

RTAMM 1361

Chapter 1361 Special Treatment

“Isn’t it good that the three of you can go to school together?”

The three children would have company when they went to school.

Er Bao shook his head, expressing his displeasure. “Want to go with mama.”

Da Bao, who held the toy gun, made ‘tatata’ sound with his mouth. “Practice boxing with great-grandpa, wow!”

San Bao clung onto Qiao Nan’s back. “Mama, dress, pretty, Sanbao wears.” She was saying that she did not know anything about early childhood education. She only liked pretty blouses and dresses. Her mother should make more clothes for her.

“...”

Qiao Nan, who was exhausted by her triplets, turned up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs feeling drained and tired the next day. She could not help but yawn as soon as she sat down. “Those three brats! I will get their father to take them in when he is back.” They were still young. What could they do other than study?

Deng Wenchang, who was seated opposite Qiao Nan, saw her and sneered. “Comrade Qiao, this is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, not a classroom in the college. The professors may not bother that you zone out or sleep in the classroom, but this is a workplace. Since you are here, please ensure that you have a proper working attitude. Otherwise, don’t take up other people’s space. You have better give up the position.”

Deng Wenchang was still fuming. He had done too much writing in the past two days that his hand felt very sore. All this was because of Qiao Nan.

He was not used to working at this speed. His hand felt numb and stiff. His mother had to bring him to the veteran practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine, where the physician performed moxibustion and massaged his hand. Otherwise, there was no way that Deng Wenchang could drive to work. He would have to get a driver to fetch him.

He Yi, the minister, did not even have such treatment. Deng Wenchang came to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prove his capability and to become He Yi's successor. He was not here to act like a young master. Deng Wenchang could not ask people to fetch him. Therefore, he had to think of ways to reduce the pain in his hand.

Qiao Nan did not expect that this would happen.

Since she was in her second year of junior high school, she was used to reading and making notes at the same time. Other than reading books, she would do research and made notes that were relevant to her studies.

Qiao Nan, who was used to writing notes, did not expect that a big man like Deng Wenchang would end up in such an embarrassing state.

Qiao Nan had some water to wake herself up. She was not in a hurry to rebut Deng Wenchang. But her calm demeanor further infuriated Deng Wenchang, making him grind his teeth. Qiao Nan waited until she was in a better mood before she made a remark. "Comrade Deng, it was merely a yawn. How can it be considered slacking? One cannot see things as they are and overgeneralize. Comrade Deng, don't tell me that your teachers and parents taught you this?"

"Or perhaps, other than at home, Comrade Deng has never yawned or farted?" It was natural to yawn when one was tired. It was beyond one's control.

"You..." Deng Wenchang looked disgusted. "Qiao Nan, you are a woman. How can you be so crude? If you say such stuff during work, you will be shaming our country. The foreign guests will have the wrong impression that the Chinese people are uneducated and uncultured. Qiao Nan, you should face up to reality. You are not suitable for this department."

Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows and sat upright. "I never knew that Comrade Deng has such positive thinking."

Deng Wenchang lifted his chin. This was his usual self.

There was a glitter in Qiao Nan's eyes. She steered the conversation to her desired direction. "Since that is the case, let me give you a suggestion. I feel that you are not suitable for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well. As you should have known, countries on the other side of the world place high importance on being gentlemanly. If the people from these countries see your aggressive

behavior toward a lady, they might misunderstand that the Chinese people are rude toward ladies and like to hurl abuses at them.”

“Xiao Qiao, come to my office for a while.” He Yi stood at the door, yelling Qiao Nan’s name.

Qiao Nan smiled at Deng Wenchang, who looked stiff, before she went into He Yi’s office. She closed the door upon entering. “Senior, is anything the matter?” If it was related to work, her senior would have passed the work to her in public.

He Yi passed a few sheets of paper to Qiao Nan. “This is some information regarding Deng Wenchang. Take a look. It might be helpful to you.”

Deng Wenchang was the son of his friend. He Yi was not very close to Father Deng, but since they knew each other, they had a slightly closer relationship. Deng Wenchang’s resume was good, and he fulfilled the requirements to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Actually, he was just an intern. He Yi would not be too strict with him.

He Yi knew nothing about Deng Wenchang. After doing research on Deng Wenchang for the sake of his junior, he found, to his surprise, a lot of ‘interesting’ information about Deng Wenchang.

“Tsk. It’s no wonder Deng Wenchang provoked me in front of so many people just now. It turned out this was not his first time doing that. He is experienced.” After looking through the materials, Qiao Nan was smart to shred the papers. This piece of information would not cause any big issue, but it would not look good on He Yi if other people saw it.

It was better to get rid of the papers so that other people would not have a hold on them.

He Yi was very pleased with Qiao Nan. “That’s right. This must be why he said that just now. Little junior, regardless of whether it is toward Deng Wenchang or in other areas, one must be thick-skinned. In our department, if one feels wronged, becomes upset, and cannot take it because of a few harsh words and stern looks, one is bound to have a difficult life. Junior, you must be mentally prepared.”

He Yi was not certain if his master had put Qiao Nan through special training.

When dealing with foreign diplomats and when it concerned the interests of different countries, it was all lies to say that one would maintain a good relationship with other countries. Everyone

would engage in verbal battles and end up in heated disputes. The damage and power were similar to real gunpowder and guns, and bigger interests were at stake.

If one said the wrong word, not only would one embarrass oneself, but the country would suffer losses because of them as well.

Therefore, to survive in this department, one had to be thick-skinned and fierce.

The little junior seemed soft and weak like the cotton candy that children liked to eat when they were at a tender age. He Yi was worried that Qiao Nan would not be able to meet the mark. He was much older than his junior.

When he was around, he could protect her, but what would happen when he was no longer around?

Chapter 1362 What a Big Fat Lie

He had to let his little junior know the situation beforehand so that she could be prepared. “I heard from master about your situation. Actually, you have a better starting point than others and you have a lot of support. If you are lacking in this area, I suggest you go through training. The power struggle in that social circle could be quite vicious.”

One had to do serious homework.

As long as one was mindful and hardworking, there were plenty of chances to do preparations.

“Senior, thank you. I understand what you mean.” Qiao Nan, who had been bullied her entire life, doubted that she could do it when Lin Yuankang first told her of the future that he had planned for her. She was not certain whether she was up to it. If she was really in that position, and there were conflicts of interest, Qiao Nan had to prevent herself from being bullied and bullying other people.

“What Deng Wenchang said to me was good training for me. Senior, I am not as weak as you think.” If she felt humiliated by Deng Wenchang’s words and left on her own accord, she would have died umpteen times when she was being bullied in her previous life. She would have gone through multiple times of rebirth.

Now that she was clear about the situation, Qiao Nan felt much more confident about herself.

“Senior, if there’s nothing else, I will go out now. Otherwise, the person who is targeting me may criticize me for wasting away my time instead of working.”

“Sure, you can go out now. If there’s anything else, I will let you know.” He Yi was glad that his little junior decided to persist on. On the contrary, if she could no longer take it, given his ability, he would be able to get her another position elsewhere.

But then again, He Yi was reminded of the position of Qiao Nan’s husband and her father-in-law. He smiled as he shook his head.

Given the Zhai family’s status and position, the little junior had lots of openings even without his help.

She was a winner in life.

As soon as the door to the office was opened, Deng Wenchang’s sharp gaze landed on Qiao Nan, scanning every inch of her like the X-ray. He paid particular attention to her clothing, her collar, as well as the hemline of her blouse around her waist.

Although Qiao Nan wore a suit, she wore long pants instead of a skirt. Otherwise, he would stare at the hemline of her skirt and her stockings to check whether there were any tears or whether she looked disheveled.

Deng Wenchang suspected that Qiao Nan got in through the back door and that she used special methods to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deng Wenchang tried very hard to find out who was so audacious to have an indecent relationship with Qiao Nan, and because of that, allowed such a useless person like her to be in an important department like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Initially, Deng Wenchang could not find any information on this. With Peng Yu’s help, He Yi became one of his suspects.

Deng Wenchang was dealt with a harsh blow after finding out that He Yi was the boss he was looking for. It was no wonder that no matter how he sucked up to He Yi, he refused to take him in as his disciple, and he took Qiao Nan in when he was doing his internship. It turned out that He Yi arranged for Qiao Nan to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to compete with him.

After discovering this, Deng Wenchang hated He Yi to the core. He felt disgusted that he addressed He Yi as ‘uncle’ for the past twenty years.

He was an old man who let lust befuddled his mind.

People like He Yi who did not cherish talent did not deserve to be his master. He Yi might not want to take in a disciple, but in fact, he had no wish to take a scum like him as his master.

He Yi called Qiao Nan into his office without an apparent reason. This made Deng Wenchang all the more suspicious. There was nothing to hide from the rest. If not for the indecent relationship between the two, why did Qiao Nan close the door so that their conversation would not be overheard when she entered his office?

Perhaps, once the door was closed, the man and woman would be up to no good in the office.

Deng Wenchang felt that it was reasonable of him to suspect them. He was most likely accurate about them.

Therefore, Deng Wenchang fixed his sharp gaze on Qiao Nan. He could not wait to see through every pore of her. Once he spotted any clues, he would be able to prove that she had an ambiguous relationship with He Yi. He would choose to side with reason without any hesitation and rid the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of such a scum like He Yi.

It was no longer suitable for him to be the minister. Why did he insist on being the minister? He was making use of his position to be hard upon talents like him.

Deng Wenchang stared intently at Qiao Nan, but he could not find any oddities with her clothes. Qiao Nan looked the same as how she was when she entered the office.

Her clothes were tidy and her hair was neat. She looked normal. She did not have the blush on her face that was typical after one had been intimate with another person.

Deng Wenchang was certain that there was nothing odd about Qiao Nan. Deng Wenchang had to hand it to the sly old fox. He must be smart to stay at the Minister of Foreign Affairs for so many years. No matter what, he would not be so anxious to be intimate with the other party in his office. If he wanted to catch them red-handed, he had to wait until they knocked off or when they were not working.

He would not let this slide easily.

He must get hold of the evidence that He Yi had an indecent relationship with Qiao Nan and expose it to everyone, proving to them that Qiao Nan had no right to join the department.

Qiao Nan had yet to graduate from college. Deng Wenchang only had contempt and disdain for her.

Qiao Nan was accustomed to the fact that Deng Wenchang looked at her as if she was trash. However, no matter how accustomed she was, she still felt unhappy.

“Comrade Deng, after looking through my materials, did you notice any errors?” It was true that Deng Wenchang was creating trouble for Qiao Nan, but Qiao Nan had decided that now that she was back at the department again, she would do the same to Deng Wenchang as well. She wanted to make life difficult for him so that he would not be officially employed by the ministry.

Deng Wenchang ground his teeth, smiling grimly at Qiao Nan. “Comrade Qiao must be joking. I am kept busy the entire day and there is so much work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have to devote all my time to my work. I don’t even have time to complete them and I have to continue working at home. How will I have the time to look at your work? Comrade Qiao, take them back with you. In the future, it is better that you don’t give me this. It takes up a lot of space and it is very heavy to carry around.”

It was a waste of space and energy.

“Oh, I see.” Qiao Nan arched her eyebrows, revealing a cynical smile. She did not believe a single word that Deng Wenchang said.

Chapter 1363 Deceiving Oneself Like an Ostrich

If Deng Wenchang did not nitpick on her materials, bent on finding mistakes in them, she dared to chop her head down and let Deng Wenchang use it as a stool!

Other than Qiao Nan, the veterans in the unit had the same sentiments as Qiao Nan.

All of them were men, so how could they not understand Deng Wenchang?

They saw each other at the urinal in the restroom. All of them stood side by side and one of them asked jokingly, “Xiao Deng, are you sure you didn’t take a single look at Xiao Qiao’s materials?”

Not waiting for Deng Wenchang to reply, the person broke into laughter after ridiculing him. He left the restroom as he could not be bothered to hear the answer.

Deng Wenchang turned green in anger and he missed the urinal.

The leg of his pants was wet. Deng Wenchang was so angry that he almost tore out the leg of the pants. But he did not have another pair of pants in the office. If he tore the pants, he would be further embarrassed.

Deng Wenchang had no other choice but to wash the pants. He cursed Qiao Nan, saying that she was a jinx while he washed his pants.

He had read through the materials. He even did research and asked around on areas that he was not familiar with. When he was doing his overseas study in America, he had not been so conscientious before.

What was funny was that Deng Wenchang had looked through the entire document, but he could not find a single mistake in Qiao Nan's assignment. Qiao Nan was faster in completing the assignment and she was highly accurate. In comparison, he took a long time to look through the documents and try spotting mistakes in them. Deng Wenchang was so furious that he could not go to sleep that night.

He used to think that He Yi showed favoritism and that he assigned the easier assignment to Qiao Nan, while he assigned him with more difficult tasks.

Because of He Yi's cheap tricks, everyone in the office felt that he lost to Qiao Nan. If not for He Yi, Qiao Nan would not dare to be so bold and daring.

However, Deng Wenchang was given a tight slap when he took a serious look at Qiao Nan's materials.

The truth was that his assignment was easier than Qiao Nan's.

If he were to say that He Yi showed favoritism, he was helping him instead of Qiao Nan.

This was why Deng Wenchang had a sleepless night.

He came back from overseas study and he had a master's degree. How could he fare worse than a college student who had yet to graduate?

How was that possible?

It was ridiculous!

Deng Wenchang refused to admit that he was wasting his time during his overseas study. He was worse than a college student in the country who had yet to graduate. This was the greatest irony.

Impossible. This was absolutely impossible!

After losing sleep for a night, Deng Wenchang brought the documents back to the ministry in its original condition. He stated clearly that he was preoccupied with his work and he had no time to check for errors in Qiao Nan's work. It was not that Qiao Nan did a good job. He had too many tasks to complete that he did not have enough time. How could he possibly check Qiao Nan's work for errors? It was ridiculous.

In order not to give himself away, Deng Wenchang had made a copy long ago. He returned the first original copy to Qiao Nan so that she would not notice any difference.

Deng Wenchang thought that by doing so, he could cover up the truth and no one would know what he had done. However, Qiao Nan did not believe him. All the veterans in the office did not fall for his trick either.

It seemed as if these people knew that given his petty-minded personality, he would do his utmost to find an error in Qiao Nan's assignment.

It was no wonder that they broke out in laughter when he said that he was busy.

Deng Wenchang had not recovered from his embarrassment yesterday. Today, he was further embarrassed when he was ridiculed by his seniors. When he came out from the restroom looking grim, many people fixed their gazes on him. "Hey, Xiao Deng, what's wrong? You missed and wetted your pants in the restroom? You are still young. You must take note of your health. You

should not be in a worse state than us.” Men must have urinary problems if they missed and wet their pants.

As a man, they knew what was going on. The entire office broke out into laughter.

Deng Wenchang had to stifle his anger despite being ridiculed by so many people. He returned to his seat with a darkened expression, directing his anger and wrath at Qiao Nan. He glared at her as if she was his sworn enemy.

Qiao Nan, who was blamed despite not doing anything, stared at Deng Wenchang, telling him through her eyes that he was a moron.

If possible, Qiao Nan felt that ‘retarded’ might be a better description of him.

After leaving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for several months, yesterday was the first day that she returned to the ministry. Qiao Nan had yet to notice the situation in the office, but she spotted something odd today.

It was inevitable that the veterans bullied the newcomers in the department. But Qiao Nan felt that the seniors in the ministry seemed to dislike Deng Wenchang. During the one month when she did her internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year, the seniors did not adopt such an attitude toward Deng Wenchang. Although they did not really take care of Deng Wenchang, who was a newcomer, they would not ridicule him. They should know that this topic was taboo for men, and yet they brought it up.

All the seniors in the department seemed to be ostracizing the newcomer. There was mockery in their laughter. Perhaps the seniors were united in ostracizing him, or that Deng Wenchang did not perform as expected, or he had offended them.

Deng Wenchang must have low emotional intelligence to offend people in his department.

After confirming this, Qiao Nan drank some water and a thought crossed her mind. If not for Peng Yu, perhaps she did not need to do anything and Deng Wenchang would leave the Ministry of Foreign Affairs eventually.

“Papa, lift me high up into the air. Hahahaha.”

“Me too!”

“You have to queue up!”

Qiao Nan was in a good mood. She had just reached the door to her house when she heard shrieking sounds made by her children. They seemed to be having fun. “Higher, higher, and higher.”

As soon as Qiao Nan opened the door, Zhai Sheng seemed to have sensed something. He held his chubby daughter in his arms and turned to see that his wife was back. “You are back.”

Qiao Nan’s eyes formed crescent moon-like shapes. “I should be the one saying that. You are finally back home.”

“Yes.” Zhai Sheng smiled. It did not make a difference who said it. “Did you come back from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Don’t you intend to go back to school?”

“Yes. I have completed all the necessary procedures and applications. I have also completed everything that could be done in school. I don’t think I will continue to take the entrance exams for postgraduate schools and study for a doctorate. After all, in another one to two years, the three children will need to go to school. I am afraid that apart from my work, I will not have enough time for them.”

Chapter 1364 The More the Merrier

The children were more mischievous as they grew older. It was not as easy to coax them.

Qiao Nan did not want to fail as a mother. She hoped that her children would grow up to be good and well-behaved. She would rather use her time to learn how to be a good mother and how to nurture her children instead of going for further studies. Right now, her world revolved around two things: her career and her family.

“Mama.” Er Bao was smart. He knew that his papa seemed to prefer to hold his sister. Therefore, he changed his target to his mama. He ran with his short legs to hug his mama’s calf. “Mama, carry me, carry me.”

The chubby who sat on her father’s shoulder smiled. “Mama does not have enough strength to lift you high up into the air.” Her father and Grandpa Zhu were the only two people that could lift her high up into the air. It was a pity that her father was the only one around. Grandpa Zhu was not with them.

When Qiao Nan carried Er Bao into her arms, he pouted his lips and gave a hard kiss on her cheeks. He reached his hands to encircle her neck. "I like mama. Mama smells nice." It was alright that he could not be lifted high up into the air. His mother smelled nice. Her embrace was soft and comfy. It was better than his father who was hard and stiff. He preferred his mother who smelled nice!

Da Bao looked at his younger brother and sister with slight displeasure. He snorted and took the bullets model that his father brought with him. He then grabbed his grandma's hands and ran over to the pile of toys. He had grown up. He would not fight with Er Bao and San Bao for his parents.

Miao Jing was elated that her eldest grandson wanted her company. It was good to have more children at home. There was no need to fight over them. The younger grandson and granddaughter were attached to their parents, while the eldest grandson wanted her to accompany him. In other families, the grandma had to be prepared to be neglected while the parents played with their children.

This would not happen to her!

It had been quite a while since she stayed in the quad in the military zone. Miao Jing had heard a lot from her neighbors.

Whenever Miao Jing brought the triplets to take a stroll under the sun, she heard cases where the daughter-in-law and mother-in-law quarreled with each other over the children. As the elders, they could not win against their daughters-in-law and could only complain and cry to their peers.

Things were different for Miao Jing. She would behave like a rooster who just came back from victory. She held her head high and she looked very pleased as she walked past them with the triplets. Everyone could not help but grind their teeth at that scene.

Miao Jing was proud that although the triplets were still young, they were not timid and had a sweet tongue. When they saw the adults who were of the same age as Miao Jing, they would address them as grandpa and grandma. They were not afraid of strangers. Miao Jing felt that they were smart and cunning.

The elders would dote on adorable children. If they had any snacks with them, they would give the snacks to them to make them happy.

Qiao Nan discouraged the triplets from having snacks. She had been teaching them not to have snacks since they were around eight months old. In particular, when they turned one year old and would run around and start to learn words, Qiao Nan was especially strict with them. She feared that they would not have proper meals if they had too many snacks. They would then not have the proper nutrition and would not grow up well.

The triplets were very obedient and smart. When the elders gave them snacks, they would take the sweets from Grandpa Lee and give them to Grandma Shen. They would then give the biscuits from Grandma Shen to Grandpa Lee.

There was once that Miao Jing realized to her surprise that, perhaps to avoid being discovered, the triplets would give the snacks interchangeably. Da Bao would take the snacks that he took from a grandpa and passed it to the grandma who gave chocolates to San Bao, while San Bao would give her snacks to the grandma who took care of Er Bao. Er Bao would then give the snacks to the grandpa who took care of Da Bao.

Anyway, undoubtedly, the triplets had won the affection of all the elders in the military zone.

At times, Miao Jing would be confused as to whom the snacks should be given to. But the triplets had a clear idea of who should get what snacks. Miao Jing felt like getting a piece of paper and pen to write down the sequence. But the triplets were very natural. They did not even need to think twice when deciding who to give the snacks to. Miao Jing was surprised that the triplets were so smart and cheeky. She wondered whether they were really less than two years old.

As a result, Miao Jing specially asked Qiao Nan whether she remembered what food she had when she was pregnant.

She surmised that Qiao Nan must have had the right food when she was pregnant with the triplets for their brains to develop well and have high emotional intelligence.

She could take down what she ate so that she could pass the recipe to her daughter who was pregnant and tell her to eat accordingly.

In that case, they would welcome the fourth child in the family who was just as smart and cunning. She welcomed more children who were smart and adorable.

Miao Jing felt very proud now that the triplets were the most popular little stars in the quad in the military zone and were adored by the elders. She was even more elated that her eldest grandson chose to play with her even when his parents were around.

“Brother Zhai, do you know where my master has been to? He seemed to be in a hurry to go out. He only left a message but did not go into details.” Qiao Nan sat down next to Zhai Sheng and could not help but ask him.

Lin Yuankang stayed very near to the Zhai family’s residence, so they had frequent contact with each other.

The men in the Zhai family were usually not at home, whereas Qiao Nan had to work and go to school. Miao Jing and the auntie were the only ones who took care of the triplets. After knowing this, Lin Yuankang would come over to play with the triplets and he would also teach them English. The triplets were still not fluent in their Chinese, and they liked to use duplicated words and speak short sentences.

However, they knew how to say father, mother, grandpa, and grandma in English. Furthermore, they would speak with the authentic American accent under Lin Yuankang’s influence.

Now that Lin Yuankang was away for urgent matters, the triplets were not accustomed to it. They kept pestering Qiao Nan yesterday, asking her where their grandmaster was. The triplets were smart to remember the complex relationship between the adults and the correct way to address Lin Yuankang.

The triplets knew very well who was nice to them.

Now that Lin Yuankang was not around, they kept calling for him. Luckily, Qiao Nan obtained Lin Yuankang’s latest contact number from He Yi and the triplets managed to talk to him on the phone. Otherwise, they would still be pestering Qiao Nan.

However, Qiao Nan felt perplexed. Her master was advanced in years and he should be planning for his retirement and enjoying life.

Chapter 1365 Indeed Inexperienced

She knew that he was specially summoned by the central government. Could it be that there was some trouble and her master had no choice but to travel around to settle it despite his old age?

Qiao Nan knew that her master, Lin Yuankang, was not in the country. He seemed to be overseas.

Zhai Sheng sat next to Qiao Nan, their thighs next to each other. It was similar to back when Qiao Nan was still in her second year of junior high school, and she did her revision in the Zhai family's residence. San Bao, who pestered her father to play with her and to lift her higher into the air, abandoned her father decisively as soon as Zhai Sheng sat down. She revealed little millet teeth and had a wide smile on her chubby face as she climbed agilely to her mother, inching her way into her embrace.

The two children who were arguing minutes ago settled down in their mother's embrace. They did not push around or fight each other. Instead, they gave each other a hug.

Zhai Sheng gave a smack on San Bao's chubby buttocks for being so heartless. He then focused his attention on the conversation. "The country gave Elder Lin an assignment. You know that he spent a long time overseas, but you may not know that it was because of his experiences that the country asked earnestly that Elder Lin come back to serve the country. Elder Lin not only has a wide network in the country, but he also has a similar network overseas."

Many hands made light work.

Elder Lin had many good friends overseas. When dealing with things, with many friends to help him, everything would go smoothly and easily for Elder Lin.

Other than Elder Lin's own ability, the country also valued the friends that he had.

Qiao Nan pursed the corners of her lips. "It has to be kept a secret?" Otherwise, if there was anything, not only would her master tell her, but he would also try ways to take her with him so that she could gain experience and learn.

Qiao Nan could not help but be concerned for her master's safety since it was highly confidential. It meant that the trip must be very dangerous.

"Instead of associating it with danger and risk, you can look at it from another perspective: the central government highly values this assignment. Elder Lin has made a lot of contributions to the country. You can be assured that nothing will happen to Elder Lin. If he loses a strand of hair, Peng Yu will be the first to suffer." Zhai Sheng was very calm. He analyzed it clearly to Qiao Nan.

Qiao Nan's eyes lit up when she heard the crucial part.

She put Er Bao and San Bao to the floor one by one before she patted them on the head. "Er Bao, San Bao, look, Da Bao is playing with the toys by himself. Shall you play with him? Otherwise, Da Bao will be so lonely by himself."

Da Bao, hearing his name, raised his head and pouted his lips helplessly. His features had a growing resemblance to Zhai Sheng. He was not lonely at all, but he had to take care of his younger brother and sister.

Da Bao did not make things difficult for Qiao Nan. He raised his chubby hands and grabbed Er Bao and San Bao. The three children got along well with each other. Er Bao and San Bao also began to realize that Da Bao was the eldest among them and they had to listen to him. Therefore, Er Bao and San Bao did not take issue that their mother abandoned them. Instead, they ran happily toward Da Bao.

After making sure that the children were well-taken care of, Qiao Nan continued to probe. "What has Peng Yu got to do with master?"

Now that the children were out of the way, Zhai Sheng had no intention of being hugged by his wife and wanted to get his wife into his arms. It did not bother him that the three children and Miao Jing who stayed close to them were still around. He pulled Qiao Nan into his embrace. "You should know that Elder Lin is very important to the country. Elder Lin is working for the country, so the country has to be responsible for his safety. Peng Yu is capable and hands-on, and he is very cautious and had high expectations of himself. Therefore, Elder Lin specifically asked that Peng Yu be in charge of his safety."

Peng Yu had to do a good job. If he failed and Elder Lin was hurt or startled, Peng Yu would have to write a letter of self-reflection, and in the worst-case scenario, the organization would circulate a notice of criticism and he would be demoted, and the necessary disciplinary action would be taken against him.

Protecting Elder Lin was the most arduous but thankless job, particularly when Elder Lin found Peng Yu an annoyance.

Elder Lin played petty tricks against Peng Yu, but Peng Yu could not be disrespectful to Elder Lin.

“Apart from Peng Yu, there should be other people who are in charge of my master’s safety, no?” If Peng Yu became moody and unreliable, would her master be in danger?

“Don’t worry. There won’t be many people who are of the same rank as Peng Yu. But there will definitely be people who are in a lower rank than Peng Yu. Nothing will happen to Elder Lin.” Zhai Sheng patted Qiao Nan on her shoulder. “I heard that you will not go back to school and you are going back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. How’s work? Did you run into any problems that could not be solved? You can tell me.” This time around, Zhai Sheng was more concerned about Qiao Nan’s work.

Last year, Qiao Nan only did her internship for a month, and the minister of foreign affairs, He Yi, was Qiao Nan’s senior.

During the one month’s time, if Qiao Nan was bullied, Elder Lin would have taken it out on He Yi before Zhai Sheng received news of it and wanted to take revenge for his wife.

But right now, Elder Lin was not in the country, and Qiao Nan spent more time in the ministry. Although He Yi still did his best to protect Qiao Nan, he could not possibly stay in the ministry all the time and protect her all the while.

Therefore, Zhai Sheng had to show more concern for Qiao Nan.

“You came back at the right time. I have some matters to discuss with you.” Qiao Nan told Zhai Sheng what happened at school as well as the fact that the Deng family sided with the Peng family. “Brother Zhai, what do you think is Peng Yu’s or the Peng family’s intention?”

There was a glitter in Zhai Sheng’s dark eyes. “You don’t have to worry about this. You should have some interaction with Deng Wenchang to know what kind of person he is so that you have an idea of how to deal with him. You don’t have to worry about Qiu Chenxi. Regardless of the plans that the Peng family has, or what Peng Yu plans to achieve with the two of them, I don’t think it will materialize in the end.”

There was contempt in Zhai Sheng’s tone at the mention of Deng Wenchang and Qiu Chenxi.

He had been with Qiao Nan for many years. He could tell from her tone that Qiao Nan was confident in dealing with Deng Wenchang. As for Qiu Chenxi, Zhai Sheng had never seen her as his opponent. “Don’t forget about another thing. You no longer need to go back to school, and there are

two people who are in a similar situation as you. Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing are quite capable and they have already joined the special forces for training.”

“...Aren't they students?” Besides, if she was correct, they were suited to be generals in the future. Why was it that they turned out to be average soldiers in the blink of an eye?

Zhai Sheng smirked. “They are indeed inexperienced. But after all, one of them is Chief Zhu's son, while the other is my master's daughter.”

Chapter 1366 No Status

“My master has been badly implicated by the Shi family. Otherwise, someone else might be in my dad's current role now. With such a dad, Shi Qing doesn't need to face the impasse that his master went through in the past or repeat his master's mistakes.” Of course, without any hindrance, Shi Qing's progress was much better than that of his master many years ago.

These two had no worries behind them. After entering the army, they were simply akin to fishes in the water and dragons in the sky.

Zhai Sheng was not the least surprised by Zhu Baoguo's performance either. He also did not expect the young lady who, since many years ago, addressed him as brother and looked at him with such a loving gaze would grow to become who she was today.

Zhai Sheng grabbed Qiao Nan's hand and squeezed it a few times. He had always been very satisfied with this tofu-like soft and tender feel. “It is Shi Qing's greatest fortune to have met you in her life.” Without Nan Nan's guidance and help, that muddleheaded little girl might not have been able to decide so swiftly what was best suited best for her and pick a route of her own appetite.

Qiao Nan was stunned. She glanced at Zhai Sheng's wolf claws which were grabbing on to her and pursed her lips. “Hahaha...”

They had been husband and wife for so long. That was not considered taking advantage of her either.

Well, Qiao Nan had gathered some news. Peng Yu was someone that her master specifically asked to leave. The reason that Zhai Sheng could come home during the holiday was definitely related to this matter. Second, the two 'children' that she had watched growing up were finally successful. Third, a terrible teammate was worse than a tough rival. In Zhai Sheng's eyes, Qiu Chenxi and Deng Wenchang, the allies that Peng Yu got for himself, were undoubtedly noob teammates.

Peng Yu had looked for these two people because of their family backgrounds. However, in the end, they might not be of any help to Peng Yu. The sophisticated plans that he thought of might even be ruined in the hands of these two people.

After listening to Zhai Sheng's consolation, Qiao Nan felt much more assured. "I won't come into contact with Qiu Chenxi. My initial plan is to destroy Deng Wenchang and eradicate him from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or subdue him completely and kill all his chances. In that case, Peng Yu can forget about putting Deng Wenchang to any use."

After discussing, Qiao Nan's face regained her smile. She looked as gentle as the breeze of the spring in March, delicate and smooth.

Miao Jing pinched Da Bao's stubby arms and asked him to look at Qiao Nan. "Da Bao, see. Your grandma is right. When your mom is unhappy, no one else except for your dad can coax her successfully." Miao Jing did this as she wanted to help her son create some opportunities to be with her daughter-in-law alone.

Although Miao Jing was a mother, she was not experienced in some areas. She only heard about some things from her peers in the military quad after she came to the capital.

The children usually preferred their mother to father. Understandingly, they demanded their mother's attention more.

In the families, it was not uncommon for the children to fight with their father for the mother's attention. This happened so often.

Zhai Sheng was very seldom home but Miao Jing had already witnessed this several times. Miao Jing could not help feeling worried for her son. Her son was a soldier and could not come home often. If the triplets were to mess around, Miao Jing felt heartache for her son. He could finally come home but his children had had to 'disturb' him from his wish of 'hugging' his wife. That was too tragic.

After many rounds of thought, Miao Jing finally found a way. Let the triplets form the perception, or similar mindsets, that only their father could coax their mother when the latter was unhappy.

In that case, when her son was home, the triplets would definitely let her son keep Nan Nan company instead of disrupting the couple.

Da Bao was the eldest one amongst the children and had an influence as the leader. She would settle Da Bao first. It would be easier to convince Er Bao and San Bao then. Hence, Miao Jing began to put this plan into action today.

Da Bao pouted his little mouth so high that it could almost hang a soy sauce bottle.

The triplets were usually very clever. Looking at the elder grandson's reaction, Miao Jing asked him carefully, "Da Bao, what is the matter? Are you unhappy? Your little mouth is pouting so badly. Grandma can almost hang a soy sauce bottle on your mouth."

Da Bao twisted his stubby body unhappily. "Mom is unhappy. I... I can also coax her." Who said that only his father could coax her mother? He could fare better. "When Mom sees me, Er Bao, and San Bao. Smile. Very happy!" Da Bao drew a circle in the air to express that Qiao Nan had so much happiness when she saw the three of them.

"Um, um." San Bao nodded very hard, her high ponytails on her head swaying.

Er Bao was smiling like a flower. "Mom loves the triplets. Don't like smelly dad."

"Smelly, smelly." San Bao's went off pitch, spitting some saliva. "Mom loves me, Da Bao, Er Bao. Three of us." Although she said three, she showed her whole hand. San Bao was just slightly over one year old. How could she know how to count? She was only using this action to emphasize what she had said.

Miao Jing doted on them so much. She grabbed San Bao's little stubby hand and pretended to bite it. "Ya! So, your mom loves the three of you most. Um, it seems that your dad is certainly not as cute as the triplets. Grandma also loves the triplets most."

"Grandma, kiss, kiss." San Bao, the little princess, was wonderful. She pouted her tiny lips and kissed Miao Jing's face.

Er Bao pounced on Miao Jing, "Grandma, hug, hug."

Da Bao was also distracted and had forgotten that his grandmother was the one who said that their smelly father was better at making their mother happy. At this moment, Da Bao was also happy and smiling as he heartlessly lounged in Miao Jing's embrace to show his liking for his own grandmother.

All of a sudden, she was surrounded by her three grandchildren. Miao Jing felt so wonderful that she had lost her directions.

She only wanted to be at a place where the triplets were. She did not want to go anywhere without them.

For the sake of the three children, no matter what Zhai Yaohui encountered, Miao Jing could always bring out the courage and decisiveness missing in her younger times to reject him resolutely.

"You're already a grandpa. Do you still need someone to accompany you when you are out? Furthermore, there are many people by your side. Do you lack me, just one person? The triplets are different. They only have one grandmother. It's not as if you don't know our family's situation. In other families, there are very few children and many elders. There are not enough children to share. It's different for our family. That mother of Nan Nan, even if she is willing to come to the capital to help take care of the kids, I don't even dare to pass the triplets to her!"

"Hire a nanny!" Zhai Yaohui felt jealous. Since the family had the triplets, Zhai Yaohui felt that his status and place in Miao Jing's heart was getting smaller and smaller.

Chapter 1367 Three 'Crazy Little Ones'

The triplets were ranked top in Miao Jing's heart. His daughter-in-law ranked fourth, followed by Miao Jing's two children. He was afraid that he only took the place after the old master.

"Hire a nanny? It's not as if there is no one at home. I'm not going to do that. Auntie has been working for us for more than a decade. That's why I dare to let her help me take care of the kids. If it is someone else, I'm not willing to let them touch the kids. Haven't you heard before? Nowadays, some people can be very evil. They can abuse the employer's kids despite taking the salary. If the triplets have any strand of missing hair, you can't afford it."

What was her husband considered? Her grandsons and granddaughter were the most important.

She had kept Zhai Yaohui company for almost thirty years, and Zhai Yaohui's only repayment to her was to 'almost marry off' her only son to his former lover's daughter.

Hmmph! Compared to her heartless husband, the three nice-smelling and chubby little grandchildren in her arms were multiple times better.

Miao Jing was very focused and she placed all her attention on the triplets. Their importance far exceeded what she placed on Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua in the past.

It was true that the grandparents were closer to their grandchildren than children.

Zhai Yaohui could not change Miao Jing's mind at all.

Fortunately, Zhai Yaohui had been traveling less often. After all, he was getting older. Unless it was absolutely necessary, the army would not trouble Zhai Yaohui.

Wasn't that so? As soon as she was surrounded by the triplets, Miao Jing felt so wonderful that she did not even know what date it was.

"Why aren't the three of you playing on your own and pestering your grandma instead?" Miao Jing felt great but Qiao Nan was very worried.

Miao Jing's current health could not be compared to that in her youth. The triplets were getting heavier and heavier. Qiao Nan could not even carry one of them. Now, the three children had pounced on Miao Jing and Qiao Nan was truly worried that they would crush her mother-in-law.

"Mom!"

As soon as Qiao Nan appeared, the triplets screamed and pounced on Qiao Nan. Grandmother was good, and they loved her, but they had always loved their mother most!

The three little human bombs shot towards her were so powerful that Qiao Nan had a huge change in her expression. She had to squat down and try her best to catch the trio.

Thankfully, Zhai Sheng was at home and following Qiao Nan behind. At the sight of this, Zhai Sheng very willingly squatted down behind Qiao Nan to protect the mother and three children.

When Qiao Nan fell backward due to the impact of the three children's dashes, Zhai Sheng spread his long wings like an old eagle and guarded the mother and children with his embrace. Like a city wall, he secured the four of them in his arms and formed a small and safe territory for them.

Seemingly aware that nothing would happen no matter how they played as Zhai Sheng was around, the three children played more crazily than ever. They pressed, leaned on, and squeezed one another. All of a sudden, the house was filled with childish and happy laughter of the triplets.

The children might have been overly excited during the day. Nighttime, when Qiao Nan coaxed them to sleep, they could not stop curling their lips into a smile. It was as though they were still playing the games during the day in their dreams.

"Three crazy little ones." Qiao Nan could not help tapping on the noses of the triplets. Until now, the feelings of sweet burden of having the three chubby and stubby children pressing on her were still afresh. She could not figure out how such small men could have so much energy. Not to mention all three, she might not even be able to cope with the boundless energy of just one of them.

Zhai Sheng, who was sitting and hugging Qiao Nan from behind, leaned his head forward and said in a deep and hoarse voice, "Zhai Hua and I were also like that when we were young. The difference is that my dad was seldom at home and the old master's energy level could not be compared to when he was young. I was also staying in the army camp. When Zhai Hua and I were young, the old master was the one who took care of us."

When the two bean-sized babies learned how to walk, Old Master Zhai was very hardhearted. He made them run with him. It was fine for them to run slowly but they had to 'run'. It was fine even if they walked. However, he would not help them up when they fell down. They had to climb up by themselves.

In Zhai Sheng's memory, since he was three years old, running had already become a compulsory part of his daily training session.

"The old master said that he alone could not take both of us in hand. Running can use up some of our energy, lest Zhai Hua and I behave like wild monkeys and he could not even hold us down." As such, he had a reason to believe that the triplets had such boundless energy because they had inherited their father's genes.

The difference was that, although separated by one generation and Old Master Zhai also loved Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua, he had never softened his heart when he did that. To Zhai Sheng's surprise,

when it came to the triplets, it was another generation down but he could not see the slightest ferocity and decisiveness of the past Old Master Zhai in him.

When San Bao twisted her little body and pouted, Old Master Zhai could only surrender. He could not remember any peripherals thereafter.

It could be said that, aside from Nan Nan, the only one who could be hardhearted to the triplets was him. However, he was seldom at home. Naturally, he had to rely on Nan Nan to correct any of their bad habits. Clearly, Nan Nan was the fiercest to the triplets but they were forever sticking to her most.

Qiao Nan smiled. "I think so too."

Deep in thoughts, Zhai Sheng bent down and picked up Qiao Nan with a princess hug. The couple's bodies were now plastered together on the bed. "How were you like when you were young?" Zhai Sheng's childhood memories were similar before and after he entered the army. However, before the army, there were certainly times of playing and having fun as a child.

Zhai Sheng wrapped his hands around Qiao Nan's waist, while Qiao Nan placed her hands on those of Zhai Sheng longingly. "Do you really want to know?"

"Yes." Although it was not something good, he also wished to know.

Qiao Nan took a deep breath and thought hard. The breath that she held immediately relaxed. "I vaguely remembered that, since I was five years old, I did all the household chores including wiping the floor, washing the dishes, and occasionally washing the clothes for my family of four."

At that time, Qiao Nan was still very young and not as tall as the stove. Her little hands did not have much strength either. Hence, Ding Jiayi would not let Qiao Nan touch anything in the kitchen. There was also another reason. If there were protein dishes at home, Ding Jiayi was very worried that Qiao Nan would eat the dishes secretly when she was frying the dishes.

As such, when Qiao Nan grew up, she would let Qiao Nan fry the vegetables with vegetable oil. When it came to the protein dishes, Qiao Nan was not qualified to touch them.

"You only did the chores and never played?" Zhai Sheng's heart was aching badly.

Chapter 1368 Is She a Mistress?

At that time, he was also living in the quad but he never knew that there was a little girl there living such a childhood. As he thought about how the little Qiao Nan had to take on so many household chores, Zhai Sheng was laden with heartache. He resented Ding Jiayi, this mother-in-law, even more.

She could not even take good care of her child, so why did she still give birth to her?

The two of them were already plastered together. When she heard Zhai Sheng's question, Qiao Nan could not help wriggling in Zhai Sheng's arms. "There was no chance for me to think about playing. When I first took on the chores, I wasn't familiar with them. I was very slow in completing them and even had to redo them if I didn't do well enough. If I didn't sweep the floor clean, I had to sweep it again. If I didn't wash the bowls and clothes clean, I had to wash them again. After I finally completed the chores, Qiao Zijin was playing hard with other children but she completely didn't bring me along."

At that time, Qiao Zijin was famous for being an obedient child in the southern quad. If Qiao Zijin was the sun, she could not even be the moon. At most, she could only be a dimmed star in a dark corner.

The elders liked to praise Qiao Zijin, and the children would copy them. They felt that Qiao Zijin was a good kid and loved to play with her. Qiao Zijin was not willing to bring Qiao Nan along. Those children cleverly boycotted Qiao Nan and disagreed letting Qiao Nan join them as playmates.

If not for this situation, how could Qiao Nan not have any good friends after living in the quad for more than a decade? When she was married, she did not invite anyone in the quad to be her bridesmaid.

When she recalled the past, Qiao Nan's face turned slightly pale. She first reached out to touch San Bao's warm and stubby hands. She then said, "Brother Zhai, do you know why I loved to study so much in the past? Because the kids in the southern quad were on very good terms with Qiao Zijin and ignored me. After I finished my chores, no one was willing to talk to me. It was different after going to school. Even though I could not find a true friend, everyone treated me fine on the surface."

Qiao Nan was a good student in the school. The teachers valued her and the classmates envied that.

This kind of gaze and attention were something that Qiao Nan had never experienced in the Qiao family.

Qiao Nan felt that going to school was the only saving grace in her childhood. “If I even lost the chance to go to school then, I feel that I would have long become a pervert.”

Zhai Sheng hugged Qiao Nan tightly, giving her a bite on the back of her neck. “Don’t talk nonsense. Not chatting anymore. Let’s sleep. You still have to go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tomorrow. Since Peng Yu looks up to Deng Wenchang, he should have some capability. Don’t fail an easy task or capsize a boat in a sewer.”

Zhai Sheng did not want to hear about the Qiao family’s situation when Qiao Nan was young anymore. He realized that he very much felt like shooting Ding Jiayi dead in one shot after hearing it. Otherwise, he wished to use the knife and chop Ding Jiayi up into eight or ten pieces. She could anger such a calm person to this extent. Zhai Sheng really wanted to praise Ding Jiayi with one word: talent!

Qiao Nan understood Zhai Sheng’s good intention. She no longer thought about these matters of the Qiao family. Hence, she adhered to Zhai Sheng’s wish. She turned her body, giving a bite on Zhai Sheng’s throat. “Deng Wenchang believes that he is the bright moon. If he knows that you refer to him as a sewer, he will definitely kick up a ruckus.”

Zhai Sheng’s eyes dimmed, and he tightened his hold on Qiao Nan’s waist. “Initially, I intend to let you have a good rest tonight. Nan Nan, you’re the one who provoked me. You should extinguish the fire that you started.” Was a man’s throat a place that one could bite casually?

Zhai Sheng already felt tempted when holding Qiao Nan. Once Qiao Nan bit him, Zhai Sheng’s entire body and bones were itching.

Qiao Nan was not fearful of death as she attached herself closely to Zhai Sheng. Although she felt the change in his body, she did not attempt any slightest retreat. “I did provoke you. So what? It’s quite good to do some exercise, in case I keep thinking of those unhappy matters.”

“Are you sure?” Zhai Sheng confirmed.

Qiao Nan gnashed her teeth. “Yes, I am!”

“You won’t yell for me to stop half-way?”

“...” Qiao Nan rolled her eyes. “Brother Zhai, I feel that an appropriate amount of exercise is good for health, but if it is overdone, it’s bad for our bodies. I think that when I say stop, that is a reasonable request.” She was the one who was right!

“Fine, as long as you don’t change your mind.” Zhai Sheng felt that he would be an idiot to discuss the problem of ‘want or not’. Given his physique, Nan Nan could not keep up with him even if she were to train up. He would be a son-of-a-bitch to not take advantage of a bargain. Furthermore, the one in his arms was his wife. They were ‘driving with a license’ and legally playing rogue. Why would he bother so much?

Hence, Zhai Sheng immediately sprang into action and kidnapped his wife from this bed to the other huge bed.

The three children could sleep while the adults did something that they ‘loved’ to do.

“Hmmp!” When Qiao Nan sat down, smiling, in her workplace the next day, Deng Wenchang, who was seated opposite her, started ‘acting up’ again. He simply snorted at Qiao Nan.

Initially, Qiao Nan was in a good mood but she was holding her head now. What to do? Ever since she saw Deng Wenchang as her enemy, she especially wanted to beat up Deng Wenchang each time she saw his bizarre behavior.

At this age, she had only seen women who were coyer than Deng Wenchang, but no man who was coyer than Deng Wenchang. Hence, Deng Wenchang was also considered a ‘champion’ amongst men.

Not bothering with Deng Wenchang’s eccentric ways, Qiao Nan concentrated on fulfilling her duties and responsibilities, in case Deng Wenchang, who had been watching her like a hawk, were to find any fault with her and say ugly things.

Deng Wenchang’s unfriendly attitude was already very obvious. However, he was not pleased with Qiao Nan’s attitude. She was nonchalant to his behavior. Deng Wenchang would feel a little better even if she were to reveal the slightest revulsion.

At this moment, Deng Wenchang’s tolerance had reached its limit.

He had asked his father. Given Qiao Nan's situation, what kind of method should he use to evict her? Perhaps he could find evidence of He Yi and Qiao Nan having an affair to force Qiao Nan to leave the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then threaten He Yi with to hand over his minister position to others who were more capable.

Father Deng also had such thoughts. Since he heard from Deng Wenchang that He Yi seemed to give special treatment to Qiao Nan, he had already gotten someone to investigate their relationship.

The problem was that Father Deng did not find any evidence against Qiao Nan and He Yi. Besides going to work and socializing with his colleagues, He Yi was always home to keep his wife and children company.

Father Deng deduced that, given He Yi's routine, he did not have any time to mess around, have any extramarital affair, or be lovey-dovey with a mistress at all.

Chapter 1369 'All Red'

Since he could not find any clue from He Yi, Father Deng had already begun to aim at Qiao Nan.

Father Deng had discovered something about the pair. However, he had not told Deng Wenchang about the discovery. He advised Deng Wenchang to restrain a little if he was not fully confident and not to be so harsh and fierce to Qiao Nan. If they were to alert her and cause all efforts to be in vain, that would not be good.

It was because of Father Deng's words that Deng Wenchang endured and thus only expressed his displeasure through snorts and sneers

When Deng Wenchang cast Qiao Nan death stares, he did not realize that the people in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had lost all the good feelings about him. They looked at this youngster with disdain and displeasure without any slightest feel of admiration. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, harmonious teamwork was necessary to carry out the tasks, and they should not harbor any personal agenda.

This was because all the matters that this department dealt with would have a direct impact on the nation's interests.

Individual family matters were not as crucial as the country matters, let alone 'me'.

If the people in the department could not be united, how could they deal with all the situations tacitly and secure a line of defense for the country?

After Deng Wenchang joined the department, he thought that he was quite smart and could treat the seniors in the unit differently. He was warm and happy when he greeted Minister He. In front of other seniors, he also followed Minister He and greeted them as 'Old X'. Which family was this heartless kid from? He was too unlikable.

He was not likable. Neither did he have team spirit. He wanted to divide the people in the department.

When Deng Wenchang was thinking of how to evict Qiao Nan from the department, these seniors were already quietly discussing how a youngster like Deng Wenchang was not suited for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Such a capable talent should go to another department and take on another role; he could then shine and sizzle. It was such a waste to make him stay in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The people in the department had strong views on Deng Wenchang. He Yi was well aware of this.

Although Deng Wenchang was only an intern on contract and not a permanent employee, they also had to give a valid reason for his departure, right?

Hence, for the sake of the department's union, He Yi was still very amiable when he faced Deng Wenchang. He took out all the materials that Deng Wenchang had given to him over these few days and placed them on Deng Wenchang's table in an amiable manner. "Xiao Deng, I know that you are young and can be a little impatient, lacking some maturity. However, you have to remember that we want meticulousness and conscientiousness in our ministry. This mistake shouldn't even be allowed in normal circumstances. If you do this in a critical time, you are not embarrassing and letting down the ministry but the country and the citizens."

As he said that, He Yi said with a heavy tone and deep sigh, "Xiao Deng, look at these materials again. Don't think that Xiao Qiao is younger and has not graduated from college. A young lady is ultimately a young lady. She is much more meticulous than you. I hope that you won't make the same mistake next time. Otherwise, you're not suited to remain in this department."

Deng Wenchang constantly made such an impermissible error. It was not as hard as he had imagined to make him leave the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Well, Deng Wenchang was sending his chinks in the armor to He Yi.

Chided by He Yi in front of so many people, Deng Wenchang was so furious that he felt like scolding people. He took back the materials in humiliation and read it silently with a drooping head. He really did not believe that there was any major problem with the materials that he had compiled. However, He Yi only criticized him and not Qiao Nan.

A student who studied abroad had been slapped in the face by an undergraduate. Could Deng Wenchang accept such a matter?

In the end, Deng Wenchang looked down on Qiao Nan mainly because she was too ambitious. As a useless eye-candy, she did not know her limits; she dared to shamelessly sell her body when she was still schooling and squeezed into such an important place like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The more Deng Wenchang cared about Qiao Nan's identity as a student, the more he could not accept Qiao Nan performing better than him.

Unfortunately, He Yi had seen through Deng Wenchang's character. He was not only returning this set of materials to Deng Wenchang. As the minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he had to take a red pen and mark the 'homework' of his 'student' like a teacher. Sometimes, He Yi also took his hat off to Deng Wenchang. Where did he get the confidence to display such a brazen and arrogant attitude in the department?

When He Yi used the striking red pen, Deng Wenchang found it too hurting for his eyes.

The person who sat near Deng Wenchang 'accidentally' scanned, amused. "I say, Xiao Deng, did you take the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as your school? All red? I feel depressed... Overseas students nowadays only have so little capability? If those prestigious schools overseas have such poor education capability, I feel that our kids don't need to study abroad. In my view, Comrade Xiao Qiao is quite good. She's fast and effective in her work, yet she is very precise. Why do I feel that, in comparison, the local education quality is better?"

He was not saying these just to poke fun at Deng Wenchang. He really did think so.

Everyone had eyes to see. Only the high and mighty Deng Wenchang, the party concerned, was muddled. He was less capable than Qiao Nan and lacking more than just a bit.

If Deng Wenchang could humbly accept this, strive to improve, work hard to minimize the distance between him and Qiao Nan, and chase after exceeding Qiao Nan's performance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would welcome such behavior. One had to know that men dominated the department. In terms of gender, Deng Wenchang had an advantage over Qiao Nan.

It was a sheer pity that Deng Wenchang's later performance was really too poor to the extent that these seniors felt that they would rather retain a female comrade than a muddleheaded newbie like Deng Wenchang. As for themselves, they definitely would not scheme because of such petty grudges and endanger the nation's interests.

"Yes, actually, the local education quality is quite good. There is no use to learn a lot. It is more important to build a good foundation."

Due to the 'stellar' performance of Deng Wenchang, this overseas student, people in the department could not help discussing the difference in education quality between local and overseas studies, and also whether it was necessary for the local students to go abroad for their studies.

In particular, there was someone in the office who had just sent his child overseas for studies. He said that if had a similar 'all red' performance like Deng Wenchang and could not win against the local college graduates, he would definitely beat his child to death.

If the problem did not lie with the school, it must be with the student.

Chapter 1370 Attitude Is Everything

Besides He Yi, he had also been surrounded and attacked by a group of 'old folks'. Deng Wenchang dared not flare up at them. He could only cast malicious stares at Qiao Nan. So many people were biased toward her. It seemed that, aside from him, Qiao Nan had given everyone else benefits behind his back!

Qiao Nan, who was once again 'shot' without even doing a thing, sneered. She threw another set of materials to Deng Wenchang. "Comrade Deng, this is my assignment. Do you want to take a look at it together?"

"It's the same one?" When Deng Wenchang took it and read it, he realized that Qiao Nan's content was similar to his.

Qiao Nan put down her pen and drank some water to hydrate herself. “Yes, the task yesterday was not that important and the workload was not heavy, so both of us were given the same one. If you are interested, we can look at it together, in case you feel unconvinced in both your heart and mind such that your hands become so limp that you can’t even hold your pen properly.”

When Qiao Nan wanted him to read it, Deng Wenchang did not want to. “What’s there to read? These were obtained through some lowly means. Is it meaningful? There are a few rare words in this material that are seldom used. Also, they are adapted from the Latin language. You must have got it right after someone taught you this. What’s there to be smug about?” If someone were to teach him, wouldn’t he be ‘all red’ indeed?

Qiao Nan shook her head and passed Deng Wenchang a book. “I have not studied abroad and am not very knowledgeable, so I am not sure about the teaching materials for overseas students like you. This book is one of the textbooks of an elective subject in the local foreign language faculty. It’s not very popular and a little unorthodox. However, the term that you referred to earlier is taught in this book. This is not considered private coaching but mass teaching. One classroom of people attended the lesson.”

Deng Wenchang did not believe Qiao Nan. He took the book and flipped it to verify himself.

It was quite easy to find the term. Qiao Nan had specially placed a bookmark on the page where the term appeared. She was afraid that Deng Wenchang would call her a liar if he could not find it.

When he flipped Qiao Nan’s book, everyone was dazzled by what was before their eyes. That book was originally not thin but it had become extremely thick after Qiao Nan used it. She had pasted little pieces of adhesive notes on those special, uncommon, rare, or interesting phrases, words, sentences, and grammar in the book.

The handwritten notes on the little pieces of paper had three colors: red, blue, and black. Besides this three-colored handwriting, different highlighters were also used to highlight and differentiate the main points.

There were so many colorful little pieces of notes that one could not help feeling dazed as they were not used to it.

Deng Wenchang’s expression changed from a mocking and scornful one to a more serious one. Both had been students before. Judging from Qiao Nan’s book, which had gained a lot of weight, Qiao Nan’s learning attitude as a student deserved affirmation. These notes were taken by Qiao Nan when she listened to professors during the lessons.

There were also some notes where Qiao Nan did more research on her own as she was not satisfied with the brief elaboration by the professors. She was thorough in seeking information. With such hard work, of course, Qiao Nan would have a more thorough knowledge of the same content. It was so thorough that even an overseas student like Deng Wenchang could not help feeling ashamed.

It was not because of other reasons. Deng Wenchang knew some of the contents written on the little pieces of notes. There were also some that he had never heard of. In normal circumstances, as long as he was aware of the existence of the term and its general meaning and usage, that would do.

For example, gunpowder was one of the four great inventions of China. As a Chinese, it would do as long as Deng Wenchang had a little knowledge of this history. When others brought up this question, he could chat with them a little about it.

Qiao Nan was extremely different. She not only grasped this basic knowledge but also specially researched the background and circumstances where gunpowder first appeared, how it was invented, evolved, and even daringly bought enough materials to conduct an 'experiment' on her own.

This process might seem simple but it made a huge difference in an individual English term. The evolution of a word was not accomplished in one stroke but step-by-step. Like recognizing Chinese words, Deng Wenchang only learned all the simplified language. Qiao Nan had a thirst for learning. She learned both the simplified and traditional way of writing, Khitan scripts, and writing systems of the Qin and Zhao dynasties.

As such, Qiao Nan could recognize the same word in the different ways that it was written. Similarly, the same-meaning word, regardless of the stage of change that it was at, Qiao Nan would not be misled by the slight differences. On the contrary, she could accurately express the meaning of the word and its usage.

Qiao Nan could not be misled as she had widened her knowledge thoroughly. Deng Wenchang could not achieve something that Qiao Nan could!

As he read, word-by-word, the historical evolution of the word that he had made a mistake on, Deng Wenchang was ghastly pale and he felt like spewing expletives. Where did Qiao Nan, this monster, come from? Damn! Who would have so much spare time to do so much research on just one rare word?

He dared to say that, based on the research of that one word alone, Qiao Nan had definitely read a foreign history book that was as thick as a dictionary. Perhaps she even read more than one of such book.

Damn!

Was she studying foreign languages or foreign histories?

According to these handwritten notes, Qiao Nan was not only proficient in English. She also had some research and knowledge on other foreign languages such as French and Latin. Was this human? Darn, this was clearly a pervert!

If it was possible, Deng Wenchang really wanted to use his stationary to hammer Qiao Nan, this bane, to death. Having been a student for so many years, he had seen many students, but this was his first time encountering a type like Qiao Nan. She really had a huge hole in her brains. There were definitely holes in Qiao Nan's brains. Then, how could people like them who had no holes in the brain win against Qiao Nan?

This was the first time that Deng Wenchang had to face Qiao Nan's capability and ability directly. Although he did not think that Qiao Nan was smarter than him, he could tell and had to admit that, based on these little note pieces, he could not win in terms of seriousness in learning.

It seemed that Qiao Nan was not just a useless eye-candy.

It was no wonder that He Yi always praised Qiao Nan for doing well after every task. So, it was not just because she was He Yi's little lover. Clearly, Qiao Nan had some capability. That was why He Yi daringly and openly 'endorsed' Qiao Nan in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and let everyone affirm her existence such that she was competing for a position with him.

"This learning attitude of Xiao Qiao is very good. No wonder the teachers in your school were willing to nominate you for the sponsorship for overseas studies. However, it's fine even if you don't go. Given your learning attitude, there is really not much difference whether you go or not." Those who were in the know held onto her book like it was a rare gem and could not stop staring at it.