

Work Hard 1201

Chapter 1201: Has Brother Two Been Fighting ?

After Long Man and Lin Qian left, Tangning walked into Mo Zichen's room and watched as her son stared out the window in a daze. In a gentle voice, she asked, "Is something bothering you?"

Mo Zichen turned around and shook his head as he looked at his mother, "No, I'm fine."

"I gave birth to you. Do you really think that I wouldn't know what you're thinking?" Tangning said as she approached. "In this world, your mother and father are the only ones that can truly understand you and help you."

From a young age, Mo Zichen had always been the type to only share good news and not the bad. Even when he was bullied, he never mentioned it; no matter what happened, he would shoulder it himself.

But, when she saw her son grow more and more quiet, Tangning's heart was indescribably painful.

"I won't question you about your work because I don't have the right to. But, I am always here to share the burden of any private matters."

"Mom..." Mo Zichen couldn't help himself from hugging Tangning and laying his head on her shoulder, "Your daughter-in-law's gone."

"What happened?"

Mo Zichen trusted Tangning, so he began to recall the recent events; this also involved the secret behind Qian Lan's identity.

After Tangning heard everything, she began to laugh, "If it's true that the girl threw herself into the army without hesitation, then she's got quite a temper."

"Mom!"

"Fine, I won't joke around. But, son, women are born sensitive. If you truly like her, then I'm sure you won't want to see her get hurt. I'm quite surprised that she was so firm with her decision at such a young age. She did it for your own good, as well as hers."

"The two of you are still young and you still have countless possibilities, that's why I understand how you feel. But, I must tell you that this young woman definitely likes you. Otherwise, she wouldn't try so hard to grow as a person."

"Relax, Zichen. The world may be big, but there aren't many people that understand each other."

"As long as you want it bad enough, then the two of you are bound to meet again. So, this isn't the end; it's just the beginning."

"It's time for my son to grow up."

After hearing from Tangning, Mo Zichen felt a lot better, "Mom, no one can talk better than you."

“Do you feel a little better?”

“I feel a lot more relaxed,” Mo Zichen nodded.

“Great, can you help your sister with her homework in a moment? I don’t know what to do about that girl.”

As Tangning mentioned, Mo Ziyang was still in school. She was social, cheerful and a little cheeky.

“I’ll be right down,” Mo Zichen replied.

Actually, Mo Zichen really missed home, especially his family members. No one ever argued in their household, at least, from the time that he could remember, he had never witnessed his parents fight; his mother loved her children and his father loved his wife.

During his years of training, this tempted Mo Zichen to return home to his parents’ side many times.

But, he knew he had to be decisive.

As an intelligence officer, there was nothing he could prepare for and there was no backup from the military. He had nothing except endless running and danger. But, this was a job that someone had to do; someone needed to protect the innocent.

He had an above average intelligence, if he didn’t put it to good use, wouldn’t it be a waste?

Tangning and Mo Ting had their assumptions, but they never interfered with his choices. Although they worried about his safety, they felt he was a great person for being so selfless.

After regaining his composure, Mo Zichen went downstairs to Mo Ziyang’s room. When he saw her struggling with a maths question, he walked in and tapped her on the head, “Dopey, you can’t figure this one out?”

“I’m not as smart as you!” Mo Ziyang pouted. “Brother Two, if you were home more often, my maths wouldn’t be so bad.”

“If you spent more time on studying instead of dating, your maths skills would probably be better than mine.”

“Brother Two!”

Hearing his sister complain, Mo Zichen chuckled, “Fine, I won’t tease you...in case you complain to Mom later...”

“Good!”

Mo Zichen looked at the maths questions in front of Mo Ziyang and sat down beside her, “I’ll help you solve the first one. Watch carefully.”

Mo Ziyang looked at Mo Zichen and couldn’t help but touch a scar on his forehead, “Has it been tough living on your own all these years?”

“It’s not as bad as you think,” Mo Zichen said as he tapped his sister on the head with a pen, “Concentrate...”

“I’m just worried about you...”

Mo Zichen patted Mo Ziyan on the head before he wrote down the entire method to solving the first maths question she had.

“I’m doing fine.”

“Bro, come home.”

Mo Zichen did not reply. He simply finished the maths question and quietly handed it back to his sister.

It’s not that he didn’t want to return home – he couldn’t return home! He had too much of a responsibility on his shoulders.

“I’ll come home often to visit you.”

“I don’t believe you,” Mo Ziyan humphed. “You and Big Brother have never stuck to your promises. What’s so good about being a mere teacher? Why don’t the two of us debut together and become superstars?”

Seeing his sister getting carried away, Mo Zichen nudged his sister in the head, “Who would watch someone as ugly as you? Do your homework!”

“OK.”

As the brother and sister interacted, Tangning witnessed the entire scene in the doorway and turned around to wipe away a tear. She felt that she owed Mo Zichen too much. After all, he had been on his own for so many years.

She wanted to make up for it, but it didn’t seem like her son needed anything.

It wasn’t easy for him to fall in love with a woman, but he was hurt so badly in the end...

“Mom, I won’t be going to the event tonight.”

Just as Tangning and Mo Ziyan got changed for Hai Rui’s Anniversary that night, Mo Zichen turned and said to the two women, “As you know, I don’t like showing myself in public.”

“But, Brother Two...”

“That’s fine,” Tangning nodded as she placed a kiss on her son’s forehead. She was not against it. “When you have time, return home more often.”

“Yes, I will.”

After speaking, Tangning led Mo Ziyan to the car. However, Mo Ziyan was upset, “Mom...”

“Your Dad’s waiting for us, stop sulking,” Tangning coaxed.

“I miss Brother Two, that’s all,” Mo Ziyan was almost in tears. “You didn’t see all the injuries on his arms while he was helping me with my homework. What type of teacher has that many injuries? Has Brother Two been fighting?”

Tangning hugged her daughter and comforted her gently, “Yan Er, everyone has their own choices in life. Whether it’s you or your brother.”

“All of you will eventually settle down with your own families and leave me and your father.”

“This is only natural. You need to learn how to accept it.”

“Your Brother Two is doing something that he believes he should be doing and that he believes is right. What we should be doing is supporting him, instead of obstructing him. Understood?”

Chapter 1202: She Was Abandoned On Her Wedding Day

5 years passed. During this time, Mo Zichen worked his way up to the position of senior lecturer and was now working at one of the top universities. He also moved from his small apartment to a luxurious apartment near his work.

Not too long ago, someone moved into the apartment next to Mo Zichen. But, they renovated through the night, making it hard for Mo Zichen to get any sleep. This was not good for his mental state.

So, Mo Zichen decided to contact property management, however, they could not provide him with a resolution. In the end, he had no choice but to wait until the neighbor moved in to see who the uneducated person was. How could someone have absolutely no consideration for others?

University lectures weren’t as tightly scheduled as junior high school classes, so Mo Zichen only had 4 lectures a week and spent the rest of his time reading books. Because of this, his eyes began to get a little short-sighted.

When he was at home, he never parted from his glasses, but it only made him more charming.

The 26-year-old Mo Zichen had now grown into a mature young man, but he was still on his own. To satisfy his boredom, he adopted a Russian Blue cat called Muddy. The cat was a stray that he saved from the streets, and at the time that it was found, it was so hungry that it was trying to eat mud – hence the name.

That afternoon, Mo Zichen was at home preparing for his next lecture when he heard the sound of furniture being moved into the apartment next door. He guessed that his ‘good neighbor’ was moving in, so he got up from his desk and went to open his front door.

As soon as he opened the door, he saw the back of a short-haired woman standing in the hallway. Her back was straight and she had a unique presence to her.

“Please be gentle with the sofa...”

Mo Zichen walked over, intending to bring up the issue regarding the renovations, but, as soon as the woman turned around, he was stunned speechless.

He never expected to meet an old friend in such a way.

This old friend...was Qian Lan! But, judging from her expression, she did not look surprised at all.

Obviously, this was no coincidence.

“You can leave after you’ve moved the dining table inside.” After instructing the removalists, Qian Lan walked confidently over to Mo Zichen and stretched out her hand, “Long time no see.”

“You...”

“This is my temporary home...” Qian Lan smiled. “I’ll be back to live here every now and then.”

“Did you know I was living here from the start?”

“No. I found out after I got the apartment,” Qian Lan replied. “But, don’t worry, I will only stay here once a month. It shouldn’t affect you too much. I hope your partner doesn’t mind.”

The Qian Lan standing before Mo Zichen was more mature, lively and decisive than before. She was very much like someone from the military.

“I’m still single,” Mo Zichen shook his head.

“I see. Well, I don’t have much time, so I’m going to get back to it. Next time you’re free, let’s have a meal together.”

“No need, you continue with what you were doing,” Mo Zichen said before he returned to his home and closed the door.

So many years had passed since they went their separate ways. But, perhaps, he was the only one that felt a little awkward.

Soon, the movement next door stopped. After Qian Lan left, Mo Zichen’s heart calmed down and he returned to reading his book. But, he couldn’t seem to focus.

He ended up smiling to himself bitterly...

In the end, Qian Lan really did what she said. After moving in, she only lived there once and spent the rest of her time at the army base.

Mo Zichen didn’t know what military rank Qian Lan held, but he knew that she first entered the military through the military university.

After 5 years, many things had now changed.

In fact, every now and then, he would hear some movement coming from next door and he’d see a young man visiting Qian Lan’s home. Mo Zichen assumed that this man was Qian Lan’s new boyfriend.

By now, she had probably freed herself from her family like she wished. After all, a year after Qian Lan joined the military, the Qian Family was investigated by the he authorities and they disappeared from Beijing shortly after that.

It was unsure whether they had migrated.

One day, Mo Zichen was reading at home as usual when he heard a knock on his door. When he went to open the door, he found the handsome young man from next door standing in the doorway, so he naturally asked, “Is something the matter?”

“I’ve run out of noodles, would you mind lending me some?”

The man was quite young and was a good match for Qian Lan. After staring blankly at the man for a few seconds, Mo Zichen nodded his head, “Wait a minute.”

“I’ve heard about you from my fiancée.”

Mo Zichen laughed after hearing these words. This man was certainly tolerant. He was living next door to his fiancée’s ex and he even came over to borrow noodles.

Even so, Mo Zichen still fetched some noodles for him.

“Is this enough?”

“Yes, you’re a good person!”

Mo Zichen calmly closed his door after the man left. A little while later, he heard Qian Lan’s door open. If he was right, that was the sound of Qian Lan returning home.

He stated to wonder if he should move.

With this thought, Mo Zichen started looking for a new apartment and decided to sell his current one. During this time, he ran into Qian Lan and her partner every now and then when they went to buy groceries, but he remained cold and unapproachable. It was impossible to tell what he was feeling and the depth of those emotions.

It seemed, Qian Lan and her boyfriend were planning to get married.

But, just as Mo Zichen found a new home and was prepared to move out, something happened at Qian Lan’s place.

That night, a loud argument was heard coming from next door, followed by the violent thud of a door slamming.

Mo Zichen jumped out of bed and opened the door to look next door. That’s when he spotted Qian Lan squatting in her doorway, looking extremely upset.

“Get up...” Mo Zichen said as he offered her a hand.

Qian Lan shook her head and replied, “Tomorrow is our wedding, but we just broke up.”

“Why?” Mo Zichen asked as he squatted down to the same level as Qian Lan, “Why did you break up so casually again?”

“Because he said that I don’t love him. He said that my heart’s never been with him,” Qian Lan explained helplessly. “We met through a blind date. One month into our relationship, he complained that I wouldn’t even let him hold my hand.”

“Then why were you in such a rush to get married?”

“My mother has late stage esophageal cancer. Although, I really hated her at one point, she is still my mother. Her biggest wish is to see me get married,” Qian Lan said before she held onto the icy cold wall and pulled herself up. “I’m sorry for making you witness such a joke.”

“Then, what do you plan to do about tomorrow’s wedding?”

“I’m not sure. I guess I’ll have to say that my groom ran away,” Qian Lan laughed. “There’s nothing else I can do...” After giving her response, Qian Lan turned around and returned to her apartment.

Early the next morning, the neighboring apartment sounded lively, but another argument quickly broke out.

Mo Zichen could roughly make out that one of the bridesmaids were asking why the groom hadn’t arrived.

Mo Zichen had no idea what Qian Lan had planned, but judging by the situation, it seemed, she was abandoned on her wedding day.

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Mo Zichen didn’t know why he cared about what was happening in the neighboring apartment, so he quickly drew back his attention. But, just before he headed out to class, someone started knocking furiously on his door.

Mo Zichen put on his jacket and opened the door. There, standing in his doorway, was Qian Lan in her wedding gown.

Chapter 1203: I Might Still Feel Hatred For You

“Can you do me a favor? Can you help me complete this wedding?”

“I...”

“I know you don’t want to, but I have no other choice, I don’t want to shock my mother,” Qian Lan practically pleaded as she held onto Mo Zichen’s arm. “I can promise you that we will only hold a wedding, we won’t actually sign any papers. After the ceremony’s done, you are free to marry whomever you want. We will no longer be involved with each other.”

“But...”

“Zichen, help me.”

No matter how Mo Zichen thought about it, he felt like he had been pulled into a trap, but he still let Qian Lan drag him into the wedding car.

Qian Lan’s bridesmaids were made up of her colleagues. When they saw her bravely swap out her groom, they admired her courage.

Since he was already sitting in the car, Mo Zichen decided to play along and do this favor for Qian Lan. After all, he was supposed to attend a lecture that day and he was already dressed appropriately.

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Qian Lan’s wedding was small, but there were still a few guests from the army as well as Qian Lan’s friends and family. All up, there were only 20-30 people. However, when Mo Zichen glanced at the front

row and saw Mother Qian, he noticed that she did indeed look unwell; she looked exactly like a seriously ill patient.

Of course, Qian Hui and Father Qian were also present at the wedding, as well as Xu Chunhao. As soon as they spotted Mo Zichen walk in, their eyes grew wide in shock.

What happened to the groom?

Why did he suddenly change?

How was this a wedding? This was a complete train wreck!

Seeing the scene before her, Mother Qian stood up and asked, "Are you joking? Where's your groom?"

"Here," Qian Lan replied as she hooked her arm with Mo Zichen's.

"I know who he is, but he's not the groom. Qian Lan, today is the most important day of your life, don't joke around."

"I'm not joking. I'm marrying this man today." After speaking to her mother, Qian Lan turned to the wedding celebrant and said, "Let's get started. His name is Mo Zichen."

The wedding celebrant was a little surprised, but he quickly nodded his head and replied, "Let's get started then..."

Everyone thought the scene was quite ridiculous, but they still let Qian Lan and Mo Zichen go ahead.

It was completely absurd! Afterwards, Mother Qian learned that the real groom had run away and her daughter had randomly grabbed another man to fill in his spot. But, she was being much too brave, especially since the man she grabbed was her ex-boyfriend. Wasn't the situation enough of a mess as it was?

Mo Zichen could tell that everyone was calling Qian Lan ridiculous.

After all, no one would randomly swap out their groom just because the original one ran away. But, wasn't that how his parents got married?

With this thought, Mo Zichen temporarily paused the wedding and turned around to bow to everyone. He then explained, "I'm sorry everyone, Qian Lan did indeed grab me to replace her runaway groom."

"Although the wedding is a mess, it's great that Qian Lan's parents are present. I would like to take this opportunity to tell the two of you that I believe I am the one that can bring Qian Lan happiness. So, I hope that Auntie and Uncle can hand your daughter to me."

"To be honest, Qian Lan was never prepared to get married yet. She simply planned this wedding to give Auntie a peace of mind."

"Hence, when the groom ran away, she had no choice but to grab me – her neighbor."

"Since I'm here, I would like to say a few things. This wedding may not be valid, but I believe I am the person that Qian Lan can entrust the rest of her life to. What do you think, Auntie? Do you think this joke should come to an end?"

After hearing from Mo Zichen, Mother Qian turned and looked at her daughter, "If not for Mo Zichen, how embarrassed would you be today?"

Qian Lan looked at Mo Zichen and smiled, "Mom..."

"...I don't care if my groom ran away today. All I know is, today's ceremony is already half completed, so let's finish it. Today, the Qian Family will only acknowledge this man."

Qian Lan glanced at Mo Zichen with a stressed expression.

The entire scene seemed both real and fake; even Mo Zichen couldn't distinguish the truth. Luckily, at this time, Qian Lan leaned over and whispered in his ear, "Don't worry, after this is all over, we will return to being friends like before."

Mo Zichen nodded and turned back around to face the celebrant.

It didn't take long before the ceremony was completed. Afterwards, Mother Qian turned to the guests and apologized, "Today was a complete embarrassment, I'm sorry for making you witness such a joke. My daughter may be a mere lieutenant in the military, but she is very mature. Please except my apology."

"How about this, why don't we pretend that we all attended an engagement today. When these two are truly ready for marriage, the Qian Family will arrange a grand wedding for our daughter."

Mother Qian's words relieved the awkwardness of the event and everyone understood her intentions, so they clapped and congratulated Qian Lan.

Afterwards, Mother Qian invited the guests into the hotel to get some rest. This was when she truly turned to teach Qian Lan a lesson, "It's been 5 years. You've left home for 5 years and you returned with a gift like this?"

Mo Zichen stood behind Qian Lan and watched as she got scolded.

"You previously declared that you were leaving the Qian Family and you were never coming back. I let you have your way, so what's this?"

"Were you putting on an act to make me happy?"

"I almost died from anger. Luckily, Zichen came to the rescue."

Mo Zichen analyzed Mother Qian and discovered that she had changed a lot.

Perhaps, due to the investigation on the Qian Family, Mother Qian experienced the extremes of human nature, so she learned to become more tactful.

5 years ago, Mo Zichen never met Mother Qian and the two of them never faced each other head on, but Mo Zichen couldn't resist looking into the Qian Family. That's how he knew how Mother Qian was like 5 years ago.

"But, now that things have progressed to this point, I must ask, Zichen, were you serious about what you just said or did you simply say it to brush off the guests?"

“Of course, I’m aware that you helped us, so I won’t blame you for speaking the truth.”

“Auntie, that’s just a small matter, you shouldn’t take it to heart,” Mo Zichen replied, implying a deeper meaning.

“I understand,” Mother Qian nodded. “In that case, today didn’t count.”

Qian Lan looked at Mo Zichen with a trace of disappointment, but this quickly disappeared.

“No, what I meant was, I’m willing to be with Qian Lan again.”

Mo Zichen looked into Qian Lan’s eyes and added, “Since fate wasn’t on our side 5 years ago, let’s try again. If nothing results from this, then I won’t persist.”

Qian Lan looked at Mo Zichen in shock...

“Are you being serious?”

“Yes, but Qian Lan, let me be honest with you, 5 years ago, when you broke up with me, it took me a long time to recover, so I might still feel hatred for you. If you want to be with me, you need to be prepared to accept that I may not be very intimate at the beginning.”

After hearing this, Qian Lan nodded her head with a bitter smile, “I understand...”

“If you acknowledge the engagement today, then let’s count it as the real thing.”

Chapter 1204: I Didn’t Deliberately Save Myself For You

The ceremony was officially completed, but just like Mo Zichen said, 5 years had already passed, if Qian Lan wanted to successfully re-enter Mo Zichen’s heart, it appeared to be quite a challenge.

Mo Zichen couldn’t say that he had absolutely no feelings for Qian Lan, but his emotions were relatively complex.

Sometimes, when he thought about the past, he would be filled with blame.

After the ceremony was over, Mo Zichen and Qian Lan returned to their apartments. But, when they each reached their own doorway, the two of them once again fell speechless.

“I’m going to go home first, I still have a lecture tomorrow.”

Qian Lan nodded, “I need to report back to the troops tomorrow.”

The couple were officially engaged, but for some reason, the distance between them grew even further.

This time, Mo Zichen did not want to be the initiator in the relationship. So, after returning home, he went to prepare for his next lecture as usual. But, later that night, after Mo Zichen finished his shower and crawled into bed, he suddenly heard his doorbell.

Mo Zichen walked over to the door, dressed in his pajamas and found Qian Lan standing in his doorway holding her luggage.

“I’ve thought about it. Since we’re engaged...can I move over?”

Mo Zichen looked at Qian Lan and the way she was taking the lead like she used to and felt an indescribable pain in his heart. But, he still opened his door and let Qian Lan in.

“The guest room is empty, you can help yourself to whatever you need. Don’t disturb me at night. Good night.” After speaking, Mo Zichen did not take another glance at Qian Lan and headed straight into the master bedroom.

Qian Lan did not push her luck, instead, she put down her luggage and walked around to familiarize herself with the apartment.

Mo Zichen lived on his own for many years, but he always kept his home neat and tidy. There was a place for everything and everything was in its place. This was an obvious sign of OCD.

Afterwards, Qian Lan settled down in the guest room. Although she knew it was hard for Mo Zichen to get used to her suddenly moving in with him, at least he didn’t kick her out.

But, for Qian Lan, apart from acting so shameless, there was nothing else she could do.

The next morning, Qian Lan headed off to the army base as she had mentioned, so by the time Mo Zichen woke up, Qian Lan was already gone.

The apartment now had her slippers and toiletries. On top of that, the cold and empty guest room was now filled with her clothes and work equipment.

Was this necessary? Mo Zichen wondered. Afterwards, he closed the guest room door, grabbed his lecture notes and headed to the university.

After that, a week passed without any signs of Qian Lan. It was almost as if the events at the church was just a dream.

Mo Zichen returned to his normal life, completely unaffected by Qian Lan. He continued to do whatever he wanted, and sometimes, he would even spend an entire day in the library.

However, after his last lecture on Friday, Mo Zichen stepped out of the lecture theater with some textbooks in his hands and noticed some students standing outside the mathematics building pointing to a female army officer standing beside a military vehicle.

When Mo Zichen realized that it was Qian Lan, he immediately walked over to her, “Why are you here?”

“I wanted to go home, but I don’t have the keys,” Qian Lan replied.

“Mr. Mo, who’s this?” one of Mo Zichen’s student admirers asked with a hopeful look in her eyes. It seemed, she was hoping not to hear anything heartbreaking. However, Mo Zichen was an honest and straightforward person. Since he agreed to their engagement, he wasn’t about to deny it.

“This is my fiancée!”

“Is your fiancée in the military?”

“How cool!” the surrounding students praised.

Mo Zichen did not respond as he boarded the car with Qian Lan.

“From now on, don’t show up at school for no reason. I’ll give you a copy of my keys.”

“Did I embarrass you?” Qian Lan asked as she drove.

“I like keeping a low profile,” Mo Zichen replied coldly.

“Zichen...”

“Let’s go home. I’m tired,” Mo Zichen cut in before he returned his focus to the papers in his hands.

There was nothing that Qian Lan could do. So, she took a deep breath and drove Mo Zichen back to their apartment. The couple then entered the home, one after the other.

“I will be cooking some congee tonight, if you want some then let me know and I’ll prepare some for you too. But, if you don’t like it, then cook something yourself or order some takeaway.” As soon as Mo Zichen arrived home, he changed into a fresh set of clothes and headed into the kitchen. When he finished cooking, he returned to the study room.

Qian Lan felt like an outsider because Mo Zichen practically treated her like she didn’t exist.

Because of this, Qian Lan knocked on the study room door and leaned against the doorway, “Is this how you’ve lived the last 5 years?”

“I didn’t deliberately save myself for you, but I never found anyone suitable either,” Mo Zichen replied calmly.

“In that case, were you lying when you said what you did at the church?”

“Didn’t you ask me to help you that day? By the way, you still owe me a thank you.”

“You were never this unapproachable in the past.”

“It’s been 5 years. Everything that was meant to change, has changed, including me,” Mo Zichen said as he lifted his head and looked at Qian Lan. “You should have an early night.”

“Are we going to continue in this ambiguous way?”

“At least, I haven’t lost my temper at you yet,” Mo Zichen said before he lowered his head again.

Qian Lan’s heart ached, but she accepted the situation.

After all, she had no idea what pains Mo Zichen went through after she broke up with him 5 years ago. Back then, she thought that decisively ending things was the best option for both of them.

But, if she had persevered a little longer until the Qian Family experienced the changes they went through, the two of them may not have missed out on 5 years.

Back then, Mo Zichen understood her helplessness, but now, he no longer did.

It seemed, the older he got, the harder it was for him to understand why a person would give up on love so easily.

However, simply looking on the surface, it was hard to tell that Mo Zichen had so much blame towards her.

But, Qian Lan understood that she couldn't expect Mo Zichen to immediately forgive her by simply apologizing and explaining that she gave up on their relationship due to the pressures from her family. Especially when she didn't even put in any effort.

So, she had to work hard to reignite Mo Zichen's affection for her.

To do this, Qian Lan began to take note of Mo Zichen's daily lifestyle and remembered all his habits.

Those with OCD, couldn't stand it when others put their life out of balance, so Mo Zichen followed the same routine every day.

It didn't take long before Qian Lan got a grasp of Mo Zichen's habits and knew exactly what time to keep her distance and what time she'd get the chance to see him.

She even learned how to cook a few of Mo Zichen's favorite dishes.

Mo Zichen wasn't oblivious to Qian Lan's efforts, but he still didn't know how to accept her.

He had some wounds in his heart that still needed healing. So, the more attentive Qian Lan was, the more fearful he was that he'd be abandoned by her again one day.

However, Qian Lan was becoming more and more presumptuous at home. In fact...

...she even walked around the living room in just a shirt, revealing her long, slender legs...

Chapter 1205: This Is My Fiancee

"If possible...please try your best to wear some pants from now on," Mo Zichen reminded after he woke up the next morning and saw Qian Lan wandering around casually as usual.

Qian Lan looked down. Even though she didn't think that there was anything wrong with the way she dressed, she still listened to Mo Zichen and returned to her room to put on a knee-length skirt.

It was the weekend, so Qian Lan dressed rather casually, but Mo Zichen reminded, "Dress more appropriately, we have guests later."

"OK," Qian Lan nodded.

This was the first time since they started living together that Mo Zichen spoke to Qian Lan properly and it was all because they had guests.

Since Mo Zichen didn't tell her to leave, it appeared as though he acknowledged her.

Soon, the guests arrived. Apart from a beautiful figure standing in the doorway, there was also a child.

Mo Zichen immediately hugged the elegant woman and welcomed her into the apartment. This woman was none other than Mo Zichen's childhood friend, Nangong Cai, A.K.A. Little Eggshell.

Three years ago, she had gotten married. But, the groom was not Mo Zichen, nor Mo Zixi. Her husband was an actor in the entertainment industry, and according to rumors, he was a real family man.

"Is there someone else here?" Nangong Cai asked after she heard some movement coming from one of the rooms.

Mo Zichen gave a slight smile as Qian Lan walked out.

After Nangong Cai saw Qian Lan, she realized what was going on, "Even after 5 years, your tastes haven't changed."

"This is my fiancée, Qian Lan."

"This is Cai Jie," Mo Zichen introduced.

Qian Lan gently nodded at Nangong Cai, "Hello."

"We've met before. 5 years ago, you were still a mere teacher. What are you doing these days?" Nangong Cai asked.

"I'm in the military..."

"You're an army officer?" Nangong Cai asked what she already knew. "I should have known the reason why Zichen hadn't considered any relationships for the last 5 years. It's because he left a place in his heart for you. I guess it's fate that you guys made up."

"Let's go, I'm taking Yao Er out to play today," Mo Zichen quickly changed the subject.

"Fine. You're not taking Qian Lan with you?"

"She's reporting to the troops today, she has no time," Mo Zichen said as he returned to his room to put on a jacket. After Nangong Cai stepped out, Mo Zichen quickly turned to Qian Lan and said, "Cai Jie and I are visiting the set of a film. Take care when returning to the base."

"OK," Qian Lan nodded.

"Let's go."

Logically speaking, Qian Lan should have been happy that Mo Zichen acknowledged her in front of other people, but Qian Lan still felt that the word 'fiancée' meant nothing to Mo Zichen.

Moreover, she had never mentioned that she was reporting back to the troops that day.

...

After leaving the apartment, Mo Zichen was abnormally quiet even though he was carrying a child in his arms. This made Nangong Cai a little confused, "She's already returned to your side, why do you still look so depressed?"

"I'm not sure either. The person I've been missing for 5 years, suddenly reappeared in front of me, but I can't help treating her with hostility and ignoring her. I'm not sure what's wrong with me either? I want to forgive her, but it doesn't seem that easy," Mo Zichen said in self-ridicule.

"I want to let her get close to me, but I'm also afraid. Perhaps, I can't forget how it felt to be abandoned 5 years ago."

Nangong Cai smiled and received her child from Mo Zichen's arms, "Zichen, you're holding back too much."

"You're not in your early twenties like you were 5 years ago. If she tries to give up again, then grab onto her and bring her back to your side. Why do you care so much about your pride?"

"Aren't you a mature man?"

"When you're holding on too tightly, then let go a little...Perhaps, you won't suffer so much."

After hearing this, Mo Zichen did not respond.

"You should call Auntie Ning and ask her about this matter. I'm sure she has a lot to teach you."

Mo Zichen's meeting with Nangong Cai that day was not only to drive the mother and daughter to the set, but also to see his parents.

After so many years, his parents were still obsessed with sci-fi films.

"I don't plan on telling my mother about this yet. The more hope I give her, the more disappointment she'll feel if things don't work out."

"In that case, take control of the situation well."

Mo Zichen absorbed everything that Nangong Cai said and felt a lot better. But, he wasn't completely free from fear. Just like Nangong Cai said, if Qian Lan was to give up again, he could always hold onto her and not let her go, but if that was all he had to do, then why did he feel so troubled?

After arriving on set, Mo Zichen spotted his supportive parents. Yan Er had now taken charge of Hai Rui, so Mo Ting had extra time to accompany his wife. As a result, they were even more inseparable than before.

Mo Zichen watched his parents from a distance and observed the way they loved each other wholeheartedly. As he looked at them, he suddenly felt a little emotional.

At that moment, Tangning turned around and noticed her son, so she immediately put down the brief in her hands and walked over to Mo Zichen, "Why are you here?"

"Mom, I miss you."

"You don't miss your father?"

"He only needs you to miss him," Mo Zichen said as he wrapped his arms around Tangning. "Mom, neither I nor Zixi are married yet. Are you getting impatient?"

"Even if I'm getting impatient, that's my own matter, I will never pressure you. You have the freedom to decide when you want to get married."

"Mom...I want to get married now."

“If you want to get married, then go ahead. I only have one thing to say to you: once you’ve made your decision, you need to continue bravely ahead. Even if you’ve made the wrong choice, you won’t regret it as long as you’re willing to take responsibility and haven’t done something against your conscience. You need to make the same approach with people. Stop thinking that you’re at a loss and suffering. When two people are together, the most important thing is giving your all for each other!”

After hearing Tangning’s advice, Mo Zichen couldn’t help but smile as he remembered what Nangong Cai said to him.

As soon as Tangning opened her mouth, she indeed had the ability to enlighten a person.

“Thank you, Mom.”

“Bring her home to show us one day.”

Since it was someone that Mo Zichen wanted to marry, Tangning naturally supported his decision.

“You are the best mother in the world.”

Mo Zichen couldn’t help but breathe a sigh of relief. After accompanying his parents on set for an entire day, he finally returned to the apartment as night hit.

Mo Zichen expected Qian Lan to be already asleep in her room, but when he turned on the lights, he saw her napping on the sofa with her legs exposed.

Mo Zichen did not say a word as he removed his jacket and sat down beside her.

Qian Lan did not wake up, so Mo Zichen took the opportunity to wrap his arms around her waist. As the two lay on the sofa, Mo Zichen suddenly felt entranced by the unique fragrance coming from Qian Lan’s body.

Chapter 1206: I Can’t Get Myself To Trust You

But, by the time that Qian Lan opened her eyes and realized she was laying alone on the sofa, Mo Zichen had already returned to his room.

Although Qian Lan felt a little disappointed, she did not force Mo Zichen to do something that he didn’t want to. She simply got up and returned to her room to get some sleep. After all, she still had to report to the troops tomorrow.

But, to her surprise, Mo Zichen started knocking on her door a moment later. After she opened her door, he said to her, “Come over.”

Qian Lan stood in shock for a few seconds before she realized what was happening, “Are you trying to say...You and me...”

“You don’t want to?”

Qian Lan quickly shook her head.

After receiving Qian Lan’s response, Mo Zichen returned to his room and made space on half his bed.

Qian Lan froze as she lay down beside Mo Zichen. But, the couple had their backs turned to each other and did not say a word. It wasn't until Qian Lan almost fell asleep that Mo Zichen finally said, "Seeing you again after 5 years, I'm not sure how to face you."

"But, I don't want to let go and watch you leave. When I see you, I hate you, but when I don't see you..."

"I miss you..."

"I don't know what I want. Qian Lan, I want to start afresh, but I can't get myself to trust you, do you understand?"

After saying this, Mo Zichen fell silent. He had revealed his innermost thoughts to Qian Lan.

Meanwhile, tears began to fall from Qian Lan's eyes after she heard what he said, "In your heart, I must be a woman that comes and goes as she pleases."

"I know I was the one that broke up with you 5 years ago, but during these 5 years, I haven't lived a single day without feeling regret!"

"I know you must hate me and blame me for what happened, but...during my time in the military, only the thought of you helped me push forward and continue living."

"Zichen, it's OK if you want to blame me, I can wait for you. I'm right by your side now. You can hate me and scold me all you want, I won't leave you ever again."

After saying this, Qian Lan wrapped her arms around Mo Zichen, "I will always be by your side."

Inside the dark room, Mo Zichen opened his eyes slightly, but after sighing, he closed them again and dived back into the endless darkness...

His soul, which had been floating around for a long time, felt like it had finally planted its feet firmly on the ground and he felt stable at last.

...

Early the next morning, Qian Lan woke up to find that Mo Zichen was already out of bed, but the sun wasn't even up yet and his side of the bed was cold as though he had been up for a long time already.

5 years ago, things were very similar; she remembered how Mo Zichen often returned home at dawn. With this thought, Qian Lan put on her military uniform and headed off to the army base on her own.

The words that Mo Zichen said the previous night may have been painful to hear, but he at least spoke his heart.

Qian Lan never knew that Mo Zichen had such little faith in their relationship.

After arriving at the base, she decided to temporarily forget everything that Mo Zichen said to her. So, her performance during training was more brutal and powerful than usual.

"Is Instructor Qian experiencing menopause? She's training us like we're not human," the newly enlisted soldiers complained to each other.

They had nowhere to vent their suffering.

“Who would want a woman that’s so ruthless?”

“I heard she’s almost 27 and she still doesn’t have a partner.”

“Look at that fierce look on her face, who would be brave enough to accept her?”

“What are you guys chattering about? If you have so much energy, then do another 200 pull-ups,” Qian Lan growled.

“Sorry, Instructor Qian, we were wrong!”

“No negotiations. Stand up,” Qian Lan ordered. “Since you’ve joined the military, don’t expect this to be a comfortable experience. Comfort is left for the dead!”

Perhaps, no one expected that the slender looking Qian Lan was filled with immense power.

As an army officer, it wasn’t just her body that had been toughened over time, even her most vulnerable willpower had been strengthened.

Especially when she thought about Mo Zichen, she was able to get through anything!

By the time Qian Lan saw Mo Zichen again, another week had passed.

Qian Lan dragged her exhausted body home to find Mo Zichen sitting on the sofa reading a book.

Perhaps, this was what people meant by living a peaceful life.

“You’re back,” Mo Zichen said without lifting his head.

“Uh huh.”

Qian Lan’s voice was dull and tired.

“Have you eaten? I’ve cooked some food,” Mo Zichen said.

In reality, Qian Lan had already eaten at the base, but when she thought about eating with Mo Zichen, she quickly replied, “Not yet.”

“Go get changed and come back out,” Mo Zichen said as he put down his book and finally got up from the sofa.

However, Qian Lan noticed that there was something odd about the way that Mo Zichen walked.

“What’s wrong with your leg?” Qian Lan immediately asked.

“I accidentally knocked it against something,” Mo Zichen replied casually.

Qian Lan looked carefully at his ankle and scanned her eyes up to the bruise on his thigh. How was this simply knocking against something? He was obviously hit by someone.

“Are you going out again tonight?” Qian Lan asked. “5 years ago, you often returned home in the middle of the night. So, I know you went out in the middle of the night last week as well...”

Mo Zichen did not respond.

After speaking, Qian Lan walked into the bedroom and fetched the first aid kit. She then kneeled down in front of him, "I'm really good at treating injuries like this. Sit down."

Mo Zichen looked down and noticed the worried look on Qian Lan's face.

"Sit."

Mo Zichen was a little surprised as he retreated two steps and sat back down on the sofa.

"How many days haven't you left the house?" Qian Lan asked; she noticed the rubbish bins hadn't been emptied for a few days. "Have you not left the house after you got injured?"

Mo Zichen nodded.

"If you want to put on an act, then why let me discover this?" Qian Lan lifted Mo Zichen's leg and noticed all the various injuries he had.

Qian Lan was speechless as she placed her cheek against his leg and began to cry.

"You've had some of these injuries for 10 years, haven't you?"

Mo Zichen did not give an explanation. He simply felt something tug at his heart as it filled with emotions.

"Why do you have so many injuries? Why?"

Finally, Mo Zichen reached out his hand and wiped away the tears on Qian Lan's cheeks, "Weren't you treating my injuries? Why are you crying instead?"

Qian Lan sobbed as she took a deep breath to calm down, "I didn't know that you had so many injuries on your body."

"I'm used to it," Mo Zichen continued to keep his identity a secret.

He had signed a confidentiality agreement and couldn't tell anyone, not even the people closest to him.

"Fine, I won't ask anything. But, from now on, whenever you get hurt, make sure you tell me, OK?" Qian Lan pulled out a bottle of Iodophor to help sterilize Mo Zichen's wounds.

"Are you worried about me?"

"Uh huh," Qian Lan nodded firmly. "Don't you know that I worry about you? This makes my heart ache! I can't breathe looking at these injuries! I feel like I'm suffocating!"

Chapter 1207: Silly Woman, She Was Disturbing Someone's Sleep

As he looked at the teary-eyed Qian Lan, Mo Zichen couldn't resist gently leaning over and placing a kiss on her lips.

At first, Qian Lan was a little surprised. But, slowly, she began to close her eyes...

Mo Zichen didn't know why he was being impulsive; he simply didn't want to see Qian Lan cry. 5 years ago, when she cried, his heart softened for her. Now, 5 years later, the same thing happened.

"Stop crying!"

Qian Lan stopped crying, but she couldn't hold back her sobs.

Mo Zichen watched as Qian Lan helped him apply medicine to his wounds, but he did not say another word. Wounds like this were normal for him, but for Qian Lan, it was a huge shock.

"What department are you in? The special forces? Or is it a secret organization?"

"Don't ask me anything, it's of no benefit to you," Mo Zichen said before he stood up from the sofa.

"Besides, these injuries are nothing. After all, the biggest injury is the one you gave me."

"I'm sorry," Qian Lan replied. "I'm honestly sorry, but the mistake has already been made and I've already been punished for 5 years because of it, Zichen..."

"While you punished yourself, you also punished me." After speaking, Mo Zichen entered the kitchen; he promised that he'd make dinner.

That night, the couple sat quietly at the dining table. Qian Lan looked at Mo Zichen while he had his head down and said, "I will try my best to be a good wife."

Mo Zichen did not reply immediately. Only after he finished eating, did he say to Qian Lan, "If you want to become a good wife, then you should wash the dishes."

Qian Lan was a little surprised as she nodded her head, "OK."

Qian Lan was ecstatic, even though Mo Zichen only gave her a slight response.

As bedtime hit, the couple entered the bedroom one after the other. When Qian Lan noticed Mo Zichen was already lying in bed, her cheeks flushed red because he had no shirt on.

But, when she approached and saw the scars on his body, her eyes almost turned red again.

Afterwards, the couple lay together in bed. Qian Lan gently touched a scar on Mo Zichen's back and imagined how much pain he was in when he received the injury.

"If you keep touching, something bad is going to happen. Go to sleep," Mo Zichen's voice traveled into her ears. But, she did not feel threatened by these words. Instead, she moved her lips towards his back and gently kissed the scar.

Mo Zichen froze. A moment later, he turned around and looked at Qian Lan. Their gaze met as a countless amount of emotions flooded their eyes...

"I already warned you!" Mo Zichen suddenly trapped Qian Lan between his arms and pressed her beneath his body.

"You're...injured!" Qian Lan reminded.

"Don't underestimate me." Underneath the blankets, Mo Zichen's hands quickly removed the pajamas on Qian Lan's body. But, as he ran his hands across her body, he did not feel any desire to kiss her.

The trauma in his heart was still there.

In the end, he helped her put her pajamas back on and rolled back to his side of the bed, "My wound hurts."

Qian Lan's gaze turned dull.

Soon, Mo Zichen's steady breaths echoed through Qian Lan's ears. At this time, Qian Lan stood up, wandered over to the floor-to-ceiling window in the living room and looked out into the distance.

She was about to leave for a mission and she didn't know how long it would take before she'd come back. It wasn't easy for Mo Zichen to finally relax a little around her, if she had to wait another 10-14 days, when would she fully win his heart.

The army was holding a competition amongst the new recruits. As an instructor, she naturally had to attend...

So, she had to leave at 5am.

After thinking carefully for a short while, Qian Lan returned to the bedroom and kneeled down beside the bed. As she watched the sleeping Mo Zichen, she gently reached out her hand and patted him on the head, "I'm sorry, Zichen. I know that no matter how many times I apologize, there's an obstacle in your heart that we can never get past. I don't know what you want and I don't know how to comfort you. I want to beg for your forgiveness, but I don't know where to start. I really don't know what to do."

"As soon as 5am hits, I will need to leave again. This time, it may be another week. You don't know how much I want to get a response from you."

"Forget it, I asked for all this. I won't blame you."

"I simply hope that you won't torture yourself by holding back."

After speaking, Qian Lan stood up and headed to the study room. She knew that she wouldn't be able to lie sleepless next to Mo Zichen for an entire night.

Amidst the darkness, Mo Zichen opened his eyes and painfully rolled over.

Silly woman, she was disturbing someone's sleep...

...

Before 5am hit, Qian Lan woke up to find a sandwich and a glass of warm milk on the table.

Qian Lan was a little surprised, but she quickly realized who prepared it for her and her heart lit up with joy.

Did he hear what she said last night?

After finishing her breakfast, Qian Lan placed the medicine that Mo Zichen needed to reapply on the dining table and left a note, reminding him to use it.

When Mo Zichen woke up and saw her reminder, he rolled his eyes, "If an intelligence officer used such cheap medicine, how long would they have to suffer in pain?"

The medicine he used was special. It was something that wasn't sold to the public.

But, even though he said this, he still held the medicine in his hands. His actions did not match his words.

This time, Qian Lan left for 10 days. During these 10 days, she did not contact anyone.

Mo Zichen understood how the military operated and knew that even if he tried to make a phone call, he would not be able to get through to her. So, he decided not to bother her.

Qian Lan hoped every day that Mo Zichen would find her and contact her, but no matter how long she was away from home, it didn't seem like Mo Zichen cared where she was and what she was doing. In fact, it didn't seem like he cared if she was dead or alive.

Qian Lan had a photo of Mo Zichen with her. It was a photo that was given to her during her teaching days, when her friend first introduced her to him. Judging by the angle of the photo, it was taken without him knowing. Whenever Qian Lan had some free time, she would take out the photo and look at it. This made many of her colleagues laugh at her, "Are you still not with the man that you dream about all day?"

"We're together now," Qian Lan replied.

"Then why don't you contact each other?" her colleague asked nosily.

"Yes, why don't we contact each other?" Qian Lan couldn't help but ask herself.

"I bet it's a one-sided love. That man never agreed to be with you, right? Forget about it, focus on your mission. These new recruits are all troublemakers. There's absolutely no time for me to think about relationships!" her colleague patted her on the shoulder as a sign of comfort.

Qian Lan chuckled and put away the photo in her hands. Her colleague was right, it wasn't the time to be thinking about relationships.

But, early the next morning, before Qian Lan even woke up, someone ran in and reported, "Instructor, something's wrong, a few new recruits have wandered into the restricted zone. There are land mines in there!"

"Then why are you still standing around? Hurry and find them!" Qian Lan immediately got out of bed. These new recruits couldn't give her time to relax.

However, Qian Lan had no idea that this rebellious action would almost take her life!

Chapter 1208: You're Mine, So I Will Take Responsibility For You

Helicopters and all kinds of detection devices including UAVs were deployed by the army, but no one could find the missing recruits.

In the end, Qian Lan had no choice but to request for entry into the restricted zone so she could bring them back.

Her superior gave her permission to enter, but even though she was on her own and her life was on the line, Qian Lan did not hesitate for even a second.

“Instructor Qian, it’s really dangerous...are you sure you can do it?”

“It’s not a matter of whether I can do it or not. Those punks have cut their GPS signal and turned off all communication devices. We can’t contact them and we can’t determine their exact location. Apart from going in to look for them, we have no other choice,” Qian Lan said as she got prepared to enter the restricted zone. “I’ll leave everyone else in your hands.”

“In that case, be careful.”

Qian Lan nodded and wandered into the restricted zone on her own.

Even if she was actually hurt, she believed that no one would care, so what was she afraid of? On the other hand, those new recruits all had people that worried about them.

With this thought, Qian Lan quickened her pace.

The new recruits were smart and their methods to avoid detection were not bad, but they were unaware of their limits. How dare they disobey their orders?

As Qian Lan searched for the missing recruits, she slowly wandered into the center of the restricted zone. A little while later, she finally heard their voices coming from an abandoned factory.

Qian Lan immediately ran inside. As soon as the new recruits saw her, they were so frightened that they began to cry, “Instructor, you’re here! Tang Long stepped on a land mine.”

Two men and two women surrounded Tang Long as they tried to keep him from moving.

Qian Lan pulled out a dagger, advanced forward and kneeled down in front of the new recruits, “How long has it been?”

“It’s been half an hour. We were too afraid to run around and we didn’t know how to ask for help.”

“Everything I’ve taught you has gone to waste. Also, who allowed you to disobey your orders?” Qian Lan helped Tang Long remain stable as she pulled out a communication device to contact the outside world.

“Instructor Qian, we won’t do it again!”

Qian Lan humphed and stopped scolding the recruits. She then looked up and said, “Don’t worry, this isn’t impossible to defuse, OK?”

“I...I trust in you, Instructor,” the young recruit was too scared to even take a big breath in case the land mine under his feet would explode.

However, at this time, one of the female recruits suddenly screamed because she thought she had also stepped on a land mine. This shock caused Tang Long to instinctively flinch.

Qian Lan quickly covered the new recruit and rolled away, “Everyone get down!”

Everything happened too suddenly, so the explosion shocked the entire army base.

After everything fell silent, the new recruits finally noticed that Qian Lan's back was covered in blood...

"Instructor Qian!"

"Instructor Qian!"

But, Qian Lan had already lost consciousness...

Was she dead? Was she never seeing Mo Zichen again?

Qian Lan really didn't want to close her eyes, but she had absolutely no strength...

...

Mo Zichen waited 2 weeks but he still didn't hear anything from Qian Lan, so he began to sense that there was something wrong.

Logically speaking, Qian Lan's mission shouldn't have taken any more than 2 weeks, but 2 weeks had already passed and there was still no sign of Qian Lan.

Mo Zichen thought for a bit and decided to give Qian Lan a phone call. However, Qian Lan left her phone at the base and didn't turn it on.

The more Mo Zichen thought about it, the more he felt that things weren't right. Finally, he called the army base to check on her.

After waiting for a while, he finally got told that Qian Lan was in the hospital.

Mo Zichen immediately drove to the hospital with an unexplainable feeling. Even if he didn't forgive her and even if he ignored her, she wasn't allowed to get hurt. That's the complex feeling he felt.

Soon, Mo Zichen arrived at the hospital. At that time, Qian Lan's colleague was visiting her.

As soon as she saw Mo Zichen, she was quite surprised. The dream guy in Qian Lan's photo was here in real life.

"You..."

"I'm Qian Lan's fiance," Mo Zichen said. "What happened?"

"Qian Lan told us not to contact her family no matter what happens to her. But, she never gave us your contact details," the colleague replied. "A few days ago, she was hurt in an explosion when she went to save a new recruit. Her back has already undergone three surgeries and she is still recovering."

"The anaesthetic hasn't worn off, so she hasn't woken up yet."

"Was she seriously injured?"

"She almost lost her life," the colleague sighed. "Since you're here, you can take good care of her. I'm going to leave first."

Mo Zichen nodded before he laid his eyes on the woman lying in the hospital bed.

She was lying on her front because her back was seriously injured.

Her face was pale and she looked extremely weak.

After Qian Lan's colleague was finished talking, she turned to leave. But, she paused at the doorway to greet a few other colleagues that had arrived to visit Qian Lan.

"Don't go in. Her fiance just arrived."

"When did Qian Lan have a fiance?"

"It's the man in Qian Lan's photo. The one that she's been missing for 5 years."

The colleagues quickly realized what was happening and nosily peered into the room, "In that case, we'll come back another day."

After hearing the conversation between the colleagues, Mo Zichen gently closed the room door.

Perhaps Qian Lan sensed Mo Zichen's presence, so she slowly opened her eyes. When she saw the familiar figure and face, she tried to get up, but she was in so much pain that her eyes immediately welled up.

"Zichen..."

"Don't move. Do you want your wound to reopen?" Mo Zichen quickly held her down.

"I thought..."

She thought he didn't care where she was and what she was doing.

Although Qian Lan didn't finish her sentence, Mo Zichen understood what she was thinking, so he explained, "I knew you were in the middle of a mission. You had to attend a competition amongst the new recruits that would last, at most, 2 weeks. I knew you'd have to turn off your phone during this time and that I wouldn't be able to contact you."

"You knew?"

"There's nothing in Beijing that I can't find information about," Mo Zichen said. "Since you've roughly guessed my identity, you shouldn't find this strange."

Qian Lan fell silent as her heart warmed up.

"I thought I wasn't important anymore."

"I never said that, so how did you convince yourself into believing that?" Mo Zichen grabbed a clean towel and kneeled down to help Qian Lan wipe her face, "Why are you so persistent about not contacting your family?"

"You know why," Qian Lan replied. "They may have changed over the years, but..."

"Then why didn't you leave my contact details with your colleagues?"

"I...I thought you didn't want to be disturbed by my matters," Qian Lan replied with self mockery.

"As soon as you went overtime, I immediately knew to look for you. Aren't I here right now?"

Qian Lan nodded her head; she felt like she was dreaming.

"I thought, in your heart, I was simply the person that humiliated you 5 years ago."

"Yes, you are that person. But, don't forget, you are also my fiancée. No matter what's happened between us in the past, you're mine, so I will take responsibility for you."

Chapter 1209: Your Fiance Is Really Handsome !

Was she simply his responsibility?

"Zichen, I feel like no matter what I do, you treat me like I don't exist, and no matter how anxious I get, I can't seem to find a place in your heart."

Qian Lan lay on the bed looking weak, but the pain on her body was nothing compared to the cold words from Mo Zichen.

Qian Lan couldn't understand Mo Zichen. He gave her hope one second and then disappointment the next. And when she had completely given up hope, he suddenly reappeared and gave her warmth.

This made Qian Lan very tired.

"Sleep for a little longer. The anaesthetics just wore off, you're going to feel a lot of pain soon."

"Go home first. Your presence hurts me more," Qian Lan said.

"It's good that you know how to hurt," Mo Zichen completely ignored Qian Lan's request as he went to pack her things and prepare a tub of water for her to wash her face.

Qian Lan had no strength to argue with him. All she could do was close her eyes helplessly. But, that man kept walking back and forth in front of her, how was she to sleep?

Soon, the new recruits arrived guiltily at the hospital.

As soon as Mo Zichen saw them, he immediately asked, "Come back to visit her later. She just fell asleep."

"I'm fine, come in," Qian Lan had been tossing and turning for a while, unable to sleep. Since she had visitors, she decided that she might as well not sleep.

The new recruits approached Qian Lan guiltily and bowed to her, "Instructor Qian, we didn't do it on purpose. We didn't expect this to happen. Please forgive us."

"I never blamed you," Qian Lan replied. "I was a new recruit at one stage and I also made mistakes."

"Instructor Qian, we will behave from now on and not cause any trouble."

"Yes, Instructor Qian, I truly feel sorry."

"If I were you, I would be applying for punishment instead of crying in front of Qian Lan," Mo Zichen said after confirming that these were the punks that caused Qian Lan's injury.

“Every army officer should treat their orders seriously, because their mistakes can implicate their own life and the lives of their colleagues, and may even determine the success or failure of a mission. Since you’ve done something wrong, you should accept your punishment.”

“Qian Lan’s been in the military for 5 years and hasn’t died on the battlefield while protecting our nation. In the end, she almost lost her life because of trash like you. Don’t make excuses with the fact that you’re new, all of you are mature adults, you should take responsibility for your actions!”

“Who are you? Why are you scolding us?”

The group of new recruits didn’t like being scolded by Mo Zichen, so one of them immediately questioned him. But, as soon as that particular recruit spoke, he was immediately kicked out of the room; no one even noticed Mo Zichen move, not even Qian Lan.

“I will be Qian Lan’s husband soon.”

As soon as the recruits heard this, they immediately looked surprised.

No wonder he was so angry...

“Aren’t you going to apologize? We almost cost Instructor Qian her life, it’s only right for her husband to be so angry.”

The recruits quickly bowed to Mo Zichen and disappeared from the room soon after. This made Qian Lan laugh, “Usually, when I try to scold them, it takes so much effort. I never knew that you were so powerful.”

“I’m going to use the hospital’s kitchen to cook you some food.”

“Zichen...” Qian Lan suddenly called him back. “Are you really willing to be my husband?”

“Whether I’m willing or not, aren’t we already like this?” Mo Zichen said as he left the room.

Qian Lan gave a smile, but eventually broke down in tears. For some reason, Mo Zichen always made her feel a complex mix of emotions.

Late into the night, Mo Zichen still remained in the hospital room. When Qian Lan saw Mo Zichen lay his head down on the bed, she quickly woke him up and said, “There are nurses around. You can go home and rest.”

Qian Lan worried that he may need to head out in the middle of the night.

“Sleep. I’ll leave soon,” Mo Zichen replied calmly.

“My body actually hurts a lot, so I can’t sleep,” Qian Lan wiggled uncomfortably. “My body’s getting stiff from lying here.”

After hearing this, Mo Zichen pulled his chair closer to the bed and began to massage her muscles for her.

“Are you only nice to me when I’m hurt?”

“Are you going to hurt yourself just so you can be treated this way?” Mo Zichen asked.

“I’ll try...”

Mo Zichen sighed and put down her arm as he covered her with a blanket.

“You will have another surgery in a few days. However, the injuries on your back were too severe, so it will definitely leave behind scars.”

“It’s fine. My back can match yours.”

“I don’t think anyone is as thick-skinned as you.”

Qian Lan did not say a word as she tried to hold onto Mo Zichen’s hand.

At first, Mo Zichen wanted to pull his hand away, but Qian Lan quickly pulled it back. Seeing this, Mo Zichen gave up fighting and let her hold on.

Qian Lan gripped Mo Zichen’s hand and placed it against her cheek appreciatively.

“If getting hurt means you’ll care about me, then I am willing to do that.”

After hearing this, Mo Zichen felt quite moved. After all, Qian Lan may have broken up with him 5 years ago, but she had never done anything to betray him.

Plus, she was being so submissive towards him. What else did he want?

His lover had returned to him after 5 years. Did he have to send her away with this attitude?

Mo Zichen remained still as Qian Lan held onto his hand and slowly fell asleep...

The next day, more visitors arrived from the army. This was when they all discovered that the fierce Qian Lan actually had such a handsome fiance. Yet, she never mentioned it before.

Mo Zichen had lectures during the day, so he had to step out for a bit and return to the hospital later in the day. While he was gone, the nurses helped take care of Qian Lan for him.

When her closest colleague came to visit and saw Qian Lan’s situation, she couldn’t help but ask, “So, the two of you are definitely together? How come I’ve never seen you contact each other?”

“Our relationship isn’t great...”

“What nonsense are you talking about? Everyone at the base has heard about how your fiance taught the new recruits a lesson. Don’t tell me that’s not a sign of concern?”

“If someone else had gotten hurt, would he be so angry? Did you hear that one of the new recruits suffered a broken rib?”

“But, his tone is really cold when he speaks to me,” Qian Lan said helplessly.

“My dear Instructor Qian, can you not be so shallow? Apart from looking at a person’s face, you need to look at their heart. Even outsiders can tell that he cares about you. How can you completely misinterpret his intentions.”

“If I was your fiance, I’d be furious!”

"I know this is a little off topic, but I'd like to say that your fiance is really handsome!"

Really? Was he concerned about her? Qian Lan wondered to herself.

The things he did for her, did he only feel hate when he did them?

Chapter 1210: After My Anger Subsided, I Would Have Still Stayed By Your Side

That night, Mo Zichen prepared a chicken soup and brought it to the hospital. But, when he arrived, he saw that Qian Lan's colleagues were in her room, so he did not immediately go inside. Instead, he waited quietly outside.

"Qian Lan, I've been pursuing you for so many years, but you've always turned me down and said that you had a boyfriend. I thought you were using that as an excuse. I never thought it was real."

"Now you can finally give up, right?"

Outside the room, Mo Zichen did not hear anything else except for this short exchange of words.

He even peered in to see the man and imprinted his face in his memory.

Soon, the colleagues stepped out of the hospital room. When they saw, Mo Zichen, they were quite surprised and a little embarrassed. It seemed, he may have heard their conversation.

"Let's go, we still have a mission to complete."

After the colleagues left, Mo Zichen finally entered the room with his chicken soup and placed it on top of Qian Lan's bedside table.

"I heard everything they just said."

"Huh?" Qian Lan was a little surprised. But, after a short moment, she realized what he was talking about, "Are you talking about the joke they made?"

"I'm glad you knew to reject him," Mo Zichen said before he sat down in front of Qian Lan. After sitting down, he scooped a spoonful of the chicken soup and placed it against Qian Lan's mouth.

"Everyone's always known that I've had someone in my heart..." Qian Lan explained as she took a sip.

"I've been looking at the same photo for 5 years."

"You don't need to look at it anymore," Mo Zichen reminded.

"That photo used to be the thing that kept me mentally sane!"

Qian Lan smiled and took another sip of soup. Afterwards, she quickly fell asleep. At this time, Mo Zichen finally spotted the notebook she kept under her pillow. Inside the notebook was a photo.

Perhaps, she had taken it out of her notebook too many times. As a result, there were obvious fingerprints on two corners of the photo.

If this was really how she felt, why didn't she look for him during the early days of her training?

After placing the photo back in its place, Mo Zichen tilted his head and looked at Qian Lan. She lay peacefully on the bed while her back was covered in injuries.

At this time, Mo Zichen sat down on a chair and started to think back on the last 5 years.

At first, Mo Zichen actually tried to wait for Qian Lan. After all, Tangning had told him that Qian Lan joined the military because she really liked him, that she desired growth because she wanted a future with him. At that time, Mo Zichen truly believed this.

So, he waited one year. He even visited her secretly at the base. But, apart from looking happy, the silly woman never once tried to leave and look for him.

After that, he waited another year, but the second year was exactly the same.

In fact, it continued into the third year, the fourth year, and even the fifth...

Mo Zichen waited so long, but each step only drove him deeper into disappointment. Yet, just as he made the decision to no longer wait, Qian Lan finally appeared.

However, the fire in his heart had already fizzled.

Like this, Mo Zichen sat in his chair until the middle of the night when Qian Lan woke up.

When Qian Lan opened her eyes, he finally asked a question that he always wanted to know the answer to, "If you've been looking at my photo for so many years, why didn't you come looking for me?"

Qian Lan's expression changed when she heard this...

"It's been 5 years. No normal person would be able to wait that long. How did you expect me to wait for you?"

"Qian Lan, do you know why I haven't been able to get through this? It's because you had the chance to mend things after we broke up, but you disappeared for 5 years. How could you expect us to be together again, just like this?"

Qian Lan was speechless. All she had were tears.

"If you can give me a reasonable explanation, then I'll forgive you."

"I..."

Qian Lan opened her mouth, but found that she couldn't explain a thing.

"You can't explain anything, can you?"

Qian Lan shook her head as she said with all her might, "How do you know I never came looking for you?"

"I did look for you," Qian Lan sobbed. "After my basic training was over, I went back to visit our school, but you were no longer teaching there. Afterwards, I found out that you moved apartments, so I waited all night outside your apartment and ended up seeing a young woman come out from your place."

"That's why I returned to the military."

"I ended up with a fever for three days because I ran back there."

"When I was dismissed from the military, I also came to look for you. But, that time, I waited 3 days and 3 nights without seeing you. In the end, I left you a note."

"In the last 5 years, I went to look for you 3 times. The last time was recently when I discovered that you were still single. I felt a sense of hope, but also disappointment. You changed so much that I thought you'd already forgotten who I was. That was when my mother also fell ill, so..."

"You looked for me?" Mo Zichen asked in disbelief.

"You moved from the apartment near our school to Unit 104, 224 Shengquan Road. After that, you moved to Unit 702 inside Tianyang Apartments."

After listening to Qian Lan, Mo Zichen asked, "Why didn't you knock on apartment 105?"

"You were in 105?"

"Yes, I lived in 105," Mo Zichen nodded. "After that, I never moved into Tianyang Apartments. I helped a friend buy that place. That's why you couldn't find me."

"So that's what happened," Qian Lan collapsed in a heap of tears. "I also looked for you three times, but I returned disappointed each time..."

"I'm sorry," this time, Mo Zichen apologized. "I thought you simply came and went as you pleased."

"I went to look for you as soon as my basic training was over, but I didn't find you and the military almost thought I was a runaway soldier. After that, I fell sick and was confined for 7 days."

"From the first day that I stepped foot into the training camp, I already regretted my decision. I wanted to look for you, but I didn't want you to look down on me."

"Zichen, I really didn't mean for all this to happen."

After hearing this, Mo Zichen finally stretched out his hand and patted Qian Lan on the head, "That's enough...if you say that you came looking for me, then I believe you."

"I really did...I really looked for you."

"Every time I looked for you, I returned with disappointment. It also took me a long time to recover each time and gather enough courage to look for you again. But..."

Mo Zichen did not let Qian Lan say another word as he covered her mouth so she could calm down.

"Stop crying. Your wound is going to reopen."

"Zichen..."

"I'm here. I won't leave you. Even if you couldn't provide an explanation today, I still wouldn't have left. I would have simply been a little angry."

"After my anger subsided, I would have still stayed by your side," Mo Zichen surrendered.