

Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief Novel Chapter 61 To 65

Chapter 61: Sensitive

Has hell frozen over?

Elder Zhu told the people around him not to make a sound and went to look for Elder Lee.

“Why are you here?” Elder Lee snorted when he saw Elder Zhu. His daughter was so smart, his grandson should be smart as well. Yet he was pampered to such an extent by the Zhu family. It was all the fault of this old man.

But the Lee family had not bothered to care about Zhu Baoguo’s affairs, hence he had no right to chide Elder Zhu.

“Why bother with watering the plants? Are you really going to let that young lady teach Baoguo? What can a young lady be capable of? The Zhu family is capable of hiring a teacher. Let me tell you beforehand, if Baoguo’s results is not good even with the tutoring, do not put the blame on the Zhu family.”

Even if Elder Lee kept quiet about it, Elder Zhu knew what was on his in-law’s mind.

They had brought up their grandson by themselves. For people like Elder Zhu who was conventional in his thinking, they would naturally dote and pamper their grandson.

Discipline, Elder Zhu wanted to discipline him but he had no idea how to discipline. On top of that, his grandson had lost his mother at a young age and his father was not by his side to take care of him. It was already very painful for him to be all alone by himself. So Elder Lee could not help but pamper Zhu Baoguo.

“Like you said, the Zhu family was capable of hiring a teacher. Didn’t you hire a teacher for Zhu Baoguo before? And what were the results? Look now, Nan Nan might be a young lady, but you have to see Baoguo’s attitude towards her.”

Elder Lee smirked.

The Zhu family had hired several teachers for his grandson, male and female.

But when the teachers knew of the identity of his grandson, they dared not offend him. Moreover his grandson was very mischievous. The female teachers all ended up in tears of exasperation, while the male teachers were too frustrated that they quit.

For some matters, one could not judge a person's capabilities by his age or qualifications. One had to judge them based on the person itself.

“Do you mean that my grandson has been subdued by that young lady?” Elder Zhu was unhappy. His grandson had been a bully at home. But he was intimidated by this little girl, what did this mean?

“Baoguo was willing to be subdued, and Qiao Nan was willing to subdue him as well.” Elder Lee had learned of what happened between Zhu Baoguo and Qiao Nan just now.

Elder Lee was slightly annoyed by Qiao Nan's cold attitude. But he could understand, since he knew of her situation at home.

In particular when his grandson asked “Are you looking down on me because I do not have a mother since a young age?” Elder Lee knew that this was hurtful for both his grandson and Qiao Nan.

Looking at Ding Jiayi's temper, having a mother and being without a mother did not make a difference.

And though his daughter had passed away at a young age, his grandson still loved and missed his mother. But Nan Nan had no feelings left for Ding Jiayi.

“This young lady was so pitiful?” After hearing about Qiao family's affairs, Elder Zhu was shocked. “What does Qiao Dongliang mean by that? He had a daughter but he did not bring her up well, and he did not say a word when his wife bullied her?”

“He is a traditional man, favoring sons more than daughters. It totally clouded his judgment.” Elder Lee laughed coldly. He had seen through Qiao Dongliang, but he did not spell it out on that day.

The reason why Qiao Dongliang did not put in efforts on Qiao Nan was simple – Qiao Nan was a daughter, not a son.

If Qiao Nan was a son, even if Ding Jiayi favored daughters over sons, Qiao Dongliang would know of it if Ding Jiayi did not treat Qiao Nan well.

“Baoguo is such a troublemaker and yet you get him a young teacher. Is that suitable?” Elder Zhu was troubled over this.

His grandson was very stubborn and had a bad temper, he could not get along well with anyone.

Judging from the family that the young lady came from, she must not be someone who was warm hearted.

Would a young teacher like her be able to teach his grandson?

“I only wanted Nan Nan to coach him in his studies. She is not responsible for his character building. That is Zhu Chengqi’s responsibility.” Elder Lee gave him an angry stare. He was full of complaints at the mention of his son-in-law, Zhu Chengqi.

His daughter was no longer around, Zhu Chengqi should bear the full responsibility of teaching and guiding his grandson. Yet look at what Zhu Chengqi had done!

It was a fact that his daughter had passed away, but Zhu Chengqi was always not at home, his grandson had been leading his life with the absence of his father.

It was Zhu Chengqi’s fault that his grandson was so disobedient and keep getting into trouble.

“Alright, that’s enough. Let’s not talk about this.” Elder Zhu waved his hands, he did not wish to talk about his son.

Both of them were glad that his son and daughter-in-law had deep affections for each other.

But who would have known that after the daughter-in-law died, his son would neglect his biological son and failed to take him in hand. Elder Zhu was boiling with anger at the mention of his son.

When Zhu Baoguo was sent to the the hospital for emergency treatment, Elder Zhu ordered Zhu Chengqi to come back from the army. As soon as he arrived, Elder Zhu gave him a few punches out of anger and exasperation.

Elder Zhu might be old, but he was once a soldier. His fists were still very powerful, it would be painful to be on the receiving end of his punches.

“Baoguo has very high self-esteem, he would definitely not accept someone who was warm hearted and compassionate. Instead, Baoguo would listen to Nan Nan who was indifferent and cold. Facts speak louder than words, I think this arrangement would work. I did not expect Baoguo to catch up on his studies, I only hope that he would rein in his temper and stop being so irritable and he would not be bullied by those hooligans. If Baoguo is not good in his studies, I will send him to the army when he graduates from high school.”

Elder Lee had his grandson's future all planned out.

"Alright." It was rare to see that his grandson settle down to study. No matter who the tutor was, what was important was that the grandson would listen to her.

"You should make your way back. Baoguo will stay over at my house tonight."

"What, how could Baoguo not go home!" Impossible.

"What do you mean by not go home? Lee's house is also Baoguo's home!" Elder Lee fumed in anger. "Baoguo is my biological maternal grandson, why can't he stay over for a night in my house?"

"Why didn't you ask Baoguo to stay over in the past? Why did you begin to care for him now?" Elder Zhu would not budge regarding his grandson.

Zhu Chengqi was Elder Zhu's only son, and Zhu Baoguo was Zhu Chengqi's only son.

The saying is very true, "The first grandson and the last son are the lifeline of the old lady."

The first grandson, and the only grandson were the lifeline of the grandpa as well.

Zhu Baoguo, who had finally settled down to work on the test paper turned green when he heard the loud quarrel between his two grandparents. He looked at Qiao Nan in embarrassment and unease.

Qiao Nan remained calm and composed. "Why are you looking at me? Do your test papers, don't waste your time. We are in secondary three now, there isn't much time left for revision, so we have to be efficient."

Zhu Baoguo twitched his lips and finally managed to settle down.

Before the incident, Elder Zhu and his wife were the only people who cared about Zhu Baoguo. but they had no idea how to discipline and care for him. As for the Lee family, they never asked about him at all.

Come to think of it, Zhu Baoguo seldom went to Lee's house. He knew that they believed that he had caused his mother's death.

Up till now, even if the Lee family had a change in attitude, Zhu Baoguo still found it weird and uncomfortable to be around his grandpa, Elder Lee.

Chapter 62: Small Chat During Dinnertime

Zhu Baoguo felt more at ease when he saw that Qiao Nan did not have any reaction to what she just overheard.

Ever since Qiao Dongliang agreed to this private job on behalf of Qiao Nan, during the weekdays Qiao Nan had to keep an eye on Zhu Baoguo in school, during the weekend she had to keep him in check at the Lee house.

The Zhu family and Lee family did not harbor high hopes on Zhu Baoguo's results. Their only wish was that he would mellow his temperament.

During the past half month where Qiao Nan tutored him, both of the families never asked about Zhu Baoguo's performance.

This weekend Qiao Zijin was back at home. She realized that Qiao Nan had gone out early on the Saturday morning. She frowned and asked her mother, "Mom, where has Qiao Nan gone?"

Where exactly did she read her books?

"Mom, Qiao Nan seems like a mouse nowadays. She seemed to have lots of mouse holes to go to. She spent the whole of the weekend outside instead of staying at home, you are just letting her be? Where did she keep her books? I don't suppose outsiders will keep her books for her without any charges?"

"I have no idea." Ding Jiayi prepared breakfast and placed them on the table. "You better go brush up, have your breakfast and start studying. You must perform better than Qiao Nan. I am going off to work. As for other matters, we will talk later when I am back from work."

Ding Jiayi went off to work, not waiting for Qiao Zijin's response.

"Hmph, everyone seems really busy." There was no one but her at home. The house felt so empty. Qiao Zijin felt uncomfortable.

In the past, when it was the weekend, her father would be working while Qiao Nan would do the household chores. As for her, she would have a leisure chat with her mother. But now she was left all alone at home.

Since she was free and she was not going to study if she stayed at home, why not she go out to look for Qiao Nan? She might discover her secret hiding place.

But she had a change of mind when she opened the door and was about to go out. Not to mention the quad, the total area of Ping Cheng was quite significant, where was she going to find Qiao Nan?

After some thoughts, Qiao Zijin rolled her eyes and took out the romantic novel that she borrowed from the library out of her bag.

Qiao Dongliang had decreased the allowance that he gave Qiao Zijin. Even if Ding Jiayi was working now and would give some money to her, Qiao Zijin still owed some external debts for the dance costume that she bought last time. She had to save up money to return the debts.

Hence she has decided if she wanted to read novels, she would not buy them, instead she would borrow them from the library. Not only could she save the money, she could also return the novel after she had finished reading them. In that case, no one would find out that she had been secretly reading these novels.

She laid down on her bed and read her favorite novel. A thought came to her mind. It was good to be at home by herself.

If Qiao Nan was around, she might come into her room and discovered that she was reading a novel and complain to their parents.

“Nan Nan, now that I only come home once a fortnight, we don’t have the time to have a proper chat. Where have you been all day long?” During dinnertime in front of everyone, Qiao Zijin asked Qiao Nan this question. “Even if you are to stay out for the whole day, you should come back for lunch.”

In the beginning when there was only Qiao Zijin at home, she was glad that she could have the house to herself and no one would be around to disturb her while she was reading her novels.

But Qiao Zijin turned unhappy whenever it was lunchtime.

Ding Jiayi was not at home, and Qiao Nan had went out, there was no one around to prepare lunch for her.

Unlike Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin was clueless when it came to household chores. She was already scared out of wits by the worms in the vegetables, there was no way that she could cook for herself.

Ding Jiayi who was in a rush did not think of that and had rushed off to work.

Qiao Zijin searched through her parents' room, she found a fifty cent coin and used it to buy instant noodles. That was how she settled her lunch.

It was only when Qiao Zijin mentioned lunch that Ding Jiayi remembered that the elder daughter did not know how to cook.

But it was inappropriate to ask what the elder daughter had for lunch in front of Qiao Dongliang.

Qiao Nan looked up from her bowl and curled her lips mockingly. This weekend was not the first weekend that she had been away. It had already been more than a month since she did not come home on the weekend.

Qiao Zijin only cared about her as her mother was off to work and there was no one around to prepare her lunch.

“Zijin, you don't have to worry about Nan Nan. She is at the Lee house. She's fine.” Qiao Dongliang looked embarrassed at the mention of this.

Elder Lee specifically ordered that Qiao Nan have her meals at the Lee house. Qiao Dongliang knew that Elder Lee must have heard that she was malnourished.

At the thought of that, Qiao Dongliang shot cold stares at Ding Jiayi.

Qiao Dongliang was furious when he knew that Ding Jiayi sought Elder Lee's help to enroll Qiao Zijin into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. But he did not pick a quarrel with Ding Jiayi. There was no use in quarreling, Qiao Zijin already went to that high school to study and she had made tremendous improvements.

No matter how he kicked up a fuss, there would be no use. Qiao Dongliang could only keep quiet about this and pretended that he didn't know anything.

“Why would Nan Nan go to Grandpa Lee's house?” Qiao Zijin was stunned.

“To help Baoguo with his studies.”

“What, Nan Nan is helping Baoguo with his studies?” Qiao Zijin shrieked. Her voice was jarring and noisy, sounding like a duck that has been grabbed by its throat. “Dad, you must be crazy. Nan Nan is already in junior high, she has to sit middle school exams next year. Her results have lagged behind and there was not enough time to study. Now she still has to tutor Zhu Baoguo, how is she going to sit for her middle school exams?”

Qiao Nan's hand paused in the middle of eating. She glanced at Qiao Zijin, her eyes twinkled in surprise.

But in the next instant she was back to normal.

Indeed, there were risks involved for her to tutor Zhu Baoguo.

But what Qiao Zijin said was definitely not out of concern. She must be worried that if Qiao Nan grew closer to Zhu Baoguo, she would have the support of the Lee family and the Zhu family. Her future would be assured and Qiao Zijin could no longer be able to order her around like a slave. This was what Qiao Zijin was anxious about.

They were siblings and had been sisters for two lifetimes, Qiao Nan knew what was on Qiao Zijin's mind.

If not for the connections with the Zhu family and the Lee family, Qiao Zijin would not have volunteered to tutor Zhu Baoguo when Elder Lee visited Qiao's house last time.

It was just that more than half a month had passed. Qiao Zijin thought that nothing had been finalized. She never thought that it had been agreed upon and Qiao Nan had already started to tutor Zhu Baoguo.

Ding Jiayi who sat beside her gave Qiao Zijin a kick. "Qiao Nan and your Dad knew what to do. There's no need for you to be concerned."

This child must be stupid. It would be Qiao Nan's problem if she did not do well in her exams.

Since Qiao Nan had already given her promise, if she did not do well in her exams, she would never ask her parents to fork out five thousand yuan to enroll her into The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China.

If she really did badly, she would not be shameless enough to continue with high school or college. It was an excellent idea for her to tutor Zhu Baoguo.

Why would Zijin be so foolish?

"Nan Nan, can you cope with it?" Qiao Dongliang was stunned as well. This had never crossed his mind.

But now that he knew about it, Qiao Dongliang was merely paying lip service. He did not seem to be expecting a negative answer.

Chapter 63: The Biased Father

Qiao Nan replied coldly. "I am full, I will go back to my room."

"Go ahead, there's no one to disturb you at home. Study hard, Dad believe that you can cope well." Qiao Dongliang now knew that tutoring Zhu Baoguo might affect Qiao Nan's studies.

At the Lee house, Qiao Nan could not concentrate on her studies. But back at her house, she could pay full attention to her revision.

Qiao Dongliang had told Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin not to disturb Qiao Nan when she was at home. He also forbade Ding Jiayi from asking Qiao Nan to help out with household chores. He wanted her to have all the time to study.

This was Qiao Dongliang's way of compensating Qiao Nan.

Since Qiao Nan could not help out, Qiao Zijin would have to do her share. It seemed like she also had some questions for her mother. "Mom, why did you stop me just now?"

"You are usually very bright, why would you do such a foolish thing now?" Ding Jiayi bent down and peeped outside, checking to see if Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan had returned to their rooms. She then lowered her voice and said, "Zhu Baoguo is known for his bad temper, everyone in the quad who hung out with him before was bullied by him. With people like Zhu Baoguo around, Qiao Nan will not be able to concentrate on her studies. He would not obey her as well. Qiao Nan has given her promise, if she does not do well in her middle school exams, it would be your Dad's fault. Your Dad cannot possibly blame us for this. As long as she does badly in her exams, I will be able to come up with ways to make her quit school to work. By that time, the three of us will work to provide for your college fees. You can go to the best college in the Celestial Empire."

"You could say that." Qiao Zijin pursed her lips in annoyance, with a hint of doubt in her voice. "But Mom, Grandpa Lee is a good man, he took care of Dad just because he was comrades with Grandpa. If Qiao Nan's studies fall behind after tutoring Zhu Baoguo, the Lee family and Zhu family would definitely do something about it. In any case, if Qiao Nan really did badly for

her exams and wanted to work, it only take one word from Grandpa Lee to get her a good job.”

No matter how hardworking and studious one was, it was useless compared to a word from a influential person. That was why Qiao Zijin did not put efforts in her studies. She felt that it was a waste of time to study.

“That would be wonderful.” Ding Jiayi was beaming with excitement. “If Qiao Nan landed a good job, she would definitely be paid well. You can concentrate on your studies. I heard that lots of people who had good results went overseas to study. Though the expenses would be higher, if Qiao Nan has a high paying job, she would be able to provide for you.”

Ding Jiayi painted a beautiful picture in her mind. This was the first time that she felt that it was a good idea for Qiao Dongliang to take on the private job on behalf of Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin laughed bitterly, go overseas to study?

With her current results, not to mention studying overseas, she would have to do well for the next two and a half years so as to get into a good college.

“Mom, Dad always placed a lot of importance on Qiao Nan and my studies. Why would he make such a decision?” Qiao Zijin could not understand Qiao Dongliang’s attitude.

“Others might not understand your Dad, but I have been living with him for years, I know him inside out. Your Dad is indebted to Uncle Lee. He wanted to repay the debt of gratitude that he owed Uncle Lee. But he was discharged from the army when Qiao Nan was born. This has always been a knot in his heart. Now that he finally had a chance to mend his relationship with Uncle Lee and to repay his debts, your Dad was willing to sacrifice Qiao Nan’s time for revision to help Uncle Lee. If taking the exams for someone else was allowed, he would even ask Qiao Nan to give up on her middle school exams and take the exams for Zhu Baoguo.”

Her mother’s words gave her a scare. Qiao Zijin asked in shock, “My—my—my—Dad will actually do this. If it’s me, will he treat me in the same way?”

“No.” Ding Jiayi said with confidence.

“Why?” Even if she might be an exception, Qiao Zijin had no confidence at all.

When she heard her mother's words, Qiao Zijin was worried that what if there was a day that she had to be sacrificed in order to return Elder Lee's favor, her father would treat her in the way that he treated Qiao Nan.

"Do you think that it's only your Mom who favored sons? Your Dad favored sons as well, If not, we couldn't possibly have a second child. Though he kept silent about it, he wasn't that pleased after I gave birth to you."

Ding Jiayi sighed. After giving birth to the elder daughter, she had been through disappointment and frustration. But she and her husband had stable jobs, the three of them would still be able to lead a happy life.

But in about two months after Qiao Zijin was born, Qiao Dongliang started to spend all his time in the army, coming with all sorts of excuses not to go home.

If Qiao Dongliang was to stay in the army and worked hard, aiming for promotion, Ding Jiayi would not have anything to complain about.

But during that period he committed several mistakes.

He was thought to be the most likely candidate to be promoted to battalion commander, but after he committed the mistakes, his promotion was delayed for several years.

On top of that, Ding Jiayi was antagonized by her mother for not being able to bear sons. She then decided to give up everything to have a second child, hoping that they would have a son.

As expected, after she brought up this suggestion, it didn't take very long or much persuasion for Qiao Dongliang to agree to leaving the army to have a second child.

Qiao Zijin was boiling in anger at the mention of the topic of having sons. But Ding Jiayi's words that followed after appeased her anger.

"After giving birth to Qiao Nan, your Dad was so disappointed that he was not in the mood to work. I told him we could always treat you as a son and give you all the support and guidance that we would give to a son. We could take in a son-in-law to bear the bride's family name. In that case, there would be no difference between a son and a daughter. That's the reason why you get to wear new clothes every year while Qiao Nan could only wear your hand-me-down and use those that you discarded. Your Dad never said anything about it or take the initiative to buy anything for her. That's because Qiao Nan would eventually get married and leave the family, but you would be staying with us.

But I didn't know that your Dad would give her some money here and there, and that she would seize the opportunity to save up the money."

Qiao Zijin had no idea that there was more to it behind her differential treatment at home.

If her mother told her father that Qiao Nan should stay with the family and they would take in a son-in-law for her, would she and Qiao Nan be treated in a vastly different manner now?

Luckily she was the child that her mother doted on and Qiao Nan was not.

Qiao Zijin hugged Ding Jiayi's arm and said affectionately, "Mom, you are so good to me."

"Of course, you are the only one that I dote on. Don't disappoint me, keep up the good work. When it's New Year time, do well in your exams and make me proud." Ding Jiayi was delighted at her beloved daughter's affectionate gestures.

"Mom, don't worry. I will work hard." Qiao Zijin smiled, if her father saw her to be as important as a son, even if her results are not satisfactory, her father would not ask her to give up on her studies. This piece of news was akin to granting her amnesty.

To think that back then she feared that with her poor results and the lack of money at home, she might be the one who had to quit school and work. Hence she opened the windows in Qiao Nan's room in the middle of the night, hoping that Qiao Nan would come down with sickness, and she would be the only one at home who was still studying.

Chapter 64: You Had An Express Delivery

After she had cleared all her doubts, Qiao Zijin was at ease now. She swung her barely wet hands and was about to leave.

Qiao Zijin turned around and saw Qiao Nan standing by the kitchen doorway with a cup in her hand. She was staring directly at her. Qiao Zijin shrieked in alarm, her heart in her throat. "Nan... Nan Nan, wh-why are you here?"

Had Nan Nan overheard the conversation that she had with Ding Jiayi? How much of the conversation did she overhear?

Ding Jiayi was also shocked at the sudden appearance of Qiao Nan, not to mention Qiao Zijin.

Ding Jiayi might be capable of ruthless and shameless acts, but she could not bring herself to say it or admit it in front of Qiao Nan, especially when she had been caught unawares by her.

“I want to pour myself a drink.” Qiao Nan waved at the cup in her hands and shot an aloof look at Qiao Zijin, “Can’t I?”

“Of course.” Qiao Zijin smiled awkwardly. This was not her concern at all. “Nan Nan, let me pour you a drink?”

Qiao Zijin just found out the truth from Ding Jiayi behind her father’s attitude towards she and Qiao Nan. She had a guilty conscience when she saw Qiao Nan and felt sorry for her.

“No need, I am okay.” Qiao Nan was not the least bit happy at Qiao Zijin’s efforts to please her. In fact she had goosebumps all over her.

Her experience from the two lifetimes told her that whenever Qiao Zijin treated her with a slightly better attitude, there must be something that she wanted from her.

She would rather be treated with arrogance and coldness, than to face Qiao Zijin’s smiling countenance.

After Qiao Nan poured herself a drink and left the kitchen, Qiao Zijin asked Ding Jiayi, “Mom, do you think Qiao Nan overheard our conversation or not?”

“I don’t think she has overheard our conversation. She would not have had this kind of reaction.” Ding Jiayi breathed a sigh of relief as well.

“Luckily she didn’t.” Qiao Zijin patted her chest, she had the shock of her life at seeing Qiao Nan.

Ding Jiayi might have nothing to fear regarding Qiao Nan, but it was not the same for Qiao Zijin. She was not ready to lose this younger sister totally.

“Alright, you should go and do your schoolwork. I will finish up the chores. Even if that wretched girl did overhear our conversation, it was nothing but the truth. Besides it was all your father’s doing. It has nothing to do with us. Good girl, go back to your room.” Ding Jiayi patted Qiao Zijin on the shoulder. She was no longer preoccupied with Qiao Nan’s attitude.

Ding Jiayi had never been affected by Qiao Nan’s attitude.

“Okay.” Qiao Zijin returned to her room in high spirits. Even if her results were not as good as Qiao Nan’s, she was the most important person in the house. There was no way that Qiao Nan could compete with her.

It turned out that her father was also biased towards her. Though compared to her mother, he might be slightly fairer.

At the thought of this, Qiao Zijin felt cool and refreshed, as if she had a glass of spring water in the hot summer.

While Qiao Zijin rolled around in happiness on her bed, Qiao Nan as usual was poring over her books, studying conscientiously.

The weekend flew past, Qiao Zijin went back to The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, while Qiao Nan stuck to her usual routine – going to school, the Zhai’s house and Qiao’s house.

This day, someone from the reception office informed Qiao Nan that someone had left her a parcel, notifying her to collect it.

Qiao Nan was confused. Someone sent her a parcel? Who would that be?

That was impossible.

Had the staff at the reception office made a mistake? There was only one Qiao Nan in the whole school, but could there be homonyms?

Qiao Nan went to the reception office and raised her doubts. But the staff said that the person who made the delivery had gave her name and even stated the class that she was in.

Unless there were two persons by the name of Qiao Nan in Secondary three (1) class, this delivery was meant for Qiao Nan.

After hearing what the staff from the reception office said, Qiao Nan could only take the parcel with her. When she returned to the classroom, many of the classmates stole glances at her, staring at her while she walked in.

The end of the 20th century was unlike the 21st century where parcel delivery was very common. It was very rare that someone sent a parcel and left it at the reception office.

“Hmph.” Zhao Yu snorted in annoyance. There was nothing to be smug about, it was just a delivery. If she wanted a parcel, she could also ask her mother to send her one.

“What’s that?” Her desk mate Zhu Baoguo craned his neck like a swan, with his eyes fixed on Qiao Nan. He was dying to get his hand on the parcel and to see for himself what was inside.

“I have no idea.” Unlike people her age who were impatient and fretful, Qiao Nan was calm and composed. She took her time to open the parcel.

The parcel was squarish and heavy. Qiao Nan surmised that it might have been books.

As expected, when she opened the parcel, there were books inside. In fact, there were revision books.

There were revision books for the sciences subjects.

Qiao Nan flipped the books open. There were simple explanations and concepts inside the revision books. These books were hard to find in the times now. Most people would not be able to buy them.

To Qiao Nan, these books came at an opportune time. She was thrilled to have these books.

Qiao Nan had been worrying about her weak foundation in sciences subjects. Despite revising and grasping some of the simple arithmetic concepts, she would be confused whenever she applied all of the arithmetic concepts simultaneously. It was undoubtedly a timely help to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was not worried about those questions that required the application of a single concept. Her biggest worry was those complicated questions that required her to apply multiple concepts.

In the Celestial Empire, the exams placed a big focus on doing huge amounts of exercises and problem sums. To Qiao Nan, it would definitely be useful to do lots of practises and exercises.

“Oh, we do not have these books here. There are very popular in the national capital as well, but there aren’t many in stock. Which of your friends is so nice to send you this as a gift?” Zhu Baoguo could tell at one glance that the books were not easily available.

Of course, people like him could get their hands on anything they wanted.

Zhu Baoguo had a cousin who once flaunted this volume of books to him. His intention was to make him jealous. But Zhu Baoguo was unaffected, he did not even bother to take a glance at the books.

“It was this popular?” Qiao Nan was stunned. She was unfamiliar with the consumer market here.

But who would have sent her these books, could it be...

Impossible.

A person came to her mind. But Qiao Nan shook her head, intuition told her that it could not be him. But if it was not him, Qiao Nan could not think of another person who would do this for her.

It was impossible that the relatives of Qiao’s family would buy these books. Her father had no relatives, as for the relatives from her mother’s side, it was all the more impossible for them to buy these books.

All her blood relations would not buy it for her. If her closest kin would not put in these efforts, who in the world would be so nice to her?

“What’s on your mind?” Zhu Baoguo prodded her shoulder, “You really have no idea who bought you these books?”

Chapter 65: Shared My Mother With You

“No idea.” Qiao Nan shook her head honestly.

“Qiao Nan, on the account that we are classmates, I must remind you, these books seem to be very costly. The reception office might have the wrong

person. You had better handle the books with care and do not make any scribblings. If not, you might not be able to pay for the books.” Zhao Yu gloated at the thought. There was no way that someone would give Qiao Nan these books as a present.

“It’s only worth a few yuan, why can’t my sister afford it?” Zhu Baoguo glared at her in anger.

“Zhu Baoguo, you may be rich, but that’s your business. Qiao Nan did not have the money. Qiao Nan, you are not thinking of using Zhu Baoguo’s money to pay for the books?”

The more protective Zhu Baoguo was of Qiao Nan, the more frustrated Zhao Yu was.

Zhao Yu was aware that Zhu Baoguo and Zhu family had lots of money. She could tell from the fact that someone drove him to school every morning.

In this school, there were not many students who had a chauffeur to take them to school. Zhu Baoguo came from an established family.

“You do not have to worry about that.” Qiao Nan kept the books. Zhao Yu’s words might be hurtful but they made sense. Even if the staff at the reception office made it very clear that the sender had specified that the parcel was for her, it would not hurt to be careful.

Besides, there was no need to make notes on the books. She had lots of rough paper. Her teachers were very generous with rough paper.

Zhu Baoguo found it incredulous that Qiao Nan could maintain her composure despite Zhao Yu’s hurtful words. “She was trying to mess with you, yet you are not angry?”

“That would be a waste of energy and time.”

“Why does she always say that of you? Are you very poor?”

Qiao Nan who was reading the books paused for a second, “I have always been poor.”

In her previous lifetime, in the eight years of school before she quit and started to work, she had never once used a new eraser or a new pen. All of her stationery was that which Qiao Zijin had no use of.

As time passed, her classmates eventually noticed that.

In her previous lifetime, part of the reason why Qiao Nan quit school and submitted to Ding Jiayi's wishes was also due to that.

Unlike Zhao Yu who would laugh and tease her to her face, in her previous life, most people would talk behind her back. Qiao Nan had overheard their conversations for a few times.

As a child growing up in that kind of environment, this gossiping and badmouthing would hurt one's feelings, not to mention the fact that children at this age were very sensitive.

At that time Qiao Nan was only a child, she could not take all the gossiping and grew to be very quiet in class. Other than her teachers, no one liked her.

In this lifetime, Qiao Nan was still used to being alone, she did not intend to make friends. But at the very least she would no longer feel ashamed when people made hurtful remarks just like what Zhao Yu had said to her just now.

"Don't worry, I have the money." Zhu Baoguo patted his chest out of loyalty. He had nothing except loads of money.

"Silly." Qiao Nan rolled her eyes at Zhu Baoguo. No wonder he was beaten up by hooligans. What a bad mouth he had. He was not good with words and was not likable at all.

"You are the silly one. Lots of people are queuing up to have my money. But it all depends on my mood. I am offering it to you, yet you reject me?" When Zhu Baoguo was not at school, he would always have a bunch of sidekicks with him.

"You are comparing me with them? Why didn't these people come to your help when you were beaten to a pulp?" Qiao Nan laughed.

Zhu Baoguo was just like a deflated balloon, he was stumped for words. "I wanted to be nice to you."

Cupping her chin in her hands, Qiao Nan looked askance at Zhu Baoguo. "Your Mom passed away at an early age, I have a Mom, shall I share my Mom with you?"

If her mother had a son like Zhu Baoguo, she would be thrilled. She would definitely treat him well as if he was her biological son.

"You are courting death!" Zhu Baoguo smashed his fists on the table, his eyes red in anger. "Mother" was a taboo for Zhu Baoguo. Whoever said it would be in for trouble.

"Look, isn't it the same?" Other people might be afraid of Zhu Baoguo, but Qiao Nan was not. "I may be poor now, but I will earn lots of money in the future. I do not need your money."

"You..." Zhu Baoguo could not stay angry but he was also displeased with her words. Looking at Qiao Nan, he could not wait to bite at something to ease his frustration.

Zhu Baoguo jumped around in frustration, as if he had ticks on him. Qiao Nan looked at him and sighed, "This character of mine, I do not know how to get along well with others and would offend others unknowingly. I have a sharp tongue and my words might hurt others."

Qiao Nan could sense that Zhu Baoguo was sincere and genuine about making friends with her.

It was rare that someone treated her with kindness, she could not bear to shut him out.

But this was her personality. There were some habits that she just could not change.

To put it bluntly, both of them were problematic kids, it would be difficult to get along with each other.

"I am a man, I wouldn't argue with you." Zhu Baoguo's eyes spewed fire. But Qiao Nan's explanation doused his anger. It was as if ice water was being poured over the blazing fire.

Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows in surprise when she saw that Zhu Baoguo had calmed down and was no longer angry with her.

Zhu Baoguo was known for his bad temper. Most people would not be able to accept her explanation, yet Zhu Baoguo accepted it. He was a good kid after all.

“What’s there to look at, didn’t you say that you would rather look at the books than at me? Look at your books!” Zhu Baoguo blushed in embarrassment. He covered Qiao Nan’s face with the books, avoiding her eyes.

Qiao Nan laughed. It seemed like Zhu Baoguo would make a worthy friend.

“What’s there to laugh about? To show off your white teeth?” Zhu Baoguo had relaxed and was no longer angry.

Zhu Baoguo knew that those “brothers” that followed him around in the past were only after his money, they were not sincere in making friends with him. They hung around him for his money, but would be the first to run off when he was in trouble.

But Qiao Nan was different. She had saved his life and ever since knowing him, despite his prominent family background, she had never sucked up to him or asked him for favors. Even if he wanted to treat her differently, she also refused vehemently.

Zhu Baoguo was not stupid, he could tell if one was sincere or not.

If one could have a sincere and loyal friend, no one would like to mix with fair-weather friends. But it was just that Zhu Baoguo had never had the chance in the past.

Zhao Yu’s eyes reddened, she was full of anger and jealousy when she saw how unaffected Zhu Baoguo was by Qiao Nan’s blunt words, and that they seemed to be closer than before.

She remembered there was once when someone mentioned about Zhu Baoguo’s late mother in front of him, and Zhu Baoguo gave that person a furious kick.