

RTAMM 1471

Chapter 1471: Could Not Help but Worry

It was after summer and Zhai Sheng's shirt wasn't thick at all. Within half a minute, Zhai Sheng clearly felt that the spot where Qiao Nan buried her face in was completely soaked by her tears. Qiao Nan cried silently and this was especially heart-wrenching for Zhai Sheng. "Stop crying. Mom will bring the triplets out soon. How are you going to explain to them if they see you like this? At the very least, we should learn from Elder Lin and not let the triplets suffer too much, right?"

Qiao Nan rubbed her face against Zhai Sheng's shirt. Her eyes were still red. "Go and change your clothes." The color of the shirt where her tears had dampened was darkened. If they didn't want the triplets to find out so early, of course she couldn't let them see Zhai Sheng in this attire.

Zhai Sheng poured a cup of warm water for Qiao Nan. After watching Qiao Nan take a sip, he went upstairs to change his clothes.

Under the help of their grandma, the triplets wiped the sweat off their faces and bodies. However, their father had changed his clothes. "Dad, you took a shower?" San Bao tilted her head and looked at Zhai Sheng curiously. "So early?"

"San Bao, the clothes you wore when you returned are different from what you're wearing now as well. The shirt Dad wore previously is dirty, so he changed into another one. However, don't worry. Dad will wash his own clothes." Zhai Sheng pinched his daughter's nose as he saw her thoughts clearly.

His three children were classic examples of 'the powerful can do whatever they want; the weak are not allowed to do anything'. If their clothes became dirty, Nan Nan could wash them. If his clothes became dirty, he had to be self-sufficient and not let Nan Nan get too tired.

Seeing that she didn't get her way, she snorted unhappily. "I'm hungry and I want to eat. Grandma, Mom, I'm hungry!" Dad was the most detestable. Every time he teased her and she teased him back, he never seemed to have fallen into her trap.

Once she wasn't happy, she would change the topic. Miao Jing smiled and held her granddaughter's hand so that she was sitting next to her and could place some food into her bowl. Compared to the smart Da Bao, Miao Jing naturally preferred to take care of the soft and cute granddaughter.

Er Bao and San Bao behaved quite normally. Qiao Nan and Da Bao made people feel that they were quieter.

Zhai Yaohui looked at Zhai Sheng. Zhai Sheng shook his head, signaling that it wasn't a good time to say anything now and to ask questions only after dinner.

As such, the dinner table at the Zhai family today was quieter than usual. Even Er Bao and San Bao no longer played around. When Zhai Yaohui was eating, he paid special attention to the old master. He noticed that Old Master Zhai was eating the same amount of food as usual and felt more relieved.

After dinner, Zhai Yaohui pulled Zhai Sheng into the study room for a chat. Only then did he find out about Elder Lin. "No wonder." Zhai Yaohui had heard about some movements in the central government but didn't find out the details.

After hearing from his son that Elder Lin was diagnosed with cancer, Zhai Yaohui guessed that this happened only recently and understood everything. "Elder Lin... He Yi isn't young anymore. He has reached the country's designated retirement age. Nan Nan is not thirty years old and is in her heyday. It looks like Elder Lin has made some arrangements for Qiao Nan." To have a daughter-in-law in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was something to be proud of.

Zhai Yaohui knew that it had nothing to do with the Zhai family that Qiao Nan had reached where she was today. Qiao Nan had relied on her own capabilities and her master, Lin Yuankang.

Who wouldn't welcome a daughter-in-law who not only didn't cause trouble but also won glory for her parents-in-law?

Back then, many people laughed at the Zhai family for not being picky or being too arrogant. They had chosen a daughter-in-law who was powerless, poor, and not of any help to the Zhai family at all. Aside from her face, she was without any positive traits.

Those who laughed at Zhai Sheng for being befuddled by lust back then were probably given so many slaps to their faces now that their faces were pretty much swollen. By the time Nan Nan really became the next minister of foreign affairs, those people probably wouldn't have any face left to meet anyone outside.

"Qiao Nan has a good relationship with Elder Lin. Even our three grandchildren love and respect this elder. If Elder Lin really... Try and see if you can stay at home for the next few days. At this

time, the four of them need your care. The comfort of others would be useless.” Even if Qiao Dongliang came, Qiao Nan would cry more sadly if she saw him.

That was because the person who passed away was an elder who treated her better than her birth father.

“Yes, I’m thinking of this as well.” If Elder Lin was no longer around, he would worry about leaving Nan Nan alone. The three children’s emotions would be especially strong as well and the house would be in a mess.

After keeping away the joy that his daughter-in-law was about to become the next minister, Zhai Yaohui, who was also a grandpa, naturally thought more about the young people like Zhai Sheng when facing such life-and-death issues. He didn’t know when, or which day in the future, would such a thing happen to him as well. “Will Hua Hua be back this time around?”

The Zhai family had a good relationship with Elder Lin. Elder Lin didn’t have other relatives. If he really passed away, Zhai Hua naturally had to come back and send him off.

“It’s the triplets’ birthday tomorrow. Zhai Hua should already be at the Tian family today,” Zhai Sheng said definitively.

Zhai Yaohui nodded. “Okay, let’s do this. You’ll accompany the old master tonight. I’ll do it tomorrow.” After all, he was no longer young. The muscles on his body had stiffened after sleeping on the floor for a night.

If he did so for two consecutive nights, Zhai Yaohui was worried that before something happened to Old Master Zhai, he would have to go to the traditional Chinese medicine hall first and do acupuncture.

“Okay.” Of course, Zhai Sheng wouldn’t refuse. Even if Zhai Yaohui didn’t mention it, he would do so as well. “Sleep early tonight.” Zhai Sheng could smell the strong medicinal wine on Zhai Yaohui’s body. He was not only good with his eyes and ears but also his nose.

Zhai Sheng kept Old Master Zhai company tonight while Qiao Nan continued to sleep alone. She lay alone on the big bed and looked at the bright moon peeping through the window curtains. Qiao Nan’s sadness turned into a river.

If something happened to Old Master Zhai, he would be guarded by his son, accompanied by his grandson, and coaxed by his great-grandchildren. However, her master's health was deteriorating and he didn't even have a close relative by his side.

Chapter 1472: Mom Is the Best

She had always said that she would take care of her master in his old age. In this current situation, would it still be considered as her taking care of her master?

Although they were both elderly and were in poor health at the same time, Old Master Zhai and Old Lin were treated quite differently. Qiao Nan pitied Old Lin for this difference in treatment and was in greater misery for not being able to fulfill her promise to stay by Old Lin's side and take care of him while he was ill.

As a disciple, she had not fulfilled her responsibilities.

The next day was the children's birthday, but the Zhai family was not joyful. Instead, the mood was somber.

Zhai Hua, who had just returned home, was unaware of the situation. Upon seeing his son whom he had been separated from for a long time, Zhai Hua happily held Xiao Bao in his arms and forcefully kissed his son's face. "Xiao Bao, did you miss me?"

Xiao Bao, who was being hugged too tightly, pouted and disgruntledly wiped off the saliva from his face. "I did. Mom, when are you free? Can you send me to the nursery?" Every time he went to school, his mother had never appeared. All the other children in the nursery had joked that he was an orphan.

"Sure, baby." Zhai Hua was extremely proud. After all, he was like a piece of herself. Even though she did not spend much time with her son, her son still treasured her as his biological mother.

"Mom has a long holiday this time. Even after National Day is over, I won't leave. I'll send you to school then. How's that? Then, during the National Day period, I'll bring you over to grandma's house for a few days and play with you four for a while."

"Mom, you're the best! I love you!" Xiao Bao's eyes twinkled as he let out a squeal in his baby voice. His chubby little hands held onto Zhai Hua's face and he puckered up his cheeks to kiss her. "Mom, why are you only back now? I missed you so much!"

With Xiao Bao's sweet talk, Zhai Hua and Xiao Bao's intelligence and expression completely changed. Zhai Hua was up in arms by Xiao Bao's cajoling and after a few kisses from him, Zhai Hua was so absorbed that she could not tell the directions anymore!

In an instant, the whole Tian family could only hear the sounds of Zhai Hua and Xiao Bao chatting. Xiao Bao would ask a question and Zhai Hua would reply. Then, Xiao Bao would say, "Mom, you're the best." Zhai Hua would then smooch Xiao Bao's face, replying that Xiao Bao was even better.

"This fruit is so fresh! Auntie bought it today. Try it!" Seeing that his own wife was about to erupt out of jealousy, Father Tian quickly took a piece of fruit and fed it to Mother Tian in an attempt to appease her. "I ate it. It's not particularly sweet. It's a little sour, like the kind that you like." This was not just a little sour. It was like a whole sea of vinegar that could drown someone in it.

Was it abnormal for a son to stick to his biological mother?

Even though Zhai Hua did not spend as much time with Xiao Bao as compared to his wife, it could not be helped since Zhai Hua was Xiao Bao's biological mother and had grown up with Zhai Hua's milk. How could it possibly be the same?

After she had spent enough time with her son, Zhai Hua carried Xiao Bao and said, "Xiao Bao, let's go to bed earlier today. It's your brothers' and sister's birthday tomorrow. We have to celebrate for them!"

"Okay! I want to sleep with Mom tonight." Xiao Bao obediently sat within Zhai Hua's embrace. That sense of security made Xiao Bao feel as though he was being hugged by his father rather than his mother. Xiao Bao did not understand. It clearly felt different when his uncle and aunt hugged him, yet he got the same feeling when his mom and dad hugged him.

"Good boy." Zhai Hua smiled serenely. "So what kind of gift is Xiao Bao planning to give to your brothers and sister tomorrow? Have you prepared it already?"

"Yes." Xiao Bao nodded obediently. "Grandma took me and we picked them out together. One each for Da Bao, Er Bao, and San Bao." Xiao Bao held out his small hand, counting each name with a finger. He held up three fingers just as he finished saying the names of the three children. Zhai Hua was pleasantly surprised. "Xiao Bao, you can count?"

Xiao Bao smiled widely. "Of course! From one to ten!"

The atmosphere between the mother and son was great and they returned to their room while chatting.

“Mom, Xiao Bao’s accompanying Hua Hua. I’ll accompany you.” Tian Dong sat beside the empress dowager of the Tian family. “Mom, eat these fruits. When you’re done, I’ll go cut some more for you.” Normally, just the Qiao family and the three children of the Zhai family were enough to make his mother feel sore. Now that Hua Hua was back, his mother’s mood was sure to be even worse.

Mother Tian’s words dripped with jealousy. “Accompany me? It’s rare that your wife is back. I thought that the two of you would only have eyes for Zhai Hua. Would you still remember that you still have your mother around? It’s not easy. I didn’t mean it. Forget it. Just go accompany your wife and son. I still have your dad.”

Most importantly, what she needed was for her grandson to accompany her. Not her son. In the presence of her grandson, she could not care less for her son and husband.

Now that Mother Tian had said that, Tian Dong could not rebuke her, but Father Tian could. “Look at what you’re saying. You don’t sound like an elder. Are there mothers-in-law who compete with their daughters-in-law for affection? Aren’t you afraid that other people might make a joke of you because of this? What Dongzi suggested sounds good. Xiao Bao accompanies his mother, so your son is going to accompany you.”

Mother Tian understood that, but it was another thing to accept it. “Forget it. I’ve seen through it. You three are in cahoots against me. I’m just an outsider. It’s late and I’m sleepy. I don’t want to spend time with any of you. It’s too frustrating.”

Even though Mother Tian’s tone was curt, at least she did not continue throwing her tantrum and instead decided to go to bed. Father Tian and Tian Dong breathe a sigh of relief. “Your mom’s temper is getting worse. Technically, your mom’s menopause should be over, right?” Why was she still always throwing tantrums?

Tian Dong felt a little awkward. “I think that ever since Mom returned from abroad, she’s had too much free time. It’s only natural that her mind will wander.” As long as his father found something for his mother to do, his mother might no longer throw tantrums. “Dad, why don’t you take this opportunity during the National Day holiday and bring Mom on a holiday to have some fun? Don’t worry about anything at home.”

Tian Dong had not suggested this flippantly. He knew that Qiao Nan had gotten Shi Peng to use this method to appease Feng Cheng. Although his mother was older than Feng Cheng, Tian Dong felt that they were both women, so the results of such a method should be similar.

Father Tian hesitated. “Will that be okay? I’m fine with it, but the question is whether your mother will be willing to go with me. You should know too. Ever since Xiao Bao was born, we’re all less important than Xiao Bao. Xiao Bao is the most precious in your mom’s heart. Will she be willing to leave Xiao Bao behind and go on a holiday with me?”

Chapter 1473: It Is Best to Be Content

The last few sentences made Father Tian feel aggrieved.

Now, in this family, they had no status anymore. In other words, they could not compare to Xiao Bao.

Tian Dong patted his father on the shoulder and encouraged him. “Just try it. It’s been long since we had a National Day holiday. Even if Hua Hua didn’t come back, knowing Xiao Bao, he would definitely pester Mom to bring him over to the Zhai family’s house to play. Since Xiao Bao won’t be around, Mom will be bored to death either way. Maybe if you tell her that, she might agree. Dad, I believe in you. You can do it.”

He thought about how his parents were already advanced in age. When they had left China for America that year, they had not exactly done it voluntarily.

Now that Old Master Tian was no longer around, his uncle of his could no longer play any tricks on his family. As such, his family had a much better life in these past two years. But it could be due to the lack of such worries that his mother had been too bored and her temper had gotten worse.

When they had first arrived in America, Tian Dong remembered that the three of them lived a very tough life as a typical resident, let alone doing business there. At that time, China had not developed yet, and to a certain extent, there had been racial discrimination against Asians.

Tian Dong had already heard of the insult ‘f*cking pig’ when he was young.

When Father Tian arrived in America with no roots there, he had to start from scratch. Gradually, he expanded the family business. At that time in a foreign country, Father Tian not only struggled with

his finances but also with interpersonal relationships. One could only imagine how tough Father Tian's life was in the first few years that he started his business in America.

In order for Father Tian to focus on his business, Mother Tian did her best to run the household on her own. Moreover, she also took it upon herself to help out in the business and treated herself like a regular employee. She earned little but did a lot, toiling alongside Father Tian.

So the Tian couple suffered and endured through a lot while they were young but did not have many good days. Thinking about that, Tian Dong felt that it would be good for his father to bring his mother around the country for a tour to see the great rivers and mountains in the country, the unique scenery, or just enjoy the majestic atmosphere.

Father Tian hesitated. He had toiled for so many years, and now that he was old, he did not want to lead a tough life. At their age, if they did not exercise more, they might lose all mobility in the future. "How about I go for a tour of China with your mom?"

He had had countless opportunities to travel abroad in the past. When Father Tian went on business trips, he would always bring Mother Tian along. After all, he always needed a female partner for evening balls. Father Tian did not say much to Mother Tian, unlike his elder brother. In order to avoid unnecessary trouble, Father Tian either chose not to bring a female companion or only brought Mother Tian along.

At that time, flying was always for business matters. Even though they visited dozens of places, the couple never had the chance to walk around and go sightseeing. They always had to make the most of their time and seal the deal. After finalizing their agreements, they would have to implement it in their business as soon as possible to allow the production to be put into operation.

So it could be said that the Tian Corporation was built by such efforts of the Tian couple.

It was because of this that Father Tian was moved when he heard Tian Dong's suggestion. This time, the couple would be able to walk around freely to enjoy the scenery around the country. They would not be in a rush, as they would if they were to take a plane.

"I'll try." Although Father Tian was moved, he did not dare to commit to it. "If I try, I'll probably be able to convince her. Your mom has been with me this whole time. It's been hard on her. When we were younger and I was running the business, if she was not helping me out, then she would be taking care of the family. If I think about it, I've never really spent much time with your mom. It's really been hard on her."

Mother Tian, who had been standing by the staircase, cupped her mouth. With reddened eyes, she silently returned to her room.

Initially, she had seen that her grandson had such a close relationship with her son and daughter-in-law, completely forgetting about his grandma. Every time her grandson went to his other grandmother's house, he would refuse to return, making Mother Tian's heart ache tremendously.

But Mother Tian returned to her room and realized that she had been so angry that she had not even drunk a sip of water. Her throat was hoarse and she was not going to torture herself, so she intended to go downstairs for a cup of water.

But she had not expected to overhear the father and son discussing her when she reached the staircase landing. To Mother Tian, who was still fuming, her first reaction to the duo talking about her was that these two were saying bad things about her behind her back.

Otherwise, what could they possibly be saying only now that she had returned to her room?

Mother Tian wanted to listen to what they had to say and then talk it out with the father and son. Her grandson was still young, so she could forget about it. It was understandable for him to be close to her mother and his mother's family. When he grew older, Xiao Bao would naturally understand that his paternal grandmother's family was the most important to him. But how could these two men, her husband and her son, gang up against her? How could they treat her as an outsider and favor Zhai Hua?

With that, Mother Tian began eavesdropping while raging internally. But who would have known? As she continued listening, Mother Tian realized that these two men were not speaking ill of her but talking about how they would have the older Tian bring her on a holiday, while the younger Tian take care of the family.

At this moment, Mother Tian's anger dissipated, but only a little. Because she knew that the duo only had such an idea because she had thrown a tantrum. But no matter what, it was good as long as the father and son did not simply favor Zhai Hua because she had given birth to Xiao Bao.

Moreover, the father and son were just trying to coax her. If they tried their best but she was still unhappy, there was really no way she could continue living in this family. It would not be her that would not be able to survive but all the other family members. She was not going to be such a stubborn and callous person.

But when Mother Tian heard what Father Tian said softly, Mother Tian was truly moved.

It had not been a smooth-sailing journey for Father Tian to develop his business from nothing into a booming empire. Mother Tian had seen too many men who had simply abandoned their wives who had stuck with them through thick and thin and found mistresses or one-night stands after they had become successful, but Father Tian had never done so.

Chapter 1474: Mom, You Are Really Weird

It was rare to find someone with strict self-discipline like Father Tian, who was loyal only to his wife, who had shared her husband's hard lot.

Under such a comparison, Mother Tian always counted her blessings. Sometimes, when she lost her temper, she might not be willing to heed others' words. However, if the person who was persuading her was Father Tian, she would often restrain her temper.

Those women and friends in the same circle were often envious of Mother Tian. They even persuaded her to count her blessings. It was rare for her to meet such a great man like Father Tian, and she had to cherish him well and not lose her temper.

Of course, if she couldn't keep Father Tian by her side anymore, at least she was still better than this group of people. She had more better days and less worrying days. There was a saying that it was good to have someone. If not, don't ever lose yourself as well. In their circle, most of the men were like this. Mother Tian was already much more fortunate than them.

Mother Tian herself thought that way as well after persuading many people.

What was lucky was that until Mother Tian became a grandmother, Father Tian never had any other woman but her by his side. After listening to Father Tian's sincere and doting words, as a normal woman, how would Mother Tian not be moved?

Father Tian and Tian Dong didn't seem to know that Mother Tian had heard most of their conversation.

Father Tian was worried that Mother Tian wouldn't agree to him and had already drafted a script in his mind. Who knew that after he returned to his room and looked into Mother Tian's eyes, she gave him an affirmative answer within a minute? Father Tian had to keep back the persuasive words he

had in mind. “I was saying I want to go on a vacation with you. It might be domestic travel or foreign travel. If it’s domestic travel, we won’t return until half a month later. If it’s foreign travel, you won’t see Xiao Bao for a long time.”

Didn’t his wife treat Xiao Bao as her precious and wanted to see him as much as possible?

“Besides me, the grandma, Xiao Bao still has his birth father, birth mother, and so many relatives in the in-law’s family. It couldn’t be that no one will take care of Xiao Bao if I’m not around, right? When I was young, it was tough for me to accompany you around. When I’m old, it couldn’t be that my purpose is to help you take care of your grandson, right? I’m not that foolish. There are so many nice and fun places. I won’t lock myself up at home.”

Mother Tian said these words with her back facing Father Tian so that he couldn’t see her slightly red eyes. “Furthermore, it’s popular for young people nowadays to go on a honeymoon. To think we had lived in the US for over twenty years. After being married to you for so long, we haven’t been on a travel before, let alone a honeymoon. I find it late that you’re mentioning this only now.”

Father Tian didn’t understand why it was so easy to talk to his wife today. However, since it was rare that she had agreed, of course he wouldn’t probe into the details. If he asked too many questions, Mother Tian might feel irritated and not be willing to travel again. “If you agree to it, I’ll plan the itinerary tomorrow and we can fly off the day after.”

Tomorrow was the triplets’ birthday. The Zhai family and the Tian family were in-laws. Seeing that National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival were happening together, both families should find the opportunity to have a meal together. Coincidentally, the triplets’ birthday became this opportunity.

On the triplets’ birthday, the Tian family would have a meal with the Zhai family. On Mid-Autumn Festival, the Tian family could have a meal together in their family of five and not be disturbed by others.

As such, Father Tian could only book the tickets and plan the itinerary for this trip tomorrow. Furthermore, it was already midnight. Even if Father Tian wanted to find out more details, there wasn’t anyone around to provide him with such information.

After the couple finished talking, Father Tian and Mother Tian slept exceptionally well.

While Father Tian and Mother Tian were sleeping peacefully, tonight was considered a passionate night for the newly-weds, Zhai Hua and Tian Dong, who were young and full of vigor.

When Tian Dong hugged his wife agitatedly and rolled around in bed, he was thankful that Xiao Bao had already developed the habit of sleeping in a bed alone, just like the triplets. If his son was also sleeping on this big bed, how would he dare to be so impudent? He had given all this passion and 'savings', which had been accumulated for long, to his wife without any reservations. "Wife, I saved a lot of 'grains' this time around. You have to satisfy me well."

Zhai Hua's face was charming. Upon hearing Tian Dong's words, she couldn't help but give him a kick. "If you want to do it, just do it. Why are you saying so much nonsense for? Well? Would I be afraid of you?" She had great stamina. What was there for her to be afraid of?

As a female soldier, Zhai Hua was confident of her stamina and didn't put Tian Dong's words to heart.

As such, this couple went all out the entire night. The next day, when the sun was shining brightly, they were late. Xiao Bao was so angry that he climbed up the bed, pulled open their blanket, and shaped his hands in the form of a trumpet to wake them up. "Dad! Mom! It's the triplets' birthday today. We said before that we would go over to celebrate with them. Get up, get up! Get up quickly! Otherwise, we won't make it in time!"

Seeing that his parents didn't move, Xiao Bao was so angry that he spread his legs and sat on Tian Dong's waist, as if riding a horse. He kept jumping up and down, treating Tian Dong's body like a trampoline.

Tian Dong and Zhai Hua naturally woke up due to the noise their son was making since they hadn't died yet from the passionate night before. Zhai Hua was blushing. After seeing her son, it was rare for her tone to become gentle. "Xiao Bao's awake? You're earlier than Dad and Mom. Xiao Bao, why are you so great?"

Xiao Bao couldn't help but shiver, shocked by his mom. "Mom, why are you speaking so weirdly today? You're weirder than yesterday."

Xiao Bao was long used to his mom's arms being similar to his dad's, and that the way his mom spoke was similar to that of his dad and grandpa. Xiao Bao was willing to cooperate yesterday as Zhai Hua had taken the initiative, offering to bring him over to the Zhai family's house to stay for a few days.

How would Xiao Bao, who was extremely happy, care that Zhai Hua's tone was different from before? Of course, Xiao Bao would find that whatever Zhai Hua said was good.

After the night, such a joy had cooled down in Xiao Bao's heart. Zhai Hua used an even gentler tone than yesterday to talk to Xiao Bao. Xiao Bao wasn't used to it.

Zhai Hua raised her eyebrows. "Weird? How is it weird? I clearly saw that every time your aunt talked to you in such a manner, you were very happy." She even gave birth to a child. Of course she had to learn from Qiao Nan to be an understanding wife and loving mother and to become gentler.

Chapter 1475: Just Teach It Accordingly

Zhai Hua had heard about Xiao Bao's attitude toward Mother Tian.

Although Zhai Hua was not jealous like Mother Tian, she still felt uncomfortable knowing that her own son preferred someone else rather than her.

Today, Zhai Hua was even willing to try things that irked her in the past for the sake of her son. Seeing how her son liked Qiao Nan, she tried learning from Qiao Nan too. She wanted him to know that she was the one who gave birth to him. No matter what, she did not want to behave like her mother-in-law who could not do anything even after seeing that Xiao Bao preferred someone else.

Zhai Hua had thought it through. It was rare that she had the time to return home, so acceding to her son's request from time to time was very necessary.

But something unexpected happened. They had been fine the previous day, but today, Xiao Bao's words dealt a strong blow to Zhai Hua. Even though it had been harmonious between the mother and son the previous day, in Xiao Bao's eyes, he did not think that she was gentle, only weird.

How could this be possible?

"Auntie?" Xiao Bao did not even need to think. "No, auntie doesn't speak like that. Her voice doesn't sound like that. When auntie speaks, her tone is always jovial, not like that. You're not auntie. You're my mom." How could his mom be like his auntie? His mom could never become his auntie.

With Xiao Bao repeatedly chanting this like a monk, Zhai Hua not only had a headache but also grew rather annoyed at her son. “It’s my fault as a mom. You’re only three years old, not yet four. How could you possibly understand what I meant? Fine, go find your grandma for breakfast. Mom and Dad will join you soon. Then, we’ll go to your maternal grandma’s house and Xiao Bao can play with your cousins. How’s that?”

“Okay!” This was Xiao Bao’s ultimate goal. Upon hearing that his mom was going to wake up and was even going to bring him to his maternal grandma’s house, Xiao Bao obediently climbed down from his father’s body, put on his slippers, and ran downstairs to find his grandma for breakfast.

“Okay, Xiao Bao’s gone. Hurry and come in.” Zhai Hua had woken up early but pretended to sleep in front of her son. Her hands secretly moved to her chest naughtily to tempt Tian Dong. “If your son comes back and makes a fuss, I won’t be able to help you. You’ll have to explain to him why we’re sleeping without any clothes.”

Because the two of them had been entirely naked, it was inconvenient for them to get up with Xiao Bao around. They were afraid that Xiao Bao would see something. It would be especially embarrassing for Tian Dong.

Zhai Hua was not an ordinary woman. She was a cheetah with claws.

It was in no way easy for Tian Dong to take advantage of Zhai Hua. While Tian Dong satisfied himself physically and mentally, he also sustained many injuries all over his body. There were scratches by Zhai Hua, even bites by Zhai Hua. Those injuries looked rather pitiful.

Tian Dong was worried that if his son were to see him in this state, he would ask if the couple had a good relationship and whether they had been fighting. Tian Dong did not know if he should give his son the correct answer and expose his son to sex education at such a young age.

The reason why he was so ‘pathetic’ was not that he had fought with someone but, rather, because he was too ‘close’ to his wife.

In this aspect, Tian Dong’s mindset was more westernized. He felt that there was nothing wrong with telling Xiao Bao about it. Unfortunately, Zhai Hua did not agree. She was unwilling for Tian Dong to tell her son that. With Zhai Hua stopping him, Tian Dong was not hesitant and in a dilemma about how to explain it to his son. Since there was no good way of doing it, they might as well hide under the blanket to prevent their son from finding out and asking questions.

“What’s there that we can’t explain? Just follow what I say. We might as well tell him at a younger age. There’s nothing bad about it. If Xiao Bao learns about it earlier, he’ll be good like his father and find a good wife.” After Xiao Bao left, Tian Dong got up quickly and walked to his closet to get his clothes.

“No way. Xiao Bao is only three years old. Even if you teach him now, he might not understand. If Xiao Bao leaks it and tells someone else about it, I’ll lose all dignity.” In terms of her dignity, Zhai Hua’s personality was rather masculine, but it did not mean that she would be flippant and negligent in everything that she did. When it came to the topic of sex, the Chinese people were rather shy, and so was Zhai Hua.

“Dignity? You’re talking about dignity?” Tian Dong did not know whether to laugh or cry. “I think Qiao Nan has done a good job in this respect. She’s younger than you, but she is really a better mother than you are. I remember that when the three children were Xiao Bao’s age, Qiao Nan already instilled some gender awareness in them. Now that they’ve grown up, Da Bao and Er Bao know that San Bao is a lady and they take better care of her when playing. When boys play with San Bao, Da Bao and Er Bao will always stand in the way. Once, a nursery classmate wanted to kiss San Bao and the two of them started throwing tantrums. Da Bao and Er Bao immediately taught that kid a lesson.”

Tian Dong remembered this incident especially clearly.

At that time, Xiao Bao was still babbling and unable to speak clearly, and his teeth were still growing out. Once he heard that Da Bao and Er Bao had punched the person who had bullied San Bao, Xiao Bao immediately waved his little fist around without hesitation, expressing his wish to beat the person too.

Only when Xiao Bao returned and mumbled it in confusion did Tian Dong learn about this incident. “Thinking about it, Xiao Bao should be a few months older than the three children were when that incident happened. Xiao Bao is in the intermediate class now. When he’s in the older class and in primary school, he’ll definitely have to learn about this, right?”

The children were going to use separate restrooms in the future.

Zhai Hua rolled her eyes. “I spend so little time at home. You spend much more time at home than me. How’s this? If you really think that it’ll be better to teach Xiao Bao, you do it. I only have one request. Do it when I’m not at home.”

Nan Nan had taught it too. It could not go wrong.

But Zhai Hua felt that Xiao Bao was her son. If Xiao Bao were to gradually recognize the difference between genders and ask an awkward question, how would she as a mother answer? Anyway, Tian Dong was a man. Educating their son on matters like that should be Tian Dong's job.

So there was nothing wrong with passing this task on to Tian Dong.

“Deal.” Tian Dong agreed with a smile. He had always felt that it was always better to learn about such things earlier rather than later.

When Tian Dong brought his whole family of five in his car to the Zhai family, his face was beaming with joy.

Chapter 1476: The Old Was Not as Valuable as the Son

As soon as his grandma placed him down, Xiao Bao kicked his short legs and ran toward the Zhai family. “Brothers and sister! Xiao Bao is here to celebrate your birthday!”

The four adults had just gotten out of the car when Xiao Bao was already nowhere to be seen. Mother Tian sighed. “He really likes his brothers and sister.” The children from the Tian family were to be blamed. None of them liked Xiao Bao. Some even openly bullied Xiao Bao and snatched his things away.

If there were smarter children in the Tian family to play with Xiao Bao, how would Xiao Bao have such a good relationship with the triplets from the Zhai family?

“Mom.” Zhai Hua stood next to Mother Tian and prepared to enter the Zhai family with her, unlike her son who didn't understand or say anything and just left Mother Tian alone to run into the house first.

Indeed, Zhai Hua was not restrained enough and was like a tomboy. However, this didn't mean that she was unschooled in the ways of the world.

Seeing that Mother Tian looked a little uncomfortable, at least she, as a daughter-in-law, wouldn't rush to meet her parents and family. Instead, she kept by her mother-in-law's side obediently and tried to win some brownie points.

“Yes, let’s go in.” Indeed, Zhai Hua looked more like a woman standing by her side quietly. Mother Tian’s face immediately softened as if she didn’t bother with Xiao Bao’s ‘heartlessness’. She entered the Zhai family together with Zhai Hua.

The father and son from the Tian family saw this situation and smiled in relief. Tian Dong said proudly, “I’ve said this long ago. Hua Hua looks like a scatterbrain, but that’s just her appearance. If Hua Hua was really that pure and innocent, even if father-in-law had protected her, she wouldn’t have stayed for a long time and held so many important positions in the army.”

His wife was good at everything. Except for her EQ, which was a little low, there were no issues with her IQ at all.

Father Tian nodded. “One’s your mom, and the other’s your wife. You should understand them clearly and completely. Let’s go. If we walk slower, your precious son would probably cause trouble.” Xiao Bao kept saying that they must not be late to celebrate with the Zhai family’s triplets. Otherwise, they would be unhappy.

This morning, not only did Xiao Bao run to his parents’ room to wake them up, but he even went to his grandparents’ room as well, waking them up with sweet kisses.

When Xiao Bao woke the two of them up, he also said something similar. That was why Father Tian knew why Xiao Bao felt so anxious.

“So be it. Would I be scared?” Who exactly was the father and who was the son?

Father Tian smiled. “How stubborn! If Xiao Bao really cries and no one can coax him, Qiao Nan would coax him. If Xiao Bao cries until his throat becomes hoarse, you can just commit suicide to repay your sins. By then, your mother won’t spare your life and your wife won’t give you good looks.”

Xiao Bao wasn’t just his wife’s precious. Zhai Hua’s love for Xiao Bao would only be more than his wife.

Compared to Xiao Bao, he had never won. His wife had always been biased toward Xiao Bao. Similarly, if Xiao Bao really threw tantrums, he wanted to see if his son could really hold it up and not be defeated by his grandson’s cries.

Tian Dong twitched his lips and helplessly followed the footsteps of Father Tian. He was stubborn, but the truth was the truth.

The truth was if his mom and Zhai Hua were both present, Tian Dong really didn't have the guts to provoke Xiao Bao. If Xiao Bao cried, his mom was still alright. At most, she would just scold him. However, if he were to fall into Hua Hua's hands, a layer of skin would have to be removed even if he managed to survive.

"Dad, you're walking really slowly. Even grandpa is faster than you." Once they entered the Zhai family's house, Xiao Bao's words of disdain traveled into everyone's ears. "Even great-grandpa walks faster than you. Mom said that you have to exercise with us as well. In the future, you can box with me. You can let great-grandpa teach you. It's very easy to learn. I've learned it as well. You can definitely do so too. After you get a hang of it, your walking speed would definitely be faster than now."

"..." Tian Dong, whose father had guessed correctly, was speechless. Was this his son? Was this his biological son? How was there a son who criticized his birth father like this?!

"Brothers, sister, happy birthday. Xiao Bao specially chose these. Take a look. Do you like them?" After complaining about the speed his dad walked, Xiao Bao diligently took out the three gifts he had prepared and placed them one by one in front of the triplets. "Remove the wrapper quickly. See if you like them."

"Thank you, Xiao Bao." Picking up his own present, Da Bao wasn't in an especially good mood. However, he felt embarrassed to reject Xiao Bao's kind intentions. Furthermore, master grandpa's matters had nothing to do with Xiao Bao. He shouldn't vent his bad situation on Xiao Bao.

After Da Bao took the lead, Er Bao and San Bao happily picked up their presents. "Xiao Bao, can we remove the wrapper?"

Xiao Bao nodded forcefully. "Please do. If you don't, how would you know if you like it or not?"

After getting permission, Er Bao and San Bao tore the outer layer of packaging happily. Comparatively, Da Bao, who was the eldest, was more refined. He carefully removed the outer packaging bit by bit.

Upon seeing this situation, most people would compliment Er Bao and San Bao for being real. As for Da Bao, they would say that he was sensible and polite.

However, Zhai Hua found that something was wrong. She touched Qiao Nan with her elbow. “Nan Nan, why do I feel that Da Bao is a little unhappy today? Did he fail his exams, or did you punish him because of something? I don’t mean to say this but today is the triplets’ birthday. If there’s really something, you should put it aside and talk about it another day. You should let the three of them spend their birthdays happily today.” It wasn’t too late to talk about Da Bao’s mistake in the near future.

Qiao Nan forced out a smile. “No, Da Bao is pretty good. He scored 99 in the admission test and came out on top. I guess Da Bao didn’t sleep well last night, thus he didn’t look energetic today. Don’t worry. Children are like that. He’ll be fine after a few days.”

Definitely. She had survived all those hard times. Her days in the future would naturally get better and better.

With her clenched fists, Qiao Nan’s fingernails engraved deep marks on her palms.

Chapter 1477: Elder Lin Was Here

Until now, Elder Lin had not yet appeared in the Zhai family. It was unusual for the neighbor not to be the earliest among the rest to come over and celebrate the triplets’ birthday.

Early this morning, the triplets had already stretched out their necks and looked at the door from time to time or raised their ears to hear if there was any movement next door.

Every time the three children heard a commotion but weren’t sure where the sound came from, they widened their eyes and looked toward the door with eyes full of hope. However, they were left disappointed every time. Until now, Elder Lin had not knocked on the Zhai family’s door.

“Da Bao didn’t sleep, then what about you? You didn’t sleep well as well?” How would Zhai Hua not have noticed Qiao Nan’s strange look? “I feel that you look worse than Da Bao. The arrangement for this birthday party isn’t that complicated. Furthermore, there’s Mom and auntie to help you. You shouldn’t have been handling everything alone, thus tiring yourself out. Or are you tired because Zhai Sheng was not sensible enough?”

Everyone was part of a couple who were madly in love. Zhai Hua led a very sweet life. She felt that Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng must be the same as well.

In the past, Zhai Hua had seen clearly how much Zhai Sheng, her brother, yearned for Qiao Nan. Now, their relationship shouldn't be worse off than before. After all, although they had been married for seven years now, the way they interacted clearly showed that they were still in the stage of love.

When Zhai Hua said this, she meant it as a dirty joke. It was a pity that Qiao Nan didn't cooperate and couldn't smile. "Nothing. Don't think too much. My workload has been heavier recently, so I'm more tired. I was also busy preparing for the triplets' birthday. I'm fine. I'll recover after resting for a few days."

"Oh, right, where's your master? Today's the triplets' birthday. I thought he would be the first to reach. So many people have arrived but he hasn't yet. How rare." Zhai Hua had to touch the tender spot. She said it herself that Lin Yuankang would be more nervous about and value the triplets more than anyone else.

Something was definitely wrong since Lin Yuankang hadn't arrived. Wasn't she trying to stir up trouble by mentioning this at this moment?

Indeed, San Bao, who had been pampered by Lin Yuankang since she was young, couldn't hold back any longer. Her lips twitched, her eyes became red, and she sniffed. "Mom, it's our birthdays today. Isn't master grandpa coming?"

Lin Yuankang had already spoiled San Bao since she started drinking milk. She was never once ignored by Lin Yuankang. This time around, San Bao felt that she was one of the most pitiful children to have celebrated her birthday. "Mom, I want to see master grandpa."

Er Bao frowned. "Mom, is it because master grandpa is old and his legs are weak, thus he couldn't come over? Why don't we do this? Let's go next door and cut the cake at master grandpa's house, shall we?"

Er Bao knew that one's legs would become weaker as one grew older. Not to mention others, Old Master Zhai's walking speed was obviously much slower than before.

When the children were two or three years old, they followed Old Master Zhai and walked outside. Even if Old Master Zhai deliberately slowed down, they had to run a few steps from time to time in order to keep up with him. Now, they had to slow down from time to time or deliberately stop to look at the flowers and grass on the roadside so that they could maintain a similar walking speed as Old Master Zhai.

In this year, in Er Bao's memory, he had rarely seen Lin Yuankang walking on his own. When he headed out, he was in a wheelchair and someone was pushing him. "Mom, why don't we get master grandpa to sit in that wheelchair and the three of us push him over? Which idea do you think is better?"

Er Bao was a cunning child. He wasn't trying to get Qiao Nan to choose the better idea. He was just telling Qiao Nan that today was their birthday, and regardless, they wanted to see master grandpa. If he couldn't come over, they would go over. As long as the end result was the same, it didn't matter to them where they cut the cake.

As she listened, Zhai Hua felt that something was amiss. "What's wrong with Elder Lin?" In the past, Elder Lin cared about the triplets more than anyone else. Listening to Er Bao's tone, it seemed that the triplets hadn't seen him for a long time.

Even the three children got impatient from waiting. How could Elder Lin hold it for so long and not come over to look at them?

"What's wrong?" At this moment, the Zhai family's door opened and Elder Lin's loud voice traveled over. "Oh, have the presents been unwrapped? So early? I'm late. How about the cake? Have you blown the candles?"

"Master grandpa!" At this moment, Er Bao and San Bao were extremely happy. They smiled and pounced on Lin Yuankang, who was seated in the wheelchair.

Lin Yuankang hurriedly stretched his hand out and stopped Er Bao and San Bao, half-refusing them. "The two of you are now as heavy as piglets. Three years ago, master grandpa could no longer carry you. By rushing over like this, you're going to break my bones. San Bao, you're a big girl now. You have to walk over slowly. Otherwise, you will fall. If you fall, you'll get hurt and bleed. Don't cry then." Because at that point in time, master grandpa could no longer be by your side, wipe your tears, and coax you to smile.

"Master grandpa." San Bao blushed like a flower. "Master grandpa, is this dress pretty? Mom bought it for me."

"Pretty. Our San Bao looks good in anything." Lin Yuankang opened his eyes wide. He couldn't bear to blink and just looked at San Bao, then Er Bao and Da Bao. In short, he wasn't willing to miss a glance at any of them. "After today, our triplets will be one year older. The three of you are

the most good-looking and smartest children I've ever seen. When you grow up, you have to be as outstanding as your mom, okay?"

Lin Yuankang knew that because of how outstanding Qiao Nan was and how smart the three children were, people in the quad often praised that the Zhai family was lucky to have good-looking and clever grandchildren. Such an advantage was already demonstrated when the three children were in kindergarten.

At this moment, someone said things like one might be intelligent when young but not when older and that the Zhai family might have produced three children similar to Fang Zhong Yong, the child prodigy who lost his talent when he was older.

Faced with these malicious words, Lin Yuankang was angry.

Chapter 1478: The Heaviness of a Tear

What Lin Yuankang could do was to try his best to keep the greatness of the triplets unchanged.

San Bao lifted her chin proudly like a peacock princess. "But of course. My dad's formidable, my mom's formidable, so I'm formidable as well. Da Bao, Er Bao, we are all formidable."

"Me. There's still me, there's still me." At this time, Xiao Bao jumped out to say that not only was he an obedient child but also smart. "Master grandpa, Xiao Bao's good as well. Xiao Bao will be four years old in a month's time. Xiao Bao will be the same as brothers and sister and be ranked first in future examinations."

The triplets loved Lin Yuankang. Similarly, Xiao Bao was passionate toward Lin Yuankang as well. As the follower of the brothers and sister, Xiao Bao had all along looked up to them.

"Yes, Xiao Bao is a good child as well," Lin Yuankang smiled and replied.

Da Bao, who had been remaining quiet, walked to Lin Yuankang silently and wanted to pull his hand. "Master grandpa."

Lin Yuankang smiled at Da Bao and took the initiative to hold his hand. "Da Bao, you're Er Bao, San Bao, and Xiao Bao's brother. You will have a heavier burden in the future. Master grandpa

knows that your life will be tough. So, Er Bao, San Bao, Xiao Bao, when you grow up, you have to work hard as well and make life easier for Da Bao, understand?”

“Master grandpa, it’s fine. Er Bao and the rest are already very good and obedient. I can do it.” Da Bao held Lin Yuankang’s hand tightly. He didn’t know what those words truly implied. He just felt that the words master grandpa said today were different from before. He was obviously smiling, but when he looked into his eyes and listened to his words, he felt that master grandpa was very upset. It was even sadder than when Er Bao, San Bao, and Xiao Bao cried.

As master grandpa was sad, he was sad as well.

Zhai Hua felt that something was amiss. She could feel that Elder Lin seemed to be handing over things that would happen in the future, as if he no longer had the chance to see the triplets grow up. As such, Elder Lin was talking to the three children about everything while he still had the ability to speak.

Zhai Hua glanced at Elder Lin and was surprised to see that he was much thinner now. After taking a closer look, even if he was wearing a loose, long-sleeved shirt in this hot weather, it was obvious that someone was propping his shirt up.

This generally meant that the body under the shirt was too skinny and could no longer support the weight of the shirt.

As a businessman, Tian Dong was more sensitive than Zhai Hua as his feelings for Elder Lin were not as deep as the Zhai family’s for him. As such, he had long noticed Elder Lin’s anomaly.

Tian Dong initially thought that he was just sensitive. He also thought that perhaps Elder Lin wasn’t feeling very well recently. For an old man like Elder Lin, he could easily lose half his life after having a small illness. It wasn’t strange that he would become thinner after an illness.

After listening to the words Elder Lin said to the three children, Tian Dong was certain that he wasn’t being sensitive. Indeed, Elder Lin wasn’t in good condition.

Seeing that his foolish wife was about to ask questions, Tian Dong hurriedly pulled Zhai Hua. He shook his head at her when she looked over, then used his eyes to signal to her to look at Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan. Until now, Qiao Nan had not uttered a single word.

If it was the usual Qiao Nan, was this possible?

Zhai Hua's heart froze. She looked at Miao Jing. Miao Jing couldn't help but sigh and didn't say a word. Zhai Hua felt like her face was being hammered. The joy from the previous second had completely disappeared. Now, her heart was stained with sadness and panic.

"Er Bao, San Bao, Xiao Bao, come over. Let master grandpa hug you, alright?" Lin Yuankang couldn't hold these words back anymore. Initially, he wanted to just keep this to himself. However, in the face of the four children, especially the triplets, Lin Yuankang realized he wasn't as rational as he thought.

He couldn't bear to leave these three children. He really couldn't!

"Master grandpa?" Er Bao started to feel that something was amiss and forced out a smile. "Master grandpa, you're weird. When you wanted to hug us in the past, you would pounce over loudly like a big tiger." As Er Bao thought he was playing with them, he deliberately sang a different tune and didn't let him hug him.

In order to tease Er Bao, the more Er Bao said he refused to give him a hug, the more Lin Yuankang wanted to hug him.

"Master grandpa." They were triplets after all. Once Da Bao's and Er Bao's emotions weren't right, the smile on San Bao's face disappeared and a layer of clouds covered it. She pounced onto Elder Lin's knee. "Master grandpa, I'm... I'm afraid." However, she couldn't say exactly what she was afraid of.

San Bao didn't understand. Wasn't it their birthday today? Why was it so strange this year, different from previous years? Why couldn't she smile today? Why didn't she feel blessed and happy at all at this moment?

Qiao Nan felt so terrible that she couldn't breathe. She gently pushed the four children forward and pulled Lin Yuankang's hand, helping him hug them. This hug wasn't a hug in the traditional sense. At the very most, Lin Yuankang was catching the four children with difficulty with his outstretched hand. Lin Yuankang's chin gently touched the top of the four children's heads and he wanted to lean his body back.

It was a pity he didn't have the strength.

He wanted to sit back and let go of the four children. He was afraid they would find out about his unusual condition and didn't want to scare them. However, his withered body didn't listen to his command at all, and he had no strength.

Before Zhai Sheng could help Lin Yuankang, Qiao Nan stepped forward. She held his skinny arm with one hand and his crooked back with the other. Lin Yuankang, who had become so thin, weighed very little now. He was so light that even Qiao Nan, a woman who didn't have much strength, didn't have to spare much effort to lift him back to the wheelchair.

Qiao Nan's tears fell uncontrollably and dripped onto the clothes on Lin Yuankang's back. As this tear was too heavy and dropped too quickly, no one but Lin Yuankang knew about its existence.

"Can we let the triplets make a wish and blow the candles?" Lin Yuankang almost couldn't continue pretending with that tear. He asked weakly if it was time for the triplets to blow out the candles.

"Yes. Auntie, bring out the cake quickly. Remember to put the candles in." It was difficult for Miao Jing to recover from the shock.

Chapter 1479: Old Master Wasn't Funny

At this point in time, nobody would object to Elder Lin's words. Old Master Zhai sat quietly on the sofa. His lips curved slightly and he looked as kind as a Buddha. The ferociousness he had when he was young was gone, and he looked at this scene as if it were the evening sun.

Lin Yuankang was slightly stunned and he made eye contact with Old Master Zhai. Old Master Zhai remained motionless while sitting but nodded to Lin Yuankang. It seemed like a greeting and also seemed to be acknowledging something.

They had known each other for so many years. They knew it clearly how their tempers were like. Lin Yuankang wasn't suited for arousing enthusiasm while Old Master Zhai wasn't suited for remaining quiet. At this age, both of them had done things that didn't suit their tempers. The answer was self-evident and so full of helplessness.

Lin Yuankang smiled bitterly. He looked at the few children before him with heartache and couldn't say anything.

The auntie still wasn't clear about the situation. After hearing Miao Jing's orders, she brought out the big cake Zhai Sheng had ordered and placed it on the table. There were seven candles on the cake, which meant that the children were now seven years old. "We can make a wish and blow out the candles."

The three children didn't feel as happy as half an hour ago about the birthday celebration. Da Bao led Er Bao and San Bao to stand in front of the big cake. They closed their eyes and made a wish. Xiao Bao, who was young and ignorant, joined in the excitement and followed what they did.

After the three children made their wishes and blew out the candles, Da Bao, who had always been quiet, suddenly said, "I made a wish just now, wishing for those who celebrated my birthday with me this year would also celebrate with me next year." If this could come true, he would only make this birthday wish every year from now on.

Da Bao's words shocked all the adults present. When Da Bao spoke, he stared fixedly at Lin Yuankang. Obviously, his wish was directed mainly at Lin Yuankang. Lin Yuankang, moved and lost, glanced at Old Master Zhai. He didn't know if those surnamed Zhai would be angry upon hearing Da Bao's wish.

Old Master Zhai smiled. Indeed, he was the eldest great-grandson he had brought up. He had said these words so beautifully. Even if Da Bao's words were directed mainly at Elder Lin, he had incorporated everyone's thoughts, including his. He was such a clever and thoughtful great-grandson. How would he be angry? He was only happy.

He had at least one-third of the credit for teaching such a great child.

Old Master Zhai wouldn't be so foolish to fight with Elder Lin over this. Furthermore, both of them already had one foot in the grave. What meaning was there to fight over this? He even found the man surnamed Lin to be childish.

"Since we have blown out the candles, let's cut the cake." Seeing that the usually cold Old Master Zhai was unusually gentle today and was the complete opposite of how he usually looked, Elder Lin thought that there was no meaning to this. "I'll eat a little."

"Here, let's eat the cake, everyone." At this moment, Zhai Sheng had already cut the cake. The auntie distributed the cut cake to everyone.

The Tian couple took a few bites after receiving it. Father Tian got Mother Tian to sit beside him. At this moment, he became more determined to bring Mother Tian out for a walk. Having lived to this age, he didn't know when he and his wife would be the same as Elder Lin. By then, everything would be too late.

Mother Tian seemed to have been affected quite a bit as well. She became quiet. Even when she saw how Xiao Bao was sticking closely to the triplets and looking at Qiao Nan with full admiration, she couldn't get jealous.

The people from the Zhai family sincerely treated Xiao Bao well. Even if Xiao Bao became closer to them, not only would he not learn the bad things, but he would even become better and better under their influence. Since it was good for Xiao Bao, why should she mind? Furthermore, Xiao Bao and the Zhai family were close. Was Xiao Bao not close to her, his grandma?

No, they were close. Xiao Bao still shared a good relationship with her.

Xiao Bao didn't distance himself from her or dislike her because of the Zhai family. The Zhai family had such a good influence on Xiao Bao. Comparing with her husband and son, Xiao Bao would definitely benefit more in the future with the Zhai family. As long as everything was good for Xiao Bao, she was willing to open her mind. After all, he was her biological grandson.

Mother Tian held Father Tian's hand. "Shall we postpone the trip?" Elder Lin was left with only these couple of days. If they wanted to attend his funeral, their trip had to be put back.

Father Tian wasn't in a hurry to travel. However, he shook his head at Mother Tian. "No, I think that with Elder Lin's temper, he wouldn't want too many people to send him off the day he passed away. As long as the people most important to him are by his side to send him off, he should be satisfied." It was best for them, the outsiders, not to interfere especially at moments like these.

"I'll listen to you." Mother Tian's temper was exceptionally good today. Of course, she became easy to talk to as well. Whatever Father Tian said, she agreed.

It was just that plans could never catch up with changes. The Tian couple could choose not to appear if Elder Lin passed away. However, with Old Master Zhai following suit after him, as the in-laws and Old Master Zhai's juniors, they couldn't not show up.

After the triplets celebrated their birthday, that night, or precisely, at two in the morning of the next day, Elder Lin smiled and passed away.

The auntie who was taking care of Elder Lin was very upset. However, she remembered what Elder Lin had told her and didn't dare to tell this news to Qiao Nan and the three children. She only told Zhai Sheng secretly.

At that time, Zhai Sheng was keeping guard of Old Master Zhai, which was what he had been doing for the past two days. After finishing the call he had with the auntie hired by the Lin family, he returned to Old Master Zhai's room. The moment he saw him, he suddenly realized that something was wrong with Old Master Zhai.

Zhai Sheng frowned and walked to Old Master Zhai's side. He touched his hand. Although there was still a bit of temperature in his hand, it was lower than the normal temperature of an average person's. Zhai Sheng held his breath and placed two fingers on Old Master Zhai's neck artery. There was no pulse!

"Old master? Old master. Grandpa? Grandpa!" Zhai Sheng couldn't help but push Old Master Zhai. However, regardless of how he pushed him, Old Master Zhai didn't have any reaction. He seemed to have fallen into a deep sleep and couldn't wake up. "Grandpa, grandpa, wake up. Don't crack such jokes. Grandpa?"

Old Master Zhai stopped breathing. His body became stiff and he couldn't be awakened. All of these indicated to Zhai Sheng that Old Master Zhai was the same as Elder Lin. After the triplets' birthday, he passed away.

Chapter 1480: He Had Obviously Made a Wish

At this point in time, Zhai Sheng couldn't calm down. He notified Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing at the fastest speed and called Zhai Hua and Qiao Nan up.

Dawn was just breaking. However, there was a huge commotion in the Zhai family.

Upon hearing Zhai Sheng's words, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing were so shocked that they just wore one piece of clothing and rushed downstairs without wearing their shoes. After entering Old Master Zhai's room and looking at this situation, he said, "Dad, wake up. Wake up. Doctor, call the doctor quickly!"

The auntie looked panicked. "I've already made the call. The doctor should be here soon." The people who lived in this quad were important political figures in China. Units like the hospital would naturally not be too far away from them.

Once the hospital received the Zhai family's call, the doctor immediately rushed over at the fastest speed. "Excuse me, let me do a check on the elder." After the doctor confirmed that his vital signs were gone and even his eyeballs had become cloudy, he shook his head helplessly. "Sorry, the elder has already passed away. It could be seen that he left peacefully, so it's a joyous passing."

Everyone knew that Old Master Zhai was always in good health condition and rarely visited their hospital. Old Master Zhai didn't suffer from any illness or pain and had left peacefully in his dreams. Among the veteran revolutionaries, Old Master Zhai could be said to have left the most peacefully. It wasn't an exaggeration to call it a joyous passing.

Since it was a joyous passing, the Zhai family didn't need to be too upset. However, the problem was that their closest relative was gone. How was it possible that the sadness in their hearts decreased just because it was a joyous passing?

"Dad!" Miao Jing was mournful. She had been caring about Elder Lin and didn't notice her father-in-law's condition at all. "He was all good. Why did this happen?"

Zhai Yaohui's face turned pale. He walked up and grabbed Old Master Zhai's stiffened hand and was speechless for a long time.

"Grandpa? It's impossible. He wouldn't. He was still happily celebrating the triplets' birthday yesterday. It has only been a night. No, this must be a mistake." Upon thinking about how he looked yesterday and how he looked now, he didn't seem to have passed away at all. "Grandpa, wake up quickly. Since when did you love to crack jokes? This isn't funny at all. The four children will wake up in two hours' time. When they're awake and you're not, they will laugh at you for being old."

Zhai Hua wanted to pull Old Master Zhai up from the bed. Tian Dong reached out to stop her. "Hua Hua, I know you can't accept this in a short period of time. However, grandpa's really gone. Don't be like this. If not, grandpa won't leave peacefully." Tian Dong was surprised as well. He only knew that Elder Lin's health wasn't good. Old Master Zhai didn't look like he was going to pass away at all.

Just a few hours ago, they were still with them, celebrating the triplets' birthday together and eating cake. How did someone just pass away within such a short period of time? Even Tian Dong was confused, let alone Zhai Hua. He felt that he was having a nightmare and that everything before him wasn't real.

But the sad atmosphere in the Zhai family told Tian Dong that all of this had really happened and it wasn't a dream. Old Master Zhai had really passed away. "Oh, right, what about Elder Lin?" Old Master Zhai was no longer around. Would something happen to Elder Lin, whose health was worse than Old Master Zhai's, as well?

"I'll call and check." Qiao Nan, whose hands and legs went soft, looked the worst among them. Old Master Zhai's sudden death was too sudden for anyone in the Zhai family. It was simply too shocking. What shocked Qiao Nan more was that she didn't know how her master was now.

"There's no need for that. Around half an hour ago, Elder Lin has passed away as well." Zhai Sheng, who had just returned after contacting the auntie from the Lin family, said in a hoarse voice, "Dongzi, father and I are here for the old master. Can I trouble you to go next door and change Elder Lin into some decent clothes?"

When the auntie from the Lin family received Zhai Sheng's call that Old Master Zhai had passed away as well, she shouted, "Oh, god!" She didn't know what day it was today. Why did both Elder Lin and Old Master Zhai pass away?

"Nan Nan!" Zhai Hua saw Qiao Nan's eyes roll back into her head and her body went soft after Zhai Sheng said that Elder Lin had passed away half an hour ago. Zhai Hua hurriedly reached out and grabbed Qiao Nan, who had fainted, when her body swayed forward.

Qiao Nan fainted from the agitation, and Zhai Sheng and Zhai Hua were in a flurry. As Miao Jing cried, she squeezed the towel. "Go and wipe Nan Nan's face. What exactly is going on? Why is everything happening at the same time? How can Nan Nan handle such a huge blow?"

When she heard the old master was no longer around, she noticed that something was wrong with Nan Nan. When Nan Nan heard that Elder Lin had passed away half an hour earlier than the old master, how could she handle this huge blow?

Miao Jing took a wet towel and walked to Qiao Nan, wanting to wipe her face for her. Then, she saw a barefooted small figure with his eyes red at the door. Miao Jing's heart shuddered. "Da Bao, why are you here?"

Before making the arrangements for the old man's passing, the adults in the family planned not to tell the triplets and Xiao Bao first, for fear that they would be scared.

But when Miao Jing took a closer look, Da Bao was already standing at Old Master Zhai's door. "Da Bao, you... How long have you been standing here?" Seeing that Da Bao's eyes were red, Miao Jing wasn't able to self-comfort that Da Bao didn't hear anything and that he didn't understand what was meant by his great-grandpa was no longer around.

After the breath in her heart eased, Qiao Nan coincidentally heard Miao Jing's words to Da Bao. Qiao Nan's tears fell and she waved her hands at Da Bao. Da Bao dashed toward Qiao Nan and snuggled tightly next to her. However, his eyes kept looking at Old Master Zhai.

Qiao Nan carried Da Bao up and placed him on her knee. "Why did you come over without putting on shoes?" Da Bao's feet were cold.

His mom was holding his legs with warm hands. Unlike the past, Da Bao didn't feel any happiness or his mom's love for him. He was very scared at this moment. "Mom, what happened to great-grandpa? What about master grandpa? I want master grandpa. Will they still celebrate my birthday with me next year? I even made a birthday wish!"