

## RTAMM 2441

Chapter 2441: Kiss Back (3)

“Hug. I want a hug too.”

Upon seeing that her parents were hugging as if no one else was around, San Bao became anxious.

Seeing that she was small-sized, San Bao insisted on squeezing in between her parents. She tugged at Qiao Nan’s pants with her small hands. After a while, San Bao was so anxious that her face turned red. “Mom, hug me. Hug me.” Don’t just hug Dad.

Grandma and Aunt had said that she was soft and fragrant. It was comfortable to hug her.

Her dad’s body was firm and hard. It wouldn’t be comfortable to hug him. As such, it was better if her mom just hugged her. She was more huggable than her dad.

“My little ancestor.”

The warmth and sweetness between the couple were immediately destroyed by the three light bulbs. Qiao Nan felt that she was put in a difficult spot.

As mentioned earlier, the three children became stronger as they grew up. Even if it was just San Bao, she had so much strength in her hands that her biological parents couldn’t withstand it.

What Zhai Sheng was wearing was all provided by the military. The quality was there.

However, Qiao Nan wasn’t. She had casually bought the clothes in a big shopping mall. The quality couldn’t be compared to those prepared by the military.

As San Bao tugged at her pants, Qiao Nan only felt that she was going to be pulled down by her daughter. Even if she didn’t get pulled down, she would no longer be able to keep her pants soon.

Based on how cheeky the three children were, Qiao Nan only wore pants after giving birth. Skirts had pretty much disappeared from Qiao Nan’s wardrobe.

After all, compared to pants, skirts were more unreliable and could spoil more easily.

Qiao Nan was extremely embarrassed now. She didn't know if she should save her own pants first or carry her daughter, who was kicking up a fuss.

It seemed wrong to deal with either one first. Qiao Nan looked embarrassed.

Zhai Sheng laughed and carried his daughter up. "San Bao, haven't I taught you before that you can't tug on an adult's pants?"

Zhai Sheng had more experience with his daughter's skills of pulling other's pants than Qiao Nan, his wife.

Even Zhai Sheng would feel that his trousers were to be pulled down by San Bao, let alone Qiao Nan.

Forget it that she did this in front of him. What if they were in front of others?

How would Zhai Sheng allow others to see such a sight? No matter who the other party was, even if it was his biological mother, Miao Jing, Zhai Sheng would never allow it.

As a man and Qiao Nan's husband, Zhai Sheng had his own domineering side. Zhai Sheng's expectation of Qiao Nan was that aside from himself, nobody else could see or touch any of Qiao Nan's body parts.

Of course, it was an exception that Qiao Nan had to breastfeed the triplets when they were born.

After giving birth to the three children, Zhai Sheng often felt that he had created three love rivals for himself.

Before the two got married, Zhai Sheng bumped into Chen Jun confessing to Qiao Nan once. Back when faced with Chen Jun, who had good conditions, not only was Qiao Nan not moved, but she was so frightened that her face turned pale and she asked him for help.

Based on Qiao Nan's attitude toward Chen Jun, Chen Jun wasn't considered as Zhai Sheng's love rival.

See? None of the men interested in Qiao Nan posed a threat to Zhai Sheng outside. However, his three children often snatched his wife away from him.

It was like now. San Bao was trying to snatch Qiao Nan away from him as she wanted her to carry her. When in such a situation, Zhai Sheng felt that his hands became itchy. His children's buttocks were round, fleshy, and tender. One look at it and it was obvious that there would be a wonderful feeling upon touch.

San Bao didn't know that her actions of snatching her mom away had caused her dad to stare at her buttocks, ready to hit them.

A daughter was the father's little lover in his previous life? Such a situation didn't exist between Zhai Sheng and San Bao.

Zhai Sheng was strict with Da Bao and Er Bao. Who asked them to be his sons?

Talking about San Bao, Zhai Sheng's feelings for her were the most complicated. He knew that San Bao was a daughter, so his expectations of her should be different from Da Bao and Er Bao.

Perhaps San Bao herself felt this way as well. As such, she often staged scenes where she snatched Qiao Nan away from Zhai Sheng, making him, the biological father, angry.

Based on this father-daughter relationship, lovers in the past? No, they were probably enemies and love rivals in two lifetimes.

What Zhai Sheng didn't know was that children were actually pretty smart. Zhai Sheng's biggest mistake was to underestimate Da Bao's and Er Bao's IQ.

If San Bao could feel it, would Da Bao and Er Bao be like idiots and not be aware at all?

As such, Da Bao and Er Bao became San Bao's brains, while San Bao became Da Bao's and Er Bao's hands.

The triplets split up the work. When they were at home, their grandparents protected them. When snatching Qiao Nan away from Zhai Sheng, they were ruthless.

Two heads were better than one. The triplets had brains and their grandparents backed them up. No matter how formidable Zhai Sheng was, he was still alone. Furthermore, he didn't realize that his three children were using the IQ they had developed on him, the biological father.

The consequences of underestimating the enemy were victory in all battles. The great Chief Zhai, who made outsiders feel terrified, often lost to his two-year-old children at home. That image was really too beautiful to look at.

"No, I want Mom to carry me." San Bao didn't get her mom to carry her as she wished and expressed disdain that her dad's hug was hard. It wasn't comfortable at all. Her mom's body was better. It was fragrant and soft.

San Bao only felt that her mom's hug was the most comfortable place in this world. Every time her mom hugged her, she couldn't describe the feeling, but it made her feel so comfortable that she didn't want to leave. Her mom's hug was better than a bed! She liked to be in her mom's arms and not come out.

"Carry me."

Er Bao ran over and hugged Qiao Nan's thigh. He expressed that in a foreign environment, he, as a son, needed his mom's hug as a source of comfort.

Da Bao didn't say anything. He stood on the other side of Qiao Nan. The meaning was clear. He had the same thoughts as Er Bao and wanted his mom to hug him.

These three children were so cute that Qiao Nan couldn't pull herself away from them. As they begged for hugs and touches, Qiao Nan felt full.

She must be the most blessed person in this world to be surrounded by the most handsome man and three cutest children who wanted her hugs and kisses...

How would Qiao Nan, whose heart was stolen by the three children, still wonder who Ding Jiayi was? She hugged and kissed each child one by one and was so happy until she couldn't remember where she was.

The three children expressed that they were good babies who understood reciprocity.

After being kissed by their mom, they strongly requested to kiss her back.

Chapter 2442: Life in the Mountain (1)

As such, the four of them kissed one another. Anyone would have been envious. However, Zhai Sheng only felt a strong wave of jealousy.

Seeing the husbands of two other women and the wife of another man occupying his wife and kissing and taking advantage of her, Zhai Sheng was so angry that his eyes were about to burst into flames.

Everyone envied the Zhai family for having triplets. Only Zhai Sheng, the biological father, regretted that his 'marksmanship' was too poor. How did he produce these three horrible children? The current situation was enough to show how troublesome it was to have too many children.

Now that he understood this, who would want such detestable children if he decided to send them away?

Zhai Sheng had always been most confident of his marksmanship. However, when it came to having children, Zhai Sheng felt that he had lost his usual accuracy and was terrible.

A jealous Zhai Sheng was scary. It was just that the three children and Qiao Nan hadn't realized it yet.

As a successful hunter, before he stretched out his fangs, how could he let his prey feel that their lives were threatened?

Zhai Sheng's lips curved up slightly. He looked as if he was laughing or faintly angry. His expression was extremely contradictory.

Forget it that the three children were still young. If Qiao Nan, who had been Zhai Sheng's wife for two lifetimes, saw Zhai Sheng's expression now, she would definitely become timid and restrain herself and the three children.

What was Zhai Sheng good at when facing Qiao Nan?

Settling scores with her afterward!

She didn't know what calculation method Zhai Sheng used for the ledger in his heart, but she knew that the most terrifying exploiter in this world was undoubtedly Zhai Sheng. For Zhai Sheng to settle scores with her afterward was an extremely unbearable affair. What was worse was that Zhai Sheng seemed to only use this unique calculation method on her.

Today, the three children and Qiao Nan were kissing one another happily.

When they returned to Ping Cheng and after letting the three children sleep in a room, Zhai Sheng was going to use his actions to prove that the only person who could do whatever he wanted to Qiao Nan and be intimate with her was only him.

The three children's intimate actions with Qiao Nan at this time were simply provoking him.

Since Qiao Nan wasn't firm in her stand, he naturally had to 'educate' Qiao Nan well in the room and let her remember her revolutionary position and thoughts.

Da Bao and Er Bao were destined to be other people's husbands. San Bao would definitely be someone else's wife.

As such, what was the use of being so affectionate with someone else's husband and wife? She might as well treat him, her own husband, better.

Upon hearing Zhai Sheng's theory and experiencing a breaking waist, Qiao Nan could neither laugh nor cry. Was it really good to call their sons and daughter that way?

Someone else's husband and wife?

That would happen at least twenty years later. Now, the triplets were their children.

It was just that Qiao Nan couldn't be bothered to discuss this with Zhai Sheng, who was jealous of his own children.

If this discussion continued, Qiao Nan was worried that her waist would really break. Why didn't she realize that Brother Zhai was so easily jealous in the past? He could actually be so jealous of his own sons and daughter.

What Qiao Nan felt most incredible was that while Da Bao and Er Bao were boys, San Bao was a girl. It completely didn't make sense that Zhai Sheng was jealous of his daughter as well.

Was he deliberately finding excuses?

Of course, Qiao Nan didn't know the final result.

Qiao Nan, who had not sensed danger yet, was still being intimate with her three children. She was extremely happy. "Alright, are the three of you hungry? Shall I prepare some food for you?"

"Yes."

Aside from wanting their mom to be by their side, the three growing children were obsessed with eating.

There was naturally no fish and meat in the mountainous area. However, they had things like wild chestnuts, potatoes, and sweet potatoes.

To Qiao Nan, these food items were good. They contained whole grains and could wash the intestines of the three children, who loved to eat meat, well.

Natural fertilizers were used for sweet potatoes grown in mountainous areas. No external chemical fertilizers were used, so they were healthy and tasted good.

When the three children had their first bite of the soft sweet potato, they were shocked. Was there something else in this world that was as delicious as meat?

For the sake of the three children's health, not only would Qiao Nan pay attention to their balanced combination of meat and vegetables at home, but she would also restrict them from eating sweet things.

Carbonated beverages such as cola would never appear in the Zhai family, let alone those sweetened fruit juices. If they really wanted to drink, Qiao Nan would rather buy a machine and fresh fruits to blend the juice herself at home.

Qiao Nan was so strict even when it came to drinks. There were very few things like sweets in the Zhai family.

Even when Jiajia came over to the Zhai family as a visitor, upon hearing that it was for the benefit of her younger siblings, Jiajia would occasionally hold back her urges and not be a bad role model to them.

As such, aside from fruits, the three children rarely had the chance to eat sweet things.

The three children were overwhelmed by the sweetness of the sweet potatoes now.

The ripe sweet potatoes were soft and chewy. Even if the three children were missing a few teeth, it wasn't difficult for them to eat it, let alone that they had a full set of teeth.

It was so soft and sweet. Undoubtedly, the three children immediately fell in love with the taste of sweet potatoes and became fans of them.

"Mom, this is good. We never ate this before."

San Bao blew out air at the sweet potato. She only put it in her mouth after blowing it cool and feeling that it wasn't so hot anymore.

After taking a bite, San Bao squinted happily as if she was a carefree fairy. Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng were amused.

Zhai Sheng couldn't help but think that sweet potatoes weren't rare and could be found everywhere. A few decades ago, they were the staple food substitute in the absence of rice and flour. Everyone got scared eating it.

However, when it came to their three children, they looked as if they had eaten a delicacy of the world. Weren't they pitiful?

However, when he saw how happy the three children were in the end, Zhai Sheng stood firmly on Qiao Nan's side. He felt that Qiao Nan's management of them was very scientific.

They could reveal such expressions of happiness even when eating sweet potatoes. It was probably only their family who could do this.

If she wasn't strict with them, how would the three of them feel blessed?

"Yes, it's nice." Er Bao nodded and agreed with San Bao. "Mom, will we eat this when we're home as well? Grandpa and Grandma can eat it as well."

Chapter 2443: Life in the Mountain (2)

As a good child, after finding something delicious that he liked, Er Bao wanted to bring it home and share it with his grandpa and grandma.

Thankfully, Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing weren't diabetic. They could still eat sweet potatoes, which weren't particularly low in sugar. "Alright, the three of you can pick the sweet potatoes so that Dad can bring them back for Grandpa and Grandma to eat."

The children missed the elders in the family and even wanted to share with them the good things they had found. Qiao Nan was naturally supportive of this good habit and encouraged the three children so that they could maintain this in the long run.

After getting their mom's support, the three children started to chew harder. Yes, they were delicious.

As such, the first meal of this family of five in the mountains was spent eating sweet potatoes happily.

Compared to the good atmosphere during the day, there was still a slight problem at night.

The mountains were really different from the city areas.

What was the huge difference?

In the city, because of the lights from the shops and street lamps, light could still be seen even when it was dark.

The three children were long accustomed to a bright living environment whenever they opened their eyes. They naturally felt uneasy when they suddenly came to the mountains.

The bulbs in the mountain were not as advanced as those used outside. As such, they were yellow and not bright enough.

Basically, when it reached seven or eight in the evening, the outside of the house became so dark that nothing could be seen. How would the children not be afraid of this situation?

San Bao kept hiding in Qiao Nan's arms and refused to look at the situation outside the house. "It's dark. San Bao's scared. Don't go out. There are monsters outside that will eat you."

Da Bao didn't say anything. However, he had a look of resistance. Er Bao learned from San Bao and didn't want to get down from their mom.

It was more troublesome when it was time to sleep at night. San Bao was so frightened that she didn't want her parents to switch off the lights. Once they did so, she would cry.

The helpless Qiao Nan could only hug her in her arms and coax her to sleep.

After they were more than a year old, the three children had their own room. They would only sleep together with Qiao Nan on the big bed occasionally.

In order to get the three children used to sleeping on their own, even if they slept with her occasionally, Qiao Nan would try not to hug them when she was sleeping.

However, this wasn't possible today.

Qiao Nan opened her arms and San Bao naturally rolled into them. Her chubby hands held onto her mom's clothes tightly.

Qiao Nan patted San Bao. "San Bao, be obedient. It's time to sleep. Children have to sleep more to grow taller and more beautiful. Dad and Mom are by your side. What's there to be afraid of?"

Qiao Nan put an arm around San Bao and coaxed her to sleep. She placed another hand on Er Bao's body, touched Da Bao's face, and then patted Er Bao's body again.

After getting his mom's touch, Da Bao's heart became settled.

Alright, since he was far from his mom and couldn't get her hug, he would make do with sleeping with his dad tonight.

When Da Bao leaned in close to his dad, he felt extremely safe. Even without his mom's hug, Da Bao fell asleep very quickly. At this time, Da Bao couldn't help but admit that his dad was still good at times.

"Brother Zhai, let's sleep as well."

Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng only dared to sleep after confirming that the three children were asleep.

Adults were different from children. It was pretty easy to fall asleep in such an environment. After all, adults could adapt better than children.

As parents, they couldn't abandon their children who were afraid and wanted to cry and fall asleep first.

"Yes." After Zhai Sheng, who was sleeping on the outermost side, responded, he tilted his body to the side and let Da Bao lean on his arms. He also stretched out his long arm to hold Qiao Nan's hand, which was on Er Bao's body.

Qiao Nan hesitated for a while. "With both our hands on Er Bao's body, would Er Bao feel tired?"

“...” Zhai Sheng was already unhappy that he couldn't hug his wife to sleep and that there were three sound-asleep children in between them. He was just holding his wife's hand. If that wasn't allowed, it would be too overboard. “It's fine. The boys in our Zhai family are tough. Furthermore, isn't he not afraid anymore? If we place both our hands on him, he might even sleep more securely.”

So, it was really better to have fewer children.

If they only had a child, even if the child was in the middle, he could still hug Nan Nan.

If they had a boy, Nan Nan could sleep in the middle and the child could sleep in the innermost. That way, he could hug Nan Nan to sleep and Nan Nan could hug the child to sleep.

No wonder the country had advocated for a single-child policy from so many years ago. It was obvious that having a single child was more conducive to the harmony between husband and wife. How was it like their family now...

Upon seeing the three children between him and Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng felt very sad. Could they really not just send one or two children away?

Children were debts!

After feeling sentimental, Zhai Sheng fell asleep quickly.

In the middle of the night, Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng were awakened by a soft cry at the same time. Qiao Nan felt that someone was moving in her arms and touching her face.

Qiao Nan hugged San Bao and asked softly, “San Bao, what's wrong? Why did you cry? Did you have a nightmare? Don't be afraid. Mom's here. Dad's here too. So are Da Bao and Er Bao.”

“Sob...”

San Bao still cried. “Mom, San Bao became blind. San Bao can’t see Mom anymore. San Bao also can’t see Da Bao, Er Bao, Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt, and Dad anymore... Sob. San Bao’s frightened. What should I do?”

Upon hearing San Bao say a long list of names but his was the last, Zhai Sheng was angry.

The order in which his daughter said these names was probably the order of how much importance she placed on each individual.

What else could Zhai Sheng say after knowing that his daughter placed him last? He could only take the flashlight out and switch it on. His daughter actually thought that she was blind. What a stupid child.

“Don’t cry. If you continue crying, Da Bao and Er Bao will be awakened as well. Don’t be afraid. Our San Bao isn’t blind...”

As Qiao Nan finished speaking, Zhai Sheng took out the flashlight under the pillow and switched it on.

With the yellow light from the flashlight, San Bao, who was rubbing her eyes and crying in her mom’s arms, was stunned. She realized that her eyes seemed to have recovered and she was no longer blind. She could see her parents’ faces and her own hands. “Mom, San Bao isn’t blind?”

When she woke up just now, she obviously couldn’t see her mom, Da Bao, or Er Bao.

“It was pitch black just now. I couldn’t see anything. It was scary.” As she leaned in her mom’s arms and looked at her dad, San Bao continued, “There are a lot of strange noises outside. San Bao’s scared.”

#### Chapter 2444: Life in the Mountain (3)

Yes, after San Bao woke up, she first realized that she was ‘blind’. Then, she heard a lot of strange noises outside which she had never heard before back in their own house. The timid San Bao started sobbing.

If not for Zhai Sheng preparing a flashlight in advance such that San Bao could see the light, no one else would probably be able to calm San Bao’s frightened heart.

“...”

After knowing the reason why San Bao cried, Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng could neither laugh nor cry. How were they going to explain this to their daughter?

After thinking for a while, Qiao Nan coaxed San Bao and said, “Don’t be afraid. There’s wind outside, so there are some whirring sounds. This is the mountain. Didn’t San Bao see a lot of animals on TV in the past before? This mountain has these animals as well. They came out in the night to find food as they were hungry. Is San Bao afraid of them?”

“Little squirrels?” San Bao blinked with tears on her eyelashes. She tilted her head and asked in a cute manner.

“Yes, there are little squirrels. There are also woodpeckers that help Grandpa Tree catch worms. Dududu.”

“Yes, dududu.” San Bao became excited as she had indeed heard such a sound. “Is Doctor Woodpecker seeing Grandpa Tree?”

Qiao Nan told this story to the three children before. Thus, San Bao remembered it now.

“Yes, San Bao’s smart.”

“Why didn’t he see Grandpa Tree in the day? Why does it have to be at night? We are all sleeping. By doing so, he scared San Bao. What a bad doctor.” San Bao pouted and expressed her dissatisfaction.

Qiao Nan laughed. “There’s no choice. In the day, people would hit them. It’s only safe for them to come out at night.”

“Hit them?” How would San Bao understand the concept of poaching?

“Yes, bad people hit them. Thus, it’s safe for them to come out only at night. San Bao, are you still afraid? Let’s not disturb Doctor Woodpecker from seeing Grandpa Tree. Shall I hug you to sleep?”

“Okay.” After knowing that those strange noises outside were produced by the animals, San Bao was no longer scared. She grabbed her mom’s clothes with one hand and her long hair with the other so that she could smell her mom. San Bao yawned and closed her eyes. She was about to fall asleep.

To Zhai Sheng, the whisperings between the mother-daughter pair were like a serenade. When he heard his daughter’s heavy breathing again, Zhai Sheng knew that she was asleep again.

What made Zhai Sheng thankful was that his sons were still sons. San Bao kicked up a fuss in the middle of the night. However, Da Bao and Er Bao had no intention to wake up. They were still sound asleep.

After confirming that San Bao was no longer kicking up a fuss, Zhai Sheng tilted his body and looked at Qiao Nan. “Are you thirsty? Shall I pour you a cup of water?”

The environment in the mountain wasn’t as convenient as outside, especially in aspects like toilets. This was what Qiao Nan was not used to the most. As such, after hearing Zhai Sheng’s question, Qiao Nan shook her head. “It’s fine. Even if I’m thirsty, I’ll drink tomorrow. It’s getting late. Let’s sleep. Otherwise, we won’t have enough energy tomorrow.”

San Bao was really funny. After waking up and realizing that she couldn’t see anything, she thought that she had become blind.

The children knew what being blind was. They must have learned it when watching TV previously.

Thankfully, the children watched Animal Planet. When Qiao Nan talked about it and once San Bao understood, she immediately stopped feeling afraid and could fall asleep. Otherwise, once San Bao cried, Qiao Nan and Zhai Sheng would have to coax her for a while.

“Brother Zhai, why don’t we keep the flashlight on? San Bao’s already like this. What if Da Bao and Er Bao are scared as well?”

If some light was emitted from the flashlight, at least Da Bao and Er Bao wouldn’t be as frightened as San Bao if they woke up in the middle of the night.

After glancing at his heartless sons who were sleeping soundly, Zhai Sheng said, “There’s no need to. We walked so much today. The three children are already tired. San Bao’s a girl. She woke up as she’s more sensitive. When they were at home, they rarely woke up in the middle of the night. These two sons wouldn’t cry. Let’s sleep.”

Then, he switched off the flashlight. Zhai Sheng held Qiao Nan’s hand firmly and fell asleep with their hands on Er Bao’s body.

To the tough Er Bao, there was a sense of security if his dad’s or mom’s hand was on his body.

However, when both parents placed their hands on him, he felt that they were a little heavy. As such, Er Bao slept the entire night with his eyebrows slightly frowned.

His biological mother was still pretty nervous about this. However, it was a pity that his biological father didn’t care.

As their parents’ relationship got better, they, their biological children, couldn’t escape from the fate of being forced to look at their public display of affection. Compared to others, the only difference was that they were too young and didn’t understand what public display of affection was.

When they grew up, as singles who couldn’t fall in love too early but were forced to see their parents display affection publicly, they would know what was the meaning of unbearable.

The Zhai family of five spent their first night in the mountain like that.

When Qiao Nan woke up the next morning, she realized that her husband and children were not around. She was the only one still sleeping.

Qiao Nan perked up her ears. Zhai Sheng seemed to be getting their three children to brush their teeth. “Open your mouth and slowly brush up and down...”

To be honest, it was too difficult to get two-year-olds to brush their teeth themselves.

Children generally hated brushing their teeth. The triplets were considered good-tempered. When the adults were helping them brush their teeth, they tried their best not to resist. The problem was

when the little toothbrushes were placed in their chubby hands. They stared at the toothbrushes and struggled. How were they going to brush their teeth?

When Qiao Nan came out, she saw her three children looking troubled. They were so cute.

The usually bright Er Bao was awesome. Based on his previous habit, he opened his mouth and placed his toothbrush inside. He directly placed the toothbrush on his tongue instead of his teeth. It was estimated that only Er Bao knew it in his heart if he was brushing his teeth or preparing to eat toothpaste.

“Er Bao, that’s wrong.” Qiao Nan took Er Bao’s hand softly and said, “Ah.”

Er Bao was very used to saying ‘ah’. Qiao Nan started to help Er Bao brush his teeth.

Once Da Bao and San Bao saw their mom come out and that she was already helping Er Bao brush his teeth, the two of them were clever to stop whatever they were doing. They could save a lot of effort if their mom helped them after helping Er Bao.

Qiao Nan didn’t have high expectations of the children. As two-year-olds, they were already very obedient as they were willing to cooperate with the adults to brush their teeth. It was too difficult for them to learn how to brush their teeth themselves now.

The couple split up the work. Qiao Nan helped the three children brush their teeth while Zhai Sheng helped them wash their faces.

Chapter 2445: Worth It (1)

Although Zhai Sheng knew nothing about a delicate act like brushing one’s teeth, he was fortunately still able to wash his children’s faces.

“Here, wipe your faces.” Seeing the triplets’ clean faces, Qiao Nan was overjoyed. She landed a kiss on each of their faces before helping them apply some lotion.

The three children obediently raised their heads and kissed Qiao Nan, replying, “Thank you, Mom!”

Zhai Sheng, who had also finished washing his face, turned his back to his children and leaned down toward Qiao Nan.

There was no reason for him to not receive the same treatment as his children. Even the stingiest person wouldn't do so.

Zhai Sheng had gradually gotten used to competing with his children. Qiao Nan smiled but did not utter a word. As expected, she meticulously applied lotion on Zhai Sheng's face just as she had done with the children.

Qiao Nan knew that Zhai Sheng had grown up being raised by Old Master Zhai. Even Zhai Hua hadn't received such treatment when she was young, let alone Zhai Sheng.

Qiao Nan had already heard about the saying that one would have to raise a son when getting married.

But compared to other husbands, her husband was already much better. Zhai Sheng would only act in a childish manner when fighting for Qiao Nan's affection and priority.

Other than that, Zhai Sheng was a good husband who supported her entire world and shielded her from all trials and tribulations.

San Bao nudged Er Bao before scratching her face. Stupid Dad!

Humph! He was always bullying them! Did he really think that they didn't know anything? Grandma had already said that they were still young and needed help from adults in many things.

Their stupid father was already old enough. He was even older than their mom! Why did he need their mom's help in so many things? How shameful! She would never get her mom to help her out in things that she could do on her own. She was even better than her dad!

Er Bao giggled and hugged San Bao, seemingly praising her for being obedient. Much more obedient than their dad.

Sigh. They had no other choice. With a father like that, the three children had to be obedient and work hard to help their mom out in any way possible.

They would do whatever their dad should have done.

Knowing that he had to be a filial son, Er Bao already understood the meaning of filial piety at a young age.

Da Bao stole a glance at Er Bao and San Bao as he munched on a snack. Both Er Bao's and San Bao's ideas were still immature. As children, what they had to do now was to have their fill of food and grow up quickly. Only then would they be helping their mom out.

Helping their mom out wasn't as easy as just saying so.

With such a thought, Da Bao started eating even more quickly. That was his most important mission at the moment.

He would have to take care of Er Bao and San Bao in the future. His parents would have to rely on him too. He alone would have to take care of four people. Yes, he had to eat more to grow as tall and muscular as his dad.

"Are you full?" Qiao Nan had almost had her fill and only asked the children after they had been eating for quite a while.

The three children nodded obediently, showing that they were full.

"Alright. Shall we go visit your siblings?"

Qiao Nan hadn't forgotten her main purpose of bringing the children here.

The three children had never met any elder brothers, but they had a good elder sister, Jiajia. The moment they heard the words 'siblings', the triplets' eyes lit up in excitement.

"Hello, here are the students from our school. It's really not easy for them to come to school every day."

The teacher of the school was grateful yet nervous that there were Samaritans who wanted to help their school.

The teacher would even forgo his own meals so that the children would have enough to eat and grow up healthily.

But his efforts alone were insufficient. What he managed to squeeze out was nothing compared to what the children living on this mountain needed.

These children would only have a different future if more people cared about them and supported them with their money and effort.

When the teacher had heard that this person had a special status, he thought that the person would simply leave after taking a look around. But he had heard that this person had not only taken a look around but had even stayed the night to observe the school's situation today!

As a teacher in the school, he had a good understanding of the situation here.

It seemed extraordinary that someone of such high status, who was used to living in the city, had endured the poor conditions and stayed the night.

At the same time, the teacher could feel Qiao Nan's sincerity toward the children.

“Teacher Zhou, don't worry. I've already read through the information on the village. I've also walked around the school. I'll do my best to help these children.”

She was a mother herself. As such, it was only natural that Qiao Nan felt heartbroken when she saw the ragged clothes on the children. Even clothes that people normally threw away looked better than those they were wearing.

“Didn't you say that the children have lunch in school every day? Can you let me see your menu?”

As Qiao Nan understood the situation more, she realized just how many children in society didn't have proper meals or clothes.

Qiao Nan had thought that she was an exceptional case for having met a mother like Ding Jiayi, who starved her and ill-treated her. Who would have known that malnutrition was nothing out of the ordinary out here?

Sigh...

Qiao Nan sighed sorrowfully. "The children are still so young. If they don't eat well, they won't be able to grow up healthily."

The moment Teacher Zhou heard that, tears welled up in his eyes. "We have no other choice. The conditions here are too poor. We don't have much resources in the mountains, and it's difficult for outsiders to get in contact with us either. Besides, we really don't have any extra cash. It's not just lunch for the students. Even their learning materials... Look at how the students are still using such short pencils because they can't afford to throw them away."

Teacher Zhou choked as he held up the pencil that was as long as a child's thumb.

Even Teacher Zhou had almost given up several times because of the tough conditions. However, his heart always softened whenever he saw the children's inquisitive gazes. That was why he had stayed up until today.

Chapter 2446: Worth It (2)

Seeing how even a grown man like Teacher Zhou was on the verge of tears, Qiao Nan quickly explained. "Don't worry. Our country and society have developed and we won't leave these children in the lurch no matter what. Now that I've understood the situation, I'll think of a plan to implement. I realized that the temperatures here in the mountain aren't very high. The weather will get colder in a month's time. Do the children have enough clothes for winter?"

They didn't just face difficulties in food and materials. The children's clothes also posed a huge problem.

It was already autumn. If it started raining, the temperatures would drop drastically and it would be bone-chilling.

Teacher Zhou laughed bitterly. "Of course not."

The children pretty much lacked everything they needed.

“...”

Qiao Nan's heart hurt. “Alright. I understand. I'll leave for the day. I'll send some resources over.”

“Thank you. I thank you on the children's behalf.”

Teacher Zhou didn't know how much Qiao Nan was willing to do, but no matter how little she did, Teacher Zhou was already eternally grateful as long as it helped improve the lives of the children.

After all, these children were practically strangers to Qiao Nan. Unlike him, she didn't have any feelings for the children.

Initially, Qiao Nan had intended on staying for a few more days to understand the situation better.

However, there was nothing more she needed to know. It was clear as day.

Just like what Teacher Zhou said, they lacked everything they needed.

Qiao Nan felt that winter clothes were definitely necessary, especially long johns for the children, to guard against the falling temperatures.

The triplets were still young and had much simpler thoughts. Although they thought that it was strange that the older children were wearing ragged clothes unlike themselves, they didn't treat them any differently just because of their clothing.

Initially, the thirty-over students didn't even dare to get close to the triplets because not only were they beautiful, but they were also clean and well-dressed.

In the end, it was because of the greedy San Bao, who ran in front of an elder sister, staring at a raw chestnut in her hand, that they had gotten closer.

Seeing the desire in San Bao's eyes, the young lady thought and said, "This is raw. You're still young. I'm afraid that you may get a stomachache if you eat this. Shall I cook this for you?"

These children in the mountains didn't have much in terms of food, but they didn't lack wild chestnuts. Whenever they were hungry, they would simply peel and eat one. It tasted quite like a raw potato.

Roasting raw chestnuts was nothing to the children living in the mountains.

Not long after, a crackling sound could be heard, and the young lady picked out the ripe chestnuts.

The triplets, who had never seen anything like this, were taken aback and stared wide-eyed, wanting to hide behind the older children. The children couldn't help but giggle. These young children were so adorable. They were even afraid of the sound of chestnuts cracking!

After picking out the roasted chestnuts and peeling off the skin, the girl handed one over to San Bao.

Of course, San Bao didn't reject her kind intentions. After all, food was always ready and peeled for her whenever she was at home. All she had to do was open her mouth.

As such, San Bao naturally accepted the older girl's help. As she savored the sweet chestnut, San Bao opened her eyes in wonder and let out a smile that was even sweeter than the chestnut. "Yummy!"

Da Bao and Er Bao believed in San Bao's judgment since she was known to be a foodie.

The moment San Bao said that it was delicious, Da Bao and Er Bao looked longingly at the older children. They were still young and didn't know how to peel those delicious things. More importantly, the chestnuts made a loud and scary noise!

The children giggled and quickly peeled the chestnuts and placed them on a clean piece of paper for the boys to eat.

Qiao Nan had simply taken a look around the school, but her three children had already been well fed by these adorable students.

The triplets had no shame in taking food from others!

When Qiao Nan realized the situation, she quickly stopped them. “Thank you, but they’re still young. They can’t eat too much of these. They still have to have their meals later.”

Thankfully, the three children had come after having their meal. Otherwise, the three children might very well have had their fill of chestnuts from the way the students were feeding them.

Qiao Nan squeezed San Bao’s ruddy cheeks and her heart melted even more as she saw the innocent faces of the children. “Thank you for taking care of them. Did they cause any trouble for you?”

The children respectfully shook their heads while giggling, expressing that the children had been adorable and obedient. They had been no trouble at all.

Because Qiao Nan had a good attitude and spoke nicely without anger, the students finally relaxed. They knew that this beautiful auntie wasn’t angry at them for feeding the children chestnuts.

“Thank you! We’ll play again next time!”

The children nodded and looked forward to the Zhai family visiting them again.

Their parents were all out at work and came back only once a year. Because the roads were bumpy and unpaved, only Teacher Zhou went out once in a while. Very few people ever visited them.

Because of this, the children always looked forward to visitors and were especially welcoming to them. But they did not know what fun there was in coming to such an impoverished place like this.

As the family of five left, Qiao Nan’s steps were especially heavy.

Zhai Sheng knew what Qiao Nan was thinking about and comforted her. “Don’t be sad. At least, we’ve come now. We’ll help them as much as possible. You’ve got a good understanding about the children, and I took a look around the living conditions of the elderly.”

It wasn’t just children who needed help. The elderly needed help too.

Even food was difficult to obtain here, much less medications that the elderly needed.

Zhai Sheng realized that there were quite a number of elderly residents who were ill because of the humidity up in the mountains. When it struck, their limbs hurt so much that they wouldn't even be able to get off their beds.

That meant it was definitely insufficient for them to simply send the children resources. They would have to think about medical supplies as well.

The moment Qiao Nan got out of the mountainous areas, she went on a crazy shopping spree.

Chapter 2447: Worth It (3)

At this time, the benefit of having Zhai Hua as a sister-in-law was apparent.

Zhai Hua was doing business. She knew more about business matters than Qiao Nan. Most importantly, she knew a lot of people.

She knew that Qiao Nan was going to buy a large number of supplies, including those used in the winter, medicine, a bunch of children's school supplies, and textbooks. There were really quite a lot of things to be bought. It wasn't easy for them to engage in discussions.

However, with the help of Zhai Hua, Qiao Nan didn't have to worry about who she should approach to buy things. Zhai Hua would help Qiao Nan make the necessary arrangements in advance.

Sometimes, if Zhai Hua knew about the variety and quantity, she could even help Qiao Nan negotiate a very favorable price so that Qiao Nan could buy all the things she required at the lowest cost.

Thankfully, these people were familiar with Zhai Hua and they knew Zhai Sheng as well.

It wasn't as if they didn't earn money. It was just that they earned less. Coupled with the fact that Qiao Nan bought these things to do good deeds and help those poor students in the mountains, Zhai Hua's friends were more willing to get involved.

Aside from selling Qiao Nan things at cost price, they also donated some items so that Qiao Nan could get more supplies.

The temperature dropped very quickly after a few autumn rains.

Qiao Nan was worried that those children in the mountains didn't have thermal underwear and would suffer from the cold. As such, after gathering the supplies, she didn't delay and used the fastest speed to get to the mountains.

Undoubtedly, as it was a difficult road to walk and there were quite a bit of supplies, there was a commotion when trying to transport them into the mountain.

When Teacher Zhou saw that Qiao Nan really brought back a lot of things that the children required, he, a man in his thirties, couldn't control himself and cried like a three-year-old.

Teacher Zhou came to this place after participating in teaching support. It was only then did he realize there were still poor and backward places in developed China. It was very difficult for students to go to school.

In fact, a few years ago, Teacher Zhou completed his time here for teaching support. He could go out and teach at a few better schools.

However, once Teacher Zhou left, this meant that these children would lose their teacher and could no longer study.

This place was too difficult. Even a support teacher might not be willing to come here.

Looking at the students who had been with him for several years, Teacher Zhou couldn't remember how much determination he had used back then before deciding not to go back and stayed there until today.

He often saw the difficulties of these children but couldn't do anything about it. Many a time, Teacher Zhou felt that he couldn't persevere anymore.

As a teacher, he was blessed. However, when he saw that the children were in difficulties but he couldn't help at all, he hated himself for his incompetence.

Under the torment of his conflicting emotions, it was extremely difficult for Teacher Zhou to persevere every day.

However, Teacher Zhou had finally waited for this day.

He was no longer the only one who knew about the situation of this school and its students. He was no longer the only one who persevered and cared.

He believed that as long as more people in the community cared, his thirty-odd students would definitely have the opportunity to go to junior high school, senior high school, and then university.

“Thank you. Thank you so much.”

Upon seeing how happy the children were when circling the textbooks, Teacher Zhou choked and became speechless.

“Teacher Zhou, thank you for your perseverance all along. Thank you for never giving up on these children. It shouldn’t be you thanking me. I should thank you. Thank you for persevering until my appearance.”

Qiao Nan was very touched that Teacher Zhou chose to sacrifice his personal career for these children.

If Qiao Nan was an old and single woman, Teacher Zhou should be an older and single man.

Forget it that a man in his thirties didn’t have a wife and children. He didn’t even have a girlfriend he was dating.

Qiao Nan could guess why Teacher Zhou became like this today.

Teacher Zhou interacted with these children a lot and developed feelings for them. As such, he’d rather sacrifice his personal future and stay there to continue teaching these children.

If this were to happen to someone else, no one could be kidnapped by their morals and demand others to be as great as Teacher Zhou.

Actually, before Teacher Zhou came here for teaching support, he had a girlfriend.

Being a support teacher wasn't indefinite. Teacher Zhou's initial plan was to be a support teacher first before returning a few years later and entering a good school.

A good school with good students and a good salary. With a few months of salary, he could fork out the down payment of a house with his girlfriend.

Teacher Zhou had planned for the future. His girlfriend felt that what Teacher Zhou did was good.

Generally, if a couple stayed in different places and were in a long-distance relationship, it was easy for issues to happen in their relationship.

However, Teacher Zhou's girlfriend wasn't worried at all because she knew what kind of environment Teacher Zhou was teaching in. She didn't have to worry that Teacher Zhou would have a change of heart. She wouldn't either.

She would use the time her boyfriend did support teaching to work and earn more money so that they could fork out the down payment earlier. Then, they would be able to start a family together.

It was a pity that they broke up following Teacher Zhou's refusal to go back.

Teacher Zhou had such a spirit of dedication and sacrifice. Qiao Nan couldn't expect his ex-girlfriend to have the same spirit as well. Everyone had their own thoughts and choices.

As long as Teacher Zhou's ex-girlfriend's choice wouldn't harm others, her decision to break up with Teacher Zhou wasn't her fault. At most, it was just that they had different mindsets.

Teacher Zhou had persevered for close to ten years.

After the breakup, Teacher Zhou no longer contacted his ex-girlfriend. However, it was obvious that a woman's youth was limited. She had already waited for three years. For the remaining seven years, how would she still be so obedient and wait for the day that Teacher Zhou returned?

Teacher Zhou knew that not only was his ex-girlfriend married, but she also gave birth to a daughter with her husband.

Teacher Zhou didn't regret his choice. He also didn't feel that it was wrong of his ex-girlfriend to want a breakup.

His only thought now was that both of them could get their own happiness and lead a peaceful life.

Teacher Zhou wasn't sure. Based on his perseverance, would he still be able to find a like-minded marriage partner in this lifetime?

Even if he really couldn't find one, he was willing to dedicate his whole life to the children in the mountain. He wanted to send these children away from the mountain so that they could experience a more exciting and colorful world outside.

"Teacher Zhou, look. It's a new pencil. It's all new. Auntie Qiao said that it's for us to use. I have a new pencil."

#### Chapter 2448: Being Calculative (1)

This child's pencil was already so short that she couldn't hold it properly. Even if that was the case, she couldn't bear to throw it away. No matter how tough it was, she wanted to write a few more words with her short pencil.

"Yes, look. There are even new books. They're so white. Teacher Zhou, are the books sold outside all like these? They smell good."

"And these textbooks. These are our new textbooks. The words are so clear and clean. Teacher Zhou, can I write my name on it?"

The children were so happy to receive new school supplies.

They never thought that they could have such nice things one day.

The children couldn't be blamed for being so agitated. The textbooks that they were using had been around for several years. After the people in this grade finished using them, they left them in school so that the students later could use them.

These were textbooks that were used in daily lessons. They weren't storybooks where people would borrow them once in a while in the library.

One could imagine how old and tattered these textbooks were.

Even if that was the case, every time a child received a textbook, they had a sacred expression. They flipped the textbook carefully, afraid that if they used more strength, the textbook would be torn. That way, it would be impossible for their younger siblings to use the book when they were their age.

Yes, the books could really be torn that easily.

Upon seeing how the children were still cherishing the torn textbooks, Qiao Nan felt heartache. She could also understand Teacher Zhou's thoughts.

This was a bunch of lovely children. The country and society ought to give them a chance to realize their dreams.

"Really?"

Upon hearing the children's words of joy, Teacher Zhou was extremely happy. "That's great. You have new pencils, books, and textbooks. You have to study harder in the future. Understand?"

"Yes."

"We will."

Teacher Zhou rubbed his eyes. “Not only did Auntie Qiao buy you new books, but she also bought winter wear. Everyone, come and collect one set each. Queue up properly. When collecting the winter wear, remember to help your grandparents at home collect them as well. Understand?”

Actually, there was no need for Teacher Zhou to say this. Once they heard that they were collecting items, the students had already consciously lined up. They didn’t have the intention to snatch from one another.

The children thought that their level of happiness was about to hit the sky today. Who knew that good news came one after another?

“Teacher Zhou, is it true? Can we help our grandparents collect them as well?”

“That’s great. My grandpa’s clothes are so tattered. I was initially planning to write a letter to my dad to remind him to help my grandpa buy some clothes when he returned later this year.”

If that was really the case, he’d probably have to wait for two to three months before his dad came back with the clothes for his grandpa.

It was great now. His grandpa would have new clothes to wear immediately.

As they entered autumn and the weather turned cooler, both adults and children were worried about autumn rain, as they knew the power of it.

Now, they longer had to worry or be scared as they had new clothes to wear.

When the children received the new and warm clothes, the happy and intoxicated expressions on their faces made people feel sour in their hearts.

Which child outside now wasn’t pampered as they grew up? To them, new clothes weren’t rare. There wasn’t a need to wait for the new year before they could buy new clothes.

Everyone’s living conditions were good and no one was willing to make their child suffer at home. New clothes were bought pretty much on a monthly basis.

It also wasn't rare to buy new clothes for children once a week if there was a need or they were in a good mood.

Not too long later, every child received new clothes and stationery items in their hands. They looked so happy, like little birds flying with their wings outstretched in the sky. They didn't know how to express their joy.

"Thank you, Auntie Qiao."

"Thank you, Auntie Qiao."

"Thank you, Auntie Qiao."

...

After all the children received the items, they ran to Qiao Nan and thanked her in a grateful tone. "Auntie Qiao, bring along your children next time. We will definitely play with them well."

He remembered that they loved to eat chestnuts. This year, he was definitely going to keep the biggest, best-grown, and sweet chestnuts for Auntie Qiao's sons and daughter.

"Sure. I'll bring along my children next time and I'll have to rely on you to bring them out for fun."

How would Qiao Nan reject the child's pure and innocent feelings? She agreed happily.

Without this incident, as a native of Ping Cheng, Qiao Nan really didn't know that there was such a backward place in Ping Cheng and so many children were suffering from not being able to pursue their studies.

It wasn't only these thirty-odd children. There were some children in the family who were young and hadn't reached the age of schooling. Their grandparents were currently raising them.

As such, Qiao Nan knew that the decision she had made secretly in her heart was going to become a major project. It was a long-term project that couldn't be completed in a short period of time.

Even if that was the case, Qiao Nan felt that her perseverance and sacrifice were worth it.

After knowing that her godfather left everything of the Zhu family to her, she told herself that she would definitely use the inheritance of the Zhu family to do more meaningful things so that the people alive would remember the Zhu family's existence.

For this purpose, everything that Qiao Nan did was in the name of the Zhu family.

“Auntie Qiao, is the world outside very beautiful? Are the schools there big? I heard that the schools outside are big and have very big playgrounds. The classrooms are huge too, and there are glass windows and lights.”

The children were very curious about the world outside the mountain and wanted to find out more.

The children were more eager to know how students outside looked like and if the classrooms were big and bright.

“Do you want to study at the primary schools outside?” Qiao Nan asked the children.

The children laughed and shook their heads. Then, they nodded. “Auntie Qiao, Teacher Zhou can only teach us primary school knowledge but not junior high school knowledge. Auntie Qiao, I want to study at a university. Teacher Zhou said that we would belong to the outside world in the future. As such, I want to study hard. Once I go to junior high school, I can go to school outside.”

The children knew very clearly about their family situations.

If not for Teacher Zhou, they wouldn't have the chance to be in primary school, let alone junior high school and senior high school.

Their parents were working hard outside for their school fees. Even if they were in primary school, they had to study hard. After going outside, he wanted to let everyone know that Teacher Zhou was his primary school teacher.

Chapter 2449: Being Calculative (2)

No matter how young children were, they had their own dignity and ideas.

They would eventually get through this wilderness to emerge on the other side, enter society, and lead a wonderful life by relying on their own efforts.

Qiao Nan laughed. “You’ll have the opportunity to do so as long as you study hard.”

These children had poor family backgrounds, and Qiao Nan already knew about that. As such, she had already made up her mind to sponsor these children so that they could receive an education.

Knowledge could change the lives and fates of these children. Qiao Nan didn’t wish for these children to repay her or even praise her. All she hoped for was that these children would become useful members of society and give back to society and the nation.

Because the state mandated nine years of compulsory education, their school fees were not expensive and they only had to pay for textbooks as well as some living expenses.

After discussing it with Zhai Sheng, Qiao Nan was willing to help these children have an opportunity to go to junior high school out of these mountains.

Of course, Qiao Nan would bear the cost of all of that.

Then, all would depend on the children’s hard work and results after they graduated from junior high school.

Although results were not everything, it was a measure of a child’s suitability to study, and whether they worked hard in school.

After all, this was not the only good deed Qiao Nan was doing. She hoped that every single yuan would go to those who needed it the most.

Qiao Nan had limited funds and energy, but there were too many people who needed her help.

As such, Qiao Nan had no choice but to use this method so that she would be able to help others to the best of her abilities and fulfill her promise.

This was exciting and exhilarating for the children in the mountains.

But Qiao Nan, who had hurriedly left to return to her children and husband, had not managed to share the joy with them.

Although she had not personally witnessed it, Qiao Nan had a clue that would be the case.

“Mom, where did you go these past few days? San Bao missed you...”

By the time Qiao Nan returned to the Zhai family’s house, it was already eight at night. The moment Qiao Nan arrived, San Bao rushed up and clung onto her mother’s neck, refusing to get out of her mother’s embrace.

“Mom missed San Bao too.” Kissing her daughter’s face, Qiao Nan felt her exhaustion being relieved.

Qiao Nan knew that she had overworked herself over the past few days.

She had spoken to Zhai Hua’s friend about purchasing the resources. Then, she had arranged for transportation of these resources into the mountains.

Although Qiao Nan had not personally done everything, she had been involved in everything herself.

Zhai Sheng wanted to help Qiao Nan, but Qiao Nan could not rest easy if she wasn’t personally involved. Only by personally overseeing it would she feel assured.

As such, Qiao Nan had been out while Zhai Sheng had been home.

During the period where Qiao Nan had been busy with work, Zhai Sheng had been the one taking care of the three children. Even though he had initially not known how to help the triplets brush their teeth, he had been well trained over the past few days and was now skilled in doing so.

Zhai Sheng felt that he had made great improvements as a father and was a great father!

But this was only Zhai Sheng's wishful thinking. It was better to ask the triplets for some honest evaluation.

Before Qiao Nan could even ask the children if they had been happy spending time with their father and whether their father had been good to them, San Bao took the initiative to air her grievances. "Mom, Dad was bad! Washing face, rough! San Bao hurt!"

Their father was getting sloppier in washing their faces by the day. She even wanted to wash her own face instead! Her father's skills were awful!

Er Bao cut in agitatedly but his pronunciation was still unclear and Qiao Nan spent a long time trying to decipher what he had said.

Er Bao had no idea that his mother had to spend time deciphering his words and continued with his rant. "Brushing bad. Yucky food."

The three children had no intention of leaving any face for their father, especially Er Bao, who even gestured frantically, telling Qiao Nan how much he disliked his own father.

The more Zhai Sheng heard, the darker his expression got. How he wished he could catch that little bastard, Er Bao, and smack him on the butt.

As a child, he had never gotten such care from his father. Although he was still a novice, he had already done his best to let his three children experience what he had not experienced.

Seeing how the three children were ungrateful and even tried to tattletale on him to Qiao Nan, Zhai Sheng had the urge to throw the three rascals back to the times when he had still been a child.

Only with such a comparison would the three children understand how good their father was.

Every time Zhai Sheng was angered by the three children, he would discuss with Zhai Hua how Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing had probably thrown them aside in their childhoods because they knew how annoying children could be.

Zhai Hua could tell that the triplets were third-wheeling their parents and drew ire from their father.

But Zhai Hua didn't agree with Zhai Sheng. She had been terribly obedient as a child. If their parents had wanted to throw them aside because of their cheekiness, it would have been Zhai Sheng alone. She had nothing to do with that.

Seeing how Zhai Hua was deceiving herself, Zhai Sheng exposed her. "In the year before I was born, Dad and Mom only had you. Did they stay by your side? Don't tell me that they did that because of me."

Miao Jing had given birth to two children in the span of three years, but there had been a period of time when Zhai Hua had been the only child.

What Zhai Hua felt sad about was that she had been the only child, but she had never felt like one.

Her parents had been amazing. At that time, the Old Master had to take care of her in his old age while his son and daughter-in-law were out. She had already done her parents a great favor by not causing them any trouble.

How could her parents be so cruel as to dump their daughter with the Old Master just a few days after her birth?

Up until today, Zhai Hua still felt that Zhai Yaohui and Miao Jing of that time were truly impressive. What kind of parents were they?

Chapter 2450: Being Calculative (3)

Zhai Hua sniffled and slapped herself a few times. The situation seemed a little incredulous, but at the very least, she had grown up healthily under such bizarre circumstances.

But Zhai Hua no longer wanted to think about her childhood. Seeing how Er Bao and San Bao treated Zhai Sheng in this manner in front of Qiao Nan, Zhai Hua was gleeful.

How could her nephews and niece be so clever? They dared to defy their own father! They were indeed exceptionally bold!

Thinking about that, Zhai Hua moved her gaze down to the chubby tummies of the three children. If they weren't fat, who else was?

Hearing the children complaining about what a failure Zhai Sheng was as a father in their adorable voices, Qiao Nan fell into heaps of laughter.

She comforted the three children with a hug. “You can’t blame your dad. He didn’t know how to do this in the past. He only learned it to take care of you. Don’t you learn slowly every time you play with a new toy too? You have to give your dad some time and more opportunities. He’ll get better with practice.”

Qiao Nan wasn’t even ashamed of giving Zhai Sheng full marks as a father.

Qiao Nan knew that there were many other men who regarded themselves as emperors at home, refusing to take care of their children or help around the house after work.

Qiao Nan had heard too many such examples that she felt that Zhai Sheng was an amazing husband.

It wasn’t just Er Bao and San Bao. Even Da Bao had crinkled up his nose in disdain.

All he could say was that Qiao Nan and Miao Jing were too good at this. Because they had been so well-taken care of by their mom and grandma, it was difficult to accept such clumsy care from their father.

“Give me a smile. Mom’s done with her work. From today, both Mom and your dad will be able to take care of you guys together. Tomorrow, Sister Jiajia is on vacation. Shall we get her to play with you guys too?”

After a week, Qiao Nan was pretty much done with her itinerary in Ping Cheng.

If not for Jiajia to play with the three children, Qiao Nan would have returned to the capital with Zhai Sheng the next day because she knew that the elderly couple probably missed the children very much.

San Bao rubbed her face against her mother’s neck. She was upset. Why did her dad still have to take care of her? Even though Sister Jiajia would play with her tomorrow, she was still upset. She needed hugs and kisses to make up for that.

San Bao was a young lady, and coquetry was only normal. Qiao Nan carried San Bao in her arms and coaxed her until she finally let out a smile.

After appeasing San Bao, Qiao Nan took a shower and was exhausted. “Are the children asleep?”

“Yes.” Having covered the children with their blankets, Zhai Sheng brought over a towel and wiped Qiao Nan’s hair dry. “Are you done with everything?”

“Almost.”

Zhai Sheng knew very well what Qiao Nan had been busy with. Zhai Sheng had been used to working on the front line, but this time, Zhai Sheng had taken a back seat and supported Qiao Nan from the sidelines instead.

In this whole world, only Qiao Nan had the ability to make Zhai Sheng willingly be her support.

Having wiped Qiao Nan’s hair dry, Zhai Sheng moved his palm to Qiao Nan’s waist. “You’ve lost weight.” Her waist was terribly slender and Zhai Sheng was dissatisfied. “No wonder you can’t even carry the children. Given the way they eat, it won’t take a few years before they weigh more than you.”

Qiao Nan smiled proudly. “What do you know? I’m a mother, but I still have the figure of a young lady. Don’t you know that there are plenty of women who try their best to maintain their weight but are still fat? I haven’t even been dieting. It can’t be helped that I don’t get fat. Besides, I was a little overworked recently. Once I return to the capital, I’ll eat more and sleep more. Why don’t you guess how much weight I’ll put on?”

Zhai Sheng could not help but laugh at Qiao Nan’s description. “Are you trying to live like a pig? Besides, you’d better not make promises you can’t keep. Otherwise, the children might learn from you and make false promises.”

Who else without a job would be as busy as Nan Nan, who could not even take care of her husband and children?

His Nan Nan was even busier than an average office worker.

The couple had been married for almost four years. Zhai Sheng understood that Qiao Nan was one who would never let herself have too much free time, even though she was a full-time housewife.

Leaning in Zhai Sheng's embrace, Qiao Nan laughed guiltily. She only dared to act so boldly because Zhai Sheng pampered her.

She knew that Zhai Sheng would never stand in her way and would even silently support her. Because her husband gave her so much confidence, Qiao Nan had no fear. Who else could act in this manner?

"Brother Zhai, why are you so good? Why am I living such a blissful life after marrying you? I'm thankful that I didn't marry until the age of forty. Think about how much I would have lost if I hadn't persisted."

Sometimes, Qiao Nan didn't even believe that she might very well have spent her life with someone else if not for Qiao Zijin, who had destroyed her relationship.

Sigh. A life like that was frightening.

Qiao Zijin and Ding Jiayi had intended to hurt her, but she had gotten true blissfulness instead. This was such a beautiful life.

"Brother Zhai, there's something I think I should discuss with you."

"What is it?" As long as Nan Nan was willing to tell him about it, he would listen.

"It's about Ding Jiayi. I think Ding Jiayi will eventually go crazy staying in the quad." Thinking about Ding Jiayi's state when she had met her a few days earlier, Qiao Nan said realistically, "I think it's because of my influence that no one in the quad has a good impression of Ding Jiayi anymore. It's common for women to experience hormonal changes when they undergo menopause. Although she has already passed that age, it won't be surprising for a normal person to go crazy living in that environment."

People were not lone wolves. No one could stand living alone without any interaction with others.

Ding Jiayi's temper was not good to begin with, and her mental health wasn't all that good either.

As such, no one could tell how Ding Jiayi would turn out if Ding Jiayi didn't move to a more normal and humane living environment.

While in the mountains, Qiao Nan had already let go of all the grudges she held against Ding Jiayi. She was no longer going to be calculative or hold it against Ding Jiayi.