

## RTAMM 1371

### Chapter 1371 Became a Dud

If a student could adopt such a learning attitude and put in so much effort, how could she fare badly in her studies?

Deng Wenchang, this proud overseas student, had become a dud after looking at Qiao Nan's notes. It was already lit up with fire but did not explode. It was extinguished in the end instead.

“But, Xiao Qiao, why have I not seen the book that you mentioned in your little pieces of notes before? Where did you buy it from? I will get one too. It's never too old to learn. The more you read, the more you learn. It will benefit our department.” One who knows his own strength and that of the enemy is invincible in every battle.

Otherwise, if they could not even accurately decipher what the other party was trying to convey and argued based on their own reasoning, they might even embarrass themselves. It would not go wrong to pick up more knowledge.

“This book is not on sale locally. If you really wish to get one and you know some people overseas, you can ask them to go to this address and buy it.” Qiao Nan copied an address on a piece of paper and passed it to the other party. She explained clearly that this was most probably the only bookstore that sold the book.

As he held the address, the other party felt more curious and strange. “Xiao Qiao, you didn't go overseas to study, right? Why are you so clear about the situation overseas? Have you traveled to this place for a holiday before? Is that why you know the situation there?”

Qiao Nan shook her head. “In order to clarify this knowledge point, I have researched a lot before knowing that this is the only book that has the record and explanation. Hence, I spent a lot of effort and asked many people. I then found out that this shop sells it.”

“How did you find out?” There were many bookstores in the local market, let alone overseas. It was not an easy feat to check the books sold by each bookstore. How did Qiao Nan, who had always stayed in the country, know that this was the bookstore overseas that sold the book?

It was too illogical.

“...” Knowing that today’s matter was not going to end and these people were prepared to get to the bottom of the matter, Qiao Nan did not wish to hide anything either. “I think you should know that many people overseas use the MSN program to chit-chat nowadays. I have downloaded one and made some online friends over it. My friends told me about it.”

Of course, the matter was not so simple.

Speaking of it, it was all thanks to her social practice of being a voluntary tour guide in the Palace Museum.

During that period of time, although Qiao Nan worked mostly on public holidays, she had taken care of many overseas tourists. Qiao Nan was also a daring one. After fulfilling the work responsibilities as a tour guide, Qiao Nan loved to chit-chat with these tourists in English.

The other parties were willing to tolerate her lack of familiarity with the language, and Qiao Nan was never afraid of embarrassing herself. She chatted enthusiastically with them. The more she chatted, the more she put the language to practice. Naturally, as Qiao Nan had practiced more, she was able to grasp the usage of the various foreign languages faster than typical people.

That was not purely the case. Qiao Nan also met a few people that she could get along with. These overseas friends were from various countries. They were warm, cheerful, friendly, and generous.

Within a short time, Qiao Nan had become good friends with them. After exchanging MSN details, they became online friends.

As such, Qiao Nan would seek these friends of hers to help when she could not find a book.

Qiao Nan had many senior brothers all over the world but they were all busy people. They held jobs in the overseas embassies and could not possibly cast aside their jobs on hand just to help Qiao Nan find a book that she wished to buy.

If Qiao Nan could accurately tell them the details of the book that she needed, and they could find time to get someone to buy and send it to Qiao Nan, it was already considered very good.

Qiao Nan was not someone who would feel conceited because she was in someone’s good grace. Knowing that her senior brothers were busy, she would do her homework first before sending them

the details of the book that she needed so that the other party's job would not be affected and they would not spend too much time looking for the book.

She had such a wide social circle of friends. It was still possible to do this given some time.

Hence, Qiao Nan utilized both means. First, she requested her overseas friends to check on the book's information. If it was convenient for them to buy, Qiao Nan would not bother her senior brothers then. Otherwise, she would send the verified information to her senior brothers for them to settle.

This was the reason that Qiao Nan, despite not being overseas, could get her hands on books whose existence was not even known to some people.

Deng Wenchang said jealously, "Qiao Nan, you're quite formidable. You not only have friends all over the country but also in the northern and southern hemispheres of the world. That's capable."

"Well, it's not a big deal to know a few friends. Most importantly, we share the same interests and can get along well. There will be happy memories then." It was a sheer waste of breath to talk to someone like Deng Wenchang with whom she could not see eye to eye with. Hence, she would not be friends with him no matter what.

Qiao Nan's words had widened the horizons of these 'old-fashioned' guys in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Friends could actually be made in this way? Qiao Nan went for a social practice initially just to gain credit and grades for college. Unexpectedly, such a simple matter could bring out and extend to so many more meaningful things. How did Comrade Xiao Qiao grow her brains? Could it be that she was born with a special nerve that was very enlightening?

Otherwise, the gap between humans was too great.

An ordinary acquaintanceship could develop into such a wide network. Comrade Xiao Qiao was a solid expert in making friends.

Qiao Nan relied on her own capability without the help of others to establish herself in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and received the affirmation of the seniors. At the sight that these older colleagues were looking at Qiao Nan in a different light, He Yi felt very proud of Qiao Nan. "Certainly, it's quite good to make more friends. Youngsters are youngsters. They have more flexible minds than old folks like us. The progress of the country will require more of such good comrades like Xiao Qiao."

Regardless of the initial intention of recruitment, it could not subdue Qiao Nan's stellar performance at the later stages.

The Deng family boasted all the time that Deng Wenchang was an overseas gifted student with a bright future. In particular, the Deng family thought that he was a fool and could not tell that Deng Wenchang had his eyes on the seat below his bottoms.

Sooner or later, he would have to retire and pass the baton to the next generation. He hoped that he could pass his role to a capable young individual. However, it was a different matter to be targeted or forced to retire from that position.

#### Chapter 1372 A Single Man and a Single Woman Together in a Secluded Setting

Deng Wenchang hated the sight of He Yi. He felt that He Yi did not deserve to be addressed as 'uncle' by him.

Similarly, after knowing the motive of the Deng family, He Yi felt disgusted whenever Deng Wenchang addressed him as 'uncle' when they knocked off work.

"Alright, let's not gather here. Xiao Qiao is embarrassed. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will not reject anyone who has talents. Great waves wash away the sand. We must remember that gold will dazzle and shine eventually." He praised Qiao Nan and gave a gentle reminder to Deng Wenchang. Then, He Yi told the people who gathered around Qiao Nan to disperse.

He Yi was elated. Qiao Nan's good performance proved that he was right to allow her to do her internship in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Although it was unprecedented and was a bold move, what was important was that Qiao Nan had the abilities. Whatever that he did was to recruit talents for the ministry and it was understandable for him to take such a daring move.

On the other hand, Deng Wenchang felt extremely displeased.

Qiao Nan mocked him, saying that they had no common grounds or common topics. He Yi also praised Qiao Nan, saying that she was the gold that would shine and bedazzle everyone in the end, while he was the useless sand that was overshadowed by her and would be eliminated.

He reminded himself that this was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and He Yi was the minister. Although he suspected that Qiao Nan and He Yi were involved in immoral dealings and hence Qiao Nan was allowed to do her internship in the ministry, up until today, he did not have any evidence to prove that they had extramarital affairs.

If he had any proof, he would blow up the matter in the ministry, making sure that He Yi and Qiao Nan made an apology to him and begged for forgiveness.

Deng Wenchang was boiling in anger while Qiao Nan felt happy that she had gotten back at him. She was invited to lunch by He Yi. “Senior, you can go ahead to ask the questions that you have in mind. If you continue to stare at me, I might have indigestion.”

He Yi smiled. “You are young and your job requires a lot of brainpower. You must have more of the food. I ordered most of the food for you. If you don’t have them, you will be wasting my good intentions.”

Qiao Nan did not stand on ceremony with He Yi, both in terms of the food and whatever that she said to him. “Senior, since you know that my job requires a lot of brainpower, why do you allow people like Deng Wenchang to stay in the ministry? If Deng Wenchang is down-to-earth, I will have nothing to say about him, but he is overambitious, unrealistic, proud, and arrogant. He could not take any criticism. Are you trying to make life difficult for general workers like us by placing him in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?”

She believed that her senior could tell that the older colleagues in the department disliked Deng Wenchang. It was impossible that her senior had worse insight than her.

He Yi smiled lightly. “The more the merrier. Besides, I know Deng Wenchang’s father personally. He sought me for help and I couldn’t possibly reject him. I asked a favor of them a few years ago.” He was returning the favor. Otherwise, he could not be bothered with a foolish and arrogant young man like Deng Wenchang.

Qiao Nan did not agree with him. “Senior, don’t tell me that you don’t know what Deng Wenchang is hatching? This could not be taken lightly. It may hurt you. As the saying goes, it’s impossible to be on guard against someone forever. Don’t you feel that Deng Wenchang will be a threat to you if he keeps on working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?” Deng Wenchang was too ambitious.

He Yi told Qiao Nan to have more meat and vegetables. “Little junior, you have underestimated me. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is my territory. What can Deng Wenchang be up to? If I cannot control a young lad like him, there is no need for Deng Wenchang to usurp me and my master will remove me before that.”

He was no longer young. If he was framed and usurped by a young lad, his master would not be able to tolerate it. His master could not stand useless people.

He Yi knew the Deng family well. He did not think that Deng Wenchang would be able to usurp him with the Deng family's help. If the Deng family had more influence, Deng Wenchang would not have set his sights on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his position.

Qiao Nan finally realized why He Yi was so confident that he was able to control Deng Wenchang. Qiao Nan thought for a while before she dabbed her fingers with some water and wrote 'Peng' on the table. "The Deng family is no fool. They knew that they do not have the influence. Therefore, they will find ways to cozy up to someone powerful. Senior, you had better be careful."

There was a glitter in He Yi's eyes when he saw the word. It turned out that this was why the Deng family was emboldened. "Little junior, thank you. I had no idea of this. If not for your reminder, although they would not succeed in the end, I might suffer a hard blow. Alright, I know what I am doing. Don't worry."

He was almost deceived by the Deng family. Deng Wenchang addressed him as uncle and master. He was led to believe that Deng Wenchang wanted to make use of his father's relationship with him, and for him to help him in his career advancement.

It turned out that the Deng family was feigning one thing while doing another!

He Yi, who almost fell for their trap, was no longer as nonchalant as how he was half an hour ago. Previously, he did not take the Deng family seriously and he looked down on Deng Wenchang, treating him like a useless clown.

But if he was not careful, he might fail miserably in a very easy task.

Qiao Nan could tell that He Yi finally took the issue of the Deng family seriously. She could put her mind at ease. Peng Yu was a difficult opponent. Since Peng Yu pulled the Deng family to his side, the Deng family must have their use. If they underestimated the enemy, they might suffer in the end.

After lunch, Qiao Nan and He Yi had just left the private room when they encountered Deng Wenchang and two other older colleagues from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deng Wenchang looked smug. “Minister He, did you and Qiao Nan have lunch by yourself? Why didn’t you ask us to join you? The more the merrier.”

The two older colleagues who were dragged to a lunch treat by Deng Wenchang looked at each other. They seemed to have been made use of by Deng Wenchang. Deng Wenchang was not sincere in treating them to lunch. His real motive was to bring them with him to round up the minister and Comrade Xiao Qiao.

There was obvious mockery in Deng Wenchang’s words. Everyone could tell that Deng Wenchang was hinting that something was going on between Qiao Nan and He Yi.

A single man and a single woman together in a secluded setting—it was inappropriate!

Chapter 1373 Had Some Ideas

Qiao Nan gave a sideways glance at He Yi. Look, her senior did not take Deng Wenchang seriously, but he seemed to be like a mad dog that pounced on him when he was unaware and was ready to take a bite off his thigh.

Women might be gossipy, but when men were gossipy, they would be worse than women.

The two colleagues who had lunch with Deng Wenchang were the most gossipy people in the department. Now that they knew that she had lunch with her senior by themselves in the private room, the entire ministry would know about this within half an hour.

He Yi did not expect that Deng Wenchang would be so blatant in smearing his reputation.

He Yi smiled in anger. “That’s right. I gave Xiao Qiao a treat by myself to welcome her to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I never mentioned this in the department, but Xiao Qiao has a fairly close relationship with me. However, one should appoint a competent person even when she is one’s relative. I guess everyone should know by now that Xiao Qiao is competent and capable.”

“Fairly close relationship?” Deng Wenchang knitted his brows. “Are the two of you relatives?” His father knew He Yi for decades. His father never mentioned to him that He Yi and Qiao Nan were relatives.

This was a pack of lies. He should have put in more effort to cook up a story.

Deng Wenchang might not believe him, but the two older colleagues believed his words. “I see. Minister, why didn’t you say so? Comrade Xiao Qiao could be seen as a member of the royal family. If you say so, as her uncles, we will take extra care of Comrade Xiao Qiao.”

Everyone was one family. Xiao Qiao was different from Deng Wenchang. He was an outsider.

It was no wonder no matter how Deng Wenchang provoked Xiao Qiao, she would never lose her temper. She was not as delicate as other girls. Instead, she was gracious and steady.

Deng Wenchang suspected that Qiao Nan offered He Yi immoral favors so as to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In fact, the other people in the department had the same sentiments when they heard that a female college student who had yet to graduate was doing an internship at their department.

They had doubts as well!

However, they would not be as foolish as Deng Wenchang and express their doubts blatantly, keep a tight watch on Qiao Nan and He Yi, or even attempt to put a tracking device on them so as to catch them doing immoral acts.

Since there was a young and foolish man in the department, they would watch by the side and see how it unfolded.

However, the older colleagues realized very soon that Qiao Nan looked upright and righteous. She did not have the shady expression of someone who would resort to using honey trap.

Qiao Nan was steady and down-to-earth. Compared to Deng Wenchang, she was able to be in control of the situation.

Qiao Nan did not need He Yi’s help and she proved that she was more competent than Deng Wenchang, who came back from overseas study. Regardless of whether He Yi had any deals with Qiao Nan in order for her to join the ministry, they were willing to accept a newcomer like her instead of Deng Wenchang, who had a nasty temper and was not as competent as he claimed.



Now that He Yi admitted that he had a fairly close relationship with Qiao Nan, there was nothing to be doubtful of.

Although they might not be relatives, they might have known each other for a long time.

Deng Wenchang addressed the minister as his uncle, but it did not mean that they were relatives. Deng Wenchang was not the minister's nephew either.

They had worked together for years. He Yi could tell from their expressions that they did not have a wrong impression of them. "There is no need to take extra care of her. I know very well whether Xiao Qiao is capable or not. The reason why I did not mention this to you is so that all of you can give her a chance to toughen up and improve. I hope that she could gain some experience. People in our family do not lead a pampered life. One needs to withstand the strong wind and rain. This would train them to be strong and resilient!"

"Yes, Minister He is right. Xiao Qiao is indeed competent. It is rare to find young people like Xiao Qiao who is dependable, earnest, and strive to do better." Deng Wenchang was the opposite of her.

"Yes, there are many young people who are delicate and arrogant. Xiao Qiao is indeed refreshing and different. When I go back home today, I must tell my children to learn from Xiao Qiao."

Qiao Nan smiled shyly as the three of them chatted happily. She stayed by He Yi's side, remaining silent.

The atmosphere was good between the four of them. However, Deng Wenchang, who forked out money to treat his colleagues, felt that it was a waste of his money. He did not get to see the 'good show' that he had in mind, and the people whom he treated did not stand on his side. Instead, they had a jovial conversation with his enemy.

Deng Wenchang glared at them, turning green in anger.

Since there was still some time, Deng Wenchang turned to find a quiet place to make a phone call to his father. "Dad, since when did Qiao Nan become He Yi's niece? Are you sure you haven't seen Qiao Nan or heard from He Yi that he has a niece?"

If they were relatives, it would be so embarrassing for him.

“No, absolutely not.” Father Deng was certain. “If He Yi had a niece, I would have heard of it. Besides, many people know He Yi. They didn’t mention this as well.” Qiao Nan was a Peking University student. Even if she did not go on overseas study, her performance was considered very outstanding in the country.

If He Yi had such a niece, he would have boasted about her to his old friends.

The children of many families sat for their college entrance examination these past few years. After the exams, they were worried sick for their results and which school to choose. If one was from the capital, it was their worst nightmare if they could not go to Peking University or Tsinghua University.

He Yi would not say anything when people discussed similar topics. “Didn’t you say that Qiao Nan received a lot of scholarships when she was in school? If He Yi’s niece was so capable, he would have told it to everyone!”

“Dad, how’s the investigation on Qiao Nan going?” Deng Wenchang felt jittery. “He Yi said that he has a fairly good relationship with Qiao Nan in front of two other colleagues. If I cannot find fault with them, it will mean that Qiao Nan will have bright prospects in the ministry. In the future, I might have to work under such a ‘filthy’ woman. Dad, I won’t admit defeat. This has to be resolved as soon as possible.”

He wondered what the people that his father hired were doing. It was simply doing a background check on a person, and Qiao Nan did not come from an illustrious family. Why was it that they took so long to do a simple task?

“Don’t worry. We have some ideas about her.”

#### Chapter 1374 Adulterer and Lover

“Qiao Nan is from Ping Cheng and that’s why I am certain that she has no relations with He Yi. He Yi does not have any relatives in Ping Cheng. Qiao Nan doesn’t seem to be as simple as what we think. The people that are following her said that she stays in the quad in the military zone.”

Father Deng sounded somber at the mention of this. “In the capital, I know all the people who stayed in the quad in the military zone, but I can’t seem to remember there is someone by the name of Qiao Nan.”

Since Qiao Nan stayed in the quad in the military zone, it was no wonder the people he hired took so long before they found out some information about Qiao Nan.

“The quad in the military zone?” Deng Wenchang’s eyelids kept twitching. It could not be. She was just a useless eye-candy who engaged in immoral deals to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. How was she able to live in the quad in the military zone?

Could there be a mistake?

“Dad, Ping Cheng sounds familiar. Apart from Qiao Nan, do you know of anyone else from Ping Cheng who is living in the quad in the military zone now?” Since they had no clues on Qiao Nan, they could change the target to people from her hometown.

Father Deng put out the cigarette in his hands. “Have you forgotten that the Peng family used to stay in Ping Cheng? They returned to the capital a few years ago. Apart from the Peng family, the most eye-catching people would be the Zhai family and the Zhu family. The two families were transferred to the capital from Ping Cheng in the past two years. Qiao Nan came to the capital to study first before they moved to the capital half a year later.”

Father Deng had thought about this possibility, but he felt that it was highly impossible.

Zhu Chengqi from the Zhu family was devoted to his wife who had passed away. Usually, the wife had to observe widowhood after her husband passed away. This was why there was the custom of erecting a memorial arch in honor of a chaste widow.

However, it was the 21st century now. It was no longer popular for women to observe widowhood for her husband who had passed away. After the daughter from the Lee family passed away, Zhu Chengqi, who was still in his prime, remained single for more than twenty years. He led his life with his father and the child that he had with his late wife.

If it was him, Father Deng would not be able to live a simple and chaste life like him.

Although he did not go overboard, Father Deng still had his fair share of women apart from his wife. He was cautious and careful and did not develop a long-term relationship with any of the women. They would usually end the relationship swiftly and there were no strings attached.

It was odd that Zhu Chengqi was able to stay true to his late wife despite the fact that he was in his prime. Father Deng even suspected that he might have hurt himself in the army and became impotent.

“The Zhai family and the Zhu family?” Deng Wenchang had heard of the two families. “Zhu Chengqi only has one son, Zhu Baoguo. While the Zhai family has a son and a daughter, the daughter from the Zhai family is older than Qiao Nan by a few years old. Qiao Nan should not have any relationship with the Zhai family. Then, where does Qiao Nan fit in the picture and why can she stay in the quad in the military zone?”

Deng Wenchang grew to hate Qiao Nan even more.

Deng Wenchang wanted to stay in the quad in the military zone, but he was denied a chance. However, Qiao Nan managed to do it.

Qiao Nan had no idea that Deng Wenchang and his father were bent on finding out everything about her.

Ever since she knew that the Deng family and the Peng family were in cahoots, and Peng Yu knew the Zhai family inside out, even to the extent that he knew the Zhai family better than Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan thought that Peng Yu should have told Deng Wenchang everything about her. Therefore, she had the impression that Deng Wenchang knew that she was married to Zhai Sheng and was the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family. Most importantly, she thought that he knew that she was Elder Lin’s disciple and that He Yi was her senior.

During the day, Qiao Nan thought that Deng Wenchang was there to get hold of her chink in her armor. She had no idea that he thought that she had an affair with He Yi.

She thought that Deng Wenchang believed that she got in through the back door with He Yi’s help, and He Yi took everything that used to be his and gave them to Qiao Nan. Despite having a totally different understanding of things, strangely, Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang still ended up being quite in sync.

Therefore, when Qiao Nan knocked off work that day and Zhai Sheng came in his car to fetch her, Qiao Nan walked toward Zhai Sheng without any hesitation. She also passed the thick stack of information to Zhai Sheng. Deng Wenchang, who witnessed the scene, widened his eyes in shock.

This was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was He Yi’s territory.

Weren't Qiao Nan worried that she would offend He Yi by having physical contact with another man in public? If He Yi was upset that Qiao Nan made him a cuckold, he might send her out of the ministry. Qiao Nan would not have the chance to return to the ministry and all her efforts would go down the drain.

Deng Wenchang was slack-jawed that Qiao Nan behaved intimately with another man outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Qiao Nan must be out of her mind to do such a foolish thing. But he had a bigger shock by what he saw thereafter.

He Yi was not the least angry when he came out and saw how Qiao Nan behaved intimately with another man. Instead, he walked up to them happily. "Actually, we should have met each other long ago, but you were too busy. It is a pity that we only met today."

Zhai Sheng knew that He Yi had been taking care of Qiao Nan. He was very nice to him. "Yes. If there's a chance in the future, let's have a meal together." Since he took care of Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng was very polite to him.

He Yi smiled. He knew that Zhai Sheng treated him nicely on account of Qiao Nan. If not, even though he was the minister of foreign affairs, given Zhai Sheng's family background and position, there was no need for him to be so polite. He did not deserve or dare to be treated as such.

Therefore, it was good to have Qiao Nan as his junior.

He Yi, who felt that he was being respected, looked at Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng as if he was their elder. "Alright, it's getting late. Both of you should hurry back. Before Master went overseas, he ordered that anyone can work overtime except for your wife. Your three children are the apple of his eye. My master will kill me if anyone dares to make them unhappy."

He Yi was full of admiration for Lin Yuankang. He sincerely admired him and respected him very much.

Qiao Nan's three children were Lin Yuankang's favorites. He Yi, who was no longer young, was not jealous of them. In fact, Qiao Nan's children were considered the disciples of his little junior. "Luckily, I remembered to bring this with me when I left my house today. Qiao Nan, take them. You must not reject them."

He Yi handed three small boxes to Qiao Nan. These were his gifts to her children. They were pendants that were veneered with gold and encrusted with jade.

Chapter 1375 A Man That He Could Not Afford to Provoke

Since it was not for her, Qiao Nan could not reject them.

Qiao Nan kept the gifts immediately, but Deng Wenchang, who followed right behind them, managed to see the gifts. He could not help but gape in shock.

Qiao Nan got in through the back door and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with He Yi's help, and the two of them were involved in sexual and power dealings. In that case, Qiao Nan should be the one who gave presents to He Yi to thank him. Why was it the other way round?

It was bizarre that the person who requested a favor received gifts from the person who rendered help.

Deng Wenchang gritted his teeth and braced himself before he walked forward to greet Qiao Nan. "Uncle He, Qiao Nan, both of you are here. It's such a coincidence. By the way, this is..." To Deng Wenchang, Zhai Sheng, who stood next to Qiao Nan, was a pain in the eye.

How dared he snatch He Yi's woman? Deng Wenchang was dying to ask Zhai Sheng: Were you a fool who came out from the dark corners? You must be tremendously daring to snatch his woman!

Zhai Sheng stretched out his hand. "Hi, I am Qiao Nan's husband."

Deng Wenchang was used to this kind of greeting when he was overseas, and he dared not play any tricks as Zhai Sheng exuded a righteous aura. He stretched his hand abidingly and shook Zhai Sheng's hands, saying his greetings. "It turned out that you are Qiao Nan's boyfriend. Nice to meet you." He was so shameless. How dared he introduce himself as Qiao Nan's husband in front of Qiao Nan's lover, He Yi?

Could it be that people who were dating nowadays liked to introduce their boyfriend as their husband?

Deng Wenchang checked He Yi for his response secretly. As a man, when another man claimed that he was the boyfriend of his lover, he could not possibly have no reaction to it.

However, Deng Wenchang did not notice any changes in He Yi's expression. Zhai Sheng tightened his grip on Deng Wenchang's hand. He felt a terrible pain and could almost hear his bones make cracking sounds under the pressure. This was not a handshake. Zhai Sheng's intention must be to crush his bones and maim him.

Both He Yi and Qiao Nan witnessed the scene. They had the tacit understanding to pretend not to see anything. Before Deng Wenchang shouted out in pain, Zhai Sheng had loosened his grip on his hand. However, Deng Wenchang had already turned pale from the pain just now.

"Comrade, you may have missed it just now. I am Nan Nan's husband, her legal husband." Zhai Sheng taught Deng Wenchang a lesson. He was very displeased that he was hard of hearing and slow-witted.

Husband.

It was such a simple term. Couldn't Deng Wenchang understand this term?

He could not be bothered to know why Peng Yu wanted to get such a brainless fool to help him. But he felt perplexed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had such low entry requirements. Notwithstanding offering him a permanent position, the ministry should not have offered Deng Wenchang an internship position in the first place.

He Yi caught Zhai Sheng's accusatory gaze and smiled bitterly. His old friend boasted to him about Deng Wenchang's abilities and that Deng Wenchang was good at pretending. That was why he fell for their lies and thought that Deng Wenchang, who came back from overseas study, was competent. Although he did not go against the regulations, he was lax on the requirements and thought that what he was doing was, in fact, recruiting another talent for the country.

However, He Yi no longer held the view that Deng Wenchang was a rare talent and that he was helpful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was terribly slow especially when he was being foolish.

Deng Wenchang restrained himself from shaking the pain off his hands. "Husband? Are the two of you married?"

"That's right." He finally understood simple words and knew what he was saying.

“He... hehe.” Deng Wenchang sneered. “Congratulations... to the... both of you.” It turned out that not only was He Yi having an affair, but Qiao Nan was also a married woman. She was so daring to seduce a married man. She was not ashamed of herself at all!

Her husband and her lover ran into each other in public. Qiao Nan was indeed capable such that her two men did not quarrel when they met each other in public. Qiao Nan was good at taming her husband, and she was just as good at taming her lover.

She was a college student who had yet to graduate, yet she was already married. He was right about her. She was incompetent but she was not content with one's lot. It was better for him to come up with a way to drive Qiao Nan away from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was for the best interests of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

There were indeed many people with complicated and messy relationships nowadays.

Deng Wenchang looked at Qiao Nan with a hideous gaze. His sinister look gave one an uncomfortable feeling. Zhai Sheng knitted his brows. He felt like hitting him with his fist. He was a useless fool who was stupid and opinionated. Where did Minister He get a man like him?

He could not understand the simplest words and he liked to let his imagination run wild. He was such a peculiar person.

He Yi smiled bitterly at Zhai Sheng. If he had known that Deng Wenchang was such a person, he would not have invited trouble for himself by agreeing to the request of Deng Wenchang's father to help Deng Wenchang. It was too late now. This fool had become an intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and he was driven by wild ambitions to usurp him and take his position.

He was shooting himself in the foot.

He Yi might feel pain in the leg, but he could not cry out in pain in front of everyone. He could only force a smile on his face as he stifled the pain.

“Alright, I will leave with Nan Nan.” The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not Zhai Sheng's territory. For the time being, he had no control over whether Deng Wenchang could stay in the ministry or not. It was better for him to leave with Qiao Nan as soon as possible and to look at his adorable children at home so as to cleanse his eyes.



Zhai Sheng waited until they got into the car before he asked Qiao Nan. “Is that man always that self-involved and a joker?” Zhai Sheng seldom met people as peculiar as him and he was particularly curious about him.

Qiao Nan buckled the seat belt. “I don’t know him well and we have only been working together for less than two months. All I know is that since the first day I met him, he was already like this. He could not take in the words that other people said and he could not stand the work that other people did. He seemed to be living in his own world and looking at things based on his own judgment.”

To Deng Wenchang, the truth was all lies.

“Uncle He, you never mentioned that Qiao Nan is married. What is the surname of Qiao Nan’s husband? I don’t remember seeing him in the past.” Deng Wenchang stared at Zhai Sheng’s car. The car was astonishing and expensive. Most importantly, Qiao Nan’s husband did not seem like someone who would tolerate being made a cuckold.

Although this was the first time he met Zhai Sheng, his impression of Zhai Sheng was that he was not one to be trifled with. He could not afford to provoke Zhai Sheng.

Chapter 1376 Which Zhai Family Was That?

Deng Wenchang could feel a throbbing pain in his hand. It reminded him that he had already suffered once because of Zhai Sheng. Since he was a formidable figure, it was impossible that he had not heard of him before.

“His surname?” He Yi gave Deng Wenchang an odd look, as if asking Deng Wenchang whether he was playing dumb or was really foolish. “Don’t you know his surname?”

“Why must I know his surname?” Deng Wenchang found it weird. “I have never seen him before. This is the first time I saw him.” He was not lying. He was telling the truth.

He Yi curled the corners of his lips, feeling perplexed. What was the Deng family up to? “Qiao Nan is married and her husband’s surname is Zhai.” It was impossible that Deng Wenchang had no idea who his enemy was and could not recognize him when he saw him.

Deng Wenchang’s heart jumped a beat. He was trembling. “His surname is Zhai? What a special surname. In the capital, the only Zhai family that is well-known is the family who was transferred to the capital two years ago. Uncle He, is there any relationship between them?” It turned out that the man had the surname of Zhai. His family did not know much about the Zhai family, but they were destined to be enemies.

Deng Wenchang knew that the Peng family's target was the Zhai family, and Peng Yu was at loggerheads with a man named Zhai Sheng.

If the Deng family wanted to have a strong foothold in the capital, they had to depend on the Peng family. The only chance of the Peng family being successful was to usurp the Zhai family and take their position.

“What is their relationship?” He Yi was certain that Deng Wenchang was not playing dumb but was really clueless. “There aren't that many Zhai families. Didn't you see the car plate number of the Land Rover car just now? Apart from the people from the political and military families, who else could have this car plate number?” It was funny that he did not catch on. “Alright, it's getting late. You should hurry back as well.”

He Yi got into this car and went home feeling invigorating and energized, while Deng Wenchang had a baffled and clueless look on his face.

His little junior was competent and capable, and she had the Zhai family as her backing. To be blunt, if anything happened, he would not be able to help her. Instead, it might be the other way round. The Zhai family might help him on account of her.

Nevertheless, he was glad that he was in this position.

His life was good. He was thankful to his master for recruiting a little junior who was blessed with good fortune at his old age. He was able to have brighter prospects even in his middle age because of her.

With the Zhai family around, the Deng family should abandon all hopes of Deng Wenchang replacing him to be the minister of Foreign Affairs.

When the couple reached home, Qiao Nan had just taken a seat when she received a phone call from Lin Yuankang. “Master, will you be coming back soon? Oh, you will be there for another ten more days. When you are back, I will prepare a feast to welcome you. The triplets are doing well. They are lively and healthy. I do not dare to bring the three of them with me outdoors. I don't understand. They have just learned to take steady steps now, but why is it that they love to run around?”

Qiao Nan could not imagine what would happen when the children turned two to three years old. Would they go out of control like unleashed horses when they were outdoors and there would be no way to control them? The worst part was that she had three children. If there needed more than one adult to supervise one child, would they need to hire a lot of helpers before they could go outdoors with a peace of mind?

“Sister Zhai Hua? She is only four months pregnant. Her tummy is barely showing. I guess it will be another six months before she will be due for delivery.”

Lin Yuankang asked about Zhai Hua since he was reminded of her. He was not worried for her. When she was born, she was a healthy baby. Since a young age, apart from sustaining injuries when she was on her assignments, she seldom fell sick.

“Master grandpa!” San Bao, who had good hearing and liked to stay close to her mother, heard Qiao Nan when she addressed Lin Yuankang as her master. She knew who was on the line and shouted affectionately at her master grandpa who was on the other end of the phone.

Whenever San Bao greeted Lin Yuankang in her sweet voice, Qiao Nan felt particularly glad that her master did not have high blood pressure, high sugar level, and high cholesterol. Otherwise, he would have an overdose of sugar.

“Oh.” Lin Yuankang could not tell that his disciple was concerned for him. Right now, all he could hear was San Bao’s sweet voice. “San Bao, be good. You must listen to your mom and think of me. When I return, I will bring beautiful presents for you, and I will make sure that you look as pretty as the little princess.”

“Emm... Master grandpa, you must hurry back. I miss you.” The chubby girl nodded and she replied in her sweet and soft voice. It was even softer and smelled better than the newly-pounded glutinous dough.

Qiao Nan caressed her daughter’s fine hair that was plaited into small braids. She had to hand it to San Bao for being so competent in cozying up to someone powerful.

It was no wonder that the elders said that children were smart. They did not need to be taught and they knew what they should do. Whenever her master was at their house, Da Bao, Er Bao, and San Bao would make him happy and he would laugh out in happiness. He would always go back home in light footsteps with a beaming smile on his face.

After San Bao got a hold on the phone, she chatted with Lin Yuankang on the phone for twenty minutes. When the phone turned warm, San Bao still could not bear to end the call.

San Bao might be quick in learning how to speak, but she was still a child who was not even two years old. Her thought process was haphazard and she would talk about different topics randomly. There were many times where she did not make any sense at all. When she was too excited, she might even say some 'alien language'.

But the elder and the toddler had a happy time chatting on the phone. No one was willing to hang up the phone.

Qiao Nan checked the clock on the wall. She knew that there was a time difference at the place that Lin Yuankang was in. If they continued to chat, San Bao might be holding off Lin Yuankang from doing his work.

Qiao Nan straightened her face and San Bao quickly said her goodbyes to her master grandpa. She held the phone in both hands and passed them back to Qiao Nan. "Mama, give you."

Qiao Nan pinched San Bao on her nose, expressing her slight displeasure. "You are such a naughty girl, and you are very good at cajoling people. Don't do this next time." After hanging up the phone, Qiao Nan told San Bao off. "Master grandpa has serious work to do overseas. We should not disturb him, should we? Also, he is getting older, and his work is so tiring but he still has to prepare presents for San Bao. Doesn't San Bao's heart ache for him? Don't you hope that he can have more time to rest?"

Qiao Nan was very worried that the work trip overseas would exhaust Lin Yuankang. After all, he was getting advanced in years. If not for the interests of the country, Lin Yuankang would not have agreed to the work trip, making life difficult for himself.

The tiring work should be left to the youngsters.

When Zhai Yaohui was at home, he seldom ventured out, but he would spend more time at the government and going on work trips.

The more this was the case, the more anxious someone felt.

Didn't Qiao Nan sue that boy from the journalism faculty who got into trouble after he was bribed by Peng Yu to secretly dig out her scandals?

It was only until when the family received a lawyer's letter that the other party knew how serious Qiao Nan was when she said that she wanted to sue him.

His father sought the help of many people to pull strings and found out about the situation. After much difficulty, he then found out that Qiao Nan was not an ordinary college student. Damn! She was the daughter-in-law of one of the old chiefs!

The moment he found out, the father could not wait to kill his son with one tight slap. "Of all people, why do you have to provoke the chief's daughter-in-law? Your father is just a lowly vice-editor in a news firm. I am considered nothing in the capital. I have been currying favor with others all the time. Do you want to screw me? You're not even giving me a chance to curry favor with others!"

This male student from the journalism faculty had vividly portrayed a drama of betraying one's father.

When he was hit, he dared not flare up. Instead, he cried, looking lost and confused. "I... I didn't know. Dad, she really sued me. I... What should I do?" How would he know someone who seemed quite ordinary like Qiao Nan had such a powerful background? The daughter-in-law of the chief. If it was in the past, he dared not even believe that he had a chance to encounter this kind of legendary figure.

Ironically, in the current situation, he would rather that he did not meet Qiao Nan in his entire life.

He had finally encountered this but he had recklessly and badly offended the other party. If he had known the identity of Qiao Nan beforehand, he would definitely hide his tails in front of her, let alone target her.

"Alright, this has already happened. Don't hit our son. Most importantly, we need to resolve the problem." His mother was also on pins and needles. No matter how annoyed she was at his son, this was her only son. She could not possibly watch helplessly as his son went to jail, right?

If it were ordinary people, they would at most spend some money to pull strings and resolve the issue. They would be given a warning or deferment. However, the other party was the chief's daughter-in-law.

He was smearing the reputation of the chief's daughter-in-law. This would not just impact the girl. In the bigger picture, he was also doubting and provoking the chief's family!

How many people dared to beard the lion in his den? Was he tired of living?

At the thought of this, the mother was enraged and hit the back of her son several times. "Your dad and I work so hard to earn money so that we can support your studies and let you pick up knowledge. Instead of focusing on your studies, you came up with these cheap tricks. What are you trying to do? Does our family lack this little bit of money? Why are you so lacking in your foresight?"

The boy's mouth twitched. He knew that it was too late to say anything now.

Of course, he was not just doing this for the money. He could imperceptibly sense that the person who sought his help had both money and power. If he had fulfilled his task well and received the money, the other party might kindly agree to help him convert his father from vice to lead editor.

He was trying to help his biological father. He did not expect that he did a disservice instead. His family had become the other party's archenemy and could not survive in the capital anymore!

He dared to target the family of the important chief and defame his family members. Was this not considered an archenemy? After all, the old chief's situation was closely linked to the country's major affairs!

Qiao Nan did not forget this matter. She carried out what she had said. Many Peking University students who personally witnessed this matter had been paying attention to it as they wanted to know how the matter would develop.

Amongst them, Lü Yan was naturally the most nervous one.

Yu Xiaoxiao had promised Lü Yan that if she had a chance, she would find a way to help Lü Yan put in some good words to Qiao Nan to help her get away. Lü Yan was leading a very miserable life in Peking University. The former outstanding student was now behaving like a rat in the drain. She was only short of people screaming and hitting her.

Facing Lü Yan's change from a confident first-year student to an apathetic third-year student now, Yu Xiaoxiao sighed continuously.

Although it was rare that Yu Xiaoxiao relented once and wished to help Lü Yan, it was regretful that Qiao Nan had not appeared in the school since that incident. Both Yu Xiaoxiao and Lü Yan heard rumors that Qiao Nan had long attained sufficient credits and completed her thesis for graduation.

However, everyone believed that that was just a rumor. How could it be so easy to attain all the credits in advance? Furthermore, Qiao Nan was seldom in school. They were uncertain what she was always busy with. If not for the fact that Qiao Nan would definitely appear whenever there were classes in the school, they could not help suspecting whether Qiao Nan still wanted to graduate.

When everyone was confused and could not figure out the situation, a disbelieving and tongue-tied scene occurred. First, that male student who targeted Qiao Nan was also considered famous in the journalism faculty. It was because of his eloquence, advanced equipment, and for him to have a father who was a vice editor. Of course, he had more fame than ordinary folks.

One week after the incident, this ‘talent’ in the faculty journalism wrote an apology letter and treated this matter seriously by posting it on the school’s notice board for all the students to see. Next, the school issued him an official criticism letter. The school harshly criticized the abuse and overboard usage of his rights as a school’s news reporter.

Additionally, the journalism faculty student should adopt a mainstream approach whereas this student acted more like a paparazzi that dug into other’s privacy. There was a huge difference between the two approaches. Therefore, this student had a wrong understanding of the course that he had chosen and wasted his three years of studies in the college.

Although the school only gave him a small warning, the students from the same faculty exposed that within one week after he posted the apology letter, this journalism faculty ‘talent’ transferred to another school. Besides this, his family seemed to have left the capital and gone to live in another city.

When this news came out, it frightened a large number of people.

It was human nature to pity the weaker ones. No matter how aggrieved Qiao Nan was in the past, they felt that his journalism faculty ‘talent’ had received the punishment that he deserved. However, didn’t he already transfer school in the end? His entire family had to move away from the capital. Wasn’t this too merciless?

He had been pressurized to this extent. How formidable must Qiao Nan or her family be?

Qiao Nan was not even someone from the capital whereas the other party was born and raised in the capital. Despite this, he had been completely KO'd by Qiao Nan. After thinking about it, it was extremely scary. It seemed that there were unknown hidden elements in Qiao Nan that no one was aware of. She was an invisible big boss!

“Xiaoxiao, what should I do?”

Chapter 1378 It Certainly Would Not Be Qiao Nan

A living example was before them and everyone had been shocked, let alone Lü Yan. Lü Yan was so frightened that she was jolted awake from nightmares several nights in a row, covered in a cold sweat.

Yu Xiaoxiao's head was aching badly. “Don't be so nervous. Qiao Nan has not come to school for a long time. It's not as if you don't know. I need to find a chance even if I want to help you. Also, I think that nothing will happen to you. Something would have long happened to those people who are implicated. Until today, Qiao Nan hasn't looked for you. You just have to avoid her in the future and don't commit any foolish acts again. Everything will be fine then.”

Yu Xiaoxiao was already clear about the circumstances of the matter.

She did not expect that her dormitory mate, Lü Yan, who framed Qiao Nan for being a kept woman during the first year of their college studies, would become a kept woman herself during the third year of their college studies. In any case, she was not even considered a true kept woman. That man gave little favors and benefits to fawn on Lü Yan and she foolishly believed him; he even took advantage of her.

In the end, she did not know where Lü Yan gathered the baseless rumors from such that she was so certain that Qiao Nan was using such a high-end skincare product because she sold her body. Therefore, as long as she caught hold of the evidence, she could prove to the entire school that what she said three years ago was true. Qiao Nan was such a wretched thing. It was Qiao Nan's fault that she suffered so much, and the school had to return her justice.

Yu Xiaoxiao tried more than once to help Lü Yan recall exactly who planted such ludicrous ideas in Lü Yan's mind. To put it bluntly, even if Qiao Nan had become a 'kept woman' three years after the scandal, was Lü Yan aggrieved and wronged by the thread that she had posted?

The two matters could not be compared.



There was also another point. If Lü Yan were to tell Yu Xiaoxiao about this earlier, Yu Xiaoxiao would tell Lu Yan with certainty that it was possible for anyone to become a kept woman except for Qiao Nan.

Lu Yan sniffed. “Really? Will I really be fine? Will Qiao Nan be willing to let me off?”

Yu Xiaoxiao patted Lü Yan’s shoulders. “She will.” Who was Lü Yan? Was she worthy for Qiao Nan to spend so much time and effort biting on to her? As for the ‘talent’ in the journalism faculty, if he had not gone overboard by infringing Qiao Nan’s rights and interests and affected her life, given Qiao Nan’s temperament, she would not have amplified this matter.

Qiao Nan was not considered a soft-hearted person, but she was also not someone who was overbearing or would not show mercy to someone who was in the wrong.

“Also, you have to remember this lesson. You should know that you have gone overboard. Don’t make the same mistake again. Qiao Nan is neither your father nor your mother. She is not obligated to forgive you again and again.” Lü Yan was scared out of her wits by her own doing. However, to Qiao Nan, perhaps this was just considered as some distasteful and mean child’s play.

Lü Yan nodded furiously, that extent of strength almost breaking her head. “Rest assured. I have really learned how to be obedient this time. It’s not easy for my parents to support me through college. I don’t want to disappoint them, and neither do I want to ruin my own life. In the coming year, I will be honest and abiding. I won’t provoke Qiao Nan again. After graduation, I have already planned to return to my hometown to find a job.”

The entire family of that journalism faculty ‘talent’ had left the capital. Furthermore, she was just a little girl from the countryside that came here to study.

If she insisted on staying in the capital, she would not progress much in the future. She might as well return to the city in her hometown and start afresh in an unfamiliar and new environment.

During the past three years in college, Qiao Nan and the capital had almost become Lü Yan’s haunting nightmare. Between these two things, Lü Yan was unwilling to come into contact with any of them. She could not wait to distance herself from them as much as possible.

In another year's time, in another year's time... she would graduate and could scam to a faraway land. She did not need to come to the capital ever again.

A fall in the pit, a gain in your wit.

Everyone knew in their heart how the students' gossip about Qiao Nan had changed. However, all of them had confirmed one matter: They could provoke anyone except for Qiao Nan, this ancestor, unless they had the confidence that they would not end up in the same state as that journalism faculty 'talent'.

Qiao Nan, who was working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was not bothered about all that was happening at school.

Finally, under the triplets' daily and constant whining for their master grandpa, it was the day that Lin Yuankang was returning to the home country. Qiao Nan brought the triplets to receive him at the airport early in the morning.

"Master grandpa?" Looking at the constant flow of human traffic and tides and streams of humans, San Bao expressed that she was dazzled by the scene. Where exactly was master grandpa?

Qiao Nan was carrying San Bao while Zhai Sheng was carrying Da Bao and Er Bao. "Don't be anxious. Master grandpa should be arriving soon. Let's wait another while longer, okay?" Children did not have much patience. This was understandable.

"Master grandpa, master grandpa!" All of a sudden, Er Bao kicked his legs, not at all afraid that his father could not be able to hold onto his thirty-over-pound body. He clapped his hands and yelled jubilantly, his pair of eyes shining brightly.

"Where, where?" San Bao turned her little head, trying hard to crane her body while searching for her master grandpa's whereabouts.

Qiao Nan did not have Zhai Sheng's arm strength. Soon, her arms were aching from the carrying of a thirty-over-pound toddler. Coupled with such a 'lively' San Bao, Qiao Nan was very worried that her daughter would 'drop' when she accidentally released her hold. "Brother Zhai, can I swap with you? I will carry Da Bao. You carry Er Bao and San Bao."

Qiao Nan was not choosing to carry only her daughter. She just wanted to carry a more obedient child.

Da Bao was the eldest Da Bao indeed. At critical junctures, one could tell Da Bao's mature and steady temperament.

Of course, Zhai Sheng had no issue. He loved his chubby, soft, and fragrant daughter. But San Bao had a good memory and liked to bear grudges. She had been angry about her father's past bullying. Hence, she did not like Zhai Sheng to carry her and insisted on sticking to her mother.

Wasn't that so? As soon as Zhai Sheng reached out to exchange toddlers with Qiao Nan, San Bao hooked on to Qiao Nan's neck with one hand and slapped the back of Zhai Sheng's palm with a loud 'bam'. "No, Mom hugs. Don't want Dad!"

Qiao Nan did not know whether to laugh or cry. "If you don't want your dad to carry you, be good then. Mom has very little strength. If you do that again, Mom can't hold onto you anymore. At that time, you will have to stand by yourself to wait for master grandpa."

San Bao's little face turned serious. She became obedient, no longer kicking her legs or twisting her body. She leaned onto her mother's arms softly, swirling her eyes with a twinkle, exuding restlessness in them.

"Master grandpa's obedient San Bao. You are standing with your mom here. Did you come to fetch master grandpa?" An amiable voice could be heard coming from Qiao Nan's back. When Er Bao said that he had seen master grandpa, he had not seen it wrong. Lin Yuankang had really got off the plane and his figure had whooshed by earlier.

The older one was, the more one behaved like children.

#### Chapter 1379 It Is None of Your Business Now

Lin Yuankang was especially happy that the triplets and Zhai Sheng couple came to fetch him at the airport. He was all smiles and smug. That look on his face was inviting a beating from others! When he first saw the family of five, he childishly hid and surfaced only when he was behind Qiao Nan, appearing before the triplets and making funny faces at San Bao.

San Bao yelled happily. "Master grandpa! Hug! Hug!"

Lin Yuankang was grinning so widely that one could see his molars. He proudly carried San Bao over.

As soon as San Bao was in Lin Yuankang's arms, she cried. "Master grandpa, you... you are finally back. San Bao, San Bao missed you so much."

San Bao looked as if she had seen her next-of-kin. Qiao Nan was so furious that she slapped San Bao's chubby buttocks. "Little heartless one." Master spoiled the children badly. He hardly ever scolded them, especially San Bao, as she was the only girl amongst the three children. Master overly indulged her.

San Bao was bearing a grudge against Qiao Nan for chiding her earlier. She, therefore, whined that she missed her master grandpa who would never criticize her.

As soon as San Bao said that, Lin Yuankang smiled like a blooming flower. "Yes, yes, master grandpa missed San Bao, and Da Bao, and Er Bao too. This time, master grandpa brought presents back for the three of you. Master grandpa will play them together with you, okay?"

Having been used to the company of the triplets, Lin Yuankang was not very used to suddenly leaving the country and not smelling the fragrant milk scent on the triplets for a period of time. He almost suffered from insomnia on his first night overseas. He was already so old. If he did not sleep for one night, his body could not be accustomed to it.

The chubby body in his arms had obviously gained weight. It was quite a chore for Lin Yuankang to hold it. However, Lin Yuankang liked this weight and felt that it was very sturdy.

Lin Yuankang pinched San Bao. "San Bao, you have eaten well when master grandpa was not around. You've put on weight again."

San Bao smiled at Lin Yuankang like a little sunflower. She hung on to Lin Yuankang's neck and did not speak further.

Lin Yuankang kissed San Bao's forehead. "Alright, why are we blocking the way? Let's go home. Okay, Da Bao, Er Bao?" Lin Yuankang did not neglect any of the three children. He treated all of them like his grandchildren and doted on them very much.

Da Bao and Er Bao stretched out their bodies. Zhai Sheng stepped forward, and Da Bao and Er Bao each gave Lin Yuankang a kiss on his face in response.

At this moment, Lin Yuankang felt so wonderful that he lost his bearings. “Zhai Sheng, when you returned home the last few times, the triplets didn’t even remember that they have a father. Did you see that? I have been away for two weeks and they still remember their master grandpa.” This was the difference between humans. The triplets still preferred him.

Zhai Sheng quietly punched the buttocks of his two sons but his expression was as calm and composed as ever. “The triplets are older now and their memory is much better than before. Elder Lin, Nan Nan has prepared a feast at home. Are you coming?”

“Yes!”

Why not?

His little disciple had prepared that feast for him. “Nan Nan, I’ve been too busy recently and didn’t contact your senior brother. Did he let others bully you in his territory?”

With nothing in her hands, Qiao Nan felt more relaxed. “It is not a very big issue. Master, you don’t need to worry about me. If I really encounter any trouble, I will also think of ways to resolve it.” Qiao Nan did not mention much about Deng Wenchang’s existence. However, out of the corner of her eyes, she glanced at Peng Yu, who had been following behind Lin Yuankang with a darkened face and looking as stiff as a rock.

It was only until this moment that Qiao Nan met the legendary Peng Yu for the first time.

Qiao Nan had read Peng Yu’s second-hand books before. From the books and the notes in them, Qiao Nan had always thought that Peng Yu was a thin and lean, fine and cultured youth that wore white shirts and was as tall and straight as a poplar tree.

However, from today’s meeting, Qiao Nan felt that she had been overthinking. She had been too poetic in her imagination of Peng Yu. This was someone who crawled and rolled about in the army camp. How could he be a cultured youth who wore white shirts?

When she looked at Peng Yu now, he was certainly quite thin and looked different from the soldiers that Qiao Nan had interacted with before. She had seen Zhou Jun. He had a much bigger built than

Peng Yu. When Zhou Jun was clothed, Qiao Nan could still sense the obvious and lean muscles on him.

It was different for Peng Yu.

Peng Yu gave people the feeling that he was thin and lean. If he were to stand there without moving, Qiao Nan would feel that he was very thin and this set of clothing was too big for him. However, when Peng Yu moved, the clothing would reveal Peng Yu's figure from time to time. Naturally, Qiao Nan discovered that the flesh on Peng Yu had almost filled the clothing.

Qiao Nan would glance at Peng Yu at this moment because Deng Wenchang was in Peng Yu's 'clan'.

When her master brought up the situation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she did not believe that Peng Yu would not be concerned.

In fact, Peng Yu's ears had stood up and he was listening intently for Qiao Nan's reply.

During this period of time whereby he had to leave the country to protect Lin Yuankang, Peng Yu felt aggrieved. For the time being, he could not focus on dealing with Zhai Sheng. In addition, the subject of protection was the master of Zhai Sheng's wife. At the thought of the relationship between Lin Yuankang, He Yi, and Qiao Nan, Peng Yu was having a headache.

Obviously, except for Deng Wenchang, these three people had formed a human network that Deng Wenchang could not get into.

Zhai Sheng was certainly very capable. He casually married a wife and she was so formidable. That said, it was not a casual affair at all for Zhai Sheng to marry Qiao Nan.

At this moment, Lin Yuankang seemed to have recalled Peng Yu's existence. He halted and looked at Peng Yu. "Comrade Xiao Peng, we have already arrived in the country. Zhai Sheng has also come to fetch me. If there is nothing else, you can go back and report to your boss. I won't delay your time any further. There is just a little distance to home. There certainly won't be any problem."

Peng Yu felt like leaving. However, he had almost completed his mission and was only a step to the finishing line. He did not want his half a month's effort to go to waste due to a small mishap. "Elder

Lin, there is no hurry. Furthermore, you brought home a lot of things. I don't feel assured if I don't send you back personally."

What if Lin Yuankang were to simply complain to his boss after he left for the Peng family's residence now? What should he do then?

Although he had not been protecting Lin Yuankang for a long time, the problem was... Peng Yu had suffered similar 'traps' under Lin Yuankang more than once. He felt remorseful that his careful and reliable reputation had been stained.

#### Chapter 1380 Robbed of Credi

At the thought that his image in people's hearts was not as perfect and flawless as before, Peng Yu still hated the torturing Lin Yuankang very much. If Lin Yuankang had not been so insistent, he would not have shown such an impatient expression in front of his former comrades. This had reduced his popularity in the army.

Peng Yu was more delicate-looking than others.

In an army that was full of burly men, Peng Yu's existence was akin to a fresh breath of air.

Peng Yu had suffered a lot of hardships to change his comrades' 'sissy' assessment of him. After this ruckus, no one would believe that he was a good-tempered and dedicated soldier again.

Thinking of the various things done by Lin Yuankang, until this very moment, Peng Yu still had an urge to murder someone. He could not understand. Did Lin Yuankang go overseas to complete the mission tasked to him by the country or to make merry and let his hair down? He really dared to tell outsiders anything.

"What's there to worry about? My grand-disciple's biological father even came to fetch me. There won't be a problem." Lin Yuankang's trust in Zhai Sheng had silently expressed one thing: Zhai Sheng's capability was above Peng Yu's. With Zhai Sheng around, Peng Yu was completely redundant.

After going through so many hardships, he had been discarded by Lin Yuankang in one kick.

He felt that while he might not have a lot of credit, he had put in hard work. On what grounds could Zhai Sheng freeload on him? The mission that he painstakingly completed did not even earn a word of 'thanks' from Lin Yuankang. He kept deriding him and praising Zhai Sheng instead.

Wasn't he being too much?

Underneath his cap, Peng Yu's eyes flashed a sharp and dagger-like look at Zhai Sheng.

Zhai Sheng astutely sensed this but he maintained his silence. While carrying his two children, the corners of his lips curled into a smile and he sneered.

No matter how brazen and arrogant Peng Yu was in the army, once he encountered an important figure such as Elder Lin who needed protection when traveling, Peng Yu was not even allowed to decline Elder Lin's nomination. Peng Yu was expected to perform well. If he did not, Peng Yu would have failed the trust that the organization and army placed on him. He would not be considered a qualified and competent soldier of the people's liberation army.

The reality was harsh, but the truth was even grimmer.

Do not think that it was so easy to be a soldier. Soldiers stand towering in pools of fresh blood, baptized by it, after surviving rigorous training under raging thunderstorms, downpours, and rains of gunfire and bullets.

To Zhai Sheng, Peng Yu was completely unbecoming of a soldier.

When Peng Yu was in the army camp, he was bright and eye-catching, behaving like a celebrity on television.

Zhai Sheng did not understand. When did a solemn place like the army become a stage for Peng Yu to act cool and express himself? After knowing Peng Yu's situation in the army, Zhai Sheng told himself that Peng Yu's example could only appear once. In the future, he would never allow someone like Peng Yu to join the army, lest the latter cause the culture in the army to go astray.

Zhai Sheng would not deny that Peng Yu was smart and resourceful. However, the army was not a place for Peng Yu to show off. He had really ruined the solemn and dignified atmosphere in the army.

Without giving Peng Yu any more chance to reject, Lin Yuankang told him directly. "Alright, Comrade Peng Yu, it has been tough on you. Quickly go back and report to your leader about the



situation. You can hand over my matters to Zhai Sheng.” Lin Yuankang was only short of saying to Peng Yu ‘It is none of your business now. Go and cool off at whichever place as you wish.’

Lin Yuankang had gifted the opportunity to complete the most important final step of the mission to Zhai Sheng unconditionally. Clearly, Peng Yu had completed 99 percent of the mission, just missing one more mark. However, at the last step, Lin Yuankang immobilized Peng Yu and caused him to remain at the 99 percentage point mark.

Zhai Sheng was only keeping his wife and children company to fetch Elder Lin. Throughout the entire process, he only took the one final step, yet he ‘conned’ Peng Yu, who had painstakingly protected Lin Yuankang, of the 100 marks, overtaking Peng Yu by one mark.

If it were an old and kind man who encountered such bullying, he would also turn pale in anger and feel indignant, not to mention that Peng Yu was a petty and narrow-minded one.

This kind of approach was too unfair!

As one could imagine, the furor in Peng Yu’s heart at this moment was basically breaking the limit of the sky. He could not wait to burn these old and young eyesores in front of him immediately.

“Regiment commander?” When Zhai Sheng brought Lin Yuankang away, the people around Peng Yu felt a little unhappy. “Are we letting Regiment Commander Zhai snatch it away from us? Aren’t we the ones who took care of this mission?” They were only a step away from claiming the credit, yet the mission had been intercepted by others. Who would be pleased?

This man was considered Peng Yu’s confidant in the army. That was the reason Peng Yu specially brought him along this time.

Lin Yuankang had returned to the country safe and sound. While this was not a major achievement, they would certainly receive verbal praises for it. One had to know that the key to the mission was not the difficulty level but the importance of it.

To the country, Elder Lin was a very important figure. No matter whether they encountered any danger during this overseas trip, praises were indispensable as long as they returned to the country safely.

As they accumulated more praises, they could rise in the ranks.

Who would have known that the voluptuous ideals could not rival the bony reality?

Even if this person did not mention it, Peng Yu was not in a good mood either. “What’s the hurry? You have to know that who laughs first is not important. Who has the last laugh is more important. Lin Yuankang is Qiao Nan’s master. I am not the least surprised that Elder Lin will help Zhai Sheng. Many years ago, Elder Lin could guard his role—the minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—so well because he was very rogue in his approaches and made the foreigners suffer a lot.”

More than ten years ago, Lin Yuankang was a hooligan.

Today, of course, Lin Yuankang had turned from a young hooligan to an old one.

Lin Yuankang was the one who nominated him for this mission. As such, Peng Yu dared not let his guard down. He was deeply fearful that something would happen to Elder Lin, and if he obstructed Elder Lin’s path again, that would not be good.

At the moment, he was only robbed of the credit by Zhai Sheng. No matter what, this was much better than the situation that he had been worrying about during the trip. “The hooligan is old now, but the older he is, the more he cherishes his life.” He had overestimated Lin Yuankang earlier and was even worried that Lin Yuankang would plot against him for the sake of helping Zhai Sheng.

With his own precious life at stake, not to mention his disciple’s man, even if Qiao Nan were to stand personally before Lin Yuankang, Lin Yuankang would also not give up his life and safety for the sake of one little disciple Qiao Nan.

“Fine, stop looking miserable. Are you afraid that there is no chance of promotion? We have been running around a lot after all. It has been tough on everyone. I will treat all of you to a meal, a good one.” Using one meal to bribe people’s hearts—this exchange was very worth it. Without a word, Peng Yu gave a treat out of his own pocket.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the Zhai family’s residence was livelier than the drink and finger-guessing game at Peng Yu’s end.