

## RTAMM 1221

### Chapter 1221 Given a Taste of the Feather Duster

Before this, she could not tell that Brother Zhai had matured and that he was behaving like a father.

This year, Lunar New Year was particularly joyous as they had Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing with them.

Now that Shi Qing was at the Zhai family's residence, she could no longer hide from her parents that she was back in the capital. Once Shi Peng received news that Shi Qing was back and she had done well for the mission, he dashed to the Zhai family's residence in the shortest time possible.

Shi Peng was in a bad mood when he reached the Zhai family's residence. He was all ready for a 'battle'. Although he did not have a sword with him, he brought a feather duster that he had kept for many years with him. He raised it high into the air. As soon as he saw Shi Qing, he did not even talk to her but used the feather duster on her.

Shi Peng was swift and harsh. Shi Qing jumped in surprise and turned her back on him so as to protect Da Bao who was in her arms. She feared that Da Bao would be accidentally hit by her father.

If she did not have Da Bao in her arms, given Shi Qing's skills, she would be able to dart around agilely like a monkey. Shi Peng would not be able to land his feather duster at the corner of the lower hem of her clothes. However, with Da Bao in her arms, it was difficult for her to escape from her father's whips. Her father managed to land half of the whips on her.

Qiao Nan tidied her clothes and came downstairs to see that her living room was in chaos. The feathers from the feather duster were floating around and Shi Qing was jumping around the house.

Qiao Nan was lost for words when she saw how Shi Qing held Da Bao in her arms and jumped about to avoid being whipped by Shi Peng. She feared that Da Bao would be frightened and wanted to get Da Bao from Shi Qing.

However, when she took a closer look, she realized that the young brat was excited and thrilled. He would flail his arms occasionally, as if to cheer Shi Qing. There was a glitter of joy in his eyes at being able to 'fly' around with Shi Qing as she jumped about, avoiding being hit by her father.

It was obvious that Da Bao was enjoying himself. It was as if he was filming an action movie.

As for Er Bao and San Bao, they were enjoying the show. They held the teething rusks and stared intently at Shi Qing and Shi Peng. They looked to the left and the right, and they would lift their head to look upward, their gaze never leaving the two of them.

When it got exciting, they would stop chewing on the teething rusk, widening their mouths in shock. It was as if they were empathizing with Shi Qing. Thereafter, they would resume chewing on the teething rusk, though biting on it harder than before, and continue with the show.

“...” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes at the scene. She was speechless at the scene in the living room.

“What are you doing?” Qiao Nan finally stepped in to stop the game of hiding and chasing between the father and daughter. She was worried that the triplets would learn the bad ways and she felt that Shi Qing had received her due punishment. She hurried to save Da Bao from Shi Qing. “Uncle Shi, Shi Qing has finally come back. You should be considerate of her feelings when there are outsiders.”

Shi Qing smiled widely after passing Da Bao to Qiao Nan. She felt pain all over her body. “That’s right, Dad. You are being too vicious. It is eight o’clock in the morning. Aren’t you supposed to be working? Don’t tell me that you’re skipping work? This is so unlike you.”

Shi Peng sneered. “Unlike me? If I don’t teach you a lesson, I might lose you forever. Tell me. Why are you so daring to go on a...”

At the thought of how daring Shi Qing was, Shi Peng felt like using his feather duster on her again to teach her a lesson. “Nan Nan is right. I will let you off for the time being. I will wait until we are back at home to discipline you.” Did she think that everything was over after a few spanks? No way!

Settle accounts?

He would do so at home!

There were more to come.

Shi Qing stiffened, turning to look at Qiao Nan. “Is that what you meant just now?”

Qiao Nan wiped the saliva off Da Bao’s cheeks and said calmly, “If not, what else could it be?” She definitely meant that.

“Brother Zhai, you didn’t do anything and just sat by the side, watching the show with the triplets?” Qiao Nan raised her hands to catch hold of one feather that was floating in the air. “Uncle Shi, the feather duster is of low quality. Half of the feathers are gone.” He had yet to give Shi Qing a lesson, but half of its feathers were already gone.

Shi Peng smiled. “Don’t worry about it. Ever since... I bought a lot of feather dusters. Do you know how the shops sell the feather dusters? They sell it in bundles just like how one would sell the candied fruits on bamboo skewers. I bought the entire bundle of feather dusters. It is alright that this is spoiled. I will simply throw it away.”

Shi Peng was not joking. He was serious.

Shi Peng used to serve in the army and he was a high achiever in the army. That was why he was able to contend for supremacy with Zhai Yaohui.

When he was young, he had participated in all kinds of dangerous missions and he had sustained different types of injuries. Shi Peng had been through the difficult days but he was indifferent about it.

However, it was another matter when he knew that his only daughter went through the same hardships as him. He could not take the news as calmly as when he himself was injured.

There were many nights where Shi Peng would be jolted awake due to nightmares. He would dream of the horrible sights that he faced in the past. The only difference was that his daughter was the person who went through all the hardships in his dreams. He could only watch helplessly as his daughter was in great risk time and again. She was injured but he could do nothing about it. She was bleeding profusely from her wounds in his dreams. Shi Peng would always wake up feeling heartache and immense pain.

Although Shi Peng knew that it was only a dream, he was unable to shake off this fear of seeing his daughter in agony.

Shi Peng had been on tenterhooks for the longest time ever since his daughter lost contact with him.

Shi Peng's health had just gotten better. If he continued to be under stress and constant worry, Shi Peng might suffer from another illness—heart disease!

He must make sure to teach Shi Qing a lesson this time.

Qiao Nan smiled, gazing at Shi Qing, wishing her luck.

No matter what, Shi Peng could finally feel at ease now that his daughter had returned safely. He looked at her, hinting that he would teach her a lesson later. He then smiled and reached his hands toward Da Bao, who was in Qiao Nan's arms. "Is he the elder brother or younger brother? He looks sturdy and strong."

"This is Da Bao." Qiao Nan handed Da Bao to Shi Peng. She would not stop Shi Peng from carrying her babies, as she would be watching by the side. "The baby that Zhu Baoguo is carrying is Er Bao. The baby in Brother Zhai's arms is San Bao. She is the only daughter."

"I could tell at one look." Shi Peng touched Da Bao's chubby arms. He had finally calmed down. "Zhai Sheng, your dad has good fortune." Of course, Zhai Sheng had chosen well.

Zhai Yaohui and he were of the same generation and they were of similar age. However, Zhai Yaohui was already a grandpa and had three grandchildren.

What about him?

Although he could not become a paternal grandfather, he was contented to being a maternal grandfather. The problem was he had no idea when he would become a grandfather and hold his grandchild in his arms.

Chapter 1222 Whipped on the Buttocks

He could only quench his thirst by carrying someone else's children.

It was like quenching thirst by drinking poison. They were other people's children. No matter what, he had to return them to the parents.

It was even more painful when he held other people's children in his arms, but his daughter did not have her own child.

He had known it long ago that once Shi Qing joined the army, she would work as hard as how he was back in the army. Therefore, Shi Peng was very against it when Shi Qing said that she wanted to follow his path.

He might be stubborn, but his daughter was even more obstinate than him. She transferred to the military school secretly. By the time he found out, it was too late to change anything.

Shi Peng fumed at the thought of this.

Zhai Sheng could tell that Shi Peng was upset. Since he was his master, Zhai Sheng would not go overboard. "You have good fortune as well. Shi Qing has chosen well." Zhai Sheng darted a glance at the foolish Zhu Baoguo, who was teasing Er Bao.

He was willing to help Shi Qing as he owed it to her. Besides, it was better for him to make the arrangements than for her to keep it from everyone and make the transfer.

If that was the case, when something happened to Shi Qing, nobody would learn of it. There would be no one to help her and she might not be able to return safely.

It was useless to keep stopping her. At times, one had to go along with her as well.

Zhai Sheng knew that Shi Qing was a courageous person. Once she had decided on something, she would do it no matter how other people objected to it. She would even keep it from everyone to get what she wanted, going all out to accomplish her dreams.

It was true that he had interfered in this matter, but he also gave Shi Peng and Shi Qing time to deal with it and accept her decisions.

Given how determined Shi Qing was, they had no other alternative. This was the best solution.

Shi Peng understood Zhai Sheng's intentions, but he was unable to forgive him easily. "Let's talk about this later." He would deal with his daughter later. As for his disciple, he would not let him off so easily either.

Shi Peng had taught Shi Qing a lesson at the Zhai family's residence. Qiao Nan had no idea how Shi Peng punished Shi Qing when they went back home, but she heard that Shi Qing was unable to get off the bed on her third day in the capital. She had to stay in bed for an entire day before she was able to move about.

Qiao Nan knew that Shi Qing must have been whipped on the buttocks.

It was the Lunar New Year's eve. Every family in the capital was preparing for Lunar New Year. Some were happy while some were upset.

In the past, when Feng Cheng did not stay in the same city with her husband and daughter, she would spend Lunar New Year at her parents' home.

This year, although all of them were in the capital, she stayed at the Shi family's residence to spend Lunar New Year with her husband and daughter. She would visit her parents' home on the first day of the Lunar New Year.

Shi Qing was still in school, but she had completed the mission and was awarded a medal. The Feng family was especially thrilled when they learned of the good news. They made several calls to the Shi family, asking about Shi Qing and instructing Feng Cheng to prepare nutritious food for Shi Qing, hoping that she could regain her strength during the Lunar New Year.

The Feng family also invited them, saying that although all of them lived in the capital, it was still necessary for them to keep in contact.

Shi Qing was the only young lady in the Feng family. They hoped that she could join them for dinner during the new year and stay over for a few days to catch up with each other.

The Feng family might have it all planned out, but Shi Qing had other plans.

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had to part with the triplets on the first day of the Lunar New Year to take the plane back to Ping Cheng, paying a visit to the Qiao family. Shi Qing decided to take the same flight back to Ping Cheng with Qiao Nan.

Zhu Chengqi might have been transferred to the capital, but the rest of the Zhu family, especially Elder Zhu, was still in Ping Cheng.

Since Qiao Nan and Shi Qing would be going to Ping Cheng, Zhu Baoguo told Zhu Chengqi that he would make a trip back to visit Old Master Zhu, assuring him that the father and son were doing well in the capital.

Zhu Chengqi welcomed his son's suggestion.

Zhu Chengqi had no time to pay his father a visit. Even if Zhu Baoguo did not make the suggestion, he would tell his son to make a trip to Ping Cheng. Since he offered to go, Zhu Chengqi gave him a sum of money for his trip to Ping Cheng.

Now that Zhu Chengqi and Zhu Baoguo were not in Ping Cheng, most of the time, it was Wang Yang and his family that took care of Old Master Zhu.

When Zhu Baoguo was back in Ping Cheng, he had to take care of Old Master Zhu as well as be nice to the Wang family.

Zhu Baoguo had to give some money to the Wang family so that they would help look after Old Master Zhu if he felt unwell. If he had to be sent to the capital for treatment, Zhu Chengqi would take over to take care of him.

A year had passed. Apart from visiting Old Master Zhu, Zhu Baoguo had to visit the Lee family as well as his maternal relatives.

Zhu Baoguo had more valid reasons to go back to Ping Cheng than Shi Qing, who was there for fun.

Shi Qing said that it was because of Qiao Nan that she went back to Ping Cheng.

However, upon reaching Ping Cheng, instead of accompanying Qiao Nan to visit the Qiao family, she spent all her time with Zhu Baoguo. She accompanied him as he visited the Zhu family, the Lee family, and other relatives.

Qiao Nan was amused at Shi Qing's behavior. "Is Shi Qing taking the initiative to visit her in-laws?"

She had yet to marry Zhu Baoguo, but she had fulfilled her duties as Zhu Baoguo's wife. "Brother Zhai, do you think it is good that Shi Qing behaves in this way? Will the Zhu family and the Lee family look down on her in the future? Will she be bullied by Zhu Baoguo?"

In the matters of the heart, the party who was in love first was doomed to be the loser.

Shi Qing was more mature than Zhu Baoguo. Qiao Nan was worried that her only good friend would be bullied after she was married.

"Don't worry." Zhai Sheng was very confident. "Apart from getting confused back when she had feelings for me, Shi Qing is, in fact, a very sharp and smart girl. In general, people would be witless with regard to things that concerned them. But it is the opposite for her. She is able to think clearly about the matters related to her. She will make a good soldier. It will be a loss to the army and the country if she is a normal office worker."

Shi Qing was exceptionally calm when she was on her missions. This positive trait of hers worked to her advantage.

"Alright, now that we are back, should we go to the Qiao family's residence?" Nan Nan kept worrying about Shi Qing. Was she using this to avoid meeting the Qiao family?

Qiao Nan's countenance changed. She turned to hug Zhai Sheng.

#### Chapter 1223 Feigned Politeness

"Well, we have no other choice. We just have to go back. Have you bought the food and presents?"

"I have prepared them long ago. All we need to do is bring them with us." Zhai Sheng patted Qiao Nan lightly on the back, coaxing her like he was coaxing San Bao. He cherished his daughter and his wife just as much.

The Zhai family had moved to the capital, but they had someone to look after their house in Ping Cheng.

Before Zhai Sheng went back to Ping Cheng, he had made a call, telling the person-in-charge to prepare food and presents for the Lunar New Year.

Now that everything was ready, Qiao Nan could not come up with any excuses to delay going to the Qiao family's residence. She had no other choice but to hold Zhai Sheng by the arm and walk gloomily to the Qiao family's residence.

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan caught the attention of the neighbors when they reached the quad. The neighbors waved and greeted them warmly. "Hey, Nan Nan is back. Is she visiting her parents' home?"

"Nan Nan, are you paying a visit to your parents?"

"Nan Nan, you're finally back. Come to my house when you have time. I will prepare delicious food for you."

Apart from Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was the most outstanding child in the quad. Other than marrying Zhai Sheng, who was very talented, Qiao Nan was initially remarkable and had performed very well in her exams. She was a role model and the envy of the neighbors.

Qiao Nan stood next to Zhai Sheng and smiled shyly at the familiar neighbors.

No one would feel that Qiao Nan was snubbing them now that she had married well. They had known Qiao Nan since she was a child. She was usually quiet but she would keep a smile on her face.

This was why before Qiao Nan did very well in her middle school examination, the neighbors used to think that Qiao Zijin was smarter than Qiao Nan. Qiao Zijin was good with her words and left a good impression on the neighbors. On the other hand, Qiao Nan, who was reserved, would trail behind Qiao Zijin, going unnoticed. She was more about actions and fewer words.

Zhai Sheng accompanied Qiao Nan to the Qiao family's residence and they were given a warm welcome by the neighbors. It was like the ancient times when the officials in the capital made a grand trip to their hometown.

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan were still quite a distance from the Qiao family's residence. The Qiao family could hear the neighbors' greetings, and they knew that not only was Qiao Nan back, but Zhai Sheng, who was busy with work, accompanied her to the parents' home as well.

Qiao Zijin felt displeased. She saw on the television that Qiao Nan's father-in-law was present in the capital for the annual evening show on the eve of the Lunar New Year. In other words, if Qiao Nan was willing, she could watch the performance live in the capital. There was no need for her to watch it through television.

Since Chief Zhai held such a high position in the army, Zhai Sheng must have an important position as well.

The first day of the Lunar New Year was very important to the Chinese. Since Zhai Sheng was willing to accompany Qiao Nan to pay a visit to the Qiao family, it showed that he valued Qiao Nan very much.

Qiao Nan did not have any positive traits. She could not understand why Zhai Sheng would do so much for her. She used to think that even if Qiao Nan visited the Qiao family, no one from the Zhai family would make the trip with her. People like the Zhai family would not want to associate themselves with in-laws like the Qiao family.

If the Zhai family did not accompany Qiao Nan when she visited the Qiao family, it would mean that they looked down on the Qiao family as well as Qiao Nan, not taking into consideration her feelings. However, she did not expect that things would turn out differently. Not only did the Zhai family send someone to accompany Qiao Nan, but it was also Zhai Sheng himself.

Since Zhai Sheng was here, it showed that he loved Qiao Nan very much and that the Zhai family cared about Qiao Nan.

Otherwise, the elders in the Zhai family would have come up with an excuse to stop Zhai Sheng from accompanying Qiao Nan, saying that he had to attend meetings with the officials. Apart from the Qiao family, many other more established families had dealings with the Zhai family.

Despite these, Zhai Sheng still accompanied Qiao Nan to her parents' house. It came as a huge blow to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan was outstanding and was able to marry Zhai Sheng despite the fact that she came from a humble background. At the same time, she was able to gain the affection of her husband as well as her in-laws. Qiao Zijin was jealous that luck was on Qiao Nan's side.

Qiao Zijin gritted her teeth in anger such that she could taste blood. She suspected that Qiao Nan was not her mother's daughter and was heaven's daughter instead.

Everything went well for Qiao Nan. On the other hand, she was down on her luck and was not able to keep Chen Jun with her.

Chen Jun had not been keeping in touch with her for the past year. Qiao Zijin knew that he was very determined to break up with her.

Qiao Zijin took a deep breath at the thought of Chen Jun, swallowing the blood in her mouth. Without Chen Jun, she could find another man, be it Lee Jun or Hong Jun.

As long as they were recommended by Qiao Nan, they would definitely be just as good as Chen Jun. She did not need to feel disappointed that Chen Jun had broken up with her. With Qiao Nan around, she would definitely be able to lead the life that she wanted!

When Qiao Nan reached the doorway to the Qiao family's residence, instead of Qiao Dongliang, it was Qiao Zijin who came out to welcome her. Qiao Zijin had a bright smile upon seeing Qiao Nan. "Nan Nan, you are back. Why didn't you give us a phone call beforehand? We could have gotten ready for your visit. Happy Lunar New Year. I wish that you will keep doing well in school and that the triplets will be healthy. They will be as smart as you, and they will have a strong physique like brother-in-law."

Qiao Nan gaped in shock at the greetings that Qiao Zijin said to her.

They had been sisters for two lifetimes. What could she expect from a hog but a grunt? Qiao Nan was taken aback by the pleasantries that Qiao Zijin said today.

"Nan Nan, you are back." Qiao Dongliang came out after Qiao Zijin. He cast Qiao Zijin an odd glance, wondering what she was up to this time. Today was the first day of the Lunar New Year. It was rare that Nan Nan was back. He hoped that Zijin would not go way overboard and drive her away. "There was heavy snowfall in Ping Cheng recently. The snow has melted and it is freezing cold. Come on in. Did it snow in the capital?"

“It did.” Qiao Nan nodded, entering the house.

Qiao Dongliang welcomed his younger daughter and son-in-law into the house as he greeted the neighbors. “Sure, I will invite you over to the house later.”

Ding Jiayi felt conflicted and her feelings could be seen on her face. She noticed that Zhai Sheng carried many bags of expensive food and presents with him. She forced a smile on her face. “Qiao Nan, we are contented that you and Zhai Sheng are here to visit us. Why did you bring so much food and presents with you? We are one family. There is no need to prepare presents for us.”

Everyone could tell that Ding Jiayi was lying. After all, she had just finished her sentence when she took the bags from Zhai Sheng and locked them inside her room.

#### Chapter 1224 Thankfully They Did Not Get Back Together

Initially, Qiao Dongliang did not have many expressions on his face, but there was a look of embarrassment and awkwardness on his face when he saw how Ding Jiayi behaved. However, he quickly recovered and welcomed them into the house. “Zhai Sheng, Nan Nan, take a seat. I will bring you some tea.” Luckily, they did not get back together.

As expected, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan did not bring the triplets with them. Qiao Dongliang felt sad that he was unable to see his grandchildren.

Even though he was disappointed, he did not say anything or let his feelings show. He maintained a calm expression as if he had never harbored the thought of seeing the triplets.

If Qiao Dongliang behaved like Ding Jiayi and made unreasonable requests of her, Qiao Nan would turn heartless toward him and treat him in the same way as how she would Ding Jiayi.

However, Qiao Dongliang would be nice to her at times. Qiao Nan could not refuse his kindness, and she did not know how she should treat him.

“Dad, let me help you.” Ding Jiayi hurried into the room to check on the bags of food and presents that Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan gave them. It was rare that Qiao Zijin was ‘sensible’ and followed Qiao Dongliang into the kitchen. She helped brew three cups of tea and brought out a plate of new year cookies for them. “Dad, I remembered that Nan Nan likes these cookies. I told Mom to buy more of the cookies.”

Qiao Zijin was telling the truth. In her memories, Qiao Nan loved the cookies, so she told Ding Jiayi to buy more of the cookies.

Given Qiao Nan's status, she had lots of money to buy whatever food that she liked.

However, even if Qiao Nan did not have a single piece of cookies that the Qiao family prepared for her, at least, it showed that they were being nice to her. She believed that Qiao Nan would not be able to give them the cold treatment and be calculative with them.

Qiao Dongliang remained silent, giving consent to Qiao Zijin. He went back to the living room with the tea while Qiao Zijin brought the cookies out.

“Brother-in-law, Nan Nan, don't stand on ceremony. Now that you are back, make yourselves at home.” Qiao Zijin had a wide smile on her face. She was as cheerful as the neighbors who welcomed Qiao Nan back home. Qiao Nan could not stand the fact that she was being so affectionate to her. “I remember that this is your favorite food when you were a child. Many years have passed, but the traditional cookies still taste the same. They will never change. I bought it at the shop that we frequented in the past. The new shops are not able to create the same taste.”

Qiao Nan lowered her eyes. A year had passed. Other than growing older, Qiao Zijin had become smarter.

In the past, Qiao Zijin was very radical and annoying.

Right now, Qiao Zijin had turned to use the soft approach. Hehehe...

Qiao Nan took some cookies and placed them on the side table so that Qiao Zijin would not keep urging her to have more of the cookies. Qiao Zijin was so eagerly attentive that she might feed her with the cookies if she did not eat them.

Qiao Nan was 'amazed' that Qiao Zijin had made huge improvements, while Qiao Zijin was thinking to herself that Qiao Nan was too hard to please. She had a nasty temper.

They were one family. If they treated her nicely in front of Zhai Sheng, it was being considerate of Qiao Nan's feelings.

It was good for the two parties. Why did Qiao Nan insist on giving her the cold shoulder?

If Qiao Nan continued to be at loggerheads with her parents, wasn't she worried that the Zhai family would look down on her?

It was good to be confident, but if one was overly confident, one would fail in the end. "Nan Nan, why didn't you try the cookies? Give it a try. Is it the same taste as before? I specifically checked that it is the same person from seven to eight years ago who made the cookies."

Qiao Nan smiled. "It is the Lunar New Year. There is no way that one will go hungry. I am too full right now. I will have it when I am hungry and reminisce about the past."

The cookies on the tables were not Qiao Nan's favorite snacks. They were merely cookies that she used to anticipate every Lunar New Year.

Back then, Qiao Nan never had the chance to have any good food at home. Qiao Nan was not allowed to have meat at home. This was the case for the expensive new year cookies as well.

Qiao Zijin had the wrong impression that the snacks were Qiao Nan's favorite food.

Like all other children, Qiao Nan was just an ordinary kid. During the Lunar New Year, children looked forward to having food that they could not have in normal days. To Qiao Nan, she did not like the cookies. Instead, it was the mother's love that she had been looking forward to but was not able to receive. She hoped that her mother would have a look at her and realize that she was a well-behaved child.

The so-called favorite childhood time and childhood memories only reminded her of her unhappy childhood.

"You're right. Have them when you are hungry." Qiao Dongliang believed every word that Qiao Nan said. "The triplets should be four months old, right?" Qiao Dongliang changed the topic. Actually, he wanted to ask how the triplets looked like and whether they were healthy.

Zhai Sheng took out a photo from his wallet and passed it to Qiao Dongliang. "This was taken before the triplets turned four months. Nan Nan brought them to the photo studio to take photos.

They have grown since they took the photo, but there isn't much difference. The triplets don't like to take photos. This is the only photo that we have."

Of course, the triplets took more than one photo, but this was the only photo that the Zhai family was willing to give Qiao Dongliang.

Zhai Hua loved the triplets and she would spend her every day with them.

In order to make a record of their growing up process as well as to take down their adorable looks, Zhai Hua, the tough lady who was the least bit interested in photography, spent a bomb on a good camera. Because of this, she was scolded by Qiao Nan for being a spendthrift.

The triplets were only four months old, but they already had many photo albums at home.

Qiao Dongliang gazed at the photo that Zhai Sheng passed to him. He treated the photo with care and caressed the triplets who were smiling in the photo. His frown eased, and he had an affectionate smile on his face as he gazed at the photo. "The triplets are so adorable. They look exactly the same like Nan Nan when she was still a baby. All of them are so lovely and cute. Is this San Bao?"

The triplets looked beautiful and smart. Qiao Dongliang praised them as they were his maternal grandchildren and they had a strong resemblance to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang was able to tell right away which one was San Bao.

San Bao had the best features among the triplets and the strongest resemblance to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Dongliang noticed that San Bao looked very much like his younger daughter. Therefore, he was certain that the baby must be San Bao, the only girl among the triplets.

Chapter 1225 'Baby Brain' Effect

"Yes. This is San Bao. We have decided on the names for the triplets. Da Bao is called Zhai Yi, Er Bao is Zhai Xin, and San Bao is Zhai Yu. My master helped think of the name for San Bao. My in-laws feel that it is a good name. We have submitted their names."

Once they had come up with the names, they would be able to record and register the babies under their household register and they would be one complete family. Nobody could gossip about the triplets' legitimacy or hurt them with their nasty remarks.

Zhai Sheng spent more time in the army than at home. According to deduction, Qiao Nan was pregnant when they were still in Ping Cheng.

Furthermore, the triplets were born prematurely.

They could not stop other people from spreading rumors that were harmful to Qiao Nan and the triplets.

Her babies were so young and they did not understand anything, yet they were already being speculated and maligned by other people. As their mother, Qiao Nan's heart ached for them. She wished that she could single out everyone who spread rumors and give them a harsh beating.

Thankfully, they had decided upon the names for the triplets. Now that the triplets were registered under the same household register as her, Qiao Nan, who was unsettled, finally set her heart at rest.

Qiao Nan could not hide the happiness in her voice when she told Qiao Dongliang about adding the triplets to her household register. She was thrilled to tell her parents that the triplets were registered under the Zhai family's household register.

In the future, no one would be able to gossip about the triplets' legitimacy anymore.

Qiao Nan's warning was not meant for Qiao Dongliang. It was directed at Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Zijin smiled naturally, as if she could not tell that Qiao Nan was giving her a warning. "Is that so? That is great! The triplets have great names. Nan Nan, when I get married in the future and have children, I will have to seek your advice on the babies' names. You must help me."

Qiao Nan sipped the tea and smiled. "Well... I didn't come up with the names for the triplets. Da Bao's and Er Bao's names were given by the old master and my father-in-law. They discussed for a long time before they reached a decision. San Bao's name was given by my master. He thought of it in no time and gave a very good name to her. San Bao seems to like the name. Therefore, I don't want to be the bad person, and so we continue to use the name. Dad, the photo..."

“Don’t worry. I will definitely keep them nicely with me.” Qiao Dongliang cherished the photo that he had with him. He looked at it endearingly. One look at the triplets in the photo and he could tell that they were siblings. They had the similar features.

They were his grandchildren. They had great looks. One look and he could tell that they were brilliant and smart. When they grew up and went to school, they would definitely be like Nan Nan, scoring good results in exams.

They had such an outstanding mother and would be just as remarkable.

Qiao Dongliang took out his wallet and put the photo of the triplets carefully into the wallet. He was very careful with it, fearful that the wallet might leave creases on the photo or make scratches on the triplets’ faces.

The photo was meant to be put in the wallet. It fitted just nice into Zhai Sheng’s wallet. Therefore, there was no need to trim it to the correct size to put into Qiao Dongliang’s wallet.

Qiao Dongliang smiled when he fitted the photo nicely into his wallet. He no longer put his wallet inside the pants pocket. Instead, he put them into his shirt pocket, the spot closest to his heart.

One could tell from his action that Qiao Dongliang really liked his grandchildren.

Looking at Qiao Dongliang’s behavior, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan did not know what to say. They did not know if they should sympathize with him or feel sorry for him.

One that was pitiful must have a hateful story. The words of our forefathers were never lies.

Qiao Nan could not help but sigh. She could only say that her father brought it upon himself. He had no one to blame.

“Old Qiao, how many dishes do you intend to prepare today?” Ding Jiayi, who had made a detailed count of Zhai Sheng’s presents, came out with a satisfied look on her face. She had a more sincere smile than before.

She thought that the wretched girl would be stubborn and would not show respect for her feelings. She was reluctant to visit them and she would not bring any expensive presents with her. The presents that she prepared for them must be miserly and only to keep up the appearance.

Who would have known that...

That wretched girl was smart.

If the wretched girl had to save on the presents that she brought to her parents' home, she was certain that the wretched girl did not have a good life in the Zhai family.

"I have bought the ingredients. I can start to fry the dishes. Nan Nan, are you hungry? Shall I fry the dishes now?" Qiao Dongliang made his decisions based on Qiao Nan's preferences.

Qiao Nan leaned against Zhai Sheng. "Dad, there is no hurry. I just came back from the capital, and I feel slightly giddy. I am not hungry at the moment."

Zhai Sheng held Qiao Nan's hands. "You haven't eaten for the entire day. You have to eat something. Besides, you have to take care of the triplets when you go back. No matter how sick you are, you still have to eat something to replenish the body. If you are really tired, we can go back after the meal and you can have an early rest."

If Qiao Dongliang did not start preparing the dishes, when would they have the meal with the Qiao family?

If they had an early meal, he and Nan Nan would have completed their mission here and they could go back home where they could feel at ease.

They were being very accommodating, as they wanted to leave as soon as possible.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. This was what people meant by the 'baby brain' effect.

She felt uncomfortable at her parents' home. She had no appetite and was unwilling to have a meal with them. However, she had said something that was very foolish and pretentious.

Since she had to have a meal with them, it was better to have it earlier and finish it as soon as possible.

She only intended to have a meal at the Qiao family, and then she would return to the Zhai family's residence to rest. Before she left for the capital the next morning, she would say her goodbye to the Qiao family. Thereafter, she would take the plane back to the capital with Brother Zhai. They had already made all the arrangements.

After all, the triplets were young and they needed their mother to take care of them.

Moreover, she was not on good terms with her parents and sister. It was the only way to say that she needed to go back earlier to take care of her children.

Once they knew that she had to take care of her children and had to leave as early as possible, no one would be able to say anything. It would also not look bad on the Zhai family or affect their reputation.

“Nan Nan, Zhai Sheng is right. The triplets are young. You have to take care of yourself so that you can look after them.”

#### Chapter 1226 Inexperienced

Qiao Nan realized her error and had yet to say anything when Qiao Dongliang interrupted to support Zhai Sheng.

Qiao Nan seized the opportunity. “Alright, Dad. Since you and Brother Zhai said so, you can start frying the dishes. I will have some food. I will have an early rest after the meal. Perhaps after I rest well today, I will feel recharged tomorrow. By the time I go back to the capital, I will be able to take care of the triplets.”

Qiao Dongliang's smile stiffened. “Sure, I will start to fry some dishes.”

Qiao Dongliang looked desolate and lonely from the back.

Qiao Zijin, who sat by the side, was smiling to herself in her head. Her father deserved to be treated in this way. It was his fault that he sided with Qiao Nan previously as if Qiao Nan was his only daughter while treating her as if she was not his biological daughter.

Her father gave his everything to Qiao Nan, but when she married well in the end, she turned her back on him.

Qiao Zijin felt that it served him right to be so heart-stricken!

Ding Jiayi looked relaxed and she began to engage in a conversation with Qiao Nan. "Since the two of you came all the way from the capital, aren't you going to stay for a few more days? Do you have to go back to the capital tomorrow? You grew up in Ping Cheng. You must have many friends here. It is the Lunar New Year. It would be nice to gather and have a good chat, catching up with each other. Son-in-law, although your family has moved to the capital, you must not forget about your relatives in Ping Cheng. Since you are back, you should pay them a visit. Otherwise, if they know that you are back with your wife but you did not visit them, they will make nasty remarks about you."

Since she was Qiao Nan's mother, when Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan visited their relatives, they could bring her along with them. She could get to know Zhai Sheng's relatives then.

If there was a day where the Qiao family encountered trouble and Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng could not render help in time, she could seek help from these relatives.

Qiao Nan massaged her forehead. "I don't feel well. Brother Zhai, I will lean against you and take a nap."

"Sure." Zhai Sheng held Qiao Nan by the shoulder so that she could lean more comfortably against him. The couple had the tacit understanding to ignore Ding Jiayi's suggestion and chose not to answer her.

Ding Jiayi was a troublemaker. They must steer clear of her.

Qiao Nan closed her eyes, leaning against Zhai Sheng, hinting to Ding Jiayi that she would not cooperate with her. There was nothing that Ding Jiayi could do with her. As for Zhai Sheng, who sat next to Qiao Nan and was wide awake, Ding Jiayi smiled guiltily at him. She dared not engage in a conversation with him.

Ding Jiayi was only capable of losing her temper and taking advantage of Qiao Nan, her daughter. She was very timid in front of outsiders. Even if Zhai Sheng was her son-in-law, she dared not make any requests of him.

The three of them sat quietly in the living room while Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Zijin busied themselves in the kitchen.

The Qiao family was the first family to prepare their meals among all the families in the quad in Ping Cheng.

Qiao Nan took a long nap. She only woke up when Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Zijin came out with the dishes.

Qiao Nan had made known that she was unwell and had no appetite. She even took a nap and refused to talk to Ding Jiayi. Even if Ding Jiayi knew that she must be pretending, she could say nothing about it. If she said the wrong word, they might not have the meal at all.

Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan had lived together for a couple of years. He knew Qiao Nan's eating habits. "Nan Nan, many of the dishes are spicy. Try them and let me know if the taste is still the same as how I used to prepare in the past. Zhai Sheng, I remember you used to have the same food as us when you came to our house. You should be able to take spicy food, right?"

People would usually have a feast during the Lunar New Year.

Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan could take spicy food while Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin disliked spicy food.

Qiao Zijin no longer put up a strong front. When they were in the kitchen, she told Qiao Dongliang of her eating preferences so that he would prepare some non-spicy dishes for her and her mother.

Since Qiao Zijin was well-behaved and Ding Jiayi did not stir up any trouble, Qiao Dongliang felt that her request was reasonable. Therefore, he prepared more dishes to cater to their taste. That was why the table was filled with so much food.

Qiao Dongliang used chopsticks to take Qiao Nan's favorite dishes and put them into a bowl. "Nan Nan, have more of the food. It's alright if you have less rice. You can have more of the dishes. The dishes are nutritious. Have more of them."

“Thank you, Dad.” Qiao Nan felt slightly better and comforted at Zhai Sheng’s words. Seeing that Qiao Dongliang had taken a lot of food for her, Qiao Nan finally had some appetite and began to dig in.

Qiao Nan put down her chopsticks when she had taken enough food. “Dad, I am full.”

Since Qiao Nan wanted to wean the triplets off breast milk, there was no need for her to have countless bowls of nutritious, oily, and unbearable tonic soups.

Qiao Nan would take three meals a day as per normal.

Qiao Dongliang was glad that his daughter had eaten her fill. However, he noticed that Qiao Nan only had the non-spicy dishes that he prepared specially for Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. He was puzzled. “Nan Nan, don’t you like spicy food anymore?”

Qiao Nan shook her head. “The triplets are four months old and I have not weaned them off breast milk completely. I cannot have anything too spicy and savory.”

Besides spicy food, if the food was too salty, Qiao Nan had to rinse the food with water before she ate them.

Otherwise, she might be able to satisfy her palate, but the triplets would have a stomachache when they drank her milk.

“I-is that so?” Qiao Dongliang had zero experience in this. He looked at Ding Jiayi with a puzzled look.

Ding Jiayi nodded. “The kids nowadays are very delicate. The mother has to be very careful. The times have changed. People would pay particular attention to this.” Ding Jiayi had a slight knowledge of this.

However, Ding Jiayi felt particularly displeased that Qiao Nan paid attention to this matter.

She felt that Qiao Nan must be showing off to her when she brought up this topic.

She was strong-headed and kept scolding Qiao Nan because she was not a boy, but a girl. Her mother mocked her and cursed her not to have any sons in her life, saying that she would not have any sons to attend her funeral upon her death.

She did not have any sons, but Qiao Nan was better than her. Not only did she have sons, but she also had two sons in one go.

She had two children, but none of them was a son. Moreover, Old Qiao had to leave the army as they had more than one child.

On the contrary, Qiao Nan had three children. She had more children than her, and she had all of them in a single pregnancy. It did not affect Zhai Sheng's development in the army.

Chapter 1227 Continue to Put On the Ac

Both had given birth to children. However, the outcome of Qiao Nan's pregnancy was the complete opposite of hers.

Her man lost his career after she gave birth. On the other hand, Zhai Sheng was motivated to strive for further progress after Qiao Nan gave birth.

Without the need for Qiao Nan to speak much, Ding Jiayi's liver was filled with anger because of this difference. Her adrenaline was madly rushing and she looked like she going to bristle with rage.

"Mom, have some meat." Before Ding Jiayi could speak any awful words, Qiao Zijin picked up a piece of meat with her chopsticks and placed it into Ding Jiayi's bowl. She even held on to Ding Jiayi's hand. "Mom, have more food. Right, didn't you tell me last time that you're worried about Nan Nan? She is a first-time mother and thus inexperienced and ignorant about many situations. You said that you wanted to have a good chat with Nan Nan, no? I have seen the photo in Dad's wallet earlier. The three children are extremely good-looking. Next time, we can visit them when we have the chance."

After Qiao Zijin tugged at her, Ding Jiayi's anguish turned into a dud. She said with false concern, "Isn't that so? I am just worried that my experience is outdated and not suitable for raising kids nowadays. Nan Nan, if you're willing to, listen to my words. If you're not, just take it that I'm singing. I am the maternal grandmother of the three children but I don't have much money and can't buy anything presentable for them. At the very least, I can share with you my experience as a mother. Take it that it's the thought that counts."

Ding Jiayi could choose whether to listen to Qiao Dongliang but she had to listen to Qiao Zijin.

After all, she was still counting on Qiao Zijin to support her financially when she was old. If she angered Qiao Zijin and her elder daughter refused to support her when she was old, she would have to become subservient to the annoying wretched girl.

Although there was only one in a million chance of this happening, Ding Jiayi also had to find ways to avoid this kind of situation.

Even if Qiao Nan was a thousand or ten thousand times more successful than Qiao Zijin and could provide her with a more comfortable life, Ding Jiayi would rather choose the useless Qiao Zijin to support her financially. Unless she had absolutely no choice, she would rather take meat from Qiao Zijin than to take birds' nest from Qiao Nan.

There was no need to question her why. It was purely that ghost in Ding Jiayi's heart playing tricks on her. She was obsessed.

Ding Jiayi's cooperation made Qiao Zijin look more at ease. "Nan Nan, don't mind Mom's words. All of us know Mom's temper. Compared to last time, she's much better now. Mom was right in something. It's the thought that counts. There's nothing more precious than well-meaning thoughts in this world."

Ding Jiayi's attitude toward Qiao Nan was so terrible in the past. Today, Ding Jiayi's manner of speech and attitude was not that good but it had improved tremendously.

She did not expect Qiao Nan to appreciate or gratefully accept such a change in Ding Jiayi.

At the very least, Ding Jiayi was working hard to change herself, yet Qiao Nan was still a stick in the mud, living in the past and refusing to come out of her shell. She continued to treat them as enemies. This was not something that Qiao Zijin wished for.

"Ha." Qiao Nan laughed. She neither agreed nor disagreed. "Brother Zhai, I am feeling tired."

Upon receiving Qiao Nan's hint, Zhai Sheng looked at Qiao Dongliang. "Dad, most likely, Nan Nan has caught a little cold. I'll bring her back to take some cold medicine first."

The smile on Qiao Dongliang's face faded, and his eyes were filled with hurt. "Okay, alright. Bring Nan Nan home to have a good rest then. Zhai Sheng, Nan Nan is unwell now. I can only rely on you to take good care of her."

Zhai Sheng held on to Qiao Nan as they stood up. "Sure. Before we return to the capital tomorrow, Nan Nan and I will come to visit you again. Dad, Nan Nan and I will make a move first." After informing the necessary, Zhai Sheng only gave a nod to Ding Jiayi, this mother-in-law, before the couple simply left.

Zhai Sheng, the one with the highest 'altitude' in the house, stood up and was leaving. Who would dare to stop him? Who could do so?

She had already tried her best to specially gain the favors of Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng but they refused to give her any face. Instantly, Ding Jiayi pulled a long face. Qiao Zijin pursed the corners of her lips. She forced a smile by curling up the drooping corners of her mouth. Hence, she was smiling as she sent the couple off with her eyes when Zhai Sheng led Qiao Nan out of the house.

The moment the door was closed behind them, Qiao Zijin looked at Qiao Dongliang coldly. Her eyes were filled with sarcasm, seemingly saying 'You're so good to Qiao Nan. Look. Qiao Nan treats you, this father, in this way'.

Qiao Nan, who looked listless in the Qiao family's residence, reverted to her energetic and lively self once she stepped out of the doors. "I really don't understand what the point of continuing with such a family is."

She had lived in the small courtyard of the Qiao family for two lifetimes. Qiao Nan could tell clearly what was happening in the house just with one glance.

Her father had returned to the small courtyard of the Qiao family to stay. However, like in the past, he did not sleep on the same bed as Ding Jiayi. They were still in a 'separation mode'.

As for Qiao Zijin...

True enough, Qiao Zijin was still Qiao Zijin. Although the situation was different, Qiao Zijin's nature did not change at all. She had changed to someone who knew how to hide their true feelings better. She had become more realistic and sinister.

“You have to put on a better act.” Zhai Sheng held on to Qiao Nan without any reservation and let Qiao Nan lean on to him as they walked. “Many people are secretly watching us.”

The younger daughter of the Qiao family brought her wealthy husband home to visit relatives. This was big news in the quad.

Everyone was quite curious about Qiao Nan’s attitude toward Ding Jiayi, such a sinful mother. It was seldom—only once in a year—that she came home. However, the time spent in the small courtyard of the Qiao family did not exceed two hours. Given this duration, what would the people in the quad think?

Fine.

Qiao Nan gave in and leaned onto Zhai Sheng, allowing the latter to hold onto her as they left.

The small courtyard of the Qiao family was not big. There were only a few bedrooms. Qiao Nan looked as if she was feeling very unwell. They had to return to the house of the Zhai family as the small courtyard of the Qiao family did not have a suitable bedroom for both Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng to rest.

Hence, Zhai Sheng bringing Qiao Nan out of the house early was an acceptable explanation to others.

The owners of the Zhai family’s residence in Ping Cheng had been away for almost a year. Although someone would clean up the place occasionally, the already once not-so-lively Zhai family’s residence felt even more isolated now.

Thankfully, the quad was filled with the presence of many others. At the sight of the situation, an extremely funny thought came to Qiao Nan’s mind: After some time, the house of the Zhai family might become a haunted mansion if it continued to be so deserted.

“We don’t lack blankets or anything in the house. They should have been dried in the sun before the Lunar New Year. It’s not moist and still quite comfortable to sleep with.” Qiao Nan might have been affected by her mood. She really did feel a little unwell. Zhai Sheng asked Qiao Nan to sit down and rest. He used his fastest speed and the most effective way to prepare the bed while waiting for the water to boil so that Qiao Nan could lie down on it to rest.

Upon touching the warm bed, Qiao Nan heaved a sigh of relief. "Let me make a call home. Don't know if the triplets had thrown any tantrums or kicked up any fuss."

Zhai Sheng took out the clothes said calmly, "Make the call then."

#### Chapter 1228 To Dine with Mama's Photograph

Without this phone call, they would certainly feel so upset that they would not be able to sleep tonight. Zhai Sheng even took the initiative to dial the number for Qiao Nan. "Turn on the speaker." His mother would definitely get the triplets to speak on the phone.

They were only away from home for less than a day. However, Qiao Nan, this mother, was not the only one who missed the triplets. As the biological father, Zhai Sheng also missed the three chubby babies in the Zhai's residence.

Miao Jing picked up the call as soon as Zhai Sheng made it. "You have finally called home." In the past, the triplets slept a lot when Nan Nan was at home every day. Miao Jing did not feel very different. Nan Nan was not home the entire day today and was not even coming back tonight. After some time, she felt that things were different.

The four-month-old triplets were awake for longer hours than before. Not seeing their biological mother for a long time, they had been kicking up a great fuss and crying loudly. They could not be appeased no matter what.

Initially, Miao Jing thought that the triplets would fall asleep after their energies were drained from all the crying.

However, the triplets had been awake for so long. Seeing them cry in this manner, Miao Jing's heart ached. The triplets' tiny faces turned red due to crying. Miao Jing was very anxious and upset. "You will definitely come home tomorrow, right?"

"The triplets are crying?" She could hear the sounds of children crying from the other end of the phone. As the biological mother, she could tell whose families' babies were crying. "Mom, why don't you turn on the speaker? In this way, the triplets can hear my voice too. Let me try to coax them?"

She could tell from Miao Jing's tone that the latter was quite anxious. Qiao Nan guessed that the triplets must have been crying for some time. The triplets were still young and could only use

crying to communicate whenever they were hungry or had peed. The Zhai family members had long been used to their cries. Her mother-in-law would not feel so nervous about them.

“Okay.” Miao Jing wiped the sweat on her forehead and turned on the speaker. “Da Bao, Er Bao, San Bao, listen. Is that your mom’s voice?”

“Da Bao, Er Bao, San Bao, did you take your meals obediently? Did you listen to grandma?” Qiao Nan held onto the phone as she quickly spoke.

The triplets found Qiao Nan’s voice familiar. After hearing it, they turned their heads, looking around for their mama.

“They finally stop crying.” Miao Jing let out a sigh of relief. “However, the triplets are turning their necks and looking for you. What should we do next?”

Miao Jing really did not have other ways. She could only ask Qiao Nan for a suggestion.

After thinking, Qiao Nan said, “Mom, do you think we can place one of my photographs by the triplets’ side? Do you think they will remember my face? This won’t do. This method most probably won’t work.” They were just four months old. At this age, they were still mainly relying on their sense of smell to identify people.

“Heck. I’ll try first.” Miao Jing was making a Hail Mary effort. She would give it a try first.

Qiao Nan did not have many photographs. However, she and Zhai Sheng took a set of wedding photos before their marriage. Both were people who liked convenience. As such, they had taken more photographs with negatives. The photography studio would let their customers pick and choose until they met the minimum quantity of photographs. The customers could pick more if they had more photographs that they liked. Anyway, the customers would have to pay for them.

The photography studio was good at their work. Be it the wedding or the daily life series, the couple looked very compatible in the photographs.

As such, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan developed more photographs than required.

At this moment, the triplets were throwing tantrums. At least, Qiao Nan still had some individual photos that could be used to try appeasing the triplets.

Miao Jing generously took out three photographs. She was not biased, and each child would have one each.

At the sound of their mama's voice, the triplets were not crying as badly as before. Miao Jing first placed the photograph before the triplets. The triplet's eyeballs swirled, and they stared at the woman in the photograph. Finally, the sounds of their cries completely disappeared.

The triplets, who were not crying, even opened their tiny mouths slightly, looking like they were about to smile.

The chubby, round, and stout little hands reached out as they tried to grab their mama's photographs.

"The three ancestors finally stop kicking a fuss." One by one, the Zhai family members, who had already been tortured until the men and horses were thrown off their feet, heaved out sighs of relief.

Zhai Hua, who was still a little angry, held on to Qiao Nan's photograph and patted gently on Er Bao's nose. "These three heartless little baddies, during the two months when your mom was studying, your grandma and I took care of you. Once your biological mother is not by your side, you have no qualms about torturing us and insist on seeing your biological mother's photograph before you finally stop crying. Little heartless ones!"

They had not heard before that four-month-old children would begin to recognize people.

They felt that their family's triplets were too smart and eccentric. Nevertheless, Zhai Hua knew that, thankfully, they could appease the triplets now as they were still young.

When they were older and understood the difference between the photograph and the real person, what should she do when Qiao Nan was not around again? If she could not appease the triplets with Qiao Nan's photograph, was she supposed to transform into the triplets' mother then?

"Be good, triplets. Have your meal." After wiping the sweat on her face, Miao Jing took out three milk bottles for the triplets.

After crying for so long, the adults were tired, and the babies were even more tired and hungry. They held onto the milk bottles and deliciously suckled the teats. Their half-closed eyes were still looking at their mama's photographs from time to time.

Looking at the triplets' expressions, Zhai Hua was both angry and amused. "Since when did Qiao Nan's photograph become a dish that goes so well with the staple?"

Given the triplet's behavior, she suspected whether the milk in the triplets' mouth would taste better each time they looked at Qiao Nan's photograph. The effect was so powerful.

After knowing that the triplets had been appeased, Qiao Nan revealed a smile. "After throwing tantrums for so long, the triplets will definitely feel tired after finishing their milk. After they are coaxed to sleep, they will probably sleep for a longer time. Brother Zhai and I will be back tomorrow. We will try to be home before the triplets kick up another fuss."

There was no place more relaxed and comfortable than at home.

The triplets missed her, and she missed them too.

"Okay." Miao Jing was overjoyed. The triplets had created such a din. Miao Jing could not wait for her son and daughter-in-law to install wings and fly home immediately, let alone tomorrow.

However, her son brought her daughter-in-law back to her maternal family in Ping Cheng to visit relatives. She had to give the two children one night to stay in Ping Cheng and provide an explanation to the Qiao family. "Try to come back as early as possible tomorrow. I feel that the triplets will definitely be harder to coax tomorrow." All these three children were mama's boys and girl.

"Okay, Mom. I won't disturb you then, in case our noise distracts the triplets from sleeping. Besides, the triplets threw tantrums when I am away today. It must have been tough on all of you." Qiao Nan felt very embarrassed. The triplets had really given the in-laws a lot of trouble with their tantrums today.

Miao Jing felt consoled as she smiled. "What are you talking about? The triplets are my biological grandchildren. For their sake, it's worth it no matter how tough it is."

## Chapter 1229 Come and 'Have Fun' When You Are Available

“Alright, you coming back early is better than a hundred words.”

She could barely manage this occurrence. Putting aside whether she could manage the situation, given the way her three grandchildren were crying, she would definitely die of heartache first if this were to happen a few more times.

“Goodnight, Mom.”

“Goodnight.”

Miao Jing's voice was getting softer and softer. It was not because of other reasons. The triplets, who had almost finished their milk, were starting to close their eyes. Their eyelids were drooping. As long as someone gently patted them a few more times, the triplets would fall asleep within seconds.

Being able to fall asleep within seconds was an advantage of being a child, wasn't it?

Upon hearing her mother-in-law's voice, Qiao Nan knew that the triplets were dozing off.

There was no better news than the triplets falling asleep. After hanging up the phone, Qiao Nan lay on the bed, finally feeling assured.

Now that her mood had improved, Qiao Nan felt better physically too. It was unlike earlier when she felt really unwell. After yawning, she started to close her eyes, wanting to go to sleep.

However, when the other person beside her lay on the bed, Qiao Nan could not sleep even if she wanted to.

The hard and steel-like arms on her waist made Qiao Nan feel suffocated and uncomfortable. Qiao Nan moved, wanting to move away. “Don't come so close to me. This is a 1.8-meter-long bed. Are you prepared to leave half of the bed empty?”

In the early 2000s, huge beds that were 1.8 meters long were not common. A bed that was 1.5 meters long was already considered very big.

Brother Zhai had long limbs. As such, he could not sleep comfortably on beds that were less than 1.8 meters long. The problem was... it was a waste not to effectively utilize the space of such a huge bed.

Unknowingly, Zhai Sheng had developed the habit of remaining naked after bathing. He always got under the blanket without wearing any clothes. He would then hug Qiao Nan as soon as he got into the bed.

They were a family and should have the same thoughts and actions. He was naked. Hence, Zhai Sheng refused to let Qiao Nan wear any clothes.

When Qiao Nan started talking, Zhai Sheng was already undressing Qiao Nan in an agile manner. Qiao Nan was already half-naked. "Don't worry. This is such a huge bed. I will definitely 'make good use' of it and 'sleep' well."

Zhai Sheng's breath by her ears felt both wet and hot.

They had already given birth to three children. If Qiao Nan did not know what Zhai Sheng was thinking of at this moment, this was no longer the baby brain effect. That would mean that she had lost all of her intelligence with childbirth.

Qiao Nan blushed. She twisted and resisted in Zhai Sheng's arms like a fish, refusing to concede defeat and cooperate. "You did not even ask me about Da Bao and the children's situation. You're the biological father. The triplets cried so badly and everyone's heart, including mine, ached for them. As the father, how could you not have any reaction at all?"

Zhai Sheng, who hugged Qiao Nan from behind, revealed his white teeth as he bit the soft and tender flesh on Qiao Nan's earlobe. "Judging from how you look, how can I not know that the triplets have already been appeased? If I couldn't even tell this, how could I be a soldier? Am I still considered a husband? How could I be the triplets' father then?"

In other words, given Qiao Nan's skills, Zhai Sheng could see through her at one glance. There was no need for him to ask.

As for Qiao Nan's resistance and non-cooperation, Zhai Sheng had never taken them to heart. It was the same for today.

They had been husband and wife for a year. Although they did not ‘sleep’ with each other very often, Zhai Sheng understood Qiao Nan very well. Qiao Nan’s so-called resistance would always make his movements smoother so that they could ‘sleep’ better.

When Qiao Nan was fully naked, like a sheep waiting to be slaughtered and pitifully baaing, Zhai Sheng, this big wild wolf, opened his jaws, revealed his fangs, and devoured this little sheep without any reservation. There were not even any bones left.

Great. Qiao Nan had wanted to make use of the opportunity to have a good rest tonight. When she returned to the capital the next day, she would make it up to the triplets then. She would keep them company and make them happy.

However, once Zhai Sheng, this big wild wolf, sprang into action, Qiao Nan did not manage to replenish her energy tonight. Instead, she felt more tired as she slept.

Fortunately, they were taking a plane and could hire a car to send them to the airport. Otherwise, given Qiao Nan’s wobbly limbs, it was a very difficult matter to be able to reach the airport.

“Nan Nan, what happened?” Qiao Dongliang was taken aback by Nan Nan’s wobbly look. She was leaning on Zhai Sheng all the time and did not look good. She looked like she was in a slightly more serious condition than yesterday. “Nan Nan is feeling so unwell?”

Yesterday, he had felt quite upset that Nan Nan left early. He thought that Nan Nan blamed him and was thus unwilling to remain behind for a longer time.

Unexpectedly, he was the one being paranoid. Nan Nan was really feeling unwell.

Zhai Sheng, who was holding onto Qiao Nan, did not have the slightest look of guilt at all. He sounded bolder and more righteous than a typical person. “Father-in-law, don’t worry. Nan Nan’s health has always been good. She seldom catches a cold or has a fever. Most likely, the difference in weather is too great between Ping Cheng and the capital. Hence, Nan Nan can’t get used to it immediately and feels a little unwell. She will recover very soon after resting more.”

Qiao Dongliang nodded. “I guess so. Actually, the last time Nan Nan came back from the capital, she was also a little unwell. Nan Nan is not feeling well, yet you are still going back?”

Zhai Sheng smiled. “Yes, we have to go back. It won’t do if we don’t. Nan Nan was not at home yesterday and the triplets cried badly. Although Nan Nan has to go to school usually, she is very devoted when she takes care of the triplets. Hence, the children stick to her very much. If we don’t go back today, my mom definitely won’t be able to appease the triplets. Yesterday, my mom even called us and requested us to come back earlier. Their hearts ache when the triplets cry so badly.”

“Yes, yes, yes... For the sake of the triplets, Nan Nan and you should go back.” It was all for the sake of the children. No matter how reluctant he was, he had to release his daughter. This was because his heart ached more for his three maternal grandchildren.

After receiving the approval, Zhai Sheng’s smile became even more natural. “Father-in-law, Nan Nan and I are leaving then. Right, when you have the time and opportunity, come to the capital. The triplets are still very young. They can’t possibly follow us on a long trip for the time being. I don’t think you just want to look at the triplets’ photo, right? Come to the capital and see them, and let them get to know their maternal grandfather.”

Right from the start, Zhai Sheng was only talking to Qiao Dongliang, this father-in-law. As to Ding Jiayi, this mother-in-law, she seemed to be transparent to Zhai Sheng. She had been totally ignored by him.

Zhai Sheng already did not care about Ding Jiayi. Naturally, he would not bother about Qiao Zijin, this sister-in-law. Most importantly, it was also an issue whether he took them for his mother-in-law and sister-in-law.

After inviting Qiao Dongliang to the capital, Zhai Sheng held on to Qiao Nan and left the small courtyard of the Qiao family. They got into a car and headed for the airport.

“Hmmp, what is this? He did not greet or acknowledge me at all. What terrible manners.”

Chapter 1230 Asking for I

As she watched the car with Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan sped away, leaving nothing behind, Ding Jiayi spat in its direction and spoke with a tone full of aversion and disdain. “If you refuse to greet me, so be it. I still have another daughter. Do I lack people calling me ‘mom’?”

She did not lack this greeting of ‘mom’. In the future, another man would address her as mother-in-law. He would fawn on and be good and filial to her.

Be it Qiao Nan, this daughter, or Zhai Sheng, this son-in-law, she did not care for their existence. They could scam further away from her!

Qiao Zijin held on to Ding Jiayi. “Mom!” Did she not see that the neighbors nearby were still looking? “Mom, follow me in. We’re still outside. Don’t do such embarrassing things. If you have anything to say, you can say as much as you like after we are back home.”

As soon as the two returned to the house, Qiao Zijin could not help analyzing for Ding Jiayi. “Mom, why can’t you learn to be good? Qiao Nan is different from us now. She has a different status. She has not only become Cinderella but also received the affirmation of everyone in the Zhai family. After giving birth to three children, no one can rock her status in the Zhai family. If you fall out with her at this point, believe it or not, everyone in the quad will wait to watch a good show of you. Besides not being able to gain prestige and glory, you’re as silly as a joke in the eyes of those people!”

She finally had such a promising daughter but the mother completely did not cherish her. Until now, she had not mended her relationship with Qiao Nan and enjoyed the good fortune of having a son-in-law like Zhai Sheng.

She believed that many people in the quad were gloating at her mother because of this situation. They were happy to watch how her mother would court her own death.

“Can you blame me? Am I the one who wishes to give these people a chance to watch a good show? It’s all that wretched girl’s fault! I don’t know how much she has badmouthed me in front of Zhai Sheng such that the very polite Zhai Sheng completely disregards me, this mother-in-law. Just wait and see. That wretched girl is so heartless. She dares to smear my name. I’ll wait for the day of her retribution!” Ding Jiayi felt indignant. Even if this kind of situation occurred, she was not the one to be blamed. It was all Qiao Nan’s fault.

Qiao Zijin was having a headache. “Now, the problem doesn’t lie with who is in the wrong. Qiao Nan has become Cinderella after marrying Zhai Sheng. This is a fact. Instead of taking advantage of the situation, we are still picking fights and losing our temper with Qiao Nan. To these people, we are bastards and fools that do not know to pick up the available bargain. When we are basking in Qiao Nan’s glory and receiving practical gains, these people will definitely be very jealous of us. Just wait and see.”

Qiao Nan was her younger sister and her mother’s biological daughter.

In the past, she was worried that she had too few or no relatives. She could not even find or rely on anyone when her family encountered any problem.

Qiao Nan was such a close next-of-kin. Qiao Nan married so well and her status was so high now. This was such a great resource, yet she and her mother's brains seemed to have been blocked by feces. They kept committing foolish acts and being at odds with Qiao Nan. Were they not foolish?

“Forget it. Your attitude toward Qiao Nan is already cast in stone. It will not change. I won't waste my time and energy to persuade you. In the future, you can do whatever you like. I will definitely treat Qiao Nan differently from before.”

As she said that, Qiao Zijin's eyeballs swirled. She suddenly realized that her mother was still acting like a moron and targeting Qiao Nan like she did in the past. From another perspective, this might not necessarily be a bad thing. In fact, it might be a good matter.

If her mother did not mend her old ways, her repentance, intelligence, and self-reflection would be more obvious then, no?

“This is a tough call. Mom, I have sorted out my thoughts. I won't persuade you anymore. You can do whatever you like. Take it that I am being filial to you. As long as you feel happy and carefree, that will do. If Qiao Nan and you really can't get along well, it's okay. There is still me. I will definitely do my best to give you a good life.”

When Ding Jiayi heard this, she was overjoyed. “Isn't that so? I have more than one daughter. I still have you even if Qiao Nan is gone. I don't need many daughters. One is enough.” If she had known that this would be the case, she would not have given birth to a second child in the past and let Qiao Nan, this heartless wretched girl, turn against and drive her to the grave alive.

“Mom, I'll get some water for you.” Qiao Zijin, who had different thoughts in mind, looked like she had the spring breeze and warm sun on her face. She was even humming a song.

Qiao Dongliang, who had been sitting by the side and silently watching them, did not utter a word or interrupt the conversation. He suddenly stood up and headed toward his bedroom.

“Dad, I'm getting some water for mom. Do you want some?” Since she was already getting some water, Qiao Zijin might as well take two cups. After appeasing Ding Jiayi, she wanted to conveniently establish her presence in front of her biological father.

Qiao Dongliang, who was walking to the bedroom, halted his steps and said coldly, “Not everyone has the good fortune to drink this cup of water from you. You can leave all of it for your mother.”

Qiao Zijin's smile froze. "Dad, what do you mean by this? It's just a cup of water. What has it got to do with good fortune? Dad, are you angry? Did I do anything wrong to annoy you?" Otherwise, why did her father's words sound so strange? It also felt very cold.

Ding Jiayi had really been appeased by Qiao Zijin. She stood up and protected Qiao Zijin like an old hen. "Don't bother about your dad. His temper has always been so stubborn. He is sick and suffers relapses from time to time. None of us has provoked him. Isn't it because his favorite daughter only came back for a meal and left immediately? That's why he's feeling upset and uneasy. He's venting it on us."

Qiao Zijin heaved a sigh of relief. Her eyes of acknowledgment expressed that she completely agreed with these words of Ding Jiayi.

When he heard Ding Jiayi say such words without knowing her limit, Qiao Dongliang was both angry and amused. "Is that so?"

Ding Jiayi, this foolish woman, had taught Zijin to become like that. She not only did not know how to self-reflect but was also digging her own grave unconsciously. She was straying further and further away.

His good intentions had been distorted. Qiao Dongliang was fuming with anger.

However, Qiao Dongliang calmed himself down very soon. Actually, this was not considered a good intention. At most, he had seen through his elder daughter's true colors and understood the meaning in her words. He had guessed his elder daughter's plan. As such, he was unhappy and reluctant to face this. He had wanted to distance himself. It was not because he wanted to use this behavior to remind Ding Jiayi.

Once he had calmed down, Qiao Dongliang's tone reverted to its normal state. "You can say whatever you like, as long as you're happy." Most likely, Ding Jiayi could only feel happy for these two years.

He was quite upset. Nan Nan finally came back once in a year but the father-daughter pair only had one meal together.