

RTAMM 2391

Chapter 2391: Bad-Tempered (2)

This peace wasn't an absolute theory but a relativity theory.

Compared to ordinary families, the Qiao family couldn't be considered peaceful. However, compared to how the Qiao family was tormenting Qiao Nan, Qiao Nan could be said to really be at peace when Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi were living under the same roof.

In order to make it more convenient for Jiajia to go to high school, and because Zhai Hua had already mended her relationship with the Zhai family, Zhai Hua brought Jiajia to live in the quad after the divorce. That night when Ding Jiayi suffered from food poisoning, the people from the northern quad weren't familiar with the people from the southern quad and couldn't inform Zhai Hua. Otherwise, Zhai Hua would have been involved in this as well.

Qiao Nan leaned against the sofa and smiled. "The Wang family has already stopped creating trouble. Why would I worry about those two from the Qiao family?"

After Ding Jiayi was discharged from the hospital, she naturally didn't recover her relationship with Qiao Zijin like before. Thankfully, Ding Jiayi was still mindful of her own health. Even though she was still at odds with Qiao Zijin, she wouldn't do things that would cause herself to be admitted into hospital again.

Since Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin were relatively settled, Qiao Nan focused wholeheartedly on being a full-time mother and raising the three children up well.

Perhaps it was because others found out that she was giving tuition to Jiajia that there were quite a few people who came to the Zhai family recently, trying to get Qiao Nan to teach their children English.

Qiao Nan rejected most of these children. Until now, she hadn't agreed to anyone yet. However, giving children English tuition was something she was familiar with in this lifetime. Should she do this when the three children go to school in the future and she could be free?

"Mom. Stomach. Hungry." A chubby child pounced onto Qiao Nan's knee, signaling that she was hungry. Qiao Nan looked at the time. There was still one and a half hours before dinner. She could

only cut some fruits for the children first. “Sister Zhai Hua, I’ll go off now. The three children are hungry from playing. I’ll cut some fruits for them.”

“Alright.” Zhai Hua hurriedly let Qiao Nan go, knowing the ‘bad habits’ of her nephews and niece. Furthermore, she had already shared most of what she wanted to with Qiao Nan.

“San Bao, greet your aunt. After that, I’ll cut some fruits for you, alright?”

San Bao looked at the phone and greeted Zhai Hua. Then, she flashed a cute smile at Qiao Nan. How would Qiao Nan be able to withstand her daughter’s coquettish behavior? After hanging up the call, she took her daughter’s hand and entered the kitchen.

After the three children grew up, their tempers followed suit as well. The aunt had gone to the fruit stall in the market to buy all the fresh fruits at home. However, it was unknown when the three children started to eat only the fruits that Qiao Nan cut. It was as if they were afraid of the adults fooling them as they seemed to have come to an agreement to take turns and watch their mom cut fruits every day.

Upon seeing this situation, Miao Jing always joked that these three children were mini supervisors who didn’t allow Qiao Nan to become lazy.

Qiao Nan was fascinated. Could it be that the fruits she cut would become sweeter? She couldn’t communicate this to the three children, and it probably didn’t make sense to them. Thankfully, Qiao Nan was a full-time mother. She naturally had the time to cut fruits. After cutting a small piece of the red dragon fruit, Qiao Nan turned around and put it into San Bao’s mouth.

San Bao was long prepared. She tried to open her mouth as wide as possible, letting out an ‘ah’. When her mouth was stuffed with that sweet piece of fruit, San Bao clapped with her chubby hands, and the smile on her face was sweeter than the red dragon fruit. She never stopped chewing. That blissful look made Qiao Nan doubt if she had really fed San Bao a piece of ordinary red dragon fruit. San Bao looked like she was eating dragon meat instead.

After feeding San Bao two mouthfuls, Qiao Nan held San Bao’s hand again and walked slowly toward the game room. She knew that there were still two children waiting to be fed there.

The triplets were fed with dragon fruit pieces in sequential order. Their eyes lit up and they were extremely satisfied with the treatment.

Qiao Nan couldn't help but smile when she saw her children's happy looks. After a while, Qiao Nan felt a rather resentful look land on her and she felt uncomfortable. Qiao Nan turned and saw the three children's father. "Brother Zhai, what's wrong?"

Zhai Sheng didn't say anything. He looked at the dragon fruit unintentionally and played with the three children.

Even though Zhai Sheng didn't say a single word, based on Qiao Nan's understanding of Zhai Sheng, she only felt that Zhai Sheng had used his whole body to express this: You are an unscrupulous woman who only wants your sons and daughter but not the father of your children.

It was unknown if he had spent too much time with the children, causing him to become 'young' as well. In the face of such a childish husband who was competing with his sons and daughter for preferential treatment, Qiao Nan didn't know if she should be angry or just laugh.

What should she do?

She had already fed her children. Could Qiao Nan not agree to feed her husband, especially since no one else was around?

Qiao Nan picked up a small piece of dragon fruit and wanted to feed it into Zhai Sheng's mouth. Zhai Sheng's expression immediately improved when Qiao Nan understood what he meant. She finally noticed his presence and was going to treat him well. Before the couple could become loving, an unexpected intruder appeared halfway, making Zhai Sheng so angry that he felt that giving birth to children was one of the worst decisions he had ever made.

Among the three children, Er Bao was the cheekiest and had many tricks up his sleeve.

In the face of Da Bao and San Bao, Er Bao still had the patience to wait for his turn. When this person became Zhai Sheng, his father, Er Bao expressed that he was still a child and thus wanted his mom to feed him. His dad was already an adult. He could eat it himself.

Upon seeing that the fruit in his mom's hand wasn't for the children but for his dad, the chubby Er Bao jumped up like a little leopard and rushed toward Zhai Sheng. Zhai Sheng reacted quickly. He stretched his long arms and held Er Bao easily. Er Bao clung to Zhai Sheng's arm, stretched out his small neck, opened his mouth, and took a bite of the fruit which he snatched over.

After succeeding in eating the fruit, Er Bao no longer wanted to stay in his biological father's arms. With a twist of his little buttocks, he went down to his position and continued to play with models.

Qiao Nan was speechless.

Zhai Sheng was speechless as well.

Which family did this agile child belong to? More importantly, Er Bao was very good at snatching over the fruit. How did he do it with his chubby body?

Chapter 2392: Bad-Tempered (3)

Qiao Nan couldn't help but ask, "Brother Zhai, since when did you bring Er Bao to the army behind my back? Haven't I said it before? They are still young and haven't fully grown up yet. They walk around like ducks now. How can they undergo training in the army?"

Zhai Sheng's eyelids twitched, feeling that Er Bao was displeasing to the eye. "Based on his skills, do I need to bring him to the army?" No matter how cruel he was, he wouldn't have reached that stage. Furthermore, although these three children had indeed disturbed his interactions with Nan Nan, they were still his children no matter how bad they were.

"However, I've just decided that the children of our Zhai family are cheekier than others." They weren't cheekier but were obviously too cheeky. If they became even cheekier, would Nan Nan still be his wife? "As such, we can bring forward the time for them to 'take a look' at the army."

"..." After successfully getting himself into trouble and also implicating Da Bao and San Bao, Er Bao moved his little mouth quickly like a squirrel. He had a carefree look and didn't understand the meaning of his father's words at all.

Zhai Sheng looked at the dragon fruit, showing his obsessiveness with it. That piece of fruit was snatched away by Er Bao just now. As such, Nan Nan had to feed him another piece.

Qiao Nan laughed. Indeed, the father was the same as his children. What else could she say? She would treat it that she was providing for four children. Qiao Nan picked up a piece of fruit. After thinking for a while, she fed it to Da Bao. While Zhai Sheng looked stunned having been abandoned, Qiao Nan used the fastest speed to stuff a piece of fruit again into Er Bao's and San Bao's mouths.

After confirming that the three children's mouths were full, Qiao Nan stuffed the fourth piece into Zhai Sheng's mouth.

Even though Qiao Nan didn't feed Zhai Sheng this piece of fruit tenderly and her speed was the same as that of a machine gun, at least he managed to eat it. After achieving his goal, Zhai Sheng was satisfied. He confirmed that at the same time Qiao Nan valued the three children, she loved him the most.

Of course, only Zhai Sheng himself knew how this ranking came about.

Next, Qiao Nan repeated her actions and took turns feeding a piece of fruit each to the four people, taking care of both the father and children well. Anyway, it was approaching mealtime soon. Sharing some of the dragon fruit with Brother Zhai would prevent the children from eating too much fruit so that they could still eat their usual amount of food later. As she thought of this, Qiao Nan picked up the plate so that the three children couldn't see that there were still a few pieces of dragon fruit on it. Then, she put them into Zhai Sheng's mouth at the speed of lightning and quietly said, "Eat them quickly."

The cold-faced Zhai Sheng seemed to smile immediately. Most importantly, his ears were blushing. This incident proved that the children's father was indeed more important than the children to Nan Nan.

Upon seeing that the plate of dragon fruit was gone and the children would still be able to have their meals later, Qiao Nan, who didn't know what Zhai Sheng was thinking, revealed a satisfied smile to him as well. Raising a child required two people to work together.

As such, there was definitely a difference between the mentality of a woman who wasn't a mother compared to one who was.

Before becoming a mother, Qiao Nan fed fruits to Zhai Sheng as she really wanted to treat him well. However, after becoming the mother of three children, most of her purpose in doing things was mainly for them.

"San Bao, eat some vegetables." At the dining table, Qiao Nan was holding the small pink bowl that San Bao exclusively used. She was having a headache. It was unknown if Da Bao and Er Bao were boys that they were more playful and active and consumed a lot of physical energy. As such, the brothers weren't picky with food. Of course, compared to vegetables, the children naturally liked

juicy meat more. However, in the face of adults feeding them with green vegetables, Da Bao and Er Bao just frowned at the very most. They would still open their mouths and eat them.

In comparison, Da Bao and Er Bao gave fewer worries to Qiao Nan than San Bao. The little girl was picky with food and didn't like to eat vegetables. As such, her nutrition level wasn't very high, and she even felt uncomfortable when pooing. There was no choice. Qiao Nan could only feed San Bao one-on-one, hoping that San Bao would eat a few more mouthfuls.

Thankfully, as brothers, Da Bao and Er Bao were quite sensible. They knew that San Bao had a bad temper and didn't like to eat vegetables. As such, they didn't compete with San Bao for their mom to feed them. They would be willing to eat no matter who fed them. It was really easier to take care of them compared to a year ago.

Indeed, once the little girl saw the green vegetables, she pouted and looked unhappy. "Meat." Vegetables tasted weird and weren't as tasty as meat.

"Eat vegetables." Qiao Nan ignored the little girl and continued to send vegetables her way. "Eat vegetables. That way, San Bao will be pretty. Otherwise, San Bao will be ugly."

San Bao blinked. "Vegetables are ugly. San Bao is pretty."

"..." Qiao Nan was so angered by the little girl. Was she unwilling to eat vegetables as they were too ugly and felt that they didn't match up to her beauty? This one-year-old girl had a lot of thoughts. Her nonsense could really coax people. "Eat vegetables so that you can become pretty. If you don't, you'll become ugly."

San Bao patted hard at the small table with her chubby hands a few times. "No, no, no. Meat. Meat. Da Da. Er Er..." The little girl felt wronged. Why did Da Bao and Er Bao have meat but she didn't? She was even made to eat horrible vegetables.

"How is that the case? Look at Da Bao and Er Bao. They eat their vegetables." Miao Jing nervously handed over a piece of vegetable to Da Bao. When Da Bao, who had already eaten a lot of vegetables, saw this 'excessive' vegetable in front of him, he sighed helplessly and opened his mouth as if put in a difficult spot.

Er Bao's situation was no better than Da Bao's. The brothers ate vegetables like they were taking poison. Even the people by the side watching them couldn't help but feel uncomfortable for them.

Thankfully, in the end, Da Bao and Er Bao ate their vegetables. They were considered to have set a good example in front of San Bao.

After eating this mouthful of vegetables, the brothers pointed to the meat, looking extremely hungry. They had long eaten their vegetables. They no longer wanted to eat vegetables anymore but tasty meat instead.

At this age, the brothers didn't know what the meaning of 'setup' was. A sister like San Bao was meant to set her brothers up.

"Look, Da Bao and Er Bao had eaten them. It's now San Bao's turn. Open your mouth wide. You will finish them very quickly. After eating vegetables, we can have tasty meat." Qiao Nan was very satisfied with her two sons. She wanted to hurriedly feed her vegetables while she was still obedient after seeing how good her two brothers were at being role models.

Chapter 2393: No Longer Remembered the Situation (1)

San Bao held her chubby face with her hands. After hesitating for a while, she sighed. Qiao Nan thought that this sigh meant that San Bao was going to compromise and eat vegetables. Who knew that San Bao suddenly said, "Da Da. Er Er. Vegetables. Give them. Give..."

Didn't Da Da and Er Er like vegetables? She didn't like them. Since Da Da and Er Er liked them so much, she could give all her vegetables to them so that they could eat more. That way, she no longer needed to eat those hateful vegetables and could eat more meat.

"..." How would Qiao Nan, the mother, not understand the meaning in her daughter's words? Seeing that her daughter knew how to throw baggage to her brothers at such a young age, Qiao Nan really wanted to slap San Bao's buttocks. To think that Da Bao and Er Bao usually took care of San Bao so well. San Bao would actually bring misfortune to her two brothers so simply just because of vegetables. "Bad girl. Da Bao and Er Bao have already eaten their vegetables. This is your share. Eat it yourself. If Da Bao and Er Bao would still like them, there's more on the table. They don't have to eat your share."

The little girl was young, but she had an agile mind. She could actually think of such a solution.

San Bao started to throw tantrums and slam the table, using this to protest against her biological mother's 'unkind behavior' of forcing her to eat vegetables. "Ah..." San Bao became unhappy. Out of anxiousness, she couldn't speak even if she wanted to. She just started to yell. That tone, speed, and volume sounded extremely fierce. It was as if she was arguing with others.

“What are you ‘ah-ing’ for? Eat.” Qiao Nan’s temper was about to become bad because of San Bao. “If you don’t eat them, I’ll only carry Da Bao and Er Bao today. Also, I’m about to get angry. San Bao’s so disobedient. I’m so sad that I’m going to cry.”

As she said that, Qiao Nan wiped the corners of her eyes with her back facing San Bao.

Cry. San Bao understood this.

Upon hearing that her mom was upset and going to cry, San Bao stopped in her actions of slamming the table. She looked at her mom carefully with big and watery eyes as if trying to see if her mom was really upset and wanted to cry. However, as Qiao Nan’s back was facing her, San Bao couldn’t see her face at all. What San Bao could see was that with her mom’s back facing her, her mom’s body was moving very much like the way she did when she usually cried.

San Bao became guilty for causing her mom to cry. “Mom, Mom.” She tried to please her. “Vegetables. Eat. San Bao. Eat.” Mom, stop crying. I’ll eat my vegetables.

“Is San Bao really going to eat her vegetables?” Qiao Nan didn’t turn around. She asked again to confirm the meaning in San Bao’s words.

San Bao patted her head. “Yes, San Bao. Vegetables. Eat. Mom, don’t cry.” She mispronounced the word ‘cry’ as she couldn’t say it as accurately.

San Bao was finally willing to eat her vegetables. Qiao Nan couldn’t help but wipe the sweat on her forehead. Ever since having children and they became picky, she had to rely on acting to coax them to eat every day. Qiao Nan suspected that under the intensive ‘training’ by San Bao, her acting skills could allow her to mingle with the rest of the actors in the entertainment circle.

“No cry, no cry.” Seeing that Qiao Nan was wiping her face with her hand, San Bao really thought that she was wiping her tears when they were actually sweat. San Bao, who thought that Qiao Nan really cried, became anxious. “Vegetables. Eat vegetables.”

“San Bao’s so obedient. Let’s eat vegetables.” Miao Jing tried to feed San Bao. This time, San Bao frowned and opened her mouth with the same pitiful expression that Da Bao and Er Bao carried previously when they were made to eat vegetables. After chewing for a while, she swallowed the vegetables and they went down her stomach. Miao Jing, who was in the know, couldn’t help but

suspect if she was holding a piece of green vegetable or poisoned vegetable after seeing the exaggerated look on San Bao's face. Miao Jing's heart nearly softened when she saw San Bao's look. Wasn't it just a few mouthfuls of vegetables? Forget it. If she wasn't going to eat today, she could eat more tomorrow. The results would be the same. Furthermore, after San Bao grew up, she would choose to eat more vegetables instead of meat no matter if it was for beauty or health reasons.

The Zhai family had really gone all out in order for San Bao to eat a few pieces of vegetables. After waiting for San Bao to finish her meal with much difficulty, Miao Jing and Qiao Nan both felt very tired.

Seeing the triplets who were playing together after having their fill, Miao Jing tapped her old elbow. "I'm already a grandma, but this is the first time I found children difficult to take care of." When she was young, she was too willful. She passed her newborn daughter and son to her father-in-law to take care of back then. At this moment, Miao Jing couldn't help but think that San Bao was Zhai Sheng's daughter and Zhai Hua's niece.

Were her own daughter and son picky about food like San Bao when they were young? Back then, her father-in-law had taken care of both children and she wasn't by their side. Miao Jing immediately felt guilty upon wondering if her daughter and son were similar to San Bao and were picky about food. Back then, she had really let her father-in-law down. He was already so old but still had to raise two mischievous children. Initially, she should have been the one to suffer all of this. However, it was her father-in-law who had suffered for her.

Seeing that Miao Jing was quiet as if in deep thoughts, Qiao Nan, a daughter-in-law who was close to her mother-in-law as if she were the latter's birth daughter, immediately guessed what Miao Jing was worried about. It must be back when Old Master Zhai was still alive.

The dead were gone.

To Qiao Nan, not only was Old Master Zhai gone, but those elders who were extremely well to her and took good care of her in her dream were also gone. As humans, they couldn't immerse themselves blindly in the sadness of the dead. They had to straighten their faith, look to the future, and live themselves out. Living well was the best way of nostalgia and gratitude to the dead.

Blindly remembering the past would only let the people close to them become worse off as well. Life would then be dim and without color.

“Nan Nan, who do you think San Bao inherited her pickiness from?” Miao Jing couldn’t help but ask the doubt in her heart. “Since you’ve married over, I realized that you eat everything. There isn’t anything you don’t like to eat.” Nan Nan was so good-tempered. San Bao’s pickiness definitely had nothing to do with Nan Nan. No matter how Miao Jing thought about it, she felt that San Bao’s habit came from the Zhai family. If that was the case, Old Master Zhai had first brought up his granddaughter, followed by his grandson. It really wasn’t easy for an elder to bring up two children.

Anyway, when Miao Jing saw her daughter and son again, she couldn’t find the habit of them being picky eaters. If Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng had such bad habits before, then her father-in-law must have spent quite a lot of effort to correct them.

It was just that times were different now. Parents’ attitudes toward children had changed tremendously.

Chapter 2394: No Longer Remembered the Situation (2)

Everyone believed in ‘spare the rod and spoil the child’ in the past. Now, there were only a few children in every household. It was rare to have one or two precious babies. Everyone couldn’t wait to hold them in their hearts up high, and they wouldn’t be beaten or scolded. It was especially easy for such children to be pampered until they were lawless.

Relatively speaking, Qiao Nan had only given birth once. However, she gave birth to three children at once. Compared to other families’ that only had one child, the Zhai family was considered to have more children. However, no matter how many there were, the triplets were the Zhai family’s precious children. They couldn’t bear to scold or beat them. Furthermore, the triplets were born late. Based on Qiao Nan’s and Zhai Sheng’s ages, they were considered to be ‘old parents’. Faced with the late arrival of these triplets, Miao Jing, as a typical grandparent who usually doted on their grandchildren more than their children, really doted on them a lot.

As such, at times like these when San Bao threw tantrums and became emotional, Miao Jing would always only coax San Bao. She couldn’t bear to be ruthless and manage her. If San Bao liked meat but not vegetables, Miao Jing would only let San Bao be. She felt that once San Bao grew up, the sensible her would know what to eat and what not to eat, even without anyone teaching her.

It was just that when people are old and they encounter certain situations, they couldn’t help but recall the past.

Qiao Nan didn’t feel that there was something wrong with elders often recalling their past. She just didn’t want Miao Jing to be stuck in the emotions of her past and couldn’t pull herself out.

Old Master Zhai left early. Before he left, she and Zhai Sheng weren't together yet. Zhai Sheng even had a failed marriage then. Based on the fact that Qiu Chenxi made a cuckold out of Zhai Sheng, Old Master Zhai must have felt quite angry over this matter when he was still alive.

Before Old Master Zhai left, a lot of bad things happened in the Zhai family. Not only was Old Master Zhai unable to enjoy his old age, but he even had to worry about Zhai Sheng's and Zhai Hua's future before he left. As such, Old Master Zhai's death was a wound that everyone in the Zhai family couldn't touch. It would hurt badly.

There was Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing, and there was Zhai Hua and Zhai Sheng. When Old Master Zhai left, he couldn't help but worry about all four of them in the family. The Zhai family felt that they owed Old Master Zhai. Upon thinking about him, they would feel sad. Although Zhai Sheng didn't mention it, his mood was similar as well. If he didn't feel guilty toward Old Master Zhai, his grandpa, he wouldn't have stayed in the old house of the Zhai family during his one year of recuperation.

Of course, until now, the Zhai family felt that although Old Master Zhai was no longer around, his spirit was guarding this family. Otherwise, based on Zhai Sheng's situation, where he couldn't meet a woman that he wanted to get married to in Ping Cheng and the capital, how would he be able to meet Qiao Nan, his destined true love, at Qingshui Town, a poor and remote area where all the young people there would choose to go out to work? They weren't superstitious. They could only say that this was destined and Old Master Zhai was blessing the Zhai family.

Every time they thought of this, the Zhai family wouldn't feel as pained as before and felt that they wouldn't have the face to face Old Master Zhai after their deaths. People who were alive were leading better lives. Indeed, this was the best form of nostalgia and answer to the dead.

"Ah..." Qiao Nan couldn't interrupt Miao Jing's thoughts, but someone in the family could: San Bao. San Bao had finally eaten all the green vegetables like they were poison and was waiting to enjoy the beauty of meat afterward. Who knew that Miao Jing, the grandma who doted on her, refused to give her a piece of meat after she ate those horrible-tasting vegetables? The little girl was impatient from waiting and raised her voice. She tried her best to pounce her small body in the children's chair to Miao Jing. With San Bao's fierce look, it was without a doubt that once she hooked herself to Miao Jing, San Bao would naturally grab the dishes, especially the meat in her bowl, over and feed them into her mouth.

These adults had no conscience. She had already eaten her vegetables but they refused to give her meat. They were bad.

Seeing that her granddaughter's chubby face was red from the anxiousness of wanting to eat meat, Miao Jing smiled. "Don't be anxious. The meat's not going to run away. The meat in the small bowl belongs to San Bao alone. Da Bao and Er Bao have already finished eating. San Bao, you can't lose to your two brothers." You can only grow up faster if you eat more.

Miao Jing no longer thought about Old Master Zhai and fed San Bao wholeheartedly. Otherwise, the little girl would throw tantrums again if she fed her slower.

Da Bao and Er Bao couldn't really sit still after having their share and insisted on walking around to digest their food. If that couldn't be done, at least give them a toy for them to play with. It was too overboard to let them sit there and watch San Bao eat meat.

Zhai Yaohui carried the two children down. Da Bao and Er Bao immediately ran around freely in different directions. They didn't want to be caught by their elders and be confined in small baby chairs after gaining freedom.

"Slower." Zhai Yaohui, who was a grandpa, didn't understand how children like Da Bao and Er Bao could have such an anxious temper that they insisted on running when they couldn't even walk steadily with their short three-headed body and chubby arms and legs. He wiped cold sweat in his heart on behalf of these two children. They didn't fall in front of them before. Even if they did, they would climb up without crying.

Zhai Yaohui really tasted the fun of bringing up his grandchildren.

"Ah..." San Bao couldn't help but become anxious again. Da Bao and Er Bao were still playing but she was left alone. That was unfair.

Qiao Nan pinched her daughter's face in bad temper. "You didn't eat properly during mealtime. Now, you're jealous that Da Bao and Er Bao are playing. You have the worst temper in this family. You're a girl. Can't you be more demure? When you throw tantrums, even Er Bao would hide when he sees you. If you want to play, hurry up and finish your meal."

San Bao should have understood Qiao Nan's words as she cooperated well next. She wasn't willing to eat even a piece of vegetable during the past fifteen minutes. Now, she took her meal seriously and finished everything in her little bowl within three minutes. After eating, the little girl was so anxious that she kept trying to squirm her way down. Qiao Nan carried San Bao out of the children's chair and flattened the trousers that had been crumpled by the little girl. Then, she patted San Bao's buttocks and let her look for her two brothers.

“I think San Bao won’t have the chance to wear the dress Jiajia bought for her.” She was so bad-tempered. When she became wild, it was as if she had given birth to three sons instead, where one of them was a fake daughter.

In this regard, the triplets’ situation was different from the dream.

Chapter 2395: No Longer Remembered the Situation (3)

She remembered that her three children weren’t picky about food in the dream. They ate whatever that was provided to them and were very easy to provide for. Qiao Nan was wondering if she and Zhai Sheng were both no longer young when they gave birth to the triplets and that resulted in San Bao being ‘mutated’.

As for the picky eating habit being inherited, Qiao Nan felt that this wasn’t reliable.

Miao Jing said that in the past two years Qiao Nan had married over, she wasn’t picky about food at all. Qiao Nan wasn’t willing to reply to that.

Why?

When Qiao Nan was at the triplets’ age, how was she full? When she was just three months old, Ding Jiayi no longer wanted to breastfeed her as she found it too troublesome and always tried to find opportunities to wean her off. If not for discovering later that milk powder was too expensive, Ding Jiayi would have really weaned her.

When she was ten months old, she could be fed solids. As such, the solids more or less became her staple food.

Picky about food?

How was Ding Jiayi willing to give Qiao Nan such a chance?! She had to eat whatever that was fed to her. If not, she could go hungry. A growing child was easily hungry to begin with. If she couldn’t be full during mealtimes, she would just be very hungry. That didn’t feel good at all. It was impossible for whomever under Ding Jiayi for a living to be a picky eater.

“Why? Our San Bao’s so pretty. If she wears a dress, she will definitely be the prettiest girl around here.” Miao Jing was anxious and wanted to find a folk remedy. San Bao was already more than a year old. However, her hair was always thin and soft. She also didn’t have a lot of hair and long hair. Miao Jing wanted to use some folk remedy so that San Bao would grow a lot of long black hair. That way, when San Bao grew up, with her pretty dress coupled with nice-looking plaits, whose daughter could win against her?

Qiao Nan helplessly sat on the sofa to rest. Serving San Bao now was more tiring than any other chore. “Look at how wild she is. Does she look like a girl? She’s cheekier than Da Bao and Er Bao. When playing, I see Da Bao and Er Bao being quieter than her. Based on how she’s playing, I don’t feel at ease for her to wear a dress.”

Qiao Nan always hoped to be more protective of her daughter. Even if there wouldn’t be people like that in the small district she lived in, Qiao Nan didn’t want anything to happen to San Bao.

“Furthermore, based on San Bao’s wild character, won’t San Bao just shake her head if you give her a dress? She might even think that it means that you don’t like her performance since you give Da Bao and Er Bao pants but give her a dress.”

San Bao liked to be aligned with Da Bao and Er Bao. She would follow suit and do whatever Da Bao and Er Bao did. Whatever Da Bao and Er Bao had, she wanted to have them as well. If hers was different from Da Bao and Er Bao, even if hers was actually better, she would throw tantrums and insist on changing it to something similar to that of Da Bao and Er Bao.

Qiao Nan was quite happy about San Bao’s temper. The three children were born together. Indeed, Da Bao and Er Bao should take care of San Bao more. However, as the sister, San Bao should be more united with Da Bao and Er Bao. She shouldn’t request different treatment from Da Bao and Er Bao simply because she was a girl. This wasn’t a good habit, let alone a good thought.

Upon hearing Qiao Nan say this, and upon thinking about San Bao’s usual performance, Miao Jing could only say that San Bao was Qiao Nan’s biological daughter, after all. Compared to her, the grandma, could she understand San Bao more than Qiao Nan did? No. “Alright. As long as San Bao’s comfortable and happy, it’s the same regardless of if she’s wearing a dress or pants.”

She really didn’t believe that after a year or so, San Bao would be different from other daughters and not like to wear dresses.

“Dad.” As San Bao chased after Da Bao and Er Bao, she heard a sound from the door. The little girl was quite bold as well. Of course, as the little bully at home, she didn’t know what fear was. She

ran over and guarded the door. Within three seconds, the door was open. Upon seeing a familiar family member, San Bao shouted happily as she rushed toward Zhai Sheng and hugged his leg. “Dad. I want to be high. I want to fly.”

There were so many people in their family, but only their father would accompany them to play this game.

Of course, as the only capable executioner, Zhai Sheng’s position as a father rose bit by bit in the children’s hearts. However, the person they liked the most was naturally Qiao Nan, their mother.

“Dad. Carry. Fly.” The bad-tempered San Bao pulled Zhai Sheng’s trousers forcefully with her chubby hands. If Zhai Sheng didn’t carry her, she was prepared to climb up herself.

Thankfully, the resources distributed by the army, such as clothes, were made of sturdy fabric and weren’t easily torn by children like San Bao. If Zhai Sheng’s clothes were not sturdy enough, his reputation would most likely be ruined by his biological daughter, San Bao. As a spoiled brat, setting her father up was a must.

After testing if the fabric was sturdy enough, San Bao started to test if the belt around Zhai Sheng’s waist was sturdy. If either of the two failed the quality inspection, Zhai Sheng would be sabotaged by San Bao.

Looking at his daughter’s flushed face, Zhai Sheng couldn’t help but feel depressed. She was a short and fat little tuft of meat. How did she have so much strength? Were all children so strong? Anyway, every time San Bao pounced on him and wanted to climb up, Zhai Sheng would feel that his trousers were about to be torn off by San Bao.

He wasn’t going to compete on strength with his daughter. Otherwise, the unlucky person would be himself. He would be lectured by his mom and wife, and his three children would look at him like watching a show... Zhai Sheng bent down and carried the chubby San Bao up. Then, he threw her up. San Bao immediately lost her anger and started to laugh. Her crisp laughter spread in the Zhai family, causing both Da Bao and Er Bao to find out about their father’s return. Then, they lined up so that it would be their turn after San Bao’s.

“Brother Zhai, it’s fine to coax them just a little. They have just finished eating five minutes ago. I initially wanted them to play for a while before coaxing them to take an afternoon nap. With you playing with them, they are now so excited that they probably can’t sleep. They might be so sleepy later that they wouldn’t even want to have their dinner.” Qiao Nan understood the triplets’ situation

the best. She had encountered such a situation before. Once they took an afternoon nap, they wouldn't move. If they weren't allowed to sleep, the three energetic babies would be in low spirits.

"They haven't slept?" Zhai Sheng looked up at the time. Didn't his sons and daughter generally sleep during this time? He was back in a hurry and almost forgot about this situation.

Chapter 2396: Can't Be In a Hurry (1)

Knowing that his sons and daughter wouldn't be able to sleep later if they were excited about playing now, Zhai Sheng ended this game after throwing each child up five times.

The three children weren't satisfied with these five throws. Thankfully, they knew that their dad had just reached home, was probably tired, and needed to rest. After being coaxed by their mom to go back to their room for storytime, Da Bao yawned first. Sleepiness then came in waves.

"Let's go." Zhai Sheng was strong and carried a son each in his arms. Qiao Nan carried San Bao. The couple quickly sent the three children to their nursery to coax them to sleep. The three sleepy children had already developed good habits. Upon hearing Qiao Nan's gentle voice, they fell asleep soundly like little pigs when she barely reached one-third of the story.

Qiao Nan went out with Zhai Sheng after touching the children's faces and placing their hands inside the blankets. "Why are you back today?" Upon thinking that the three children were already more than a year old and they could choose a better early learning center, Qiao Nan took out the homework she had done before. "I've discussed it with Dad and Mom. We feel that these three centers aren't too bad. You can see which one we should send our children to."

They would be tired if they had to take care of the three children at home daily. However, if they were to send them to school, even Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui would feel uncomfortable, let alone Qiao Nan. If they didn't make a decision about the school, the two elders would feel uncomfortable and couldn't eat well. Until today, a decision had not been made yet.

In front of her parents-in-law, Qiao Nan wasn't so determined. Since Zhai Sheng was back today, Qiao Nan hurriedly handed over this difficult task to the children's father, Zhai Sheng, to make a call.

Qiao Nan felt that she couldn't change this habit of hers. If something were to happen at home, she had to rely on Zhai Sheng, the head of the family, to make decisions.

After kissing Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng calmly took the information of the three schools over and started to read them. His status as the head of the family suddenly emerged. When Zhai Sheng was reading, not only did Qiao Nan remain quiet, but she also helped him pour water and massage his shoulders.

To be honest, because Zhai Sheng was in military wear, the fabric was both sturdy and hard. Qiao Nan's small arms and legs couldn't soften Zhai Sheng's clothes, let alone massage his shoulders for him to relax. It was just that Zhai Sheng liked the feeling of Qiao Nan surrounding him and putting the children behind him.

"This." After reading the information of the three schools, Zhai Sheng quickly made a decision, unlike Qiao Nan and her parents-in-law, who couldn't make a decision after discussing for two days. They felt that all schools were good and couldn't come up with a ranking.

Qiao Nan was easy to talk to. If her parents-in-law made a decision, she would agree with it. These three schools were good. There wouldn't be problems in choosing one blindly. However, Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui had different opinions. It wasn't good for Qiao Nan to side with any one of them. As such, she waited for Zhai Sheng to be back to make the decision.

"Alright, this one then." They had finally selected a center. Qiao Nan reacted only after glancing at the school's name. "We've finally settled on where to enroll the children. You don't know how your parents disagreed every time we discussed this topic. I was really worried that they would argue because of selecting a school for the children. I..."

She knew that it hadn't been long since Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing untied the knot in their hearts. They finally led a loving life with mutual affection. How was Qiao Nan willing to disturb that because of the three children?

After holding Qiao Nan in his arms, Zhai Sheng touched the meat on her body. "It's pretty good to send the three children to school and let the teachers bring them up. Have you lost weight again?"

"I don't know. I didn't weigh myself." Qiao Nan never cared about her weight regardless of if it was before or after marriage. She just knew that she didn't gain weight.

"Don't be so honest. Dad, Mom... Nan Nan, do you think Zhai Hua and I are easy to bully?"

"Of course not." Sister Zhai Hua was ruthless when she became bad-tempered. Although Sister Zhai Hua didn't do it directly, the outcome of the matter was largely related to her. Wei De's beloved son

sold the family house in their hometown and left with Wei Xiaomei. Wei De transformed from a military officer to an ordinary citizen. He didn't even have the ability to live in Ping Cheng anymore, let alone do business. Father Wei and Mother Wei stayed in a shabby house that nobody wanted.

In the current society where every inch of land could bear gold, Qiao Nan couldn't help but think how far the Wei family's hometown was and how shabby that house was that nobody wanted to be its owner.

They didn't like their granddaughter and their grandson even ran away. At this age, Father Wei and Mother Wei were poor and left with nothing. Oh, no. They were left with something. They were left with a decadent and ambitious son who gradually immersed himself in alcohol.

How glorious was the Wei family before? Everyone in the village envied them. The most promising person in the village was always Wei De. However, how pitiful were they now? Those who envied them before now looked at the Wei family with sympathy and pity. Such a situation was too miserable. This misery was not necessarily material. More of it was spiritual.

As for Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan never felt that he was ever good to bully. Qiu Chenxi might be bad, but after marrying Zhai Sheng for three years, she had cheated on him as a virgin. Different people had different opinions whether it was bad that Zhai Sheng was made a cuckold out of or embarrassing that Qiu Chenxi was in such a situation. As a female, Qiao Nan felt that Qiu Chenxi must have felt a devastating sense of shock.

Qiu Chenxi later had more messy romantic relationships outside. It was estimated that only Qiu Chenxi herself knew if she was being self-indulgent or feeling self-abandoned.

How dare Qiao Nan look down on such a formidable pair of siblings? As a newbie, Qiao Nan simply shivered when she saw the gods of the Zhai family. To think that one of them became her husband who protected her and the other became her sister-in-law. She only let go of the pressure when they were family.

"That's why." Zhai Sheng let down the hair that Qiao Nan had plaited into braids and pressed the acupuncture points on Qiao Nan's head with his strong fingers. He let Qiao Nan lean in his arms comfortably, closing her eyes to enjoy. The person who was massaging and the person being massaged seemed to have changed roles. "Don't always feel that my parents are old. They still have a lot of thoughts."

How would the couple who had given birth to him and Zhai Hua require Nan Nan's sympathy and care?

Chapter 2397: Can't Be In a Hurry (2)

Needless to ask, Zhai Sheng knew that the two elders couldn't bear to leave their three grandchildren and felt that their later years would be unexciting if the three children were sent to an early learning center earlier. As such, they conspired and deliberately put on a show in front of Qiao Nan so that she was in a difficult spot and would delay the process of sending the children earlier to school.

The older they got, the younger they got. This accurately described Miao Jing and Zhai Yaohui.

As a man who was biased toward his wife once he had a wife, Zhai Sheng didn't hesitate to stand on Qiao Nan's side, exposing the thoughts of Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing. He had no intention of maintaining the images Qiao Nan had of them in her heart.

After knowing the situation, Qiao Nan could neither laugh nor cry. "Dad and Mom are really... Even if they were sent to the early learning center earlier, they wouldn't spend a lot of time in school." Could it be that her parents-in-law were addicted to being tired and wanted to chase after the three children every day?

She wanted to send the three children to school as she was considerate of the two elders. She was worried that the three children were too active and would tire them.

Who knew that her good intentions caused the two elders to make such a joke? "Brother Zhai, should we still send the triplets to school then?" She really couldn't resolve the problem of the grandparents being clingy to the children. Upon thinking about Zhai Yaohui's and Miao Jing's ages, Qiao Nan was always softhearted.

The responsibility for this matter obviously didn't lie with her, but every time she thought of how Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing couldn't watch the three children grow up like in her dreams, Qiao Nan felt especially sad. They couldn't see Da Bao and Er Bao grow up to become real men who were as outstanding as their father, Zhai Sheng, and they couldn't see San Bao become a slim and graceful girl who was flower-like. As she met Zhai Sheng late, the three children were born almost twenty years late. That was almost the time of a generation.

As he hugged his beloved wife, Zhai Sheng acted more calmly. “You can ignore them.” It wasn’t that Zhai Sheng didn’t have similar thoughts as Qiao Nan. The problem was that Zhai Sheng wasn’t willing to be too entangled with what had already happened. It was already not bad that the Zhai family had such a happy and complete life like today. As such, they shouldn’t be greedy and always question why such blissful days didn’t come sooner or if only time could be longer.

As a member of the Zhai family, everyone had their own responsibilities. However, Qiao Nan was the only person in this family who didn’t need to be responsible.

Zhai Sheng no longer resented and blamed his parents for the failed marriage with Qiu Chenxi and the cold relationship he had with the Zhai family for the past twenty years. However, Zhai Sheng was even more unwilling to put pressure on Qiao Nan and make her feel wronged.

Everyone no longer talked about this topic in-depth. However, this didn’t mean that its previous existence had been obliterated and the responsibility could be placed on Qiao Nan now. Even if his parents didn’t mean it this way and this was just Qiao Nan’s thoughts alone, Zhai Sheng similarly disallowed it. “Alright, the old people are softhearted. If we really go along with them and pamper the three children such that they grow up astray, do you believe that Old Master Zhai would be the first to lecture them both? You haven’t seen Old Master Zhai before. He doesn’t have a good temper. When he gets angry, regardless of if you are three or thirty years old, you will be beaten if you make a mistake. When my dad sees Old Master Zhai, he would only let him be and not rebut him.”

When Old Master Zhai was still alive, he had never been merciful toward him and Zhai Hua. He managed them when he had to, and he beat them up when he had to. Both of them were beaten by Old Master Zhai before when they were young. The only time that Old Master Zhai wanted to hit Zhai Hua but didn’t do so was when Zhai Hua insisted on marrying Wei De.

It was Zhai Hua’s life. Although Old Master Zhai obviously knew that Zhai Hua’s decision was wrong and he didn’t like it, he couldn’t choose Zhai Hua’s path or use his own strength to force Zhai Hua to give up her thoughts and persistence.

Speaking of the mentality Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing had toward the three children, Zhai Sheng thought of Old Master Zhai more. As parents, his parents couldn’t compare with Old Master Zhai. As grandparents, they were still inferior to the previous generation. Thankfully, Old Master Zhai was around in this family. At least he and Zhai Hua were by Old Master Zhai’s side back then and weren’t considered to have grown astray.

If his parents really gave more care and concern to him and Zhai Hua, nobody knew how they would grow up today.

Old people were more stubborn. However, at least Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing weren't the kind of people to do anything too overboard. Furthermore, they would have been delaying the arrival of the three grandchildren whom they had been waiting for for a long time.

After Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan made a decision, no matter how reluctant the two elders were, they didn't say anything. They only said that if conditions permitted, they wanted to send the children to school and fetch them back home while they could still move.

Zhai Yaohui's and Miao Jing's health conditions weren't bad. The Zhai family had a driver as well. If they went out, they would be chauffeured. Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng didn't find that letting Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing temporarily send the children to school and fetch them home was an issue. As such, they agreed.

There was soon a result of sending the children to the early learning center. They chose a good school, registered them, and sent them there.

The so-called early education might not really teach the children anything to learn. It could be playing games or singing songs.

Of course, Zhai Sheng and Qiao Nan had long understood these situations. When the couple sent the children to school, they stood outside the classroom and observed them from the outside on the first day. Aside from San Bao throwing tantrums and needing the teacher to coax her and Da Bao and Er Bao being a little unhappy initially, they quickly adapted.

After all, there were a lot of children in the school. There were toys as well. With more playmates around them, even San Bao would naturally get used to such a rhythm of life.

Within a week, San Bao found a good playmate in school. That girl was a mixed-blood and was one month older than San Bao.

Qiao Nan observed for a while. San Bao should like this little sister as the other party was pretty. Also, if San Bao wanted to play with anything, that little girl who was one month older than San Bao would actually give her toy to San Bao and play with her.

With a little sister who was pretty, willing to give in to her, and willing to play with her, how would San Bao be unhappy? She had another little sister who could take care of her. Within a few days, San Bao was happy. If she didn't see that little sister in school, she would even be unhappy.

What made Qiao Nan proud was that she similarly observed that this little sister was so good to her daughter because San Bao was cute.

Chapter 2398: Can't Be In a Hurry (3)

No matter how young a child was, they could assess looks.

The two little girls were satisfied with each other's looks and a friendship was silently formed.

It was undoubtedly a kind of liberation to Qiao Nan that the three children adapted to school life. She no longer needed to revolve her time around the children every day. Qiao Nan had more time on her hands and she naturally became free as if she had nothing much to do.

Before the Zhai family could be worried about Qiao Nan not adapting to this situation and thinking that such a life was boring, Qiao Nan acted before them. "Brother Zhai, help me take a look. Is my plan alright?" Qiao Nan had collected a lot of information and consulted the lawyer before coming up with a proper plan.

After all, she had the experience of doing business with Tian Dong in her dream. She could still draft an almost perfect proposal. At the very most, she would just find a professional to see if there was any amendment she should make after the proposal was done. However, Qiao Nan naturally did the initial plan. "Brother Zhai, based on my current capacity, should I find someone to help me manage this?"

"This is alright." Zhai Sheng nodded. "If there's a need, I'll help you find someone?" Back when Chief Zhu was unable to manage himself, hadn't he found Wang Yang for help?

Wang Yang studied politics. However, he was still capable of investing. Not only did Wang Yang manage the investments that Chief Zhu handed over to him well, but he also made a fortune and helped Chief Zhu earn quite a bit of money.

Of course, following the closure of the inheritance lawsuit, everything in the Zhu family now became Nan Nan's and had nothing to do with Wang Yang. It was precisely because of this that Wang Yang was so angry that he vomited blood. All these years, he had helped Chief Zhu manage

everything in the Zhu family. He initially wanted to inherit more money in the future. He didn't expect all his hard work to benefit others in the end.

"Have you really decided to do this? You have to know that once you start investing, it's a bit difficult to withdraw it halfway. Also, such an investment is definitely not small." Zhai Sheng had an impression that Qiao Nan wanted to invest in old and lonely elders. He also knew why Qiao Nan had such thoughts now.

However, good deeds couldn't be done with just words. The most important things were the money and investment period.

"Yes." Qiao Nan smiled. "You don't have to be worried. I don't have any psychological burdens. To put it bluntly, I didn't earn this sum of money. I got it for nothing. Even if I really invest in caring for the old and lonely elders, I don't have any loss. Furthermore, I don't think the speed of ruin would be fast. Godfather left behind quite a lot of money. No matter what it's for, I want to do what I set out to do. Otherwise, what shall we do if I set a bad example for the three children?"

Perhaps it was really because she wasn't spending her own money that she didn't feel heartache.

Qiao Nan only hoped that elders like Zhu Chengqi could enjoy their old age more comfortably. Furthermore, Qiao Nan's first phase of the plan wasn't targeted at all old and lonely elders. There were still some criteria to be met.

For example, an elder became old and lonely as their child joined the army and had sacrificed himself for various reasons. This batch of people was what Qiao Nan wanted to take care of first. Qiao Nan knew that although world peace seemed to be achieved now, regardless of internal or external factors at play, there were always such problems when it came to the safety of the country and its people. There were numerous unsung heroes who had made sacrifices.

There were a lot of such big cases in the country, even without mentioning those people stationed at the borders dealing with terrorism or drug lords.

Aside from listing the elders who had no one to take care of them as their children were soldiers who had sacrificed for the country and people as the first batch of target audience, she also included people like the elders who had to send off their own children as they were police officers who sacrificed themselves heroically when fighting against criminals.

As the people's heroes, the blood of these people couldn't be shed in vain. The elders they left behind in the family shouldn't be left alone and lonely such that they couldn't enjoy their old age.

Don't think that Qiao Nan seemed to have set the bar high when selecting her target audience. Qiao Nan did her research and analyzed the data. As such, she was very clear that the number of people in this category wasn't little.

Furthermore, these sacrificed heroes didn't leave behind only their elders but also their children. After the heroes sacrificed themselves, their other halves were still young and had plenty of time before them. Qiao Nan didn't care if they remarried. However, she couldn't tolerate it if the elders and children they left behind were not taken care of.

Based on this situation, Qiao Nan expanded her original target audience. The elders who were left behind because of such situations would be given certain kinds of treatment and care. If there were children left behind, Qiao Nan couldn't do much, but she was willing to sponsor their studies so that they could continue school.

The amount of money spent on elder care alone would be huge. Elders weren't picky about food, but since they were going to be taken care of, their nutritional needs had to be considered. Not all who were taking care of the elders were volunteers. There were fees involved as well. Also, old people were like machines used for a long time. There would always be issues that required fixing, right? This would then be a huge sum of money.

After talking about elders, it was time to talk about children.

Not a lot of money would be spent on the child's nine years of compulsory education. However, the costs were high when they reached high school or even university. The elders in the family wouldn't be able to afford it. There was always no way to save the money spent on the elders and children.

It was precisely because of this that after knowing Qiao Nan's plan, Zhai Sheng said that once this matter was invested in, it wouldn't be good if it was stopped halfway. However, the costs to bear were huge and she would suffer a lot of stress due to the financial burden. Also, Zhai Sheng didn't know much about this aspect, let alone understand it. That was because he hadn't done it before.

In this way, once the plan was implemented, Zhai Sheng couldn't give Qiao Nan a detailed reference on how complicated and difficult this process was. If he wanted to help, he didn't know where to start either.

Qiao Nan was a newbie in this. Zhai Sheng was similarly one too. As such, they definitely had to consider more issues than an average person.

It was good to do good deeds with good intentions. However, it really wasn't easy to do good well. "Let's find a team of lawyers and asset management folks. We can't rush this."

Chapter 2399: Keeping One's Promise (1)

This was quite a big project. If they really started this, their family didn't need to worry for a few years that Nan Nan would feel bored and relaxed as the three children were in school. It was good to be kept busy.

"Okay." Qiao Nan had zero experience in this matter. She could find Zhai Sheng to discuss further so that she could make a decision. With Zhai Sheng's support and affirmation, Qiao Nan would be able to move forward boldly and confidently.

Sure enough, as Zhai Sheng expected, once this matter started, it wasn't easy to stop. There were also a lot of things to be busy with. The fast momentum nearly made Qiao Nan overwhelmed.

Initially, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing felt that by sending the three children to school so early, their time with them would be greatly reduced and they were a little uncomfortable and unhappy in their hearts. However, after Qiao Nan had her own things to be busy with, these two elders became happy.

Why?

If Qiao Nan was busy, she naturally wouldn't have the time to take care of the triplets. Someone had to fetch the children home. As such, Qiao Nan wouldn't fight with them for this task, right? Aside from sending them to school and fetching them home, there was another thing that was very important. Once Qiao Nan became busy, she couldn't let go of things halfway. Especially at the start, Qiao Nan needed to invest more time and energy.

Unless everything was on track, Qiao Nan couldn't relax and spend more time taking care of the three children.

One had to know that the first step was always the hardest.

Qiao Nan had no time to take care of the three children. Without a doubt, the burden of taking care of the children naturally fell to the grandparents, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing, again. They were very happy that they could spend more time with them. Although it was tiring to take care of children, the psychological satisfaction gained far exceeded the physical fatigue.

Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing had such thoughts. Based on their age, a day taking care of the triplets was a day gained. While they could still move and bring the children along with them, they must take care of them more and spend more time with them.

Otherwise, when they could no longer move, had no more strength, and even needed someone else to take care of them while they were sick at home, they would only be weak and full of regrets that they could no longer do anything for their grandchildren.

After having such thoughts, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing lived each day seriously and with great care. They cherished the diminishing times they had with the children.

Thankfully, the three children were good-tempered. After going to school for a while, they gradually began accustomed to the fact that aside from their parents, there were still a lot of other people who were in the world they lived in, for example, the teachers and children in school.

Since the three children could adapt to school life, Qiao Nan naturally didn't take care of them like in the past when she became busy. Their grandparents were by their side. Within a few days, the children stopped throwing tantrums and adapted to the situation like how they adapted to school life.

Furthermore, Qiao Nan only spent lesser time taking care of the children. It wasn't that she didn't take care of them at all. One had to know that Qiao Nan was the person who forked out the money. She was the big boss. At the beginning, a lot of things had to be discussed with Qiao Nan and were confirmed only after she gave the approval. Otherwise, Qiao Nan would have spent some money and hired a talent to resolve trivial matters.

When the boss had nothing else, it could be considered that these were better times. She forked out money while others forked out effort. As such, Qiao Nan's tasks were relatively fewer. She could work less and be more relaxed.

Qiao Nan just didn't want to waste the time when the three children were in school. No matter what age or gender one was, aside from children, life would always be better if one had more things to do. There must be a balance between family, children, and career.

Yes, Qiao Nan felt that children should be separated from this concept of family. A person who valued children might not value other family members. However, in a family, there were still other roles besides children and mother. Qiao Nan wanted to value and take care of these family members as well.

There must be a balance between the three. If the balance was destroyed, life would naturally become miserable and no longer be as satisfactory as before.

It was more difficult. However, if she didn't try, how would she know that she couldn't balance the three well? Furthermore, her ultimate goal was to make her free time more meaningful. Also, she should fulfill her original promise and do what she said.

Even if it wasn't for herself but for all of the Zhu family who had passed away, Qiao Nan felt that it was necessary for her to do so. After doing this, she wouldn't claim all credit. She hoped that there would still be people who remembered that the Zhu family had contributed to the country and people. Even if the Zhu family wasn't around now, the Zhu family's affection for the country and people were still around. This was what influenced her to make such a decision and plan.

Qiao Nan was purely doing good deeds. She wasn't trying to show off her reputation, manipulate public opinion, or endorse the Zhai family. She was proceeding with everything silently without anyone knowing about it.

The early planning and preparation work took almost half a year. This public welfare was officially launched half a year later, which was when the children were two years old. The initiative was implemented on the target audience that Qiao Nan selected.

“Grandpa, drink water.”

Not only did Qiao Nan invest money, but she also devoted herself to this public welfare. Out of the elders selected by her, some of them still had family members who could still take care of them. At this moment, most of Qiao Nan's investment went to material resources while a small amount went to financial subsidies to improve their quality of life.

There were also some elders who had no children and their relatives weren't willing to take care of them. They were naturally taken in by nursing homes. Seeing that there were quite a number of elders who fell under this category, Qiao Nan's heart turned cold. She also felt heartache over these elders and their sacrificed sons.

Qiao Nan brought the three children to the nursing home to do volunteer work one weekend. Qiao Nan wasn't planning on counting the three children to do much. She would still be doing most of the work herself. She just wanted the three children to experience this and learn a concept from a young age. However, this couldn't hold back the children's passion to learn from their mom. They also couldn't stay still.

They were just walking a little more steadily themselves. However, they insisted on pouring water for the grandpas and grandmas in the nursing home. Seeing a half-full glass of water in the three chubby children's hands, the elders felt both heartwarming and heartache.

Chapter 2400: Keeping One's Promise (2)

"Slowly. The water's not hot, right? Don't be in a hurry, Grandpa."

His son had sacrificed himself early and was no longer around. He hadn't married a wife and given birth to grandchildren.

Aside from his son's sacrifice, his other siblings had their own homes. After the death of his son, he thought that he was going to live under a bridge for the rest of his old age. Who would expect that he could still enjoy this blessing today?

Upon thinking of those siblings who no longer kept in contact with him for fear that he would burden them, the old man said that they might not even be leading a life as good as his now, even though they had children.

He remembered back when nobody took care of him anymore, the government went to find his other relatives to take care of him on account that he was the family of a martyr. Those people who rejected him back then said, "I've long said that Bing Zi was a good child. When he was still around, he was so filial. We've long said it before. What's so good about being a soldier? He wouldn't earn much money and it's dangerous. See? Bing Zi didn't come back after he left. He didn't even leave behind a child. You're all alone. If you listened to us earlier and didn't let Bing Zi become a soldier but an office worker instead, would you end up in such a state today? Why did you name him Bing Zi? I think you gave him the wrong name back then. It's so inauspicious."

Upon thinking about these words, the old man felt wronged.

What was wrong with Bing Zi being a soldier? How was it not good?

If nobody became a soldier, would the country have its day today? Would everyone be leading peaceful lives? Did they think he wanted to send Bing Zi to become a soldier? Back when Bing Zi was in school, his grades were good, especially those of the college entrance examination. However, he had no money and Bing Zi's mom was in poor health. They had long used up all the money in the family for Bing Zi's mom's medical treatment.

There wasn't any money at home. He wanted to borrow some so that his son could become a university student and find a good job upon graduation. Once he earned money, they would return all the debts.

Who would have thought that those relatives saw that their family's conditions were poor and none of them were willing to help Bing Zi? They even asked Bing Zi to work and stop studying. What kind of work was it? To wash the dishes.

It wasn't that the old man despised dishwashing workers. He just felt that his son's grades were good and he was clever. Furthermore, the owner of the shop was the son's biological aunt. Forget it that she wasn't willing to lend money to them, but she even gave such a low salary to her nephew who could potentially go to a good university. The old man didn't want his biological sister to bully his outstanding son. If he really accepted this job, they might not even be relatives in the future.

The old man was definitely not confused regarding this matter.

In the end, Bing Zi himself decided to be a soldier. He felt that since he was named Bing Zi, he should be a soldier. Otherwise, he would be letting his dad, who named him, down.

A dead son was a pain that the old man didn't want to remember. However, those relatives even said unpleasant words. Even if the relatives were willing to take care of him due to external pressure, the old man refused.

He was already prepared to sleep under a bridge. Who knew that a beautiful girl brought him to a nursing home? Since then, he was well taken care of and had ample food and clothes. Compared to his life before, he really had nothing to say about the life he was leading after moving in.

Later, the old man realized that most of the old people who lived here were in similar situations as him. This nursing home was specially built for elders like them. As he lived in a new room, lay on the bed with a quilt covering his body, and looked at the snow-white ceiling, the old man cried on the first night.

Who said that it was a wrong decision for him to send Bing Zi to become a soldier? Who said that he deserved to have no son to take care of him when he was old after Bing Zi sacrificed himself? Who said that Bing Zi sacrificing for the country was stupid behavior? Who said that the country and people had already forgotten the contributions his Bing Zi made and the life he sacrificed?

No, all of these were not true.

There were still people who remembered!

The old man felt that him receiving such care where no reciprocity was expected was a form of affirmation and commemoration of his son's sacrifice and contributions to the country and people. It was the right decision to agree to his son being a soldier back then. All the words his relatives said were untrue.

The nurses in the nursing home took care of people well and bore good attitudes. What made the old man happy was that there would be some university students doing volunteer work in the nursing home from time to time. Those university students loved listening to these elders sharing stories of their sacrificed sons. Every time he saw these university students having looks of admiration for his son, he felt particularly comforted and proud.

His son was a hero. Even if he had sacrificed his life, if there was a next life, he believed that he would still make the same decision and let his son walk the same path in life.

The old man felt that his life in the later years was getting better and he was enjoying it more. Upon thinking that all of these were due to the blessing of his son and the country and the people hadn't forgotten about his son, the old man smiled every day. He knew that Qiao Nan was the one who brought him his life now and these three children belonged to Qiao Nan. The way he looked at the triplets was no different from how he looked at his own grandchildren.

"Drink." San Bao brought water to the old man. "Grandpa, drink water. Drink more water. Good."

Qiao Nan often said this sentence to the three children: Drinking more water was good for health.

The three children were learning how to speak now. After they became more able to understand the meaning in adults' words, they liked to imitate how the adults spoke and what they did the most. At home, the three children were under Qiao Nan's care. When they were outside, San Bao stood upright with her little chubby waist and expressed that drinking water was good and that these grandparents had to listen to her words as well.

“Alright, I'll drink water. It's good for health.” The old man took the cup from San Bao's hands and drank a sip of water. It was as if he was drinking honey water. “Wow, the water poured by San Bao tastes so good. It's so sweet. San Bao, did you put some sugar in the water for me?”

San Bao knew that the grandpa was complimenting her. As such, she revealed a row of neat and clean millet teeth, smiling cutely. Her red face was like an apple, and her smile was as brilliant as the sun.

The old man looked at her enviously. In the end, he reached out and touched San Bao's head. “San Bao, shall I buy you flowers for your hair in the future?”

San Bao obediently nodded.. She smiled and didn't say anything.