

## RTAMM 1261

Chapter 1261 Can Be Eliminated

If not for these people's gossip, Zhai Hua would not...

Qiao Nan's heart wrenched at Miao Jing's troubled look.

Qiao Nan lowered her head and gave Er Bao a kiss on the face. She then asked Er Bao to look at Miao Jing.

After kissing Qiao Nan back, Er Bao blinked his black and dewy eyes. Qiao Nan carried him down the sofa. He ran loudly to Miao Jing. He rolled, whined, and acted cute as he took the fruits that Miao Jing had peeled and fed them to Miao Jing, making a gift for people with something that was given to him.

Miao Jing felt so sweet. She held on to Er Bao's chubby hands. "Er Bao, be good. Grandma can eat by myself. If Er Bao likes to eat them, you can eat more."

Er Bao raised his short and chubby hands highly and insisted to feed Miao Jing personally. It was only when Miao Jing ate the fruit that Er Bao asked smilingly, "Sweet?"

"Sweet!" Miao Jing nodded furiously. "Grandma's heart feels so sweet." This was not a fruit. This was the sweetest candy in the world!

Er Bao twisted his body proudly. He looked like he was dancing. His chubby body twisted and swayed to both sides like he was a chubby real-life tumbler. It was so funny.

Indeed, Er Bao was the little actor amongst the triplets. Acting was a piece of cake for him. Miao Jing was so amused that she was red and laughing in tears.

After coaxing Miao Jing, the atmosphere in the Zhai family eased much. However, henceforth, Tian Dong's reputation in the Zhai family had been slightly dented.

The Zhai family had organized a one-year-old party for the triplets. It was lively and bustling on that day.

Almost all who attended the triplets' full month celebration also came today.

These people saw that the triplets had grown to be so bright and extremely good-looking. Da Bao and Er Bao were slower in their speech development, but they could already walk in a steady manner. San Bao, the little girl, could not walk as well as her two elder brothers but she was better at speaking.

One year had passed. Until now, these three children of the Zhai family had not grown astray. All of them seemed fine.

The elders often say that they could predict a person's future when the latter was three years old.

Actually, one could foresee some situations when the child learned how to walk and talk.

These three children of the Zhai family could get along extremely well. Da Bao and Er Bao protected and doted on San Bao, their younger sister, very much. The triplets' standing position was always San Bao in the middle and the two elder brothers by each of her sides.

San Bao, this little girl, was very doted upon. Whenever she received any good things, she would never stuff it into her mouth anxiously. She would feed her two elder brothers first before eating it herself.

Facing such a lively occasion, the triplets, including San Bao, did not show any feelings of fear. They were swirling their eyeballs and also opening their little mouths from time to time, smiling sweetly at others.

Judging by the triplets' performance, the guests who came felt increasingly envious of the Zhai family's good fortune for having such fine three children.

When accepting these people's blessings, Qiao Nan noticed a situation. Similar to the day that she was married, the Tian family did not appear. Their gift came instead.

After confirming that Tian Dong and none of the Tian family members had appeared, Qiao Nan's expression changed. She had eliminated the hope of Tian Dong becoming her brother-in-law. It was better not to have a man like Tian Dong.

Sister Zhai Hua was right. If she really did not have any children in the future, the triplets would definitely be willing to take care of her. Instead of forcing Sister Zhai Hua to look for a lousy man to have children, she would rather Sister Zhai Hua follow her heart and not find any man to marry. She would be carefree and happy then.

“Mine. It’s mine. It’s mine.” After the bustling day ended, the triplets, especially San Bao, were extremely excited. Upon the end of the entire day, she was smiling with a pink face as she carried the presents from the adults. Like a dragon, she was either carrying all the presents in her arms or sitting on them.

She was touching this, looking at that, and continuously counting which present was hers.

At the sight of her chubby little girl looking like a wealthy landlord, Qiao Nan was elated. She pinched her daughter’s little nose. “Little girl, there are so many presents. What do you intend to do? Are you going to open them?”

San Bao was sitting on all the presents but did not open any of them. She looked as carefree and happy as a deity just by sitting on them. Qiao Nan could not quite figure out what her fair and chubby daughter was thinking about.

Could it be that San Bao had a hobby of collecting items?

“Open?” San Bao blinked her eyes. Her little head was nodding like a chicken pecking on rice. “Open! Mom, help!”

San Bao knew that she was small and did not have enough strength. Hence, she wanted her mother to lend a helping hand.

It felt good to touch the soft small ponytail that she tied for San Bao. Qiao Nan carried her daughter into her arms from the small pile of presents. “Mom will help you to open them?”

San Bao was only one year old and her hair was not extremely long. However, she was a girl. Qiao Nan liked to tie small ponytails for San Bao.

Although San Bao’s hair was quite short and she did not have a lot of hair, she looked extremely adorable with high ponytails. Especially those two little tails, many people endured the urge to touch her tiny face at the sight of that. They rubbed the ponytail on her head instead.

Perhaps she was aware that the little ponytails shared much burden with her. She was extremely satisfied with them. When others were not touching them, she would lift her hands to touch that novelty on her head.

“B- beautiful.” After opening the presents, San Bao was constantly clapping her hands in a delighted manner.

Everyone understood. Under such circumstances, no one would be foolish enough to give something too expensive for the triplets. Instead of gaining the Zhai family’s favor, they might attract trouble for themselves.

As such, the gifts to the triplets today were not only common but also practical.

Just take San Bao for example. She had received many beautiful princess dresses, tiaras, and shiny small accessories. Many gifts opened by Qiao Nan were such items.

San Bao had received such presents. Of course, Da Bao’s and Er Bao’s presents were not any different.

Da Bao and Er Bao collaborated to open the presents one by one. At the sight of the presents, Da Bao and Er Bao looked very delighted.

Da Bao and Er Bao were still children. Although the brothers collaborated, the speed of opening the presents could not win that of Qiao Nan, the biological mother.

As a model auntie, Zhai Hua patiently helped Da Bao and Er Bao open their presents. When the two children shunned her for being clumsy, Zhai Hua was not angry. She only rubbed on Da Bao’s and Er Bao’s heads and continued to help.

The triplets were one year old. No one from the Tian family came. They only sent a gift. The Zhai family had already noticed this matter and specially went to check on this.

Chapter 1262 Huge Difference between Day and Nigh

Since Zhai Hua had been thinking of breaking up with Tian Dong, what happened only served to affirm her decision. She would stop thinking about him as time passed.

She had spent a longer time with Wei De than Tian Dong. Since she could forget Wei De, it was not difficult to let go of Tian Dong.

After spending more than one week with their grandpa, father, and auntie during the National Day holiday, the triplets were getting used to having them in the house. Er Bao and San Bao were very attached to Zhai Sheng. They would play coquette and hug his leg. Although Da Bao did not behave like them, he no longer rejected Zhai Sheng when he carried him.

Although the triplets liked to be in Zhai Sheng's embrace, there was still a habit of theirs that they were unable to change.

Unless Qiao Nan laid on one side and blocked Zhai Sheng from their views, the triplets could not accept that Zhai Sheng laid on the same bed with their mother and them.

The triplets knew that they were not Zhai Sheng's match. Therefore, when they realized that Zhai Sheng lay on the same bed as them, they would try to push him away from the bed or to resort to crying, finding ways to send him away.

Unless the triplets were asleep, Zhai Sheng could not share the same bed as his wife.

Zhai Sheng never expected that this would happen after he had children.

On the day Zhai Sheng left his house for the army camp, the triplets had a death grip on his calf, stopping Zhai Sheng from leaving. They looked heartbroken. Miao Jing and Zhai Hua felt saddened at such a sight. They were, after all, father and children. The same blood flowed in their veins. The triplets were very sensible and they could not bear to part with Zhai Sheng.

Unlike Miao Jing and Zhai Hua who were moved to tears by the children, Zhai Sheng had different feelings when his children hugged his legs, refusing to let him leave. He was glad that his children loved him, but he felt gloomy at the same time.

He could not understand why the triplets would behave differently in the daytime and the nighttime.

During the daytime, they would pester him to play with them and hug them. When it was nighttime, they forbade him from sharing a bed with Nan Nan. They seemed like three little devils who insisted on kicking him out of his wife's bed.

It would be good if they could behave in the same way during the nighttime. Zhai Sheng would be happier to acknowledge the fact that he was the father of three children.

Since his family was around, he would not embarrass Qiao Nan by saying what he really felt. But he was making a silent promise with the triplets in his mind. If they really liked their father, when he was back next time, they must sleep in another room, while he shared a bed with his wife.

“Papa.” San Bao, who was the fastest in learning how to speak, was able to pronounce ‘papa’ accurately. The young lady had tears in her eyes. She pursed her lips and turned teary-eyed. She kept brushing her cheeks against Zhai Sheng’s calf and calling him ‘papa’.

As the eldest brother, although Da Bao could not bear for Zhai Sheng to leave, he seemed more angry than sad, puffing his cheeks.

Da Bao grabbed Zhai Sheng’s trouser leg. He felt perplexed. If his mama could stay with them every day, why couldn’t his papa do that? Why did he have to leave after such a short time? Could it be that his papa did not love them as much as his mama did?

As the cheeky child among the three children, Er Bao openly displayed his anger. He seemed like a horse that was fuming through the nose. He was terribly upset that Zhai Sheng had been home for such a short while and he was leaving again. It took them a long time before they finally accepted Zhai Sheng as their father.

His mama had to go to school and work every day. Why was it that could she return home to them every day while his papa could not do that?

Miao Jing’s heart ached for them. She finally realized that when parents left their children, no matter how young the children were, it would be heartbreaking for them.

Miao Jing reflected on herself once again because of the triplets.

The triplets were awake when Zhai Sheng left for the army. They were aware that he was leaving.

Back then, she and Old Zhai were unable to do that. When they returned home, their two children were already asleep.

Furthermore, it was uncommon to take flights and it was very expensive.

At times, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing had to leave early in the morning or late at night in order to catch the train.

The children would wake up to find that their parents had left quietly. To their parents, home was like a hotel, they would have a short stay before they left. They did not feel attached to the family.

It was merely for convenience's sake.

Miao Jing could not remember if Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua were upset and had tears back then. Even if they did, she had no idea at all. All these years, and even now that they had grown up, they had never spoken about it or had any complaints or unhappiness about what happened back then.

Zhai Hua walked to stand next to Miao Jing. She reached out toward Miao Jing and hugged her. "Mom, don't think too much. It is all in the past. The past was not important. What is important is the present and the future. Zhai Sheng and I are doing well. Zhai Sheng is already married with kids. Don't you feel that he has never been this happy before?"

Zhai Hua had sorted out her thoughts and was able to let go of her unhappiness in the past.

Back then, her parents neglected her and Zhai Sheng. They did not really take care of them. But now, they were sincere in making compensations.

Unlike the triplets, she would not bear grudges about what happened in the past and stay angry with her parents.

She was once rebellious and aggrieved, but she had put everything behind her. More importantly, they led a happy and blessed life now.

Miao Jing turned her head to a side, feeling embarrassed. She sniffed. "Zhai Sheng is going back to the army, but you have not changed to your military uniform. Aren't you going back to the army?" She thought that since her son and daughter returned home together, they would leave for the army together as well.

Zhai Hua shook her head. “Mom, I forgot to tell you that I have transferred to another position.”

“Transferred to another position? Why would you agree to it? Could it be that something has happened and you are suffering in silence? We will not stir up troubles, but we are not afraid of fighting for what’s right either. Tell me. What is it? You have your old master, your dad, and Zhai Sheng to support you. Nobody can dream of bullying the Zhai family!” Miao Jing was uptight and angry.

It was true that the Zhai family had just moved to the capital for slightly more than a year and they did not have many connections here.

But the Zhai family would not be easily bullied!

“Mom, don’t get so anxious. Listen to me. I applied for the transfer. Nobody is making things difficult for me. I did it willingly.”

#### Chapter 1263 Internship

Zhai Hua gave Miao Jing a side hug. She had never hugged her mother when she was at a young age. She could do so even when she was an adult. “I am no longer young. Although I am still in good condition, what’s done cannot be undone. Old master and Dad had lectured me on this previously. I have a lot of weaknesses. Actually, I am not suited to be on the front line. I cannot possibly be protected by Zhai Sheng forever and create troubles for him.”

What happened in Ping Cheng was not very complicated. Although she committed a mistake because of Wei De, the soldiers in Ping Cheng still stood very united and were not displeased with her.

Back then in Ping Cheng, Zhai Sheng was the regiment commander and was considered as having the highest position in the army. Even if some of them were unconvinced, they would not dare to go against Zhai Sheng.

Things were totally different now that they were at the capital.

There were very few regiment commanders in Ping Cheng. However, in the capital, it was the opposite.

In the past, Zhai Sheng could look out for her. But now that they were in the capital, and he had many formidable opponents in the capital, Zhai Hua felt that she should not be so selfish and insist on staying at the front line just because she wanted to prove that girls were equally strong as boys.

She was nearly thirty years old. She was once willful and reckless. It was time for her to be sensible.

Otherwise, in a few more years, the triplets would look down on her, chiding her for fooling around.

At the thought of that, Zhai Hua blushed in embarrassment and could feel fumes coming from her head. She must never become such a miserable auntie.

After Zhai Hua transferred to another position, there was no need for her to fight in the front line and strive for military achievements. She would work at the back end and focus on recruiting talents and training them.

In that case, Zhai Hua would have a much easier job than before. She would not be exposed to dangers and risks in her work. Moreover, she would be able to work in the army that she loved and contribute in her own way for the rest of her life.

To Zhai Hua, she was content to lead such a life forever.

Miao Jing used to persuade Zhai Hua to make the transfer, but no matter how she persuaded her, Zhai Hua refused to listen to her.

Now that Miao Jing had given up on making Zhai Hua change her mind, she went to do something that Miao Jing had always hoped for. Miao Jing felt saddened. "Hua Hua, is it because of me? You don't have to do that. As long as Zhai Sheng and you are doing well and happy, I will not stop you from choosing the kind of life that you want to have in the future."

Now that her daughter had given in, Miao Jing wanted her to reconsider instead.

The mother and daughter had many quarrels and arguments because of this. They bickered and argued with each other as if they were enemies.

Right now, one was willing to give in, and the other party yielded as well. They were able to talk nicely over it. They behaved like the model example of mother and daughter. They used to disagree over this issue, but now, they were very considerate of each other's feelings.

The mother and daughter gazed at each other with tears in their eyes. Qiao Nan, who was carrying her daughter, smiled. "Sister Zhai Hua, are you saying that you will go back to the army a few days later?"

"Yes." Zhai Hua sniffed, feeling embarrassed. She almost cried in front of the triplets. Thankfully, they were still very young. She believed they would forget today's incident in no time. Otherwise, when Da Bao and Er Bao joined the army, she was worried that they would refuse to listen to her orders and instructions. If so, it would be too embarrassing.

Qiao Nan changed into her suit, getting ready for work after getting an affirmative answer. She handed the triplets to her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. "This is great. My dear triplets, you can play with grandma and auntie. I am going off to work. I will have dinner with you when I am back from work."

"Okay," Da Bao replied.

Er Bao pursed his lips. He wanted his mama to bring him to work.

San Bao hugged her auntie's neck. "Want mama, early, early." She wanted her mama to come back as early as possible to accompany her.

Qiao Nan gave each child a kiss before she left for work with the slightest worry.

"Little junior, you are here." The man who was dressed in a suit and looked refined and scholarly smiled at Qiao Nan. His eyes lit up at the sight of her.

Qiao Nan calmed herself down before she took out the documents from her bag and passed it to him. "Here are the documents that you wanted me to prepare. There isn't enough time. Will you be able to make it in time?" The man in front of her was Lin Yuankang's disciple. He was ranked seventh among his disciples. He had an important position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the central government.

Qiao Nan would be doing her internship with him.

When one worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one might not be able to have ample time to prepare the documents and materials. At times, there would be unexpected circumstances. This was one of those instances.

Her senior needed the information and he told Qiao Nan at the last minute to do research.

As a result, even though Zhai Sheng had to leave today, she made Zhai Sheng look after the children after she coaxed them to sleep, while she worked through the night to prepare the documents that her senior wanted.

Since Qiao Nan had to work through the night to prepare the information, it went to show that the information was not readily available and she had to do research.

However, compared to Qiao Nan who spent the night compiling the information, her senior had to memorize everything within an hour and be ready when he welcomed the foreign guests.

Her senior read through the information that Qiao Nan prepared while he worked his brains, walking toward his destination. "As long as your information is comprehensive, there will be no problem on my side." He must be capable to be able to land this position. Otherwise, he would have been replaced by someone else. Moreover, he was Lin Yuankang's seventh disciple.

He Yi was relieved that his master was experienced and he did not falter or make a mistake in choosing his last disciple. He had good judgment and his last disciple was indeed a talent.

In his department, many people wanted to seek his advice and would want more than anything for him to guide them and mentor them.

But this was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the central government!

As China progressed and developed, the workload in the department had increased and its work had a more significant influence on the country.

It was not a place that everyone could do their internship in.

People who had that misconception must be kidding!

If they really wanted to do their internship at the department, they could only watch and observe.

Unless it was in the past where the veterans would give personal guidance and coach the interns, and they were experienced and had developed their own work style, it was impossible to join the department and do an internship.

To err is human. However, this department had zero tolerance for mistakes and if one committed a mistake there was no way to correct them.

He Yi was willing to look after his little junior, which was the last disciple of his master on account of his respect for his master. But there were certain instances where he was unable to look out for her.

#### Chapter 1264 Soybean Milk in the Morning

He Yi could reject other people except for his master whom he owed a great debt of gratitude. His master had given him a new lease of life.

When He Yi first heard that Qiao Nan was still in her third year in college, his intention was to let her watch by the side. He did not intend to assign any tasks to her.

If Qiao Nan committed any mistakes during her internship, he would not allow her to stay by his side even though she was his little junior. It was better for her to learn from her master and wait until she had graduated before she made any plans of joining the department.

He Yi had already thought of the worst-case scenario. To his surprise, the little junior might seem to be shy and young, but she was quite reliable and trustworthy.

After all, she was groomed by his master. She must be quite capable.

He needed the information at the last minute. Everyone had their tasks and nobody had time to take up the job.

Apart from Qiao Nan, there was another intern in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was quite close to He Yi. There was once when Qiao Nan heard the man addressed He Yi as his master.

However, from what Qiao Nan knew, He Yi never acknowledged the man as his disciple.

Although He Yi handed the task to Qiao Nan, now that there was finally a chance to improve and learn, the man volunteered to take up the task and assured him that he would do a good job.

In the end, it was Qiao Nan, instead of the man, who was assigned the task.

Qiao Nan looked very serious as He Yi spoke to her. She was on tenterhooks.

She had tried her best to prepare the documents. Although she felt that she had done a good job, she was not very sure of herself.

Qiao Nan was glad that she was finally assigned a task to do. She placed great importance on it and hoped that she would not fail in her first try.

He Yi read the documents seriously. He read through every word rapidly with a solemn look on his face. Qiao Nan dared not interrupt He Yi or ask him if there was any problem with the documents.

“Master.” Deng Wenchang had a gloomy look on his square face when He Yi and Qiao Nan walked toward him. He recovered himself and smiled brightly at his master when they neared him. “Master, I just bought soybean milk. It is still very hot. Would you like to have it?”

Many people knew that He Yi had the habit of drinking soybean milk in the morning.

Since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had an urgent task, Qiao Nan worked through the night to prepare the documents while He Yi spent the night at the office after informing his family.

His wife brought with her a change of clothes for him in the morning.

Since He Yi did not have the time to go back home to change his clothes, he also would not have time to buy soybean milk.

He had more important tasks, so it was alright to skip the soybean milk this morning.

Everyone was busy with work. Deng Wenchang, who was not assigned any tasks, had a lot of time on his hands. He grabbed hold of the opportunity to bring the piping hot soybean milk to He Yi.

He Yi smelled the scent of the soybean milk and raised his eyebrows slightly. He did not reject his kindness. "It just happened that I am thirsty."

Deng Wenchang beamed when He Yi took the soybean milk from him. He had to stop himself from looking smugly at Qiao Nan, showing her that he had the upper hand.

The Deng family had spent a lot of time building a close relationship with He Yi. He Yi watched Deng Wenchang grow up. In the past, Deng Wenchang would address He Yi as his uncle. Now, he wanted to be his disciple.

He Yi was Deng Wenchang's role model. He had decided that he wanted to be like He Yi since a young age and hoped that he would take him in as his disciple. When he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the future, He Yi would be able to help and support him.

He would be the best master. There was no other alternative.

Everything had happened according to Deng Wenchang's plan. He graduated from a renowned university's foreign language faculty and studied in America for two years before he returned to the country about a year ago.

Deng Wenchang had put in a lot of effort into the goal that he had since a young age. Now that he had returned from his overseas study, he could join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He knew He Yi since he was at a tender age, and He Yi had a lot of experience in the department. With him around to look after him, he would be able to make his mark in the department in the shortest time if he put in the effort.

Deng Wenchang was full of confidence. All he wanted was for He Yi to give him a chance to perform.

However, Deng Wenchang lost his smile after a few days with the appearance of Qiao Nan. She had disrupted his plans.

There was a young and pretty young lady beside the man that he wanted to acknowledge as his master!

Deng Wenchang could not help but be prejudiced against Qiao Nan. After all, she was just a third-year student. She had no right to join the department, let alone to work with He Yi, the minister.

Deng Wenchang was very certain that Qiao Nan had come in through the back door.

He spent a lot of time and effort, yet he was worse than the young lady who got in through the back door based on her looks. Deng Wenchang felt unconvinced.

Deng Wenchang felt slightly better that Qiao Nan was in a similar situation as him. He Yi did not take extra care of Qiao Nan. Even if Qiao Nan came in due to her looks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the central government would not allow someone who got in through the back door based on her looks to have her way.

As long as he performed much better than Qiao Nan, and with the Deng family's help, he had no need to fear Qiao Nan.

But he was once again dealt with a harsh blow. He waited for a long time for the chance to perform and prove that he was capable, but He Yi decided to give the chance to Qiao Nan.

Although Deng Wenchang was not assigned any task, he stayed up through the night, boiling in anger. He had bloodshot eyes when he went to work this morning.

Very few people knew that Qiao Nan was He Yi's little junior.

He Yi had worked through the night and he was particularly happy when he saw Qiao Nan at the office this morning with the documents ready. He could not help but address her as his little junior.

It happened that Deng Wenchang was not around. He still had the notion that people like Qiao Nan, who was young and pretty, must have engaged in indecent offers in order to have such a chance, while he, who joined the department based on his abilities, was robbed of the opportunity.

Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang stayed by He Yi's side until he went into his office.

## Chapter 1265 Well Done

He Yi would get busy with his own work and had no time for the two 'interns', namely Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang. Qiao Nan liked to keep herself busy. She felt that she did not have enough time, so she would not waste her time doing nothing.

Once He Yi closed the door to his office, Qiao Nan went back to her seat right away, taking out a foreign history literary work that was in English.

Deng Wenchang, having nothing much to do, sat down as well. As his seat was only separated from Qiao Nan's seat by a partition, he could tell what she was doing.

Deng Wenchang sneered when he noticed that Qiao Nan was able to read the English literary work calmly. She was indeed conscientious, but it was merely to keep up appearances. He wondered how capable she was.

She was merely a college student. To put it bluntly, Qiao Nan was overestimating her capabilities!

If she wanted to read and to learn, she should go back to school.

This was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the central government. It was not suitable for everyone. It was a very important ministry in the country. Deng Wenchang felt saddened that Qiao Nan could join the ministry through connections when she was without any skills.

This wouldn't do. When he went back home today, he must ask his father to do a check. He wanted to know where this college student came from and what methods she used in order to join the ministry. Most importantly, he hoped that his master was not the person who allowed her to join the ministry. Otherwise, he would be ready to punish his own family if justice demanded it.

Deng Wenchang kept quiet about the fact that he might report his master if he was the one who allowed Qiao Nan to join the ministry. Deng Wenchang was a man of actions. Once he reached home, he passed Qiao Nan's photo to his father. "Hurry, Dad. Can you help me do a check on this person? Could it be that college students nowadays are so shameless?"

Father Deng looked at the person in the photo. She had clear, sparkling eyes, and she looked upright. He tried to make his son calm down. "Don't get angry. Although one may know a person for a long time without understanding his true nature, from the pair of clear eyes that the young lady

has, she doesn't seem to be problematic." He had seen many women who took the wrong path and climbed up the social ladder with their looks.

He had rejected some of them, and for those that he was interested in, he would accept their offers.

The young lady in the photo was unlike the women that he had seen in the past. "Alright, let me ask you. She must have joined the ministry for a certain period of time. From your observation, is she capable?" They should not over-generalize. Although she had the looks, she might be capable as well.

Father Deng was not lauding the spirit of the enemy and belittled that of his own.

It was just that his son who was used to doing very well in school became flustered and lost his calm at the mention of Qiao Nan. He had forgotten everything that he had taught him at a young age.

The father should know the son best.

Given his son's reaction, Father Deng did not believe his son's one-sided view that the young lady joined the ministry based on her looks.

It was such an important ministry in the country. One could not join the department easily based on illicit offers. If so, their country would be in trouble,

Furthermore, it was not as important whether she engaged in illicit offers or not. If she had no talents, it would be useless even if she engaged in indecent acts.

"Hmmp. She is merely a third-year student. Dad, do you think she is capable?" Deng Wenchang was unconvinced. He graduated with a master's degree and he completed two years of overseas study in America before returning to the country in glory.

He had graduated from college and also came back from his overseas study. He had proven that he was capable and had abilities.

Although he was able to join the ministry because of his master, he was in a different situation from Qiao Nan. He had the capabilities and he could contribute to the ministry. Unlike Qiao Nan, it was already considered good if she did not cause any trouble to the ministry.

Deng Wenchang would not admit that she had the abilities.

“Is that so?” Father Deng refused to believe. I have known He Yi for a long time. I know him very well. If he would accept such favors, his wife would have divorced him a long time ago.” Father Deng respected He Yi for that. He would lose his senses occasionally, but He Yi never made a single mistake.

As he knew He Yi very well, Father Deng did not believe what his son said totally. He did not jump to conclusions and believed that Qiao Nan joined the ministry based on her looks. “Both of you have joined the ministry for some time. What have you done for the ministry? How about Qiao Nan? Is she idling around?”

Since they had joined the ministry for some time, he believed that his son and the young lady must have been given the chance to perform in the ministry.

Even if they did not have the chance, they would have created the opportunity for themselves if they were determined to work in the ministry.

“Don’t bring that up. The mention of it makes my blood boil.” Deng Wenchang slammed the table. “The ministry had an urgent and important task. Everyone in the ministry, including Uncle He, stayed through the night to complete the task, but Qiao Nan was able to go back home on time. I don’t understand why Uncle He would give such an important task of researching and compiling information to an indecent woman. If anything happened, it would implicate the entire ministry and shame our country.”

Deng Wenchang was boiling in anger. He could not bear to watch the horrible outcome. Otherwise, he would not be back home at such an early time.

Father Deng knew what his son was talking about. When he first learned about it, he was shocked as well. Luckily, no matter what happened, it had nothing to do with him. That was why he did not let it bother him.

Now that his son brought it up, Father Deng took the remote control and switched on the television. “It is eight o’clock at night. The issue that you spoke of will be on the news tonight. You can watch the news with me, and we shall see if it is as bad as what you made it to be.”

Would He Yi be so foolish?

If so, He Yi would have been sent out of the ministry. Even though Elder Lin was his master, it would be of no use.

Even if someone got in through the back door, if they did not have the ability, they would not be able to succeed in any organization or company that he joined.

True enough, the nighttime news on the state-owned television channel was reporting the issue that Father Deng and his son had been talking about.

The news broadcaster spoke in fluent Chinese. She was very professional as she reported about the event.

#### Chapter 1266 Don’t Make Foolish Remarks

Father Deng and his son were all ears, waiting for the broadcaster to report the overall outcome of the event.

The broadcaster reported that the Sino-Foreign Exchange was a success and they had reached a good outcome. The foreign guests stated that China was known as a state of etiquette and ceremonies, and it left them with good memories. If there was a chance in the future, they would visit China again to enjoy the scenery and sights in China. Father Deng did not have much response after watching the news. Deng Wenchang’s jaws dropped as if he could swallow a goose egg. “How could this be?”

Even if the news tried to cover up the blunder or exaggerate the positive outcome, as the state-owned television channel, it would not go to the extent of fabricating news. It would not turn a disastrous event into a positive outcome and sing praises for it, saying that the foreign guests had an enjoyable experience.

Most importantly, when the camera zoomed in on the foreign guests, they had a genuine smile on their faces. This must be real. What they said was not part of post-production or dubbing. Deng Wenchang was certain that from the way the guest’s mouth moved that he was saying exactly what he had heard. There was no mismatch.

Did it mean that what the broadcaster said was the truth?

Father Deng switched off the television. “Are you satisfied and convinced now?” If they were to describe the exchange with the foreign guests, he could only say that the guest had a good fortune. When one had good fortune, there was no way that one could stop it.

The man did not use to have such a high position. It was another American who was in this position. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had more exchanges with him and they were familiar with his working style after several interactions with him.

He might be crafty and cunning, but they would not fall for it and allowed China to be taken advantage of.

Human fortunes were as unpredictable as the weather.

He Yi’s former opponent had a heart attack when he was at the height of his career and passed away from it.

It was because of his passing that another man was given the chance to be on the television.

It happened too suddenly. The Americans were caught unaware, notwithstanding the Chinese people who found out about it at the last minute.

One who knows his own strength and that of the enemy is invincible in every battle.

The experiences of the forefathers would never be wrong.

However, the newly appointed officials seldom attended such exchanges, so there was not much information regarding him. Furthermore, they had to understand his background, his habits, his faith, and customs that he had, as well as what was considered as a taboo to him. They had to come up with a strategy to deal with him.

The ministry was in a complete mess because of that.

“Convinced? It was because of Uncle He that the exchange was a success. If Uncle He did not have the ability, he would not have become the minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I know that Uncle He is very capable.” If Uncle He was not so outstanding, he would not have dreamed of becoming his disciple.

Uncle He had yet to acknowledge him as his disciple, but given his family background, his educational qualifications, and his ability, apart from He Yi, many other people were willing to take him under their wings.

However, all these people could not be compared to He Yi.

Since Deng Wenchang had his goals in mind, he would make sure that he was the best in what he did. He would only go for the best mentor and master. He would not opt for the next best alternative.

Even if other people were willing to mentor him, he might not be willing to accept them.

Father Deng poured a cup of tea for his stubborn son. “Didn’t you say that the young lady was the one who researched and compiled the information? He Yi had performed very well today. Do you really think that it had nothing to do with the young lady?”

He was lying to himself.

There was no way that he could deceive himself or other people.

“So what if it is the truth?” Deng Wenchang was driven to desperation by his father. “Let me tell you. If Uncle He assigned the task to me, I would be able to do a good job as well. I will not lose to her. I am just as good. It’s just that I am not given the chance!” If he was assigned the task, he would do a better job than Qiao Nan.

“You are boasting.” Father Deng was harsh. “I am sure He Yi still has the documents that Qiao Nan prepared for him. If you have the ability, I will give you a chance to be wise after the fact. You shall prepare the documents as well. I will think of ways to get the documents that Qiao Nan had prepared. By then, we shall compare the documents that both of you prepared. I can tell who is better among the two of you. Let me tell you beforehand. Even if you insist that you are better, I will be fair and judge accordingly.”

If his son was indeed outstanding, and he was just as good as the young lady, he would talk to He Yi, even if it meant that he had to swallow his pride.

Wenchang was his only son and it was his passion to work at this particular ministry in the central government. Many other places welcomed him, but he refused to work there.

He was his son. He had to make use of his connections at the opportune time to help him.

“Fine, I will do it!” Deng Wenchang slammed the table. He was not bragging or boasting. He did not believe that he would not be able to do what Qiao Nan was capable of. He graduated from a first-tier university and went for overseas study for two years. He did not believe that he would be defeated by a third-year student who was still in the university. He could not afford to be shamed.

After making a promise with his father, Deng Wenchang shut himself up in the room. He did not leave the room at all and he did not have dinner. Mother Deng had to bring the food into his study room and watched him as he ate.

Deng Wenchang could not win against his mother, and he finished his dinner within a minute.

Mother Deng came out from the room with an empty bowl, a sullen expression on her face. She directed her anger at Father Deng. “You should know Wenchang’s personality. From a young age, he is intelligent and studious, and he refused to admit defeat. If he did not do well in the exams, he would make sure that he studied throughout the night and worked hard to catch up. Is Wenchang your son or is the younger daughter in the photo your daughter? Why did you favor an outsider instead of someone on your own side?”

Mother Deng took a close look at the photo. “The young lady is able to join the ministry at such a young age. Wenchang must be right. She must have engaged in indecent deals. What is with society nowadays? There is the notion in society that it’s better to get ahead in the world by abandoning one’s scruples than to suffer poverty. Wenchang has worked hard for so many years and he finally has the long-awaited chance. However, it was taken away by the young lady. It was no wonder that Wenchang refused to admit defeat. If it was me, I would react more strongly than him.”

He had worked hard and took one step at a time to achieve his goals. However, he was denied a chance because of the young lady who got in through the back door.

If she was him, she would not have such a mild reaction. She would have blown things up and sought justice for herself.

Father Deng smiled. “Fortunately, you are not in our field. Otherwise, you are doomed to fail. We are not allowed to do as we please.”

#### Chapter 1267 Er Bao Threw Tantrums

“Are we totally clean-handed? Besides, I’m not favoring an outsider. It’s not that my heart doesn’t ache for my son. My heart aches for him too much.”

“Over so many years, our son has a very smooth sailing life. He did not suffer many setbacks. Look at how strong-tempered he has become. He refuses to face reality and is in self-denial. This young lady definitely has some capability but Wenchang refuses to acknowledge this. As his father, I can only help him. Otherwise, if he can’t sort out his thoughts, he may go into a blind alley and not get out of it.”

He was a loving father with good intentions. He did not only hope for his son to do well but also hoped that his son would become the best in the world!

Eight o’clock evening news on the state-owned television channel. At the house of the Zhai family.

After Er Bao finished his dinner, he followed Da Bao like the latter’s tail, striding his short little legs. They were taking a walk in circles in their home to aid in digestion and train their body.

At the sound of the news on the television, Er Bao lifted his head and glanced at it. He suddenly shouted in excitement. “Mom! Mom!”

Miao Jing walked toward Er Bao and carried him. “Your mom is here. You are pointing in the wrong direction.” Having said that, Er Bao carried Miao Jing to Qiao Nan, lest Er Bao recognize the wrong mother. He could have missed his mother too much.

After putting down the bowl, Qiao Nan rinsed her mouth before she carried Er Bao into her arms. “Er Bao, why are you calling Mom? Are you too full or feeling unwell? Do you want Mom to help you rub your tummy?”

The triplets had huge appetites when they were little. Now that they had grown up a little, their appetites were even bigger.

At this juncture, the triplets treated formula milk as beverages. Occasionally, they would drink one or two cups of it. Gradually, similar to the adults, their main meals became solid food. At most, their food was cooked to be softer, mushier, and blander.

The little bowls that Qiao Nan bought for the triplets were quite cute.

No matter how small it was, the bowls were used to take meals. As such, they might look small but were, in fact, quite deep. It could contain rice that was equivalent to about one-third of Qiao Nan's bowl.

Oftentimes, before Qiao Nan could finish her food, the triplets had already finished all their rice. Their bowls were so clean that Miao Jing often joked about it. "Aye, our triplets are really good children who eat well. We can save on water bills. We don't need to wash the bowls anymore."

Miao Jing then thought of the three-year-old child in the neighbor's house. During each mealtime, the parents had to chase him all over the yard to feed him. Looking at the three children who were so easy to feed, Miao Jing was overjoyed.

She was not being boastful or narcissistic about her family's children. The triplets were really the most obedient and beautiful ones among all the children within the vicinity.

The triplets had taken a lot of food but they did not suffer from indigestion. However, the first time that the adults saw their high and bloated tummies after eating, they felt a little worried and rubbed the children's tummies in case the latter felt unwell.

After that first experience, whether it was true or not, from time to time, one of the triplets would hold their little tummy and fall into Qiao Nan's arms. They would then place Qiao Nan's hands on their tummy for Qiao Nan to rub.

Fortunately, this situation did not occur every day. Moreover, each time this happened, it would be a different child. The triplets seemed to have discussed with one another to take turns doing that.

Qiao Nan just assumed that it was the same situation today. She carried Er Bao and wanted to rub his tummy.

Nesting in his mother's arms, Er Bao looked like he was in a dilemma.

It felt very comfortable to let his mother rub his tummy. However, he had really seen his mother on the television earlier. Why was it that no one understood what he meant when he shouted about it?

Er Bao felt more sullen when that piece of news ended in the broadcast. Qiao Nan only appeared for a moment in the news. Another piece of news was being reported thereafter. As such, the more no one could understand what Er Bao was trying to express.

Er Bao felt so depressed that he pouted and lay in Qiao Nan's arms listlessly, refusing to come down.

At the sight of Er Bao looking like that, Miao Jing and Zhai Hua were shocked. "Is Er Bao feeling unwell? Did he catch a cold? Rub his forehead and see if he is having a fever?"

Qiao Nan also felt a little anxious. She touched his son's forehead. "It's not hot. It feels normal. Er Bao, tell Mom. Do you feel unwell? Uh... Do you feel pain in any area?"

At the thought that Er Bao was only one year old and he could not possibly understand her completely, Qiao Nan modified her question.

Er Bao shook his head listlessly. He then buried his face in his mother's arms. Why didn't anyone understand baby's thoughts? Baby felt so tired and aggrieved. However, baby could not express himself.

When Qiao Nan carried Er Bao to the bed and coaxed him to sleep, Er Bao was still behaving in this manner.

Er Bao was unaware that his little tantrums had stunned the few adults in the family.

The triplets were born prematurely. When they were born, they were very small and lighter in weight than typical babies. As such, the adults took special care of them. They were afraid that if they were not thorough enough, the babies would fall sick.

Fortunately, besides having a minor fever when they were teething at four months' old, the triplets did not suffer from any other illness or pain for the past one year.

Initially, the adults in the Zhai family were quite pleased about this. Who would have known that Er Bao suddenly looked so listless and tired today? How could they not feel anxious?

Zhai Yaohui was seldom at home. It was rare that he did not fly to other countries. Clearly, he was at home, but Miao Jing insisted to leave Zhai Yaohui alone in the bedroom. She ran to her daughter-in-law's room. "What's wrong with Er Bao? Is there any symptom of illness?"

"Not yet." Qiao Nan shook her head.

Er Bao did not seem to be in good spirits. Although there were no specific symptoms of any illness, Qiao Nan dared not let down her guard. The most common ones were cold and flu. Flu was contagious. As such, Qiao Nan did not let the three children sleep together side by side today. Instead, she separated Da Bao, Er Bao, and San Bao.

Since the triplets were born, besides the period whereby they slept in individual cribs when they were newborns, they had been sleeping together on Qiao Nan's bed thereafter.

Da Bao and San Bao immediately expressed their unhappiness with Qiao Nan's arrangement today. They insisted that Er Bao sleep in between them.

Da Bao and San Bao were throwing tantrums, but Er Bao did not have any reaction at all. He obediently allowed Qiao Nan to carry him to sleep on one side. The bright, eccentric, and cheeky Er Bao had become so quiet and obedient. Qiao Nan almost could not contain the urge to immediately send Er Bao to the hospital for the doctor to take a look at him?

However, the elders at home said that if Er Bao were to feel unwell, there would be symptoms. He would also cry badly.

#### Chapter 1268 A Misunderstanding

Currently, besides looking listless, Er Bao did not mention that he was unwell. They would be overreacting if they were to send him to the hospital now.

These were both Old Master Zhai and Zhai Yaohui's thoughts.

Qiao Nan felt that it made sense. The triplets did not know how to talk but they could express their thoughts by gesturing. In addition, Er Bao could speak a couple of words, or more than that sometimes.

If Er Bao was feeling unwell, he would have long gestured and expressed himself.

Since she was not sure, Qiao Nan decided to listen to the elders' opinions and observe one more night before deciding again.

However, Qiao Nan was already prepared to have a sleepless night. If Er Bao were to display any symptoms, she would want to discover it at the onset and then arrange for someone to send him to the hospital. She would also keep him company thereafter.

The child was still young. Hence, any treatment of illnesses could not be delayed.

As the grandmother, Miao Jing had the same thoughts too. As such, she was resolute and decisive in 'abandoning' Zhai Yaohui so that she could guard by the side of her three little grandchildren, lest Er Bao show any signs of changes.

At the sight of Miao Jing looking worried, Qiao Nan touched Da Bao's and Er Bao's little hands. The two children kicked up a little fuss earlier, but she managed to coax them to sleep thereafter. "Mom, why don't you sleep together with Da Bao and San Bao, while I carry Er Bao to the smaller bed to sleep?"

When Zhai Sheng was back this time, the triplets enjoyed playing with him during the day. However, during nighttime, firm in their resolution, the triplets would join forces and unanimously chase Zhai Sheng off Qiao Nan's bed.

On the day of the triplets' first birthday, Zhai Sheng, as the father, quietly gave the triplets a huge present.

Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan's bedroom was not small. In fact, it was quite big. Qiao Nan was not very vain and did not like to buy many clothes. Zhai Sheng had even fewer clothes than Qiao Nan. As such, the small closet in the bedroom could completely store all of the couple's clothes.

However, gradually, this closet was not enough to store the clothes after the triplets were born.

Fortunately, the triplets grew very quickly and they could immediately remove clothes that did not fit from the bedroom. As such, the bedroom was not packed with clothes.

The thirty-square-meter bedroom had a 1.8 meters long bed, a small closet, and a little dressing table. After the triplets were born, there were three more baby cribs in the room.

Given the triplets' behavior, Zhai Sheng had hidden the original presents that he had prepared. When the triplets could understand that they should not interrupt their parents from loving each other, he would give them the presents.

On their first birthday, he needed to give them something.

Thus, a huge truck drove to the driveway of the Zhai family's residence early in the morning.

Before the Zhai family was completely full of life, Zhai Sheng shifted the triplets' three baby cribs out of the bedroom to the storeroom. He then got someone to shift and assemble the new 1.8-meter bed that he had purchased.

Zhai Sheng's intent of buying this bed was very obvious. The triplets might not be able to sleep on their own in a separate room now. Nevertheless, on the rare occasions when he was home, he hoped that the three little light bulbs could sleep on a separate bed.

This bed had been in the room for only a few days and no one had the chance to sleep on it yet. Today, the opportunity had arrived.

After Miao Jing agreed, Qiao Nan carried Er Bao and placed him on that new bed.

Miao Jing followed over. "Nan Nan, why don't you take care of Da Bao and San Bao? I will take care of Er Bao. It's been quite tough on you recently. Your internship doesn't seem to be easier than your usual studies. The department that you're working at is so important. If you didn't rest well tonight, you won't have the energy to go to work tomorrow."

It was all thanks to Elder Lin. Otherwise, Nan Nan would not be able to enter such a good place for her internship to learn and gain experience.

Since Qiao Nan was gifted the opportunity, of course, Miao Jing hoped that Qiao Nan could grab hold of it and not be left with any regrets. Elder Lin would not feel disappointed then.

Qiao Nan declined. “Mom, let me do it. If Er Bao really feels unwell, he will feel happier that I am by his side. You have been so busy with the triplet’s first birthday celebration recently. Hurry, go to rest.”

The three children were still very young. Otherwise, she would have taken care of Er Bao alone, in case the illness spread to Da Bao and San Bao.

Miao Jing’s health had never been very good. However, Qiao Nan was still a student. She could not transform into two people. Hence, she could not help much with the first birthday celebration of the triplets. She could even barely rush home for lunch every day.

At the sight of the fatigue on her mother-in-law’s face, Qiao Nan did not have the shame to let her mother-in-law stay overnight to take care of Er Bao. This would harm her health too much. “Mom, it’s late now. Quickly go to sleep. Da Bao and San Bao need someone beside them. If you don’t lie down on the bed in time, they will definitely wake up and kick up a fuss.”

Indeed, she was the biological mother. Her predictions were so accurate.

San Bao, who was long used to the warmth of having an adult lying beside her, was snorting and making some noises, knitting her brows and twisting her body. She looked like she was able to wake up.

As a good citizen and elder brother, Da Bao was moving too given San Bao’s reaction. Only Er Bao, whom Qiao Nan was sitting beside, was still sleeping soundly.

At the sight of Da Bao and San Bao stirring in their sleep, Miao Jing got onto the bed anxiously. She then gently coaxed and patted Da Bao and San Bao.

When the two children felt that someone was beside them, they fell into a deep slumber again shortly.

Qiao Nan insisted. It was also true that Miao Jing had been exhausted from the first birthday celebration arrangements for the triplets. Shortly, Miao Jing fell asleep too. Qiao Nan was hugging Er Bao throughout the entire night. She would wake up from time to time to touch Er Bao’s little hands and face to observe if there was anything amiss.

Er Bao was totally unaware that his overreaction and little tantrum had frightened his mother so badly.

After having a tough night, Qiao Nan had dark circles under her eyes the next morning.

At the sound of water running in the toilet, Miao Jing gradually woke up. She saw that Qiao Nan had finished washing her face. "Is Er Bao alright during the night?"

Qiao Nan could not help yawning. She gave a bitter smile. "This little lad has been sleeping soundly the entire night. He did not wake up at all. I should wake them up now and let them go to the toilet." When Qiao Nan woke up, Er Bao, who was sleeping beside her, was holding his little tummy and snoring. He was drooling, his mouth slightly opened. He was sleeping so soundly!

After confirming that Er Bao's body temperature did not change, and he did not seem to feel unwell, Qiao Nan then woke up and dragged her exhausted body to the toilet to wash her face.

She had been frightened badly by Er Bao, this little lad, yesterday.

Judging from this, Er Bao was not feeling unwell. Had they misunderstood his bad mood and tantrums?

#### Chapter 1269 Removing the Malignant Tumor

At the thought that the one-year-old Er Bao already knew how to throw tantrums at her, Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry. She was the mother. However, until now, she had not figured out why the mischievous Er Bao was moody without an apparent reason. Could someone give her a synopsis of the last episode?

Miao Jing used her hands to feel Er Bao's body, from his hair to his sole.

Just as Qiao Nan said, there was nothing wrong with Er Bao. He was sleeping, looking as rosy as an apple. He looked so healthy. There did not seem to be a problem with him at all. "It's a false alarm then? But last night, Er Bao... What's wrong with Er Bao?" Why did he behave in that way without an apparent reason?

Qiao Nan then carried Da Bao and brought him into the bathroom.

As soon as Qiao Nan took off his pants, Da Bao peed automatically. He mumbled 'mom'. Thereafter, he closed his eyes and continued to sleep.

After Da Bao, it was Er Bao's turn, followed by San Bao. After she was done with all the three children, Qiao Nan heaved a sigh of relief. "I guess Er Bao was probably just throwing tantrums yesterday. As to why he did that, I really don't know. Er Bao was still quite happy when I reached home. However, he was suddenly pulling a long face. Did anything happen?"

A little person the size of a bean could become moody. He almost scared everyone to death. Facing such a son, Qiao Nan did not know what to do either.

Qiao Nan could not help doubting. Was Brother Zhai really going to send Da Bao and Er Bao to the army together?

She wanted to say something that typically would not come from a mother. She was almost convinced that Er Bao was more suited for an acting career.

After confirming that Er Bao did not have any issue, Miao Jing felt completely at ease then. "Since there is nothing wrong with Er Bao, why don't you sleep a while longer? It's still early now. It's easy for others to catch a handle on you when you are in low spirits." It would be too unjustified if this situation were to occur. "Why don't you inform your master and ask him to help you request for leave?"

Her daughter-in-law's heart ached for her. Similarly, Miao Jing could not bear to see Qiao Nan so tied up. It was as if she was a top that was spinning every day. There was no time for her to stop and rest.

Although Qiao Nan really felt like requesting for leave, she shook her head eventually. "No. Fortunately, during normal days, I have enough sleep. It's seldom that I don't sleep well for an entire night. Last night, I did have some sleep. At most, I just didn't sleep well. However, Mom, after I come home today, I may need you to take care of the triplets more. I can make up for some of the lost sleep."

This was the first time that she had to keep vigil overnight. Qiao Nan was not quite used to it.

The problem was that Qiao Nan knew that she was new to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and someone viewed her as an eyesore.

This was a rare and excellent opportunity to learn. In addition, her master had forsaken his pride to get this for her. Although it was just an internship, Qiao Nan felt that she should be conscientious and do her best. At the very least, she should not ruin the reputations of her master and senior.

At Qiao Nan's insistence, Miao Jing had no other choice. She could only send Qiao Nan off after appeasing the three children.

Qiao Nan had never fancied beverages like coffee. In her previous life, she drank coffee to stay overnight for the sake of earning money. At the end of the day, Qiao Nan felt like vomiting each time she smelled coffee.

In fact, as she thought about past happenings, Qiao Nan felt quite strange. She had been suffering so badly but her health was very good. Each year, during the free medical examination provided by the company for the employees, her health report was almost perfect.

On the contrary, Qiao Zijin, who had been sheltered, doted on by her parents, and did not suffer much in life, contracted uremia and had to change her kidney. Until today, Qiao Nan could not figure out why this was the case. She had thought that she would die earlier than Qiao Zijin.

Alright. In fact, she was the one who died first eventually.

The only difference was that Qiao Zijin might die of illness, while she had died of an accident caused by her mother.

At the smell of coffee, Qiao Nan yawned and entered the office. She sat down on her intern seat.

She had completed that ad-hoc mission yesterday. There was some follow-up work to be done. However, these were not something that both Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang, who were newcomers, could participate in.

Deng Wenchang joined the department earlier than Qiao Nan. When he saw that Qiao Nan was having panda eyes, looking pale, apathetic, and down-spirited, he assumed that she must have overindulged herself with 'enjoyment' last night.

Deng Wenchang sneered continuously. He was guessing that Qiao Nan might have some capability but it was insufficient. The materials that she had prepared for his master probably did not have much impact or use. He dared say that the information was definitely not prepared or organized by Qiao Nan.

Perhaps Qiao Nan had engaged someone to complete the mission.

This was detestable. He had carried out his work relying on his own ability but was not given any opportunity. On the other hand, an opportunistic individual like Qiao Nan, who engaged underhand and unscrupulous means, was not only given the opportunity but also received affirmation. It was so unfair.

It was best that Qiao Nan did not let him seize her upon the chinks in the armor. Otherwise, he would chase Qiao Nan out in the same way that she joined this department.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not need someone like Qiao Nan who relied on interpersonal connections. If they were to let her stay, one day, she would definitely become a malignant tumor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs!

Qiao Nan did not know Deng Wenchang's unspoken criticism of her. She only knew that Deng Wenchang's petty eyes were on her from time to time, and there was no sign of amiability in those eyes. Only the dead would not feel the feelings of coldness in them.

Qiao Nan insisted not to take leave today not because of other reasons but because of Deng Wenchang's existence.

Each time Deng Wenchang was prejudiced against her, Qiao Nan was both helpless and angry. She felt that she was too unfortunate to encounter a weirdo like Deng Wenchang.

She was still furious at Deng Wenchang's look of disdain and shame toward her. In particular, Deng Wenchang looked so high and mighty that even the good-tempered Qiao Nan could barely resist the urge to clench her fists and beat him up.

Spat! What was this?

No one was better than the other, okay?

She certainly joined the ministry through some means. However, the way that Deng Wenchang joined the ministry was not that open and honest either.

Facing an individual like Deng Wenchang, who adopted the stand that 'one may steal a horse while another may not look over a hedge', Qiao Nan did not wish to be colleagues with him if she had a choice. In particular, she did not want to sit in the same office as him whereby they would meet each other frequently.

It was too much of a torture.

Neither she nor Deng Wenchang was pleased.

Deng Wenchang had been staring at her with 'scorching' eyes. Qiao Nan was not quite used to this. She very much wished that she could lift a book and cover her face so that she could cut off that stare which made her uncomfortable.

Fortunately, before Qiao Nan could do that, He Yi appeared and broke the awkward and strange atmosphere between Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang. "Xiao Qiao, you're here so early today?" He Yi made a trip home. It seemed that he had resolved the issues well.

#### Chapter 1270 Why the Congratulations?

He Yi, who had rested well, seemed to be in good spirits. "I would like to let you know that Deng Wenchang and you can leave the office earlier today. You can also come in a while later tomorrow. Just do not go overboard in the timings. Also, I will be giving a dinner treat today. Are both of you coming?"

He Yi made this question because he was aware that Qiao Nan was different from the typical young ladies. Although she looked young, Qiao Nan was not only married but also had three children.

When Lin Yuankang asked him to look after his little disciple, he had told He Yi clearly. "Your little junior is just an intern. She doesn't receive a single cent. Hence, don't go overboard. A slave driver doesn't have a good image. Please don't be one. Those three little disciples of mine are just one-year-old babies. They are very sticky to their mother. I will make whoever makes them cry cry. Understand?"

How could 'old love' be compared to 'new love'?

Although He Yi had always been a disciple that Lin Yuankang was proud of, to the current Lin Yuankang who had three adorable little disciples, all the other disciples had to move aside. They could cool off at any place that they wanted to. Well, they were not as precious to him as the little disciples now.

Lin Yuankang had made himself so clear. He Yi would not dare to go against his master's words.

This was the actual reason that everyone, except for Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to work overtime on the day before. Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang could go home early.

He Yi had to 'release' his little junior to go home to take care of the little disciples. Similarly, Deng Wenchang, who was also an intern, received the same treatment as Qiao Nan. He Yi could not bring himself to let Qiao Nan go off and keep Deng Wenchang behind.

Furthermore, Deng Wenchang was only an intern and was not really that important. He had already released the important one. The not-so-important one had to go to.

After the crisis was resolved yesterday, He Yi wanted everyone to unwind a little. As the minister, giving treats was a must-have social practice. It was also a good way to bond and interact with his subordinates.

The minister was giving a treat. Who would dare decline or not give him any face?

Others dared not make He Yi lose face. It was different for Qiao Nan. He Yi dared not force Qiao Nan to comply. "If it's not convenient, don't force yourself." The children were the most important. Otherwise, his master would deal with him.

He was also a father. Furthermore, many ambitious youngsters wanted to acknowledge him as their master. He was already of this age. It would be too embarrassing if he were to be chided by his old master.

Fortunately, he only had to take care of one little junior. He definitely could not endure it if there were a few more of them.

Before her 'biological' senior, Qiao Nan did not beat about the bush. She was well aware that with the presence of such a master like Lin Yuankang, she could do away with some social norms as long

as she did so in an appropriate manner. “Thank you, minister. I’m really not available. I have something to attend to at home.” At the mention of the situation at home, Qiao Nan thought of Er Bao, who was acting strangely yesterday.

Although one night had passed and there was nothing wrong with Er Bao, it was hard to predict a child’s situation. Qiao Nan was afraid that Er Bao would have a relapse again.

Once she got off work, Qiao Nan only wished to go home and take care of her three children. As a mother, she did not want to be the last one to know if Er Bao had really taken ill.

“Sure.” He Yi had expected this answer. It was normal that his three little disciples could not leave their mother as they were only one year old.

Qiao Nan expressed that she was not attending. Deng Wenchang was aware that he was not so ‘qualified’ to attend. However, He Yi had made the invitation personally. Deng Wenchang felt that it was also a good thing to show face and let the seniors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs know the existence of a youngster like him in the department.

Until now, He Yi was not willing to formally accept him as his disciple.

He Yi was the minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Of course, it would be best if he could be his disciple. However, what if he could not?

He had finally joined the department after much difficulty. He could not possibly be inflexible and stubborn. If he could not gain He Yi’s favor, he could change his target and settle for the second best. He could observe if there was a chance for him to learn from other seniors.

Deng Wenchang firmly believed that He Yi did not look up to him because He Yi was not his lucky star. As a wunderkind, he would definitely be able to meet the lucky star in his life. Thereafter, he would rely on his own ability to progress and move forward.

Without second thoughts, the ambitious Deng Wenchang accepted the invitation and expressed that he would definitely attend the event.

Afraid that he would get the time and venue wrong, Deng Wenchang wrote down the details in front of He Yi. He even let He Yi take a look at the details to confirm them. “Thank you, minister.”

He Yi had a deep and firm look in his eyes. He gave an indifferent smile. "Fine, arrive earlier. Don't be late."

Given this kind of celebration party, it was not an issue for him to attend if Deng Wenchang had a 'senior' to bring him along. However, Deng Wenchang had not found a master that would lead him into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He would not gain anything even if he attended the event.

It was certainly good for youngsters to have their own thoughts and ambitions. However, it would not be a good thing if one was too high profile and proud.

More haste less speed, haste makes waste. True enough, he had guessed it correctly. That child of the Deng family was overconfident and too proud. If he were to take in such a disciple, it would mean that he would have one more son to teach and guide. Although he did not have a son, he had a daughter.

He was so busy that he did not even have time to guide his own daughter. How could he possibly waste his time and energy on someone else's son?

He did not wish to raise another son. He was also not willing to clean up someone's mess if Deng Wenchang were to create any problem. He did not want to foolishly draw much trouble for himself.

Regarding these matters, He Yi would not teach Deng Wenchang. If Deng Wenchang could sort out his own thoughts, he should give him a phone call tonight to express that he would not be attending the event. If Deng Wenchang did not understand and insisted on slapping his own face to fight for a chance to shine, he would not stop him. After all, he and the Deng family had some connections.

Deng Wenchang was striving for progress. He was not going to help, but he would also not hold him back or deny him such an opportunity.

"Mom, how is Er Bao during the day? Is he okay? Did anything happen?" Once she left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qiao Nan completely cast the work matters aside. She always remembered that she was a mother and asked about her children whenever she spoke.

Miao Jing was carrying Er Bao. She was both angry and amused. She lifted Er Bao higher. "See for yourself. Little lad, you're not wrong at all to say that he's too mischievous. He's so young but already knows how to be moody."

After one day, Miao Jing finally understood why Er Bao was suddenly unhappy and listless such that he appeared unwell.

Having said that, all the credit still went to her daughter-in-law. “Nan Nan, do you know? After you left the house for work today this morning, many neighbors visited us to congratulate me.”

“Congratulate? Did any happy things occur in our family again? Sister Zhai Hua is finally getting married?”