

## RTAMM 1431

### Chapter 1431: Who Was the Most Powerful in the Family?

Da Bao came up with an equation in his head: his grandpa followed by his father and other people.

Since he was part of the food chain, he had to be at the top of the food chain. He did not want to be in the middle like his father. He was Da Bao. He had to be at the top position. Er Bao was in the middle, so it would be suitable for him to be in his father's position. Da Bao reached his hand to touch San Bao's plaits. "San Bao, don't worry. I will protect you." Undoubtedly, San Bao had the lowest position in the food chain.

San Bao knitted her brows. She could not really understand what Da Bao was talking about. "Emm, Da Bao and Er Bao have to protect Mom and me." Her father told them that the men in the family had to protect the women. San Bao was a lady, so Da Bao and Er Bao had to protect her.

"San Bao, shall I protect you as well?" The three kids had a good relationship with each other, and they were particularly funny and adorable when they were together. Their conversation was really hilarious. But Qiao Dongliang's heart ached when they talked about protecting each other. It would be good if Zijin and Nan Nan could have a good relationship like the triplets when they were young. If so, everything might be different today.

Qiao Dongliang could not change the relationship between Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin. But he could salvage his relationship with the triplets. He was their grandpa but he seldom spent time with his grandchildren. Qiao Dongliang hoped that he could have a closer relationship with them. He might not have an affinity with his daughters, but he hoped to have a stronger bond with his grandchildren.

San Bao was the only baby girl in the family. Qiao Dongliang would naturally pay more attention to San Bao than Da Bao and Er Bao.

San Bao blinked and smiled at Qiao Dongliang. "Okay, you shall protect San Bao and Mom." San Bao would not say no since there would be one more person who would protect her. Instead, she was glad.

“Yes, I will protect San Bao and your mom.” Qiao Dongliang choked up at the mention of protecting Qiao Nan. Would he be able to protect Nan Nan in this life? Would he be able to make good on his oath?

San Bao, unaware of her grandpa’s feelings, giggled with joy and ran all over the house after receiving an affirmative answer. Qiao Dongliang smiled and caught up, making a funny face at her. He seemed like a big eagle whose goal was to catch San Bao. Qiao Dongliang kept chasing after her, and San Bao screamed excitedly, her short legs carrying her all around the house.

Da Bao and Er Bao could no longer stay still. They ran together with San Bao, making Qiao Dongliang chase after them.

Qiao Dongliang had little experience with coaxing children, but he was quite good at teasing them. The room was filled with the screams and laughter of the triplets.

Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin heard that Qiao Nan and Miao Jing had returned to Ping Cheng. Qiao Zijin could not hide her smile when she learned of this news. Since Qiao Nan and Miao Jing were back, she did not believe that Qiao Nan would not do anything for her wedding.

Previously, she had been mentally prepared that Qiao Nan would ignore her. Therefore, their arrival in Ping Cheng came as a surprise to her. But Ding Jiayi’s and Qiao Zijin’s happiness were short-lived. They heard that Qiao Dongliang was here and he specially went to the Zhai family’s residence to play with the three children. The thirtieth of September had almost come to an end and Qiao Zijin would get married to Zhou Zheng in another day. But they still did not get to see Qiao Nan and Miao Jing. The Zhai family also did not send people to invite them over to their house to catch up with each other.

Ding Jiayi still remembered her past deeds. Although she knew that Qiao Dongliang was at the Zhai family’s residence, she felt guilty and did not dare to visit him. Qiao Zijin was different. She mustered her courage to go to the Zhai family’s residence and pressed the doorbell. To her surprise, it was the temporary helper that the Zhai family hired who opened the door. “Who are you? Is anything the matter?”

Qiao Zijin stiffened. “Hello, I’m Qiao Nan’s biological sister. I heard that she is back, so I came to see her.” The temporary helper that the Zhai family hired did not know of her existence. If it was in the past, Qiao Zijin would have pulled a long face and left.

But right now, unless she did not want to lead a good life in the future, she could not afford to be willful.

“Are you Brother Qiao’s daughter? That means that you are Qiao Nan’s elder sister?” The auntie was shocked. She had no idea that the Qiao family had another daughter. “Why didn’t you come with your dad yesterday? Also, your dad brought the three children out to play this morning. Qiao Nan and Madam Zhai went with them as well.”

Since they were close relatives, why was it that this lady knew nothing about the Qiao family? Was she a swindler?

Qiao Zijin forced a smile on her face upon seeing the doubts in the auntie’s eyes. “I see. Well... goodbye. But when they come back, please let them know that I’ve come to look for them. If possible, please let me know when they are back. I haven’t seen the triplets for a long time. I wonder whether they will recognize their auntie.”

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“Sure.” The auntie nodded. Regardless of whether she was a swindler or not, it was fine as long as she did not barge in since no one was at home. “Rest assured. I will relay your words to them.”

With that, the auntie closed the door so that no one would barge into the Zhai family’s residence.

At the sound of the door closing on her, Qiao Zijin almost lost the smile on her face. She took heavy steps back to her house.

“Zijin, Zhou Zheng’s on the phone.” Ding Jiayi passed the phone to Qiao Zijin. She came back at the right time.

Qiao Zijin took a deep breath. Her intuition told her that she would not be happy to answer Zhou Zheng’s phone call. “Tomorrow is the wedding. What is the matter?”

“I heard that your sister and Madam Zhai have come to Ping Cheng.” Zhou Zheng’s voice was full of joy.

“Well, yes. Tomorrow is our wedding day. What’s so strange about them coming back?” Qiao Zijin’s voice was very calm. She was not angry or unhappy. Her voice was as peaceful as the lake that had no ripples.

Zhou Zheng paused momentarily. “Are you upset?” It would definitely look good on her if Qiao Nan and Madam Zhai attended their wedding. He heard that Zhai Sheng had been promoted to deputy brigade commander and Qiao Nan was the wife of the deputy brigade commander. He had never seen the wife of the deputy brigade commander before, let alone Madam Zhai. Among the people that he knew, none of them had ranks higher than a company commander!

“Unhappy? I’m getting married. Do you think I am happy or not?”

“Happy, of course you are happy. I am particularly happy at the thought that after tomorrow, the two of us can live together, and when I wake up every day and open my eyes, you will always be there by my side. Zijin, I can’t wait until tomorrow.” Zhou Zheng was sharp. He did not divert to other topics lest he end up in an awkward situation.

“That’s good. Is there anything else?” Qiao Zijin replied faintly. She did not feel the least pleased at Zhou Zheng’s honeyed words.

#### Chapter 1432: Did Not Inherit the Good Foresight

She was not stupid. She knew that Zhou Zheng’s words were as sweet as honey because Qiao Nan and Madam Zhai were back. Since he did not say those good words because of her, there was nothing for her to be happy about.

“Well...” Zhou Zheng contemplated for a while. “It will be very tiring tomorrow. Have a good rest today. Don’t tire yourself out.” Zhou Zheng was sounding Qiao Zijin out, checking to see if Qiao Nan met up with Qiao Zijin now that she was back.

Qiao Nan seldom brought the three children to Ping Cheng. She could not possibly coop herself at home. Even if she could stay at home, her children would feel bored.

If they played with the children, the adults would not be able to match up to their stamina.

Qiao Zijin crossed her arms. “Why don’t you be more direct? Qiao Nan is back to attend our wedding. She had been through her wedding and definitely knows that it will be very hectic tomorrow. Today is the National Day. Everywhere in Ping Cheng is bustling with activities. She and my dad went out with the three kids. Are you satisfied with this answer?”

“Don’t be angry. I am just concerned for you.” Zhou Zheng smiled, guilty. “Have a good rest tonight so that you can be a beautiful bride tomorrow. I won’t disturb you.” After hanging up the phone, Zhou Zheng told his mother the important information that he got through the conversation. “Mom, it seems that the relationship between Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin is not as bad as the rumors.”

Mother Zhou rolled her eyes. “Don’t take things for granted. I don’t know much about them, but I feel that Qiao Nan is back not because of her good relationship with her sister. Instead, it is because she is educated and polite and knows her manners.”

Father Zhou agreed. “You must bear in mind what your mother said. Don’t think that just because they give you face and come back to attend your wedding, you and Zhai Sheng will have a close relationship like normal brothers-in-law. Your wife didn’t figure this out in the past, so she ended up having a bad relationship with them.”

When she bullied Qiao Nan, she felt that she was older than Qiao Nan, so it was alright for Qiao Nan to make sacrifices. When she wanted to benefit from their relationship, she would remember that they were siblings. She would have the impression that before getting married, they were the closest apart from their parents. There was no such thing in the world. How could one choose to forget that one used to hurt the other party and want the other party to fulfill all their requests under all circumstances?

One’s parents might not even be able to stand on the children’s side under such circumstances.

This kind of behavior was simply taking things for granted, being heartless and ungrateful.

Whose heart was not made of flesh? One would feel disheartened and weary when faced with such circumstances.

“Is it that serious?” Zhou Zheng was unwilling to accept the truth. “Dad, Mom, you know that she does not have a good temper and will flare up and raise a rumpus for the slightest thing. But they are biological sisters, one family. Although they have arguments, they will forget about it eventually.”

This time, Mother Zhou felt that the problem was indeed serious. “Zhou Zheng, if this is your honest opinion, I feel that it’s better to call off the wedding tomorrow. If this goes on and you and Qiao Zijin stir up troubles, the Zhou family might stand to benefit from the Zhai family now, but we will have to pay twice the price in the future.”

It was already bad enough if one did not know one's limits. What made things worse was that her son was marrying Qiao Nan's sister, Qiao Zijin. If her son was muddlehead and the daughter-in-law was bent on making trouble for her sister, the two of them would cause the Zhou family's downfall.

Mother Zhou was full of regrets. "Old Zhou, judging from what Zhou Zheng said, I think this is a bad marriage. It will bring serious trouble to the Zhou family. Zhou Zheng, we are getting on in years. We cannot handle any scares and frights that you and your wife might cause. We are not in good health. We will not be able to take it."

Zhou Zheng's expression darkened. "Mom, is that so serious?"

"Of course!" Given the Zhou family's situation, it was already good enough if they could make a small fortune. But they did not have the fortune to strike it rich. If they harbored thoughts of striking rich or grabbing hold of the dragon's tail to soar into the sky, they might lose their grip when they were in the sky and fall to their deaths.

"You must listen to your mom!" Father Zhou could not help but give Zhou Zheng a few smacks. "Otherwise, if anything happens in the future, don't come asking for advice from us!" Father Zhou had been listening to his wife for most of his life, and his wife had proved to be making correct decisions.

This was the only time that she appeared to be undecided as to whether she should allow her son to marry Qiao Zijin and to collect the marriage and hold the wedding banquet.

If Qiao Zijin was being muddlehead, the three of them would be able to stop her and made her listen to them. However, if his son listened to Qiao Zijin, the Zhou family would be like what his wife had said. They would be down in their luck. "I used to tell you that a man should listen to his wife. There's no harm in doing that. But that is only provided that your wife is as brilliant as your mom. Take for example your ex-girlfriend. Other than spending your money to buy things that she liked, she was not helpful to you or had your interests at heart."

Father Zhou looked gloomy at the mention of this. "Why is it that you resemble me in all aspects except that you do not have good foresight like me? I might have taught you to listen to your wife, but since you did not manage to get a wife like your mom, you must forget what I taught you and don't listen to her!"

Zhou Zheng, who was already undecided and uneasy, turned angry and was speechless at the way his father praised his mother. “Fine, I will listen to Mom. Will that do?” Forget it. Anyway, he never dreamed of working in the capital. He heard that the capital had steep housing prices and serious air pollution.

He should be down-to-earth and stay in Ping Cheng. Although he did not have a close relationship with the Zhai family, it was already good enough that he would be doing better than his current situation.

Zhou Zheng was not an ambitious man. Now that his parents gave him a serious lecture, he no longer harbored any thoughts of striking it rich. It was a good idea to be down-to-earth.

However, he felt upset that his father complained about his ex-girlfriend. Zhou Zheng lifted the corners of his mouth and refuted his father in his head. It was alright that she was not smart, had a bad temper, and was a spendthrift. What was important was that she had good looks. He felt happy looking and being with her. Anyway, he did not marry her. She would make a good girlfriend.

“Grandpa, I want to come down.” The triplets had lots of fun in Ping Cheng and they were exhausted. Qiao Dongliang carried San Bao all the way home. Once she reached home, she no longer felt like being carried by Qiao Dongliang. She kicked her legs, wanting to walk by herself. Qiao Dongliang’s arms were aching as well. Since she asked to come down, he let the chubby and sweet-smelling San Bao go reluctantly.

#### Chapter 1433: Educate Them from a Young Age

As soon as San Bao’s little feet touched the ground, she ran into the house. “Auntie, I’m thirsty. I want to drink water.”

“Get us three cups of water!” Da Bao added on like a big brother.

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Qiao Nan had taught the three children from a young age to drink mineral water and not to drink Sprite, coke, or those so-called impure fruit juices when they were outside. Qiao Nan would always prepare the fruit juices at home and bring the fruit juices with them when they went out. The three children felt very thirsty and asked for boiled water as soon as they were home.

When Er Bao entered the house, the auntie placed three cups of boiled water on the small tea table. The three small radishes lined up to drink the water. They held the glass cups firmly with their chubby hands as they gulped the water.

The three children of the Zhai family were very well-behaved. If they could do it by themselves, they would seldom ask adults for help. Take for instance when they drank the water now. They would hold the cups by themselves. They could drink the water according to their speed, which was much better than being fed by someone else.

Initially, the temporary helper was hesitant when she heard that the house owner had three children of about three years old. Even if she was only required to work for a few days, and she would be paid handsomely, taking half a month of wages, she was worried that it would not be easy to look after three or four-year-old toddlers. It was already very tiring to look after one toddler, let alone three toddlers.

When she met the three children of the Zhai family, she knew that she had been thinking too much. The three children were still as naughty and mischievous as other three-year-old children. However, they were sensible and could play by themselves, and they would not disturb other people. If they could complete the tasks by themselves, they would not ask the adults for help.

Furthermore, there were many adults at home, so there was no need for her to look after the children. She only needed to clean the house and prepare the meals.

True enough, this was a good job. She wondered if this family would come back in the future and whether she would be able to secure a long-term job.

“By the way, the mother of the triplets, a lady came to our house today, saying that she is your elder sister.” The auntie remembered about Qiao Zijin and relayed the message to the house owner. “She came to our house not long after you left in the morning.”

Qiao Nan helped the triplets wipe their mouths. “Oh, there is such a person. It’s alright.”

Qiao Nan did not make further comments or ask any questions. She did not say if she was going to visit her sister. The auntie could sense that they must not have a good relationship.



It was no wonder that the sister only visited their house after the in-laws brought the three children out to play. It did not make sense at all. The auntie noticed something else that was odd.

This family was from the capital. Since they were back to visit their relatives, why did they come back empty-handed? They did not seem like they were visiting their relatives.

Miao Jing sat on the sofa to rest. “In-law, stay for dinner. I’ll get the driver to send you back later.” Miao Jing ignored the topic of Qiao Zijin, but she was very polite to Qiao Dongliang. Without Qiao Dongliang, the triplets would not have so much fun today. Since it was National Day, it was very crowded at the park today.

Fortunately, they had three adults to look after each of the children.

“There is no need to send me back. I’m familiar with Ping Cheng. I can go back on my own.” The Zhai family’s chauffeur had moved to the capital with the Zhai family. Since Chief Zhai was still in the capital, the chauffeur had to stay there as well. When Miao Jing said that she would get a driver to send him back, she was referring to calling a cab for him. Qiao Dongliang could call the cab by himself. He would not stay at the Zhai family’s residence so that he could save the money on calling the cab. He would not embarrass his daughter.

Miao Jing did not insist. “Auntie, what will we have for dinner today? The three kids are hungry. They might be able to finish an entire table of food.” The triplets played hard and they would be hungry in no time. They were still developing and growing. Their tummies seemed to be bottomless pits. No matter how much they ate, they would be hungry in no time.

Er Bao touched his belly. He had a bitter look on his face. “I am starving.” His mother forbade them from having outside food. She said that they were unhygienic. But he felt that they were hygienic and smelled nice.

The auntie smiled. “The rice has been cooked. I have washed the vegetables as well. All I need to do is to fry them. I will be done in ten minutes. By the way, I boiled some soup. Why don’t I bring three bowls of soup for the triplets to have first?”

“Sure.” Qiao Nan stood up and went into the kitchen with the auntie. She came out with a serving tray that had six bowls of soup on it.

Seeing that Qiao Nan brought out so many bowls of soup in one go and was walking cautiously to avoid overturning the soup, Qiao Dongliang quickly walked forward to help her. “Why did you bring out so many bowls of soup in one go? You can make two trips.”

“It’s all right. I can handle it.” In the previous life, when she worked to earn money, she was able to bring out the food without any serving trays. “All of you must be hungry after a day of fun. Da Bao, can you bring a bowl of soup to grandma? San Bao, can you bring a bowl of soup to grandpa, and Er Bao, can you bring a bowl of soup to me?”

“There’s no need for that. I-I can get it myself.” Qiao Dongliang waved his hands. “The three kids are hungry. They should have the soup first.” Qiao Dongliang could not wait to feed the soup to San Bao. Why would he need San Bao to pass him the soup with her short arms? He was worried that she would scald herself with the hot soup.

“That’s right. We’re adults. We can take the soup by ourselves.” Miao Jing had the same sentiments.

Qiao Nan smiled, looking at the children.

They were still very young and they did not have much strength in their arms. It was indeed difficult for them to bring the soup to the adults. But Qiao Nan still took the six bowls of soup from the serving tray and placed them on the flat tea table.

Da Bao gently pushed the bowl of soup toward Miao Jing. It had barely moved a few inches when Miao Jing took the bowl from the table. “My goodness, Da Bao is very capable. You can bring me the soup now. This soup tastes really good. I love it. Da Bao, you should drink your soup as well.”

Although Da Bao did not break out in a wide smile after being praised, there was a sparkle in his eyes and his lips curled upward. He was undoubtedly in a happy mood after being praised. “Da Bao has grown up. I can take care of grandma now.”

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“Yes, yes, yes. Da Bao is very capable.” Miao Jing had a bright smile on her face. The soup tasted very sweet. It was as if honey had been added into it.

San Bao also followed suit. She pushed the bowl of soup slightly.

Qiao Dongliang cherished the children more so than Miao Jing. The bowl of soup had barely moved but the soup looked as if it was about to spill. Like Miao Jing, Qiao Dongliang hurried to take the bowl of soup. He was worried that San Bao might scald her hands if he delayed any further. "San Bao is very capable. The soup that San Bao gave me is very tasty." Qiao Dongliang drank the soup, savoring it.

#### Chapter 1434: Had to Insist on It

Qiao Dongliang looked as if he was drinking tonics. San Bao giggled happily at the sight of him.

Er Bao followed suit as well.

Qiao Nan did not really mean for the three children to work. She only wanted them to have the awareness that they had to be filial to the elders. After Er Bao gave the bowl a slight push, Qiao Nan took the bowl and praised him. "The triplets have grown up and are so capable. I am very happy. Alright, don't go starving. Have the soup to see if it is tasty."

As soon as Qiao Nan gave the approval, the three children slurped the soups. They paid all their attention to the soup in front of them. They were indeed starving. Qiao Nan made no comments, but Miao Jing and Qiao Dongliang found it painful to watch them. They were already starving, yet they had to help serve the soup and be filial to them.

Their children were very well-behaved.

As the mother-in-law, Miao Jing did not say anything. To her, Qiao Nan was their mother. She should not intervene with how she taught her children. Instead, it was Qiao Dongliang, the father, who complained to Qiao Nan that she was being too 'hard' on the children. "They are still very young and they can't even take the bowls, yet you asked them to serve soups."

Qiao Nan was very composed. "Didn't you ask me why I brought six bowls of soup in one go and was so hard on myself? According to you and my mother-in-law's personality, if I didn't come out with six bowls of soup, the first three bowls would definitely go to the triplets. I don't want them to develop the habit that they will get to have the food first while the elders watch by the side. It's good that they are sensible. I don't want them to be spoiled."

In her opinion, some traditions in China were good.

In ancient times, when people had meals at the dining table, if the eldest in the family did not start the meal, the juniors could not have the food no matter how hungry they were. If they gave all the good stuff to the children while the elders watched by the side, the children would become overbearing and not as well-behaved over time.

Her mother had a large part to play in why Qiao Zijin did not have a good personality. She gave differential treatment and instilled in Qiao Zijin the wrong values. In order to buy over Qiao Zijin so that she would be biased toward her mother, Ding Jiayi would buy a watermelon in summer and allowed Qiao Zijin to have half of the watermelon by herself. When her father was back, the elders would only have two slices of watermelon, while Qiao Zijin, who finished half of the watermelon by herself, would have another quarter of the watermelon.

If not for the way that her mother raised Qiao Zijin, she would not have the impression that everything in the family belonged to her and that it was right for everyone in the family to sacrifice for her.

Qiao Nan had three children. She had a heavier burden than the average parents. She must make sure that she kept a watch on the three children and that what happened with Qiao Zijin must not happen to them.

Qiao Dongliang could not deny that what Qiao Nan said was true. There were very few children in every family. Everyone would naturally treat them as treasures, not allowing them to go through any suffering. Despite that, Qiao Dongliang felt that it would not really matter who had the soup first.

However, Qiao Dongliang seldom got to see Qiao Nan in a year. It was rare that they could have some time together. Qiao Dongliang did not wish to end up in a quarrel with her.

Besides, Qiao Nan was the mother of the three children. There was no need for Qiao Dongliang to worry that Qiao Nan would not be good to them. Given how attached the children were to Qiao Nan, Qiao Dongliang was certain that Qiao Nan was a better mother than Ding Jiayi.

Once he ascertained that fact, Qiao Dongliang put the matter aside and stopped himself from thinking about it.

He did not have the right to meddle with her affairs. He had two daughters, one of whom had learned the wrong values while the other was estranged with him due to his behavior. He did not raise his children well, so he did not have the right to teach Qiao Nan how to raise her children.

It was the second day of October. Qiao Zijin and Zhou Zheng would be getting married today. The northern quad set off firecrackers early in the morning.

Qiao Nan woke up after hearing the loud cracking sounds of firecrackers. She did not forget what day it was today. The three children were sleeping soundly and snoring next to her. They looked like three little piglets, particularly Er Bao, who laid on his tummy, squashing his face and drooling in his sleep. His plump buttocks stuck up into the air, making an interesting sight.

Fortunately, the weather was not cold now, and Qiao Nan prepared a two-meter long blanket. Otherwise, given the way Er Bao slept, Da Bao and San Bao, who slept next to him, might catch a cold easily.

If not for the three children who protested strongly against it, Qiao Nan would let them sleep in their own beds and have their own blankets like how they used to do back in the capital.

They were already three years old. They were considered to be big children.

With the teacher's guidance and Qiao Nan's persuasion, the triplets agreed to sleep by themselves in their own beds. However, their small beds would be placed in Qiao Nan's and Zhai Sheng's room. They had moved the other big bed to the guest room to make way for the triplets' beds.

Qiao Nan covered the triplets with the blanket before she got up to brush her teeth and wash her face. She tidied herself and checked the clock at the bedside. It was only half past seven. Although Qiao Nan was Qiao Zijin's sister, she was unwilling to go to the Qiao family's residence at this time, being there as her parental family to send Qiao Zijin off.

The invitation that Qiao Nan received stated that the wedding banquet would be on the second of October and it would start at half past ten in the morning. Qiao Nan only needed to arrive on time. It was considered good enough if the wedding banquet would start at eleven o'clock.

"You are up." Miao Jing woke up early in the morning due to the loud sounds of firecrackers. "Are the three children still asleep?"

“Yes, they had a crazy time yesterday. They used to be awake at this time. But they are too tired and won’t get up anytime soon. Mom, what did the auntie prepare for breakfast?” Qiao Nan sat next to Miao Jing, pouring a cup of warm boiled water for her.

“Most probably porridge,” Miao Jing replied after drinking some water. “It is good for the stomach to have porridge in the morning.”

Qiao Nan was not picky. She would have whatever that Miao Jing told her. Fortunately, the three children were not fussy eaters either. They would have whatever food that was prepared at home, and they would eat them heartily.

Qiao Nan went upstairs to check on the three children. San Bao wriggled about on the bed like a worm. She whined and moved about, looking half-awake. Da Bao and Er Bao seemed to stir at the loud sounds that San Bao made. Qiao Nan happened to catch them moving about in their sleep.

Qiao Nan fished San Bao from under the blanket. “San Bao, wake up. The sun is shining on your buttocks. Shall I bring you to the restroom to pee?”

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#### Chapter 1435: Boasted About Her Daughter-In-Law

San Bao lay prone in Qiao Nan’s arms. She clung to her mother’s neck and nodded with closed eyes. When her buttocks touched the cool toilet bowl, she slowly opened her eyes and greeted her mother. “Mom.”

“Good girl.” Qiao Nan kissed her daughter on her chubby cheeks. “I will take you to the bed. Your clothes have been put on the bed.”

“Okay.”

After putting San Bao back on the bed, Qiao Nan wanted to take her two sons to the restroom.

However, after they went to school upon turning three years old, Da Bao and Er Bao were more aware of the different genders. In the past, Da Bao and Er Bao would allow their mother to bring them to pee and help them bathe. But now, the two children were starting to feel uncomfortable doing that. They insisted on going to the restroom by themselves. As for bathing, unless the male elders helped them, they would be very shy and tried to cover themselves.

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Qiao Nan approved of their behavior.

It was better for the child to be aware of gender issues early in their development. It would be helpful to their growth. At the very least, they would be conscious of it and learn to protect themselves.

Qiao Nan carried a half-awake Da Bao to the restroom. Da Bao was slow to react, but then, he saw himself in the big mirror in the house and turned awkward. “Mom, I-I can go to the restroom by myself. I don’t want you to help me. I want a small stool.”

“Are you sure?” Luckily, due to having three children at home, they had equipped the house in the capital and Ping Cheng with necessary household items. Even if they lacked any necessary items, Qiao Nan and Miao Jing had already bought them yesterday.

“Yes!” Da Bao nodded. “Mom, you can help Er Bao. San Bao has yet to wear her clothes.” Da Bao distracted his mother with his younger brother and sister. He really needed to go to the restroom. He could no longer hold it in.

Seeing that Da Bao’s face had turned red, Qiao Nan held back from laughing at him. She came out to help Er Bao and San Bao. San Bao had gone to the restroom and only needed to put on her clothes. Er Bao still had to wait for Da Bao before he could use the restroom. “Mom, you can help San Bao get dressed. I have to wait for Da Bao to come out so that I can pee.”

The three kids had a mind of their own. Instead of Qiao Nan making the arrangements for them, they were telling Qiao Nan what she should do next.

Since Er Bao had said so, Qiao Nan draped a small piece of clothing on Er Bao as he waited for Da Bao outside the restroom. She then helped San Bao, who had undressed and was struggling with her dress, put on the dress. She arranged the collar of the dress and put it above San Bao’s head so that she could pull the dress down and pull the collar over her head.

“My goodness.” San Bao finally managed to pull the collar over her head. She exhaled a long breath. It was no easy feat. “Mom, d-don’t help me. I will wear it by m-myself.”

With Qiao Nan’s help, San Bao had almost finished putting on her clothes. But now, San Bao was telling Qiao Nan not to help her. Qiao Nan smiled and retracted her hands. “Alright, I won’t help you. You can wear it by y-yourself. Will that do?”

San Bao, who tried hard to put on the dress, did not notice that her mother was laughing at her, mimicking the way she spoke. She was busy putting on her dress. She smiled lovingly, reaching out her hands to Qiao Nan after she had put on the dress nicely. “Mom, brush teeth, wash face, smells nice.”

Qiao Nan took her daughter from the bed and helped her put on her slippers. By then, her elder brothers had come out from the restroom. Da Bao and Er Bao brushed their teeth in their pajamas. It took her more than half an hour to help the three children dress neatly and smartly.

“Grandma, I’m hungry.” The three children could smell the fragrance of the porridge as they came downstairs.

Miao Jing melted at San Bao’s embrace. She caressed her tiny face. “My San Bao is hungry. You should eat now. My heart will ache if you go hungry.”

“Grandma, you have to eat together. If grandma is hungry, San Bao’s heart will ache.” San Bao had a sweet tongue. She made Miao Jing happy with her words. Miao Jing personally helped San Bao sit on the children’s high chair and placed her small bowl of porridge in front of her.

San Bao grabbed the small spoon with her chubby fingers. She had a serious look on her face as she stirred the porridge so that it would cool down. Then, she scooped the porridge into her mouth.

Qiao Nan had also put Da Bao and Er Bao on their seats. Da Bao and Er Bao had a steadier grip on the spoon than San Bao. The auntie who stood by the side to take care of them was amazed. Usually, three-year-old children would need the adults to feed them. Some of them would not sit down properly to have the food. The adults had to chase them around the entire house to feed them.

The three children in the Zhai family were too sensible. Were they really three years old?



After breakfast, the auntie could not help but praise the triplets while brewing the tea. She was serious, but at the same time, trying to flatter Miao Jing. “Madam Zhai, the three children are very sensible. You have taught them well. I have never seen children who are as well-behaved as them. They are so young, but they can have meals by themselves. They are very capable. My previous employer’s child was four years old then. The grandma adored the child and insisted on feeding the child. If the child refused to eat and wanted to play, she would have to chase the child around the house. The child only finished half a bowl of rice in more than half an hour’s time.”

Although the child had yet to finish the food, the grandma was already exhausted. She returned the bowl to her daughter-in-law so that she could take over.

Miao Jing would not be modest when it was about the triplets. “Well, the three children are good-looking and have good temperament. The most important thing is that their mother taught them well. Nan Nan might be young and she is a young mother, but she has been doing a good job as their mother. She is responsible for teaching the three children. She raised them up by herself. You should have seen for yourself how Nan Nan brought out six bowls of soup yesterday and insisted that the children served the elders first. The children are so young, but she insisted that they served the elders.”

Speaking of which, Miao Jing had a brighter smile on her face.

Her grandchildren were sensible and caring. They were sweet and adorable like heartwarming little jackets.

In the past, she used to think that Zhai Hua did not seem like a daughter at all. She was full of regrets that she was not sweet and caring toward her. Now that she had the triplets, they had fulfilled her dream of yearning for a sweet and caring daughter, and she was given so much more love.

“Wow, I see.” The auntie was surprised. “How old was the mother of the three children when she got married? She seems to be younger than my child who is in college.” It was impossible that the Zhai family who had two chiefs serving in the army would have low requirements of their daughter-in-law.

She was so young. Could it be that she quitted school as she had found a good man and decided to get married and settle down?

“Oh, my daughter-in-law just graduated from college this year.”

## Chapter 1436: Did Not Intend for You to Return the Favor

“She was married to my son at a young age, and she was pregnant not long after the marriage.” Miao Jing sat up straight at the mention of Qiao Nan’s educational qualifications. Miao Jing attained her high school diploma at the adult school. She did not really study hard in school.

But Nan Nan was different. Nan Nan studied hard and sat for the examination, and she was accepted into one of the best universities in the country.

“Peking University student?” The auntie felt an instant and jarring pain in her teeth. She thought that Qiao Nan bewitched the son in the Zhai family based on her looks, and perhaps she was already pregnant when she got married to him. No matter how pretty she was, she must be lacking in other aspects.

To her surprise, the truth was far from it. The young lady had good moral character and she was a genius.

Qiao Nan went to one of the best universities in China. During the four years in college, Qiao Nan even married and had three children in one go. Moreover, all of them were so well-behaved.

She was no longer curious about Qiao Nan. Now, she was more interested to know how the Qiao family managed to raise such a capable young lady. Qiao Nan completed the tasks that average ladies would not be able to achieve in their four years of college. Even if the other young ladies managed to do it, they would not do it as well as Qiao Nan.

How did one manage to raise such a daughter? She was simply a genius and was much more capable than many men. “Oh, by the way, I remember the children’s mother is called Qiao Nan? If I am not mistaken, there is a college entrance examination top student from Ping Cheng who has the same name.”

It was rare for someone from Ping Cheng to be the provincial top scholar in the college entrance examination. It had been many years since Ping Cheng had such a good result. Back then, Ping Cheng news would report on Qiao Nan’s excellent results in the college entrance examination. Although four years had passed, the auntie would never forget the only two people—Qiao Nan and Shi Qing—who went on television in these four years for being the college entrance examination top students.

“Hehe.” Miao Jing smiled modestly. “Well, Nan Nan was indeed the provincial top humanities student from four years ago. The top science student of the province was Nan Nan’s good friend.”

“...” The auntie was rendered speechless. She thought that Qiao Nan became Cinderella by getting married to a rich man. But in the end, she realized that they were a good match. She was a humble top student who overcame the odds to become successful.

After knowing Qiao Nan’s background, the auntie no longer harbored any dishonest thoughts about Qiao Nan. Instead, she was particularly humble toward Qiao Nan as compared to before. She knew that Qiao Nan achieved what she had today through her own efforts and did not rely on her in-laws.

Qiao Nan found it strange that the auntie was more hospitable and polite to her than before. However, since she would not stay in Ping Cheng for long, and the auntie was a temporary helper, she did not look into it. After she left, she might not see her in the future. She would not be bothered with the auntie’s changing attitude and mood as long as the auntie was hardworking and took good care of the children’s meals.

Miao Jing kept track of the time for Qiao Nan. “Nan Nan, it’s ten o’clock now. Are you leaving now?”

“Almost... I will be leaving soon.” Qiao Nan took her bag, changed her shoes, and bade the triplets goodbye. “I will be going out for a while. I will be back in a few hours. The three of you must be good. Stay at home to accompany grandma and help me take care of grandma. Is that okay?”

The triplets looked especially serious when they heard that they were given tasks. As the eldest brother, Da Bao represented them to give a reply. “Mom, you rest assured. We will look after grandma and stop her from running about.”

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Obviously, Da Bao learned this from Qiao Nan. Since his mother told him to look after grandma, he used what Qiao Nan used to say and applied it to Miao Jing.

Qiao Nan gave a kiss on each of the three children’s cheeks before she felt assured and left the house.

Qiao Nan intended to go to the venue directly. The Qiao family was not rich. They could not afford to hold a grand wedding banquet, but the Zhou family was fairly well-to-do. The Qiao family did not have many relatives while the Zhou family had a lot of relatives. Since that was the case and the Qiao family's relatives would not take up many tables, Mother Zhou told the Qiao family that the Zhou family would foot the bill for the wedding banquet.

Mother Zhou knew about the Qiao family's situation. Since they had already collected the marriage certificate, she would not be calculative on the wedding banquet and embarrass the Qiao family and Qiao Zijin.

Once she reached the hotel, Qiao Nan saw the big banner hanging at the entrance of the hotel, congratulating the groom, Zhou Zheng, and the bride, Qiao Zijin, on their wedding and wishing that they would live a long and happy life together.

Ten years later, there would be a screen display outside the hotel, whereby one could use the computer to control the wordings on the display. Now, however, it was more common to use the banner.

With the help of the service staff, Qiao Nan reached the level where Zhou Zheng and Qiao Zijin held the wedding banquet. When she walked forward, the bride and groom were standing at the entrance. Qiao Zijin was dressed in a pure white wedding dress. She put on makeup and held a bouquet in her hands. There were two bridesmaids next to her, with a smile on their faces, welcoming all the guests to her wedding.

Qiao Zijin's smile froze momentarily when she noticed Qiao Nan. But she recovered quickly and left the groom and bridesmaids to walk toward Qiao Nan, spreading her arms to hug Qiao Nan in a passionate embrace. "Nan Nan, you're finally here. I thought that you had something on and would not be able to come!"

Qiao Nan felt very uncomfortable. This was the first time in her two lifetimes that she was hugged by Qiao Zijin. She felt awkward and had goose bumps. Qiao Nan first patted Qiao Zijin's back in front of everyone, telling her not to be so excited. Qiao Zijin loosened her hold on Qiao Nan and Qiao Nan took a few steps back. "Congratulations. I wish you a happy marriage and to give birth to a child soon."

With that, like other guests, Qiao Nan took out a fairly thick red packet from her bag and passed it to Qiao Zijin.

Qiao Nan did not write her name on the red packet. It was clean and had no writings on it. Apart from the money inside, it looked as if it had just been printed in the factory.

Qiao Nan married early and her children were already three years old. She did not intend for Qiao Zijin to return the favor in the future.

Qiao Zijin held the red packet in her hands. She could tell that the red packet was quite thick. Qiao Zijin finally had a more sincere smile on her face.

Today was an important day in her life. This was a once in a lifetime occasion. Everyone who went to the Qiao family to join in the fun could not help but ask her when her younger sister was coming. Could it be that Qiao Nan would not be present even when she was getting married?

Qiao Zijin did not place as much importance on Qiao Nan's presence as the Zhou family. What she valued most was some form of gifts for her wedding from Qiao Nan since the latter was already in Ping Cheng. She would be very embarrassed if Qiao Nan did not do anything for her.

#### Chapter 1437: Deliberately Stirring Up Trouble

Fortunately, as soon as Qiao Nan appeared, she immediately stuffed the 'token' into Qiao Zijin's hands. This made Qiao Zijin feel much more at ease.

Qiao Zijin and Zhou Zheng were standing at the entrance to receive the guests. Of course, the parents of both parties were also standing and waiting there to usher their respective guests into the banquet hall. The moment Qiao Nan appeared, the Zhou family was elated. No matter how poor the relationship between their daughter-in-law and Qiao Nan was, as long as Qiao Nan was willing to give their daughter-in-law and everyone face, it was already considered a great matter for the Zhou family.

Regrettably, Mother Zhou simply could not tolerate Qiao Zijin's behavior. Although it was said that this daughter-in-law of hers had become smarter, her IQ did not seem to have grown much when she was in front of Qiao Nan. She was still as stupid as ever.

Did a small red packet matter? No matter how huge the red packet was, it could not be compared to the face given to them by the daughter-in-law of the Zhai family when the latter personally attended the wedding banquet!

Thankfully, Mother Zhou sorted out her thoughts very quickly. At the sight that there was no change in Qiao Nan's expression despite Qiao Zijin's behavior, she simply put aside this matter.

Indeed, they were biological sisters. Qiao Nan knew clearly what kind of person Qiao Zijin was. Precisely due to this, Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin's relationship was not close. Her biological sister was getting married, but Qiao Nan did not even return to the Qiao family's residence to send Qiao Zijin off.

If Qiao Nan did not even attend the banquet today, Mother Zhou would have a headache then. Perhaps they had really married the wrong daughter-in-law then. As soon as Qiao Nan appeared, Mother Zhou's unsettled heart immediately felt at ease. As a result, she received the guests more enthusiastically.

"Nan Nan, I heard that you have been back for some time. Why didn't I see you previously? Where did you go these past two days? Have you forgotten uncles and aunts, your old neighbors?" In the past, Qiao Nan invited the neighbors in the quad as guests of the maternal family to her banquet. Qiao Zijin did the same today.

The difference was that Qiao Nan invited almost everyone except for those who were unethical in their words and had been jealous of Qiao Nan. On the other hand, Qiao Zijin only picked a few neighbors who were usually glib-tongued and were not so sarcastic to her.

Otherwise, Mother Zhou might not be willing to voluntarily fork out the banquet expense for the bride's guests if Qiao Zijin, like Qiao Nan, were to invite ninety percent of the neighbors in the northern quad.

As soon as Qiao Nan sat down, a group of old acquaintances surrounded her very quickly, questioning this and that.

Facing the affectionate behavior of these old neighbors, Qiao Nan smiled weakly and replied, "I arrived in Ping Cheng very late on the first day. Hence, I did not disturb you all. On the second day, my dad came to visit the three children. Yesterday, three of us adults brought the triplets to the park to have fun. You all should know too. Three-year-old children have so much energy and it's so crowded during the National Day holiday. I've been tied up and exhausted these two days."

As to all the questions related to Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan averted them and did not answer.

“Dad!” At this moment, Qiao Nan saw Qiao Dongliang coming in. “Dad, wait a while. Where is your seat?” Mother Zhou invited Qiao Nan to sit on the same table with the bride. However, Qiao Nan was unwilling to. Hence, she sat at one of the tables for the bride’s relatives and friends. Qiao Dongliang’s relationship with Qiao Zijin was not as good as before. However, he was still Qiao Zijin’s father. Hence, Qiao Nan did not assume that her father would definitely sit beside her.

True enough, as expected, Qiao Dongliang looked like his head was aching. “Today is the once-in-a-lifetime event in Zijin’s life. Just take it as me giving her face. After all, she has called me ‘dad’ for more than twenty years.” Although she might not have taken him as her father in her heart.

“Alright, I won’t leave a seat for you then.” Qiao Nan had long guessed the outcome. She was not bothered by Qiao Dongliang’s reply at all.

Since Qiao Dongliang sat down, his expression did not look good. He did not seem like a father who was marrying off his daughter. There was neither joy of his daughter reaching adulthood nor reluctance and sadness of marrying his daughter to another family. He wore a stiff and emotionless expression as if he was not very much related to the bride today.

Some sharp-eyed individuals noticed this, whereas some took it that this bride’s father was more restrained in expressing his feelings and had hidden all his emotions and sadness. There were also such fathers in this world.

At eleven o’clock, music began to play and plates of dishes were finally being served to the table. The emcee engaged by the Zhou family was quite eloquent. He knew how to liven up the atmosphere well. Very soon, this emcee had drawn the attention of everyone until the newlyweds entered the hall.

The entire process of the banquet was run-of-the-mill. Although some of the things were considered a novelty in the 2000s, Qiao Nan had seen most of it before. While many peoples’ eyes were fixated on the emcee and newlyweds, Qiao Nan calmly picked up the dishes on the table and put them into her mouth from time to time, portraying the act of ‘eating at the wedding banquet’ vividly.

However, the emcee’s tone changed suddenly. “Today is a joyous occasion for the newlyweds. Let us listen to the blessings from their closest friends and next-of-kin. Now, let us invite the only biological sister of our bride up to the stage to say a few words of blessing to this pair of newlyweds.”

Under the thunderous and loud applause, Qiao Nan almost revealed a blank expression.

Was this segment included at the last minute? Shouldn't this kind of segment be prearranged and rehearsed, and the congratulatory messages prepared beforehand?

Father and Mother Zhou looked more puzzled than Qiao Nan, let alone the party concerned. They looked absolutely baffled and doubted if their ears had made a mistake. Why was the bride's biological sister invited to the stage to say a few words of blessing?

They were aware that Qiao Nan and Qiao Zijin were not on good terms at all. Besides Qiao Zijin, Qiao Nan had never returned to the Qiao family to visit Qiao Zijin or spoken any words of concern before the latter was married. The pair of sisters did not even interact with each other. Would Qiao Nan have prepared such a congratulatory message for such an occasion? This was obviously a sneak attack, no?! In other words, if Qiao Zijin had arranged this, Qiao Zijin clearly wanted to watch Qiao Nan make a fool of herself.

Mother Zhou's face stiffened. Her hands also trembled from anger. She very much wished that she could snatch the microphone from the emcee and said that he had made a mistake earlier.

Undoubtedly, how would the emcee know that the bride had a biological sister? Obviously, besides Qiao Zijin, no one else could make the emcee say such a thing at this moment. As such, Mother Zhou could not help feeling nervous for Qiao Nan. If there were any hiccups on this matter, the Zhou family would not be able to explain themselves to the Zhai family.

Fortunately, Qiao Nan's dressing was presentable and was not embarrassed by Qiao Zijin's sudden attack. Clack, clack, clack! Looking calm and composed, she stepped onto the stage with her five-centimeter high heels. Suddenly, just with the sound of this pair of high heels, Qiao Nan had not only poised herself but also instinctively captured everyone's attention.

Chapter 1438: Stirring Up Trouble? Not Afraid!

Qiao Nan had experienced occasions, both locally and overseas, with constant flickers and flashes of lights from countless cameras and video equipment within ten meters from her, which were capable of making one's eyes uncomfortable. Qiao Nan had managed such major occasions steadily. Now, she was just attending a small wedding banquet and dragged onto the stage to deliver an impromptu speech. Could this be difficult for Qiao Nan?

What a joke!



Qiao Nan took over the microphone from the emcee in an unexpectedly calm manner. “In my view, be it men or women, marriage represents the beginning of a second life. No matter how one’s previous life was, the most important thing now is to grab hold of their second life and let it make up for the regrets and shortcomings of their first life. I sincerely hope that the bridegroom and bride can rationally manage their approaching second life with more mature foresight and mentality and live wonderfully, happily, peacefully, and healthily for the rest of their lives.”

Initially, some people could not really come back from their senses after listening to such a congratulatory speech.

It was only until when Qiao Nan returned to her seat that some people were struck by the logic of Qiao Nan’s words as they reminisced. When one was in the maternal family, she was a daughter. After she was married, she would become someone’s wife. Of course, she could not continue with her old ways of living in the maternal family when she was with the in-law family. She had to adapt to a new way of life.

This applied to both the bride and bridegroom.

Not everyone could understand the profound part of the speech, but most people could understand the simple part. The bride’s biological sister said that she hoped that the bridegroom and bride could lead a good life after marriage. There was no doubt about this point.

At that moment, loud and thunderous claps for Qiao Nan could be heard again.

Others could not understand these words, but not Qiao Zijin. Qiao Zijin’s expression turned pale for a while. Fortunately, she had applied blusher on her face. Otherwise, she would not be able to hide her pale face under the focus of everyone’s attention.

Qiao Zijin’s hands grasped the bouquet of flowers in her hands. This was the most beautiful moment of her life, yet Qiao Nan had to say such words of warning and sarcasm to her. Qiao Nan was truly a heartless and cruel bitch!

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She did not watch Qiao Nan make a fool out of herself. Instead, she was slapped in the face a few times calmly by Qiao Nan. Qiao Zijin had lost her interest in this wedding. If it was possible, she

did not even wish to continue with it. Anyway, she and Zhou Zheng had already collected the wedding certificate. Was she not Zhou Zheng's wife if they did not hold the wedding banquet?

After they went through the wedding process, the final step was for the newlyweds to give a toast to the guests today.

Qiao Nan, who had taken her fill, wiped her mouth and informed her neighbors. "My mother-in-law is taking care of the three children alone at home now. I'm a little worried and will make a move first. If there is a chance in the future, I will come and visit aunties and uncles again."

"Aye, okay. Nan Nan, take your time."

"Yes, pay attention to safety on the way home."

After greeting the neighbors, she also notified Qiao Dongliang so that the latter could pass the message to Qiao Zijin. After thinking, Qiao Dongliang said, "Wait a while. I will inform the in-laws that I am leaving with you. I miss the triplets too. Yesterday, I had so much fun with them. Perhaps the three of them are thinking about me, their maternal grandpa."

From the beginning to the end, Qiao Dongliang was only an ornament.

During the short walk of the bride's first march in, Qiao Dongliang was dragged to become part of the 'crew'. After he passed Qiao Zijin's hand to Zhou Zheng, it was 'mission accomplished'.

The moment Qiao Zijin's hand was taken by Zhou Zheng, Qiao Dongliang had the feeling of a huge burden being lifted off from his shoulders. He could finally straighten his heavily saddled waist.

Zijin was now married. In the future, he did not need to take this daughter in hand anymore. Whether her marriage life was good or bad would all depend on Zijin herself. If she did not have a good life, she was also the cause of the problem. He could not even take in hand the three women of his family, so how could he reach out to other people's family?

"Mom?" Click! As soon as the door was opened, the sharp-eared San Bao ran in the direction of the door.

“San Bao, look. Who am I?” Qiao Dongliang was quicker than Qiao Nan in showing his face, making San Bao laugh.

Pleasantly surprised, San Bao called, “Maternal grandpa!”

After two days of companionship, besides San Bao, all the three children’s bond with Qiao Dongliang, this maternal grandfather, had deepened tremendously. At this moment, when they saw Qiao Dongliang appear, the triplets were elated. San Bao waved her hand. “Maternal grandpa, come and catch San Bao!”

“Ooo-ah! The big tiger is going to eat the little rabbit.” Qiao Dongliang yelled, made his hands look like claws, and dashed toward San Bao. Da Bao and Er Bao also laughed and ran, shouting, “The big tiger can’t catch us! The big tiger can’t catch us!”

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Someone was playing with the three children. Qiao Nan and Miao Jing had nothing to do then. Miao Jing looked at Qiao Nan. “How was it? Nothing happened, right?”

“Even if there was, it’s not something major. I could handle it. It has been so many years. I am already used to it. Qiao Zijin is not capable of coming up with new or formidable tricks.” She was not controlled by Ding Jiayi anymore, and Ding Jiayi was no longer that old gun in Qiao Zijin’s hands. After losing these two great assistants, Qiao Zijin could not stir up any waves in front of her.

Miao Jing nodded understandingly. In that case, Qiao Zijin had really schemed against Nan Nan again on the day of her wedding. Unfortunately, the outcome was to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice used to lure it. She was so miserable. She had to feel upset even when she was a bride. The most pitiful thing was that Qiao Zijin brought this upon herself.

“Mom, are we going back tomorrow?” Qiao Zijin’s wedding was over. Of course, there was no need for her to continue staying in Ping Cheng.

Miao Jing took a glance at Qiao Dongliang. “Are you sure about going home tomorrow?”

“...” Qiao Nan clutched her head in pain. “Why don’t we stay for one more day? I seldom come back and the chances of my dad going to the capital are very slim.” She stayed so far away and Qiao Zijin had the heart of a stone. Thinking about it, after Qiao Nan had children in the future,

Qiao Zijin might not even be willing to let her child interact with her father and experience the joy of spending time with his grandchildren and family.

It was no wonder that her father had always wanted a son. With a son, his grandchildren would not be too far away from him. However, with a daughter, it was uncertain how many times he could see his maternal grandchild in a year; it depended on where his daughter was married to.

“Fine, if you say so. We’ll stay for one more day.”

“Okay.”

After finalizing the discussion, the mother and daughter-in-law no longer talked about this topic. When they were having dinner, Qiao Nan invited Qiao Dongliang to continue to visit the old house of the Zhai family to look after the triplets. Qiao Nan also conveniently told Qiao Dongliang that they had reserved the flights to return to the capital for the day after.

Qiao Dongliang’s smile faded much after hearing it. However, on the day of the third, Qiao Dongliang came to the house of the Zhai family early in the morning and played with the three children enthusiastically.

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## Chapter 1439: You Are This Kind of Person

When the triplets needed to take an afternoon nap and wash up and brush teeth after waking up, Qiao Dongliang also learned to help them with the tasks. He cherished very much each and every second that he could interact with the three children.

On that night, Qiao Dongliang stayed over at the house of the Zhai family for the first time. Qiao Nan and Miao Jing slept in the master bedroom upstairs while Qiao Dongliang slept in the guest room downstairs with the three children.

When the fourth, the day for them to leave, arrived, the triplets and Qiao Dongliang became so close that they could not bear to leave each other.

Tears welled up in San Bao's eyes, her little lips shriveling. "Maternal grandpa, can you go home with San Bao? My house is very big. Let you stay. If not, San Bao let maternal grandpa sleep on my bed. San Bao sleeps with Mom."

Er Bao pulled a long face. "Maternal grandpa, let's go home together. If you don't go back with us, what should I do if I miss you? What should I do if I cry when I don't see you?"

Da Bao was reluctant to leave his maternal grandfather too. However, he seemed to know that his maternal grandfather's house was in this city and he was not staying together with them. After thinking, Da Bao waved his hands at Qiao Dongliang to request him to squat down.

As soon as Qiao Dongliang squatted down, Da Bao gave Qiao Dongliang a hard kiss on his face. "Maternal grandpa, you must come and visit us. If you can't, Mom will bring us to visit maternal grandpa when we have a holiday."

Er Bao and San Bao followed suit. Pouting, they kissed Qiao Dongliang's face a few times. Besides feeling his heart crumbled, Qiao Dongliang's eyes and nose felt so sour that he could not take it anymore. He was choking on his words when he said, "Okay, maternal grandpa will visit you when I am available. Or when you all are free, come and see maternal grandpa." Do not forget maternal grandfather after you left Ping Cheng.

No matter how reluctant they were, Qiao Nan and Miao Jing had to board the plane with the triplets.

The moment he saw the plane took off, Qiao Dongliang felt the impulse to go to and settle down in the capital. In that case, he would have more time to keep his three grandchildren company and watch them grow up healthily.

However, when he thought of the property prices and cost of living in the capital and how poor he was—even the house in Ping Cheng where he stayed alone was given to him by his son-in-law—the fire of enthusiasm in Qiao Dongliang's heart was immediately extinguished by a basin of cold water. He felt thoroughly cold.

When the triplets were on the plane, they were still shouting for their maternal grandfather. Qiao Nan could barely appease them. Just when Qiao Nan was at a loss of what to do, the four of them were received directly by Old Master Zhai when they exited the airport.

As soon as Da Bao saw Old Master Zhai, he flung away his grandmother's hands immediately and dashed toward him. "Great-grandpa, I miss you so much. Where did you go?!"

Facing a situation of the villain 'Da Bao' accusing the victim, Old Master Zhai was both angry and amused. However, when he held onto his great-grandchild's warm and cozy little body, all his anger was gone. "Great-grandpa didn't go anywhere. Great-grandpa has been at home all this while, waiting for you three little devils to come home."

Da Bao had a sudden moment of realization. "Oh, yes, we are the ones who visited maternal grandpa. Great-grandpa has been staying at home obediently."

"Great-grandpa!"

"Great-grandpa." Although Er Bao and San Bao were not as emotional as Da Bao, as soon as they saw their familiar next-of-kin, the sadness of being separated from their beloved maternal grandfather lessened greatly. The two toddlers also dashed toward Old Master Zhai, being coquettish and displaying their cuteness. All the words of 'I miss you' made Old Master Zhai feel so sweet that he was smiling like a flower.

The corners of Qiao Nan's mouth twitched. She secretly asked Miao Jing, "Mom, does Dad behave in this way when he was a child too?" When she was a child, she was the 'introverted' one while Brother Zhai was 'cold and aloof'. No matter how she looked at it, the couple's tongues were not as glib as these three children's.

Miao Jing shook her head, but the smile in her eyes deepened greatly. "I only heard your grandpa mention how your dad was like when he was a child. I have not seen it myself. But your grandpa seems so used to this... I think the situation should be thereabouts." Miao Jing really did not expect that the Zhai Yaohui that she had always perceived as extremely reserved was like that when he was a child.

Looking at the adorable manners of the three grandchildren and their childish and innocent words, Miao Jing had the hunch and illusion that she was looking at her husband when he was a child through her grandchildren. In addition, this illusion was becoming increasingly real.

Given this reason, one could imagine how much Miao Jing loved the triplets.

Similar to Miao Jing's thoughts, the three grandchildren's cuteness made Old Master Zhai vaguely recall the time when his wife was still around, the happy times when Zhai Yaohui was only two to three years old. Although Zhai Yaohui became stiff and stern after he grew up, not amiable at all,

when he was a child, the young brat had a glib tongue. He often coaxed all the neighbors so well that they were willing to take out all the good stuff in their home to feed his little mouth.

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The people in the village often joked that the young brat did not have enough after eating at other people's houses, so he could bring more food home to continue eating thereafter. This young brat did not even need to be fed by his own family. When each of the family in the village fed him a mouthful each, he could become a fat and chubby kid just from their feeding alone.

It could be said that that period of time was the happiest time in Old Master Zhai's life. When one was old, they loved to reminisce about the past. However, he could not recall some matters no matter how much he tried to. His memory was so poor that even he felt afraid.

Old Master Zhai wrapped his arms around the stubby bodies of his three grandchildren, who seemed to have grown bigger. His arms were not as strong as when he was young and could not carry all three children at once with his arms circling them. He did not know how many years were left of him to keep them company. Nevertheless, he would accompany them for as long as he could and look after them. The things that his wife could not watch, he would watch them on her behalf.

In that case, when he left this world and met his wife in the other world in the future, he could tell her about the things that she did not know. He would have many topics of conversation with his wife.

The big family returned home in a happy and bustling manner. When the old auntie at home saw the triplets, she felt as happy as seeing her own grandchildren. She wiped her eyes. "You're finally back. When these three mischievous troublemakers were not at home, the whole house felt so quiet." Besides her, even the old master and chief were not used to it. Those who stayed behind survived the days by craning their necks and counting down the days.

Qiao Nan was not surprised by this. Previously, when she was on an overseas business trip with her senior brother, she had clearly left the triplets for only five days, but when she saw them again, she felt as though she had not seen them for five years. She could not bear to let go when she hugged them.

After the children came back, be it Old Master Zhai or Zhai Yaohui, they obviously paid more attention to the triplets than before. Even Xiao Bao came and surrounded his cousins, refusing to leave. When he went to the bathroom, he shouted 'still around?' from time to time. After receiving

his cousins' reply, Xiao Bao was then willing to continue to take care of his business, making even the triplets speechless.

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## Chapter 1440: Let Xiao Bao Stay at Your House

Besides the speechless triplets, Tian Dong was the one feeling most upset. "No wonder... Mom, why don't you bring our family's Xiao Bao along when you bring the triplets on a trip next time?" During the few days that Qiao Nan and the triplets were away, his son almost annoyed him to death.

He did not discover it in the past. He had only seen through the naggy nature of his son now.

Typically, Tian Dong would let Xiao Bao stay overnight at the Zhai family for two days a week. The days that the triplets were away this time coincided with the days when Xiao Bao went to the Zhai family's residence to play. Although Xiao Bao was unhappy when Qiao Nan was away on a business trip, his three cousins were still around to play with him. However, these four people were all away; even Miao Jing was not around.

Seeing that there were only two 'old men' left in the Zhai family, Xiao Bao, having nothing left to yearn for, was carried by Tian Dong back to the Tian family. In the following few days, Xiao Bao was so listless. Not to mention Mother Tian, his grandmother, even Tian Dong, felt so jealous at this sight.

After all, this was his biological son, Xiao Bao, who was upset. Although he felt jealous, Tian Dong felt his heart ache more.

Rather than letting Xiao Bao continue to be moody, he might as well let his mother-in-law and Qiao Nan bring Xiao Bao along if they were to go out to have fun. Coincidentally, his family did not have the spare time to do so. His mother-in-law and Qiao Nan could even take care of triplets well. Would they shun having one more Xiao Bao?

"That's only your wishful thinking." Miao Jing looked at Tian Dong, this son-in-law, unhappily. "Are you really prepared to dump Xiao Bao at our house? Will in-law be happy? She already feels upset if she doesn't see Xiao Bao for one day. If you really let us bring Xiao Bao away for a few days, she will become lovesick." Miao Jing was quite sure about this.



Thankfully, they had three kids in the family and could not dote on them enough. The Tian family only had one precious darling, Xiao Bao. As such, they watched him like a hawk. In particular, Dongzi married late. When other family's children were going to attend primary school, Xiao Bao was not even two years old.

The Tian family was only short of finding someone to follow Xiao Bao twenty-four hours per day, lest Xiao Bao be bullied or become injured by knocking into something or falling down. Given how anxious the Tian family was for Xiao Bao, Miao Jing dared not agree even if Tian Dong dared to let her take care of Xiao Bao.

Tian Dong did not deny the importance that his mother placed on Xiao Bao. "Of course, this is wishful thinking on my part. My mom is too anxious about Xiao Bao. Xiao Bao likes to come here to play. I think it is most likely because Xiao Bao feels more carefree at his maternal grandma's house." Tian Dong also discovered his mother's issue. She was overly-anxious about Xiao Bao and forbid Xiao Bao to do this or play that.

In the past, he did not discover this problem of his mother. However, after having Xiao Bao, Tian Dong simply suspected if his mother had changed her horoscope to the cleanliness freak Virgo. After Xiao Bao went home to play for a short while, his mother made Xiao Bao wash his hands more than ten or twenty times until Xiao Bao's hands turned red.

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Although his mother had applied baby's moisturizer on Xiao Bao thereafter, Tian Dong felt quite upset at the sight of Xiao Bao's miserable face. Xiao Bao was a son, not a daughter. They had gone overboard to raise him in this way. Unfortunately, Tian Dong could not open his mouth to persuade his mother as they were his elders. When he could not endure further and told his mother, she refused to listen.

This time, even his father was not effective in resolving this. His mother refused to agree no matter what they said. She insisted that there were many bacteria nowadays and they had to pay attention to Xiao Bao more. He had been forced to wash his hands so many times at home. However, he only needed to wash his hands before he ate something in the Zhai family's residence. Xiao Bao was very young, but he was aware of the difference.

There you had it. As soon as he was at the Zhai family, Xiao Bao considered himself having been set free.

“Your whole family had stayed overseas for so many years. I had thought that your mom is more open-minded and flexible than me.” After hearing what was happening ‘inside’ the family, Miao Jing could not quite figure out when this in-law of hers had become so troublesome. It was no wonder Dongzi could bear to send his son to their house.

Dongzi gave a bitter smile. “This is because when you were away last week, I promised Xiao Bao to let him stay over at your house for a few more days. Aren’t the triplets still on the National Day holiday? It’s just nice. The four children can gather and play together.” Qiao Nan would certainly be busy when she came back. She would not have time to keep Xiao Bao company.

“Alright. When your mom can’t take it anymore, you can come and bring Xiao Bao away.” This matter could at most dawdle for a few days. Most likely, her in-law’s tolerance limit of not seeing Xiao Bao was three or four days. Miao Jing looked at Xiao Bao sympathetically. Her pitiful maternal grandson... He had met with such a strange paternal grandmother.

Her temperament had such a sudden and drastic change.

After returning to the house in the capital, there were many people who could help Qiao Nan look after the kids. As soon as the kids arrived home, she gave He Yi a phone call immediately. After the children rested for a while, Qiao Nan might as well bring the triplets and Xiao Bao to visit Elder Lin next door.

She was not sure if Elder Lin’s health had been poor lately or he had not rested well. He not only caught a cold but was also quite seriously ill. As such, Qiao Nan let the four children wear masks before visiting Elder Lin.

Elder Lin was very clear about how the cold virus spread. When he heard that Qiao Nan was back and even brought the four children to visit him, he spat words at the nanny angrily. He then asked the nanny to pass what he said, word-for-word, to Qiao Nan, “I am having a cold, not some major terminal illness. The four children are still so young and they have weak immune systems. Even an adult like me has taken ill. How are the four little ones going to fight the virus? You are such an idiot. How did you become a mother? Is there someone like you who bring your kids to a patient’s house? Won’t your heart ache when the kids fall sick?”

After being shot a round of scolding, Qiao Nan could only leave some local specialty products that she brought from Ping Cheng in the house and returned home with the four kids gloomily. Xiao Bao did not feel much. Anyway, he was here to join in the fun. When he saw the cousins and auntie going there, he simply followed them without knowing anything as he did not wish to be left alone.

The triplets were different. They had a very deep bond with Lin Yuankang.

This time, they bought many things from Ping Cheng. The triplets kept saying that they wanted to give these items to this person and that person, and those items to this person and that person. Amongst the recipients, the frequency of Lin Yuankang's name being mentioned by the triplets was higher than Zhai Yaohui, the biological grandfather.

The triplets felt extremely disappointed that they could not personally give the presents that they selected for master grandpa to him. They pouted and snorted like ponies.

“Alright, didn't Mom already tell you? Master grandpa is sick now. His body is unwell and he needs to rest properly. If you really wish to see master grandpa, wait until he is fully recovered. Won't that do? At that time, you can tell master grandpa which of those presents were picked by you specially for master grandpa. I think master grandpa has already received your presents by now. Also, he must be feeling very, very, happy. When master grandpa's mood is better, he will definitely recover faster from his illness.”