

# Rebirth to a Military Marriage: Good Morning Chief Novel Chapter 71 To 75

---

## Chapter 71: Essay Competition

“Go ahead.” Qiao Dongliang smiled widely at Qiao Nan.

Qiao Zijin, who was not too pleased, pouted when she saw how Qiao Dongliang smiled affectionately at Qiao Nan.

She knew that the reason behind her father’s change in attitude towards Qiao Nan was that she gave Zhu Baoguo tuition and in a way, helped her father to repay the debt of gratitude towards Grandpa Lee.

She could do it as well.

“Dad, I have no more pens left, I will get one from Nan Nan’s room.”

Ever since the decrease in her monthly allowance and the money that she spent on her dance costume, Qiao Zijin was more careful in her spending, she could no longer stock up on pens or buy new stationery.

If there was not a real need, she would not buy new stuff.

Now that she had no more pens, she would just “borrow” a few pens from Qiao Nan. But there was no way that she was going to return them.

Qiao Zijin opened Qiao Nan’s bag and made it a point to empty the contents.

Qiao Nan had a total of three pens. Their designs were shabby and they all looked the same. It was not the type of pens that she used to buy. Qiao Zijin grunted and grabbed one of the new pens.

“Oh?” Qiao Zijin chanced upon one of Qiao Nan’s books. There were millions of words on it. Qiao Zijin took a closer look at one of the pages. At one glance she realized that it was an essay. Qiao Zijin had never seen or heard this essay before.

Qiao Zijin might not be good at writing essays, but she could tell if it was well written or not.

Qiao Zijin thought for a while and twitched her lips. She not only took one of Qiao Nan’s pens, she also tore off the page with the essay.

In order not to be discovered by Qiao Nan, Qiao Zijin tore off the empty page connecting to the essay page as well. She made sure to tear it off nicely so that Qiao Nan would not realize it in an instant. With that, she took the two items and left Qiao Nan's room.

By the time Qiao Nan returned to her room from her bath, she saw that her bag was being opened and the contents were scattered all over the room.

Qiao Zijin was the only one in the house who was capable of this.

If it was her mother, she would rather throw the bag away than wasting her efforts to search through it.

"Nan Nan, your sister came into your room just now to get a pen from you." Qiao Dongliang came at the moment to notify Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang could not help but frown when he saw the contents of the bag being scattered all around. "Your sister is so insensible. It was just a pen, did she have to make such a mess? Nan Nan, you would have to tidy up later."

"Oh." Qiao Nan could not think of anything to say.

Her father knew that it was wrong of Qiao Zijin to do this, yet he could only make such a remark. What made Qiao Nan speechless was that he could say this to her, but he would not utter a word to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan knew that Qiao Dongliang was only paying lip service. He did not really mean it. So she gave her response absentmindedly.

In the previous life, after Qiao Zijin committed adultery and left the marriage without any maintenance or marital compensation, she blamed her divorce with Chen Jun entirely on Qiao Nan. Besides her mother who pampered her, her father was also responsible for this temperament of hers.

Qiao Nan could only tidy up the mess that Qiao Zijin made and put them in the study room.

During dinnertime, Qiao Nan did not notice that Qiao Zijin kept stealing furtive glances at her. It was only when Qiao Zijin was sure that Qiao Nan did not think anything was amiss, that she settled down to eat.

"Qiao Nan, Teacher Lee wanted to see you in the office." On Monday at school, Zhao Yu passed the message to Qiao Nan in disgruntlement.

“Thank you.” Even though Zhao Yu was merely relaying message for Teacher Lee, Qiao Nan was still polite to Zhao Yu. Qiao Nan did what she had to do.

Zhao Yu sat down in her chair, puffing in anger. Her good friend leaned in and asked, “Why would Teacher Lee ask Qiao Nan to go to the office?” Everything except to reprimand her.

Even if Teacher Lee was not satisfied with Qiao Nan’s results, Qiao Nan scored 92 points for her mid-term exams. Teacher Lee might be dissatisfied, but it was only because the teacher had high expectations of Qiao Nan.

Not everyone would be able to score 90 points and above for Chinese in junior high school.

“Teacher Lee said that there is a essay competition in the province and would like Qiao Nan to participate.”

“What about you, you are the representative of the Chinese subject.” It made no sense that Qiao Nan could participate while Zhao Yu could not.

“Of course I would participate.” Zhao Yu arched her eyebrows. “This is only the preliminary round, the school will hold a selection to cut down to five participants. I am one of the five participants.”

“I thought the students can just participate in the essay competition directly?”

“Of course not, this is the province essay competition after all.” But there were five slots, her essays were pretty well written. It could not be wrong, she was definitely one of the five participants.

“You must work hard, we have lost out to Qiao Nan in terms of results, we must squash her in the essay competition no matter what. Zhao Yu, you can do it!”

“I have to, let’s wait and see.” Her friend was egging her on and Zhao Yu was so boastful and arrogant. Zhou Lei could not help but laugh at them.

Like Zhao Yu said, Teacher Lee asked to see Qiao Nan with regards to the essay competition.

Teacher Lee and all the teachers in the Chinese team knew that given Qiao Nan's standard, if she did not participate in the essay competition, there was no one else who would be qualified enough to participate.

"Teacher Lee, can I not participate in the competition? You should know my results, I have a lot of knowledge points to revise, it would take up too much of my time to participate in the competition."

One had to go through one round of selection in school and then proceeded to take part in the province competition, all these rounds would take up too much time.

Even when she tutored Zhu Baoguo during the weekend, Qiao Nan spent most of the time doing her own revision.

Qiao Nan did not want to waste more of her time.

"Qiao Nan, I would recommend you to take part in the competition. If you manage to get a prize, it would add points to your middle school exams." Teacher Lee knew that Qiao Nan was most concerned about the exams and used that to persuade Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was so concerned about not wasting her time so that she could revise, it was all for the sake of doing well in the middle school exams.

She believed that Qiao Nan would take up the offer if she knew that it would add points to the exams.

"But I would have to go through one round of selection in school." Qiao Nan frowned. "After selecting the five students, we would still need to go for essay training?"

"This... let's do it this way, I will try to make special arrangements for you. You do not need to sit for the preliminary rounds and you do not need to go for essay training as well. You will skip all these and just participate in the province competition. What do you think?" Teacher Lee adjusted the spectacles and said in a steadfast tone.

Teacher Lee was confident that these arrangements were feasible.

There was no need for Qiao Nan to go for the preliminary rounds. She could just use any two essays of her recent Chinese exams to participate, she would definitely be able to secure one of the five slots.

To put it bluntly, Teacher Lee knew that it had been decided that Qiao Nan would be one of the five participants.

Even if she agreed to Qiao Nan's request of not participating in the competition, the other teachers in the Chinese team would not agree to it.

## Chapter 72: "Praise to Fail"

Hearing Teacher Lee's words, Qiao Nan wanted to cheer. "Since Teacher Lee made this arrangement, I will definitely listen to Teacher Lee."

"You and your sweet tongue, alright, go back. Although you don't have to participate in the training, you should also make some preparations." Teacher Lee was pleased by Qiao Nan's words.

"Teacher Lee, don't worry, I will definitely be well prepared."

When Qiao Nan was back, Zhao Yu glanced at her a few times.

As the Chinese Representative, Zhao Yu had seen Qiao Nan's essay more than once, so she was aware of the standard of Qiao Nan's essays.

If Qiao Nan also took part in this essay competition, it would be difficult for her to win, not to mention to be one of the five participants.

At the school's preliminary round of selection, Zhao Yu was relieved that she did not see Qiao Nan. It turned out that Qiao Nan had declined to participate in the essay writing competition this time. That would be great!

Zhao Yu's essay writing skills were of some standard. Indeed, she managed to grab one out of the five places for the competition.

During training, Zhao Yu realized that there were only four attendees although there were a total of five participants.

For the sake of doing well during the essay writing competition, Zhao did not inquire further. She was motivated and focused on competing with herself, so that she could produce good essays and win a prize.

“Is this woman sick?” Every time Zhao Yu passed by Qiao Nan, she looked like an arrogant rooster who could not wait to lift its tail to the sky. Zhu Baoguo was angered by this. “What does she mean by this?”

“What can she mean, she is happy that she can participate in the essay writing competition.” Qiao Nan did not have a care, she would do whatever she needed to do.

Qiao Nan had long heard the words spread by those who were on close terms with Zhao Yu.

They were saying that it was useless that Qiao Nan had good grades as she could not even participate in the essay writing competition. In the critical times, the class still had to depend on Zhao Yu to do them proud for the Chinese Language.

“What about you, you’re not participating?” Zhu Baoguo was not pleased with Zhao Yu’s attitude. It was just an essay writing competition. “If you wish to participate, I can help you think of a way. I can ensure that the five places are changed to six.”

“No need, I have a place. I am also participating.” Qiao Nan shook her head.

“You too? How come I don’t know, I didn’t see you attending the training?” Zhu Baoguo raised his eyebrows. His sister was so capable and did not even need his help.

“Teacher Lee specially granted me an exception for this, but please don’t tell anyone about this.” Qiao Nan also knew that this matter was confidential.

Although this matter was decided by Teacher Lee and had nothing to do with her, it was not good for others to know about it.

“Cow.” Zhu Baoguo also lifted his chin, why was Zhao Yu was acting like a bird? After all, his sister took one of the five places without even the need to take the preliminary test or attend the training.

“Yes.” Qiao Nan nodded her head, she believed that Zhu Baoguo would not say this to others, there was no point in doing so.

Zhu Baoguo would not say, but there were a number of classmates around them. Although the voices of the two of them were not very loud, someone



vaguely heard that Qiao Nan would also be participating in this essay competition.

One spread to two, two to three, before the lesson ended, Zhao Yu already knew about this matter. "Impossible, Qiao Nan is lying. During the day of the preliminary round of selection, she did not even come. Moreover, she was also not qualified to attend the daily training session, how could she be one of the participants?"

"What's wrong with Qiao Nan, she dared to say this to save face." After hearing the insider information from Zhao Yu, who confirmed that Qiao Nan did not join these activities, most people held the mood of watching a show to jeer at Qiao Nan.

So what if Qiao Nan's grades were good, she loved to brag and was not a model student with good moral character. There was nothing to be proud of.

"No hurry, let's wait till the day to see how she falls on her own face. This lie would not continue for long, we will see how she brag. The more she brags now, the more her face would be hurt on the day of the competition." Zhao Yu was extremely happy that she could participate, while Qiao Nan weaved these nonsensical stories as she could not do so.

Not long after, she would like to see how Qiao Nan would lose her face, how merciless!

So, Qiao Nan was also capable of such doing such things.

After the Zhao Yu knew about this matter, she became very tolerant. Contrary to usual, she stopped talking bad about Qiao Nan, and would even praise Qiao Nan occasionally in front of others.

Upon Zhao Yu's publicity, besides the Class One of Secondary Three, the whole of Secondary Three knew about this matter. Many were spreading this rumor furiously.

"Zhao Yu, Qiao Nan's rumors were so wide-spread, will Teacher help her to clarify, we won't be able to watch the fun then." Zhao Yu's classmate was a little anxious, she was watching the buzz with fun and hoping that there would be more to come.

“What’s the hurry, even if Teacher Lee clarified, Qiao Nan would also lose her face. Now, the whole secondary three students already knew that Qiao Nan would participate in the essay writing competition. If Teacher Lee clarify now, won’t Qiao Nan also lose her face? Anyway, this time, Qiao Nan will not get away with it. What goes around comes around.” Zhou Yu was overjoyed as she said this.

“True.” The classmate laughed and returned to her own seat, while waiting for Teacher Lee to expose Qiao Nan’s lies.

But to everyone’s surprise, Teacher Lee did not say a word about this matter at all during the whole lesson.

Until the bell rang, upon leaving the classroom, most were astonished. Teacher Lee was not going to take a hand in this matter?

“I must clarify, I did not breathe a word to anyone about that matter.” Once the class was over, Zhu Baoguo was the first to clarify to Qiao Nan.

He was not a busybody, it was enough that he knew about this matter, and there was no need to publicize this to the whole world. “Don’t worry. I will surely help you find out who was the one who spread the story. I will teach him a lesson!”

“No need, I did not suspect you.” Qiao Nan said nonchalantly while she ignored the classmates who were watching the fun.

“You and me are not the only ones in the class. There is a saying “The walls have ears”. Let the rumors pass, there is no need to investigate.”

“Really not investigating?” Did Xiao Qiao need to be so forgiving, if it were him, he would ensure that the person who treated him this way was dead.

“Fine, there’s still one more lesson. Get ready to go home after that.” Qiao Nan packed her books and put away all the books that she needed into her school bag.

Half a semester passed, Qiao Nan felt more at ease as she had made a lot of progress in catching up with her knowledge.

Coupled with the recent receipt of an revision book, Qiao Nan felt that her current learning journey was as smooth as a God-sent gift.



Who was so brilliant to have known her situation and bought her such a good book?

## Chapter 73: Double Happiness

Even if she had the money to pick it up in the bookstore, she might not be able to choose a book that suited her so well.

When Qiao Nan reached home, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi were already around. Qiao Nan put away her school bag. She saw that Ding Jiayi had a look of excitement on her face, both eyes were as bright as the daylight – did she pick up some money from the streets?

“Zijin is so capable. A prominent school lives up to its name. The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China is excellent. I feel that I have made the best decision in my life by admitting her into the school.”

“It’s not bad. Have you gotten someone to bring the money over to Zijin?” Qiao Dongliang was all smiles too, with a expression full of glory. “Zijin is not at home, today, you should prepare a good meal too, we can celebrate.”

The elder daughter was so capable, Qiao Dongliang was really pleased.

“Fine!” Ding Jiayi agreed without any hesitation. “Good food today all thanks to Zijin.”

While saying that, Ding Jiayi shifted her glance to Qiao Nan, if not for the sake of celebrating for Zijin, she also did not wish to prepare a good meal when Zijin was away and benefit the wretched girl.

“Nan Nan is back.” Qiao Dongliang, who was in a good mood, saw everything positively. “Nan Nan, Zijin got a place to participate in the provincial city essay writing competition. Your sister has really improved.”

“Provincial city essay writing competition?” Having heard this, Qiao Nan raised her eyebrows. Such a coincidence?

But, with Qiao Zijin’s essay, was she qualified to join the competition?

“Yes, Nan Nan, when you study in the senior high school, like Zijin, you will also have the opportunity to participate in the Provincial city essay writing competition.” At the thought that the younger daughter’s grades were better,

Qiao Dongliang believed that she would certainly have the chance to do so in future.

“Old Qiao, you don’t need to give Qiao Nan so much pressure, can any Tom, Dick and Harry take part in the provincial city composition competition? Zijin asked someone to passed the message that the whole school only sent 10 people. One out of 10, there are so many students in the school, and all these are good students. Zijin has done us proud!” Ding Jiayi became more excited as she continued. “You used to control Zijin. Zijin told me that, putting the storyline aside, the writing in the novels that she read previously is good. Reading more will help greatly in essay writing. You see, Zijin did not waste money or read the books without giving any thoughts. She had a reason for reading those books.”

While drinking her water, Qiao Nan casually asked, “Dad, when is Sister going to the competition?”

“Your sister will not be back next week, she has to stay in the school for training because the essay writing competition is on the weekend of the week after next.”

“Oh, same for me too.”

“Same?” Qiao Dongliang blinked his eyes. “Nan Nan, you are also joining the competition?”

“Yes.”

“What yes, Zijin is participating in the provincial city essay competition, how can it be the same?” Ding Jiayi casted an unhappy look at Qiao Nan.

“I am also joining the competition, and at the same timing as Sister, that’s why I said it’s a coincidence.”

Qiao Nan’s words should be good news for the family, but at that moment, the smiles on the faces of Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi were frozen for a while.

Qiao Dongliang was happy, but at this moment he had further thoughts.

Qiao Zijin was able to participate in the competition and would not be coming home next week. She specially asked someone to sent a message to request money from the Qiao couple to buy an essay writing book to read.

When the child has progressed in her learning, performed well, and wanted to buy a decent and proper essay writing book, there was no reason for the parent to reject this request.

So, Qiao Dongliang and Ding Jiayi had come up with 10 yuan and asked the messenger to pass it to Qiao Zijin.

There comes the problem. Both daughters would be joining the competition. He had given the elder daughter 10 yuan to purchase learning materials, it would be unfair not to give the same to his younger daughter?

Qiao Dongliang, who always like to advocate “Fairness, Justice, and Transparency”, was hesitating as he thought about the amount of money in his pocket.

There was famine in the family, and without savings, Qiao Dongliang did not feel assured and had been finding ways to save up a little here and there.

The 10 yuan earlier was already an extra expense. If he had to give away another 10 yuan, that would be really hard.

If he did not give, Qiao Dongliang felt bad about being biased, but if he give, that would be too much expenditure. Qiao Dongliang was feeling the pinch.

Ding Jiayi quickly pulled Qiao Dongliang. Qiao Nan was not at home, and was not aware that they had given 10 yuan to Qiao Zijin. “That’s a good thing, I am going to prepare dinner, you may return to your room quickly to read your books.”

For the first time, Ding Jiayi was so willing to watch Qiao Nan go to her room without helping in any household chores and read her own books.

“Yes.” Qiao Nan replied with a word and went to her room, while carrying her schoolbag.

Before the couple could breathe a sigh of relief, at the moment where Qiao Nan opened the door of her room, she turned her head and asked. “Sister will be joining the competition, did you all give her money to buy the learning materials?”

Ding Jiayi’s smiling face turned stiff at that instant.

Qiao Dongliang was full of embarrassment. He already said, he could not let his child suffer no matter how poor he was or how hard he had to work. Qiao Dongliang bit his tongue and reached into the pocket of his trousers. "Yes, I just asked someone to bring 10 yuan for your sister. Qiao Nan, come, take this 10 yuan. If you need any learning materials, go and buy. It is rare to have this opportunity, we have to cherish this."

Ding Jiayi wanted to open her mouth to shout when she heard that they were also giving 10 yuan to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang glared at Ding Jiayi. "If you are not willing to, sure, I will make a trip to Zijin's school later and retrieve that 10 yuan?"

"Is it the same, Zijin is in senior high school and the materials are expensive. 10 yuan is fine. But she is only in junior high school, and joining different competitions, not together. Can't you just give her a few yuan?" Ding Jiayi was making a lot of noise.

"Why don't you just give one or two cents?" Qiao Dongliang rolled her eyes at Ding Jiayi. "Equal treatment, if Zijin gets 10 yuan, of course Qiao Nan should also get 10 yuan. This matter is decided. Nan Nan, take the money!"

Looking at the 10 yuan that was forced into her hands, Qiao Nan initially felt bad but she felt more at ease now.

At least her father tried his best to be fair to both Qiao Zijin and her.

"Dad, I don't need it. Sister bought so many essay writing books. If I really need it, I will read hers. But next week when we are at the competition outside, 10 yuan is not necessary, but you still need to give me two yuan. I can't possibly let the teachers treat me to the meals." After returning Qiao Dongliang 10 yuan, Qiao Nan separately asked for the money.

Qiao Nan's words made Qiao Dongliang felt quite bad. The elder daughter had so many revision materials. In his impression, the younger daughter had never bought any.

Fairness, the family had never been fair.

But he had no choice. Zijin would be taking in a son-in-law in future. The child of Zijin would bear the surname of Qiao. If he could treat Nan Nan better, he would try his best to do so. "Fine, here's three yuan. Keep it."

## Chapter 74: All The Pens Were Broken

From ten yuan to three yuan, although Ding Jiayi still felt the pinch, there was a seven yuan savings. Ding Jiayi secretly breathed a sigh of relief and went to prepare the meal.

Looking at Ding Jiayi, Qiao Nan tugged the corners of her mouth with sarcasm.

If she had taken the 10 yuan earlier, probably the good news of Qiao Zijin's participation in the essay writing competition could not save her mother's loss of appetite.

The thought that spending some money on herself would make her mother lose her appetite and suffer insomnia, she had nothing to say.

In the blink of an eye, two weeks had passed.

On the early morning of Saturday, Zhao Yu was prepared to go to school to wait for the teacher, when the school's rented car came, she picked a seat and sat.

"Hey, why are there only four of us today, didn't our school select five students?" Everyone was quite early, before long, Zhao Yu saw the three students who attended training with her.

"Not sure." The other classmate was also puzzled.

"Zhao Yu, you're from Class One?" The classmate seated behind Zhao Yu had a sneer on her face. "Do you really not know or are you pretending not to know?"

"What do you mean by this?" She did not provoke her?

"Qiao Nan's essay is so good, she scored nearly full marks in the two exams. Who do you think this fifth person will be? Qiao Nan's participation was already decided by the school long ago. As Qiao Nan's case was an exception, some people are not happy, but regardless, whoever that has seen Qiao Nan's essay would be convinced of her ability."

She was more sensitive than Zhao Yu. Clearly there had been five but only four came for the training. She had already asked the teacher about it.

In the end, that was what the teacher told her. She was not convinced and happy initially. But after the Chinese Teacher showed her Qiao Nan's essay, she had nothing to say.

Although she accepted this, she did not feel too good either.

When she heard Zhao Yu saying this now, the classmate was even more unhappy.

"What, Qiao Nan's participation had long been decided by the school?" Zhao Yu gave a stare. No wonder Qiao Nan was really one out of the five. "Then why didn't she join the training?"

"Teacher Lee." At this time, Qiao Nan's voice could be heard from outside the car. "I hope I'm not late?"

"No, the timing is just right, hurry and get on the bus." Teacher Lee smilingly let Qiao Nan board the bus. "Do you have motion sickness, if you do, it's best to take the seat in front."

These were students who would be competing, they had to be in their best form.

"Teacher Lee, I do not have motion sickness, I can sit anywhere."

After boarding the car, Qiao Nan sat down once she saw an empty seat. It did not matter where the seat was.

When Zhao Yu saw Qiao Nan passing by in front of her, her face was white. What about the slapping of own face, lies and bragging? Why did Qiao Nan really come, it's so unfair!

The four of them were selected from the school, and went through half a month of training. On what grounds was Qiao Nan qualified to compete when she did not even attend anything, was that fair to other students?

She had these thoughts in her mind. But before the teacher, Zhao Yu ultimately did not dare to raise her doubts, she could only endure this and sit quietly in her seat.

When it it was about one and a half hours into the journey, Qiao Nan already finished her nap.



Amongst the five students in the car, only Qiao Nan had the mood to sleep. The rest of the four were either constantly revising their essays that had been marked and commented on by the teachers, or reading essay writing books.

During the period of training, the teacher gave them many model essay questions to work on. First, it's a practice. Second, they were in luck if they guessed the question.

The four students held the hope that the teacher had guessed correctly, and were doing their utmost to memorize their own essays.

However, when they turned and saw Qiao Nan sleeping soundly, with her head wobbling from side to side, they gritted their teeth. This Qiao Nan was really too much!

"All of you should relax too, don't be too nervous." When the teachers saw the situation, they all laughed. Qiao Nan was clearly a young lady but was so relaxed, she could still sleep so soundly at this time.

But those who sat on a moving car before knew that it was boring to be in the car. It was not conducive to read something and sleeping was the best way to pass time.

"Okay."

"Okay, Teacher Lee," The four students replied weakly. Who could relax at such a time? If they could attain a good score for this essay writing competition, they would be given merit points for the middle school examinations."

"Qiao Nan, wake up. We have arrived."

Upon reaching the location of the competition, it was Teacher Lee who woke Qiao Nan up.

"We have arrived?" Qiao Nan rubbed her eyes. She had put on a little weight recently. She looked so pretty, her tiny face was as rosy as an apple.

"Yes, we are here." Teacher Lee's eyes were gentle, as if she were looking at her own child. "Drink some water and sober up, don't be sleepy and muddle-headed during the competition."

“Okay, I will wash my face when I go to the restroom later.” Qiao Nan nodded her head and left the car, but she left behind her school bag.

After Qiao Nan finished washing up, the teacher was already leading the students to the exam hall.

“Teacher Lee, I need to go back to the car, I left my school bag there and the pens are inside the bag.” Qiao Nan told Teacher Lee and hurriedly took her school bag from the car.

Zhao Yu, who was standing behind Teacher Lee, saw this and she smiled slyly.

“Fine, quickly enter the exam hall.” The teachers swiftly settled the students in their respective seats. When the competition starts, the bell rang and all the competing students began to lower their heads and review the question.

When she saw the question, Qiao Nan had a little surprise. She had previously written an essay that was appropriate for the subject. This time, she could slack a little.

She had only written that essay once, and it still needed a little touch up. This was her second time writing it, with some touching up, there should not be any major issue.

After thinking through, Qiao Nan took out her pen and prepared to write. She finished her first word but she could only see the strokes of her writing, without any ink.

Qiao Nan blinked her eyes. This was a new pen, how could it be?

Qiao Nan, who refused to believe in fate, tried to rub the tip of the pen with paper, just in case the tip was covered with wax. But after a long time, she still could not write a single word.

Qiao Nan shook the pen vigorously but to no avail.

Qiao Nan quickly took another pen. She brought a total of three pens, but strangely, all three pens that used to be easy to write with could not produce a single word now!

Zhao Yu, who was seated behind Qiao Nan, was secretly watching Qiao Nan. When she saw Qiao Nan spent a long time messing with the pen and did not manage to write anything, her smile broadened.

This time, she wanted to see how Qiao Nan could compete with her!

## Chapter 75: Clash of the Garments

Qiao Nan took a deep breath and then raised her hand.

“What is the matter?” The invigilator walked to Qiao Nan’s side.

“Teacher, I brought three pens, they are all broken and I can’t write with them. Can I borrow a pen?”

“Well... ” said the teacher awkwardly. “I only have a red pen. Does anyone have a spare pen to lend?”

Faced with the invigilator’s question, the exam hall was silent, you could hear a pin drop. Everyone was busy writing their essay and nobody answered. Some students even secretly hid their spare pens in case the invigilator asked.

Seated in the same exam hall but only a few would be winners, everybody was a competitor, who would lend their spare pen?

At least in this exam hall, nobody was willing to.

“Well... ” said the invigilator, faced with this situation, the invigilator was at a loss of what to do. He had to invigilate and could not leave, if the other students were not willing to lend, he could not force them to lend either.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath, pursed her lips and said, “Teacher, if there is no other way, could you lend me your red pen?”

“That will not do, this essay’s rules state clearly that it must be written in blue or black ink, red ink will not do,” replied the teacher sympathetically. The teacher pitied Qiao Nan for being so unlucky, she could not participate in the competition she did not have a pen.

Qiao Nan’s eyes started to well up. She had not thought of participating earlier but now that she was here at the competition, she was faced the possibility of

giving up because she did not have a usable pen. Qiao Nan was very unhappy and unwilling.

Most importantly, she had prepared three pens, there was a new one and the rest were her usual pens.

The pens were clearly still working last night yet it was broken today. If somebody had told her it was a coincidence, she would never believe it. Somebody must have plotted against her!

“Teacher Zhou, what is the matter?” A voice came from the few people standing outside the classroom.

“Principal.” Teacher Zhou spotted an old man and hurriedly walked over. Teacher Zhou explained, “That student’s pens are all broken and other students do not have spare pens to lend. At this rate, she will not be able to participate.”

The old principal paused before continuing, “Oh my, the children these days. Whilst academic results are important, moral education should also not be neglected.”

“Use mine.” Zhai Sheng said rather nonchalantly before taking out a pen. Zhai Sheng had his eyes fixed on Qiao Nan and he noticed her sweating profusely due to the anxiety.

Today, Zhai Sheng had come to the school on behalf of his father and unexpectedly met Qiao Nan.

Even more surprisingly to Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan seemed to be very unlucky. In the few times that he has met Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan was always in trouble.

However, Zhai Sheng looked at the students in the exam hall and his eyes were filled with disapproval.

“I thank you on behalf of that student.” The Invigilator replied with a relief. He had really felt pity for Qiao Nan.

Looking at the attention given to Qiao Nan by other teachers earlier, the invigilator deduced that she must be a good student and her essay writing skills should be up to par too.

“Do not mention it.”

“Here is the pen you wanted, use it quickly without further delay.” The invigilator handed Zhai Sheng’s pen over to Qiao Nan. The invigilator gently reminded Qiao Nan, “This is a fountain pen, pay extra care when you write. Wait for the ink to dry or else it will smudge when you put your hand over it.”

“Thank you Teacher!” Qiao Nan’s eyes lit up.

“Don’t thank me. The pen was loaned to you from him. When you finished, remember to return it to him.” The invigilator pointed to Zhai Sheng. This pen was quite heavy and had a good feel, it must be pretty expensive.

“Zhai Sheng?” Qiao Nan had spotted Zhai Sheng. “Okay, teacher, noted.”

“Alright, make full use of your time, the other students have already written a lot.” said the invigilator.

“Okay,” replied Qiao Nan. She was already late by more than 10 minutes.

Fortunately, she had a draft in her mind, otherwise given the situation, she would not be able to continue writing.

Qiao Nan actually preferred writing with a fountain pen and coupled with the fact that Zhai Sheng’s pen was of a high quality, it allowed Qiao Nan to write swiftly in tandem with the ink flowing smoothly out from the nib of the pen. It was even faster than if Qiao Nan had used a ballpoint pen.

In no time at all, Qiao Nan had caught up with the progress of the other students.

Due to the pen incident, the invigilator paid extra attention to Qiao Nan and stood by Qiao Nan for a moment.

The invigilator saw that Qiao Nan had written so much in such a short period of time, his eyes lit up as he was taken aback. When he further read the contents, coupled with the elegant writing of the fountain pen, he was genuinely surprised.

Before the bell rang, Qiao Nan had already finished with her essay.

When it was time to exit the exam hall, some of the students had not finished and were making a scene.

Qiao Nan walked out relaxedly and wanted to find Zhai Sheng to return the pen.

Qiao Nan had only taken a few steps when Teacher Lee came up and asked, "Qiao Nan, how do you think you fared in the competition?"

Qiao Nan replied, "Similar to the usual."

"That's good," Teacher Lee said with a sigh of relief. If Qiao Nan was able to perform normally, she should at least be able to receive a third prize minimally.

"Qiao Nan, what are you doing here?" A voice rang out from behind Qiao Nan.

"I came to participate in the provincial composition competition." Qiao Nan turned around to face Qiao Zijin.

"You, you also came to participate?" Qiao Zijin stammered, somewhat shocked. She had never heard that Qiao Nan was participating.

"Hi Zijin, it's you. You also came here to participate?" Teacher Lee asked. Teacher Lee was somewhat shocked, Teacher Lee knew the standard of Qiao Zijin's essay. How was Qiao Zijin able to participate? Wasn't the school afraid of wasting a nomination slot?

There were merit points for winning a junior high school essay competition, and of course the same for a high school competition.

As such, the high school competition's nomination slots would be more keenly contested.

Qiao Zijin's words had coincided with Teacher Lee's. Qiao Nan smiled and replied, "I had heard from Father and Mother that you were participating but I did not expect us to be in the same school participating."

Qiao Zijin forced out a smile and said, "Such is fate. Nan Nan, how did you fare?"

"Not too bad," said Qiao Nan, who raised her eyebrows whilst noticing Qiao Zijin's increasing discomfort. She deduced in her mind that Qiao Zijin had not performed well in the competition, otherwise why was her face so pale?

"Alright, it is getting late, we should get going." Teacher Lee said whilst patting Qiao Nan's shoulder. Teacher Lee did not speak much to Qiao Zijin.



Qiao Nan followed Teacher Lee, nodded to Qiao Zijin and then simply left.

Once Qiao Nan had left, Qiao Zijin's face turned downcast and quickly went to find her classmates. Qiao Zijin asked, "I heard that for this competition, junior school students are also here, do you know what their essay question was?"

"I think it was the same as ours." The classmate replied before adding, "The teachers are too lazy, setting the same question for junior school and high school. They did not even make the effort to think up another question."

"Qiao Zijin, did you manage to finish your essay?" Qiao Zijin's Chinese teacher walked happily towards Qiao Zijin. The teacher added, "I read your previous essay, that would have been suitable and you need not think up a new essay. Did you use that essay for submission?"

Even the Chinese teacher was surprised by Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin's normal performance was average but she did demonstrate a flair for writing when it came to essays.

Otherwise, how would Qiao Zijin be able to participate based on her academic results?

"It was submitted," Qiao Zijin replied dryly without a hint of happiness.

Only heaven knows that when Qiao Zijin saw the essay question, she was so happy that she wanted to let out a scream. The heavens were on her side!

She had not expected her luck to be so good. She had used Qiao Nan's essay for submission earlier and won the nomination slot for the competition. Even more unexpectedly, Qiao Nan's essay was also suitable for the exam question.

She could fully make use of one essay from Qiao Nan!

However, once Qiao Zijin saw Qiao Nan, the good mood dissipated.

Qiao Nan must be here to participate in the essay competition. Both junior school and high school questions were the same, surely Qiao Nan did not write the same essay?

Impossible, she should not have.

Qiao Nan had written this casually, surely she would not be able to regurgitate and she would write a new piece?

The more Qiao Zijin thought about it, the more guilty she felt. Her mind was hurting from all the thinking. She prayed silently that her essay and Qiao Nan's essay did not coincide.

Qiao Nan was very good at essay writing, she could easily write a new piece. Surely, she would not be so lazy to regurgitate an old piece?

After the competition, Qiao Zijin could finally go home. However, on the way home, Qiao Zijin's mind kept going through the various scenarios, it was very torturous.

"Zijin, you are back. How was the competition? Are you confident?" Ding Jiayi asked excitedly, warmly welcoming Qiao Zijin home.

"Mom, where is Nan Nan?" asked Qiao Zijin.

"She is reading in her room," replied Ding Jiayi.

"Mom, I have to find Nan Nan first. Talk to you later," Qiao Zijin replied. Once Qiao Zijin heard that Qiao Nan was back, she threw her schoolbag to Ding Jiayi and went to Qiao Nan's room. Qiao Zijin said, "Nan Nan, I have something to talk to you about."

"Go ahead," Qiao Nan said. She threw away the three broken pens into the dustbin.

When Qiao Nan came back and inspected the pens, she found that the pens had signs of being thrown which led to them being broken.

Anyone who uses ballpoint pens knows that once you smash the pens onto the floor, the pens will be broken easily and you cannot write with them anymore. The pens were obviously smashed onto the floor by somebody.

Qiao Nan's schoolbag was on the school bus all this while, the person who did it was surely not from another school and the teacher would not do it either. Could it have been one of the other four people who joined her in the competition today?

Such bad behavior at such a young age.

“Nan Nan, what was your essay question today?” Qiao Zijin asked. If the question was different, then there was nothing for her to worry about.

“Teacher Lee told me that the question for junior school and high school is the same” Qiao Nan replied pointedly.

It was really the same...

Qiao Zijin’s face froze. “Nan Nan, what did you write for the competition then?”

