Zhai Hua was feeling very troubled and at a loss of what to do.

"You don't need to explain. I understand." Qiao Nan interrupted Zhai Hua's words of self-blame. "Sister Zhai Hua, I understand. But have you seen enough to sort out your thoughts? You should still remember what I have told you before. I didn't advise you to break up with Wei De. This is because I hope that you can reconsider your relationship with Wei De after you have truly calmed

down. You trust the feelings between the two of you. You have thus promised me. Sister Zhai Hua, do you think Wei De's behavior shows that he trusts your relationship? Sister Zhai Hua, if you put yourself in Wei De's shoes, will you keep sending letters to the other party in the same way?"

Regarding the matter about Wei De, Sister Zhai Hua was not firm and it was especially easy for her mind to waver.

After much difficulty, Qiao Nan managed to coax Sister Zhai Hua into having a cooling-off period. However, Wei De had to make his presence known from time to time. Qiao Nan's head was hurting badly too.

The more that was the case, the more Qiao Nan could not look up to Wei De. He was an eyesore.

There was a saying that pushing too hard would not get you any sale.

The more anxious Wei De was, the more he cared about it and refused to let go, the more people looked down on him and felt that he had a problem.

"I..." Zhai Hua was stunned for a while. If she were Wei De, what would she do if she were in such a situation?

After thinking for a long time, Zhai Hua, whose mind was in a whirlwind, said, "I think that I wouldn't do what Wei De is doing now." Although she wanted to sort out her relationship with Wei De, she did not do anything that would hinder Wei De or make his life difficult. She did not force Wei De to bow to her.

Zhai Hua had returned to the army and did not leave the place for a long time. In addition, given the Zhai family's attitude toward Wei De, many of Zhai Hua's childhood friends had called to ask Zhai Hua whether she was still in a relationship with Wei De.

Wei De could receive their help as he was Zhai Hua's boyfriend.

If Wei De were to lose this layer of connection, they would not be so silly to gift him money.

Zhai Hua did not clarify whether she was still on good terms with or whether she had already broken up with Wei De. She only replied briefly without giving a straight answer. She said that she had been busy recently and did not have time to think about personal matters.

These were her childhood friends. Upon hearing Zhai Hua's words, these friends understood that, at this point in time, they still could not dump Wei De at least and let him rely on himself to carry on. They still had to guide him every now and then.

It was also due to the phone calls from her childhood friends that Zhai Hua wanted very much to call Qiao Nan to seek the latter's opinions.

A woman in love had a negative IQ. Nevertheless, the occasionally sober Zhai Hua still had some sanity to speak of.

She had once boastfully expressed to Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng that Wei De was capable but lacked the opportunity.

However, was that the truth?

In the past, for the sake of Wei De, she had pleaded with her younger brother to open a back door for Wei De.

Now, she also requested her childhood friends to guide Wei De along in making money. In fact, this was really not much different from getting someone to send money to Wei De. She believed that he was capable but lacked the opportunity. However, why did he need people to guide him along at all times? Could he not find his own success through his own capability?

Zhai Hua dared to swear that, if Zhai Sheng, this biological brother, were to resign as a soldier and become a businessman one day, Zhai Sheng would not need these people's help. He would become successful through his own ability.

Other people could achieve that but not Wei De. This only proved that Wei De was not as capable and talented as she had imagined him to be.

"To hear you say this, I just want to say that it's very hard to come by." It seemed that the one month of cooling-off period had been quite useful for Sister Zhai Hua. "Wei De did something that you will not do. You can't refuse to admit that Wei De does not care more for you than you do him.

The feelings that Wei De have for you are also not more than yours for him. Sister Zhai Hua, you have done and fought so much for Wei De. You do not mind Wei De's family background or his looks. Isn't it because you are yearning for the care and feelings that Wei De has for you?"

At the mention of this, Qiao Nan shunned Wei De tremendously. "Sister Zhai Hua, don't mind me for being blunt in my words. After all, Brother Zhai and you are biological siblings. You grew up with Brother Zhai. I really don't understand. You are used to seeing a man like Brother Zhai, but why are you so blind to take a liking to Wei De? Wei De's family background is really not good. At least, the two children in my family are biological. Wei De's family has an adopted daughter with a muddled background. Wei De is not good-looking either!"

Regardless of gender, the future generation was very particular with looks.

As such, Qiao Nan, who was used to such situations, could not understand why Zhai Hua's eyes would be so bad to have taken a liking to Wei De.

Wei De had neither looks nor substance. He did not have anything that was desirable. Sister Zhai Hua's status was high and she was very capable, yet she had to take a liking to Wei De. What did she see in Wei De?

Feelings? That would be a joke.

The feelings that Wei De had for her could not be compared to those that Sister Zhai Hua had for him at all.

Wei De was not the best in giving something that Sister Hua Hua was yearning for. What was there for Sister Hua Hua to continue with this relationship?

Zhai Hua's ugly expression revealed a bitter smile. "Yes, he is not good-looking. He can't be compared to my brother at all."

Chapter 974 Said Harsh Words

She did not understand what she saw in Wei De. Up until now, she still thought that Wei De was a good man. He might fall short of the best, but he was better than the worst.

However, from the questions that Qiao Nan asked, it only proved a point-Wei De did not have any positive traits.

“That’s right. Wei De is not good enough. Even if he does not treat you as good as you treat him, as long as he treats you in the same way like how Brother Zhai treats me, I will definitely help you and stand on your side. However, looking at how it is now, I don’t think there is a need for me to do that. If I do so, I will be harming you.” Zhai Hua let out a long sigh. “You do not seem to be as reserved and cautious as before. You seem to be much more relaxed. Have you and my brother collected the marriage certificate?” She sounded emboldened.

“We will do so in the first half of next year.”

“No wonder.” One indeed behaved differently before and after one collected the marriage certificate. “Okay, I have taken note of your words. Sure enough, I will be able to straighten out my thoughts after being told off by you.”

“I can’t take credit for it. Sister Zhai Hua, didn’t you realize that you are the one who straightened out your thoughts by yourself? It is not difficult to wake someone who is sleeping. But it is hard to wake someone who is pretending to sleep!”

Many people expressed their disapproval of Wei De. Moreover, there were a lot of instances where Wei De gave himself away and upset Sister Zhai Hua recently.

Even if Sister Zhai Hua wanted to deceive herself, she had already made a mental note of Wei De’s unsatisfactory behavior.

The one thing that Qiao Nan was glad of was that everything happened before Zhai Hua got married to Wei De and had children with him.

If they were married and had children, even if Wei De had a lot of shortcomings, Sister Zhai Hua could do nothing but feign ignorance and to make do with her current life.

“Hehehe...” Zhai Hua smiled but she did not deny that Qiao Nan’s words were true. “Qiao Nan, why do you insist that I send you letters and photos that Wei De sent me? Do you have anything in mind?”

Qiao Nan would not make futile efforts. She did not believe that Qiao Nan would ask her for the photos and letters for no reason.

Qiao Nan curled the corners of her lips. "Women's sixth sense is so accurate. The problem is why do you lose this sixth sense when you are with Wei De?"

"What do you mean?" What did she mean by sixth sense? What was Qiao Nan suspecting about?

"No hurry." Qiao Nan did not share her suspicion with Zhai Hua. "It's true that I don't like Wei De, and like Brother Zhai, I don't approve of the two of you. But unless there is concrete evidence, my guess is purely a guess. I won't share my suspicions with you lest it affect your relationship with Wei De."

She might dislike Wei De, but she would not sow discord between Wei De and Zhai Hua solely based on her sixth sense.

"Of course, if it is true and there is proof that I am right, you can rest assured that no matter how harsh the truth is, I will definitely tell you. I will not lie to you."

Zhai Hua smiled. This was the first smile that she had in the past month. "It is no wonder that I like talking to you. Qiao Nan, thank you."

Qiao Nan would never badmouth Wei De or magnify his shortcomings and negative traits in order for her to break up with Wei De. Qiao Nan would only talk about the facts. This was the reason why she was more willing to listen to her and her opinions.

Her parents, Zhai Sheng, and even her grandpa would keep telling her that Wei De was not a good man and had a bad temperament, and that they would never accept him.

No one was perfect. She had her shortcomings as well.

If her future husband must be a perfect man, she would have no chance of getting married.

Zhai Hua knew very well that with regard to Wei De, she was actually being spiteful. But it was her family's fault for being so unreasonable.

There was nothing wrong with having shortcomings. He could change for the better.

Nothing mattered to her except that Wei De treated her well.

But what Qiao Nan said today made Zhai Hua realize that Wei De might not be able to meet her only requirement of him. She was so good to Wei De. Apart from the fact that her family could not accept Wei De and forbade them from getting married, there was nothing that Wei De had to worry about.

However, Wei De seemed to be the problematic one.

Perhaps it was because Qiao Nan had used a very apt analogy when she talked to her during the summer break. Zhai Hua had been pondering about it for more than a month, in particular after she looked at the letters that Wei De sent her.

Wei De really liked Wei Wei. He kept saying that Wei Wei was very adorable, obedient, and sensible in the letters.

Wei De did not have any children, but Zhai Hua felt that in his letters, Wei De seemed like a father who was praising his son.

Wei De was all praises for Wei Wei. If she married Wei De and they had children in the future, would Wei De make comparisons between the two children and feel that Wei Wei was better than their own child?

Wei De invested so much feelings into Wei Wei. By the time they had their own children, would Wei De be able to put the same amount of love and affection on their children?

If not, it would be unfair to their children.

Qiao Nan was right. She and Zhai Sheng were biological siblings and they were very close. However, there would be times when she was envious of Zhai Sheng and she felt that her parents and her grandpa treated Zhai Sheng much better than her and were biased toward

him.

If Wei Wei stayed in their house with her own child, how was she going to make her child accept Wei Wei?

Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you.

Zhai Hua, who was about to turn thirty years old, loved children. She also wanted to have her own children.

She had yet to have her own child, but Wei Wei already posed a threat to her future child. He would fight for the affection of Zhai Hua and Wei De, and the child had to share the parents' love with Wei Wei.

For this reason, she could not accept Wei Wei.

Qiao Nan made Zhai Hua promise that she would not leave the army camp and would not have any contact with Wei De. If not for Qiao Nan, given that Zhai Hua had her doubts, she would have made a phone call to Wei De or replied to his letters, asking him how he intended to deal with Wei Wei after they had their own children.

"No need to thank me." Qiao Nan did not accept Zhai Hua's gratitude. "You should understand that I have a selfish agenda. Back then, you know that Mom would not accept me as her daughter-in-law and you were wary of me. It is the same logic."

"..." Zhai Hua did not know how to react to Qiao Nan's blunt words. "Qiao Nan, did anyone say that you have a strong temper?"

"Yes, you are the one," Qiao Nan said harshly.

Zhai Hua was exasperated. "Fine, I won't talk to you. I will give you lots of money as the wedding red packet when you collect the marriage certificate with Zhai Sheng next year." Her sister-in-law had such a strong temper. Qiao Nan's eyes flashed. "If there is really something wrong with Wei De and I help you see his true colors and be rid of him, will you give me a red packet?" She was more interested in this red packet, and the amount of money had to be as large as possible.

Chapter 975 Women's Sixth Sens

Qiao Nan swore to the gods. She had lived for two lifetimes and seen a lot of scumbags. According to her experience, there was something very wrong with Wei De. To put it bluntly, Wei De was a white-collar guy from a working-class background who was after a city girl.

In other cases, the men at least had the looks, but Sister Zhai Hua's boyfriend was not considered a pretty boy. He was about 1.8-meter tall. Qiao Nan wanted to ask Zhai Hua what she actually saw in Wei De and what she wanted from him.

Feelings?

That was ridiculous!

Qiao Nan did not get an answer. Instead, Zhai Hua slammed the phone on her.

Zhai Hua was of a certain age but she was still unmarried. Like others, she would compare her boyfriend with other people.

In fact, she was very frustrated. Qiao Nan had asked her on more than one occasion what she wanted from Wei De. He was not talented, and neither did he have the looks. He had nothing and he was not really devoted to Zhai Hua.

After hanging up on Qiao Nan, Zhai Hua stared at the phone, lost in her thoughts. She could not help but ask herself if she had to have Wei De at all costs. She was on bad terms with her family because of Wei De, and she refused to listen to them. What did she want from Wei De?

Wei De had been using all sorts of methods to make Zhai Hua soften her attitude toward him. He believed that she would be moved by him like how she was in the past. However, he had no idea that one single question of Qiao Nan had made Zhai Hua ponder seriously about their relationship and made all his past efforts go down the drain.

Wei De had stopped himself from disturbing Zhai Hua and kept expressing his concern for her. He felt that he had done a good job of placating her and she would definitely be touched.

Wei De had been studying Zhai Hua for a long time. They had been in a relationship for years and he was well aware of her weaknesses.

If not, he would not be able to placate her and made her listen to him.

Unfortunately, Zhai Hua had her weaknesses, and so did Wei De.

Wei De could never imagine that Qiao Nan, whom he most despised, would be the biggest obstacle between him and Zhai Hua.

With Qiao Nan around, it would not be easy for him to marry Zhai Hua.

A few days after Qiao Nan talked to Zhai Hua on the phone, she received a large pack of registered mail from Zhai Hua.

Qiao Nan carried the large pack of mail with her and returned to the Lin family's house. Shi Qing was surprised when she saw her. "Who sent you such a large pack of mail? What is it?" Shi Qing had completed the procedures and she was ready to go to the PLA National Defence University. However, it was the National Day. Shi Qing wanted to spend National Day with Qiao Nan before she went to PLA National Defence University.

The Zhai family of three had left the capital and went back to Ping Cheng yesterday.

Zhai Sheng seemed to have received an important mission and went straight to the camp without going back to Ping Cheng.

The Zhai family of three had left. Shi Qing felt that if she were to leave right away, Qiao Nan would feel lonely and she might not be able to adapt. She wanted to spend the seven days of holiday with her before she could rest assured to leave her.

"These are the photos and letters that Wei De sent to Sister Zhai Hua. I asked her to send them to me. In the future, all the letters that Wei De sends to her will be sent to me directly." Qiao Nan emptied many papers and photos from the envelope. Wei De had spent a lot of effort so that Zhai Hua could know more about Wei Wei.

"Is this child Wei Wei?" Shi Qing had heard of Wei Wei, but she had not seen him before. She only found out how he looked after staring at the photo. "The child looks smart. It is just that he is quite tanned."

“It is normal for children from the countryside to be tanned.” Qiao Nan had no intention of looking down on Wei Wei or defaming children from the countryside. She was merely pointing out a fact. “Children at this age who are from the countryside would always run around and play outside. There are some children who have a darker complexion than Wei Wei.”

“I see,” Shi Qing replied. “Apart from having a darker complexion, Wei Wei seems well-dressed. He does not look any different from the children in the city. Qiao Nan, tell me honestly. What is your motive in getting Sister Zhai Hua to send all these to you? We have known each other for a long time, so don’t try to lie to me. I know you are planning something.”

Even if she wanted Sister Zhai Hua to calm down, she would not ask to have these personal items from Sister Hua Hua. It concerned her privacy.

Given Qiao Nan’s temper and that she disliked Wei De as well, she would have told Sister Zhai Hua not to look at the photos and letters that Wei De sent.

“How should I put it...” Qiao Nan had been thinking about an idea but she could not pinpoint it or put it into words. “I just have this feeling that something is off with Wei Wei.”

“In what way?” Shi Qing took Wei Wei’s photo to have a closer look. “He looks the same as any other children. He has one nose and two eyes. Why can’t I spot anything?”

Since Qiao Nan said that Wei Wei was odd, Shi Qing brought Wei Wei’s photo right in front of her and stared hard at it. “Should we use a magnifying glass and study it again?”

“...” Qiao Nan shot a disdainful look at Shi Qing. “No need. I can’t really pinpoint it or tell you what I mean by saying that he is odd. If I knew the answer, I would not need to get these photos from Sister Zhai Hua. I am not so foolish that I would do things to annoy myself.”

Shi Qing pouted. She was indeed a fool.

“Wei De must be very mushy in his love letters to Sister Zhai Hua. What is there to look at?” Qiao Nan was not contented with looking at the photos. She still wanted to read the love letters that Wei De wrote to Sister Zhai Hua. If Qiao Nan was not about to collect the marriage certificate with Brother Zhai, and Brother Zhai was so much better than Wei De, she would suspect that Qiao Nan liked Wei De.

Qiao Nan felt like slapping Shi Qing on her head. “Do I need to torture myself if I can tell which letters have important contents and which sentences are more useful to me?” It was very difficult for her to suppress her revulsion to Wei De and read as well as analyze Wei De’s letters to Zhai Hua in the most objective and detached manner. She was the only person who understood the pain that she had to go through.

“Tell you what, there are still three more days before the National Day holiday ends. I will help you find whatever you are looking for. You dislike Wei De and I look down on him. Perhaps you can’t find what you want to look for, but I can.” Three days were enough for her and Qiao Nan to read these letters over and over again. “Two heads are better than one.”

Qiao Nan thought about it and nodded. “Sure, let me tell you my doubts.”

“I feel that there is something fishy about Wei De’s relationship with Wei Wei.”

“What is fishy about it?” Shi Qing was intrigued. “...” Qiao Nan pursed her lips. “If I know the answer, I will deal with it right away. Otherwise, would I still be up to this? I heard from Brother Zhai that Wei Wei is the son of Wei De’s sister. She is not his biological sister. She is adopted. If you think about it, when Wei De was young, China was undergoing a tumultuous time. Everyone led a difficult life. It was already a struggle to feed themselves. Who would have the spare money and food to raise a child that has no blood relation to them?”

This alone was enough for Qiao Nan to feel uncomfortable and perplexed.

Chapter 976 Go Ahead to Ask

“Well...” Shi Qing rolled her eyes. “Didn’t you say that Wei De has no siblings but an adopted sister? Could it be that the Wei family wanted a daughter, so they adopted her?”

Qiao Nan was silent. This explanation was not entirely impossible. But in her opinion, the chances of it were too small. “I don’t know. Actually, I have always been very curious about Wei De’s sister. Sister Zhai Hua has not been to Wei De’s house and she does not know anything about his family. She only learns about his family through Wei De.”

In this case, Sister Zhai Hua only knew whatever Wei De told her.

For that alone, it meant that whatever Sister Zhai Hua heard from Wei De might not be reliable. “It is rare that there are such kindhearted people in this world. Look at Wei De’s behavior after he dated Sister Zhai Hua. Could it be that Wei De is the sour apple on a good stock?” Qiao Nan pulled at her hair. “Don’t laugh at me. You should know what kind of person my mom is.”

She was her mother’s daughter, given birth by her.

When she had been through rebirth, the doctor had told her father and her specifically that she was undernourished and was starved by her mother.

She did not have a good childhood, but her childhood days might be better than Wei De’s. One would be so heartless to one’s own child, so how would one be good to an adopted child?

“Wei De’s parents are very generous while Wei De haggles over every ounce. Alright, let’s take it that Wei De has gone astray. What about his sister? In the conservative countryside, it is a serious matter to have a child out of wedlock. Up until now, she does not know who Wei Wei’s father is. Wei De’s parents may be good-natured, but why did they fail terribly as parents and did not teach their children well?”

She could understand if Wei De was the only problematic person in the family. However, the adopted daughter had lots of problems as well. Qiao Nan would not believe that the Wei family had no issues with educating their children.

Even if there were sour apples on a good stock, it would not be to that extent.

Shi Qing shook her head. “What you said seemed to make sense. But other than that, do you have other thoughts about it?”

Qiao Nan shook her head helplessly. “No, I simply feel that the Wei family is odd. This is why I decided to look at these letters and photos. Actually, I feel that if there is really something wrong with the Wei family, the best solution will be to make a trip to Wei De’s house in the countryside and get firsthand information. By then, if something is wrong with the Wei family or Wei De, there is no way that Wei De will be able to hide from us.”

“Is there a need to do that?” Must they really make a trip to Wei De’s house in the countryside?

“Looking at how bewitched Sister Zhai Hua is, do you think there is a need to do that or not?” Qiao Nan looked at the photos one by one. “This must be our blind spot. We dislike Wei De, but we fail to look into the Wei family’s situation. A woman must be careful in picking her future husband. It is as serious as going through another reincarnation. We must take things seriously and it is better to know more about the other party.”

Shi Qing touched her chin. Qiao Nan seemed to make sense. “When shall we go to Wei De’s hometown?” Brother Zhai had gone back to the army on a mission. He would not have the time to meddle with this.

Chief Zhai was a busy man, and Auntie Miao would not do this by herself.

If Qiao Nan wanted to find out everything about the Wei family, she would have to make the trip herself.

Qiao Nan pulled a long face at Shi Qing’s words. “I don’t even have the time to go home. I want to go to Wei De’s hometown to investigate, but I am helpless.” She wanted to do it, but she did not have the time.

Shi Qing gave Qiao Nan a light slap on her body. “How about I help you with it?”

“What do you intend to do?” She did not have time, while Shi Qing had to transfer to the PLA National Defence University. The management was very strict. Shi Qing would only be busier than her.

“Wait for my good news.” Shi Qing picked up the phone and dialed a number. “Hello, Zhu Baoguo. Yes, it is me. Didn’t you previously mention that you know someone who is a private detective? I have a business for you. How about that?”

Qiao Nan’s eyes lit up. Private detective?

There was finally a way! After she was through rebirth, she had almost forgotten that there was an occupation called the private detectives.

As long as they had money, it was not so difficult to investigate on Wei De.

Zhu Baoguo was still angry with Shi Qing. He growled upon hearing her voice. "It is the National Day holiday now. My friend has gone for his holiday. He is busy. He won't accept this job!" Zhu Baoguo hung up the phone immediately. Shi Qing stared angrily at the phone.

She needed to show Zhu Baoguo who was the boss. She must have been too nice to him in the past. How dared he hang up the phone on her!

Judging from Shi Qing's expression, Qiao Nan knew that it was unsuccessful.

Shi Qing smiled sheepishly. "Don't worry, I-I will call Zhu Baoguo again. Even though he will not listen to me, after I transfer to the PLA National Defence University, I will show him who the boss is. I promise you that he will do a good job for us."

"Forget it." Qiao Nan shook her head. "Speaking of it, you have reminded me that there is something else that I can do. I will give Sister Zhai Hua a call tomorrow. As for the investigation, let's talk about it later." Qiao Nan yawned, feeling sleepy.

When Qiao Nan made the phone call tomorrow, Zhai Hua answered the call and Zhai Sheng was by her side as well. Since the two of them were around, Zhai Hua switched it to speaker mode so that Zhai Sheng could listen to the conversation. "Qiao Nan, what's the matter? It's just nice that Zhai Sheng is here as well."

"Brother Zhai." Qiao Nan called out to him.

"Yes," Zhai Sheng replied tenderly.

Zhai Hua turned grim at the public display of affection between Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. She felt like throwing him out of her office. She hated people who displayed their affection for their loved ones publicly.

He knew that she had yet to resolve her issue with Wei De and was still upset about it. How could he be so inconsiderate of her feelings?

"Brother Zhai, it is good that you are here. I have a question to ask Sister Zhai Hua. You can listen to it as well. If Sister Zhai Hua is unsure, perhaps you may know about it." Two of the big shots in the camp were present. This was good news to Qiao Nan.

“What is it?”

“Brother Zhai, Sister Zhai Hua, are there any soldiers in the camp who are from the same hometown as Wei De? He could not be the only soldier from his hometown, right?” There was a glitter in Zhai Sheng’s eyes. “What do you want to know about Wei De?” Zhai Hua knitted her eyebrows, feeling perplexed. “Qiao Nan, if you want to know more about Wei De, there is no need to ask other people. You can ask me directly.”

She would not hide anything from Qiao Nan, especially about her relationship with Wei De. Qiao Nan knew everything about them.

As long as Qiao Nan asked her, she would not hide it from her no matter how embarrassing it was.

Chapter 977 What You Said Are Unreliable

“Sister Zhai Hua, what you said are unreliable.” Qiao Nan was blunt. “Whatever that you know about Wei De is not the real Wei De. He is the one who took the initiative to tell you everything about him. What I want to know is something other than what you heard from Wei De.”

Sister Zhai Hua believed in everything that Wei De said, and it might not be true.

“...” Zhai Hua had no way to rebut Qiao Nan. “Brother Zhai, I want to know everything about Wei De when he was in his hometown.” “How is this important to you?” Zhai Hua rushed in to ask.

“Okay.” Zhai Sheng agreed right away.

Qiao Nan sat down to drink water, saying with her relaxed tone, “Sister Zhai Hua, don’t be nervous. One will be able to know if it’s a mule or a horse by looking at it closely. In order to avoid any one of us having a prejudiced view of Wei De, and to be subjective when we talk about him, I think it is very necessary to have some in-depth understanding of Wei De. Sister Zhai Hua, what do you think? If the Wei family wants to know more about you and your childhood, will you be angry and object to it?” “No.” She had never done anything wrong. She had been upright since a young age. She did not mind that the Wei family wanted to know more about her.

The more the Wei family learned about her, the more they would realize that she was a good lady. “That’s it. Since you feel that Wei De is a good man, we should find a chance to prove that he is a good man. His current performance has been unsatisfactory. Therefore, I feel that we should look at

it from another perspective so that there would not be any misunderstanding.” Qiao Nan was glad that Zhai Hua did not object to it.

After a few chats with her, Qiao Nan discovered that she must not take the harsh approach with Zhai Hua.

Only when Zhai Hua agreed with her would Zhai Hua be willing to take in whatever she told her.

If she took the harsh approach with her, Zhai Hua would not take in what she said. Zhai Sheng, who sat by the side, watched as his future wife laid a trap for Zhai Hua, and she fell for her trap unknowingly. Although she was his sister, he did not stop her or remind her.

In the past, he felt that Wei De was just an insignificant person and that Zhai Hua would break up with him after she had calmed down. Unfortunately, their relationship had dragged on for too long. They did not break up with each other and Zhai Hua committed a grave mistake because of Wei De.

Perhaps Nan Nan was right to do this. He had not been paying attention to Wei De. If he knew more about Wei De’s situation, he might be able to break them up.

Zhai Sheng trusted Qiao Nan wholeheartedly. He was occupied with his duties in the army and protecting the country’s interests.

He would trust Qiao Nan to handle the family affairs and troubles, giving her his fullest support.

In fact, Zhai Sheng had already trusted Qiao Nan with handling Wei De’s and Zhai Hua’s issues since last summer break. Therefore, he agreed to Qiao Nan’s request right away. “Pass me the information in the army. Let me take a look.”

“No need.” Zhai Hua, who thought long and hard about it, had a grim expression on her face. She frowned deeply as if she was troubled by something. “I know everything about Wei De. Qiao Nan, you can go ahead to ask me.”

“I have said that I want to know if there are any soldiers who are from Wei De’s hometown.” Qiao Nan reiterated that she did not want to know about Wei De. She wanted to know about other information. “Sister Zhai Hua, if it is inconvenient for you, I believe Brother Zhai will help me with it.”

Could Sister Zhai Hua be trying hard to help Wei De and cover up for him?

Was it possible that Sister Zhai Hua already knew what she had been suspecting about?

No way!

She did not even share her doubts with Shi Qing. She only figured out what she was suspecting yesterday. How could Sister Zhai Hua know about it?

“You misunderstood what I meant. There is no need for Zhai Sheng to check the data to know who is from Wei De’s hometown. I can tell you directly. As far as I know, there is only one soldier in our camp who is from Wei De’s hometown. He is Platoon Leader Jiang.” Zhai Hua looked even grimmer and serious. “Platoon Leader Jiang?” Who was that?

Zhai Sheng, who was next to Zhai Hua, raised his eyebrows slightly. He gave her a glance before he explained to Qiao Nan. “He is the platoon leader who was implicated by Wei De and lost one of his legs.”

“Oh...” Qiao Nan gasped at this answer. “Is Wei De killing many birds with one stone?”

Platoon Leader Jiang was injured and lost a leg. He could no longer stay in the camp. Once he left, there would be a vacancy for the platoon leader-or rather, there would be a vacancy waiting for Wei De.

She used to think that what happened with Platoon Leader Jiang was an accident or that Wei De might have some harmless selfish agenda.

Today, Qiao Nan was suddenly concerned about the soldiers who were from Wei De’s hometown and wanted to find out more about Wei De from them.

It turned out that Platoon Leader Jiang was from Wei De’s hometown and he lost a leg and had to leave the army because of Wei De. The situation seemed to have changed all of a sudden.

“Brother Zhai, does it mean that apart from Sister Zhai Hua, the only person who knows about Wei De-Platoon Leader Jiang-is no longer at the camp?” Now that he was not around, it meant that everyone had to take Wei De’s words at face value.

Everyone only got to know about Wei De through whatever he told them. Wei De might have targeted Platoon Leader Jiang and caused him to get into an accident. She had reason to suspect that it was not a simple accident.

Platoon Leader Jiang was in a position that Wei De had been coveting. Furthermore, he was the only person in the army who truly knew about Wei De.

Zhai Hua had the same doubts as Qiao Nan.

That was why she had a grim look on her face. Up until today, Zhai Hua believed that Wei De yearned for instant success and went overboard, causing Platoon Leader Jiang to lose a leg and leave the army that he liked.

Although it was an unfortunate accident, Wei De was not intentional. Nobody would want such an accident to happen. Back then, Zhai Hua acted bold and righteous and wanted Zhai Sheng to cover up for Wei De and to give a sum of money to Platoon Leader Jiang, hoping that he would leave the camp and put the matter to rest. Zhai Hua did so as she believed that Wei De was innocent.

To err was human.

Other people might misunderstand Wei De, but she would not.

But right now, Zhai Hua was no longer as confident as she was in the past. She felt a chill.

Zhai Hua could not help but ask herself, ‘Was what happened to Platoon Leader Jiang truly an unfortunate accident?’

Chapter 978 So What If Wei De Had Been Trampled on by Qiao Nan?

What if... what if that was not the case?

Zhai Hua's expression turned very ugly. There was also an aura of sullenness around Zhai Sheng. It made people feel gloomy and dare not approach him, lest they become injured by accident.

After some time, Zhai Sheng then broke this suffocating and uneasy silence. "Nan Nan, what do you wish to find out?" After finding Wei De's fellow townsman, Nan Nan must have something to enquire about from him.

"Regardless of how trivial they are, tell us everything that he knows about Wei De. He has to tell us the truth exactly as it is, without missing a word and without hiding anything. Even if they are from the same hometown, they don't live in the same village. Hence, Platoon Leader Jiang's knowledge is also limited. Initially, I was hoping that you can allow Wei De's fellow townsman to return to his hometown for about a month so that he can spend some time to go to Wei De's village to find out about Wei De's situation. Given the capability of the soldier in your army, he should not be easily fooled and thus bring back some false information, right?"

It was highly possible that Wei De was the only soldier from that village. He was also currently the most successful person from that place.

Facing such a junior, regardless of the mistakes that Wei De had committed previously, the elders in the village would definitely side with him foolishly.

As she was aware of this, Qiao Nan wanted to request for one month of leave on behalf of the person who was returning to Wei De's hometown for the investigation.

"I understand your intention." Without the need for Qiao Nan to continue further, Zhai Sheng could already guess Qiao Nan's plan. "Zhai Hua, what is your say on this matter? Do you want to investigate?"

This matter implicated Zhai Hua, the party concerned. Zhai Sheng's deep eyes were looking at Zhai Hua coldly. He wanted to know whether Zhai Hua would still continue to deceive herself at this point in time.

Zhai Hua gritted her teeth. She then squeezed out the word 'investigate!' from her teeth.

If Platoon Leader Jiang's matter was not an accident but what she and Zhai Sheng had suspected, the more she had to support Qiao Nan's plan.

If Wei De did not have many secrets in his hometown, he did not need to be so merciless to cause someone to lose one leg, forcing the person out of the army.

Wei De had been so vicious. This also proved that Wei De was trying to hide something that was far from the ordinary.

Zhai Hua had already been persuaded by Qiao Nan and had gradually seen Wei De's shortcomings. She was also beginning to feel unhappy with Wei De.

Now, such a huge loophole appeared on Wei De. Regardless of how much Zhai Hua trusted Wei De, she was not willing to be a muddleheaded ghost anymore.

If Wei De was a good man who was open and honest in his ways, there was nothing to be afraid of.

The clearer they got to the bottom of Wei De's family situation, the opposing voices would also become softer when they become together in the future.

If...

If there was any problem with Wei De, she also did not wish to continue being foolish. She wanted to fully understand what kind of person the Wei De that she had loved and been together with for so many years was. "...” Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng were determined to get to the bottom of the matter. Qiao Nan pursed her lips unhappily. “However, Platoon Leader Jiang has already returned to his hometown. He had lost his leg and also much of his ability to go on with his daily life. You still want to enslave him to investigate this matter? It's not appropriate!”

“Don't worry. I will make arrangements on this matter.” Zhai Sheng consoled Qiao Nan. Undoubtedly, it was best to get a scout to investigate this kind of matter.

However, Zhai Sheng was not used to utilizing the army's resources to resolve his family matter.

He could not use the scouts in the army. Nevertheless, those former scouts under his wings who had already retired now had the opportunity to perform.

Upon hearing Zhai Sheng's plan and arrangement, Qiao Nan then truly let down her worries. “Fine. You are more familiar with people from this line. Brother Zhai, tell the other party not to be

anxious. He can take his time to ensure the accuracy of the information that he has gathered. More haste, less speed. Even if Wei De has deliberately schemed for Platoon Leader Jiang to leave the army, he is very successful and earning a lot of money now. I remember that when he picked Wei Wei from his hometown to come to Ping Cheng, he mentioned that he had donated a sum of money to his hometown.” Wei De was the most successful one in that village. Now, he even gave them some money.

Regardless of the reason, she was afraid that people from his hometown would side with him at all costs and refuse to tell ‘outsiders’ about Wei De’s situation or the ugly side of him.

Even if they wished to get to the bottom of Wei De’s background, the mission would be extremely difficult if the people in the hometown would not cooperate with the scout sent by Brother Zhai.

In that case, if Brother Zhai’s scout lacked patience, the mission would certainly fail.

“He will be able to handle this well.” Zhai Sheng was quite confident of the soldiers that he had nurtured before.

If he could not even properly find out Wei De’s background, he had better not mention to others that he was once under Zhai Sheng’s wings in the future.

“Alright, I’m hanging up then.” After removing the heaviest stone in her heart, Qiao Nan hung up the phone swiftly. She then went to the library to read.

After dumping such a huge bomb, Qiao Nan seemed as though nothing had happened. She did what she was expected to do.

As someone who had not completely broken up with Wei De, naturally, Zhai Hua could not possibly take it as well as Qiao Nan. She was feeling very gloomy. Her expression was especially ugly. Zhai Sheng was furious at her disappointing ways. “What are you pondering about? Or are you quietly finding excuses for Wei De?” “No.” Zhai Hua sighed again. She smiled grimly and leaned back. “You don’t know about this, do you? When I first told Wei De about Qiao Nan and you, Wei De expressed to me many times that Qiao Nan is not compatible with you, that she is young and insensible. Perhaps she accepted your love because of the Zhai family and not you. At that time, I had been thinking... You don’t even have the slightest care about a mature beauty like Qiu Chenxi, who is compatible with you in terms of status and family background, yet Qiao Nan can hold on to your hand. At the very least, this proved that she is a young lady who has very capable means.”

This kind of young lady was very scary. Many would feel guarded against her.

She was deeply afraid that Qiao Nan had hidden malicious intent and harbored bad thoughts on the Zhai family. Qiao Nan even wanted to make use of her only brother.

“I didn’t think much then. Now, when I think back, Wei De was looking down on Qiao Nan. He thinks that Qiao Nan’s family background is too poor and totally can’t be compared to the Zhai family.”

Although Qiao Nan was such a lousy young lady in the eyes of Wei De, Zhai Hua understood her very well. There was no doubt about her character at all.

On the contrary, she started to realize that she knew very little of the man that she loved and wanted to marry after he criticized Qiao Nan in a bold and dignified manner.

“Zhai Sheng, if I tell Wei De now that it is highly possible that he will be subdued by the Qiao Nan whom he had looked down on most in the past, that he will be completely trampled upon by her, how do you think he will react?”

Chapter 979 Who Is the Sewer?

Yet, the one that Wei De looked down on most was the one who could read his mind best.

Zhai Hua could not help shivering a little. If Qiao Nan’s suspicions were correct, then, perhaps the greatest mistake that Wei De had committed in his life was not deceiving her but underestimating Qiao Nan.

“He has failed miserably in dealing with someone that he thinks is a sewer?” Zhai Sheng, who received this answer, almost convicted Wei De of the crime.

As a soldier and an ordinary person who was rational, Zhai Hua had never believed that there would be so many shocking and surprising coincidences in this world.

If there were too many coincidences, that would be a human’s doing!

Zhai Sheng's brows furrowed. "I think you are the one whose heart is with a sewer."

What kind of lousy analogy was that? How could Nan Nan be a sewer?

Zhai Hua laughed miserably. "That's true. I'm the one who judged someone wrongly, not you. Zhai Sheng, you should be pleased now. Even in terms of partner, Qiao Nan is more capable than Wei De. She is also more open and honest." As for the Wei De that she found, he was like a griddle with many holes in it.

At the sight of Zhai Hua's grim smile, Zhai Sheng only felt that it was an eyesore. "There's nothing to be pleased about. At most, this proves that I have a better sense of judgment in character than you. That's all." "Right, that's all." As if she was venting her frustration, Zhai Hua slapped her hand on the study table with all her might. She did not seem to feel any pain. "Qiao Nan has given me this advice before. Who has not loved a scum when they were young?" At that time, she still refused to admit that Wei De was a scum. She felt that, at most, Wei De was an ordinary man with more shortcomings than the average person.

At this moment, Zhai Hua could not continue with such naive thinking.

In order to protect his secrets, he could harm someone by causing the latter to lose his leg and force him to leave the army. In addition, he vainly attempted to replace that person and assume his role. This kind of scheming thoughts, he did not just have more shortcomings than the average person. He was more vicious and heartless than them!

Zhai Sheng looked at Zhai Hua, who looked like she was going to have an emotional breakdown. "I'm glad you know. Better late than never. You're only dating Wei De. You're not married yet. So, it's not too late to discover this now."

"So what if we are married?!" Zhai Hua gritted her teeth. "Even if we have a military marriage and it's not easy to get a divorce, Qiao Nan is right. If I really marry the wrong man, I will divorce him no matter how hard it is. I can accept my lover's shortcomings but I definitely can't allow him to behave so despicably by harming his comrades in this way."

Not to mention that this was her lover. Without a word, Zhai Hua would kick an ordinary soldier who behaved in this way out of the army. Zhai Hua was already so strict toward ordinary soldiers. When it came to her other half, she would only have stricter requirements for him.

At that moment, she made a firm decision. Once she had investigated clearly whether what Wei De did to Platoon Leader Jiang was on purpose and not by accident, Zhai Hua would not give Wei De any more chances. Zhai Hua, who wanted to cut all ties with Wei De, did not expect that this was not the only wicked thing that Wei De had done. There would be more mind-blowing things that Zhai Hua would get to know.

After Qiao Nan handed the investigation on Wei De to Zhai Sheng, she had not contacted Zhai Sheng much.

Zhai Sheng had his missions to handle and Qiao Nan was busy with her studies. Moreover, she was prepared not to receive any outcome of the investigations in such a short time.

She might as well cast Wei De's matter aside temporarily and manage her own affairs properly first.

After National Day, Qiao Nan received, one by one, the letters from Wei De that Zhai Hua re-routed to her. Qiao Nan felt calmer and assured.

As long as Zhai Hua did not relent and was determined not to contact Wei De, she would not be appeased by Wei De. As such, Qiao Nan did not feel anxious at all about investigating Wei De's background.

"Hurry." Not long after National Day, keeping it from the Feng family, Shi Qing transferred to PLA National Defence University at lightning speed. The Feng family did not even have the time to react. Also, the events of the new English club that Xu Shengnan had made many preparations for were finally going to happen.

Under the huge support of Gao Yan, the events of the new English club was no longer like the past. They would no longer be mocked by others for being shabby. The stage was set up, the equipment and gear were rented, the sound system was up, and the gorgeous lights were bright!

At the sight of all these, Xu Shengnan was feeling increasingly motivated despite being very tied up. She seemed to have an abundance of energy. She was shouting orders at others and rolling up her sleeves at the same time.

"Vice President Xu, the stage has already been decorated according to your design." Qiao Nan wiped away the sweat on her forehead. As the secretary who was only responsible for securing sponsorships for the club, Qiao Nan could almost retire after having made her mark.

However, she was obligated to this event. After all, she had forked out much effort. It was the final preparation stage. There was no reason that Qiao Nan would place both her hands in her pockets and stand aside to watch. Of course, she would help as much as she could.

“Okay, thank you.” Xu Shengnan was so exhausted that her chin was turning sharp. Nevertheless, her eyes were still as bright as ever. “Qiao Nan, why don’t you help me confirm if those rented costumes don’t have any problem?”

“Sure.” This was not a complicated task. Qiao Nan was holding on to the event list and preparation notes from Xu Shengnan. She then matched the pile of costumes that filled the backstage to the pictures. “The quantity and design are all correct. Are the performers going to collect the costumes now and change into them?”

Xu Shengnan took a glance. “When you feel that it is the right time, go ahead.”

After hearing this reply from Xu Shengnan, Qiao Nan got people to collect their costumes. At the sight of Qiao Nan behaving like the host, busy in and out, arranging everything and even ‘ordering’ her seniors around, the college freshmen, especially those who were her classmates, felt very unhappy.

Lü Yan’s jealousy and hate of Qiao Nan nearly popped out of her eyes and pounced on Qiao Nan. “Humph, taking a chicken feather for a warrant to issue orders. She is just a fox in a tiger’s clothing, pretending to be fierce and powerful. What’s there to be proud of?”

The events of the new English club had commenced. Of course, the old English club could not fall behind.

Xu Shengnan was not the only one who was enduring anger. She wanted to beat Zou Wenxuan and let the new English club outshine the old English club. Zou Wenxuan, who was as arrogant, had the same thinking. Zou Wenxuan launched the events of the old English club on the same day as the new English club as she badly wanted to subdue Xu Shengnan and the new English club.

Xu Shengnan did not know how to blunt the edge of one’s advance. She was thus courting for death. Zou Wenxuan was not polite at all. She would fight until the end with Xu Shengnan then.

This year, due to Qiao Nan's sudden appearance, the 'poorest' new English club had become one of the most 'prosperous' clubs for this round of club events.

Many people in the school knew about the history of the old and new English clubs, especially Zou Wenxuan and Xu Shengnan's relationship. Hence, many were waiting to be in for a good show. They wanted to see if the clubs could come up with something refreshing this year.

Chapter 980 Insisted on Not Changing the Schedule

First, would the two English clubs that had been organizing events on the same day every year stagger their respective event dates? This was the first and foremost matter that many people in the school were keeping a lookout for.

These people were reaching out their necks and waiting for the two English clubs to announce their specific event dates.

Xu Shengnan had already decided on the timings of the events for the new English club. In fact, in the past, Xu Shengnan was always the one who had decided on the timings first, followed by Zou Wenxuan. Once the schedule for the new English club events had been confirmed, they would wait for Zou Wenxuan's schedule.

This year, would Zou Wenxuan follow previous years' practice and continue to be at odds with Xu Shengnan?

The old English club had a lengthy discussion regarding this matter.

Others were not aware of this situation but Yu Xiaoxiao was most well-informed.

Yu Xiaoxiao was just an ordinary club member. Initially, she would not have a chance to participate in such meetings. However, she had been summoned by Zou Wenxuan to prepare beverages for the various committee members.

As such, it was inevitable that Yu Xiaoxiao heard some of the content of the discussion.

Most of the committee members of the old English club expressed that the equipment and setup of the new English club were really good. If they were to compete head-on with them, they would first lose out in this aspect.

If the old English club wanted to guard its status and influence, it should give play to its strengths and circumvent its shortcomings. They should not become an accessory to the new English club. They would not compete with them on the equipment and setup. Instead, they would compete on the content and quality of the events.

In short, the dates of the club events had to be different from that of the new English club.

Many people but one person shared the same view. Zou Wenxuan was the exception. “On what basis? We have been doing this every year. Why are we making an exception this year? You think that we are playing to our strengths and circumventing our weaknesses. However, will other students perceive it this way?”

Under her arrangements, the date of their English club event had always been on the same day as the new English club for the past two years.

Zou Wenxuan remembered very clearly. Each time she did that, more or less, there would be people commenting that she was too unruly. Why would the old English club bully the new English club in this way?

How was this different from the big one bullying the small one?

Hearing these words, Zou Wenxuan had never bowed her head to them.

Was she the one bullying ‘others’ or was it the other way round?

In particular, during the first year when she was organizing the events, clearly, she had already decided on the date. However, she did not know how Xu Shengnan found out about it. Xu Shengnan announced the date to the school just before she could do so.

Obviously, Xu Shengnan was the one in the wrong. Why should she give Xu Shengnan and the new English club any face? She would not change her original date. She would not!

That was how the ‘coincidental’ event schedule in the first year came about. For the second time, Zou Wenxuan might as well go according to Xu Shengnan’s wish and made the events of the two clubs happen at the same time. Zou Wenxuan had completely subdued Xu Shengnan for two

consecutive years. This was the last year that she would be involved in the events. She actually had to change the date. Zou Wenxuan expressed that this was impossible. "Have you thought about it? Once we change the date, how will the students in the school view us? It means that we are giving up before fighting. Everyone will think that we are scared of Xu Shengnan, that we have to avoid their limelight as the old English club can't beat the new English club. You can afford to lose this face but I can't!"

In her lifetime, Zou Wenxuan had never been truly afraid of anyone, and neither did she have to avoid anyone while walking.

She would not bow to anyone, let alone Xu Shengnan. After all, Xu Shengnan was someone that had lost to her before.

Zou Wenxuan was not wrong in her words either.

Many people were waiting to watch a good show. If they were to avoid clashing of date with the new English club, it would seem as though they were afraid of them. However, if they did not do so, they would be competing head-on with them. That would be too dangerous. In the end, Zou Wenxuan simply said, "I don't deny that the sponsorships we secured are not as good as that of the new English club. However, we have more stage experience than them. If we can't win in terms of equipment and setup, we can win in terms of content and quality of the events. What's there to be afraid of? It is not a certainty that we will lose!"

"Are you confident?" The club president was on pins and needles as he asked.

At the sight of the president behaving this way, Zou Wenxuan really felt like throwing in the towel. "If I am totally confident, will you all not sense it? At least, based on these few years of experience, I feel that the chances of us winning are still quite high. In short, if you change the date and cause the club to be mocked at by others, don't blame it on me then. To put it bluntly, even if we lose, we can't be cowardly!"

Even a grown-up man was so wishy-washy. It was no wonder that she was not willing to find a boyfriend in the school.

The reality of the situation was pressing. There was no choice. In the end, like previous practice, the old English club decided to organize its events on the same day as the new English club.

After receiving this news, Xu Shengnan felt even more motivated.

Finally, she had a chance to turn the tides and hold her head high. The wishes that Xu Shengnan once had still existed. She felt even more hopeful than before.

She did not think of it too much. Before she graduated, she just wanted to do her best and organize the events excellently for the last time.

Both Zou Wenxuan and Xu Shengnan had the same thoughts. As such, the other students were all waiting to watch a good show. They were waiting for the day of the events of the two clubs.

Initially, the clubs organized such events every year. In particular, students beyond their first year of studies were mostly uninterested unless they were involved in organizing them.

As there were many clubs in the school, there were also many events. It was so commonplace that most students did not bother to attend them.

Nevertheless, due to the bitter history between the old and new English clubs, the events this year were highly anticipated by the students.

On the day of the event, there was a huge crowd that attended the events of the two English clubs. The enmity between the two clubs had simply resulted in free marketing of their events for a half-a-month duration.

At the sight of so many attendees, be it Xu Shengnan or Zou Wenxuan, both were extremely nervous.

“Zou Wenxuan, don’t feel nervous. We have done very well for the past two events. But you see, the number of people who came to watch our events is more than the past two times. We won’t fail.” The president consoled Zou Wenxuan and asked her to relax. He expressed that it was not a big deal.

Given the fact that today’s audience size was much bigger than last year, half the battle was already won.

Zou Wenxuan revealed a smile that was uglier than a cry. “President, you don’t need to console me. Yes, there are more people who came to watch our event than the past two years. However, if I didn’t estimate wrongly, the audience size at Xu Shengnan’s side is certainly not smaller than ours.”

They had many people here but there were not any less at Xu Shengnan’s side. Zou Wenxuan was not confident that this year’s event would be as successful as the past two years.