

RTAMM 1491

Chapter 1491: A Slap to the Face

Recently, the number of times that He Yi sighed was no fewer than Qiao Nan. “Since we’ve mentioned it, I want to tell you about two things. Deng Wenchang is getting married next month. Initially, quite a few people from the capital knew about it. Peng Yu and Shi Peng’s niece were dating and were looking at an engagement date. But yesterday, the Peng family suddenly let out the news that they were looking for blind date candidates for Peng Yu. Peng Yu’s requirements for the lady are that she must be young and educated.”

“...” Qiao Nan looked at Old Lin’s photograph. “He’s finally come to his senses. Wasn’t Peng Yu determined to find someone who could give birth to many children?” Qiao Nan asked, her voice full of sarcasm.

She had heard that Peng Yu and Qiu Chenxi were together, and as such, Qiu Chenxi’s status at many events had been elevated greatly. But Qiao Nan had never believed whatever she had heard. Based on ‘what she had heard’ about Peng Yu, he must be a completely different person from ‘what she had heard’ if he was willing to marry a woman whom even Brother Zhai was unwilling to marry.

There was only one explanation. That whatever she had heard were only false rumors.

She thought back to the last time she met Qiu Chenxi. Qiu Chenxi had worn a pair of pumps and walked past her arrogantly. Up until now, Qiao Nan could still remember that disdainful snort coming from Qiu Chenxi.

It was a mere three months’ time since then. She wondered whether Qiu Chenxi could still snort if they were to meet again.

What the Peng family had done was really a slap to the face, and the only one who was being slapped was Qiu Chenxi.

Indeed, one could not talk about people behind their backs. Qiao Nan had just been talking about it, and less than two hours later, she really bumped into Qiu Chenxi. The sudden death of Old Master Zhai and Old Lin meant that there were a lot of people coming to visit the Zhai household.

The day of officially sending the two elders off had already passed, but some people had not been in the capital at that time and had not made it in time. Still, even though they had not been able to

make it, they had to visit the Zhai family once they returned to the capital to pay their respects to Old Master Zhai and Old Lin.

After being influenced by Qiao Nan, Shi Peng would spend at least a few days each year to bring Feng Cheng on a holiday. Coincidentally, the passing of Old Lin and Old Zhai was during the National Day holiday period. On the birthday of the three children, the Shi couple got someone to send the children a gift while the couple was already on the plane.

When the couple learned of the passing of the two elders on the same night, it was already the second day of the month. Since it was the National Day holiday, there were practically no tickets to be sold. The couple did not care about the price or the flight and finally managed to return on the third day with great difficulty.

As soon as the Shi couple returned, they changed into a set of black clothing and rushed over to the Zhai family's house. Now that Qiu Chenxi was in the political circle, she had to show herself at the funeral of Old Lin and Old Zhai, unless she did not want to stay in the circle. Otherwise, she would never be able to gain power or leave good impressions on others.

It was just that Qiu Chenxi had not forgotten for a second what had happened in the past. The thought of the Zhai family being Qiao Nan's territory made her hesitant. Initially, Old Master Zhai should have been her grandfather, and Old Lin her master.

Originally, she should have had a close relationship with these two powerful old men, but these were all snatched away by that despicable Qiao Nan. In the end, the one who should have had all the right to pay respects to these two elders was anonymous and in a dilemma as to whether she could do so.

Coincidentally, the Shi couple returned at that moment. Thus, Qiu Chenxi decided to tag along with Shi Peng. She thought that Shi Peng could act as a shield for her, and Qiao Nan would not be so unreasonable as to put her down and make a fuss in front of Shi Peng. Qiao Nan had to know that she was not going to the Zhai family because of her. She was only going there to pay respects to the two departed elders.

Qiao Nan did not know what Qiu Chenxi was thinking. Otherwise, she would definitely tell Qiu Chenxi that she was thinking too much.

If the Lin family had not gone so far as to not allow Old Lin to rest in peace even after his death, Qiao Nan, who was already in sorrow, would not care about getting back at anyone. All she would want would be to take care of her own feelings and get back on her feet.

Old Master Zhai's was a happy funeral, while Old Lin's death was a relief.

The best way for Qiao Nan to remember the two elders was to live her life well, bring up the three children healthily, and not immerse herself in misery at the passing of the two elders and make a mess of her life.

Even the Lins only gave Qiao Nan a little respect because of this. As for someone who was not important like Qiu Chenxi, Qiao Nan did not even want to waste her brain capacity thinking about it.

Seeing Qiao Nan, who had lost weight, Shi Peng said out of concern, "Nan Nan, you have to take care of yourself. The old chief and Old Lin definitely would not want to see you in this state. They cared so much about the three children and you. You shouldn't disappoint them. The only way for them to leave peacefully is if we live our lives well."

The passing of both elders in a single night was a double blow to the Zhai family. Even ordinary people would find difficulty in coping with such a loss, let alone Qiao Nan, who shared a close bond with Old Lin.

Thinking about it, Shi Peng frowned slightly and glanced at Qiao Dongliang, who was staying in the Zhai family house to take care of the three children.

After all, it was entirely Qiao Dongliang's fault that Qiao Nan had shared such a close relationship with Old Lin and had lost weight now that Old Lin was gone.

If the Qiao family had not been so cold to Qiao Nan so much so that there were almost no relations to talk about, Qiao Nan would not have placed all her desires for affection and all her attention on Old Lin.

Now, Old Lin, whom Qiao Nan had given her heart to, was gone. If someone else was in Qiao Nan's shoes, it would probably not just be a matter of losing a few kilograms. Such a blow could often be utterly disastrous.

Shi Peng felt that Qiao Dongliang was very lucky as a father, yet at the same time, felt that Qiao Nan was pitiful. It was as if the roles of Qiao Dongliang and Qiao Nan were always reversed.

Usually, parents would buy houses for their children. But in Qiao Nan's case, she was the one who bought a house for her parents.

Every time he thought about these things, he could not help but feel tired on Qiao Nan's behalf, and he always used this to remind Shi Qing of what a lucky child she was.

"Thank you. Don't worry. I understand. I won't let them down. To me, they're still alive, just in a different way, in my heart. They will never disappear. This sounds cliché, but it's true." Qiao Nan tried to joke.

Chapter 1492: Congratulations In Advance

"Since you said so, I think I can really rest assured. That's right. Ever since I knew you, you've never been one to make others worry." It was exactly because there was no need to worry about her that he felt sorry for her. Children that were too sensible were always likable. "Your... your dad has been doing well, right?" Her family had not come along to the capital because of Qiao Dongliang, right?

"There's nothing for the time being." But Qiao Nan could not be sure when Ding Jiayi would come to the capital and cause trouble because of this.

"Sigh..." Everything Shi Peng wanted to say was conveyed in this long sigh.

Throughout the entire conversation between Shi Peng and Qiao Nan, Feng Cheng silently stayed by Shi Peng, with pity and sympathy in her eyes. She could not blame Shi Peng and Qing Qing for treating this young lady well. This young lady truly led a tough life.

Through Shi Peng, Feng Cheng already knew that Qiao Nan's relationship with her biological parents could not compare to even a tenth of her relationship with Old Lin.

It felt as though Qiao Nan had accumulated bad luck through eight lifetimes to deserve such a pair of parents.

"Auntie, you're just going to look on like that?" When Feng Cheng left Shi Peng and Qiao Nan to get some water, Qiu Chenxi walked over to Feng Cheng and posed this ridiculous question.

Feng Cheng's lips twitched and her expression was sour. "I believe in your uncle. Qiu Chenxi, I don't blame my Qing Qing for disliking you. No matter what, Shi Peng is still your uncle, and he hasn't got any bad records. You're purposely trying to instigate something between your uncle and me. Why? Now that you've made your mark, you don't need relatives like us anymore? If that's the case, you can stop calling me auntie. I'm in no need of people like you calling me auntie."

Feng Cheng had never liked Qiu Chenxi. When she was younger, Qiu Chenxi had always fought for attention with Shi Qing in the Shi family. When they grew older, the two ladies fell for Zhai Sheng at the same time. Unfortunately, the person who got engaged to Zhai Sheng was Qiu Chenxi. Her own daughter did not even stand a chance.

Thinking about it this way, for the first time, Feng Cheng felt that it was good that Qiao Nan married Zhai Sheng. Without the appearance of Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng's wife today could very well be Qiu Chenxi. Every time the relatives met, Shi Qing would see them together and be heartbroken. She might never recover from that.

At least now that the person Zhai Sheng married was Qiao Nan, Feng Cheng realized that every time Shi Qing mentioned the Zhai family, she always had a jovial tone. As for the three children of Qiao Nan, she liked them so much that she recognized them as her godsons and goddaughter!

Thanks to her daughter, Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo only got engaged, but Feng Cheng had already become a god-grandmother. Now, when Feng Cheng saw the Zhai family's intelligent and adorable three children, she did not feel much. Although she did not have as bad an impression of Qiao Nan as before, neither did she think well of Qiao Nan.

But who would have expected that after all that Qiu Chenxi had done seven years ago, she once again instigated something to make Feng Cheng dislike Qiao Nan. Thus, Feng Cheng was quite aware of Qiu Chenxi's methods.

"It's not that I'm too trusting of your uncle. But the truth is Zhai Sheng is quite a lot older than Qiao Nan, and he is your uncle's disciple. With such a relationship, do you think that there can be anything going on between Qiao Nan and your uncle?" She could not deny that there were too many despicable and ridiculous things in society nowadays.

In order to climb up the ladder, no matter the era, there would always be such immoral transactions. It was not uncommon to see a man of status sleeping with women his daughter's age, or even younger than his daughter.

But she dared to say that such a thing would never happen to Shi Peng, much less Qiao Nan.

With such a gem like Zhai Sheng in front of her, how blind did Qiao Nan have to be to give up such a wonderful young man to find a second-class thing outside?

Feng Cheng could no longer stay calm and listen to Qiu Chenxi. Giving up Zhai Sheng, who was a good match for her, to get into a relationship with Shi Peng? Even if she wanted to stir something up, she should have made up a believable excuse at the very least.

After giving Qiu Chenxi a piece of her mind, Feng Cheng silently returned to Shi Peng's side. She knew that Qiu Chenxi would never run her mouth in the presence of Shi Peng. This also made Feng Cheng understand something. In Qiu Chenxi's eyes, she was probably a fool that could be coaxed well.

Otherwise, why would Qiu Chenxi not find other people but only target her?

Indeed, seeing Feng Cheng have no response to her provocations and simply return to Shi Peng's side, Qiu Chenxi was unhappy but could only shut her mouth and pay her respects to the two elders. She waited quietly by the side until Shi Peng and Qiao Nan finished catching up before she proceeded to leave with the couple.

Noticing from the corners of his eyes that Qiu Chenxi had talked to Feng Cheng alone, Shi Peng looked at Feng Cheng uneasily. Feng Cheng raised her chin at Shi Peng with a haughty look.

In an instant, Shi Peng and Qiao Nan both understood that Qiu Chenxi had indeed said something nasty to Feng Cheng. But this time, Qiu Chenxi had done so in vain.

Perhaps she was really in a bad mood, but coincidentally, Qiu Chenxi had not realized that she had walked straight into Qiao Nan.

Now that she was face to face with Qiao Nan, Qiu Chenxi's face stiffened. Her words were not as sharp as before and her tone was gentler. "I'm so sorry about the old chief and Old Lin. I hope you'll take care of yourself."

In the few years that they had not met, the young lady who still had to look up to meet her face was now a strong lady with poise and confidence. The thought of being less than Qiao Nan made Qiu Chenxi feel slightly inferior, and she ground her teeth in indignation. She was trying her best not to show any changes in her expression, lest she be made a joke by Qiao Nan.

Qiu Chenxi unconsciously softened her attitude, causing Qiao Nan to sneer. "Don't worry. I will. By the way, Miss Qiu, you're about the same age as Brother Zhai. Our three children are already in primary school. I wonder when I'll be invited to your wedding."

The person she had been in love with was now married and already had children in primary school. As for herself, she was still far from getting married. Such a stark contrast was a slap in her face.

"..." Qiu Chenxi felt as though the words were stuck in her throat. It was not as though she did not want to get married. She did. But who would marry her? She thought about how the Peng family was already arranging blind dates for Peng Yu. It seemed like Peng Yu was no longer trying to escape and ignore this problem. He was even enjoying the process! The thought of this made her turn pale.

As Qiu Chenxi's face turned pale, it was as if the dark cloud covering Qiao Nan suddenly disappeared and light suddenly burst in. "I have another question. When the time comes, will your wedding be with Peng Yu? I've heard from many people that Madam Peng always brings you around. You've practically become the mistress of the Peng family already, so I'll congratulate you in advance."

Chapter 1493: Completely Pale

Young mistress of the Peng family?

Was it that easy?

This time, Qiao Nan had Qiu Chenxi tremble in anger.

The Peng family was looking for blind dates for Peng Yu, but as long as Peng Yu liked her, how could they not let her become the young mistress of the Peng family? In reality, the moment the Peng family let out the news that they were seeking blind dates for Peng Yu and were even looking at marriage within half a year, Qiu Chenxi had become the biggest joke in the circle. And so, many powerful figures got to know of the existence of Qiu Chenxi through such a unique way.

It could be said that Qiu Chenxi became famous overnight through this alternative method.

In the past, Qiu Chenxi had ridden on the laurels of the Peng family. Now, she was facing double the humiliation and ridicules so much so that she was too ashamed to meet anyone.

“Seeing how you’re so excited, I’m guessing I’ll be attending your wedding with Peng Yu soon? When the time comes, please don’t try to be polite. I’ll definitely give you a nice red packet. No matter what, we’ve known each other for a long time.” Qiu Chenxi was raging, but Qiao Nan acted as though she did not understand. “Forget it. I might have something on and may not be able to attend your wedding personally. How about I wish you and Peng Yu a happy future ahead even though it doesn’t seem appropriate during such an occasion like today’s?”

Qiao Nan had been using these words excessively, but the problem was that Qiao Nan loved using them. They were so useful. Only a few words could save her time and effort and even give a slap in the face at the same time.

“I’m so sorry. Please excuse me.” After enraging Qiu Chenxi, Qiao Nan felt as though the knot in her chest had been unbound and her mood lifted considerably. When she met other people, the sadness in her eyes had also lessened.

Seeing the kind of impact Qiu Chenxi, whom he had brought along, had on Qiao Nan, Shi Peng was amazed.

There was such a kind of person in the world: women!

Qiu Chenxi stomped her feet. What did Qiao Nan have to be proud of? Her biological parents were not good, and her master who had been the only one to cherish her had just passed away. What right did Qiao Nan have to act all high and mighty in front of her? At least, she had a mother who was devoted to her by her side. As for her dad, before he went in, he had also treated his only daughter well.

Compared to her, Qiao Nan was the one who was in need of some sympathy.

“Godmother.”

“Godfather.” The Shi couple had not been there for long before Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo arrived. The couple’s faces were somber as they walked to Qiao Nan and took off their military caps. “Please take this in your stride.”

“Thank you.”

Zhu Baoguo and Shi Qing lit incense for the two old men before Zhu Baoguo went to see Zhai Sheng, while Shi Qing stayed by Qiao Nan's side and went to see the three children. "Are you... alright?" When she posed that question, Shi Qing paid no attention to Qiao Dongliang, who had already moved to the capital.

Shi Qing knew that Qiao Nan had asked Qiao Dongliang to move to the capital and had even purchased a house for Qiao Dongliang to live in. This was not because of a good father-daughter relationship, but simply because Qiao Nan felt that she had the obligation as a daughter. If they wanted to talk about relationships, Qiao Dongliang probably had a better relationship with the three children.

Now that Old Lin was no longer around, Shi Qing could hardly believe how Qiao Nan could have survived through this period.

"Good or not, as long as I'm still here, life has to go on. Besides, I still have Brother Zhai and the three children. I'm not the same me from before. I'm sad that master is gone, but I know that I'm not without anything." Unlike in her past life up until she had been hit by a car and died, although she had resentment and hatred in her heart, there was an even greater sense of relief.

Because at that time, she had been single.

Perhaps no one would shed tears for her death, and some people may even have gotten a huge sum of compensation and rejoiced at her death.

For the people she loved and who loved her, Qiao Nan would not let herself be beaten down just like this. "Life is filled with joy but also sorrow. Just give me a little more time."

Shi Qing nodded. "Da Bao, you three, spend more time with your mom, okay? It has really not been easy for your mom to come to where she is now. You won't even be able to imagine how much she has suffered."

Shi Qing wanted the three children to know that it was difficult for their mother in the past. It was just that the three children's relationships with their maternal grandfather were pretty good. If she were to say that, she was afraid that the children were too young and would classify things too clearly as either black or white. Then, the matter would only worsen.

When the three children were older and understood that there were rights and wrongs in love in the world and that not everything was so clean-cut, there would still be time for her to tell them about what Qiao Nan had gone through.

Uncle Qiao was unsuitable as a father, but he was not a bad grandfather.

Thinking about how the three children had just lost the love from the two elders, it would be too cruel to let them know about how bad their beloved grandfather had been in the past.

Most importantly, she was not saying this to turn the three children against their grandfather. She only hoped that the three children would better understand Qiao Nan, comfort her, and help her get out of the grief from losing Old Lin.

“We understand.” Da Bao nodded. “It’s been hard on Mom.” Da Bao stood by Qiao Nan like a caring young lady, acknowledging that Qiao Nan had toiled hard. “Mom has to go to work, send us to school, and still has to care about our studies. When we’re at home and have problems we don’t understand or cannot solve, we always ask Mom. Mom is like our teacher. She knows everything.”

In reality, the way Da Bao put it was already quite modest.

Qiao Nan was a gifted student who had graduated from Peking University. She enjoyed reading and read books of all genres. Unlike professional teachers, however, Qiao Nan paid more attention to exposing herself to a wide range of knowledge and mastering them.

Young children were strange, and at times, posed questions that ordinary adults would not be able to handle. But every time the three children thought of any bizarre questions, Qiao Nan would be able to give accurate answers more than seventy to eighty percent of the time.

Even if she could not answer them, Qiao Nan would honestly say, “Sorry, Mom doesn’t know the answer to this question either. How about we search it up together? Whoever finds the answer first will tell the other.”

Every time the three children got an answer to their questions, they would be elated.

When the three children started attending school and faced similar problems, they would naturally rush to ask their teacher. It was still fine when they were in the nursery. If they asked five questions,

the teachers would still be able to answer at least two or three. But when they started primary school, everything changed.

Chapter 1494: Waiting For You to Take the Initiative

It was considered good if the teacher could even answer just once.

In the end, the three children felt that their mother was still the most reliable in terms of imparting knowledge. Thus, in addition to the school's syllabus, the three children much rather preferred to wait until the evening and ask Qiao Nan about knowledge outside of the textbook.

It is said that once children go to school, the most intelligent person is their teacher and the one whose words they would trust the most is also their teacher.

But in the case of the three children, it was simply not true. In their hearts, their mom was always first. Their mom was omnipotent and was even more intelligent than their teacher!

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Thus, even though Da Bao had no clue about his mother's past and her experiences, Da Bao viewed his dad as a hero who was never home.

In other families, the fathers did this and that. But in their home, their mom did everything. In other families, the things that their moms would do were done by hired helpers and their grandmother. In their home, other than their auntie, most of the work was still done by their mom.

Naturally, such a hardworking mother was the one who had it the hardest in the family.

"Mom is a superhero. She can do anything." San Bao stuck her thumb up. Although superheroes were always portrayed by men in television shows, their superhero mom was a woman.

"Mom is the best." Er Bao offered his 'praise' to Qiao Nan as well. In the eyes of the three children, Qiao Nan was omnipresent and was worthy of their admiration.

“You three rascals know how to say the sweetest things.” Shi Qing was amused. “Your mom works hard indeed. She’s the best and also the most blessed because she has the three of you precious little ones,” Shi Qing said especially sincerely.

The three children were already seven years old. When they got to junior high school, which was the age at which she had first met Qiao Nan, the three children would become young eagles with wings that would be on their own soon. She thought about how time flew by. When she had first met Qiao Nan, she had not been much older than the three children. Now, Qiao Nan’s children were almost coming to that age. “Nan Nan, how have the children grown up so quickly? It was just yesterday that they were a small bundle and were full of baby fragrance when I carried them in my arms.”

The three children were most adorable at that time.

“If you really like the three children at that age, seeing that you and Zhu Baoguo have been engaged for a year or two, shouldn’t you get that done too? Let’s not talk about the engagement. You two are no longer young. It’s time to give the three children some siblings. Our Xiao Bao is already sick of being the youngest in the family. He wants to be an elder brother. So please hurry up. Or are there problems between the two of you?”

But every time Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo were together, there were always sparks between the couple. It was incredible that they had not gotten married until now. Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng had even guessed that Shi Qing would end up getting into a shotgun marriage with Zhu Baoguo.

As soon as her relationship with Zhu Baoguo was mentioned, Shi Qing was not as direct and straightforward as usual. Rather, she beat around the bush. “There’s no hurry between me and Zhu Baoguo.” Since he’s not in a hurry, why should she be?

Marriage was between the two of them. Would it be any use if she alone was in a hurry? She could not possibly sign the marriage agreement alone. If Zhu Baoguo did not mean to get married, she was not going to put down her pride and take the initiative to beg Zhu Baoguo to get married.

“Teasing.” Qiao Nan finally understood. Shi Qing was waiting for Zhu Baoguo to make the first move. It meant that as long as Zhu Baoguo made any moves, Shi Qing would never reject and would accept it immediately.

After getting such an answer, while Qiao Nan lay in Zhai Sheng’s embrace that night, she specifically mentioned it. “I’ve got a reply to the thing you asked me about. But as a woman with her pride, how could she do something like proposing? Not implicitly, and definitely not explicitly.”

In any case, there would be no getting around Zhu Baoguo making the first move to propose.

Shi Qing cared very much about who made the first move, and she would never allow the sequence to be reversed.

In summary, marriage had to be initiated by Zhu Baoguo. Otherwise, Shi Qing would rather delay the matter than to get married.

Zhai Sheng patted Qiao Nan on the back and coaxed her by saying, "Okay. I'll let Zhu Baoguo know about the situation. Then, we won't have to worry anymore about what happens after." As a man, if he did not even dare to ask for his partner's hand in marriage and relied on someone else to do so, Zhai Sheng felt that Zhu Baoguo would never be his rival, be it ten years ago or ten years later.

Every time his wife mentioned Zhu Baoguo, her tone was no different from when she talked about Da Bao and Er Bao.

Zhai Sheng was simply speechless at such a man who even dreamed of fighting with him over women in the past. At the time when he married Nan Nan, Zhu Baoguo had used so many underhanded methods. Now that seven or eight years had passed, why could Zhu Baoguo not use his efforts on Shi Qing?

"You should head back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tomorrow. If you still don't return, I'm afraid Minister He Yi will come knocking on our door to look for you. Perhaps there might even be chaos in the department now that you've been away for a few days." Zhai Sheng caressed Qiao Nan's back which had clearly lost weight. Even her bones were obviously protruding now. Zhai Sheng was heartbroken. "I'll ask the auntie to buy some chickens and boil soup to nourish you. Now that I'm hugging you, I wonder if you were ever this skinny even when you were back in the Qiao family. I must help you regain all the weight."

"Are you disgusted?" Qiao Nan had not felt as though she had lost weight. But with the passing of two loved ones, she had been so depressed and had also been taking care of all the different matters. It would be strange if she did not lose weight. But when Zhai Sheng mentioned it, Qiao Nan naturally had a reaction that most women would have. She was upset.

Women always hope that they are the most beautiful person in their husband's eyes. Whether they gain or lose weight, the image of beauty should remain unchanged.

“No.” If he were disgusted, he would be chased right to the study room to spend the night. “I’m just worried about you. When the auntie finishes cooking the soup tomorrow, I’ll send it over to you. Remember to drink up. It’ll be best if you finish it. It’s more important to nourish you, not just to fatten you up.”

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Chapter 1495: With Comparison Comes Hurt

“When the time comes, I’ll get the auntie to skin the chicken.”

Qiao Nan was rather picky when it came to food, especially when it came to boiling chicken soup. She insisted on the chicken being skinned. Something about the fat on the chicken skin being hard to digest and not being good for the body.

She refused to drink it otherwise and was especially careful when feeding the three children too. Under the leadership of Qiao Nan, the Zhai family also unconsciously adopted this habit. So when he talked about chicken soup today, Zhai Sheng provided additional explanations, which satisfied Qiao Nan.

“Brother Zhai, I’m sleepy.”

“Just sleep if you’re sleepy.”

“I’m scared.”

“...” It was rare for Zhai Sheng to have to coax Qiao Nan as though he were coaxing his children. “Don’t be scared. Just go to sleep. I won’t leave. I’ll be with you forever. You still have us. You still have the three children.”

Zhai Sheng’s coaxing was unskilled and unfamiliar, yet reassuring and gentle at the same time. And so, Qiao Nan yawned and gradually got sleepier. After finding a comfortable position in Zhai Sheng’s embrace, she quickly fell asleep.

Just as Zhai Sheng had said, when Qiao Nan returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the next day, she found out that chaos had indeed broken out.

“Minister He, you can actually give more work to us. We’ve been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for quite a while. We are quite capable. It’s just that we lack opportunities to show our talents. Minister He, please do not go out of your way to take care of us just because we’ve been in this department for a short time. We need more practice to grow and develop.”

“That’s right, Minister He. As long as you are willing to give us the opportunity, we’ll definitely be able to prove ourselves. All our seniors in the department are so busy every day. We are the only ones who have so much free time. We’re really quite ashamed about that. Minister He, please train us more.”

Xu Xinming and Li Dawei had already entered He Yi’s office bright and early and eagerly begged He Yi to give them more opportunities to show their worth.

Especially Li Dawei’s words which could be easily mistaken.

What did he mean by having no opportunities to prove his worth in the past? Was he not hinting that Qiao Nan was afraid that Li Dawei was more capable than her and would surpass her? Was that why she suppressed Li Dawei in the first place? To prevent him from getting ahead of her?

These two newbies who had only been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for just over a year dared to attack their senior with their words? Was it the end of the world?

He Yi’s eyebrows were already twitching. These two ‘newbies’ clearly thought he was a fool. He was not going to stand by and watch and rely on logic instead of relations if someone pointed out Qiao Nan’s faults, even if everyone in the department now knew that Qiao Nan was his junior.

It was hilarious how Xu Xinming and Li Dawei were so confident and thought that everything would progress according to their plan.

“Minister, it’s rare that newbies have such down-to-earth ideas. I think they’re pretty good. But these newbies are no longer newbies. They’ve been here for a year. It’s just as well that we take this chance to see how much our colleagues Xu and Li have improved since they joined our department. You know, it always used to be like this. Comrades Xu and Li should not be exceptions. After being

in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a year, they haven't even gotten better. They're still totally green."

Qiao Nan knocked and entered He Yi's office after getting his approval. "Moreover, since our minister has already assigned everyone their own work, I think it will be better for everyone to focus on their own work instead of helping each other so as to improve our efficiency. We should be responsible for our own tasks. If we try harder in some things and do more work, we'll gradually get used to them and they won't seem so difficult anymore."

The tasks were now entirely separated. If anything went wrong with Xu Xinming and Li Dawei, there would be no one to push the blame to. More importantly, Xu Xinming and Li Dawei would have to faithfully take up that responsibility.

As veterans who had been in this department for a year, leaving aside the fact that it might merit demerits, it was embarrassing that they still made mistakes in the most simple of tasks.

It was rare for Xu Xinming and Li Dawei to 'take so much initiative'. As a senior who had guided them, Qiao Nan wanted to satisfy their desires. She wanted very much to raise all her limbs in support of her colleagues' ideas.

Work?

She would give as much as Xu Xinming and Li Dawei wanted. If she gave any less, she would count it as her loss.

"Deal." Before Xu Xinming and Li Dawei could return to their senses, He Yi made his decision. Before these two entered the department, even though there had been no hard and fast rules, the working conditions had been just like what Qiao Nan mentioned. There had been no such thing as not finishing or not doing well and having someone else come to help.

So it could be said that these two new colleagues ruined the atmosphere in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by making such a rule compulsory so that everyone would be clear of their roles and responsibilities. At this time, He Yi was firm with Xu Xinming and Li Dawei.

If the two of them wanted to stay in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then Xu Xinming and Li Dawei would take over all the manual labor and chores. He would treat it as though he had raised two slackers. As long as it concerned official matters and had to do with the state, Xu Xinming and Li Dawei would not even get to touch them.

With such an idea, if Xu Xinming and Li Dawei were still unwilling to leave the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on their own accord, He Yi would be left with only one choice. He would be forced to find a big fault or tons of small mistakes made by Xu Xinming and Li Dawei. Then, with the accumulation of all these mistakes, no one could say anything if he were to arrange them in unimportant positions.

He Yi and Qiao Nan had already decided how to chase Xu Xinming and Li Dawei out of the department. In the past, these two were just lazy. But now, they were true scumbags who wanted to make some trouble in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the face of such a change in Xu Xinming and Li Dawei, the whole Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not welcome them, even Deng Wenchang, who was usually not in accord.

It was rather funny to talk about it. It was exactly because of the appearance of Xu Xinming and Li Dawei that Deng Wenchang had become rejected by the entire department. But with these two newbies, everyone realized that it could only get worse. With them around, Deng Wenchang was not all that useless or annoying in comparison.

Chapter 1496: Political Consciousness

In fact, Deng Wenchang was way more commendable than Xu Xinming and Li Dawei.

Xu Xinming and Li Dawei finally caught on. They were here to snitch on Qiao Nan, but her appearance turned the tide, and the duo ended up in a disadvantageous position. Qiao Nan's pace didn't even allow them to react to the situation. What a sharp woman.

It was no wonder that Qiao Nan could marry into the Zhai family as a lowly countryside girl.

Xu Xinming and Li Dawei had seen many who would do anything to protect their pride. Therefore, they assumed that Qiao Nan would bow to anything to keep her name clean. In fact, she would have to show that she is friendly and welcoming to the newcomers more than ever.

They knew that this month was a pivotal time to determine their future in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and their performance so far hadn't been great. When they entered the department, they imagined their abilities to be more than enough to secure the job and what they need was trying to make showy achievements.

However, it was far from the truth.

The amount and depth of work exceeded their prediction, and the ever-accumulating quantity brought fundamental changes to their job scope. In short, they would never complete it unless they worked twice as hard as they'd studied.

Even with the efforts of taking the college entrance examination, it would take months for them to bring their efficiency up a notch.

The duo couldn't bear the time and effort needed, so they came up with the idea of framing Qiao Nan and Deng Wenchang for picking on newcomers. The later would have to take care of them to prove their innocence, and they could safely pass the end-of-year evaluation.

However, He Yi wasn't affected by the exposure of his relationship with Qiao Nan.

He Yi's attitude toward Qiao Nan was not any different from before. Qiao Nan, on the other hand, had come back stronger than ever. If she were a soothing breeze from spring, she would be the piercing winter gale right now.

Since Xu Xinming and Li Dawei wanted a game, Qiao Nan decided to go all in.

Qiao Nan didn't even close the office door earlier. After He Yi agreed, Qiao Nan turned and announced the news to the entire department. Before the two had a chance to take back their words, most of the members of the department were already informed about a new rule thanks to the 'newcomers'.

"Comrade Xu and Comrade Li deserve our compliments for such political motivation. Let's give them our support." Qiao Nan was the first to applaud. Xu Xinming and Li Dawei froze behind her, and their face went pale.

"Minister, no, no... Senior Qiao..."

How did she infer any 'political motivation' from what they'd said? When the hell did they talk about self-independence?

All they wanted was Qiao Nan and He Yi taking on their work to protect their names. When the end-of-year evaluation came, He Yi would go easy on them, lower the requirements, and let them stay in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Their request was so simple and achievable, but why did these people have to be so cruel? It was like Qiao Nan wanted to kick them out of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This woman was more vicious than any man!

“We definitely have to support their decision. Although I wasn’t the first to applaud, I will be the second.” Deng Wenchang was the most delighted one in the crowd as he could finally get rid of Xu Xinming.

If Xu Xinming continued bothering him, he wouldn’t even be able to smile on his wedding day. “By the way, my wedding is coming, and I have placed the invitation cards on everyone’s desk. It’s fine to come without gifts, but everyone should at least have a drink with me on my special day.”

After all this time, marriage had finally arrived. Staring at the glittering invitation cards on the desks, Deng Wenchang felt lost for a moment. For some reason, he glimpsed at Qiao Nan. He wanted to see Qiao Nan’s reaction to his wedding.

Deng Wenchang didn’t think of getting married anytime soon despite his age. It was his father who goaded him into agreeing on the marriage.

Deng Wenchang couldn’t even recount how things got to this stage. When he came back to his senses, the date and wedding were already arranged, and he was dragged into taking wedding shots with the bride.

Deng Wenchang had no idea what he was expecting from Qiao Nan, but he was still hit with disappointment as Qiao Nan’s expression was just as bright. If he did want a reaction from Qiao Nan, what would that be?

Deng Wenchang was afraid to face that answer, and he wouldn’t dare to look for one. Why did he not want to marry anyone despite his family grinding his nerves? He preferred battling with Qiao Nan, observing Qiao Nan’s angered expressions, and waiting for her to come back stronger than before.

Deng Wenchang gulped down a mouthful of icy water, and the warmth in his belly died out with it. Deng Wenchang’s teeth chattered from the chill, making clattering noises.

Nobody realized Deng Wenchang's strange behaviors.

It was good news that the only old and single guy in the department was getting married.

Everyone was discussing how much money they should gift and how they should crash the wedding night and prank Deng Wenchang. Xu Xinming and Li Dawei were different; they were busy figuring out ways to handle their work

Chapter 1497: Damn Skills

In a unique department like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they couldn't even find any external help if they couldn't manage. If they did, He Yi and Qiao Nan would roll in the aisles. That's because the exposure of such behaviors would cause them to be fired despite their families' resources.

Moreover, the families wouldn't be so helpful as not everyone would be selfless enough to make sacrifices for the two of them.

Xu Xinming and Li Dawei glanced at each other and sighed hopelessly.

If they knew that things were going to get worse, why would they come up with such an idea? However, nobody would have predicted Qiao Nan's reaction. Didn't someone say that those with power were afraid of the slightest rumor?

It was reasonable for the pair to have such a misunderstanding of Qiao Nan. After all, they hadn't heard of what had happened to the Lin family. To grab onto Elder Lin's inheritance, everyone in the Lin family united and pledged to expand its businesses using it.

If someone would step into politics in the future, they could afford to pay their way up and miss great opportunities.

The benefit was too great to be missed, so no one went against the decision. Even the somewhat successful youngsters, who earned a bit from start-ups, were enchanted by the large sum of inheritance. They gave up their growing businesses and came back to take their part of the cash.

To the outsiders, Qiao Nan was someone who minded her own business. When someone crossed the line, however, she would hunt him down.

The Lin family put everything on the line to fight her. Since Qiao Nan decided to step up to the challenge, she drained the Lin family's resources from the start. The market was competitive, and any business that could earn good profit would have new companies kicking off every day.

Only the ones that could survive the tests and elimination of the economy would stay as the winner. In the future, those are the ones that can remain in power and lead the rest.

In such crucial times, the Lin family dropped everything to tackle Qiao Nan, so there was no reason for Qiao Nan to go easy on them.

Qiao Nan was a boss herself; she held five percent of Tian Corporation's shares and almost half of that of Baby Love.

Qiao Nan didn't even need the help of Tian Dong or Gao Yan to destroy the Lin family if she wanted to.

When the Lin family was still asking Qiao Nan for Elder Lin's inheritance, Qiao Nan had already targeted most of the Lin family's businesses. When the time came, she pushed Elder Lin's will to them.

Elder Lin was wise and had taken care of everything in his will. Therefore, no matter how hard the Lin family tried, their lawyers couldn't find any loophole in Qiao Nan receiving Elder Lin's inheritance. In the end, they couldn't get a single cent from Qiao Nan's pocket.

Chapter 1498: Softhearted Women

In other words, there was simply no use to hire a lawyer. Even if they hired all the lawyers, it would be to no purpose other than spending more of the Lin family's money. The lawyer hired by the Lin family clearly informed them that Qiao Nan had to decide to give up Old Lin's inheritance voluntarily and to return them to the Lin family.

Otherwise, the Lin family would not even be able to get a single cent from Old Lin's inheritance, let alone his whole fortune.

No matter how you looked at it, there was no point in fighting this case. The lawyer would not waste his own time or put his reputation at stake trying to fight this case.

The relationship between the Lin family and Old Lin was just too poor. Even the people from the central committee had heard and spoken out about it. They were not going to disappoint Old Lin, who had made great contributions to the development of the country.

Even though Old Lin had no family by his side, he still had the party, the country, and the people. There were so many people who could provide for him in the Lin family. Old Lin would definitely not be alone in his old age.

Just based on this situation, the lawyer wanted to ask if the Lin family was mentally sound.

Completely knocked down by the lawyer's words, the Lin family finally realized in a daze that they had worked in vain. They did not even get to see Qiao Nan, let alone taking a dime from her. Even more so not to mention how they had bullied a young lady into tears so much so that she was afraid of returning Old Lin's items.

In the end, the one who was really scared to tears seemed to be themselves, no?

The Lin family had not figured a way out of this mess. When they finally returned to their own lives, the two youngsters of the Lin family who were businessmen suddenly realized that there had been a drastic increase in the number of businesses like theirs in just a period of a month. Worse still, there were one or two companies that had developed at an extreme speed and could now compete with them for business.

After several times of having their business being snatched away from them, the Lin family somehow felt as though someone powerful was targeting them. Otherwise, why was it that they had never been so unlucky up until now? It was as though their opponent knew their moves ahead of time, could finalize their own plans, sign contract procedures, and stay one step ahead of them, leaving the Lin family with no room at all.

It was easy to become successful in the business world. But in the same vein, if one did not do well, the company could go bankrupt in the blink of an eye.

Without Old Lin's help, the Lin family had finally been able to start something for themselves. However, before the new year arrived, they had already failed. As such, the Lin family could no longer maintain their lifestyles and became just like the normal working class.

When the Lin family finally regained their senses and knew who was attacking them, it was already too late. Luckily, Qiao Nan had never thought of being too brutal, totally eliminating the Lin family, because she still respected the fact that they were Lins.

The Lin family used to live in Ping Cheng, but Old Lin had moved to the capital for Qiao Nan and her children. Thus, the Lin family moved northward as well, thinking that it would be easier to settle down in the capital by taking advantage of Old Lin's connections.

In reality, the Lin family did not really need to even talk to Old Lin. As long as the Lin family used Old Lin as a playing card, many people would show some respect to the Lin family. This was the true reason how the family could buy a house and settle down in the capital in just a few years' time.

Now that the Lin family could no longer survive in the capital, they decided to return to Ping Cheng. Ping Cheng was their hometown after all.

On the day that the Lin family returned to Ping Cheng and were cleaning their house, they received a sum of money from a mysterious person. To an ordinary person, this was definitely a huge sum of money. But to someone who was in the business world, like the Lin family that had been bosses in the past, this was neither a lot nor insignificant.

If the Lin family received this sum of money and was willing to live down-to-earth lives without coveting for luxurious lifestyles, then their lives would definitely not be much harder than before.

Looking at the sum of money, the Lin family could roughly guess who had sent the money. Just the thought of this person made the Lin family itch with anger.

If not for Qiao Nan, the Lin family's business in the capital had actually been quite good. Although it could not compare with the money that Old Lin had left behind, it was still enough for the Lin family to lead comfortable lives in the capital. In ten or twenty years, who could say that the Lin family might not become the nouveau riches in the capital?

But such a bright future was utterly shattered by Qiao Nan. And when the Lin family was at their wit's end, Qiao Nan sent such a sum of money to 'save' them.

The Lin family could not bring themselves to like Qiao Nan. In fact, they bore a deep resentment against her. But they could not deny that they no longer had such a bad impression of Qiao Nan as compared to before.

“They went back already?” Tian Dong eyed the documents in Qiao Nan’s hands. Qiao Nan had never asked for help in what she had done to the Lin family, but Tian Dong knew all about it.

“Otherwise? The cost of living is so high in the capital. If they foolishly continue to stay in the capital, it’ll be like mocking me with their own deaths. If the Lin family were really to choose that path, I would really gain some respect for them.” The Lin family had not left happily. They had been forced to leave the capital with no other choice.

Without money, how could they be Beijing drifters?

Normally, Beijing drifters were single or a family of three. Hardly were there those like the Lin family who boasted that they were famous and had an illustrious family background. Such a large family had all come to the capital to further their careers. Leaving all else aside, up until the day that they left the capital, the Lin family had not even earned enough to arrange for everyone in their family to have a permanent place to stay in.

It was truly difficult to purchase a house in the capital, let alone purchasing a few large houses. The Lin family was truly ambitious.

But things were different in Ping Cheng. As long as they were willing to return there, everything was ready for them. The cost of living in Ping Cheng was low and the Lin family still had a bit of money. They would not have to worry about finances. With the additional sum of money that that person had sent to the Lin family, if they were willing to run a small and honest business, not a big business, there would be no problem living comfortably.

“You’re not very vicious. Indeed, just like a woman.” Tian Dong raised his eyebrows. The business world was just like a battleground. Once he attacked, he never let up to give his opponents a chance of coming back, unlike Qiao Nan, who had softened her heart when she should have hardened it.

Luckily, Qiao Nan was only a small shareholder in the Tian Corporation. She had almost never participated in the company’s decision making anyway.

Chapter 1499: Strange Groom

Of course, Qiao Nan's behavior was the very reason there was barely any conflict within the family all these years.

Qiao Nan shook her head. "They belonged to the Lin family, after all. When my master was still alive, they had done worse things, but did you think my master couldn't contain the Lin family? If my master let a hint loose, there was no way for the Lin family to use my master's name."

In short, her master had been giving the Lin family a chance to develop despite his hatred for them. What she did must carry on her master's purpose.

Since this was what her master wanted, she would continue down the same path.

Tian Dong had no rebuttal for Qiao Nan's words. It was true that Elder Lin had been cutting the Lin family some slack. If Qiao Nan did bring down the Lin family, ultimately, it could dirt her reputation. On the contrary, when the Lin family received money from Qiao Nan, they wouldn't be targeting her like before.

Moreover, Tian Dong knew what others didn't.

The money that Qiao Nan gave to the Lin family was only part of the earnings snatched from them. It was more like Qiao Nan returned some cash to the Lin family.

Using their own money to buy over the Lin family's favor, it was a great move that not many people in business could make.

If the Lin family did come back and defeat Qiao Nan with this investment, it would be his fault and not Qiao Nan's. He would be the one weak enough to allow the Lin family to get the upper hand. For some reason, he had already fallen into the huge web that Qiao Nan had cast. How foolish of him to be calling Qiao Nan a soft girl!

He was the one being deceived all this while.

After reflecting on how stupid he'd been, Tian Dong dared not give Qiao Nan any more ideas. Tian Dong figured that he was affected by Zhai Hua. Zhai Hua always spoke about Qiao Nan's history of

having an unfortunate family background, which led him into thinking that Qiao Nan was an innocent being.

When he gave it some thought, he realized that Qiao Nan had never put herself in a disadvantageous position since the day he met her. Most of the time, Qiao Nan could come up on top with a few words.

It didn't mean that Qiao Nan was someone who was all-talks. It just couldn't be helped that Qiao Nan's words worth more than those of others, and her ideas were innovative. He finally got the realization that Qiao Nan was not a girl who needed a man to protect.

After figuring that out, Tian Dong felt that his mind was freed.

November and December were the months that many walked down the aisles. Among those couples was Qiao Nan's colleague, Deng Wenchang. Being in the same department, Qiao Nan had the responsibility to attend his big day. At the wedding, Qiao Nan took a glance at the bride; she looked clean and obedient.

Anyway, Deng Wenchang's age and family would guarantee him a good wife.

However, Qiao Nan was busy, so weekends were a luxury for her. Since the children were free, Qiao Nan couldn't bear being away from home for too long.

Leaving the gifts behind, she waved Deng Wenchang goodbye after gobbling down a few bites.

Deng Wenchang, dressed in a neat suit, watched Qiao Nan hurry away absent-mindedly. Seeing that he was motionless as if stuck in time, his wife nudged him. "What's wrong? Uncle is still waiting for you."

Deng Wenchang dragged his mind back to life and grinned. "It's nothing. I was disturbed as I recalled a contract. Uncle, cheers. Have fun today."

"Of course. Treat our girl well, okay? Our family cherishes our baby girl."

"Don't worry about it. I will." Deng Wenchang didn't leave the girl's relatives embarrassed. It wasn't hard to put on a mask.

If they did cherish her, why would they marry her to a friend whom she had only met for months?

They had only known each other for months. Did her family really think that he loved the girl?

The thoughts were to be stored in his heart. Glancing at the alcohol in his glass, he dumped everything down his throat. The bride was worried as she glared at the groomsmen. Groomsmen's job was to tank the alcohol for the groom. It would be a problem at night if the groom was drunk.

Not only the groomsmen saw the bride's signal, but her uncle saw it as well. The men roared hysterically, and the groomsmen started doing their jobs. The bride's family refrained from toasting.

However, the event was too grand for the groomsmen to save the man. Not many Chinese men would miss an opportunity to get the groom drunk. After all, there was no better time for it than the wedding day.

The inevitable happened; Deng Wenchang had lost consciousness when he was carried to the wedding room. The bride couldn't wake him up in any way and eventually gave up on it. Although it was a pity, it couldn't be helped.

The bride changed, washed up, and had to take care of Deng Wenchang's hygiene. When she finally lay under the sheets with a stinky man, she wondered if everything was just a dream.

The next morning, Deng Wenchang woke up and did the groom's job. The bride's uneasiness finally faded. She would officially belong to the Deng family when she was pregnant.

She knew that Deng Wenchang took his work seriously, so they agreed to postpone the honeymoon to next May. Right now, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was too busy for Deng Wenchang to have a break.

Chapter 1500: A Different Ending

The bride had studied Deng Wenchang's situation before marrying him. Since Deng Wenchang was indeed busy working to better their future, she would not be so dramatic to start a fight. Instead, she happily sent Deng Wenchang to work.

Deng Wenchang's parents were delighted to witness this. A grandchild wouldn't be far off with the daughter-in-law in the house.

"Xiao Deng, you are looking great. I hope you can become a father soon." The older ones in the department smirked at Deng Wenchang. Every man and married woman could understand the meaning of that smile.

Most people in the department had been holding back on the dirty jokes since Qiao Nan's arrival. It couldn't be helped that Qiao Nan had an innocent vibe. Although they knew that she was married and had three children, they still refrained from crossing the line.

It was the first day after Deng Wenchang's marriage, so some couldn't help but crack a joke.

Deng Wenchang knew that they meant no harm, so he replied nicely for once. "I wish to become a father as well. Qiao Nan, who's younger than me, already has three kids in school. I still have no idea where my kids are."

"They might already be in your wife's belly." Someone took the chance. It was true that the bride might be pregnant unless Deng Wenchang didn't have any strength left on the wedding night.

"Tsk." Xu Xinming clicked his tongue as he listened to the jokes. He was not married yet. What's so hard about getting married? Why were they making it seem like Deng Wenchang was the only one married in this world?

Compared to Xu Xinming, who had the luxury of time to mock Deng Wenchang's marriage, Li Dawei's expression had turned serious. It's been over a year since Li Dawei had joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it was the first time that he worked so hard in the department.

Was there any other way?

Qiao Nan had ousted all the tricks up his sleeves. If this carried on, Li Dawei knew that there would be no place for him in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Recalling how he showed off about joining the department, he knew that he would be jeered at by those who were once jealous of him. That's if he was kicked out of this place.

Li Dawei didn't want that to happen.

When there was no way out, Li Dawei gave up struggling and picked up the sincerity he used to have in school.

When a person puts his mind to work instead of trivial matters, he would naturally button his lip. While Xu Xinming had the time to join the fun, Li Dawei was busy flipping through the dictionary.

Li Dawei's parents claimed that Li Dawei worked even harder for this job than the college entrance examination. Seeing their son learning to work hard and not depend on his family's connections was a pleasant scene for them. The Li family working together to support Li Dawei's effort would bring him a higher likelihood of staying in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the other hand, Xu Xinming still lazed around despite his family's help. In the end, a family's power would only be wasted on his lackluster attitude.

Xu Xinming and Li Dawei were divided, and He Yi and Qiao Nan felt the separation between them. Li Dawei was way more acceptable right now.

No one could stop Xu Xinming from digging his own grave, for he had no wish of turning over a new leaf.

In January, Li Dawei's hard work paid off. He obtained results way better than that of Xu Xinming. When the Xu family forced the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to allow Xu Xinming to stay, He Yi immediately agreed and arranged him to look after the old archives.

Although there was absolutely no need for such a job, it couldn't be helped when there was an extra member in the department. Since he didn't fit in, it was only right for him to have a unique position. After all, this left no excuse for the Xu family to seek trouble as Xu Xinming was technically still in the department.

The Xu family was enraged to hear this and demanded an explanation from He Yi.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was out of the Xu family's reach no matter how powerful they were. In this department, He Yi was the one in charge. The Xu family's conspiracies would never work on He Yi, and Xu Xinming's position didn't move an inch.

The Xu family had hands extended to every part of the country, but they couldn't change He Yi's decision. He Yi was never scared of the Xu family, and the Xu family had nothing to threaten him with. In his words, he could do anything he wanted with Xu Xinming as there would never come a day where he would need anything from his family.

He Yi's firm stand was not to be objected, and Xu Xinming couldn't change a thing. In the end, he had no choice but to pack up and head to the archives room. Such a job was usually for the retired elders!

Xu Xinming graduated from a famous university and was an exchange student for a year. Who would have known that he would be arranged to look after the archives? Xu Xinming wanted to bury his head underground before anyone could laugh at him.

Not only did he embarrass himself, but he also put his entire family to shame. If he knew that He Yi was such a tough guy, he would have never gone against him.

After all, it was this brat, Li Dawei, who betrayed their friendship and surrendered to Qiao Nan. Otherwise, he wouldn't be the only one sitting before a garage right now. Li Dawei was still working happily in his office chair, and what infuriated Xu Xinming the most was that the two of them were equally hated just weeks ago.

It was like Li Dawei returned to normal thanks to his departure.