

RTAMM 501

Chapter 501: Zhai Yaohui Had a Change of Opinion

“Hello, Yang Lin, nice to meet you.” Qiao Nan looked at the soldier with an encouraging look in her eyes. The soldiers learned how to say ‘nice to meet you’ in English. “Since I said the greetings first, when you return the greetings and say that you are very happy to see me as well, you have to add a ‘too’ at the end of the sentence. Alright, this is how foreigners introduce and greet each other when they meet. All of you are doing very well. Now you know how to make a self-introduction in English.”

Everyone was stunned. English was as simple as this. Was this a self-introduction?

“Alright, now let’s say our greetings to each other. You should say hello and introduce yourself. Let’s start.”

English was something new to the soldiers. In general, people would be naturally curious and interested in new things. Besides, it was not very difficult to converse in simple sentences, and it sounded quite easy to learn. They did not need to practice with other teachers or feel burdened to have to practice it with their comrades whom they trained with every day. In just five minutes’ time, everyone could speak fluently using the two simple sentences that they learned.

“Very good.” After getting into the momentum, Qiao Nan became more and more relaxed. She continued to ask the soldier whom she taught just now. “Do you still remember how I addressed you just now?”

The soldier who got the answer correctly just now was confident. He tried to say the word in English, “Brother?”

“Yes, that’s it. Make a guess, what does it mean?”

The soldier frowned. “Elder brother?”

“You are very smart. All your guesses are correct!” Qiao Nan encouraged the soldier, boosting his confidence. “Please have a seat. I used another word, ‘sister’, as well. Can anyone who is my ‘sister’ stand up please?”

A female soldier tried to make the connection between the sentence Qiao Nan said previously and the word that she mentioned just now. She mustered her courage and stood up.

“Yes, you are my sister. Let’s pronounce the word ‘sister’ together.”

“Sister.”

“Great! Everyone, let’s try to pronounce ‘brother’ and ‘sister’ together. Don’t be shy. There are so many of us here. Nobody can tell what the others are saying, so you can go ahead to practice them loudly.”

“Look at you...” Lin Yuankang, who watched his disciple from the side, was overjoyed. “She seemed to be nervous just now, but as soon as she started the class, she looks like a teacher. Nonetheless, is the progress too fast?”

Qiao Nan did not know what was going through Lin Yuankang’s mind. She went according to her own plan and speed, and proceeded to use the same method to teach them the way to address their family members. “Although I have never been a teacher, I believe that all of you were good students in the past, and will remain so from now on. It is not so difficult to be a teacher, and it’s quite fun to teach. This is only the first lesson, but all of you have learned so much today. By tomorrow, all of you will be able to address your extended family in English. In two days’ time, you will be able to address all of your family members and relatives in English.”

“Hahaha...”

Qiao Nan was humorous and her lesson was interesting and fun. Many of the soldiers in the army liked her lesson. They enjoyed the fun and relaxed learning environment.

In particular, Qiao Nan encouraged them constantly, giving them the confidence to learn English. They were not as uneasy as before. They no longer felt that given their ability, learning English was an impossible task.

People were more accepting and willing to learn things that were easy to pick up as they would be able to make huge improvements. Even if they were not totally accepting of English, at the very least, they were not as against it as before.

The purpose of Qiao Nan's class was simple, and that was to help the soldiers be rid of their fear of English.

The atmosphere and attitude toward learning were very important and crucial.

"Okay, that's all for today. I hope everyone can use what we have learned today in your daily life. You should have the chance to address each other as 'brother', 'sister', 'uncle', 'auntie', and even 'grandma' and 'grandpa'." She believed that the people in the army liked to give each other nicknames.

After Qiao Nan said that class was over, all of the soldiers gave her a bow respectfully and left.

Zhai Yaohui, who had been sitting in the front row and was silent all the while, knitted his eyebrows. Qiao Nan was quite daring to stand in that place and give lessons in front of so many people. The place that Qiao Nan stood at was reserved for the leaders.

What surprised Zhai Yaohui the most was that Qiao Nan, who was so young, was unexpectedly bold and daring. She had no stage fright and she acted with grace and courage.

Although it was not suitable to use 'veteran' to describe Qiao Nan, her performance today was simply stunning.

Zhai Yaohui was not concerned about anything else but how Qiao Nan conducted her class just now. She commanded the attention of all the soldiers and was able to control the pace of her lesson as well as creating a good learning environment for the soldiers. This was what Zhai Yaohui was most concerned about.

For certain skills, once you had mastered them, you would master a hundred.

In the face of such a big occasion, and in front of influential and respected people, Qiao Nan did not have stage fright and was able to rule the stage. It showed that in other major occasions, Qiao Nan also had the potential and possibility to do so amazingly.

Given the Zhai family's status, a lot was expected of them and they were required to attend many important occasions.

As the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family, if one did not have such ability, she would have failed the first requirement and would be crossed out from the list of potential daughters-in-law.

Back then, when Zhai Yaohui married Miao Jing, he was not the chief yet.

Zhai Yaohui worked his way to the position of the chief of the army through hard work and constant learning and improving. In this way, even though Miao Jing was not the perfect candidate back then, there was time and space for Zhai Yaohui to help Miao Jing along as she learned and improved, till they were on par with each other.

Zhai Yaohui was not as optimistic as Zhai Sheng to feel that love and marriage was a simple affair between two parties.

What he asked for from the future daughter-in-law of the Zhai family was not that she must come from an influential family. However, once married to the family, the people she would meet and the events that she would have to attend were completely different from what an average daughter-in-law would face.

Given the Zhai family's situation, whoever married Zhai Sheng would not be able to have the time to learn and improve like what Miao Jing did back then.

Zhai Sheng's situation was different from that of his father. Whoever he married had to have the ability right from the start.

In short, Zhai Yaohui valued the effort that his future daughter-in-law put in. He did not care about their family background.

However, one's family background usually indicated one's ability.

Chapter 502: Requirements Should Not Be Too High

For someone like Qiu Chenxi, who came from a respected family, she was used to such big occasions. Since a young age, she had developed the skills to conduct herself in such situations. On the contrary, for people like Qiao Nan, the biggest occasion she had seen might be the flag-raising ceremony every Monday in school.

For the sake of the Zhai family, the woman that Zhai Sheng married in the future must have this ability.

Zhai Yaohui knew that Zhai Sheng was very much in love with Qiao Nan, and she was the first girl that his son liked. Zhai Yaohui was in a dilemma.

As a father, he was happy that his son found a girl that he liked, but as the head of the family, he had to look at the big picture.

It was because of this that Zhai Yaohui had been unclear in his attitude toward Qiao Nan. It seemed as if he had agreed to their relationship, but it also seemed as if he was against it. From time to time, he would warn Zhai Sheng to know his limits. Once Zhai Sheng went beyond the limits, as a father, he would not be lenient to Zhai Sheng.

But after what happened today, Zhai Yaohui felt that his son had grown up. There were certain things that he could allow his son to choose and make his own decision.

“Did you see that? Nan Nan is so excellent. She is so amazing. It turns out that she learned English from Elder Lin. She has learned well from him. Great!” Miao Jing was totally unaware of the thoughts that went through her husband’s mind even though he sat right beside her.

“Great,” Zhai Yaohui said faintly. If Qiao Nan did not have the ability, Zhai Sheng would not fall for her and keep it from his mother.

“I know long ago that Nan Nan is very smart. It’s just that I did not know she is so outstanding.” Miao Jing stared at Qiao Nan as if she was her idol. There was a look of adoration in her sparkling eyes.

It was not without reason that the principal of the same school almost got engaged to Miao Jing.

Miao Jing was a very simple person. To her, there were three types of people in this world who she adored and respected: the teacher, the doctor, and the police.

As for the soldiers, they were at a higher level than the police.

Right now, Qiao Nan was the teacher in the army. Hence, Miao Jing looked at Qiao Nan in a different light.

Miao Jing had excellent etiquettes, but she was not good in English.

After witnessing Qiao Nan's ability, Miao Jing had the thought of learning English from Qiao Nan. Back then, she had learned English from a teacher, but she was getting on in years and was not as fast in picking up new skills. Her pronunciation was awkward and she could not remember the correct way to pronounce the English words. She was embarrassed to keep asking the teacher to repeat them. She felt like a fool in front of the teacher.

Hence, Miao Jing gave up after a few tries.

Today was different. She only learned a few words, but she felt that it was not as difficult as what she used to believe. Like what Qiao Nan said, she was quite smart. She had managed to remember all the words that Qiao Nan taught today.

Zhai Yaohui was about to answer Miao Jing's question when she walked off to look for Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan packed up her lesson plans, took a sip of water, and breathed a sigh of relief.

Qiao Nan might seem to be very relaxed during the lesson, but nobody knew that, in fact, she was very tensed up.

Apart from adorable male and female soldiers and the people from the Zhai family, the political commissar and the other cadres in the army were there to listen to her class. The most terrifying thing was that these important people sat in the first row. Qiao Nan could see them clearly. She never had the chance to be in contact with such officials and important figures in the country.

In her previous life, she had never thought that she could have such a day.

Not only did Miao Jing go to look for Qiao Nan, but the political commissar came up to look for her as well.

He looked at Qiao Nan awkwardly before turning to speak to Lin Yuankang. “Elder Lin, Teacher Xiao Qiao taught us well. Her teaching style was very good, and the soldiers in the army also liked her lesson. But according to what I heard in the past, can one learn English in this way? Isn’t it necessary to teach pronunciation, the alphabet, the basics, etc.? Is it alright to learn all these without any foundation? Is it good?”

The political commissar only knew how to train the soldiers. He did not know how to teach English.

However, he knew how other people conducted their English classes, so he had doubts about today’s lessons.

Qiao Nan was a young lady. The political commissar was worried that if he asked her directly, she might be too thin-skinned that she broke into tears.

Lin Yuankang took a sip of water and looked at Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan, what do you say?” After all, he also had the same question.

Zhai Yaohui, who stood behind Miao Jing, was without any expression. However, he knitted his eyebrows, clearly waiting for Qiao Nan’s reply as well. Of course, he was not interested in what Qiao Nan would say to the political commissar. He just wanted to know how Qiao Nan would behave and conduct herself in front of the political commissar.

Qiu Chenxi, who waited to see the good show, noticed that none of the Zhai family had left, particularly Zhai Sheng, who moved to stand silently next to Qiao Nan, seemingly as if he was giving Qiao Nan his support. She gritted her teeth and walked forward to the podium.

Zhai Sheng ignored everyone else and stood quietly by Qiao Nan’s side, showing that he supported and trusted her.

Initially, when faced with such an important figure like the political commissar, Qiao Nan felt slightly weak. But she could feel Zhai Sheng standing right by her side. They stood so close to each other that she could feel his body temperature. Qiao Nan felt reassured. “Political commissar, do you want my master to teach English at the army so as to send them to take the English proficiency

test, becoming professional English speakers, being able to write essays in English, as well as being able to read advanced and professional English content? Or do you want them to become experts who have perfect English pronunciation, and are competent enough to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?”

“No, this is not the intention,” the political commissar paused momentarily and replied quickly.

“That’s right. These people do not need to sit for the test. As long as they can converse in basic English, can hold their heads high in front of foreigners and uphold the dignity of the soldiers through simple greetings, isn’t that good enough? Political commissar, the requirements you mentioned are not high, so I feel that it is good enough if the soldiers can converse in simple English. Not having perfect pronunciation is not a problem. We should not think too highly of the foreigners and ask too much of our own people. After all, people in different positions have different requirements. China has a large population. Every place has its own dialect, and their Mandarin comes with a local accent. Will we not understand Mandarin that has a local accent because of that? It’s the same for foreigners. Even if the pronunciation is not very accurate, it will be fine as long as the meaning could be communicated across.”

In ten more years, if one was to say ‘milk’ to the foreigners, they did not need to specifically say ‘milk’ in English. The foreigners would understand if one said ‘niunai’ in Chinese without any pinyin to it.

Chapter 503: Why Would I Not Agree to It?

“This, this is also true.” The political commissar felt that what the young lady said was fairly reasonable.

He had fallen into the usual teaching routine that he had almost forgotten his original intention of getting his soldiers to learn English.

Only those military experts who were specially trained in the army needed to meet the strict requirements that Qiao Nan mentioned. The army would only have high requirements for these people.

As for the rest of the soldiers, it was sufficient for them to know some basic English.

“Besides, there’s another point that the political commissar might have neglected. These people are not young students. It is easy to get young students to memorize and copy the words they learned multiple times, but the people in the army are adults. All of them are older than me and they want to maintain their dignity. It is tiring enough to go through the training in the army. It will be unrealistic to get them to memorize English vocabulary and grammar during their hard-to-come-by free time just like students would.”

Once this happened, all male and female soldiers would no longer be interested in learning English.

Everyone was interested and curious about English, but it was just for the sake of leisure. They were unlike students who had to follow strict rules and requirements.

Therefore, the teaching method used in the school would not work in the army.

“Do you understand?” Lin Yuankang touched the goatee that he had kept for two years. “Have you heard of teaching students in accordance with their aptitude? This is exactly what we are doing. My disciple may be young, but she has learned well from me and has picked up almost all of the skills that I imparted to her.”

Lin Yuankang was shameless. Previously, he had the same doubts, but he knew to grab the limelight at times like this.

“I understood.” The political commissar was without any temper in front of Elder Lin. Besides, after Qiao Nan’s explanation, the political commissar felt that Qiao Nan was right and had made careful considerations.

If Qiao Nan was to teach according to what he had originally envisaged, then his good intentions for arranging the event would be ruined. All the efforts would be wasted.

A one-time failure at English would be a blow to their confidence and would affect their English learning in the future. This was definitely not what he wanted.

“Comrade Xiao Qiao, you have worked hard. This is very thoughtful of you and what you said is very reasonable. I am very glad that Elder Lin brought you here with him. Otherwise, we might waste a lot of time and use the wrong method to teach the soldiers. Moreover, it would take a lot of effort to correct the wrong.” The political commissar was very polite to Qiao Nan on account of Lin Yuankang. “I will have to trouble Comrade Xiao Qiao for this period of time. If there is anything that you need, please feel free to talk to us. I will definitely arrange it for you right away.”

“The political commissar is being too polite. This is what I should do. I always feel that soldiers are the loveliest people in the world. It is my pleasure to sacrifice some of my time for them. In fact, my dad used to be a soldier. It is just that I am not fit enough to join the army. Otherwise, I would like to be a soldier.” Her weight to height ratio failed to meet the standard requirements, so she could not enlist as a female soldier.

“I see. It’s no wonder that Comrade Xiao Qiao is so approachable and spent so much time before the class to do the lesson plan. We are all one big family.” The political commissar was more than happy. The descendants of soldiers had to be a good choice.

Looking at how Qiao Nan shone among the crowd, Qiu Chenxi was so angry that she bit down hard on her molar tooth.

Elder Lin had to take all the credit for Qiao Nan’s good performance and recognition by the political commissar. It was Elder Lin who taught her well.

In other words, if Elder Lin took her in as his disciple two years ago, Qiao Nan would not be in the limelight today. The one who was popular and won the favor of everyone would be her instead of Qiao Nan!

Qiu Chenxi took a few deep breaths. There were countless advantages of becoming the disciple of Elder Lin. Given Qiao Nan’s family background, if not for Elder Lin who taught her well, Qiao Nan would not be able to speak her mind in front of the political commissar.

Qiao Nan had such a weak foundation and yet she could have such fabulous performance. If she was Elder Lin’s disciple, her performance would be much better than Qiao Nan!

Even if she was late by two years, she still wanted to give it a try to know if she really had no chance at all. “Elder Lin, do you still remember me?”

“You...” Elder Lin frowned and thought for a while. “I can’t remember. I’m sorry. Now that I am old, my memory is not as good, and I can’t remember faces.”

“Elder Lin, my name is Qiu Chenxi. Two years ago, I went to meet you.”

“Oh, the lady from the Qiu family. I have some impression. What’s wrong? Why are you here?” Qiu Chenxi turned black with anger at the forgetful expression on Lin Yuankang’s face.

Qiu Chenxi forced a smile on her face. “Elder Lin, you should know that I have always liked English. It’s just that I didn’t have the chance to get your advice. I have graduated from college and the results were pretty good. This is a rare opportunity. I also want to do something for the army. Elder Lin, political commissar, is it possible if I teach the lesson tomorrow?”

She would definitely teach better than Qiao Nan. By that time, Brother Zhai, Uncle Zhai, and Elder Lin would be in awe of her outstanding performance. Qiao Nan would be nothing to them.

She wanted to prove to everyone that she was the best choice!

“Comrade Qiu...” The political commissar knitted his eyebrows and was in a difficult position. “Comrade Qiu, it’s good that you want to teach the soldiers, but can we do this at a later time?” Elder Lin and Comrade Xiao Qiao did not have all the time to spend in the army. They were only allocated a certain amount of time.

In the short amount of time that Elder Lin had promised to give lessons to the army, he certainly hoped that Comrade Xiao Qiao could utilize all the time to teach the soldiers as much as possible so that they could master some basic English and build up their foundation.

When Comrade Xiao Qiao had finished her lessons, and if Qiu Chenxi still wanted to conduct her own lessons by then, he would be very glad to have her do that.

“Political commissar, do you not believe in me? Do you think that I don’t have the ability?” Qiu Chenxi’s face turned red. “Political commissar, I know Qiao Nan as well. Come September, she will be a second-year student at Ping Cheng High School.” She was a college student, while Qiao Nan was only a high school student. Did the political commissar felt that she, who was a college student, could not compare to a high school student?

The political commissar was in a difficult position. He had to take into account the Qiu family’s position as well.

If not for the Qiu family’s sake, Qiu Chenxi would not have the chance to go to the army.

The political commissar sighed and looked at Lin Yuankang. “Elder Lin, what do you think of this?”

Lin Yuankang lifted his chin and said nicely, “They are teenagers after all. In fact, they can discuss and come to a conclusion by themselves. She may be my disciple, but she is still very young and doesn’t have enough life experiences. It’s certainly a good idea for them to exchange ideas with each other. That’s a good thing.”

“Elder Lin, do you mean that you agree to it?”

“Why not?” Someone was stupid and willing to volunteer to act as a contrast to his disciple. Through comparison, everyone would know how outstanding his disciple was. He was more than willing to agree to it.

Chapter 504: To Challenge Her

Lin Yuankang could tell that Qiu Chenxi was resentful toward Qiao Nan and was ambitious to succeed.

Lin Yuankang had heard about what happened between Qiu Chenxi and Zhai Sheng. Lin Yuankang could not stand by and do nothing while others belittled his disciple so as to prove themselves.

He did not deny that Qiu Chenxi had a high academic qualification and was older than Qiao Nan. She also had more life experiences than Qiao Nan. From this point of view, it seemed that Qiu Chenxi had more advantages than Qiao Nan. But at his age, Lin Yuankang understood that at times, age and education qualifications were useless.

Since Qiu Chenxi wanted to give it a try, Lin Yuankang agreed graciously. It was only through this would Qiu Chenxi be able to know that his disciple had the ability and real talents. She was not fooling around.

“Comrade Xiao Qiao, what do you think?” Lin Yuankang had agreed, but the political commissar had to ask Qiao Nan for her opinion as well.

Qiu Chenxi gave Qiao Nan a warning look. There was a threatening look in her eyes.

Qiao Nan smiled and said, "That's good, Political Commissar. To be honest, I was dragged here by my master today. Before that, I didn't know what my master brought me here for, so I didn't do a lot of preparation work. Since Comrade Qiu is willing to take the class tomorrow, this is good news for me."

With that, Qiao Nan glanced at Lin Yuankang.

She was forced by her master to conduct the lessons.

Luckily, she occasionally helped children from other families to revise their English in her previous life. Hence, she had some teaching experience.

Otherwise, given that she was tasked with conducting the class at the last minute, she would definitely make a fool of herself.

Lin Yuankang touched his goatee with a guilty look on his face. He feigned ignorance and did not respond to what Qiao Nan said. "Nan Nan, you are my disciple. I have so much confidence in you. You should have confidence in yourself as well."

"Hehehe..." Her master had great confidence in her, but she did not have confidence in herself.

"I see." The political commissar was shocked. He did not know that Comrade Xiao Qiao was tasked by Elder Lin to teach the soldiers at the last minute. Given the short notice, Comrade Xiao Qiao's performance was great.

Qiu Chenxi snorted. "Political commissar, I will go back to prepare for tomorrow's lessons."

The political commissar nodded. "Alright, Comrade Qiu, you must prepare for it well."

"Political commissar, then I will leave first." Qiao Nan was shameless. She had Elder Lin to endorse her. She was not a fool. She could tell that Elder Lin and Qiao Nan were singing to each other's tune. They were trying to leave a good impression of Qiao Nan on the political commissar.

Did not prepare in advance? Called to conduct the lesson at the last minute? She did not believe a single word that they said. Whoever believed it must be a fool.

However, it was useless for Qiao Nan to do this. After tomorrow, Qiao Nan would realize that when faced with a formidable opponent, her tricks would only make her seem like a clown in front of others. She would only make a fool of herself.

“She may be young but she has quite a temper.” Miao Jing was displeased that Qiu Chenxi was challenging Nan Nan. “Qiu Chenxi has been in the army for such a long time, but I didn’t know that she is dedicated to serving the army. Political commissar, you have neglected your duties. Since Qiu Chenxi has the intentions to serve the army, you should have organized the activities long ago. You should not wait until such a long time to do so. In the future, in regard to all the activities that will be carried out in the army, given Qiu Chenxi’s talents, you should ask her in advance to take part in them so that she can have the opportunity to contribute to the army.”

“Madam Zhai is right.” The political commissar wiped the sweat on his forehead. He was, in fact, unhappy at Qiu Chenxi.

It was rare that someone as educated and cultured like Qiu Chenxi would come to the army. Initially, the political commissar had wanted Qiu Chenxi to organize activities for the soldiers. However, before Qiu Chenxi came to the army, the Qiu family had a talk with him and told him that their intention was for Qiu Chenxi to have some light training in the army only. She did not need to do any other activities, and the political commissar had to treat her like an average soldier.

Since the Qiu family had already said so, the political commissar understood that they had no plans for Qiu Chenxi to be trained to be an outstanding female soldier.

Therefore, the political commissar had always treated Qiu Chenxi like an average female soldier.

Unbeknown to him, after he had arranged the activities, Qiu Chenxi volunteered to join in, and he ended up being told off by Madam Zhai.

“Well, it’s getting late. This is Qiao Nan’s first time in the army camp. She must be not used to such a situation. Qiao Nan, you should go back to rest.” Zhai Yaohui interrupted Miao Jing’s conversation with the political commissar, lest the political commissar felt awkward.

It was not the fault of the political commissar that Qiu Chenxi volunteered to participate in the activities. It was Qiu Chenxi who wanted to show off her abilities.

After all, Qiu Chenxi was at the army because of the Zhai family.

“Yes, it’s already half-past eight. Comrade Xiao Qiao, you have worked hard today. You should have a good rest at the dormitory. Tomorrow, you can prepare the lessons for the day after tomorrow. In that way, you can have more time for its preparation. We have to trouble you to spend time on the lesson plan.”

“It is no trouble at all. Then, I shall go back first.” Qiao Nan smiled.

“I will send you to the dormitory.” Zhai Sheng, who stood next to Qiao Nan, spoke up.

Miao Jing was about to get someone to send Qiao Nan back when Zhai Sheng volunteered to do so. Miao Jing nodded and said, “Yes, it’s very late now. Besides, it’s pitch dark in the army camp. It is unlike Ping Cheng where there are streetlights. Nan Nan is a girl. It is inconvenient for her to go back by herself. Zhai Sheng, you should send her back lest it gets too dark and she falls on the way back.”

“Thank you, Auntie Miao.” Qiao Nan blushed slightly when she knew that Zhai Sheng would be sending her back and that they would have some time for themselves.

Looking at his wife who was oblivious to what was going on between Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng, Zhai Yaohui sighed and said nothing.

As soon as the two of them came out of the hall, Zhai Sheng stretched out his hands toward Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan, who was alert, saw it under the light and quickly darted to the side. She looked at Zhai Sheng unhappily. “Brother Zhai, you mustn’t mess around. This is the army camp and the lesson just ended not long ago, so there must be a lot of people nearby. Most importantly, Qiu Chenxi has always wanted to find faults with me.”

She was not certain that Qiu Chenxi had really left as she had said. She might have been lying in ambush somewhere.

Of course, the person whom Qiu Chenxi wanted to ambush was not her but Brother Zhai.

There was a glint of mischief in Zhai Sheng’s eyes. He looked at Qiao Nan with a weird stare, but he kept a proper distance from her, restraining himself from hugging her.

The streetlights in the army were very few indeed. It was not as bright as when they were in Ping Cheng.

Qiao Nan could sense Zhai Sheng's sparkling eyes in the dark. She kept having goosebumps from his stares. There was a danger about him. Although it gave her a strange feeling, it was not annoying or repulsive to her.

"B-brother Zhai, don't look at me in that way."

Chapter 505: Wanted to 'Eat' You

"In what way am I looking at you?" Zhai Sheng asked her when he already knew the answer.

"It's just the way that you looked at me. I, I feel uneasy. I am slightly scared," Qiao Nan whispered.

Zhai Sheng closed the gap between him and Qiao Nan quietly. "I just took a few looks at you. I won't eat you, so you have nothing to fear." She was scared by a few looks from him. What was she going to do when they were married in the future?

Zhai Sheng did not understand what was going on with him. The army camp was a serious place. He should be more aware of his behavior.

But to Zhai Sheng, the army camp was his territory. Now that the girl he liked was in his own territory, he had the impulse to take Qiao Nan into his arms. He almost could not control his own actions and emotions.

Qiao Nan looked at her arms and calf. "Brother Zhai, you should forget it. I am so frail and thin. There isn't much flesh on my body. It is not enough for you."

Even though Qiao Nan was no longer malnourished, she was still on the thin side.

Zhai Sheng sneaked a glance at Qiao Nan's high chest and said with satisfaction, "You're not particularly thin. You still meet the mark. But it would be good if you are fleshier."

He had no special requirements for Nan Nan's figure, but it would be his blessings if Nan Nan had a good figure.

"Brother Zhai, do you really intend to eat me? Are you checking which part of my body is fleshier?" Qiao Nan glared at Zhai Sheng. "Should I take this opportunity to do more exercise so that I will be lean and slender, without any flesh? By then, will you abandon the thought of eating me?"

Zhai Sheng laughed in a mixture of helplessness and adoration. "Foolish girl, forget it. It doesn't matter if you don't understand now. I will teach you later."

"Brother Zhai, I have reached my dormitory. This is the female dormitory. Male soldiers are not allowed to enter. I can go in by myself. Goodbye." Without giving a chance for Zhai Sheng to respond, Qiao Nan fled right away.

She knew what Brother Zhai was talking about and that his eyes were staring at her chest. She had thought that Brother Zhai was serious and upright. She never knew that he would have this side to him. In particular, they were in the army camp, yet Brother Zhai acted like a lady-killer.

Qiao Nan suspected that if she did not act foolishly in front of Zhai Sheng just now, she might not be able to go back to her dormitory in one piece.

"Smart little bunny." Zhai Sheng did not stop Qiao Nan. Otherwise, there was no way that Qiao Nan could slip from his grip. Of course, a few years later, Qiao Nan fully understood this and was shocked at Zhai Sheng's gentlemanly behavior now.

Zhai Sheng chuckled to himself before returning to his separate room.

Since Qiao Nan came to the army camp with Lin Yuankang, even though she did not receive any special treatment, she was still treated better than the rest.

Unlike the female soldiers who had to share a room with others and sleep in bunk beds, Qiao Nan's room was smaller than the rest. There were two double bunk beds in the room that could accommodate four people. However, apart from Qiao Nan, there was only another female soldier in the same room and she seemed to be a counselor.

Besides, if not for the fact that the political commissar was worried that as Qiao Nan was young, she might be scared of staying by herself, the female counselor would not share a room with Qiao Nan.

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, are you ready to sleep?” The female counselor had a good impression of Qiao Nan. Her tone was affectionate and friendly. “I have a daughter who is twelve years old this year. Though she is a girl, she is as wild as a boy. I often wonder whether I have given birth to a daughter or a son. If she could be like Teacher Xiao Qiao and quiet down for half a day, I will be thankful.”

“Counselor, you must be kidding. Each has its own good. My dad hopes I can be a little livelier. Since a young age, my body is weak, and I can’t jump about. If I am as healthy as your daughter, I will definitely jump and run about. I won’t be sitting here quietly,” Qiao Nan said with compliments.

Sure enough, the female counselor was all smiles.

“She loves to run and exercise. I’m not against it, but her grades are not particularly good and I’m worried.”

“Since you said that it’s not particularly good, then it’s not particularly bad as well. There will always be people who are better than you. As long as you have tried your best, you don’t have to worry too much about the final results. The reason why you hope that she can do well in her studies is that she can have a good future. But to be honest, even for those who have good grades, there are those who lead a good life and those who lead a bad life. The most important thing is whether one is willing to work hard. The results do not mean everything. It’s one’s attitude that determines one’s future.” She was good in her studies, but she had a miserable life in the previous lifetime. On the contrary, Qiao Zijin was not good in her studies, but she led a good life.

She married Chen Jun and became the daughter-in-law of the police commissioner of Ping Cheng’s police headquarters. After the divorce, even though she had uremia, her mother came up with ways to get her a kidney.

Of course, these examples were indeed special cases, and Qiao Nan could not bring them up here. However, at times, it was indeed the case.

“You’re right. Aside from being bubbly, my daughter has a good personality and a lot of friends in school. I don’t expect her to rank first in every exam. As long as she put in her utmost effort, the results are secondary. It is more important to learn to get along with others.” The female counselor was not someone who would go down the dead end.

The reason why she mentioned her daughter today was that she knew that Qiao Nan had good performance in school, and in comparison, she could not help but sigh at her daughter's performance.

She felt much better after talking to Qiao Nan. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, I am amazed by you. You are very young, but you are good at conducting lessons and giving advice. I really can't compare my daughter to you. Otherwise, no matter how open-minded I am, I will be dissatisfied with my own children."

"You're too flattering."

"I heard that Qiu Chenxi will give us lesson tomorrow? Teacher Xiao Qiao, though you're young, you must take care of yourself. It's too late today. You should take a break and prepare the lessons tomorrow. You can do it during the day." The female counselor knew that Qiu Chenxi would be standing in for Qiao Nan for a day to give lessons to the soldiers.

In this way, Qiao Nan's lesson was the day after tomorrow. Since she still had a day to prepare for it, there was no hurry to do it now.

"You're right." Qiao Nan nodded with a smile. She kept her notebook inside her schoolbag. "Counselor, I will go to sleep now."

"Have a good night's sleep. I will switch off the lights."

Chapter 506: Lesson Plans Were 'Taken' Away

With that, the lights went out.

Qiao Nan had a good night's sleep. Qiao Dongliang, who received a call from Qiao Nan, was sleepless. To him, the army camp was a place that was familiar yet distant to him.

He thought that he would not have any dealings with the army ever again in his life.

Qiao Dongliang knew very well that given how much Ding Jiayi doted on Qiao Zijin, even if she was physically fit to join the army, Ding Jiayi would never agree to let Qiao Zijin join the army and endure the hardships.

As for Qiao Nan, even if Qiao Dongliang, who was once a soldier, could not tell that Qiao Nan suffered from malnutrition, he knew that his younger daughter was too light and was not physically fit to join the army.

But Qiao Dongliang never thought that his younger daughter would have the chance to go to the army and for such special reasons.

In any case, as long as Qiao Nan could stay in the army for a while, there was nothing more that he could ask for.

Qiao Dongliang thought about it all through the night. How was the army camp right now? Were his old comrades still there? They should be training new recruits now. What positions were they in now? How should Qiao Nan address them when she saw them?

Qiao Dongliang was nervous and excited just at the thought of it. He did not sleep a wink.

On the next morning, Qiao Dongliang received a call from Qiao Nan. He heard that Qiao Nan was doing fine in the army camp. The people there called her 'Teacher Xiao Qiao'. Qiao Dongliang was so happy that he was all smiles.

After updating Qiao Dongliang on her situation at the army, Qiao Nan focused all her attention on preparing for her lessons.

There were only a few English lessons and the duration was short. Qiao Nan did not need to spend all of her summer break in the army camp. However, Qiao Nan still wanted to teach the soldiers as many of the frequently used daily conversations as possible within the stipulated time.

As a result, the lesson plans for the class were very crucial as it allowed her to control the rhythm, allocate the time reasonably, and set the learning pace.

She had finished filling up one notebook with the lesson plans.

Qiao Nan stayed in the dormitory for the whole day, working on the lesson plans.

After writing down most of the lesson plans, Qiao Nan stood up and stretched herself.

The female counselor came in and saw the scene. On one hand, she was appreciative of her effort. On the other hand, she shook her head at Qiao Nan's diligence. "You're so young but you are very conscientious. Those who do not know that you are preparing for the lessons may think that you are doing your summer homework. The book is full of your lesson plans. What's the hurry? You can take your time to do it."

"I don't have to participate in any training. I am here only for this sole purpose. Hence, I must make full use of my time to prepare for the lessons, lest I waste everyone's time. It's alright. I am almost done."

The female counselor stepped forward curiously and flipped through the book that was covered with handwritten notes. She was amazed at the handwriting that seemed as if it was being printed onto the book. "Teacher Xiao Qiao, your handwriting is very pretty. It looks exactly like the texts printed on my daughter's textbook. It is beautiful. Alright, since you have finished writing, you should relax and have dinner. Besides, you are so frail. Since you are here in the army camp, you can also take part in our training to train your stamina. After all, without a healthy body, you cannot sit for all the exams."

Qiao Nan waved her hand. "Forget it. My physical ability is worse than that of the new recruits. If I train with all of you, I will definitely not be able to keep up. By then, should the instructor discipline me or not? I will be a bad influence on the new recruits. It's better that I do not create trouble for all of you." Qiao Nan knew her own limits. She was not able to keep up with the tough training.

"Counselor, you don't have to worry. I will get up early tomorrow morning to run. I won't join all of you for training, but I will do my own exercise."

"That's fine as well. Alright, let's hurry to have dinner." The female counselor pulled Qiao Nan to the canteen in the army. If they were too late, there might not be any food left.

After the female counselor and Qiao Nan left, a person sneaked into Qiao Nan's room. The person looked around Qiao Nan's desk and found the lesson plans that Qiao Nan had prepared.

The content in the book was what the person was looking for. The person hid the book inside the clothes and rushed back to the dormitory at the fastest speed.

“Have you got the book?” Qiu Chenxi paced around in the dormitory for a long time. She was biting her nails anxiously when she heard footsteps nearing. She turned quickly to the sound.

“You can rest assured that I will do the task well.” Qian Yanyan patted her chest. “Look, what is this?”

Qiu Chenxi quickly grabbed the notebook from Qian Yanyan and flipped it open. “It is indeed what I am looking for.” She could not underestimate Qiao Nan. Since Lin Yuankang took her in as his disciple, she must have had her abilities as well. She did not get to this stage purely with her luck.

She was different from Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan was still in school, while she was used to these lesson plans.

But she had graduated for more than a year, and she did not major in teaching. Hence, she was unfamiliar with preparing lesson plans.

Qiu Chenxi had already made a promise in front of the political commissar and had to teach English tonight. She could not take back the words that she said. But it was only when she started working on the lesson plans did she realize that it was not easy to prepare for a lesson.

“I didn’t expect that Qiao Nan will be so serious.” She would only be teaching for a short period of time, yet Qiao Nan wrote very detailed lesson plans. Who was she trying to show off to? She was too pretentious!

However, Qiao Nan’s pretentious behavior had been a great help to her.

“Qiu Chenxi, take a quick look. Did she write down the lesson plan for the class that you’re going to teach today?” Qian Yanyan looked at the notes curiously. It was all written in English. She could barely understand them.

“Her lesson plans do not go according to a fixed schedule or timetable. It is very flexible.” Qiu Chenxi flipped through the notes page by page and had finished reading through all of the lesson plans.

“What do you mean? So, can it be used or not?” If the lesson plans could not be used, she would have wasted her effort.

“Of course it can be used.” Qiu Chenxi shot Qian Yanyan a disdainful look. She had made it simple and easy to understand, but Qian Yanyan still could not understand her. “I mean, she has a certain flow in each lesson. I only need to make slight changes. No matter which lesson I use, after adjusting the sequence, the lessons will be more coherent.”

Chapter 507: Shortsighted

“This shows that you are better than Qiao Nan!” Qian Yanyan smiled. That was right. How could a high school student be better than a college student?

Qiu Chenxi was too unsure of herself that she insisted Qian Yanyan to get Qiao Nan’s lesson plans for her. If Qian Yanyan was her, she would not be afraid of Qiao Nan at all.

Qiu Chenxi bit her lip, feeling insulted. “What do you know?”

The reason why the lesson plans did not flow smoothly was a deliberate act by Qiao Nan. It was not that she did not think it through. In fact, she left gaps so that she could be flexible and make changes according to the circumstances. Like her, Qiao Nan was capable of improving the flow and making it coherent.

That was why she said that the lesson plans that Qiao Nan prepared had a lot of flexibility.

It could be said that although Qiao Nan had prepared the lesson plans, she could make changes based on that day’s circumstances right on the spot. For instance, she could teach the content that was meant for several days later today.

Others might have thought that Qiao Nan did not plan in advance, but in fact, this was brilliant of her to be able to make flexible changes and adjustments on the spot.

Qiu Chenxi began to doubt whether Qiao Nan was studying as a student or working as a teacher at Ping Cheng High School. Her lesson plans were very detailed and well-thought-out.

Qiu Chenxi would never say all these to Qian Yanyan. She had to maintain her dignity. "Alright, no matter what, thank you for this. You can have that skirt. It's my way to express my gratitude." Qiu Chenxi knew that Qian Yanyan had long been eyeing her new skirt. She was not stingy with her.

Actually, Qiu Chenxi did not like the new skirt. Otherwise, she would not have brought it to the army camp.

Qiu Chenxi's original plan was to bring it to the army camp and wear it for a few days. If it could not be cleaned thoroughly, she would throw it away.

She never expected that Qian Yanyan would like the skirt and would be eyeing it for such a long time.

Anyway, if she would throw the skirt in a few days, she might as well use it to buy over Qian Yanyan.

"Qiu Chenxi, you are so good to me. I won't reject your good intention. We are so close with each other." Qian Yanyan was so exhilarated that she did not realize Qiu Chenxi was looking at her with disdain and distaste.

Qian Yanyan took the skirt and looked into the mirror to see if it fitted her. "Qiu Chenxi, do you think that I look particularly beautiful in this skirt? Isn't it very suitable for me?"

"Of course. If it is not suitable for you, I will not give it to you. By the way, Qian Yanyan, the clothes that I changed out of yesterday..."

"I understand. Just leave them there. I will wash them for you. Anyway, you will not stay for long in the army camp and this is not the first time that I washed them for you. You can count on me for these few days."

"Qian Yanyan, you are indeed my good friend."

"Of course."

“Qian Yanyan, I have to prepare for the class tonight. Why don’t you go back first?” Qiu Chenxi looked at the door. “Also, regarding what happened today?”

“What happened today?” Qian Yanyan arched her eyebrows and laughed, cracking herself up.

“Very good, you can make a move back first.” There were times when Qian Yanyan was smart, but there were also times when she knew how to act foolishly when needed to. It was very interesting to make friends with such people.

After dinner, Qiao Nan went back to the dormitory to look for her lesson plans, but no matter where she looked, she could not find it. “Hmm, where did it go? I remember I placed it on the table.” Could she have lost her memory that she did not remember where she had placed it?

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, what’s wrong?” The female counselor came back and saw that Qiao Nan seemed to be looking for something. “What is missing? Can I help you to look for it?”

“It’s my lesson plans. Before I went for dinner, I remembered placing it here, but I can’t find it now.”

“How can that be? You have worked on that for the whole day. You can’t afford to lose it. I will help you look for it.” The female counselor was anxious. She knew how much effort Qiao Nan had put in while preparing the lesson plans. “It’s impossible. Although we are in the mountains and there are mosquitoes and a few mice, I have never seen such a big mouse that likes books.”

When the female counselor brought Qiao Nan to have dinner with her, she remembered seeing Qiao Nan leave the book on the table. She did not place it elsewhere.

After a while, the female counselor stopped searching for the book. “Teacher Xiao Qiao, this won’t do. I feel that you have not misplaced the book. Could it be that...” Was it taken away by others?

Anyway, it was definitely not taken away by the mouse!

“Teacher Xiao Qiao, why not I inform my superiors and ask around to find out who took your book and get the person to hand it back? It’s strange. The book is only useful to you alone, and nobody else has any use for it. Not many people in the army can understand English. Who will take your book? It is...”

Qiao Nan grabbed the female counselor. “Forget it.”

“Forget it? How can we do that?” The lesson plans were gone. Teacher Xiao Qiao had worked hard for a day. That was a waste of her effort. “If the lesson plans are gone, how are you going to conduct your class?”

“It’s easy. Since the lesson plans were written by me, I know them inside out. It’s all in here.” Qiao Nan pointed at her head. “Besides, that’s just an ordinary notebook. It will only cost fifty cents to buy another new notebook. Is it suitable to mobilize everyone just for this book?”

If Chief Zhai knew about it, he would think that she was being unreasonable.

She wanted to search for it, but the solution that the female counselor came up with was unsuitable.

Was it necessary for her to create a fuss in the army camp and for the leading cadres to interrogate every soldier as if they were prisoners just for the sake of a notebook that only cost fifty cents?

“Then, that’s it?” The female counselor was upset. She was unhappy that what was missing was as common as a notebook.

The people in the army should be the best of the best. How could there be any petty thief among them?

What about the fifty cents? As what Chairman Mao had said in the Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention, one should never take a single needle or thread from the public, let alone a book that cost fifty cents!

The most important thing was not how much this book was worth, but what was written inside. It was all knowledge and wisdom!

When she was reminded that someone in her army was light-fingered, the female counselor felt very upset.

“Let’s just let it be. Maybe someone pulled a prank on me. It doesn’t matter. I will just write it again. This time, I will not be in a hurry. I will only prepare for the upcoming lesson. I was in a hurry earlier today as I wanted to come up with an overall teaching outline. Now that I have come up with the outline, everything will be alright.” Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. There was nothing else that she could do.

She did not expect that this would happen in the sacred and disciplined army camp.

She could not possibly say that when she was studying at Ping Cheng High School, she did not even lose her eraser, let alone her notebook.

Chapter 508: Gave an Explanation

“Well, then you go ahead to prepare for the lessons. I will go out for a while.” The female counselor took a deep breath. She knew that Qiao Nan did not want to blow up the matter as she had the best interests of the army at heart. However, there was no way that she could just let this matter rest.

“Hmph.” Qiao Nan took out a new notebook and planned to use the fastest speed to prepare the contents for the first three lessons.

In the evening, there was not much time to do the lesson plans.

Qiao Nan, who was rewriting the lesson plans, did not notice that the female counselor was upset.

The female counselor had a grim expression when she went to look for the political commissar.
“Report.”

“Come in.”

“Political commissar... Chief Zhai, Officer Shi, you are back?” The female counselor entered the office and to her surprise, she saw Shi Peng at the office. “Officer Shi, how is your health?”

“Thank you, comrade, for your concern. I am much better now. Hence, I can return to the army.” Shi Peng smiled and said, “Is everyone in the army doing well recently?”

“Reporting to Officer Shi, everyone is fine,” the female counselor said happily.

“By the way, what are you here for?” The political commissar looked at the female counselor.

The female counselor had a stern expression on her face. She looked to be in a difficult position. Initially, she only wanted to report the matter to the political commissar, but the leaders in the army were all present and the female counselors found it difficult to bring herself to say it. After all, what happened was not something that was worth telling everyone about.

“What’s wrong?” The political commissar could feel that the female counselor seemed to be in a difficult position. “Would you like me to come out with you?”

“There is nothing that can’t be said here.” There was a sharp look in Zhai Sheng’s eyes. “Is there any problem with Comrade Xiao Qiao?” The army had assigned the female counselor to Nan Nan to help her along with the life in the camp. Her only task was to take care of Nan Nan while she was in the army.

Therefore, if the female counselor came looking for them at this time, it must be regarding Nan Nan.

The political commissar paused on his way out and smiled awkwardly. “That’s right. There’s nothing that cannot be said to the others. Tell me, what is it?”

The female counselor had no choice but to stand in attention. “Reporting to the political commissar, Teacher Xiao Qiao spent a day to prepare for the lesson plans, but her notebook that was placed in the dormitory was missing. Teacher Xiao Qiao felt that it was only a small matter and that someone must be pulling a prank on her, but I think it is necessary for me to report this to the political commissar.”

“So interesting?” Shi Peng said with a deep smile, “In the past, not to mention notebooks, one would not even lose a needle in the army camp. What is the time now that a notebook will go missing in the dormitory?”

If Qiao Nan lost a new notebook, the people in the army might feel upset but would understand the situation.

However, since Qiao Nan lost the notebook that she had written her lesson plans in, it was a different story. There was no way that they could brush it off by saying that it was an act of mischief.

“Have you searched through thoroughly?” The political commissar was anxious. He was unlucky to have encountered such problems.

Comrade Xiao Qiao was the disciple of Elder Lin and the army specially invited Elder Lin here. He could not offend Elder Lin and he could not let Comrade Xiao Qiao be wronged or suffer grievances in the army. How could all these happen all at once?

“We have searched for it,” the female counselor said with certainty. “Tonight, I led Teacher Xiao Qiao to the canteen for dinner. When I first entered the dormitory, Teacher Xiao Qiao was writing the lesson plans and had filled up all the pages in the notebook with her lesson plans before placing it on the table. After we returned to the dormitory from our dinner, we realized that the notebook was missing. We searched through the whole of the dormitory but could not find the notebook.”

If the things that were placed on the table could not be found on the table, it would be meaningless to rummage through the whole room.

“I understand. Please extend my apology to Comrade Xiao Qiao. I am sorry that such a thing happened to her. What does Teacher Xiao Qiao intend to do with the rest of the classes?” The political commissar sighed in frustration.

At first, the political commissar was quite angry. Not only was he upset that someone took away the notebook, but he was also upset at Qiao Nan as well. All his superiors were around and yet this happened to Qiao Nan. It made him lose his face in front of his superiors. Nobody would be happy with such things.

But when he heard from the female counselor that Qiao Nan spent a whole day preparing the lesson plans and had filled up the notebook with detailed lesson plans, the political commissar had to admit that Qiao Nan was very responsible toward her work.

Qiao Nan spent a day preparing the lesson plans. Now that the notebook was missing, given that Qiao Nan was young, she would most likely explode in anger that her painstaking effort had gone down the drain. It was rare that Qiao Nan could suppress her temper and take the big picture into consideration. She did not blow things up. Instead, she said that it was just mischief and tried to maintain the dignity of the army.

“Political commissar, I will do that.” Teacher Xiao Qiao’s temper was good. She did not flare-up. It was just that she was slightly upset.

“It’s alright. You should go back and help Comrade Xiao Qiao. Luckily, that there is no lesson for Comrade Xiao Qiao tonight and she can have some time to prepare the lesson plans.” The political commissar took a deep breath. It was truly fortunate that what happened was not too serious. Otherwise, it would be really shameful for the army.

“Okay.” The female counselor was about to leave when she was stopped by the political commissar.

The political commissar pursed his mouth and his eyes flickered. He hinted at the female counselor, as if to say, ‘It’s good that Comrade Xiao Qiao is sensible. We will put this matter aside first, but I will give Comrade Xiao Qiao an explanation later. Before that, Comrade Xiao Qiao has said to make concessions to avoid trouble, so we will keep it within ourselves. Do you understand?’

If Elder Lin knew that his disciple was being bullied in the army, the political commissar would not be able to answer to him.

It took the female counselor a while before she understood what the political commissar meant. “I understood. Political commissar, rest assured. Teacher Xiao Qiao is not such a person.” Teacher Xiao Qiao would not complain to Elder Lin about what happened.

“You can leave now.” The political commissar dismissed the female counselor. He was weary from the turn of events.

After the female counselor left, the political commissar said reluctantly, “I am sorry that all of you had to witness such a scene. Rest assured that we will definitely get to the bottom of this.”

“We have to get to the bottom of this. Comrade Xiao Qiao is invited by the army to teach the soldiers. If we do not give her an explanation, nobody will be willing to support us in the activities that we organize in the future.” Though Shi Peng said in a mild tone, his words were very clear. “The most important thing is that we can’t explain to Elder Lin.”

Zhai Yaohui lowered his eyes and his tone. “Yes, there is a need for us to investigate. Comrade Xiao Qiao may be sensible, but that does not mean that the army can bully her.”

Since Shi Peng had already voiced out and supported Qiao Nan, it made no sense for him to keep quiet.

He might be undecided as to whether to accept Qiao Nan or not, but before he came to a decision, nobody could bully someone who might become a family member of the Zhai family.

With that in mind, Zhai Yaohui sneaked a glance at Zhai Sheng. ‘Your woman is being bullied on your territory, are you not going to do anything about it?’

Zhai Sheng’s face turned black in anger. If he was not his father, he would have picked a fight with him!

Chapter 509: Could Not Match Up to Her

When it was nighttime, it was Qiu Chenxi’s turn to take the stage to give everyone their English lesson.

Even though it was not their turn, Qiao Nan and Lin Yuankang were present for Qiu Chenxi’s lesson.

Compared to Qiao Nan’s casual manner, Qiu Chenxi, as a teacher of the class, seemed to pay more attention to it. She wore a long white skirt that came all the way to her ankles. Her long hair was kept in place with a diamond chips headband. She had a smart casual look.

When everyone saw Qiao Nan yesterday, her image was that of their younger sister. When they looked at Qiu Chenxi today, they had to admit that there were indeed some differences between the two of them. At least, from the looks of it, Qiu Chenxi looked much more like a teacher than Teacher Xiao Qiao.

Qiu Chenxi sensed that everyone approved of her as a teacher. She lifted her chin proudly and looked at Qiao Nan provocatively. “I believe everyone knows me by now. All of us are of the same age, so you can call me Comrade Qiu. There’s no need to address me as the teacher. Everyone is equal and we should be more carefree in the form of address.”

Most of them nodded at Qiu Chenxi’s words, obviously liking her arrangement.

In fact, when they had to address Qiao Nan as Teacher Xiao Qiao, even though they called her Xiao Qiao, everyone still felt awkward.

They felt more at ease when Qiu Chenxi suggested that since everyone was equal, they should address each other as comrades.

Qian Yanyan gave Qiu Chenxi a thumbs-up. Qiu Chenxi's expression was much better than Qiao Nan's performance yesterday. The people sitting next to her were all praises for Qiu Chenxi.

Knowing that she was welcomed by the others, Qiu Chenxi felt more at ease. She relaxed slightly and was not as tensed up. "Everyone's time is precious. In order not to waste everyone's time, let's start the topic directly. Yesterday, Comrade Xiao Qiao has already taught you how to say greetings to each other. Does anyone remember how to say the greetings? Would anyone come up here with your partner to demonstrate to us?"

"..."

There was total silence.

Qiao Nan covered her smile with her hand before continuing to take notes of the lessons.

Qiu Chenxi's countenance changed. Qiao Nan had to be blamed for this. She did not specify how she should conduct the lesson. If Qiao Nan had written down the details, she would not be so embarrassed.

Qiu Chenxi only knew to blame Qiao Nan, but it never occurred to her that Qiao Nan only took a day to finish preparing for the lessons. If she was to write in details for each and every part of the lessons, she could only finish the preparations for a few lessons and could not have written down the outline for all of the lessons.

"Alright, since everyone doesn't wish to come up to demonstrate, we can do so at your seat. Don't be shy. Yesterday, all of you did very well. For those of you who want to give it a try, please raise your hand." Qiu Chenxi took a deep breath, quickly adjusted her pace, and changed the instructions.

Since everyone was embarrassed to stand on the stage to demonstrate, they could simply stay in their seats to do the demonstration.

Although everyone felt more comfortable staying in their seats, nobody was willing to do the demonstration.

Qiu Chenxi's face turned red. Yesterday, everyone was very cooperative and listened to Qiao Nan's instructions. Why did it turn out to be this way when it was her turn to teach them?

Could it be that everyone felt that since Qiao Nan was still very young, they should give in to her, and since she was older than Qiao Nan, they were not as cooperative?

Qiu Chenxi gritted her teeth, her gaze falling on Qian Yanyan. She wanted her to be the first volunteer.

Qian Yanyan opened her mouth, but she had no confidence to speak in English in front of everyone.

When she met Qiu Chenxi's gaze, Qian Yanyan quickly pulled at the person next to her. "Shall we demonstrate to everyone?"

"If you want to do so, you can go ahead. I'm not going to do it." The person that was pulled along by Qian Yanyan shrugged her sleeves unwillingly. Qian Yanyan was close to Qiu Chenxi and so she agreed to help her. But the other person was not as close with Qiu Chenxi, and she did not receive any perfume or skirt from Qiu Chenxi. Why should she help her?

Whenever Qian Yanyan received any clothing from Qiu Chenxi, she would brag about it in front of her comrades.

Everyone liked to doll themselves up, though not everyone was willing to take whatever others discarded like Qian Yanyan. However, seeing that Qian Yanyan had new clothes and perfume while they did not have any, they could not help but be upset.

"It is a dialogue. There have to be two people to do it. I can't do it by myself. Yesterday, in the dormitory, you did a good job practicing the greetings. Why can't you demonstrate it with me?" Qian Yanyan refused to give up. If she performed well today, she might be able to get some benefits from Qiu Chenxi.

“Is that so? Did you think that I did a good job? I don’t think so. You’d better look for someone else. No matter what, don’t come looking for me.” The person turned sideways, back facing Qian Yanyan and having no wish to cooperate.

Qian Yanyan could not do the demonstration by herself.

The situation was awkward.

Qiu Chenxi’s class had already started, but all the ‘students’ refused to cooperate with her. Just like what Qiu Chenxi said just now, everyone regarded her as a comrade and their peers. Unlike teachers, whom they had to obey, especially during lessons, they did not have to obey what comrades said.

Since Qiu Chenxi was just their comrade, they found nothing wrong or unsuitable with not cooperating or participating in her lessons.

Although Miao Jing was not as interested in the lesson today, she still came to sit in for the class.

When Qiu Chenxi stood on the stage, she had the demeanor of a teacher and was better than Qiao Nan. However, when the lesson started, it fell below her expectations. Miao Jing was puzzled. “Old Zhai, what is this situation? Why does everyone behave like this?”

She might have liked Nan Nan and disliked Qiu Chenxi, but she swore to God that she definitely did not have the ability to get everyone to help Nan Nan and look down on Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi could not possibly fail so terribly as a person, could she?

Zhai Yaohui said with disappointment, “Qiu Chenxi wants to defeat Qiao Nan and intends to create a better atmosphere than what Qiao Nan did yesterday. She introduced herself as their comrade to bring her closer to the soldiers. Unfortunately, it is a self-defeating move.”

She was too clever for her own good.

“In comparison, Qiao Nan is much clearer. Different identities have different statuses and different treatment. The teacher is the teacher, whereas the student is just a student. In front of the teacher, the student must obey and listen, just like what one would in front of the officer. One has to obey the superior. Have you heard of comrades who obey and listen to each other’s commands?”

Whatever Qiao Nan said in the classroom, the soldiers in the class had to obey as they had no other choice.

It was not the case for Qiu Chenxi. Hence, one could not blame them for not obeying.

The Chinese people were relatively shy and reserved when using English.

Chapter 510: Disappointed in Qiu Chenxi

Given Qiu Chenxi’s soft approach, the students would not treat her seriously and would not listen to her instructions.

“Ah?” Miao Jing was stunned. “Isn’t it just a lesson? Is it so complicated? Is it not too much of an exaggeration to compare it to the training of soldiers and deployment of strategies?”

Zhai Yaohui shook his head. “In this world, if you really want to do something well, then you can’t treat things too lightly.”

“Then, what should we do with the situation now? There’s still more than an hour of lesson. Isn’t it a waste of everyone’s time if Qiu Chenxi stands on the stage without doing anything?” Miao Jing was displeased.

Zhai Yaohui shot a look at the political commissar. The political commissar quickly stood up and said, “It is rare that Comrade Qiu is willing to give us lessons. She is a college graduate from the university in the capital. Everyone should seize this opportunity to learn from her. I hope everyone can cooperate with Qiu Chenxi and learn as much as you can.”

If not for the sake of the Qiu family, the political commissar felt like asking Qiu Chenxi to get off the stage and let Qiao Nan conduct the lesson.

If she was incapable, she should not have volunteered to do the teaching. She was asking for trouble for herself.

“Okay, since everyone is shy, I will not force all of you. As a part of this army and from your response yesterday, I know that all of you are very enthusiastic toward English. All of you were busy practicing yesterday. It’s just that I didn’t expect that all of you would be unwilling to come up to demonstrate what you have learned.” Qiu Chenxi took a deep breath and tried once again to get the soldiers to focus on the class and to control the rhythm of the class. “Everyone must have known by heart what you have learned yesterday. We shall move on to today’s lesson.”

The political commissar felt relieved and sat down when Qiu Chenxi began to start her lessons.

Qiu Chenxi relaxed slightly when the political commissar sat down. But faced with the blackboard, she was so helpless that she stood still, staring at it.

Qiu Chenxi quickly calmed herself down and sorted out her thoughts. She glanced at her lesson plan before she took the chalk and started to write a few English words on the board.

Qiu Chenxi’s handwriting was pretty neat, especially when it was written on the paper. However, for those who were used to writing on the paper wrote on the blackboard without any practice, their handwriting on the paper and on the blackboard would seem as if they were from two different people.

As a result, the blackboard was a huge obstacle for Qiu Chenxi.

Qiu Chenxi had already taken other circumstances into consideration except for the blackboard, which was beyond her expectations.

When she first started to write on the blackboard, her face turned red from the laughter behind her. She used the fastest speed to erase the English letters on the blackboard and prepared to rewrite it.

Unfortunately, in the two times that she tried writing on the blackboard, her handwriting was not as she expected.

“...”

Qian Yanyan was dumbfounded. How could this be?

Qiu Chenxi was an adult, yet her handwriting was not as beautiful as the little teacher? Was she joking with her?

Qian Yanyan was not the only one who had such thought. The rest of the soldiers could not believe that Qiu Chenxi's handwriting on the blackboard would be this terrible. "Comrade Qiu is a college graduate. I heard that Teacher Xiao Qiao is only a high school student. Could it be that as she has graduated for a long time, her handwriting has also deteriorated? Her handwriting on the blackboard cannot be compared to Teacher Xiao Qiao's handwriting."

One could easily tell who the better teacher was from the discussions among the soldiers.

One was a comrade, while the other was a teacher. From the form of address, Qiu Chenxi had already lost to Qiao Nan.

Lin Yuankang had a look of pride on his face. He leaned toward Qiao Nan. "Little disciple, what's your thought on this? Do you care to share it with me? It's so boring to have the joke to yourself. You should share it with me."

"Interesting?" Qiao Nan shook her head. "I don't think it is interesting. I only want to say that Qiu Chenxi missed the right time." After another ten years, probably around 2010, the whole country would be using Information Technology. Almost every household would have one or several computers. Almost all of the classrooms, from elementary to university levels, would be equipped with a controller. As long as it was connected to the laptop, the contents could be projected using a projector and one could run a PPT.

By then, it would not matter whether Qiu Chenxi had good handwriting on the blackboard or not. As long as one used the computer, the fonts and typesetting would be done beautifully. Nobody would face such an awkward situation anymore.

"The right time? When is the right time?" Lin Yuankang knitted his eyebrows, feeling perplexed.

"I mean, China is advancing and developing rapidly. I think in a few years' time, teachers may not need to write on the blackboard. There may be a machine that can project the words. As a result, it will reduce the time wasted in the class and the students will have a happy and easy time having their lessons."

“Will there be such a day?” Lin Yuankang wondered. “It’s without a doubt that China will develop and advance, but is what you said possible?”

Would teachers use such advanced technology in their lessons?

“Definitely.” In less than ten years, or probably two more years, when it was the 21st century, the universities would adopt such a teaching method.

“Nan Nan, do you want to be an English teacher in the future?” He hoped that his little disciple would follow in his footsteps.

“No, I am just talking about the future development of China. I am not interested in being a teacher. If you did not drag me here with you, would I have accepted this task?” Qiao Nan denied immediately. She already had a lot on her mind given her family situation. If she was a teacher, she would have a lot more to worry about.

If possible, she would avoid taking on jobs that would require her to dedicate a lot of her time and effort, especially those that needed her to labor and toil with her mind and body. For instance, jobs like teaching that would have a huge impact on future generations.

“That’s good.” Lin Yuankang was relieved.

“What’s good about that?” Qiao Nan did not understand.

“Nothing. You should focus on the lesson. It’s very rude of us to talk within ourselves while others are conducting the lessons. Nan Nan, as your teacher, I must correct you. You can’t do this in the future.” Lin Yuankang put on a stern expression and looked toward the blackboard, checking out the words that Qiu Chenxi wrote.

Qiao Nan, who was criticized for no apparent reason by Lin Yuankang, was dumbfounded.

It was her master who started the conversation. What she did was to reply to his question. Why did she end up as being rude and disrespectful to others?

Qiu Chenxi finally managed to write a few words on the board. She relaxed slightly. However, she shot a sideways glance at Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan must have done it on purpose!