

RTAMM 1231

Chapter 1231 Too Many Instances of Crying Wolf

The father and daughter had not managed to have a proper conversation and Nan Nan had to return to the capital. They might only be able to meet one year later.

Nan Nan was unlike Zijin. She was a kind and softhearted girl.

He no longer cared and was unable to do anything about the kind of person that Zijin was or how she would turn out to be in the future.

He was the least bit worried about his life after retirement. He knew that Nan Nan would take care of him.

Once he was certain that he would be taken care of in his old age and did not need to worry about anything else, he would wash his hands off Ding Jiayi. He would not care if she did herself in. He would not be concerned about the Qiao Zijin's cold-hearted nature either.

He would wash his hands off both of them. He had become a grandfather. It was considered good enough that he could lead a simple and smooth life.

Qiao Zijin made use of her mother and harbored ill intentions toward her. She had no idea that her father who was the bystander could tell what was on her mind. Her father who came around and decided to stand on her side once again had made up his mind to give up on her this time.

Qiao Zijin also did not know that Qiao Dongliang gave a call to Qiao Nan that afternoon. He knew that Qiao Nan must have reached the Zhai family's residence at the capital. "Nan Nan, there is something that I have to tell you. But given how smart you are, you must already have this in mind. In the future, if anyone from the Qiao family looks for you, regardless of the reasons that she gives you, you can ignore her and refuse her requests."

Qiao Dongliang's purpose in making the phone call was not to tell Qiao Nan what she should do if she received a call from Qiao Zijin and how she should react to her requests. Instead, he was telling her indirectly about his change in attitude toward Qiao Zijin.

Previously, Qiao Dongliang wanted to look after Qiao Zijin and hoped that she would find her happiness. He wanted to help his daughter based on his own efforts.

Now, he had decided to wash his hands off her, and he would not allow Qiao Zijin to take advantage of Qiao Nan.

Since Qiao Zijin dared to make use of her mother and harbored ill intentions toward her, Qiao Dongliang wondered if there would be a day where she used it on him.

It was better to spell things out so that they would not have any misunderstanding or cause any irreversible harm. This was also better for both parties.

Qiao Nan, who was holding San Bao in her arms, was quite surprised at Qiao Dongliang's words.

However, Qiao Nan did not feel or display any signs of happiness.

There had been too many instances where Qiao Dongliang cried wolf. Even though he sounded very determined today, Qiao Nan would not really believe his words or get emotional over his decision.

She had no idea when her father would change his mind again. He might feel that Qiao Zijin was a good daughter and that he had to help her. "Alright, Dad. I understand. Don't worry. I know what I should do."

Qiao Nan sounded very calm on the phone. It was as if they were discussing whether it would rain tomorrow. "Dad, I am holding San Bao in my arms. San Bao still couldn't greet us. But she will make sounds. Listen to her..." Qiao Nan made use of San Bao to change the topic. She no longer wanted to talk about Qiao Zijin who would spoil her mood.

"Ah... Woo..." The little girl looked with curiosity as her mama spoke to the phone. She thought that her mama was talking to her. San Bao, who was cheeky, smiled a sunny smile, and her eyes turned into crescents. She opened and closed her mouth, as if answering her mama.

Qiao Dongliang's heart melted at the small sounds made by San Bao. "San Bao, this is maternal grandpa."

Qiao Nan took the phone back from San Bao after she made a few sounds into the phone. "Dad, when the triplets start to speak, I will teach them to say maternal grandpa. By then, I will give you another call. Of course, if you have the time to make a trip to the capital for a few days, I will be

more than welcome.” She only welcomed her father. If Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin came as well, he must not blame her for giving them the cold treatment.

If her father could not understand her words and continued to be muddleheaded, she would not extend her invitation anymore.

“I... I understand.” Qiao Dongliang felt weary. Nan Nan said that she only welcomed him to the capital.

In other words, if he brought someone else with him to the capital, Nan Nan would be displeased and she would not welcome him. “If I go to the capital, I will definitely go there alone. I want to travel by myself.”

“Sure, Dad. Remember to come.” It was good that he understood her meaning. Of course, if he could make good on his words, it would be all the better.

After hanging up the phone, Qiao Nan wanted to place San Bao in the baby crib and carry Er Bao.

San Bao, realizing that her mama was going to leave her in the baby crib, grabbed hold of her mama’s collar with her chubby arms, refusing to let go. The little girl had a lot of strength and she was very overbearing.

“...” Qiao Nan pinched San Bao’s nose when she realized that San Bao was grabbing at her collar. “San Bao may miss mama, but Da Bao and Er Bao miss mama as well. San Bao must not be so mischievous. You must not keep bullying your brothers.”

Qiao Nan reminded herself that she must treat the triplets equally. She must not allow her children to go through what she had experienced.

The problem was Qiao Nan wanted to be fair to her children and change the order occasionally when she carried or fed them. However, San Bao had a nasty temper and she was very anxious. She could not wait for her turn. San Bao made it such that she was not able to give the triplets fair treatment.

Perhaps Da Bao and Er Bao knew that San Bao was the only and youngest sister. They would always give in to her.

When San Bao threw tantrums and she held her in her arms, Da Bao and Er Bao would not join in to cry. Instead, they would quiet down. When she had pacified San Bao, Da Bao and Er Bao would then make known that they wanted to be cuddled as well.

San Bao felt satisfied that she got to cuddle in her mama's soft embrace. She closed her eyes, but she did not let go of her grip on her mama's clothes. She brushed her chubby cheeks against her mama's chest. She looked so adorable and endearing. Miao Jing and Zhai Hua, who watched by the side, only had eyes for her. "She is indeed the only granddaughter in the family. It is alright for her to be delicate."

Other families hoped that they would have sons. But when it came to the Zhai family, it was the daughter who was favored.

Qiao Nan gave a light smack on San Bao's bottom to punish her. She then looked at her mother-in-law and sister-in-law with a helpless look on her face. "San Bao has a nasty temper. Don't say this in front of her. She is very smart. It is alright that she is delicate, but I fear that she will be ill-disciplined and out of control."

Qiao Nan had seen it for herself how the Zhai family pampered the babies. On top of that, the Zhu family, the Shi family, and particularly their grand master, who was a baller, doted on them as well.

Qiao Nan had a headache at the thought of this.

She was not exaggerating to say that the babies were the apple of the eye of all the families.

It was good that her babies were doted on by the people around her. But it would spell trouble if they were ill-disciplined and out of control.

Chapter 1232 Spring Has Arrived

Qiao Nan felt that in the family, Zhai Sheng and she were the only people who would be fierce to the triplets.

San Bao, who was drooling in her mama's arms, did not know that her beloved mama had decided to be a strict mother to her in the future.

On the third day since Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan returned to the capital, Zhu Baoguo came back with Shi Qing as well.

To Qiao Nan's surprise, the two of them seemed to be somewhat different ever since their trip to Ping Cheng. Zhu Baoguo would steal glances at Shi Qing, while Shi Qing would blush from time to time and stare angrily at Zhu Baoguo before she turned and left.

As soon as Shi Qing left in anger, Zhu Baoguo would definitely follow right after her. He would not stay at the Zhai family's residence by himself.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath upon seeing this scene. "Spring has arrived."

Babies would be able to lift their heads when they were three months old, turn when they were four months old, sit upright when they were six months old, roll about upon reaching seven months old, crawl starting their eighth month, support to stand when they were nine months old, and walk when they were one year old.

Spring had arrived. Qiao Nan had to go back to school in a few days.

Qiao Nan smiled as she touched the triplets' strong backs. "In another half a month, they will be able to sit upright." The triplets might seem light, but their bodies were firm and strong.

"You're right. They will start to walk in no time." To Miao Jing, nothing was happier than watching the triplets grew up day by day, turning more and more adorable.

The saying that grandparents doted on their grandchildren was very true.

When Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng were at a tender age, Miao Jing would go on business trips with Zhai Yaohui. She was not there for her children when they were at a tender age. But with the triplets around, Miao Jing would rather abandon her husband and spend all her time with her grandchildren.

As the grandpa, Zhai Yaohui could not possibly be jealous of his grandchildren. Furthermore, now that there were three babies at home and his daughter-in-law had to go back to school, even if Miao Jing did not bring it up, he felt that it would be better for his wife to stay at home.

His daughter who was out of line was the only person at home. If anything happened to the triplets, she would not be able to decide by herself.

Furthermore, although she seldom spent time at the camp, she still had to report to the camp.

His daughter-in-law had to go to school in the daytime while his daughter had to report to the camp from time to time. If his wife went on business trips with him, there would be no one left at home to take care of the triplets.

Therefore, the Zhai family decided to share the workload.

Qiao Nan gave the triplets each a kiss on their smooth cheeks. She noticed that they seemed to be in a good mood. She took her jacket and changed her shoes. "Mom, thank you for helping me take care of the triplets. I only have lessons in the morning and will be back by noon." Thankfully, the system in the college was so much different from those of junior high school and senior high school.

It was not really compulsory to attend all the lessons and many students skipped classes.

The students had the freedom to arrange their own timetable.

Otherwise, even if she worked very hard, there was no way for her to arrange her time and timetable such that she could take lessons and take care of the triplets.

Qiao Nan had the busiest time of her life during the first few months when she just gave birth to the triplets.

She was a mother of three and she had to learn how to be a mother and take care of her three children. In the meantime, she had to make sure that she did not lag in her studies and caught up on the lessons that she had missed. There was not a single moment where she could sit back and relax.

She had missed the lessons that were taught in the first half of the semester, but she was able to sit for the final term exams with the rest of the students at the end of the semester.

Qiao Nan had to put in double the work and effort in order to catch up with her classmates.

Thankfully, she had made it through the difficult times.

Qiao Nan sat for the exams for the compulsory subjects, and she also managed to catch up on her studies. She did not lag far behind because of the triplets. Nevertheless, Qiao Nan was slightly displeased that although she had caught up with her studies, she was not able to do as well as she did in the past.

“Happy Lunar New Year.”

“Happy Lunar New Year.”

School had just reopened. Lunar New Year had just passed and the students would still say their greetings when they saw each other in school.

Another year had passed. They had not seen each other for a month. The students now had thick winter clothing on them, but the smiles on their faces were as bright as the sun.

“Junior.” Xu Shengnan looked much more energetic after the new year. She gave Qiao Nan a passionate hug as soon as she saw her. “A year has passed. Although I only have seven days of break, why is it that I have put on two and a half kilograms of weight, but you seem to have lost two and a half kilograms of weight?”

In order to confirm her doubts, Xu Shengnan exerted strength in her arms and lifted Qiao Nan off the floor so that she could have a rough estimate of Qiao Nan’s weight. “You’re definitely lighter than last year. Qiao Nan, tell me, did someone stop you from feasting during the new year? Had I known that, I would have invited you to my house.”

Xu Shengnan knew that Qiao Nan was engaged and that she stayed with her ‘husband’. People would usually put on weight after the new year, but Qiao Nan lost weight instead. Xu Shengnan had reasons to believe that Qiao Nan’s parents did not stand on her side and she did not have a good life at her in-laws’ house. Otherwise, why did Qiao Nan keep losing weight?

Qiao Nan smiled and told Xu Shengnan to let go of her. “Senior, thank you for your concern. But you don’t have to worry for me. It is not that I did not have good food during the new year. It is just that I caught a cold. While other people were feasting, I laid in bed nursing the cold. I had no

appetite. I did not lose weight. I just maintain the same weight. As for you, you have indeed put on weight.”

Qiao Nan would not put on weight easily. No matter how much she ate, it would not show on her figure.

Back when she was pregnant, if she did not have triplets, she would not have put on so much weight during her pregnancy.

After she gave birth to triplets, she lost the weight quickly.

The Zhai family prepared a lot of tonics and nutritious food for her. Qiao Nan had a lot of good food in order to provide the triplets with breast milk. In the end, all the nutritious food that she had ended up in her breast milk and was fed to the triplets. That was why they grew to be stronger and healthier.

If she lost any weight, it must be that it was too tiring to take care of the triplets. This was why her face seemed to become smaller.

“I see.” Xu Shengnan believed her words. “It is no wonder that you don’t look good today. You seem pale to me. Have you recovered from the cold?” It was so hard on Qiao Nan. She fell sick during the new year and could not have any good food.

Qiao Nan was surprised that Xu Shengnan believed her words easily. “Don’t worry. It is just a small cold. But you should know that, like the menses, one will take a long time to recover from the cold. I will just have to get used to it. I believe I will feel better in two days.”

Chapter 1233 Impressive Top Studen

“By the way, Senior Xu, Happy Lunar New Year. How have you been?”

From the way Senior Xu was dressed, could it be that she just returned to school today?

Unlike her usual way of dressing where she did not put much focus on style and fashion, Xu Shengnan was dressed in a suit today. She seemed like an able and efficient office lady. She looked fantastic. “You will graduate in six months. Have you settled everything?”

Xu Shengnan would put on the graduation robe and graduate from college in summer. Qiao Nan sighed. Time flew by so fast.

She remembered that when she signed up for the new English club out of convenience and joined the club, she was given a hard time by her senior.

She never expected that the senior ended up rendering great help to her in school.

She was able to have a good start in school because of Senior Xu, who took care of her. She had to take the biggest credit.

“Don’t worry. Thanks to you, I will have no problem finding a job. Senior Gao has just started this business, but I have confidence in Senior Gao and his company. I believe we will catch up with the rest to become one of the established companies in the industry.” Xu Shengnan smiled as she patted Qiao Nan’s head. “Come to think of it, I have to thank you for this. If not for you, I would not have such an opportunity.”

Without Qiao Nan to pull strings, she might not be able to know Senior Gao and do an internship at his company. She also would not have the chance to sign the contract with him even before she graduated from school.

In a few months, she would be a regular employee at Senior Gao’s company!

Qiao Nan grinned. “It’s nothing much. Senior, you achieved all this with your own efforts. Senior, I wish you a smooth career and that you will have a bright future.”

Xu Shengnan had brilliant prospects. They had been friends and they would help each other in school. Qiao Nan was genuinely happy for Xu Shengnan. She was glad that unlike other students, Xu Shengnan did not have to worry about finding a job once she graduated from college.

Xu Shengnan’s smile deepened at Qiao Nan’s sincere greetings. “Qiao Nan, don’t worry. You will have an equally good job as me in the future. I believe that as long as you are willing, we will not only be alumni. We might even be colleagues and we can continue to look after each other.”

Qiao Nan had a better performance in school than her.

Since she could land a position in the company, if Qiao Nan was willing, she believed that Senior Gao would not reject a talent like her.

Qiao Nan was overwhelmed with joy. “I believe as long as I work hard, Gao Yan will definitely welcome me into his company. However, like you said, his company is only starting up, and he may not need people like me. I do not major in economics or business management. I already have plans for my future.”

After entering college, apart from studying hard, employment had become the most talked about topic of all students.

Xu Shengnan slapped her forehead. “You are right. I worried too much. There is no need for me to worry about your future. By the way, do you mind if I ask you about something?”

“What is it?”

“Your scholarship for the previous semester...” There seemed to be some issues.

Qiao Nan’s stiffened. There was a flicker of disappointment and understanding in her eyes. She had missed her lessons for two months. It was considered good enough that she could pass the exams for all her subjects. “You should know that I had some family matters last semester and I applied for nearly two months of leave. I might be busier in the future. Now that I am in my second year, I no longer harbor hopes of getting the scholarship.”

Qiao Nan was able to sort out her thoughts and she did not allow herself to feel upset about the scholarship.

To her, the triplets were more important than scholarship.

Xu Shengnan knitted her brows. “I believe you do not want to tell me why you took two months of leave last semester. If you did, you would have told me when we met each other in school last year. There is no need to be so forlorn. You look as if you did badly this time. Indeed, it cannot be compared to the results in the previous two semesters. Although you could not get the school-based scholarship, you still managed to get the ordinary scholarship. You are awarded the second-prize scholarship.”

It was definitely good to have as many scholarships as possible in college.

Xu Shengnan felt it a pity that Qiao Nan could not get another one or two school-based scholarship. She had expected her to be awarded the scholarship this semester. In the end, she was awarded the second-prize scholarship. It might be difficult for her to get a school-based second-prize scholarship.

She had checked the results on behalf of Qiao Nan and found out that she was only awarded the second-prize scholarship.

If Qiao Nan was awarded the school-based scholarship, she would have known when she checked with the school. After all, the name lists of the students who were awarded scholarships would be released all at once. The school would not keep it from the students.

“Are you saying that I managed to get a second-prize scholarship?”

Qiao Nan exclaimed in surprise. “Senior Xu, have you made a mistake, or did I hear it wrongly? I have not been to school for two months. It is a blessing if I am able to pass all the subjects. How could I possibly get a second-prize scholarship?!”

“Yes. You have definitely gotten a second-prize scholarship.” It was rare to see Qiao Nan be so excited and overjoyed. Xu Shengnan found it a joy to watch her. “It is no wonder that you find it unbelievable. Perhaps other students are just as surprised. You should be thankful that you listened to me and joined the party in your first semester. As a party member, you have certain privileges.”

Once she became a party member, Qiao Nan would have extra points for activities that were not studies-based.

It was similar to the college entrance examination where every mark was very precious, and a single mark would make a lot of difference as to whether one would get a scholarship and which prize it would be. Furthermore, there were not many students who were party members. Therefore, Qiao Nan would have a bigger advantage.

“As your senior, I am very proud of you. Keep up the good work. I believe you will be able to do it. Let’s not care about the first or second-prize scholarships. Work hard to be the student who is awarded the scholarship every semester and become the impressive top student that everyone looks up to.”

Xu Shengnan patted Qiao Nan on the shoulder. She sounded very confident, and it was because she believed in Qiao Nan.

After chatting with Xu Shengnan and knowing beforehand how she did in her previous semester, Qiao Nan walked with light footsteps toward her classroom.

The classroom was almost packed with students.

Qiao Nan thought that since she had placed her attention on taking care of the triplets instead of her studies, she would not do well in the exams and would no longer be awarded the scholarship.

But Xu Shengnan gave her a huge surprise early in the morning.

Although Qiao Nan was used to getting the first-prize scholarship, she was just as pleased at getting the second-prize scholarship.

Chapter 1234 Turned from Her Classmate to Her Fan

Qiao Nan sat down happily and looked at the contents of the textbook. What she did not know was that there was someone who was sitting a few seats away from her, and the person was staring at Qiao Nan silently.

Xu Shengnan was a senior in school. She had the connections, so she had ways to know certain information way before others.

Qiao Nan was a second-year student. She was already halfway through her college life, but she did not bother to keep abreast of gossip in the college. This did not mean that other students were like Qiao Nan as well, putting their heart and soul on their studies, but paid no attention to outside matters.

Therefore, although the professor had not revealed anything regarding the students who were awarded scholarships in the previous semester, some of Qiao Nan's classmates already managed to get the name list of the second-year students who were awarded scholarships.

Qiao Nan was absent from school for half a semester. She had lagged in her studies for half a semester, yet she was able to get the second-prize scholarship. Many people were jealous of her and felt unjust. Nobody would be able to understand how upset they were at Qiao Nan's results.

Since the name list would be revealed to the students eventually, those who had the means would be able to find out information about the scholarship beforehand.

Even if the students felt unconvinced and wanted to do a further check, the school would not stop the students from doing so. After all, the results of the students in every semester would be recorded and filed.

These students had gone for their lessons diligently. After discovering that Qiao Nan had skipped lessons for half a semester, yet her final results for each subject were much better than their results, the students could not help but be ashamed of themselves.

Many students were sincerely convinced and ready to concede to Qiao Nan.

Her results proved that she indeed deserved to be awarded the school-based first-prize scholarship twice in a row. She did not cheat in the exams.

“Qiao Nan, congratulations.” When lessons were over, Yu Xiaoxiao stood in front of Qiao Nan, stretching her hand toward her to congratulate her. “You... are really very smart and capable. I also want to make a sincere apology for doing all those things when school started. I am sorry. This apology may not matter to you, but I still want to say it so that I can feel better.”

Qiao Nan was very outstanding and capable. She seldom interacted with other students and therefore there were rumors that she was cold and aloof.

But if one was able to put aside all prejudices and observe Qiao Nan, one would realize that all the rumors were fabricated by the students who were jealous of her.

To put it nicely, Qiao Nan put her heart and soul on her studies. If one was to put it bluntly, Qiao Nan was a nerd. Other than studying, she was not interested in anything else.

Furthermore, Qiao Nan did not stay in the school and she had less time to interact and mix with other students in school. Therefore, there were many rumors regarding her, and people chose to believe in them.

These students had been thinking too much and they spread rumors about their classmates. They even blamed Qiao Nan for being too serious in her studies and not interacting with her classmates.

To put it bluntly, all those rumors were fabricated. Qiao Nan did not do anything but was implicated.

After spending one and a half years with Qiao Nan, even though they seldom spoke to each other, Yu Xiaoxiao truly conceded defeat to Qiao Nan. She was the only person that she conceded defeat to.

Qiao Nan was astonished. She did not expect this from Yu Xiaoxiao.

Qiao Nan could tell that Yu Xiaoxiao was sincere. She smiled. “Thank you. Congratulations to you as well for realizing your dreams.”

“Likewise. No matter what, sorry, and thank you.” Qiao Nan did not shake her hands. There was a slight awkwardness between the two of them, but Yu Xiaoxiao did not feel humiliated. Yu Xiaoxiao did not take it to heart. “If not for you, I would not be able to do so much better for the other component.”

Yu Xiaoxiao was capable and she would make plans for herself. Back then, she was rejected by Qiao Nan and was also turned down by the Palace Museum as she did not meet their standards.

Yu Xiaoxiao came up with a plan right away to improve herself so that she could meet the requirements of the Palace Museum.

Most importantly, after she found out about Qiao Nan’s method, she also set her sights on other places besides the Palace Museum. She believed that there were many other opportunities in Beijing other than the Palace Museum.

Yu Xiaoxiao had nothing to worry about as long as she was willing to work hard. She was capable and able to endure hardships.

Yu Xiaoxiao was smart. She did not insist on working at the same place as Qiao Nan. Instead, she set her sights on another organization and was accepted by them.

“Thank you. I mean it...” Yu Xiaoxiao could not help but turn teary at the thought of the hard work and persistence this past one year. At least, she got to see the fruits of her labor. Her effort was not wasted. She finally succeeded and was awarded the second-prize scholarship.

Yu Xiaoxiao was not after the small amount of money that the second-prize scholarship was able to provide her with. Instead, she was after the honor and glory that came with the scholarship. If she had trouble with employment after she graduated, having the scholarship would make a lot of difference.

Seeing that Yu Xiaoxiao was moved to tears and was very thankful to her, Qiao Nan felt overwhelmingly flattered and she felt like running off. “Well... Do you need a tissue? It is noon. Aren't you hungry? Shouldn't you have your lunch?” She did not do anything or even render any help to Yu Xiaoxiao.

“You're right. I heard that the second canteen has sweet and sour spare ribs today. If we are late, there won't be any left.” Tang Jiayun walked happily toward them. “This is such a good piece of news. Two of our roommates were awarded the second-prize scholarship in the previous semester. It is amazing. Since you used to be our roommate and are now our classmate, do you have any good learning methods to share with us? Let's share our methods and experience. Otherwise, I will be the only pitiful one. All of you are awarded the scholarship except for me.”

Tang Jiayun felt really anxious.

All along, Qiao Nan had good results. Tang Jiayun had never set her sights on following her footsteps.

Yu Xiaoxiao was different. Yu Xiaoxiao was awarded the third-prize scholarship in the first semester. It was nothing much to be proud of. As expected, Yu Xiaoxiao did not get the scholarship in the second semester.

To her surprise, Yu Xiaoxiao was well-prepared in the second year. She was awarded the second-prize scholarship and was so emotional about it. It made her wonder if Yu Xiaoxiao had chicken blood before the exams and was thus so excited.

In the past, Yu Xiaoxiao would avoid Qiao Nan. However, Yu Xiaoxiao took the initiative to walk up to Qiao Nan today. Tang Jiayun noticed it and kept a watch on them.

Initially, she thought that since Yu Xiaoxiao and Qiao Nan were both awarded second-prize scholarship, perhaps Yu Xiaoxiao was overjoyed and wanted to flaunt her capability in front of Qiao Nan.

This was a rare opportunity for Tang Jiayun. Although she was not able to be on close terms with Qiao Nan, it would be good entertainment for her before lunchtime. No matter whether it was Yu Xiaoxiao who made disgusting remarks to Qiao Nan or the other way round, she would be in a good mood after watching the show and she would have a bigger appetite during lunch.

Chapter 1235 Jealous

To her surprise, Yu Xiaoxiao did not make ugly remarks at Qiao Nan. Instead, she treated Qiao Nan like her benefactor. She apologized and thanked her, and she even bowed to her.

Tang Jiayun overheard the part of their conversation about the scholarship and walked forward.

Since they were classmates and friends, they should share their good learning methods and tips of getting the scholarship.

Given her results, as long as she was able to score a higher score for her non-academic component, although she would not be able to get a second-prize scholarship, she would at least get a third-prize scholarship. Even so, given that she studied in one of the best universities in China, the third-prize scholarship would be just as significant.

Qiao Nan turned her stiff neck and had a helpless smile on her face. “Yu Xiaoxiao and I were not in a discussion. Besides, I have an appointment. I have to go back now. Please carry on.”

No matter how delicious the food at the second canteen was, she did not intend to stay for lunch.

She had done a research on the reading materials that she needed. She had to make use of the time to borrow the related books from the library. If she failed to borrow the books, she had to seek her senior for help. She would ask her senior who was working overseas to buy the books and shipped them to her.

It was a waste of time to engage in a meaningless banter with a few young ladies.

Qiao Nan sprinted off after she said her goodbye.

If she delayed any further, the librarians would have gone for their lunch break. It would be about an hour later before the library would be opened again.

Tang Jiayun would not allow Qiao Nan to leave easily. She reached out her hands to stop her.

Yu Xiaoxiao stepped in front of Tang Jiayun, blocking her way, causing Tang Jiayun to lose her grip on Qiao Nan. “What do you think you are doing?”

“I should be the one who asked this question.” Tang Jiayun turned sullen. “I am not looking for you. I am looking for Qiao Nan. Step aside!” Among the four roommates in the dormitory, Qiao Nan was aloof, Lü Yan was sinister, and Yu Xiaoxiao was cunning and despicable.

The three of them were not on good terms with Qiao Nan. Lü Yan almost had to quit because of her. Even though she was allowed to continue with her studies, she looked totally different from how she used to be when she just entered college. As for her, she took to great lengths to join the new English club, but she was still an ordinary member and did not manage to join the committee.

Instead, Yu Xiaoxiao, who was the most tactful among the three of them, sneakily maintained contact with Qiao Nan and sucked up to her. She benefited from their relationship and managed to get a second-prize scholarship in the previous semester. She was shameless!

She and Lü Yan became the bad person while Yu Xiaoxiao hid behind them shamelessly and pretended to be a good person. Compared to Lü Yan and her, Yu Xiaoxiao seemed like the better person. She made use of Lü Yan and her to gain Qiao Nan’s affection.

If she knew that Yu Xiaoxiao was such a scheming person, she should have ignored her from the beginning.

“Stop looking at me in that manner.” Yu Xiaoxiao felt guilty. Although Tang Jiayun did not make crude remarks, her expression already said everything. Yu Xiaoxiao felt guilty as she did harbor such intentions initially.

But Tang Jiayun had no right to criticize her as she had behaved similarly as well.

Yu Xiaoxiao straightened her back. She never resorted to any ugly tricks in the second half of last year. She knew that Qiao Nan disliked her. Therefore, even when Qiao Nan was back at school, she did not keep pestering her.

She was awarded the second-prize scholarship based on her own hard work!

“Let me tell you. I am not as lowly as you imagined. Qiao Nan is not as stupid as what you think as well. She might be reserved, but she has the purest heart among all of us and she knows what is going on. We may be able to use our tricks on others, but when you use it on Qiao Nan, it is tantamount to teaching one’s grandmother how to suck eggs. It is shaming oneself.”

Yu Xiaoxiao was sincere as she praised Qiao Nan. It might seem as if she was flattering her, but she truly admitted that Qiao Nan was better than her. Tang Jiayun had goose bumps listening to her. “It is no wonder Qiao Nan refused to forgive Lü Yan and me but gave you a lot of tips. It turned out that Qiao Nan is pretending to be above material pursuits. She liked the way you flattered her and sang her praises. If I had known earlier, I would have done the same. Even if I don’t know how to do it, I will definitely learn it!”

Yu Xiaoxiao stomped her foot, flushing in anger.

But it was because she had been behaving despicably previously. In fact, Tang Jiayun was just as bad as her. If Tang Jiayun sang Qiao Nan’s praises today, she would not believe Tang Jiayun either. “It’s up to you to believe it or not. I am hungry. I can’t be bothered to talk with you.”

She was truly thankful to Qiao Nan, but she knew that Qiao Nan did not need her gratitude.

It was because of her conscience that she stopped Tang Jiayun from pestering Qiao Nan. She did not care if Qiao Nan was grateful to her or not.

Since she had accomplished what she had set out to do, Yu Xiaoxiao would eat to her heart’s content. Tang Jiayun could continue to resort to her tricks. No matter what, she would not revert to her old ways.

“Did you think that Qiao Nan will appreciate your help? That is your wishful thinking.” Tang Jiayun’s face turned dark red in anger. The three roommates in the dormitory knew better than anyone else what kind of person Qiao Nan was and that she had a temper.

Other people might appreciate it if people pretended to be nice to them, but Qiao Nan was very different from the rest. She was immune to the pretenses. Yu Xiaoxiao wanted to gain Qiao Nan’s favor by helping her, but either way, she would be blamed and unappreciated!

Yu Xiaoxiao, who walked toward the canteen, heard Tang Jiayun’s words. She did not take it to heart. Her intentions were pure and innocent. She knew that she was not what Tang Jiayun had described her to be.

Although Qiao Nan might not appreciate her help, she would do whatever she pleased. She had no other hidden agenda.

“Crap!” Yu Xiaoxiao did not care how others viewed her. Her nonchalant behavior was similar to that of Qiao Nan. Tang Jiayun was enraged at the similarities between them. “All of you are pretending. All of you are keeping up with pretenses. You lead the life of a whore but want to erect a monument to prove one’s chastity.”

Yu Xiaoxiao merely had a second-prize scholarship. How dared she disregard her and behave like Qiao Nan!

She would wait and see. There were two more years to go. Since Yu Xiaoxiao wanted to follow in Qiao Nan’s footsteps, she would be watching if she would be able to find a good job with Qiao Nan’s help, like Xu Shengnan.

Tang Jiayun really believed that it was Qiao Nan who paved the way for Xu Shengnan and helped her secure employment. They were a bunch of fools.

Chapter 1236 Dirty Little Baby

Tang Jiayun could do nothing about Qiao Nan and Yu Xiaoxiao. Apart from being jealous, she had no other way to deal with them.

Qiao Nan was able to remain aloof from worldly affairs. That left Tang Jiayun with no other way to attack her. She was a loner. Apart from focusing on her studies, she placed all her attention on the triplets. Qiao Nan did not make any friends in college. Tang Jiayun could not sow discord between Qiao Nan and her friends.

One who had no selfish desires was invincible. Qiao Nan was the strongest enemy that Tang Jiayun had ever faced.

Qiao Nan had finally borrowed the books on her list. Although there was a chill in the spring air, Qiao Nan broke out in a sweat on the journey back home.

“You have so many books with you!” The auntie took the books from Qiao Nan and placed them on the table.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. "I borrowed the books from the school library, but there are some books that could not be found in the library. It may be unavailable in the country, and I may have to ask someone to buy it overseas." She might have many books with her, but they were not a complete list.

"You must be hungry. I have put aside the dishes for you." The auntie knew that young madam was very hardworking. She watched her as she prepared for her lessons while taking care of the babies. "Dig in. Don't go hungry. You won't have time to eat when the triplets insist that you carry them."

Qiao Nan took off her jacket and placed it on the hanger. "Okay. Thank you, auntie."

Qiao Nan washed her hands while the auntie brought the dishes out. She started to eat as soon as the auntie came out with the dishes. In fact, Qiao Nan felt hungry even before the lesson ended, but she still went to the library to borrow books that she wanted before the librarian went for lunch. Qiao Nan was starving by then.

Qiao Nan was a regular at the library. She would be able to find the books she wanted as quickly as the librarian.

If it was other students who went to the library to look for Qiao Nan's books, they might have to spend an hour in the library.

The triplets were awake while Qiao Nan was having her lunch.

It was alright if Qiao Nan was not in the house. However, now that the triplets heard their mama's voice, they looked around, feeling unsettled, muttering sounds to call out for Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was conflicted that the triplets were very close to her. She was glad that they loved her, but at the same time, she was unable to have her meal in peace as they kept looking for her.

"Don't call out for your mom anymore." Miao Jing felt jealous. She grabbed Er Bao's chubby foot and gave him a gentle bite. "I have been so nice to you, but once your mom is back, you don't want your grandma anymore." Now that their mother was back, the triplets no longer needed their grandma.

Although most of the children in the world would be closer to their mothers, Miao Jing could not help but be jealous.

When she was young, she had no time for her children. There was no chance for her children to be close to her. By the time she wanted to develop a closer relationship with them, they had already grown up and had their temper. They wanted to be independent and they no longer needed their mother.

Now that she finally had three grandchildren, she wanted to feel how it was like to be needed.

However, her grandchildren were devoted to their mother. They only had eyes for their mother and would ignore other people who cared for them.

Da Bao could not understand his grandma's words. But he could tell that his grandma seemed to be jealous. He widened his mouth into a smile, revealing his baby tooth. He gave his grandma a smile that was as sunny as the sun.

His cheeks were chubby and his eyes turned into crescents. There were sparkles in his eyes. It was a dazzling sight.

Da Bao was soft and his hands were tender and chubby. He smelled like milk. Even if Da Bao made a mistake, Miao Jing was defenseless against such an adorable baby. Moreover, he did not make any mistakes. She was being insensible. She should not be jealous.

Miao Jing turned softhearted at the babies. She kissed Da Bao on his chubby arms. "Alright, I admit that it is understandable that you are closer to your mom. After all, she breastfed you and that's why you are able to grow tall and healthy. Your mom is having her meal. You have to give her some time before she can wait on all of you. At the very least, she must have her meal so that she will have the strength to handle you, three little devils."

As the triplets grew older, they became stronger.

The triplets could sit by themselves. In the future, they would learn to walk and run. Just at the thought of it, Miao Jing knew that it would be filled with fun and laughter.

Qiao Nan finished the meal at the fastest speed.

She had no other alternative. As a mother, every second was very precious.

Qiao Nan changed her clothes after her meal. She did not want the triplets to be infected by germs.

The triplets still had the habit of putting everything that they saw into their mouths and chewed on them. Since Qiao Nan spent most of the time carrying them, they would bite on her clothes to grind their teeth.

If her clothes were dirty, Qiao Nan would not wear them when she carried the triplets. After all, diseases entered by the mouth, and it would cause serious issues.

“Oh, you have gained weight.” Qiao Nan took Da Bao from the baby crib and frowned. “Da Bao, why do you keep putting on weight? If this goes on, mama will not be able to carry you.” The triplets were babies, but they were quite heavy. It seemed like the Zhai family had been preparing sumptuous and nutritious meals for the babies.

Da Bao had been chewing on his left palm. He lifted it to touch his mama’s face.

Seeing that Da Bao’s palm was glistening with saliva, Qiao Nan quickly turned her face to the side. “Little brat, are you trying to wipe your saliva onto my face?”

The auntie brought a clean towel and passed it to Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan held Da Bao in her arms. She gave him a kiss on his chubby and tender cheeks before she took the wet towel and wiped his palm that was stained with saliva. “Da Bao, why do you and your siblings have so much saliva? You are such a dirty baby.”

“Gegege...” Da Bao could not understand what his mama was talking about, but he liked the soft and gentle tone of his mama. He laughed in happiness.

San Bao, who had a bad temper, heard Da Bao’s laughter. She flailed her arms and legs in the cradles. Her mama should be done with carrying Da Bao. It was her turn. She wanted her mama to carry her as well.

“Come, let’s change.” Miao Jing was willing to take the second spot while Qiao Nan was most favored by the triplets. Seeing that Da Bao had a contented look on his face, she took Da Bao from

Qiao Nan and dabbed at his little nose. “The three of you are one more mischievous than the other. Your mom will be tired out by the three of you.”

Chapter 1237 Second-Prize Scholarship

“Gegege.” Da Bao, who was in a good mood, kept laughing. Miao Jing did not know what he was up to. “He is only a few months old. What could he be thinking of? What’s so funny that he keeps laughing? Nan Nan, have you seen it? Whenever Zhai Hua and I bring the triplets out for a walk under the sun, they are the most adorable babies among all the children. They will always have a smile on their faces and they never cry when they are outside.”

Compared to babies who kept crying and were a headache to the adults, it was very easy to take care of the triplets.

“They must be pretending.” Qiao Nan, who was holding her chubby daughter in her arms, joked. “They are very smart. They strive to give the best performance when they are outside and will not cry. But when they are at home, there is no need to hide their true feelings. In fact, they have a bad temper.”

San Bao blinked. Her dark and round eyes kept staring at her mama. She then turned her chubby cheeks sideways and brushed her cheeks against Qiao Nan’s chest. It was obvious what she was doing.

Qiao Nan patted San Bao’s bottom. Qiao Nan’s heart ached for San Bao, and she felt guilty. “San Bao, be good. I will feed you with formula milk.” Qiao Nan, who used to have sufficient breast milk for the triplets, stopped secreting milk naturally when the triplets were five months old.

Qiao Nan had no other choice but to wean the triplets off the breast milk.

“The formula milk is ready.” The auntie was an able worker. She knew the lifestyle of the triplets very well. After they woke up, urinated, and pooped, they would feel hungry and would cry for their milk.

San Bao, who lay in her mama’s arms, saw the milk bottle in her mama’s hands. She flailed her hands, as if she shunned the milk bottle. In the end, she had no other choice but to take the milk bottle with her chubby arms and started to suck on the milk bottle.

It was more important to drink her fill and grow up tall and strong.

As the mother, since the triplets were awake, she had an obligation to stay by their side and entertain them.

She had to coax them and tuck them into bed before she could do her schoolwork.

“Are they asleep?” The triplets slept soundly. They were sprawled out on their backs in the baby cribs. Their bulging tummies would rise and fall with every breath they took. They bent their knees like a little frog in surrender. They looked so adorable and endearing. Miao Jing’s heart melted at the sight of her grandchildren. “My dear triplets, eat well and sleep well. You will grow up to be strong and healthy.”

Her grandchildren might be born one month before their delivery date. However, when they were placed side by side with full-term babies, they seemed to be taller and bigger than them. Miao Jing could not help but be so proud of the triplets.

Every elder who lived in the same district had nothing but praises for the triplets. They were amazed that they were so healthy and strong. They praised the Zhai family for raising them well. It was the Zhai family’s fortune that the triplets were well-behaved and that they ate well and were very healthy.

Qiao Nan, who was using the internet, had to multitask while she listened to Miao Jing. She agreed with her. “Right now, the triplets will spend less time to sleep. They are very energetic. Thankfully, they are able to fall asleep in no time when they feel sleepy. One does not need to cajole them to sleep. We can just put them on the bed and they will fall asleep right away.”

“You’re right. It is such an easy task to take care of the triplets. Other families are kept busy with a single child of a similar age. We have three babies at home but we are able to take good care of them. The triplets are the most adorable and well-behaved children in the world.” Her grandchildren were the best. Miao Jing was a besotted grandma. She only had eyes for her grandchildren. No other babies were better than her grandchildren. “I noticed that you have a red file with you. Did you get a scholarship again?”

Now that the children were asleep and Miao Jing was free, after caring for her grandchildren, she turned to show concern for her daughter-in-law.

Miao Jing was very emotional when Qiao Nan came home with the red file. She felt as if Qiao Nan was awarded the first-prize scholarship. “Nan Nan, what scholarship did you receive this time?”

Qiao Nan did not go to school for half a semester. The Zhai family did not expect that Qiao Nan would receive a scholarship to do the Zhai family proud. It was too much to ask of her.

It was already considered good enough if Qiao Nan passed all her subjects and had average results for the subjects. Qiao Nan was already doing the Zhai family proud. They should prepare a sumptuous meal to celebrate for Qiao Nan.

Therefore, Miao Jing was very surprised when she saw the familiar red file.

“I received the second-prize scholarship. This is not the best scholarship. Therefore, there is no hope of me getting the school-based scholarship.” There was a huge difference between a second-prize and a first-prize scholarship. Other than the number of scholarships that was awarded, the amount of money was different as well. After Qiao Nan found out that she received the second-prize scholarship, she knew that she might not be able to receive the school-based scholarship in the future.

Thankfully, she managed to get the scholarship twice in a row. It was already good enough for her.

There were many other students in school, but there were only a few students who would receive the scholarship. It was even more difficult to receive a school-based scholarship. Qiao Nan was a freshman. She had no connections and was clueless. However, she was able to receive the school-based scholarship twice in a row. She must have done good deeds in her previous life.

Miao Jing hurried to explain. “Don’t misunderstand. If you receive a third-prize scholarship, all of us would set off firecrackers to celebrate, let alone the school-based or second-prize scholarship. Nan Nan, you are so outstanding. I believe that since you are the triplets’ mother, they will definitely grow up to be talented and intelligent. They will learn from you and they will be smart and outstanding.”

No other student was as efficient and capable as Nan Nan.

While she was in school, she was already pregnant. She missed the lessons for half a semester, but her results were better than all the other students who had been going to classes diligently every day.

If they were not pleased that Nan Nan received the second-prize scholarship, and instead blamed Nan Nan for not doing her best, what about all the other students in the college who did not receive any scholarships?

Learning was to keep improving. One would not be so heartless and callous and place such importance on results.

Qiao Nan finished typing and sent the message to her senior. She finally had time to answer her mother-in-law. “Mom, don’t say this in front of the triplets, especially after they grow up and could understand us. They are still young and malleable. They do not know what is self-discipline or self-control. As their elders, we must pay extra attention to it so that they will not walk down the wrong path.”

Grandparents would usually dote on their grandchildren.

Her mother-in-law was not close to her son and daughter. Therefore, she devoted all her feelings to her grandchildren.

Qiao Nan was glad that the triplets had a loving grandma who doted on them.

However, Qiao Nan would not be able to take it if she went beyond the limit. Therefore, in order to prevent things from getting ugly, it was better to spell things out beforehand and have a good discussion about it.

Chapter 1238 The Daughter-In-Law Who Made Them Proud

It would be better for them to make known to each other their opinions and stand instead of not exchanging their views at all and waited until something irreversible and serious had happened before they talked to each other.

Miao Jing relaxed and smiled. “Are you worried that I will spoil the triplets? Don’t worry. The children from our family won’t turn out to be ill-behaved. Look at Zhai Hua. She is the worst possible scenario. She did not turn out to be ill-behaved. At most, she is simple-minded and easily deceived by other people. She is not evil-natured. Zhai Sheng has spoken to me. In the future, when you discipline the triplets, I will definitely stand on your side. I won’t side with the triplets to rebuke you.”

Miao Jing did not believe that the triplets would become ill-behaved if their elders doted on them.

However, Qiao Nan was their mother. She loved them more than anyone else. Qiao Nan would definitely not do anything that would harm them.

All of them had the same motive. As the elder, she would give in at times. They were one family. It did not matter who was the one who gave in. No matter what, she would not suffer any losses. “I promise that I will not put in a good word for the triplets when you scold them.”

If Qiao Nan was too fierce, she would definitely coax and pacify the triplets after Qiao Nan had finished lecturing them. She would rescue the triplets from her fierce daughter-in-law.

“That’s good.” It was good that her mother-in-law was open-minded and she did not insist on doting on the triplets and spoiling them. Qiao Nan was more than happy to know that her mother-in-law supported her in this aspect.

Miao Jing walked to stand next to Qiao Nan. “What are you doing? I thought that you would be reading a book or writing and making notes when I walked into your room.” It was rare for Qiao Nan to put aside her books and use the computer. There were three hundred and sixty-five days a year, but there was never a single day where Qiao Nan would use the computer instead of reading a book.

Qiao Nan put aside the book list. “My master has given me quite a lot of homework. I will need to refer to books that are not within my syllabus. I managed to borrow some books from the library, but there are several books that could not be found in the library. I did a search online and they could not be found in the country, so I had to ask someone overseas to bring the books back.”

The shipping system between different countries was not as developed right now. It was unlike ten years later where it was common to have express delivery, and it was convenient to mail packages as well as to request for door-to-door delivery.

Right now, it was rare for one to have a computer. The Chinese online shopping website would probably only be set up this year. It would be many years later before it flourished. In that case, if Qiao Nan wanted to buy books from overseas and requested that the books be delivered to her, it would not be as convenient as how it would be ten years later.

Although it might take a long time and be very inconvenient, Qiao Nan had no other choice but to wait.

If she had friends who would be returning to the country from overseas, they would be able to bring the books back for her. However, she was not that lucky. "I just chatted with my senior. He is not in the country. He is overseas right now. I have asked him to buy the books for me. I will transfer the money to him. He has promised that he will find time to buy the books and mail them back to me."

"I see." It was good to buy books. Everyone hoped that their children would love reading. "You must do your best in the homework that your master gave you. Do you need any more books? If you need anything else, go ahead to buy them. Don't save on the money. I have money. I can buy the books for you. If you can't find anyone to buy the books, I can get someone to buy them for you."

Miao Jing patted her chest. She could help Qiao Nan buy the books as well. She treated Qiao Nan very well. They did not face any issues that mother-in-law and daughter-in-law would face. It was as if she was not her mother-in-law, but her mother.

"Thank you, Mom. I will buy all the books that I need. I can save on anything else but books. Brother Zhai has left me to take charge of all his money. He might not earn lots of money, but he has more than enough money for me to buy the books that I need." Qiao Nan had a sweet smile on her face.

The books that she wanted were very expensive. This also explained why they were unavailable in the country.

However, no matter how expensive the books were, her husband would buy them for her. There was no need for her mother-in-law to fork out the money.

"You're right. You must not save on this." Miao Jing touched Qiao Nan's head. "Your master lives next to us. He has been called back by the central government to handle some issues. Thankfully, he is away for the time being. Otherwise, I would be worried that he would check on your homework every single day. Now that he lives close to us, it will be easier for him to give you a test."

A strict teacher produced outstanding students.

However, Nan Nan was a mother of three and she had to take care of her children and go to school. She also had to complete the assignments given by Elder Lin. Even if she was an iron man, she would drain herself by completing so many tasks.

Luckily, Nan Nan was young and energetic.

If she were her, she would not be able to withstand such hardships. She would give up and surrender in three days.

Everyone in the district knew about Qiao Nan's situation.

Even though Qiao Nan was in a different city and had different neighbors, every adult in the district hailed her as the 'child from that family'.

Their children only needed to focus on their studies and do well in the exams, yet they were unable to perform as well as Qiao Nan.

On the other hand, the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family was pregnant soon after her marriage and she had triplets in a single pregnancy. She received scholarships twice in a row and she also completed the assignments given by Elder Lin. She had exceptional performance!

Everyone envied the Zhai family for having such an outstanding daughter-in-law. The Zhai family was very proud of her as well.

There were people who were envious of her, and there were people who were jealous of her.

The daughter-in-law of the Zhai family had her babies in September last year. She returned to school after one month of confinement. However, she had missed the lessons for half of the semester.

There would be people who disliked the fact that other people were doing well and would be jealous of them. They would gossip about Qiao Nan within the district. Although she had three babies, they felt that it was a pity that she had to sacrifice her studies for her children.

Both Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan were very young, particularly Qiao Nan, who was much younger than Zhai Sheng. Why would she be in a hurry to have babies? She should have her priorities right.

They felt that it must be due to Zhai Sheng that Qiao Nan was pregnant right after she entered college. Qiao Nan was very young. Though Zhai Sheng was not considered old, he was a few years older than her.

Despite the fact that she was still in college, the elders in the Zhai family must have pressurized her to get pregnant and have babies as Zhai Sheng was much older than her.

Indeed, the Zhai family led a good life. Their daughter-in-law was very outstanding while their grandchildren who were triplets were smart and brilliant. However, the Zhai family had a much more complicated life than the rest of them.

Since Qiao Nan wanted to marry into a rich family, she had to make sacrifices.

The Zhai family bullied Qiao Nan for being young. The reason why they agreed to take in a daughter-in-law who did not come from an established family must be that they knew that Qiao Nan was mild-tempered and would listen to them. She would do as the Zhai family said and she would not disobey them or have a mind of her own.

Chapter 1239 Many Seniors

In short, the harmonious and wonderful life in the Zhai family turned into a pool of filth in the mouths of some peculiar people. This was truly reflective of the idiom 'apple of Sodom'.

This group of people, in particular, was waiting to see Qiao Nan's situation after the school term began.

Qiao Nan had been awarded the first-prize scholarship from Peking University every time. In addition, it was school-based first-prize scholarships. If she did not receive it this time, who else besides the Zhai family could be blamed for this?

For the sake of carrying grandchildren and great-grandchildren earlier, they had ruined Qiao Nan's future. Qiao Nan was a student but she could not even take care of her own studies. This matter alone would cause a dent in the reputation of the Zhai family.

One was responsible for his own life. Miao Jing did not want to feel angry. Her family was leading a good life, and this was more important than the exaggerated or untrue accounts of others.

However, when one heard too many of such disgusting rumors, who would not feel vexed and upset?

Even Old Master Zhai and Zhai Yaohui did not expect Qiao Nan to be awarded any scholarships after missing half a semester of classes. Miao Jing had also extinguished her desire to encourage Qiao Nan to get a scholarship so that she could retort those people.

Hence, without Qiao Nan's knowledge, the elders of the Zhai family had shielded all the piercing and sarcastic rumors from Qiao Nan. This was such that Qiao Nan could concentrate on her studies and take care of the triplets. The elders would shoulder the rest of the pressures.

Three to four months had passed, and Miao Jing had almost forgotten about this matter. Never did she expect that this good daughter-in-law of hers would give her such a good opportunity again.

Who said that there was no scholarship? Yes, there was not only a scholarship but also a second-prize one!

There were many college students in their residential area, and many college students had already graduated as well.

Everyone could go and ask around. Did everybody do as well as Nan Nan after entering a good college such as Peking University? Right, if they had entered a comparable college, let's not talk about first-prize scholarships. Let's talk about achievements based on the number of scholarships received.

Miao Jing's eyes lit up as she flipped open the red booklet. After confirming the contents, she looked as proud and arrogant as a little rooster and dashed outside with the book.

Qiao Nan, who had just confirmed the books that she needed, was stunned. "What is wrong with Mom?" Were they not chatting well earlier? Why did she feel so emotional suddenly? She even took away the second-prize scholarship that she received for her last semester of studies?

Qiao Nan scratched her head, feeling puzzled and confused. She could not figure it out even after thinking.

Since it was something that she definitely could not figure out, Qiao Nan, who adopted the attitude of 'laugh and grow fat', was not troubled. She held the books that she borrowed today and immersed herself in a sea of knowledge.

A typical person could not be compared to such a self-aware and self-disciplined top student like Qiao Nan. They would not be able to predict her accurately either.

Holding on to Qiao Nan's second-prize scholarship, Miao Jing mercilessly, openly, and atrociously boasted to the neighbors who were always jealous. Looking at their gloomy faces that were as listless as frozen eggplants, she felt so proud ever. "This daughter-in-law of mine is really good in everything. Anyway, in my eyes, I can't find any shortcomings in my daughter-in-law. That said, I have to praise my son. There is an ancient saying 'the husband of a virtuous wife seldom suffers misfortune'. I take my hat off to my son for his judgment in choosing his wife!"

Miao Jing was making a strong inference with her words.

Zhai Sheng had married the right wife. Miao Jing rode on Qiao Nan's glory and avenged the previous insults to the Zhai family. Qiao Nan did the family proud again. In addition, the sons of a few families that liked to badmouth the Zhai family also recently got married.

However, the women that they married were simply complicated and foul. As such, she could not understand why these people felt rightful and confident about discussing the Zhai family matters.

She could not figure it out. Although it was the 21st century, a new China and contemporary society, some values would not change so much. Yet, they dared to marry any Tom, Dick, and Harry into the family. Weren't they foolish?

Nan Nan's family background was a little lackluster but it was unlike those of the daughters-in-law of these families. They were celebrities famous for certain matters. No matter what, Nan Nan was also a good-natured child and an offspring of veteran revolutionaries.

Fine, let's not talk about veteran revolutionaries. One could also say that Nan Nan was a beautiful daughter from a humble family, no?

Even if they did not marry the daughters of prominent and wealthy families, they did not need to...

At the thought that the dramas in the homes of these few neighbors were more spectacular than those in the television shows, Miao Jing could not be bothered to say anything.

They refused to lead peaceful lives. Instead of thinking about how to manage the affairs in their home, they talked about mundane matters of other people's families. They really had too much time to spare.

The truth that Miao Jing spoke and Qiao Nan's second-prize scholarship were like slaps in the faces of these people. Miao Jing, who got the kick out of venting out her anger, came back striding in large steps, lifting her head and chest like a victorious little general.

Qiao Nan's quiet and inconspicuous attitude of handling matters left a deep impression on people from the same social circle. They felt that this daughter-in-law of the Zhai family was not just all talk and no action. She was the hands-on type who was hard to come by.

The more this was the case, the more these people could not understand Qiao Nan's personality. They misunderstood her and said things that were opposite from reality.

This kind of quiet and silent people were actually the most horrible ones. It had the same effect of saying 'a barking dog never bites'.

Regardless of the case, that daughter-in-law of the Zhai family had missed half a semester of classes and given birth to triplets before returning to school, yet she still received a second-prize scholarship. As a result, Qiao Nan's name had become more resounding and prominent in the social circle. She has strongly established her presence.

One could stop saying that it was useless to do well in the studies or that it was better to have a good father rather than learning mathematics and sciences.

During the time of the children's studies, if one were to have both—a good father and outstanding academic performance—that was also a capital that the parents could use to chat about. Who would not be pleased that their children were good in their studies?

In addition, Lin Yuankang had moved to the house beside that of the Zhai family. A few months had passed. Unless one was dumb or blind, they would receive some information: The so-called lady from the countryside was, in fact, the last disciple of Lin Yuankang. The latter had just been invited by the central government to return to the capital last year.

If the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family was a country bumpkin despite having Lin Yuankang as her master, what were those self-proclaimed high-status and prominent ladies considered then?

Someone that they had looked down on was actually more outstanding than their own daughter. What would have become of their own daughter then?

As such, after knowing the relationship between Qiao Nan and Lin Yuankang, the smart ones had already shut up and no longer attacked the Zhai family's 'loopholes' using Qiao Nan's family background.

Lin Yuankang was carrying Er Bao, who was smiling in a silly and happy manner, in one hand and checking Qiao Nan's homework with his other hand. After some time, he nodded with satisfaction. "You've done quite well. Your research is very comprehensive. In the future, if you lack any books, just get your seniors to buy them. If anyone dares to disobey you, let me know. I will help you teach them a lesson."

Chapter 1240 The Triplets Are Angry

Such was the advantage of having disciples located all over the world.

Lin Yuankang's disciples were not only working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but also embassies of various countries.

Hence, if Qiao Nan needed any books, there were no books that Qiao Nan's seniors could not get. There were only books that Qiao Nan could not think of. This applied to other more important items as well.

The master grandpa who liked to tease him in the past was only carrying him today and looking at a pile of unknown items. Er Bao blinked his eyes, made noises, and reached out his fair and chubby hands to touch the things in Lin Yuankang's hands. Were those things very interesting? He would like to read it too.

Lin Yuankang anxiously raised the items. "My Er Bao, be good. This is the homework that your mother took great pains to complete. If you spoil it, your mom is going to cry." Having said that, Lin Yuankang grabbed Er Bao's mischievous chubby hands. "Er Bao, be good. When Er Bao and your siblings grow up, I will definitely teach you. I'll put in more effort to teach you than I teach your mom. There's no hurry."

"..." Qiao Nan curled the corners of her lips. She was someone who was reborn. In addition, she had great enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge. Hence, she was able to maintain her attitude without being distracted by some factors. She was behaving like a nerd. Besides taking care of the babies,

she did not have any other form of entertainment or hobby. She was immersed in piles of books every day.

If her master were to arrange so much homework for the triplets, she very much doubted if they would have the patience and willingness to stay at home without going anywhere.

Qiao Nan never felt that it was especially tough or tiring when she did that.

The problem was that Qiao Nan could not bear for the same situation to happen to her own children. She was not willing to restrict the children and drown them with homework during their childhood and teenage years. She opted to take this route but she did not have the right to request her children to follow in her footsteps. She hoped that her children could make their own choices when they grew up.

However, the triplets were still very young and Lin Yuankang seemed so enthusiastic. Given the ways that Lin Yuankang doted on them, Qiao Nan was not sure if this master, who had some childlike innocence himself, would maintain his stance of nurturing the triplets to become top students when they grew up.

At the thought of this, Qiao Nan's worry eased and she allowed Elder Lin to continue teasing Er Bao.

Time passed in the blink of an eye. From little babies who only knew how to lie down, the triplets gradually learned how to crawl, as well as walk, stagger, and 'waddle' like a duckling. Their little mouths were also constantly blabbering.

"Mama, hug, hug." San Bao had just opened her eyes. She had not woken up completely, yet she was already shouting for her mama's hugs with a baby voice.

At the sight of her chubby daughter reaching out with her round and fleshy hands that had not slimmed down at all, Qiao Nan smiled gently. She kissed the back of her daughter's hands before carrying the nice-smelling and soft baby into her arms. "San Bao, shall we drink some water?"

"Okay." San Bao murmured but she still did not open her eyes.

After taking a few sips of water, San Bao became soberer. She was twisting her chubby and round body in her mother's arms. "Mama, hug."

It was September now. The weather was still very hot. It was only cooler in the morning and night time.

As such, the Zhai family let the triplets wear bright red dudous[1] and pure cotton open-crotch pants. When a child with a head-to-body ratio of 1:3 wore these clothes, it complemented their fair and tender skin. The triplets were so beautiful that they looked like they were qualified to participate in television shows and advertisements.

The little girl stuck to her so much. Qiao Nan felt both happy and helpless.

The weather was so hot. She did not even allow her husband to hug her. However, she could not refuse the requests from her three children.

Qiao Nan rubbed the dry and smooth little back of San Bao before gently swaying her. “Isn’t mama carrying San Bao now?” If not, in what way should she carry her?

San Bao opened her mouth and smiled. She was pleased. Her little face was buried in her mother’s soft and nice-smelling chest. She was rubbing it happily. “Kekeke...”

“Shhh. Your two brothers are still sleeping. Let’s not disturb them.” Her little daughter looked so adorable and cheeky. Qiao Nan loved her so much.

San Bao turned her head. Her dewy eyes stared at her two brothers, who were sleeping on the bed like little piglets with sprawling limbs. She laughed even louder. Using her chubby and short fingers, she drew lines up and down her pink and tender cheeks to express: Shame, shame!

Zhai Hua often made this action when she teased the triplets.

This was the time when the triplets loved to imitate others most. Zhai Hua had not done it that many times but the clever triplets had already learned how to use this action to shame Zhai Hua, this auntie.

“This naughty girl.” Qiao Nan grabbed her daughter’s hands and bit it gently. Her daughter was bullying her two sons who had not woken up yet. At the sight of the clock by the bedside showing

half past six, she was leaving for school soon but her two sons were still in deep slumbers. Qiao Nan could only wake them up. “San Bao, let’s wake your brothers up together, okay?”

Da Bao and Er Bao had been sleeping so soundly. She could just let them continue to do so. Why did she have to wake them up? It was not because Qiao Nan was heartless.

During the first half of the year, in May, the triplets were eight months old and learning to crawl.

One day, Qiao Nan woke up a little earlier to prepare some materials that would be handed to the professor. She also had some questions about her thesis that she had to consult her professor beforehand.

That professor was quite busy and was seldom in the school. If Qiao Nan did not arrive at the school and prepare the items beforehand, given the many questions that she had, she was not sure when she could resolve them and complete her homework and thesis.

Qiao Nan was up early and the triplets were sleeping soundly.

Initially, Qiao Nan thought that it would be fine. The triplets were already used to her going to school. Hence, it was not an issue for her to leave earlier for school and let them continue to sleep.

Also, the auntie and her mother-in-law were at home. Although her sister-in-law was not at home, it should not be difficult to watch after three sleeping kids.

Qiao Nan had the heart of a benevolent mother and did not disturb the three sleeping children. Who would have known that the triplets would flare up when they did not get to see their biological mother first thing in the morning and after knowing that their mother left the house early. They cried loudly. Miao Jing could not appease them no matter how hard she tried to. She was so anxious that she could only give Qiao Nan a call.

In the end, Qiao Nan put in so many good words on the phone to finally appease the triplets. They did not continue to kick up a fuss then.

Even if that was so, when Qiao Nan came back from the school, their three pairs of eyes glanced at Qiao Nan from time to time. However, different from usual, they neither took the initiative to reach out their hands to request for hugs nor stuck by Qiao Nan’s side. Instead, they lined up, turned their

backs on Qiao Nan, and showed her their little bums. It was obvious that they intended to give Qiao Nan, this insensible mama, cold shoulders.