

RTAMM 1351

Chapter 1351 Impossible to Resolve Harmoniously

“What is the background of the female student? Why didn’t you find out before you did anything? You dared to offend her without finding out anything about her?”

After being lectured by his father, the male student was full of regrets. “I thought that this is not complicated. I have been classmates with Qiao Nan for three years. I don’t see her with any powerful relatives. You taught me that in the capital, it is useless to have money. I don’t know that...” He only wanted to earn some allowance and the person who hired him seemed to come from an established family.

He thought that he was lucky to meet someone powerful and, like his father, he would have a bright future if he worked for the right boss.

“Alright, you should have a talk with the female student. Ask her what she wants and whether this can be resolved harmoniously. Remember. You must speak nicely and have a good attitude. One can never be too careful. Before you do anything, think through it first. This would never happen to other people.”

“Will this work?” The male student lowered his voice. He was not certain whether Qiao Nan’s family was powerful or not. But judging from what happened today, Qiao Nan did not lack money. If he wanted to resolve the issue with Lü Yan or Tang Jiayun, he was very certain that it would not be an issue.

But if it was Qiao Nan, he was not certain.

He still remembered what happened when he took photos of Qiao Nan secretly for the first time.

Women generally could not resist this kind of love confession. They would have been into the embrace of the other party, smiling in happiness. However, Qiao Nan was not moved at all, and she rejected the man decisively.

“Now, you know to be scared. If so, you should not have done it in the first place. No matter what, you still have to try. Send me information about the female student. I will get people to do a check on her and her background.” His son was in trouble. As his father, he had to clean up his mess.

Qiao Nan was one who made good on her words.

Zhai Sheng was injured after seeing the photos of the confession last time. Since she had caught the person who took the photos, Qiao Nan would not let the person off. She was swift and decisive and had decided to teach the person a harsh lesson. This would serve as a lesson to other people so that they would not dream of hatching a plan or scheming against her.

Now that the student had made trouble for her, it was useless even if he was her schoolmate.

Miao Jing who was still very happy about her daughter's pregnancy turned serious when she heard that Qiao Nan wanted to talk to a lawyer. "What's the matter?"

Qiao Nan told her what happened as well as her guesses. "I cannot condone this. He is already a college student. He cannot say that he is young and ignorant. He is an adult and should know what can be done and what cannot be done. Does he really think there are free lunches in the world? Since he is being paid handsomely, it must come with a high risk. I don't intend to resolve this harmoniously."

She let Lü Yan off two years ago. This time, she would not be soft-hearted.

Miao Jing was furious after she found out what happened. "You are very busy with school work. I am not worried that you will feel neglected or displeased as Zhai Sheng is at the army camp every single day. At times, I feel that it's Zhai Sheng who will be displeased. All of you are college students, but why is it that you are so busy and you wish to have forty-eight hours a day while there are other students who have a lot of free time to be up to no good?"

There was a huge difference between the students.

Qiao Nan smiled bitterly. She wanted to know the answer as well. "Do we know any lawyer?"

"I will have to check with your dad." Miao Jing had no contact with the lawyers. Therefore, she made a phone call to Zhai Yaohui and told him about the incident.

Zhai Yaohui did not object to Qiao Nan's way of dealing with the matter. He sent someone to discuss with Qiao Nan on how to deal with it.

Since Zhai Yaohui had no objections to going to court, the other party had no hope of resolving it harmoniously with them.

Actually, Lü Yan was egged on by other people to target Qiao Nan. If not for other people who reminded her, given her relationship with Qiao Nan, she would usually steer clear of Qiao Nan. Notwithstanding that Qiao Nan did not put on any perfume, if she really put on perfume, Lü Yan would not be in close vicinity with Qiao Nan that she would be able to smell it.

When Qiao Nan said that she would sue the man and Xu Shengnan looked very serious as well, apart from the student from the journalism faculty, Lü Yan was taken aback as well.

Lü Yan consoled herself that Qiao Nan must be exaggerating in front of other people so as to keep up appearances. Qiao Nan must have wanted everyone to know that she was not to be trifled with and hoped that there would not be similar incidents in the future.

She was hoping that Qiao Nan would go back on her words and make a fool of herself. She did not expect that the student from the journalism faculty who did not fear Qiao Nan yesterday would come begging at Qiao Nan like a bootlicker to resolve the issue harmoniously. He even told Qiao Nan to make any requests and he would fulfill her requests and compensate her as long as it was within his means.

This alone gave Lü Yan a fright.

She was from the countryside. She had no power or money, so she was bullied by Qiao Nan. However, the student from the journalism faculty was from the capital. His family was fairly well-to-do. Once he graduated, he had no worry about finding a job. If he performed well in his job, he might be able to take over his father's position after he retired.

People like him should not fear Qiao Nan. Why was he willing to allow himself to be ripped off by Qiao Nan?

Lü Yan did not believe that the male student would come to his senses and admit his mistakes. Instead, she felt that Qiao Nan must have a strong backing such that the male student was fearful and did not dare to bully Qiao Nan anymore and was willing to ask for forgiveness from Qiao Nan.

"I am sorry. I am very busy. I have no time to drink your tea. Besides, I don't need any compensation. Please take back all the presents. Also, you are an adult. You should be responsible

for your own deeds and pay a price for what you have done. There is no way to resolve this harmoniously.”

Seeing that Qiao Nan rejected him with no hesitation, the male student’s heart jumped a beat. “Ignorance can be forgiven. I did not do it on purpose. Everything is a misunderstanding. If we have better communication, the misunderstanding could be avoided. Classmate Qiao, please give me a chance.”

Qiao Nan was amused. “Given your attitude, there is no way that I can give you a chance. I am not foolish. I understand what you mean when you said that we have some misunderstandings. You simply won’t admit your mistakes. Alright, since you said that it is a misunderstanding, there is no need to worry as well.”

Chapter 1352 Severe Inner Pain

The law was used to deal with people who were in the wrong and were against the law. Nobody could be bothered if it was a misunderstanding. “I am giving you a chance to sue me for false accusation. You can sue me as well.”

Qiao Nan talked about suing each other. She seemed to be talking in circles, causing the other party to break out in cold sweat.

“Is there no chance of reconciliation and we can’t live harmoniously in the future?” The male student from the journalism faculty took a deep breath. He was debating with himself and there was a distorted look on his face. No one had really driven him into a corner before. This was purely his conjecture. What if it ended up that Qiao Nan was merely bluffing him?

Since he could not entice her with benefits, he turned to threatening her.

Qiao Nan could tell that the other party was not sincere. She did not back down either. “No.”

“Qiao Nan, we are schoolmates. There is no need for things to be so ugly or making things look bad for us. This is why I talk to you nicely and try to settle this harmoniously. You should know what’s best for you. Don’t force me to say harsh words.” Women were pretentious. They had been schoolmates for three years. He could not tell that Qiao Nan had a strong backing.

If so, Lü Yan could no longer stay in Peking University. Lü Yan should have been kicked out of Peking University more than two years ago when she was still in her first year. There should not have been a place for her in the capital.

Qiao Nan knocked on the tabletop with her fingers. "You are wrong. It is not that you are stopping yourself from saying harsh words. Perhaps I have been too nice to all of you. Alright, you will receive the court summons very soon. You can leave any harsh words until then."

They only had a short conversation, but many people who heard of the incident yesterday were staring at them. Qiao Nan stood up to leave while the male student turned red in anger, but he did not dare to reach out his hands to stop Qiao Nan from leaving.

He watched helplessly as Qiao Nan got onto the car and left. A thought struck him and he took down the car plate number.

His father went to a lot of effort to do a check on Qiao Nan's background last night, but he could not find any information on her. He believed that with the car plate number, he should be able to find out more about her.

"Are you alright?" Although the parties concerned had left, the crowd who was watching by the side had yet to disperse. Yu Xiaoxiao walked to stand next to Lü Yan, giving her a light pat. "You don't look too well. If you are uncomfortable, shall I accompany you to the sickbay?" It was shining brightly outside, but Lü Yan was breaking out in cold sweats and she kept shivering as if it was winter. One could not help but feel sorry for her.

Yu Xiaoxiao was at a loss. Lü Yan should know very well when she was in her first year that Qiao Nan was not to be trifled with.

They had been classmates for nearly three years. Although Qiao Nan was not approachable, she was a down-to-earth and good person. If one did not provoke Qiao Nan, she would not be so petty-minded as to leave one in the lurch when one was in trouble.

At least for the first and second-year juniors, they had a good impression of Qiao Nan.

She could not understand why Lü Yan was so stubborn. She had made a huge mistake in the first year when she tried to make trouble for Qiao Nan and she was still recovering from it. Why would she be so fearless to create trouble for her again, making life difficult for herself?

"What a hypocrite. You are the only one in our dormitory who benefited from being with Qiao Nan. Look at Tang Jiayun and me. We have been unlucky all these years. You must be laughing at us

secretly. You must be elated to see me in such a state today.” Lü Yan refused to admit her weakness. Although she hoped that someone would stand on her side, console her, listen to her woes, and put in a good word for her in front of Qiao Nan, she refused to admit it.

She was reminded that Yu Xiaoxiao was in a different situation from her, and she could not stop herself from saying harsh words to her. “After you did well in your non-academic performance, you keep getting scholarships every year. It is a pity that no matter how many scholarships you have, you are not as good as Qiao Nan. Everyone is speculating that the school intended to sponsor Qiao Nan for overseas studies, but Qiao Nan rejected the offer. You sucked up to Qiao Nan shamelessly, but in the end, you did not fare much better than Tang Jiayun and me!”

Yu Xiaoxiao was exasperated. “Fine, take it that I didn’t say anything.”

Yu Xiaoxiao was about to walk away. She was a fool for trying to be nice to Lü Yan. She had yet to make a move when Lü Yan grabbed her arm. “Compared to Tang Jiayun and me, you have a better relationship with Qiao Nan. After all, we have been roommates for three years. Can you do me a favor? I know that I am in the wrong. I-I will not make trouble for Qiao Nan in the future even if someone forces me to. Can you tell Qiao Nan to let me off this time?”

She was taught a harsh lesson for what she did last time.

Initially, she had indeed learned her mistake, but then...

“Qiao Nan is not close to anyone. Apart from Xu Shengnan, she treats you fairly well and has given you a lot of help. I don’t dare to appear in front of her. Just this once, can you help me? A-actually, someone hinted to me to make trouble for Qiao Nan yesterday. Without that person’s reminder, I would not know what Qiao Nan applied on her face. I have been avoiding Qiao Nan for the past three years. I can tell Qiao Nan who the person is. I will steer clear of her in the future. Please give me one more chance.”

Yu Xiaoxiao could not be bothered with Lü Yan, but she hesitated slightly after listening to Lü Yan’s words. “Are you saying that someone schemed against you and wanted to do you in?”

There were tears in Lü Yan’s eyes. She sniffed and shook her head pitifully. “The person’s aim is not to do me in. I feel that the person was out to deal with Qiao Nan. When someone confessed his love to Qiao Nan the previous time, I saw the student from the journalism faculty hiding in a corner and taking multiple shots of Qiao Nan. I did not read too much into it. Yesterday, it was only when Qiao Nan asked the senior to catch the male student did I realize that someone made use of me.”

It was fine if she offended Qiao Nan because she wanted to make life difficult for her. But she was set up by other people this time. Someone made use of her. She felt wronged.

Lü Yan could not stop herself from crying. “I only want to study hard at Peking University. I have been leading a simple life in my nine years of compulsory education and three years of high school. I never expected that so many things would happen at Peking University, and that I would be at loggerheads with Qiao Nan. It was as if I killed her dad.”

Lü Yan was close to saying that she had had enough of the city and wanted to go back to the countryside.

“Alright, stop crying.” Yu Xiaoxiao felt severe inner pain. “You felt wronged, so did Qiao Nan. You created trouble for her while she did not even provoke anyone. Besides, I am not close to Qiao Nan at all. We are unlike what you think.”

Chapter 1353 No Time to Cha

“Are you saying that you won’t help me?” If that was the case, she would be dead for sure!

Yu Xiaoxiao felt exasperated. “I didn’t say that I won’t help you. It’s just that I won’t be of much help. I will still try to relay your words to Qiao Nan.” The problem was Qiao Nan was seldom affected by other people.

“Thank you, Xiaoxiao. You are the best.” Lü Yan could not care much. She turned grief into happiness when Yu Xiaoxiao promised to help her. She could finally see a glimmer of hope.

Like Yu Xiaoxiao, Qiao Nan could no longer put up with the ‘former love rival’ that was standing in front of her. She had a headache at the sight of her. “Miss Qiu, long time no see. If you want to catch up, this is not a good place. If you don’t mind, I suggest that you go to the Zhai family’s residence.”

Qiao Nan was stopped by Qiu Chenxi on her way back home.

“What if I mind? I prefer to talk at a cafe.” Qiu Chenxi was never easy-going. Qiu Chenxi had never liked Qiao Nan since the first time she saw her. She did not expect that Qiao Nan, whom she looked down on, would ‘take her place’ and have everything that she wanted to have.

She received the Lee family's recognition, was taken good care of by the Zhu family, and had Lin Yuankang as her master.

Other than having Zhai Sheng as her husband, there was another thing that Qiu Chenxi found most intolerable. Qiao Nan was her biggest enemy in this life. However, instead of taking care of her and standing on her side to deal with Qiao Nan, her uncle treated Qiao Nan like her niece.

Compared to her, her uncle was much closer to Qiao Nan.

At times, she could not even tell whether she and Shi Qing were her uncle's relatives or whether Qiao Nan was his kin.

"I am sorry. As a mother of three, my time is very precious. You should know that my three children have not reached two years old. They could not stay apart from their parents for too long." Qiao Nan smiled. She was no longer the young girl a few years back who would suffer quietly and please everyone.

Qiu Chenxi could tell the change in Qiao Nan. "Your status has changed indeed after marrying Zhai Sheng. How dare you act arrogantly in front of me just because you have Zhai Sheng to back you up! If it was a few years back, you won't dare to say this to me!"

Qiao Nan remained unaffected. "That's true. If Brother Zhai was not a good catch, you would not condescend to go against a student like me."

Qiu Chenxi made a dig at Qiao Nan, saying that she climbed up the social ladder with Zhai Sheng's help. Qiao Nan pointed out directly that Qiu Chenxi liked Zhai Sheng because of his status and the Zhai family.

"Qiao Nan, do you still remember that you are married with kids? Do you still remember that you have a husband? I thought you have long forgotten about it. College life is indeed exciting. There are a lot of temptations around you. It's understandable that you can't resist temptations. The love confession was so romantic. There aren't many men who confessed his love to me. Qiao Nan, are you moved?"

Qiu Chenxi crossed her hands about her chest, her eyes full of mockery.

Zhai Sheng did not like it that she had been leading an exciting life while he was away. This was the reason why they did not end up together.

Actually, no girl would like dull and boring life. Qiao Nan was younger than her. It was the youngsters' nature to play and have fun. No matter how Zhai Sheng picked and chose, he ended up with a similar girl.

On the contrary, now that she had grown older, she was much more mature than before. Qiao Nan would embarrass Zhai Sheng, but she would not. Like what she had said long ago, Zhai Sheng made the worst decision in his life by giving up on her and choosing Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan was amused. "It is just a love confession, so what about it? Like you have said, someone confessed his love to you when you were a student. I don't really care about what's going on in school, but I am still aware of the rumors going around the school. I may not be the school belle, but I am the faculty belle. It is not odd that students confess their love to me. It will be weird if they don't."

What was up with all these people? All of them seemed to be very free.

There was so much important news happening in the country and around the world. A Peking University student confessing his love to a female student—how could this be compared to the important news around the world? Why was it that many important figures took notice of it and knew all the details? They remembered the details much better than her, the party concerned.

Qiu Chenxi snorted. "Carry on with your pretenses. Aren't you touched? Didn't you accept his confession? If you didn't do anything, would the man kneel down and confess his love to you in public?" Everyone was once young and many of them were the only child in the family. Qiao Nan must have reciprocated the feelings in order for the student to let go of his pride and kneel down to confess his love.

Qiao Nan yawned. "I am sorry. My driver must be waiting for me anxiously. Besides, I am starving. You can go ahead to make guesses, but they are not the truth. Miss Qiu, I will make a move."

Qiao Nan parked her bicycle at the usual place and ran toward the school gate.

Why was it that everyone was into stopping people in the middle of their way and was bent on talking about these topics in the public? Was Qiu Chenxi dying for everyone to know what kind of person she was?

Shi Peng had been transferred to the capital. Old Master Shi and his wife also moved out of Mo Du to stay with their son in the capital.

Qi Minlan had been staying with Qiu Chenxi at her parental house but when Old Master Shi and his wife stayed with Shi Peng, Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi moved in with them as well. This was when things got awkward.

It was alright if the sister who was married stayed for a few days at her elder brother's house when she visited her parental family.

After Qi Minlan was divorced, she and her daughter moved to stay with her parents. Although Old Master Shi was advanced in age, it was still acceptable for the parents to support their children.

However, now that Old Master Shi was staying in his son's house, his divorced daughter moved in with him as well and her elder brother had to provide for her. It was generous of Shi Peng to be willing to take care of Qiu Chenxi. But if he refused, no one would fault him. Instead, they would feel that it was Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi who were imposing on them.

Qiu Chenxi had a job and a career with Old Master Shi's help.

Although she could not buy a house in the capital, she was still able to rent a house. She should be able to support herself if she cut down on her expenses.

However, despite the fact that they could support themselves, Qi Minlan still stayed with her brother and lived on her brother. Everyone was displeased with her behavior.

Chapter 1354 Men Were the Source of Trouble

Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi did not feel embarrassed at their own behavior. Qiu Chenxi even blamed Shi Peng for favoring an outsider instead of someone on his own side.

Shi Peng knew that Qiao Nan was the woman who snatched the man from his niece, yet he continued to help Qiao Nan and hurt Qiu Chenxi. Whenever Qiu Chenxi saw her uncle, there would be a glint of hatred in her eyes.

Qiu Chenxi and Shi Qing did not get along well either. Their relationship was worse than before.

Back then, everyone persuaded Shi Qing to be polite to Qiu Chenxi. However, ever since Shi Qing was friends with Qiao Nan, she no longer gave in to Qiu Chenxi. Since Qiu Chenxi did not know the basic courtesy of a guest, Shi Qing did not go easy on her as well.

Since Qiu Chenxi was shameless, Shi Qing would not suffer in silence or treat her well for the sake of keeping up appearances. Qiu Chenxi was no longer the princess that she used to be and everyone would not suck up to her or give her the best treatment.

Now that Shi Qing changed her attitude toward Qiu Chenxi, Qiu Chenxi did not have a good time staying with the Shi family in the capital. She could not wait to find a suitable man and get married.

She did not want to stay at the Shi family and be given the cold treatment by Shi Qing.

Qiu Chenxi was being treated like a princess for more than twenty years due to Zhai Sheng. It was a pity that he had been snatched away by Qiao Nan. She finally set her sights on Tian Dong a few years later. She thought that she would definitely be able to marry him. To her surprise, someone threw a wrench in the works. Zhai Hua ended up married to Tian Dong and she was pregnant. There was no way they would get a divorce.

Whenever she met Qiao Nan, everything seemed to go wrong for her. It was frustrating.

Qiao Nan was her nemesis.

As long as Qiao Nan was around, she would not have good days ahead.

Several years had passed. Qiu Chenxi was not able to prove that she was better than Qiao Nan so that Zhai Sheng and the Zhai family would regret choosing Qiao Nan instead of her. On the contrary, once again, she fared worse than Qiao Nan. Moreover, when she finally found another suitable man, it was thwarted by Qiao Nan again.

“Qiao Nan, don’t be too smug. You will not win every time.” Qiu Chenxi could not help but shout toward Qiao Nan, who was leaving. “Even if you are impenetrable like a metal bucket, I will be able to make a hole out of you one day.”

She believed if she spent her entire life trying, she would definitely be able to do Qiao Nan in.

Qiao Nan could hear Qiu Chenxi's threats and ravings. She did not stop but ran all the way and got into the car. Qiao Nan already knew years ago that Qiu Chenxi was dying for her to fall from grace.

Although it was illegal to murder someone, Qiu Chenxi was reckless and could not be bothered. She hired a group of men years ago to give her and Shi Qing a thrashing. They almost ended up maimed or dead.

Initially, Qiao Nan had no intention of getting embroiled into things. But with the appearance of Qiu Chenxi, Qiao Nan felt that it might seem to other people that she was a pushover. Everyone had no qualms about bullying her. Since the other party had gone all out to deal with her, it would be too embarrassing if she continued to take it lying down.

Upon reaching home, Qiao Nan was determined to sort out the complicated relationship between the higher-ups.

She even went into Old Master Zhai's study room, asking him to help her out. Qiao Nan was busy with sorting out the relationship between the influential families, and she had no time for the triplets. They almost threw their tantrums at her.

Miao Jing was surprised. Qiao Nan seldom acted like this. "I heard that Nan Nan has completed all her lessons in school and she can apply for graduation. What is she up to? Could it be that she wants to take the entrance exams for postgraduate schools and study for a doctorate?"

Miao Jing knew that Qiao Nan was good in her studies. She was unlike her son and daughter. If not for the triplets, given Qiao Nan's abilities, it was an easy task for her to take the entrance exams for postgraduate schools and study for a doctorate. She had never been to college, so she did not know the details. However, she knew that her daughter-in-law had good results in school and could apply for further studies after she graduated.

Thereafter, she would be able to take the entrance exams for postgraduate schools.

"No. The daughter from the Qiu family is making trouble for Nan Nan." Zhai Yaohui knew what was going on. There was a harsh competition between different groups in all levels. Since they were of differing views and interests, people would form different factions.

Zhai Yaohui had no intention for his daughter-in-law to get embroiled into the power struggle. The Zhai family would deal with it by themselves. As the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family, it was

good enough that she took care of the three children and made sure that she did not make any mistakes.

To Zhai Yaohui's surprise, Qiao Nan did not shy away from problems or challenges. Now that she was being bullied by other people, she was ready to flash her claws and retaliate so that the enemy would know that she was not someone to be trifled with.

Qiao Nan's personality made her particularly suitable as part of the Zhai family.

"What has happened?" Miao Jing glared at Zhai Yaohui angrily at the mention of Qiu Chenxi. Whether it was Qiu Chenxi or Qi Minlan, Zhai Yaohui was the one who invited the trouble.

Zhai Yaohui smiled, embarrassed. "Qiu Chenxi wanted to start a relationship with Dongzi, but in the end, Dongzi became our son-in-law. I suppose Qiu Chenxi is angry about it. If not for Nan Nan, she would be able to pick from Zhai Sheng and Tian Dong. She could reject suitors, but the suitors could not reject her."

Zhai Yaohui was indeed guilty of the accusations.

Since his son did not express his strong opinions of who he wanted to be with and he watched as Qiu Chenxi grew up, Zhai Sheng and Qiu Chenxi might have ended up getting married to each other if Qiao Nan was not in the picture. Zhai Sheng would have agreed to the marriage under the elders' pressure.

Although he would marry her under the elders' pressure, Zhai Yaohui knew that they had no control over their married life.

The elders still had the traditional thinking that children had to marry when they grew up.

This was one of the reasons why Qiu Chenxi was bent on making life difficult for Qiao Nan.

Another reason was that if not for Qiao Nan, before Dongzi returned to the country from America with his family, Hua Hua would have been discussing marriage with Wei De. Perhaps, on the day that Dongzi returned to the country, instead of attending the wedding banquet of Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan, the Tian family might be attending Hua Hua and Wei De's wedding banquet.

Now that he thought about it, Zhai Yaohui could understand why Qiu Chenxi had so much hatred and resentment toward Qiao Nan.

Of course, he could understand but he would not agree with her actions.

“Is she here to make trouble for Nan Nan?” Miao Jing was furious. She could not help but reach her hand toward Zhai Yaohui and give him a pinch. “All that said, it is your fault. You invited the troubles home. If not for you, there would not be all these troubles. Qiu Chenxi would not dash to the Qiao family’s residence, kicking at the door and ranting at Nan Nan like a madwoman.”

Chapter 1355 More Men Than Women

“So many years had passed, but she still hasn’t changed her unreasonable and shameless personality. Nan Nan and I seem to owe the men in the Zhai family. We are being bullied by the pair of mother and daughter because of you!”

To Miao Jing, Qiao Nan was going through what she had suffered decades ago. They had the same predicament.

Qiu Chenxi had a similar disposition to her mother, Qi Minlan.

She was unreasonable and she did not feel ashamed at doing those evil deeds.

“Grandma?” Da Bao knitted his brows. “Hit grandpa, why?” Grandpa was behaving himself and being obedient. Why did grandma bully grandpa?

“Grandpa, did you misbehave?” Er Bao looked at his grandparents curiously.

San Bao broke into a smile. She walked to stand next to Zhai Yaohui. Her intention was to hit him on his thigh, but she was still very young. Her gentle touch seemed like a caress to Zhai Yaohui. “Grandma, don’t be angry. Grandpa is mischievous. San Bao will help grandma.” After she taught her grandpa a lesson, her grandma must smile.

Miao Jing, who was furious, forgot totally about the triplets. She could not help but blush at the sight of the triplets. She made a fool of herself in front of them.

Zhai Yaohui did not mind it at all. He was laughing heartily. “Don’t worry. Grandpa is being very well-behaved. Grandma is not angry with me. She is not hitting me. It is just that my shirt is dirty

and she is brushing off the dust for me.” Zhai Yaohui grabbed Miao Jing’s hands and gave a few pats on his shirt, proving to his grandchildren that he was telling the truth. Zhai Yaohui was usually stern and serious. Everyone would keep a straight face when he was around. He turned his head and put a smile on his face, trying hard to gain Miao Jing’s favor.

He was the chief when he was outside.

But he was Miao Miao’s husband at home.

It was not embarrassing to please and cajole his wife.

Miao Jing could no longer stay angry with Zhai Yaohui, but she refused to admit that Zhai Yaohui’s charms and coaxes were useful on her. She turned her head to the side, not looking at Zhai Yaohui. Instead, she brought the triplets along with her so that she could play with them. “Your mama has a lot of homework to do and she has to do her learning. Da Bao, Er Bao, and San Bao cannot disturb your mama.”

San Bao was displeased. “After mama finishes her work, she must play with us.”

“San Bao, be good.” Da Bao, who was the eldest, consoled San Bao. He told her not to be naughty.

Er Bao drooled as he smiled. “Don’t be angry. I will play with you.”

With her mother-in-law’s help, Qiao Nan sorted out the complicated relationship in no time. There were some things that Qiao Nan was unwilling to do and she would rather be muddled. But since her enemies were right on her doorstep, they would think that she was a pushover if she did not show them what she was capable of.

There was one person that had almost slipped out of Qiao Nan’s mind. To her surprise, this person came into sight because of Qiu Chenxi. Deng Wenchang worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was a young man that she found particularly annoying.

With Old Master Zhai’s help, she learned that Shi Peng was supportive of the Zhai family while Qiu Chenxi was leaning toward the Peng family under Old Master Shi’s influence.

Old Master Shi was trying to please both sides. If the Zhai family was doing well, he would ask his son who supported the Zhai family to help his daughter and granddaughter. If the Peng family was doing well, he would get his daughter to help his son.

Old Master Shi's logic was simple but selfish.

Shi Peng and Qi Minlan were his children. When he was advanced in years, they had to provide for his old age and make sure that he led a good life.

If his son had the foresight and the Zhai family did better than the Peng family, everything would go as planned. No matter what, his daughter was married. Her surname was Qi instead of Shi. Now that she was divorced, he had been providing for her and her daughter. He did not ask his daughter to return the favor. But if her daughter was in trouble, they could not possibly ask him who was already advanced in years to help them out.

Of course, it would be just as nice if his granddaughter was superior.

After her daughter had a divorce, she had nowhere to go with her daughter. He was the one who took them in. In that case, they would treat him like a retired emperor.

What he wanted was to lead a good life in the future.

He had two children, and they each supported one family. One of them was bound to be successful. All he needed to do once the winner was decided was to stay with the child who was successful and lead a life of an elderly gentleman in the future.

Furthermore, by then, the Shi family's reputation and social position would be higher than before.

It did not matter whether it was his son or his daughter who helped the Shi family flourish. Both of them were his children. Without him, they would not be here as well. Therefore, he would still be the greatest hero. After he passed away, he would be able to face his ancestors. Old Master Shi did not care whether it was his son or his daughter who succeeded.

Qiao Nan had heard from Shi Qing years ago about the peculiar situation in the Shi family. Today, she finally saw it for herself, Old Master Shi's style of dealing with things. Qiao Nan had to admit that she was not the only pitiful child in this world. Qi Minlan was muddled. It was hard to say whether Old Master Shi had done Qi Minlan wrong or the other way round.

But Shi Peng was unlucky. He had an unreliable father and a worrisome younger sister and niece.

Apart from the Shi family who was in a mess, Qiao Nan had to pay attention to Deng Wenchang as well. The Deng family used to be neutral. She did not expect that they would be in close contact with the Peng family secretly since the beginning of this year.

Qiao Nan remembered that when she was doing her internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year, Deng Wenchang was prejudiced against her and that made her angry. However, back then, Qiao Nan, who had the mental age of a forty to fifty years old auntie, could not be bothered to take issue with Deng Wenchang, who was like a young kid.

However, with Peng Yu in the picture, everything was different.

Deng Wenchang was already at odds with her. From now onward, she decided to be at odds with him as well. Peng Yu wanted to place Deng Wenchang at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Although she could not send Deng Wenchang out of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, what she could do was to make sure that she performed better than him so that he would have no chance of rising through the ranks.

Qiao Nan had no idea why Peng Yu highly valued the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but she would disrupt his plans and do all she could to stop Deng Wenchang from doing what he set out to do.

In that case, the Zhai family would be the one who won in this fight, and the Peng family would not have the last laugh.

Since it no longer made any difference if she went to school or not, after making up her mind, Qiao Nan decided to go with Elder Lin's arrangement to continue to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with He Yi's help.

There were more men than women in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Chapter 1356 Competition Had Begun

It was pleasing to have a young and beautiful Qiao Nan among all the men in the ministry. Apart from Deng Wenchang, the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs was glad to welcome Qiao Nan back at the ministry.

“Hello, I am here to impose on you again.” Qiao Nan had a wide smile on her face as she greeted her colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deng Wenchang’s eyes were spitting fire at the sight of this.

As soon as Qiao Nan sat down at her usual seat, Deng Wenchang used a cynical tone on her. “Aren’t you still in your third year? You have yet to graduate and yet you don’t feel like going to school but come to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Don’t you want to graduate? Or is it that you have other ways and want to continue to get in through the back door?”

Unlike the previous time where she would avoid his provocation, Qiao Nan gave Deng Wenchang a direct reply. “Since when is it so easy to get in through the back door at Peking University? Or perhaps you have experience with that?”

Deng Wenchang could sense the change in Qiao Nan. He was surprised. Qiao Nan went head-on with him and she was sharp in her comments. In the past, she would leave room to maneuver and she would be careful not to offend other people. “Hehe, you seem to be emboldened after a few months’ time. Who are you acquainted with to become so sharp in your remarks?”

“It doesn’t matter who I am acquainted with. I have the ability and therefore I am emboldened. Deng Wenchang, are you officially employed? I wish that your dream will come true soon.” Qiao Nan had a wicked smile on her face. She knew that Deng Wenchang was concerned about being officially employed, so she used this to provoke him.

One should not hit a person in his face, and neither should one expose a person’s shortcomings when one scolded them.

Qiao Nan did the exact opposite. But Qiao Nan no longer wanted to tolerate him further. She wanted to hit him in the face and expose his shortcomings. “I haven’t seen you for half a year. Comrade Deng, you must work hard. If not, I may be officially employed earlier than you.”

Got in through the back door?

Deng Wenchang got in through the back door to be able to be in this department.

Deng Wenchang was counting on He Yi and getting help from the Peng family. But both He Yi and the Peng family would not be able to have any direct influences and could only help Deng Wenchang indirectly.

If Qiao Nan was to compete with Deng Wenchang, she would not lose to him in terms of who had the stronger backing and who could help her get in through the back door easily.

That was why even before Qiao Nan arrived at the ministry, she was already well-known.

All of the higher-ups knew that Lin Yuankang changed his mind and returned to the capital because of his last beloved disciple.

No matter what, the higher-ups had to give Elder Lin due respect.

If Qiao Nan was incapable, it would be easy to deal with her. There were many units and positions in the ministry. They could put her in an insignificant position and take it that they paid an extra sum of money for someone insignificant. However, all of Elder Lin's disciples were of high caliber and capable. Everyone had made great contributions to the country.

As long as Qiao Nan maintained the usual standard of Elder Lin's disciples, she would be a great help to the country. There was no need to give due respect to Elder Lin and they would be glad to accept talents like her.

No matter what, they would not be disadvantaged.

Qiao Nan joined the unit and she was offered official employment.

Qiao Nan kept a low profile about the various reasons behind her employment. She never mentioned it to anyone. He Yi never really made any endorsements for her either. Apart from Qiao Nan and He Yi, the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not know of her background.

Deng Wenchang felt good about himself and thought that he was definitely better than Qiao Nan. He could not help but laugh when Qiao Nan provoked him recklessly today. "Fine, I shall see what you are capable of despite not having anyone to help you secretly. By then, you must not say that I bully you as I am older. You have to blame yourself for being born later than me."

Deng Wenchang was thrilled.

Qiao Nan had yet to graduate from college. She was not a postgraduate, and neither had she obtained a master's or a doctorate's degree. He had obtained a master's degree from overseas. How dared she compete with him! This was the biggest joke that he heard this year!

"How can I blame you for being born earlier than me? You don't know my mom." As a woman who was married with three children, Qiao Nan was just as good when it came to cracking dirty jokes.

"How dare you!" Deng Wenchang blushed red in embarrassment. Qiao Nan was so shameless. How dared she say such jokes in front of so many people! "The female college students nowadays are really an eye-opener for me." He did not believe that Qiao Nan was innocent and did not engage in indecent deals.

Qiao Nan smirked. She no longer bantered with Deng Wenchang.

He would know whether she was capable or not when they had more interactions at work in the future. It was useless to engage in banter!

Qiao Nan put in more than one hundred percent of effort in her work and she was very enthusiastic. Her performance was dazzling. Qiao Nan would never shy from work. She worked ten times harder than her internship. She would fight for every chance to take on more tasks. With Qiao Nan around, Deng Wenchang did not dare to skive. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had two interns who worked extra hard to take on every task.

The veterans were glad that there were two hardworking interns in the ministry. It would be beneficial for them to gain more experience and it would definitely be useful in the future.

The wily old foxes could tell that the two youngsters were competing with each other. They watched the fun by the side as they stood to gain and had an easier time at work.

When Qiao Nan was not around, Deng Wenchang was just as hardworking. But Deng Wenchang was young and foolish no more. He would not take on jobs that were outside of his job scope. He was there to gain experience, not to do everything or take on other people's tasks. He refused to be the laborer while other people had an easy time.

However, now that Qiao Nan had spoiled the market, Deng Wenchang could not help but take on tasks that he was not used to doing in the past.

Since he had ended up doing all the other work, his goal was to finish them at a faster speed than Qiao Nan and to do a better job than her. Deng Wenchang was older than Qiao Nan by a few years and he used to study overseas. He should have a faster reading speed and better comprehension skills than Qiao Nan. As long as he did his work quickly and efficiently and proved his capabilities, it would not be long before Qiao Nan lost to him.

Deng Wenchang felt that success was within his grasp. However, he did not expect that he would be given a tight slap.

Deng Wenchang had yet to finish his work but Qiao Nan had already submitted her work to her senior.

Now that the competition had begun between the two youngsters, He Yi had told everyone that it was best to allocate the work equally between Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang so as not to cause any dispute.

Chapter 1357 What a Pity

Qiao Nan submitted her assignments earlier than Deng Wenchang. It proved that she was faster than Deng Wenchang.

Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows and smiled at Deng Wenchang, whose pen roughly slid across the table. “Comrade Deng, don’t be in a hurry. Although we have the same amount of work, perhaps there is a difference in the nature of the work. Your task might be more complicated than mine. As you must know, I did not go for overseas studies and I did not have a master’s degree. I admit that I am lacking in all these.”

Before Deng Wenchang came up with the high-sounding and unrealistic excuses, Qiao Nan ‘kindly’ helped him come up with excuses. To Qiao Nan, this was not the first time that she heard them.

Initially, Deng Wenchang felt that he had valid reasons. But now that Qiao Nan beat him to saying them, the same words seemed to sound awkward coming from Qiao Nan’s mouth. It was as if he refused to admit defeat and came up with excuses for himself. “Qiao Nan, don’t be too smug. What matters is the work attitude. Being fast is useless. You can’t afford to make any mistakes here. Don’t tell me that you don’t know that the first and foremost requirement in the ministry is to be cautious?”

She should not be smug that she completed the assignments faster than him.

It would be disastrous if she made mistakes. Her colleagues would have to redo the work then. This was akin to increasing the workload and adding trouble to other people. By then, he would see if Qiao Nan could laugh like now.

“Tell you what, I will make a copy of my completed assignment and give it to you. If you finish your work, can you help me do a check?” Qiao Nan was not surprised that for people like Deng Wenchang, no matter what she did, he would be full of doubts and want to find the chink in her armor.

Since Deng Wenchang wanted to find the chink in her armor, she was not afraid of giving him her work and letting him do a check. She should see if he could spot any mistakes in them.

“There is no need for me to do a check. The minister can tell at one glance if there are any mistakes.” Deng Wenchang was not willing to waste any time on Qiao Nan. He only wanted to make things difficult and embarrassing for her. But he was not willing to lose out to Qiao Nan in terms of the amount of work that they did. He did not want to look as if Qiao Nan was hardworking whereas he skived.

“Minister, I am almost done with my work. You can go ahead to give me other assignments.” He wanted to do a better job than Qiao Nan and complete more assignments than her. He must defeat her in all aspects.

Qiao Nan smiled lightly. Nevertheless, she still made a copy of her completed assignment out of ‘good intention’. Deng Wenchang finally completed his assignment by the time Qiao Nan was done photocopying her work. “Comrade Deng, congratulations. We are at the same starting line again.”

Qiao Nan did not feel the least scared at the thick stack of work assignments.

She was not afraid of competing with Deng Wenchang.

Back when she devoted all her time to her school work and reading books, she was used to doing even more assignments than the tasks that she was given now.

Since Qiao Nan had no intention of giving up, Deng Wenchang had to continue with his work. He did not even have the time to take a breather or to smoke. He could only work as hard as Qiao Nan. Qiao Nan was a student, and she was used to this type of lifestyle. It was different for Deng Wenchang. He had graduated more than a year ago. When he was in college, he no longer

completed his assignments by hand. Besides, now that he was working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there were computers in the office. He was used to typing on the computer.

As a student who came back from overseas studies, he was very familiar with the computer and had a fast typing speed. This was one of the main reasons why he was confident of having a strong foothold in the ministry.

Now that he was competing with Qiao Nan, Deng Wenchang had to use the basic method of writing nonstop with his right hand and a pen.

Qiao Nan looked energized and enthusiastic. It was as if she had drunk ten bottles of Red Bull. Deng Wenchang's hands felt so sore and painful that he could no longer write.

The veterans in the department witnessed the scene and one of them walked to stand next to He Yi, giving him a thumbs-up. "All of us in the department know that Comrade Xiao Deng is arrogant and proud. Comrade Xiao Qiao must be very capable to be able to make him suffer. Old He, tell me honestly. Where did you get such a good comrade from? The young lady might be young, but she is not delicate at all."

Compared to Deng Wenchang, she was even more able to withstand hardships. She was the industrious and hands-on type.

He Yi felt particularly proud. She was his little junior. Since they had the same master, she must be capable. All these years, his master had the same good judgment as back in his younger days. Back then, his master also made a good judgment when he chose him as his disciple. "That's without a doubt. Comrade Xiao Qiao might be young, but she was a Peking University student and she is awarded a scholarship yearly. If not for the special situation at home, Comrade Xiao Deng would not be the only person in the department who has gone on overseas studies. Comrade Xiao Qiao rejected the offer to go on a sponsored overseas study."

The colleague was surprised. "She is that capable?" His child wanted to go for overseas studies but did not do as well in the exams and had to pay for overseas studies. The expenses for one year were very costly. He and his wife could feel the pinch. The school fees and the cost of the books were alarmingly high. They had yet to factor in the living expenses. But no matter how expensive it was or the impact it had on their savings and living expenses, they only had one child. They hoped that the child would be successful and make them proud in the future.

They had no other choice but to fork out the money.

Unlike their situation where they had to fork out the money by themselves, the school was willing to sponsor Comrade Xiao Qiao, yet she refused to go. “What is her family situation? It is a golden opportunity. Why did she give it up? It is such a pity. As the elders, we all hope that the children will make something of themselves. It is impossible that one would stop them from developing and learning.”

They were willing to fork out their own money to send the child for overseas studies. It was beyond reason that one would refuse to go when one was being sponsored.

He Yi knew about his colleague’s situation. He smiled as he patted him on the shoulder. “Don’t worry. Even if Comrade Xiao Qiao did not go for overseas studies, she is just as capable. Look at our generation. After the special period, who would be able to go for overseas studies? Aren’t they fearful?”

His master was the exception. He was brave and daring. Although it was during the special period, he still went overseas to study without any hesitation.

While other people were suffering, his master concentrated on his studies. He became a knowledgeable man who was very proficient in a foreign language within that precious ten years. He was a rare talent. After he returned to the country, he had an edge over others and he had a strong foothold in his field of expertise.

Until today, He Yi still admired Lin Yuankang for his decisive and swift actions back then.

Other people wasted ten years of their lives, while Lin Yuankang used the ten years to enrich himself and reached a state where other ordinary people could not attain. What was important was that his knowledge and skills were able to keep up with the times and he would never fall behind.

After listening to He Yi, the colleague pursed his lips sullenly, not making further comments.

Chapter 1358 Baddie? Hit Him!

He was still upset over the fact that he had to fork out the money for his child to go on an overseas study, particularly when he heard that there were people who refused to go despite being sponsored. It would be a while before he could get over it. There was such a huge difference in the destiny of people.

Luckily, Deng Wenchang was focused on his work and did not overhear their conversation. Otherwise, Deng Wenchang would be in a bad mood like the colleague, and he might vomit blood from anger. Back then, Deng Wenchang had to pay for his school fees when he went on an overseas study. He was not able to receive sponsorship from the school.

Qiao Nan still looked energetic and invigorating despite having worked the entire day.

On the other hand, Deng Wenchang looked pale when he knocked off from work. His right hand was stiff and sore.

He Yi patted Deng Wenchang on the shoulder, giving him a gentle reminder. “Xiao Deng, you had better not drive the car today. Get someone to fetch you. There are a lot of cars in the capital and the traffic is very busy. It’s important to keep safe. The chairman has said that good health is a prerequisite for work.” Deng Wenchang must not use his right hand anymore today, or he might not be able to use his right hand tomorrow.

If so, Deng Wenchang would have lost to the little junior.

As her senior, He Yi was very happy to watch the competition between Deng Wenchang and his little junior. Deng Wenchang was being petty, but his little junior was not a pushover either.

In order for the competition to keep going so that he could have more fun watching them, he had to remind Deng Wenchang to protect himself and to take care of his health and safety. It was very dangerous to drive a car when one was exhausted. This was taught in driving school and one must never forget this reminder.

Deng Wenchang took a deep breath, plastering a fake smile on his face. “Uncle He, thank you for your concern. Don’t worry. I won’t risk my life.” Deng Wenchang could feel that his right hand was shaking due to overexertion.

He would not forget what Qiao Nan did to him today. He would make her pay for it tomorrow!

Qiao Nan noticed the look of grievance and hatred in Deng Wenchang’s eyes. Qiao Nan had yet to talk to Zhai Sheng, so she had no idea what Peng Yu’s motive was for being close to Qiu Chenxi and the Deng family. But it was clear that they were crucial to his plan.

If she destroyed either of them, it would make it more difficult for Peng Yu to deal with the Zhai family.

As a nobody, Qiao Nan did not have any grand plan. She only wanted to fulfill her role as a minor figure to work from the foundation. Once the important chess pieces were removed, Peng Yu's plan would not go as smoothly as planned.

A small leak would sink a great ship.

It was suitable to use this method on Peng Yu.

"Mama, happy?" San Bao, who was one and a half years old, noticed that her mama would hum a tune from time to time and smiled to herself. San Bao straightened and danced along to the tune happily.

Da Bao and Er Bao behaved like San Bao as well. They surrounded Qiao Nan and smiled brightly at her like three little suns. They were an adorable sight.

They had chubby cheeks and were all smiles. Their eyes curved into crescent moon-like shape, sparkling like the stars in the sky. They were so adorable. No one would be able to resist their charms and would want to give them a hug and a kiss.

As their mother, Qiao Nan's love for them was plain for all to see. She squatted down and carried them one by one, kissing them on each of their cheeks. "Yes, I am elated today. A baddie wanted to bully me, but I have retaliated."

This was not the first time that Deng Wenchang went against Qiao Nan. When Qiao Nan did her internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deng Wenchang would mock her whenever he spoke to her, but Qiao Nan would maintain her silence. Everyone in the ministry wondered if Deng Wenchang was the woman while Qiao Nan was the man. Deng Wenchang seemed to be petty, while Qiao Nan was bighearted and magnanimous. She seemed like a true man who did not take issue with him.

Among the people they knew, none of the men were petty and nasty-tempered. Moreover, the person who was being bullied was a young lady. It seemed as if their roles had been reversed.

Previously, Qiao Nan was thinking that since she was already an old lady who was more than fifty years old, she should not take issue with a young brat in his twenties. Therefore, she was not bothered by Deng Wenchang's mocking. Anyway, it would not hurt her.

But things were different now. Although it had no substantial impact on her, Qiao Nan no longer wanted to be gracious to Deng Wenchang. She would no longer keep silent at his mocking.

It must be Peng Yu's plan for Deng Wenchang to secure a place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs could be considered as her master's territory as well. How could she allow herself to be bullied by outsiders in her own territory?

She might not be able to do anything in other places, but this was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Qiao Nan was ready to thwart Peng Yu's plans. His plans might be to make use of Deng Wenchang to be up to no good. Qiao Nan would do her best to stop him.

"Baddie? Hit him!" Da Bao knitted his eyebrows. He clenched his fists and raised them into the air. His mannerism resembled his father.

"Bully mama?" Er Bao blinked and revealed a devilish smile. "Bring papa to their house."

San Bao was anxious. Da Bao and Er Bao had already thought of how they should deal with the baddie. What about her? The young lady made a circle on the spot and clung to Qiao Nan's knees. "I... cry?" San Bao knew that if she cried, the adults' countenance would change.

Qiao Nan was amused. She hugged her triplets. "They are brilliant ideas, but I am not in a hurry to use them. When you are older and have the ability, you can take revenge for me. You are still very young now. You must have your meals and grow up to be strong and healthy. I will protect you."

Qiao Nan was merely chatting with her children. She did not expect that they had good memories at such a young age and were able to remember her words today.

Since that day, Da Bao was very interested in offensive weapons like small tanks and toy guns. If Old Master Zhai woke up early in the morning, he had the habit of practicing shadowboxing as a form of exercise. There was once when Da Bao woke up to use the restroom and he saw his grandpa doing shadowboxing. From then on, Da Bao had the habit of waking up early in the morning to accompany Old Master Zhai as he practiced shadowboxing.

Da Bao was still a toddler. Although he was able to walk steadily now, he would fall down whenever he tried to throw punches or kicked his leg.

Luckily, he took a fall on the lawn in the garden. It was spring and the grasses formed dense cascading mounds. Da Bao landed on the soft grass and did not feel any pain at all.

1359 Equation That Made One See Red

Miao Jing's heart ached for Da Bao. He was still young and should have more rest. But Da Bao refused to listen to her. Old Master Zhai had differing opinions. It was true that Da Bao took a few falls when learning how to shadowbox. Although he was far from being skilled, he had a good form. Since Da Bao was determined to learn the skill and was able to pick up skills very quickly like the people in the Zhai family, Old Master Zhai did not stop him. Instead, he was glad that he was interested. Old Master Zhai caressed Da Bao's head while he gazed at Qiao Nan. To him, Qiao Nan was like a mother hen who laid golden eggs. "It is a pity that the country does not allow us to have more than one child. Nan Nan, you are a good child. The three children are very good indeed." If Da Bao had a few more siblings, the Zhai family would have a better future.

Of course, they must be children of his grandson and granddaughter-in-law.

Miao Jing was proud and at the same time troubled. "Old master, you must not say this to your friends. If they hear this, they will gang up to bully you."

Zhai Sheng had a late marriage. Back then, Old Master Zhai's former comrades would tease and laugh at him for not becoming a great-grandfather and not having any great-grandchildren despite his age. Unlike him, they had a great-granddaughter or great-grandson, and the four generations were living under the same roof.

They did not count on having five generations under the same roof. But having four generations was doable.

It was a pity that they had four generations under the same roof, whereas Old Master Zhai did not have any great-grandchild. Their grandchild had already grown up to be sensible children, while Old Master Zhai had no one with him. They could not help but hold their head high and brag to Old Master Zhai, making him turn green in anger.

But they were long-time friends and they knew each other well. They would not bear grudges but would laugh it off.

However, everything changed after Qiao Nan gave birth to triplets.

The Zhai family welcomed their fourth generation, and most importantly, they had three babies in one go. Old Master Zhai had far more great-grandchildren than his former comrades.

All of them were soldiers and they were loyal to the country and the organization. Since the country implemented a national planning policy, they would not go against it either.

In that case, those who had a great-grandson would not have a great-granddaughter, and those who had a great-granddaughter would want a great-grandson.

Old Master Zhai was the only one who was smiling from ear to ear. He had a great-granddaughter and two great-grandsons. Other families only had one baby, while his family had three babies, and two of them were boys and one of them was a girl.

It was a rare blessing.

Therefore, how could Old Master Zhai complain that the country forbade them from having more children and they did not have enough children at home when they already had three babies? The other families only had one child. They must be full of complaints.

Old Master Zhai stopped himself from laughing at his daughter-in-law's words. He stroked his beard. "The triplets are so well-behaved. The more the merrier." His grandson was brought up by him, and the former did not let him down. He had good judgment. Like her mother, Qiu Chenxi was not a good girl.

Qiu Chenxi was still single despite her age. Old Master Zhai could not help but express his displeasure toward her. "Luckily, Zhai Sheng has the same judgment as me. If he had a poor judgment like his dad, I couldn't imagine what it would be like at our house now. It's good that I have kept a tight watch on him."

One could tell that Old Master Zhai disliked Qi Minlan and her daughter, Qiu Chenxi. In fact, he was displeased with his own son, Zhai Yaohui, as well. If Old Master Zhai had not insisted on having Miao Jing as his daughter-in-law, and Zhai Yaohui had made his own decision, Qi Minlan might have ended up as the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family.

If his daughter-in-law was a different person, Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng, who were good and upright, might not become the children of the Zhai family.

If Qiu Chenxi was born into the Zhai family, Old Master Zhai would rather not have Zhai Yaohui as his son. He had caused the family to be in a mess. There was no way that Zhai Yaohui could answer to Old Master Zhai and the veterans who contributed to nation-building.

Zhai Yaohui was in a meeting. He could not help but sneeze at the mention of his name, attracting the attention of other people around him.

Zhu Chengqi looked at Zhai Yaohui with slight contempt. "Has Chief Zhai been in poor health recently? The weather is good, yet you caught a cold. The children are still young and have a weak immune system. When you return home, make sure to keep a distance from them."

Zhu Chengqi finally became a grandpa. He adored the bubbly and cheerful grandchildren. Unlike Zhai Yaohui, who was reserved, Zhu Chengqi showed his affection for the triplets openly.

Zhu Chengqi received the treatment that Qiao Dongliang was denied. When the triplets saw Zhu Chengqi, they would address him as their grandpa and clung onto him like little monkeys, refusing to let go.

Zhai Yaohui was unable to be this close and affectionate to them.

Seeing that Zhai Yaohui seemed to have caught a cold, Zhu Chengqi was not worried that Zhai Yaohui was sick and the enemy would stand to gain. Instead, he was worried that Zhai Yaohui would bring the virus back home. He hoped that Zhai Yaohui would be conscious and steer clear of the triplets so that he would not pass the virus to them.

Zhai Yaohui might not worry for his grandchildren, but he could not bear for his maternal grandchildren to fall sick.

Zhai Yaohui felt grumpy. He had a closer relationship with the three children. "Chief Zhu, thank you for your concern. Don't worry. I did not catch a cold. It's just that my nose feels itchy. The three children are used to having my company. They will throw tantrums if they did not see me."

No matter what, they belonged to the Zhai family.

Once he reached home, he could hold the triplets in his arms. Zhu Chengqi might be envious, but he could not do so.

No matter how hard he tried, he could not spend as much time with the triplets as him.

The older one was, the more one behaved like children. Besides, men were childish by nature. Zhu Chengqi's and Zhai Yaohui's mental age might not add up to more than ten years old. Everyone present was at a loss for words.

Peng Yu's father, Peng Chunhua, felt deeply about this.

Among everyone present, he was the only one who did not have any grandchildren. Peng Yu was single. The rest of the people had at least one grandchild while the Zhai family had three grandchildren.

The equation in the office was as follows: the Zhai family, followed by the Zhu family, the other families, and lastly, the Peng family.

Thinking of the equation made Peng Chunhua see red.

Chapter 1360 Sly Little Fox

He was not afraid if they were to compare their sons. But Zhu Chengqi and Zhai Yaohui were talking about grandsons. He did not have any grandsons or granddaughters, so he had no way of competing with them.

He stifled the bloody smell in his throat before he took a deep breath. Peng Chunhua had made up his mind. No matter what, he must make sure that his son find a girlfriend, marry, and have children within this year.

He might have a lot to say and make impassionate speeches during the meeting, but whenever the veteran cadres talked about their grandsons, he could only play deaf-mute and hide in a corner, keeping silent while other people were engaged in their conversations.

There was such a marked difference. Peng Chunhua could no longer take it. He had to get a definite answer from his son. He had never felt so embarrassed in any situation in his entire life.

Zhai Yaohui and Zhu Chengqi noted the displeased and awkward look on Peng Chunhua's face. They smiled at each other tacitly and stopped targeting him. It was enough to make a dig at Peng Chunhua from time to time.

Zhai Yaohui knew more than anyone how upsetting it was to Peng Chunhua when people brought up the topic of grandsons. Two years ago, Zhai Yaohui was in the same predicament. His son only married at the 'old' age of twenty-six.

He would face such a situation once or twice a year. Initially, he was able to remain unaffected to the boasting and bragging, and he did not take it to heart.

But as time passed, and he was faced with the same situation for three to four years, one could not help but waver no matter how emotionally strong one was.

Zhai Yaohui felt deeply about this and had the first-hand experience. This was why although Zhai Yaohui could tell that Zhai Sheng was not interested in Qiu Chenxi, he still allowed Qiu Chenxi to visit the Zhai family and be treated as Zhai Sheng's fiancée.

He would be glad if his son could meet a lady that he liked like how he met Miao Jing. If not, he had to marry a lady of similar status who could bear children for the Zhai family.

Back then, Qiu Chenxi and Qi Minlan used to think that Zhai Yaohui valued his relationship with Qi Minlan, and that was why he liked Qiu Chenxi and wanted her to be his daughter-in-law, not taking his son's opinions into consideration.

The mother and daughter did not know that Zhai Yaohui was treating Qiu Chenxi as a spare tire.

Zhai Yaohui needed to have a spare tire, and Qi Minlan and Qiu Chenxi happened to be there.

The two of them ended up knowing each other. This was why things were how they were when Qiao Nan first met Zhai Sheng about six to seven years ago.

Zhai Yaohui, who had a similar experience, knew the best way to upset Peng Chunhua and for him to waver. Besides, there was no need for him to do it personally.

Apart from Peng Chunhua, all the people present had grandsons. Other than Zhai Yaohui and Zhu Chengqi, the rest of them would chat about their grandchildren in their leisure time. It was impossible for Peng Chunhua not to be affected by them.

Moreover, the Zhai family had triplets.

This was a blow to Peng Yu as well as Peng Chunhua.

His son was just as good as Zhai Yaohui's son. But judging from the current situation, he was not certain that he would have a better daughter-in-law than Qiao Nan. Could it be that he would end up having a daughter-in-law that was not as good as Zhai Yaohui's daughter-in-law?

The son resembled the father.

Peng Yu liked to compare with Zhai Sheng. He must have learned this from his father.

Qiao Nan, who was holding Da Bao in her arms, was at a loss for words when she heard that the Peng family was looking for a 'suitable' daughter-in-law. "Why must they be so insistent on finding a lady whose family has a history of multiple births?" Qiao Nan felt amused.

She thought of her situation.

Her grandparents were no longer around. She was not sure if there were twins or triplets in the Qiao family. There were still relatives in the Ding family. Perhaps her maternal grandparents were still around. But Ding Jiayi never mentioned that the family had twins or triplets.

Qiao Nan was thankful that she met Zhai Sheng and she only had one encounter with Peng Yu. When she was in her first year of junior high school, she went to the waste-recycling station during the summer break to buy old books. She did not have any direct contact with Peng Yu.

If there was a day where Peng Yu appeared right in front of Qiao Nan, she would not be able to tell who he was.

If she met Peng Yu instead of Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan could not imagine how her life would change. After escaping from Ding Jiayi's and Qiao Zijin's clutches, she might end up in another abyss.

But then again, on second thoughts, Qiao Nan laughed at herself for thinking too much. Without the Zhai family, she was useless to Peng Yu. If so, Peng Yu would have another set of requirements when he was looking for a wife.

After childbirth, Qiao Nan would have random and peculiar thoughts from time to time. She must be muddled from childbirth.

“Mom, when the triplets turn three years old, should we send them for early childhood education?” The children must be on the same starting line. This was something that Qiao Nan used to hear in the past, but she did not think too much about it back then.

Firstly, she was single. She did not have any children. There was no need to worry that they might start late.

Secondly, she had no money. Even if she had children, it did not concern her either.

She had children and money in this life. She would naturally pay special attention to it.

“Sure. By then, we can have a discussion and decide on a school for the triplets.” Miao Jing had heard of early childhood education. The triplets’ nominal age was two years old, but they were, in fact, one and a half years old. They had to enroll for early childhood education next year. It was better to come to a decision first.

“Hmm...?” The cheeky Er Bao could not really understand what his mama and grandma were talking about.

Qiao Nan put down Da Bao and hugged Er Bao. “Early childhood education means that you will have to go to school. Does Er Bao want to go to school like me?”

Er Bao’s eyes lit up. “Together with mama?”

It did not matter what they did. What was important was the person who was with them!

Miao Jing was amused. “Er Bao, are you really one and a half years old? You seem to be a sly little fox.”

Qiao Nan gave her mother-in-law, who was consumed by laughter, a plaintive glance. “I am about to graduate from college. I won’t need early childhood education. By then, Da Bao and Er Bao will bring your sister with you for class.”