

RTAMM 1791

Chapter 1791: Too Late to Regret

“Fine!” Miao Jing agreed without hesitation. More than a decade ago, she and Old Zhai had gotten into a misunderstanding and had not cleared the air between them. Because of their distant relationship, Qiu Chenxi had been able to take advantage of the situation to marry Zhai Sheng, becoming her daughter-in-law. Now, she had cleared the misunderstanding with Old Zhai. Neither Qiu Chenxi nor Qi Minlan would ever have the chance to get close to their family again.

Miao Jing regretted being so stubborn and unwilling to take a step back to talk it out with Zhai Yaohui. That was why her son had been forced into such an unfortunate marriage.

With Zhai Sheng’s temper, even if Zhai Sheng did not like his partner, as long as that woman did not do something unforgivable like Qiu Chenxi had, Zhai Sheng would never request for a divorce even if he had no feelings for his partner.

Based on this alone, Miao Jing was already filled with regret and hate for Qiu Chenxi. But Qiu Chenxi had no self-awareness at all, and she always showed up in front of her, saying, “Mom, I know I’ve made a mistake. Give me one more chance. Forgive me.” Hearing Qiu Chenxi’s words was enough for Miao Jing to flare up.

Qiu Chenxi had not even been married to her son for two years before she had been caught cheating on him. What infuriated Miao Jing the most was that it had not been the Zhai family who had caught her red-handed, but the wife of that man whom Qiu Chenxi had been in an affair with. That meant that Qiu Chenxi and that lover of hers were both finished.

The divorce had happened more than a decade ago, but she was only apologizing and begging for forgiveness now! What had Qiu Chenxi been doing all these years?

Miao Jing was clear that Qiu Chenxi’s personal life had gotten way more complicated and messy after her divorce from Zhai Sheng. After more than a decade, Zhai Sheng had never gotten remarried. It was not that Zhai Sheng could not find someone better than Qiu Chenxi, but he simply had no desire to get remarried. Qiu Chenxi did, but it was not easy to find a partner to get remarried to.

Anyway, after more than ten years, Qiu Chenxi had never lacked a partner by her side. But it was because she had been through ‘so much’ that she finally regretted and said that her feelings for Zhai Sheng were the most genuine and sincere. What a joke!

“If anyone dares to open the door for her when she comes in the future, I’ll chase that person out of our house!” Miao Jing’s words were directed not at the Zhai family but at the family’s nanny. The old auntie that the Zhai family had hired had retired due to her age, and the Zhai family had found a younger new auntie to replace her.

This new auntie was scheming and thus made more mistakes while working. She knew that what Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing worried most about was Zhai Sheng finding a partner to get married to and have children with, and someone to spend the rest of his life with.

But Zhai Sheng had not done anything in that respect for a long time. Besides, Qiu Chenxi had once been a woman whom Zhai Sheng had agreed to marry. The new nanny felt that there was a very high possibility that Qiu Chenxi would return to become the mistress of the family. Even though Qiu Chenxi had committed a mistake in the past, Zhai Sheng might only have requested for a divorce impulsively. Maybe he truly liked Qiu Chenxi.

As the caretaker of the Zhai family, she knew that there was no point in getting in the good books of her master. At times, it was more important to gain her mistress’ favor. As long as Qiu Chenxi returned, the one in charge in the Zhai family would be Qiu Chenxi. Miao Jing could simply retire and enjoy her golden years.

With such a thought, the new caretaker auntie often relayed the situation in the Zhai family to Qiu Chenxi, trying to suck up to Qiu Chenxi. Moreover, she even took advantage of the Zhai family’s good-naturedness and spoke up for Qiu Chenxi in front of the Zhai family from time to time. The first time, she had only been trying to test out the waters to see the Zhai family’s attitude toward Qiu Chenxi.

Although the Zhai family only expressed disagreement on their faces after hearing the caretaker auntie’s praises of Qiu Chenxi, they did not rebuke her. As such, the new nanny thought that there was still a chance. In fact, it was not just Zhai Sheng. The rest of the Zhai family only had Qiu Chenxi as their top pick.

With this self-righteous trial, the new nanny became much bolder and daring in her actions.

But no matter how nice a person was usually, they would still have a temper. Moreover, Qiu Chenxi’s existence was the only stain of the Zhai family, and they already tried their best not to think about it. However, the new nanny reminded them daily of how their stubbornness in the past had led to such an ill-fated union. Upon finding out that this new nanny had sold the Zhai family’s information to Qiu Chenxi to curry her favor, the Zhai family unhesitatingly fired this nanny.

The Zhai family was the one paying her wages, after all. It would be difficult for this caretaker to find another job in Ping Cheng with a reputation of being disloyal to her own employers. Whether it was out of respect for the Zhai family, or whether they refused to become the second Zhai family, no one was willing to hire a caretaker like that.

With this example, the Zhai family, who was rather good-natured, significantly raised their requirements for their nannies. As long as any nanny whom they hired dared to speak to Qiu Chenxi or interact with her, they would send her packing. Anyway, the Zhai family could not afford to hire such nannies.

Thankfully, this third nanny was much better and had not done anything foolish. But Miao Jing, who was still angry over the matter, rang the alarm bells for this new nanny. Otherwise, the caretaker might really do something foolish and sob over getting fired. She might even refuse to leave!

The new auntie shrank her neck into her shoulders. Before coming, the person who had recommended her into this job had already told her about the foolish things her predecessor had done. But she was no fool. The Zhai family's members were nice people who paid her a good salary. There was no reason for her to put her job at stake just to curry favor from a person whom she did not even know.

Besides, from what she had heard, was something going on with Zhai Sheng?

If that was really the case, Qiu Chenxi would stand no chance at all. She would be nothing more than a dead cricket.

“You’ve been kicking up a huge fuss all this time. What’s the point of regretting only now? Ten years ago, you were pretty and tender, but Zhai Sheng still chose to leave you. Now that you’re a wrinkled vegetable, would Zhai Sheng still accept you when he has a whole harem of eighteen-year-olds to choose from?” Frustrated, Qiu Chenxi’s father, Qiu Qin, looked at Qiu Chenxi, who seemed intent on putting everything out there for Zhai Sheng.

Qiu Qin might once have been proud of having a daughter like Qiu Chenxi and might even have felt that other people’s sons could not even match up to his only daughter. But now, Qiu Qin was absolutely disgraced by his daughter and felt that Qiu Chenxi had let down all their ancestors.

Because Qiu Chenxi had married Zhai Sheng, Qiu Qin had risen through the ranks rather quickly because everyone knew that he was Chief Zhai's in-law. In the future, he would probably become the father-in-law of a chief too. But Qiu Qin had never expected that Qiu Chenxi would get caught red-handed in bed with another man before he had become the father-in-law of a chief!

Chapter 1792: Absolutely Unexpected

This matter had not only embarrassed the Zhai family, but even more so the Qiu family. After all, Qiu Chenxi had been birthed and raised by the Qiu family.

As such, after Qiu Chenxi's divorce from Zhai Sheng, Qiu Qin had never once been promoted. Moreover, even the simplest of mistakes at work would cause him to be lectured harshly, especially by those people who disliked him who never once let a mistake go.

Before Qiu Chenxi had gotten a divorce from Zhai Sheng, Qiu Qin had never known that he was someone with 'long hair'. Only after he lost his son-in-law, Zhai Sheng, did he realize that he had a long braid on his head that others always tugged on. It was excruciating.

Everything was Qiu Chenxi's fault, so how could Qiu Qin not hate his daughter, Qiu Chenxi? Not only was his daughter unable to help him, but she even added on to his problems over the years as though he owed her something. Even now that he was retired, he was still unable to have his name up proudly in the department and retire gloriously like others had.

"All right, Chenxi didn't mean for that to happen either." Qi Minlan had mixed feelings about this. Perhaps it's because her daughter had fulfilled the obsession she had had when she was young. Her daughter might have married Zhai Sheng and become the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family, but her daughter had only been the daughter-in-law of a chief, not the wife of a chief.

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She could not understand why her daughter had ended up like this even after she had paved the way for her daughter. Sigh...

"Chenxi, you're over forty years old now. You can't keep up with this nonsense. What plan do you have for yourself? Do you really intend on doing this for the rest of your life?" Qi Minlan was worried sick about her daughter, Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi started sobbing uncontrollably. “What’s the point of telling me all these now? Mom, why don’t you find my father-in-law and try to beg for forgiveness on my behalf? It’s true. I’m no longer the same person I was ten years ago. Even if Zhai Sheng treats me the same way that he did in the past, I’m sure that I’ll be able to handle the loneliness and not do something that wrongs Zhai Sheng again. People make mistakes, but I’ve changed for the better. Can they give me a chance?”

It had been over a decade. She had really had her fair share of fun over the span of a decade. Now, she truly had no desire to continue with this lifestyle. All she wanted was to live an honest life and have a family. Her demands were not excessive, so why couldn’t the Zhai family see that she had changed for the better? Why were they harping on the mistakes that she had made in the past?

Besides, if Zhai Sheng had treated her well when they had first gotten married, would she have found another man outside and gotten into an affair?

Throughout their marriage that lasted three years, Zhai Sheng spent all his time in the army and had never so much as touched her. She had been Zhai Sheng’s wife in name, but the couple had never consummated their marriage. Qiu Chenxi had refused to talk about such a humiliating thing before her divorce.

Zhai Sheng refused to touch her, making it seem as though she was so terrible that Zhai Sheng was trying to shun her. It was only when they reached the stage of getting a divorce that Qiu Chenxi finally revealed that she had not wanted to leave, but there was a sound reason for her getting into an affair. After all, Zhai Sheng had refused to touch her.

Everyone had been taken aback by Qiu Chenxi’s revelation. Because they were unwilling to lose such good in-laws, the Qiu family had wanted to salvage this marriage and hoped that the Zhai family would give Qiu Chenxi a second chance. They assured the Zhai family that this would never happen again.

But this time, the Zhai family refused to give Qiu Chenxi a second chance. A military spouse had to endure loneliness. There were indeed few spouses who had to endure three years like that, but it was not unheard of. Qiu Chenxi was definitely not the only one.

If every military spouse was like Qiu Chenxi and cheated on their husbands because their husbands left them for long periods of time, then there would be no military spouses at all. If she was not prepared to do so, then this woman was not worthy of being a military spouse.

In short, Zhai Sheng's actions were not a good enough reason for Qiu Chenxi to have an affair. Qiu Chenxi's affair would only be acceptable if the Zhai family agreed to this logic, but Miao Jing said straightforwardly that Qiu Chenxi could simply ask for a divorce if the couple did not have feelings for each other. After their divorce, Qiu Chenxi would then be able to find a man whom she really loved. That would be the Qiu family's business.

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It was wrong for Qiu Chenxi to have done such immoral acts before getting divorced. If Zhai Sheng wanted to get a divorce, there would be no room for any discussions. They simply had to get divorced. Of course, if Qiu Chenxi refused, then she would just have to go to jail. Was it that easy to ruin a military marriage?

"There's no point in telling us that." Qi Minlan grabbed a piece of tissue for Qiu Chenxi to dry her tears. "You have to let the Zhai family feel your remorse, especially Zhai Sheng. If they don't accept it, your father and I can't do anything about it either."

"Mom, why don't you just help me talk to my father-in-law?" She did not believe that it was impossible between Zhai Sheng and her. After so many years, Zhai Sheng had not remarried and neither had she.

Even if Zhai Sheng disliked her, her three-year marriage to Zhai Sheng proved that she was the only woman whom Zhai Sheng was willing to marry, so what was wrong with her being together with Zhai Sheng? She did not believe that her parents-in-law would prefer Zhai Sheng remain single for the rest of his life than let them reconcile.

It was obvious that the Zhai family had such an intention!

If she presented her sincerity and took the initiative to reconcile the relationship, the Zhai family would simply be too mean if they were to still reject her. As long as they did not go overboard with their actions, she would not fight back no matter how difficult the Zhai family made it for her. However, if the Zhai family still refused to allow her to reconcile with Zhai Sheng, she would have nothing else to say to that.

"What do you expect me to say?!" Qi Minlan flared up at the mention of that. Initially, Zhai Yaohui's attitude toward her had been rather good, and she got the feeling that he was still reminiscing about their past together. After a while, Qi Minlan actually thought that this was the truth.

Every time she saw that Miao Jing was jealous of her and was displeased with her, yet had to tolerate her for Zhai Yaohui's sake and hold her anger in, Qi Minlan felt proud and in high spirits. So what if Miao Jing had become the wife of a chief? Zhai Yaohui's heart was still thinking of her! There was nothing that made Qi Minlan feel prouder than being able to evoke jealousy and pain in Miao Jing, who was the wife of a chief.

But ever since Qiu Chenxi had been caught red-handed and had divorced Zhai Sheng, something had happened between Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui. The couple's relationship changed for the better and had improved significantly compared to when they had been younger. No one had expected this to happen.

Chapter 1793: Eavesdropping

It was also from that moment that Zhai Yaohui started to keep a distance from herself and didn't want to see her again. The way he protected Miao Jing was as if protecting a national treasure. Anyone would feel jealous upon seeing that.

Qi Minlan, who was once invincible in front of Zhai Yaohui, could no longer say anything in front of him today, let alone be qualified to intercede for her cheating daughter on account of the relationship they had back then.

"Hah." Qiu Qin laughed coldly. He knew about the past his wife had with Zhai Yaohui, and he didn't mind it at all. They had been married for so many years, but it was only recently that Qiu Qin knew how bold Qi Minlan was when she was young. On the surface, she and Zhai Yaohui were already publicly recognized as a couple. In private, she dared to date other boys behind Zhai Yaohui's back.

Qiu Qin wouldn't be jealous of this. Anyway, it was enough that Qi Minlan was clean when she married him. Furthermore, he was willing to marry Qi Minlan not because of the little past she had with Zhai Yaohui before.

Everything was the same as what he had originally planned. His only mistake was that he didn't teach his daughter, Qiu Chenxi, well. His daughter became as promiscuous as Qiu Chenxi, thus wasting all his efforts.

Qi Minlan pushed Qiu Qin angrily. “Our daughter became like this and you’re still laughing. Why are you laughing? Hurry up and figure out how our daughter can remarry Zhai Sheng. How long more can we accompany our daughter? Her future happiness depends on whether she can remarry Zhai Sheng.”

This man was a little clever but wasn’t charming. What she looked down on the most were his power and influence. He treated the mother-daughter pair well as they were beneficial to his development in the future. Qi Minlan couldn’t help but regret that when she was younger, even if she didn’t marry Zhai Yaohui, she should have opened her eyes wide and not casually married a selfish villain like Qiu Qin.

“Think of a way? What can I think of?” Qiu Qin had already given in. He was already retired, thus he had long stopped hoping for being able to get some benefits from his daughter, Qiu Chenxi. “Use your brain and think. Yes, Zhai Sheng is already in his forties. The problem is that even if he is in his fifties or sixties, he can still get a woman pregnant, let alone him in his forties. Don’t forget that Zhai Sheng doesn’t have children yet! Conversely, she’s in her forties as well. Can she get pregnant? I dare not ask if she can do so in her fifties or sixties. If Zhai Sheng were to remarry, do you think it’s to find a partner or a woman to give birth to a child to?”

They were both men. In the face of a woman who made a cuckold out of him, if she couldn’t even give birth to a child for him, why should they talk about remarriage? Furthermore, Zhai Sheng’s conditions were good. Why would he choose to suffer and stay with such a woman again? Was he a fool?

“People nowadays are very open-minded. Even if... I can adopt a child with Zhai Sheng. I promise to treat that child well. If that doesn’t work and Zhai Sheng, and the Zhai family, insists on a biological child, I’m willing to compromise and let them find another woman to give birth to a child. However, after this child is born, she will have to let me adopt him. That woman had better disappear after receiving money and not appear in front of us again.” She felt ashamed toward Zhai Sheng. Thus, she could tolerate Zhai Sheng betraying her once and let another woman be pregnant with his child. However, it was only once.

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Qiu Qin said sarcastically, “If that’s the case, why wouldn’t Zhai Sheng marry the child’s mother directly? Why must it be you? He’s already willing to let another woman carry his own child. What other reason is there for him to insist on remarrying you?”

There must be a reason for everything, right?

As such, where did Qiu Chenxi's confidence come from to think that although Zhai Sheng was willing to make another woman pregnant, he would still insist on remarrying Qiu Chenxi, a rotten pit? What was the beauty of Qiu Chenxi?

"Dad, can't you say something nicer? Must you say such infuriating words? Would it benefit you if I can't please him? If I remarry Zhai Sheng, wouldn't your thoughts come true?" Qiu Chenxi was angry. Forget it that others didn't think highly of her. Even her biological father thought so. Qiu Chenxi couldn't accept this.

Qiu Qin crossed his legs. "I would certainly be happy if you can remarry Zhai Sheng, but it might not happen. Nobody's a fool. Stop thinking about it. You mother and daughter can continue talking. I'm heading out. I shan't waste my time and breath on you anymore."

Upon seeing that Qiu Qin really walked away, Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi were furious. Qiu Chenxi gritted her teeth. "Does this matter concern only me? It's the Qiu family's business. Mom, you're not going to care about Dad?"

"Care? Can I?" Qi Minlan was filled with hatred. "Why do you think your dad is treating you so badly? He already has a son. Why would he still care about you, a daughter who only knows how to give him trouble and not benefits? Why do you think he's retreating so happily this time around? He's just making room for his biological son!"

Qiu Chenxi was stunned. "Son? Where did my dad's son come from?" Her mother had only given birth to her. It shouldn't be what she was thinking, right?

"Your dad has long provided for another woman outside. That woman's son is in his twenties this year. He just graduated from university and started working. If your dad doesn't retreat, that bastard can't enter. As such, whether you can reconcile your marriage with Zhai Sheng or not no longer bears any significance to him. He certainly won't be eager to help you get your happiness back." Qi Minlan was full of grievances.

She always thought that Qiu Qin was like a dog by her side who listened to her words. As long as she said to go east, Qiu Qin wouldn't dare to go west. Who knew that Qiu Qin had long provided for another woman outside since more than twenty years ago and the two of them even gave birth to a son?!

“Did you think that your father really brought your grandparents to the farmhouse to play every month? The Qiu family was just there to see the vixen and the son she gave birth to behind our backs!” To think that she was clever her whole life but stupid this once. She was deceived by this scheming Qiu family.

Where did Qiu Qin get the money to provide for the vixen and raise the bastard up? If he didn’t rely on the relationship she and her daughter had, would he have such an income?

Upon thinking that her help to Qiu Qin had completely benefited that vixen and the son she gave birth to in the end, Qi Minlan felt more regretful of the wrong choice she made that year, compared to Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi felt that something in her heart broke, and she couldn’t piece them back together again. “Mom, when did you confirm this?”

“I accidentally heard about this when the two old folks were gone.”

Chapter 1794: The Child Was a Problem

Before the old woman died, she called Qiu Qin to her side and sent her away. Initially, she didn’t think too much of it and really left. It was just that the moment the door closed, she felt that something was amiss and deliberately left a small gap to eavesdrop.

Perhaps the people in the house felt guilty. The old woman was very anxious, as if afraid she wouldn’t be able to finish her words before she died. Before confirming that the door was really closed and she was really gone, they spoke directly. The old woman told Qiu Qin that all these years, she had saved up all the money she had gained from others and from filial piety in the name of her grandson. The passbook was in her room. After she passed on, she hoped that Qiu Qin would send over the money she left behind to her grandson.

Mother Qiu even said that everything in the Qiu family should belong to her grandson and that they shouldn’t let Qiu Chenxi gain anything. She felt that Qiu Chenxi didn’t look like she was going to turn out to be someone good in the future. As such, Mother Qiu said that once the time was right, Qiu Qin must allow her grandson to acknowledge his roots and ancestors, return to the Qiu family, and take over everything from the Qiu family.

Qiu Chenxi’s eyes turned red. “How much did grandma leave behind for that bastard? All that money went into that bastard’s pockets?” Her grandma retired early and had no pension. As such,

her grandma's money was all hers and her mother's, which was given out of filial piety. She had used their money to provide for the bastard. Indeed, only grandsons had it the best in this world.

Qi Minlan laughed triumphantly. "Six hundred thousand yuan." She didn't expect that the old woman knew how to save so much. Based on their filial piety alone, she thought that the passbook would have one hundred thousand yuan at most. Who knew that there was six hundred thousand yuan? "I played some tricks to get all that money out. None of it fell into the hands of that vixen and her son."

Qi Minlan felt more comfortable in her heart after receiving this six hundred thousand yuan. This six hundred thousand yuan should have included the old couple's savings as well. Qiu Qin had taken their money to provide for that vixen and bastard. This six hundred thousand yuan could be said to be compensation.

Qiu Chenxi heaved a sigh of relief. "Mom, you're the best. At this point in time, I can only say that you must find ways to help me with the matter with Zhai Sheng. Tell me. Uncle is no longer around. Do you think Zhai Sheng would be willing to see me and agree to remarry me on account of my uncle?"

Back then, didn't Zhai Sheng agree to the marriage because of that very reason?

"If you really want to use your uncle to talk about this, your foundation is a little weak. If you could find Shi Qing back to help you, the possibility is higher." Her brother had died working in the army. In the end, Zhai Sheng was the one who carried her brother's body back. Her brother was Zhai Sheng's master and the person Zhai Sheng respected the most. After her brother was gone, her sister-in-law was someone weak. She nearly caused Shi Qing to be bullied to death by the people from her grandmother's family.

If her brother didn't die, how would Shi Qing become a child who had lost her father's love and be bullied by others so miserably? She almost couldn't even decide on what type of person she wanted to get married to. Was the Feng family trying to marry off a granddaughter? They knew how the other party was like but still insisted on marrying Shi Qing over. That was obviously selling their granddaughter!

Others might not know about this, but Qi Minlan did. Shi Qing didn't marry and even took on her brother's old path because Zhai Sheng was helping Shi Qing. Without Zhai Sheng helping Shi Qing behind her back, based on her sister-in-law's and Shi Qing's original temperament, those wolves from the Feng family would have long swallowed them whole.

As such, if they really wanted to get someone to intervene, it wouldn't be enough if the Qiu family alone did so. If Shi Qing was willing to help them out, she could do the job of two.

"I don't want to call her," Qiu Chenxi said directly. She was unwilling to ask Shi Qing for help. "Mom, it's not as if you don't know that Shi Qing likes Zhai Sheng as well. She had been interested in Zhai Sheng since she was young. Back then, Zhai Sheng was still my fiancé. To be honest, I have always been worried about Shi Qing. Look at how old she is now. Yet, she's unmarried. Has Shi Qing always been waiting for Zhai Sheng? What if she snatches my man away from me instead of helping me?"

Without Shi Qing causing trouble, it was already very difficult for her to remarry Zhai Sheng. She couldn't receive any news from the Zhai family recently. It wasn't that Qiu Chenxi didn't have any tinge of self-awareness. If one had to choose between her and Shi Qing, even a fool would know to choose Shi Qing.

This would be Shi Qing's first marriage. Furthermore, she had indeed done something wrong in her marriage with Zhai Sheng. If it was her, she would also be willing to choose Shi Qing, a woman who was clean and could help Zhai Sheng in his career.

In front of Shi Qing, Qiu Chenxi didn't have any chances of winning at all.

Upon thinking that Shi Qing was old but she refused to get married, she was really worried that Shi Qing was still waiting for Zhai Sheng. If Shi Qing confessed to Zhai Sheng and the Zhai family found out, she was afraid that she would only have to wait for their wedding invitation.

Qi Minlan hesitated for a while. "What you said is correct as well. What shall we do then? My words carry no weight, and neither do yours. The Zhai family isn't even willing to see us now. How would they be willing to listen to us and let you and Zhai Sheng remarry?"

Qi Minlan sighed and looked at her daughter's stomach. "Look at you. You're not young anymore. Why are you doing so many insensible things? If the Zhai family finds out that you can no longer conceive, it would be even more impossible for you to get together with Zhai Sheng again."

"Then, I shan't let the Zhai family know about this." Anyway, the Zhai family shouldn't have cared much about her situation over the years. "Let's talk again after I remarry Zhai Sheng. We can talk about things in the future. Both Zhai Sheng and I are old. Perhaps Zhai Sheng doesn't even want children. A man who wants children is almost forty-four years old, yet he hasn't remarried?"

If Zhai Sheng didn't like children to begin with, wasn't she just right for Zhai Sheng since she could no longer conceive? If another woman got married to Zhai Sheng and had to go with Zhai Sheng's mentality of not wanting children, how cruel would it be for her to lose her qualifications as a mother even though she was healthy?

As such, based on Zhai Sheng's situation, it was still better to find someone like her, who couldn't give birth.

Qi Minlan wasn't so optimistic. "Fine. These are all in the future. Until now, the Zhai family hasn't said anything to you. Let's settle the most critical issue now." As long as her daughter could remarry Zhai Sheng, there was always a solution when it came to children. However, without this big premise, they would just be overthinking even if they had considered all the problems that would occur afterward.

Once these words were spoken, Qiu Chenxi immediately looked sorrowful. Yes, what method could let her remarry Zhai Sheng so that she could be the wife of the chief?

Chapter 1795: A Seven-Grade Official

In this world, it was really impossible to find another man who was more outstanding and could bring oneself more glory than Zhai Sheng. After having the best and most perfect man in this world, it was fine to have fun with those with flaws or even incomparable ones. However, when it came to marriage, Qiu Chenxi was not interested at all.

It didn't make sense that the man she was going to find after the divorce with Zhai Sheng was going to be worse, right?

"Mom, you could tolerate my dad having another family outside. Can't Zhai Sheng just forgive me this once? Could it be that men are pettier than women?" Why was it that men had to be calculative about the things women could do?

What was more important than two people being happy together?

“Don’t think about this matter. It’s impossible for Zhai Sheng to forgive you on this.” Even if she was her biological daughter, Qi Minlan couldn’t say anything that went against her conscience. “Your grandfather was long gone. Your uncle died even earlier. Although Shi Qing is pretty promising, our relationship with her hasn’t been very good. If not for me not having a family who could back me up, do you think I would really not have cared about your dad’s affairs outside? There are generally two scenarios for not caring and not minding. One is that our relationship is too deep and I’m willing to give the other party another chance. The other is that I purely don’t have the capability to be calculative.”

Although Zhai Sheng was once her son-in-law, she could tell that Zhai Sheng didn’t have any feelings toward her daughter at all. If not for Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing agreeing back then, Zhai Sheng wouldn’t have married Chenxi at all.

If Zhai Sheng had any feelings for Chenxi, would he not have touched her even once when they had been married for three years?

Without this big premise, Chenxi might not have an affair and do something sorry to Zhai Sheng. However, Chenxi was ultimately the wrong party. If one wanted to pursue the matter, a couple could just get a divorce if they didn’t lead a harmonious husband-wife relationship. There wasn’t any reason to have an affair.

Zhai Sheng didn’t have any feelings for her daughter and was a very capable man. In the face of her daughter’s affair, Zhai Sheng would naturally rather remain single for a lifetime than give her daughter a chance to turn over a new leaf.

Qi Minlan didn’t say it explicitly, but Qiu Chenxi understood the meaning in her biological mother’s words. What she was looking forward to would definitely not happen. “What should I do then?” She really didn’t have any other choice. If not for this, she wouldn’t have had such a naive idea.

It wasn’t as if she really didn’t understand. It was just that when she was at her wits’ end, she could only come up with a whimsical idea to see if there were other possibilities and opportunities.

What else could Qi Minlan say?

“Forget it. Don’t be anxious. If you are, the Zhai family would definitely be more anxious than you. As long as Zhai Sheng doesn’t have another woman by his side and he doesn’t plan to remarry, your chances of success would at least be a little higher than the rest.” Who asked Chenxi to be Zhai Sheng’s only marriage partner in the past forty years?

From this point alone, even though her daughter had an affair, she still had a certain advantage.

The Zhai family didn’t know about Qiu Chenxi’s and Qi Minlan’s plans. Otherwise, they would really want to give this shameless mother and daughter a slap. They were really amazed at their self-confidence.

However, there’s something Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi didn’t know and couldn’t have guessed. Who said that there wasn’t any woman by Zhai Sheng’s side apart from Qiu Chenxi?

Qiao Nan was one!

The landlady’s son only spent two days to bring back a new nanny and a specialist doctor to the Zhai family’s old house in Qingshui Town.

Upon seeing the scenery of Qingshui Town, the doctor gave a high degree of affirmation. “No wonder the chief would want to come here. The water’s clear, the air’s fresh, and the environment’s quiet. Indeed, it is very suitable for one to re... recuperate.” The doctor initially wanted to say to retire. After all, after seeing the environment of Qingshui Town, the first thought that appeared in his mind was that when he retired, he could perhaps buy a house here.

“Is that so?” As a person from Qingshui Town, Xiao Xu was extremely proud. “This is the chief’s old house. I’ll lead the way.” As they were walking, Xiao Xu deliberately reminded the newly-hired nanny that the chief liked the quiet and didn’t like to be disturbed.

Aside from cleaning the house and cooking meals for the chief, the nanny didn’t need to do any other unnecessary things. She also didn’t need to bring the freshly prepared meals and cut fruits to the chief personally. It was fine as long as they ended up in his hands.

He was a person who insisted on a male doctor and a male nurse to take care of him. Xiao Xu really didn’t dare to let the nanny get too close to Zhai Sheng. Otherwise, the nanny might cause Zhai Sheng to be irritated, and he would have to make a trip to Ping Cheng again to get another nanny.

It was easy to find a nanny. However, to find one that could take good care of the chief wasn't as easy.

“Yes, sir. Don't worry. I still remember everything you've said on the road. I won't make any mistakes. As long as the chief doesn't call for me, I won't appear in front of him.” The new nanny was approximately in her thirties and seemed quite honest.

She dared not be dishonest. She had given her best time to her ex-husband. Who knew that her ex-husband earned a little money after starting his business and started to despise her? He wanted to divorce her and marry a popular netizen. Upon thinking about this, she was furious.

Indeed, after getting married, she no longer went outside to work. However, without her taking care of everything at home on behalf of her husband, serving the four elderly people well, and teaching the children properly, would her ex-husband be able to devote himself to his career?

She wasn't willing to spend her ex-husband's hard-earned money. In the end, the money she saved benefitted that shameless vixen. This was what broke her heart most.

She became a divorcee in her thirties. She really didn't dare to believe that after divorcing her ex-husband, she couldn't find a job to support herself. She was going to earn even her son's living expenses!

The nanny had no other skills. However, she was really good at taking care of people and doing housework. Knowing that being a nanny now could earn quite a bit of money, she decided to use her expertise and enter this business.

What she didn't expect was that the first time she tested the waters, she would be so lucky to have been fancied by the soldier. He said that he was going to let her take care of some chief. He sounded like a big official.

No matter what, she would benefit from taking care of such a big shot in the future. Didn't they say that one was a seven-grade official in front of a prime minister? It should more or less be the same meaning if she became the chief's nanny. She wouldn't be worse off than a seven-grade official.

Chapter 1796: Well Managed

If her ex-husband knew that she would have a relationship with the chief after she became a nanny, she didn't know what her ex-husband's expression would be like. She had a feeling that her ex-husband would regret it sooner or later for divorcing her and choosing to marry a popular netizen instead!

"That's good." Xiao Xu could rest assured after knowing that the nanny was willing to abide by the rules. Seeing that this nanny was quick and nimble in her chores, Xiao Xu hesitated for a long time before deciding if he should hire her. He wanted to hire her as he had seen her work, and she was quick and nimble indeed. She was highly efficient, and the food she made was delicious. However, he hesitated because this nanny was a little young, only in her thirties. Furthermore, she had just gotten a divorce.

Upon thinking that the chief was nearing forty-five years old and was similarly single, Xiao Xu couldn't help but worry that the nanny might have other thoughts about the chief after understanding his situation. The chief was annoyed about this the most. If he failed to do this well and left a bad impression on the chief, he might lose more than gain.

Thankfully, until now, Xiao Xu didn't feel any strange emotions from the nanny. "Oh, right. Don't call me sir in the future. I'm not any sir. At most, I'm just a little soldier taking care of the chief. I'm surnamed Xu. You can call me Xiao Xu. Sister Zhao, you're a few years older than me. You don't mind me calling you sister, right?"

"I don't mind." Sister Zhao didn't mind being addressed as sister. "It's my blessing if you are willing to call me sister." One look at this soldier and she knew he was young. It was just that she was hired to work. If the other party didn't say anything, how would she dare to be so bold and be his sister?

"Okay. These are the things you should pay attention to. After seeing the chief, you don't have to be worried. The chief doesn't like to talk or smile, but he isn't bad-tempered. He doesn't have the habit of shouting at others. You can just relax."

Upon thinking of Zhai Sheng's cold face, Xiao Xu hurriedly gave the both of them a heads-up so that they wouldn't be shocked. However, he didn't know how the auntie his mother had found two days ago was interacting with the chief in the two days he had left. He didn't have any other thoughts. He only hoped that the chief didn't go hungry for the past two days.

"Chief, I'm back." Upon seeing that Zhai Sheng wasn't in the study room reading but was in the courtyard, basking in the sun, Xiao Xu was a little surprised. "You're basking in the sun? That's good. Isn't that so, Doctor Wang?"

“Yes, basking in the sun helps increase calcium as well.” Doctor Wang responded. He first observed Zhai Sheng and realized that his condition wasn’t as worrying as what Xiao Xu had said it to be. That radiant look obviously showed that the chief was in a good mood recuperating here.

After getting an affirmative answer, Xiao Xu ran to Zhai Sheng. “Chief, are you hungry? Sister Zhao, whom I’ve hired this time, is very good at cooking. Do you want to try?” He planned to make it up to the chief today for all that he had not eaten previously.

“There’s no hurry. Next time.” Zhai Sheng, who had just eaten, didn’t have the stomach to even taste any food, let alone eat a little.

In the face of dishes that didn’t suit his palate before, even if they didn’t taste good, Zhai Sheng would still eat a little so that he wouldn’t go hungry. As a soldier, what kind of hardship had he not experienced before? It was nothing to eat food that he didn’t like. At times when circumstances became difficult, they had to eat food that ordinary people wouldn’t even eat, let alone something that they didn’t like to eat.

Similarly, in the face of the dishes that he liked, Zhai Sheng didn’t have the habit of overeating. It was rare for him to finally eat normal meals for two days. Zhai Sheng really looked better after Xiao Xu left.

“Oh, okay.” Xiao Xu carefully sized up Zhai Sheng’s mood and looks. He realized that Zhai Sheng’s mental condition was better than before he left, even though his stiff eyebrows showed that he was still as indifferent as before, looking emotionless. However, after staying by his side for a long time, Xiao Xu could faintly feel that Zhai Sheng’s mood was pretty good now. “Chief, what did you eat in the afternoon? Was it nice?”

“Sweet and sour fish.” As a man, Zhai Sheng didn’t like sweet stuff. On the first day, even if he didn’t say anything to Qiao Nan and wasn’t having high hopes for her, he didn’t expect the dishes Qiao Nan made to look homely but taste good.

As such, on the second day when Qiao Nan asked Zhai Sheng what he would like to eat, Zhai Sheng just asked Qiao Nan to make the arrangement for him. It was too late for Zhai Sheng to regret after Qiao Nan killed the fish and said that she was preparing sweet and sour fish.

Not being picky didn’t mean that he didn’t have any food he disliked. All along, Zhai Sheng didn’t like sweet stuff and fish. Sweet and sour fish fulfilled both dislikes.

Qiao Nan wasn't one to waste food. After taking over, she didn't prepare too many dishes for Zhai Sheng in a day. It was fine as long as there were a meat or fish dish and a vegetable dish every day. As such, Qiao Nan only prepared a single fish dish of sweet and sour fish.

Qiao Nan said that since Zhai Sheng could eat a few bowls of rice, he could finish off the sweet and sour fish easily. As for dinner, it certainly would be freshly cooked. That way, it would taste better, fresher, and healthier.

"S-Sweet and sour fish?" Xiao Xu exclaimed in his heart when he heard those words. He had left in a hurry yesterday and didn't tell that auntie what the chief's taboos were. "Chief, are you hungry? It's fine. Your body is the most important. I think Auntie Qiao wouldn't mind. You can treat it as snack time."

Of course, Zhai Sheng understood what Xiao Xu meant. When he heard that he was having sweet and sour fish for lunch, his thoughts were initially the same as Xiao Xu. What he didn't expect was that after taking a bite to test the taste, he realized that it wasn't bad. It wasn't too sweet, and it tasted smooth and fresh.

Zhai Sheng couldn't describe that complicated feeling. However, he knew that he didn't hate the taste of sweet and sour fish. On the contrary, he accepted it pretty well.

In the end, Zhai Sheng ate three bowls of rice. Indeed, he had finished off a one-kilogram fish alone. Of course, when Qiao Nan was buying the fish, she had already considered Zhai Sheng's intake volume. As to why Qiao Nan could calculate it so accurately, she felt a little depressed as well. Since when an ordinary thing like dreaming became so unsafe?

Even if it was highly possible that she had inadvertently watched the news and thus had a deep impression on the Zhai family's house, why was it that Zhai Sheng's appetite and preference were similar to those in her dream as well?

Chapter 1797: Expectations

No news reports or interviews could reveal so clearly about Zhai Sheng's preferences. How had she gained such an understanding of Zhai Sheng? What was the basis for her dreaming of Zhai Sheng's habits?

"Don't. Don't give it to him. He doesn't exercise much now. I'm afraid he'll get too bloated if he eats any more. Are you Xiao Xu? The weather is rather pleasant today. It doesn't seem good for him

to sit there all day. Why don't you bring him out to the yard for a walk?" Qiao Nan, who happened to overhear the conversation as she walked out, was taken aback. Zhai Sheng would probably not be able to keep his figure if he were to continue eating.

In her dream, Zhai Sheng had an intense training regime in the military. Even at home, Zhai Sheng had never forsaken training and ran so much that it scared others. But now, everything was different. Even if there were no major problems with Zhai Sheng's leg, there were probably other minor problems.

In the two days that she had been here, she had never once seen Zhai Sheng stand up. As to how Zhai Sheng crawled onto his bed to sleep or how he managed his nature calls once she went home, Qiao Nan truly had no idea. What Qiao Nan knew was that Zhai Sheng had never asked her to help him with these matters.

It was not as though Zhai Sheng was under her watchful eye for the whole day. From Qiao Nan's calculations, there was no way Zhai Sheng would only use the toilet once a day. Since Zhai Sheng did not require her help in this area, she was not worried about it either.

But since Xiao Xu was back now, Qiao Nan felt that she should assign him some tasks too. "It's not good to always stay seated. You should let him soak his feet, help him massage them, or help him walk around from time to time."

"Yes, you are?" Doctor Wang looked at Xiao Xu. After learning of Qiao Nan's surname from Xiao Xu, he quickly answered, "This... Madam Qiao... I know what she's saying about the chief's condition. Indeed, moderate exercise can help you recuperate faster." The chief had already passed the stage of absolute rest. "Of course, it was right for you to decrease your exercise in the first few stages of recuperation, but you should start increasing it gradually."

Knowing that he would soon have work to do, Xiao Xu was elated. "So it turns out that the chief can walk around already! Alright, chief, I'll help you!"

Not only was Zhai Sheng tall, but he was also extraordinarily muscular. Of course, this meant that Zhai Sheng weighed quite a lot. Qiao Nan did have such a plan, but she was a single lady, while Zhai Sheng was a divorcé. Qiao Nan had no strength to help Zhai Sheng around, and neither was it appropriate for her to be so physically close to him.

Now that Xiao Xu was back, all their problems would be solved.

When Qiao Nan saw Zhai Sheng reading about his medical records in his study room yesterday morning, Qiao Nan had already had such an idea.

When the four of them saw the harmonious atmosphere, the remaining Sister Zhao felt extremely awkward. She would not need to cook since the chief was not hungry. The chief would need to learn to walk again with the doctor's guidance, and Xiao Xu would be helping him with that. Although the other woman was not in the picture, that woman had been the one who had arranged all these. At that moment, only she had nothing to do.

Sister Zhao frowned. Officer Xu had not told her that the chief's wife would be around. If Xiao Xu had known that the chief's wife was around, he should have given her a heads-up. Gaining the favor of the mistress was way more important than gaining the favor of the master.

Thinking about that, Sister Zhao got close to Qiao Nan. "Hello, Madam Zhai, my surname is Zhao. You can call me Xiao Zhao. You can simply instruct me on how to take care of the chief or if you need help with making anything for the chief to eat. I'll definitely do my best as long as I know how to do so. If I don't, I promise that I'll do my best to learn it well."

"..."

"..."

"..."

In an instant, the other three people were rendered speechless because of Sister Zhao's words. Xiao Xu was so angry that he had to cup his forehead. He had never once mentioned that the chief was married, much less that the chief's wife was taking care of the chief. How could Sister Zhao have such a vivid imagination? He wondered if the chief would be infuriated by such an assumption.

"Chief, this has nothing to do with Sister Qiao!" Neither does it have anything to do with me!

How could he possibly tell Sister Zhao that Sister Qiao was the chief's wife? He was the one who had found Sister Zhao. Before today's meeting, Sister Zhao did not know Sister Qiao at all, and Sister Qiao had no time to mislead Sister Zhao either.

So it was entirely out of Sister Zhao's imagination that she had addressed Qiao Nan as the 'chief's wife'. Both Sister Qiao and he were innocent. Neither of them had ever sent a wrong signal to Sister Zhao to mislead her!

"I don't mind, but I wonder if Miss Qiao will be affected?" Zhai Sheng was extremely calm. "Miss Qiao, although there's no one here apart from the five of us, if word gets out and your husband gets the wrong idea, I can explain the situation for you."

"I..." Qiao Nan opened her mouth but did not know how to respond. Or perhaps it could be said that she wanted to simply reply with a vague 'yes'. Qiao Nan felt a little weird having to talk about whether she was married in front of Zhai Sheng.

Qiao Nan had not wanted to talk about it and had even wanted to simply gloss over it, but unfortunately, she had a noob ally, Xiao Xu. "Don't worry, chief. Sister Qiao is just like you. She's still single."

"Oh..." Zhai Sheng answered meaningfully yet normally. "It's good that there'll be no misunderstanding. But even if there is any misunderstanding, don't worry. We'll be able to explain it." It turned out that she, too, was divorced.

Zhai Sheng himself was not sure why he suddenly felt at ease after he had brought up this issue out of the blue and had gotten such an answer.

Zhai Sheng, Xiao Xu, and the rest of them had already gotten a hold of the situation, but Sister Zhao was only getting even more confused. So this was not the chief's wife? But no one had gotten angry by the slip of her tongue! The chief's temper was too good! Besides, according to what Officer Xu said, the chief had no wife?

As a normal woman, the sight of a similar-aged man who was outstanding in every way would evoke some feelings in her heart. Otherwise, that woman was abnormal. Even though she had gotten a divorce, Sister Zhao was not prepared to spend the rest of her life alone.

Her ex-husband had already found his match for his second marriage before even getting divorced, so there was no reason she could not think about this personal problem now that she was already divorced.

Of course, these were all just her own thoughts. She would still need to make a tremendous amount of effort to get a man like Zhai Sheng.

Thus, such a thought disappeared in a flash. She knew very well of her own position, what she should do, and what she should not do.

But Qiao Nan seemed a little embarrassed at this moment. She had heard the words ‘chief’s wife’ many times in her dream, but this was the first time that she had been mistaken for one in reality. It was truly a first. She had not even graduated from junior high school. How could she ever expect to become the wife of a chief?

Chapter 1798: Not Here to Steal Your Job

It was exactly because she knew that her family background was poor that she had never intended on heading northward to find the Zhai family even after leaving Ping Cheng in her dream. “About that... I was sent here to take care of Zhai—Chief Zhai. Now that a replacement has been found, I’ll take my leave.” Even after knowing that this ‘Xiao Zhao’ would be her replacement, Qiao Nan did not dislike Xiao Zhao.

No matter what, she hoped that there would be someone who would be able to take good care of Zhai Sheng and nurse him back to health. Now that that person was here, she would only feel unnecessary and excessive if she were to continue staying here.

“Are you tired?” Thinking about how Qiao Nan had been busy the whole day, Zhai Sheng thought that Qiao Nan was leaving because there was someone to take over her shift now. “What time are you coming tomorrow? What are you going to make?” If Qiao Nan was not leaving now, Zhai Sheng would have asked Qiao Nan what she was going to cook for dinner, even though his lunch had not yet been fully digested.

Qiao Nan’s lips curled into a dry smile. “Chief Zhai, I won’t be returning tomorrow since Xiao Xu and Xiao Zhao are both here. As for what you’re eating tomorrow, why don’t you discuss it with Xiao Zhao?” No wonder the landlord said that it would only be for a while. It was true. She had only made four meals for Zhai Sheng. Time had passed quickly indeed.

“Sister Qiao, sorry for troubling you this time.” Since the chief had posed such a question, Sister Qiao must have done a good job in taking care of him these past two days. He had not expected that the person his mom had found at the last minute would be even more reliable than those nannies that he had hired in the past. If he had known that the chief would accept Sister Qiao so easily, he would never have gone to such an extent.

Zhai Sheng looked at Qiao Nan. “Do you not want to come? Or do you think that there’s no need for you to come?”

Qiao Nan raised her eyebrow, instinctively disliking Zhai Sheng's question. "Is there any difference?" The end results were the same anyway. She would not come either way.

"Of course there's a difference." Since the reason for not coming was different, the outcome would naturally be different as well. There were not many people whom Zhai Sheng allowed to take care of him. But if Qiao Nan herself did not want to come, it did not seem right for him to force her to take care of himself either.

"..." Xiao Xu scratched his head, feeling that the conversation between the chief and Sister Qiao was a little weird. Had something happened between the chief and Sister Qiao in the time that he had been away? "Chief, I heard Sister Qiao address you as brother earlier?" He had not heard or remembered it wrongly, had he? Sister Qiao had indeed addressed Chief Zhai as Brother Zhai. "Do you two know each other?"

No wonder Sister Qiao got along with the chief so well. It was because they knew each other. He would have to tell his fellow soldiers in the future. Who said that Chief Zhai knew no other woman apart from his mother and sister? Wasn't there one right before his eyes? Sister Qiao did seem a little old, but she was still beautiful and did not look old.

"We used to live in the same quad." Before Qiao Nan could deny it, Zhai Sheng replied while looking into Qiao Nan's eyes. Because Zhai Sheng had answered first and was staring down at her, Qiao Nan could only agree with Zhai Sheng.

That was a fact. There was probably no big deal in not denying it.

"Oh, is that so?" His mom was amazing. She had simply found a tenant to take care of his chief for a while, but she had managed to find a familiar face! No wonder he felt that the chief was in a better mood this time when he returned. It was because he had finally met his childhood friend.

Sister Zhao was slightly confused. "What about me?" It turned out that this woman was just like her and had been hired to take care of the chief. But the problem was that there was only one chief. There was only one person whom the two of them had to take care of. She was all right with the two of them working together. She would receive her salary all the same and there would even be someone to work with.

But if they were only to hire one person, she might very well be sent back after just one day. This job offered a slightly higher salary than other jobs, after all.

Now that Qiao Nan was no longer someone she needed to suck up to, and had instead become someone who was going to snatch her job from her, Sister Zhao's thoughts toward Qiao Nan were extremely complicated.

Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry. She had never meant to snatch Xiao Zhao's job from her. "Actually, I have a job. It's just that my job is not demanding and I have quite a lot of flexibility in arranging my time. It's just as well that you're here. I can finally make up for all the tasks I missed out on for the past few days." When she returned home yesterday, she saw that several of her previous clients had already found her for translation work.

It was just that she had been meticulously analyzing the menu for Zhai Sheng that she had not been able to start working.

It was truly unexpected that she had met Zhai Sheng and had even interacted with him in real life. She had come to Qingshui Town with the mentality of retiring. Qingshui Town was a good place, and there was no need for her to give up on life in this small town because of a dream.

But Zhai Sheng's appearance in her life changed everything. The more she interacted with Zhai Sheng, the more afraid Qiao Nan got that she would never be able to wake up from that dream. Even while she was preparing lunch for Zhai Sheng, she had done so according to her habits in her dream.

In reality, she knew why Xiao Xu insisted on Xiao Zhao making a meal for Zhai Sheng the moment she arrived. It's because Zhai Sheng disliked fish and sweet tastes. This one dish broke both taboos. But the problem was that fish was high in protein and low in fat. It was good for health.

She cooked according to how she had done in her dream, and Zhai Sheng had indeed accepted her dish. But now that Zhai Sheng's habits in her dream were being confirmed one by one, Qiao Nan could not help but panic. Reality was being intertwined with her dream.

Before this, she had never had any contact with Zhai Sheng. Neither had the Zhai family ever exposed their lives to the media. Where had she learned that Zhai Sheng disliked fish and sweet tastes that she had been able to come up with it in her dream? Her dream had been so realistic that it was frightening.

As her guesses were proved correct one by one, Qiao Nan could not help but be afraid. If this continued, she would truly never be able to pull herself out of her dream and separate her dream

from reality. Even though Zhai Sheng had already gotten a divorce from Qiu Chenxi and was now single, she had no chance or qualifications to be with Zhai Sheng, apart from her age.

Daydreaming did not seem like a good thing, especially in her case.

Qiao Nan wondered if she should distance herself from Zhai Sheng in case she started comparing everything that happened in reality to what had happened in her dream.

“Oh, that’s good.” Xiao Zhao smiled. As long as she was not trying to snatch her job away. Without the competitive relationship, Xiao Zhao was now much friendlier toward Qiao Nan and thought that Qiao Nan was a good person. The chief seemed to be very used to Qiao Nan taking care of him. That familiarity had caused her to mistake Qiao Nan for the chief’s wife.

Chapter 1799: Ulterior Motives

She saw how the other party had been taking care of the chief while telling Officer Xu what to do. Her mistress’ tone had been too obvious. Anyone would have mistaken her for the chief’s wife, not just her.

After giving her instructions, Qiao Nan was finally at ease. “All right, I’ll hand everything over to you then. I just got here myself, so I’m not very sure about many things either. You can ask Xiao Xu directly if you have any doubts. I’ll take my leave.”

“Shall I send you off, Sister Qiao?” Xiao Xu asked.

“That won’t be necessary. The bus stop is just a few steps away, and it’s so bright and early. There’s no need to send me there. I can head there on my own. It’s best that you three stay by Brother Zhai’s side and take care of him.” Xiao Xu was clearest about Zhai Sheng’s condition. Who would the doctor ask if he wanted to understand more about Zhai Sheng’s condition if Xiao Xu were to leave?

After persuading Xiao Xu, Qiao Nan picked up her bag and rushed off.

Xiao Xu rubbed his small and flat head in confusion. “Sister Qiao seems rather spirited. She walks so quickly.” Her speed made it seem as though there was a ghost chasing her. Could it be that there was really something in the Zhai family’s old villa that scared Sister Qiao?

Xiao Xu should not have mentioned anything. The mention of it caused Zhai Sheng's expression to darken. "I don't want to take a walk anymore. Take me into the study room."

"..." Doctor Wang, who had been ignored all this time, propped up the glasses on the bridge of his nose. "Chief, why don't I do a full-body examination on you first? Where do you think is more suitable for that?"

"The chief's room?" Xiao Xu offered timidly. "Sister Zhao, could you go cut some fruits in the kitchen first?" It was best that no one was around while the chief was getting his checkup, especially women, in case the chief felt uneasy.

"Oh, all right." Sister Zhao answered with a smile. "Right, Officer Xu, where's the kitchen?" Wow, this house was humongous. There were so many rooms. She had only seen such houses on television. Where was the kitchen?

"Take a left turn and head down through the corridor. Go past the courtyard and you'll find a room beside it," Xiao Xu answered smoothly.

Zhai Sheng, whose expression was still dark, heard it and asked, "Xiao Xu, when you brought Qiao Nan over, did you tell her about where the kitchen and study room are?" Xiao Xu did not seem like such a meticulous person. But yesterday, Qiao Nan had indeed not even asked about where those two rooms were and had headed toward them immediately without getting lost.

Comparing her to Sister Zhao, who looked as though she was already confused by Xiao Xu's words, that strange feeling Zhai Sheng had felt yesterday emerged once again. Indeed, he had not been overly sensitive.

"No." Xiao Xu shook his head. "I was in a rush when leaving yesterday. It was a last-minute decision to have Sister Qiao come to help." He had thought that it would be all right for someone unsuitable to take care of the chief for just one night. Anyway, he would bring the new nanny in the next day. Nothing would happen in just one night.

In order to return earlier, Xiao Xu had left early. Except for those few moments in which he conversed briefly with Qiao Nan and thought that she was all right at the door, he had not gotten to know the Qiao family, much less tell her about where everything was in the Zhai family's old villa.

Xiao Xu knocked himself on the head, belatedly realizing his own muddleheadedness and carelessness. "Chief, was Sister Qiao unable to find the place, creating trouble for you? It's my fault

for not telling Sister Qiao about it. You can't blame Sister Qiao for it. It's my fault." Because he had been in such a rush to leave, he had left Sister Qiao with such a hefty burden without having communicated everything to her.

This was totally unlike how Sister Qiao had specifically told Sister Zhao about everything before she had left, and she had even asked her to find him if she faced any problems.

After getting the answer that he wanted, Zhai Sheng looked at Xiao Xu, who was beating himself up. "It's alright. Don't worry. I'm not holding anyone accountable. You know how I work. You'll be the one bringing things over to me in the future." He did not want to have any contact with that 'Sister Zhao'.

Zhai Sheng did not have much experience in this aspect. Apart from his birth mother, the ones he had interacted with the most were his elder sister, Zhai Hua, and Qiu Chenxi, whom he had not interacted much with throughout that three-year marriage.

But interaction with these three women was more than enough to make Zhai Sheng stay away from women. He felt that women were irrational creatures who could not communicate with others. With these three people as specimens, Zhai Sheng was not used to having other women around him. Even when he went to the hospital, he would always choose male doctors.

The Zhai family blamed this all on Qiu Chenxi. In reality, Zhai Sheng had no intention of ever getting married. If those female doctors or nurses did not throw themselves at him willingly, the Zhai family would arrange blind dates for him.

Knowing that these people harbored 'ulterior motives', there was no way Zhai Sheng would take a fancy to them. As long as he distanced himself from females, Zhai Sheng would safely avoid everything his family tried to plot. Even though Sister Zhao was only a nanny who had been hired to take care of him for the time being, Zhai Sheng was unwilling to break his habit for Sister Zhao.

Otherwise, if the Zhai family were to hear about this, he would never be able to lead his life in peace in the future.

"Don't worry, chief. I've already told Sister Zhao about your rules. Sister Zhao really needs this job, so she won't knowingly go against your rules." He had already made it clear to Sister Zhao that if she were to break any of the chief's rules, he would have no choice but to send her back. Even he dared not break any of the chief's rules, let alone Sister Zhao, who was just a nanny.

Xiao Xu had made it clear and Sister Zhao truly needed this job. So she would not be so foolish as to do things that were not allowed. Even her own husband, whom she had been married to for several years, had proposed a divorce after getting slightly rich. As such, she did not count on any outsiders softening their hearts toward her.

“All right, push me into my study room. I have a call to make.” Knowing that there would be nothing wrong on Sister Zhao’s side, Zhai Sheng felt that he had to resolve Qiao Nan’s matter.

For safety purposes, he should investigate the Qiao family’s abnormal behavior at the Zhai family’s old villa.

“All right, chief. I’ll wheel you in.” After pushing Zhai Sheng into the study room, Xiao Xu spared no effort and asked, “Chief, which book would you like to read today?” It was inconvenient for the chief to take any of his books, so he had to help out.

It seemed like Sister Qiao had been the one taking the books out for the chief these past two days. When he returned home, he would really have to praise his mom for a job well done.

Sister Qiao said she had a job, but his mom had roped her in nonetheless.

Chapter 1800: On the Safer Side

Otherwise, seeing as to how Sister Qiao had taken such good care of the chief in the past two days, wouldn’t it have been good for Sister Qiao to stay behind to take care of the chief?

There was no problem having two people taking care of the chief. The chief had all the right to enjoy such privileges.

“There’s no need for that. I’m not reading for now. I have to make a call. Remember to shut the door behind you when you leave.” Zhai Sheng had not thought of changing the book in his hands. His attention was not on a book, but on a certain woman.

“Oh, all right.” Xiao Xu nodded and left, closing the door behind him so that no one would be able to overhear Zhai Sheng’s conversation.

Of course, the chief’s phone call was not for ordinary people like him to listen to.

“Hello?”

“Chief?” The other party answered hesitatingly in a confused tone.

“Yes.”

The other party was pleasantly surprised. “Chief, I heard that you went back to your family’s old villa to recuperate. Why have you suddenly thought of this old man?” He had thought that it would take another few years at the very least before he would be able to speak to the chief again. The reason why he could come so far and achieve what he had was all thanks to the chief’s care and concern for him. Otherwise, he would never have made it this far. Perhaps, he might not even be alive today.

“I want you to help me check on something. More specifically, someone.” Zhai Sheng did not beat around the bush and went straight to the point.

Sun Guohong, who was on the other end of the line, raised his eyebrow. “Check on a person?” The chief had all kinds of talented people under his helm, but instead of finding professionals in the army to investigate this person, he came to an ex-military private investigator. He was clearly not trying to use public property for his own personal use. So what did this person have to do with the chief?

Sun Guohong unknowingly laughed. “Male or female?” The chief was almost an old man of forty-five years old but did not even have a single woman by his side. Did that seem logical? Even he himself had already walked out of that dark shadow in his life, even though it was certain that he would never have his own children.

Thankfully, the woman whom he had married was good-natured. After finding out about his past, the couple had gone to the orphanage and adopted a child who had yet to be weaned. Indeed, it was true that a family only felt like a family with a woman and a child around. As for whether the child was adopted or his own biological child, it made no difference to him because of his situation.

“Female.” Since he intended to let Sun Guohong investigate her, Zhai Sheng naturally did not try to hide Qiao Nan’s gender. “Her name’s Qiao Nan, and she was originally from Ping Cheng, but she’s now living in Qingshui Town.”

“Isn’t that the same town that you’re from? Is there something wrong with this woman, or do you have something against this woman?” Sun Guohong made a double-edged remark. He felt that the

latter was more likely. But given the chief's brutal and vigorous actions, he would have found evidence long ago and would have taken that woman in for interrogation if that woman had a problem. The chief would never have made a call to him.

"You don't have to worry about that. Just tell me how long you'll need to find out everything about her. How long will I have to wait before I can see everything regarding Qiao Nan?" Zhai Sheng said bluntly with a tone that seemed a little harsher than before.

Zhai Sheng had not picked up on Sun Guohong's joking tone. He was a chief, but his ex-subordinate had climbed over his head and over such a sensitive topic at that. Because of how the Zhai family had been coercing Zhai Sheng into marriage for over twenty years, the mention of this topic caused Zhai Sheng's attitude and tone to worsen.

There was no other choice. Zhai Sheng was on the verge of getting a psychological scar. If it was possible, Zhai Sheng himself would like to have his emotions under control and not behave in this manner either. It was too easy to get agitated and express his emotions.

"Is this woman complicated?" If it concerned any sensitive or important figures, it would not be easy to find out about Qiao Nan. On the other hand, if there was nothing wrong with Qiao Nan and it was purely out of curiosity that Zhai Sheng was looking into her, investigating such an ordinary person was a piece of cake to Sun Guohong.

Three to five days was more than enough for him to dig out every single detail about a person and present a full report to the chief.

"She should be a simple person." Even though Qiao Nan had shown an unexpected familiarity with the Zhai family's old villa, Zhai Sheng's instincts told him that she was not a bad person. Even so, he still wanted to know all about Qiao Nan and why she was so familiar with the Zhai family. Was it simply because he used to live in the same quad as Qiao Nan?

Even though they had lived in the same quad, he had never had a single interaction with Qiao Nan before this. Not even a single conversation.

"All right. To be on the safer side, give me a week. Is that all right?"

"All right. In a week's time, pass me all the relevant documents."

Sun Guohong did not wish to embarrass himself in front of the person whom he respected the most. Thus, he specifically asked for seven days, in case he made any errors in his investigation. But what Sun Guohong had not expected was that he had taken all precautions but others had not been as reliable.

Thankfully, the unreliability of other people was only advantageous to him. In less than three days, he could say for certain that everything he had in his hands about Qiao Nan was true and without any falsehood or fiction.

Seeing the description of the first half of Qiao Nan's life, Sun Guohong could not help but pity Qiao Nan, even though he was a grown man. His heart ached for Qiao Nan because Qiao Nan had had a hard life, just like him. His fiancée had cheated on him with his younger brother and had even gotten pregnant with his younger brother's child. Not only had his mom not felt sorry toward him, but she had even thought that he would have a descendant as long as he acknowledged his nephew as his son and helped his younger brother clean up his mess.

Hahaha.

Qiao Nan's fiancé had similarly been snatched away by her elder sister, who had gotten pregnant, and had forced Qiao Nan to back off as a mistress. Sun Guohong felt for Qiao Nan. They were in the same boat. He had the urge to recognize Qiao Nan as his younger sister.

"Chief, here's the information that you want. Chief, I think that there's nothing wrong with this person. I don't know why you're checking on her. If there's nothing much, let's not bully this young lady as men." Seeing how engrossed Zhai Sheng was in Qiao Nan's information, as though he was reading through some top-secret confidential report, Sun Guohong could not help but speak up for Qiao Nan.