

RTAMM 1631

Chapter 1631: Remarry?

“...” Qiao Nan rubbed her lips lightly. “Then?”

“What then?” San Bao rolled her eyes. “Mom, there’s no then. Ling Ling doesn’t like her father. She knows that the country now allows a second child in the family. Her father’s real intention is to make Auntie Xu pregnant again after they are remarried so that he could see if she could give birth to a son.”

By then, he would have both his son and his wife. The money his wife earned would be back in his pockets again. Ling Ling’s father was really... San Bao expressed that she understood Xu Ling Ling’s feelings well. She would rather be fatherless than have a father like him.

“Ling Ling is worried that Auntie Xu would agree. She kept hearing that father of hers persuade Auntie Xu that he wanted to give Ling Ling a complete family. He said that Ling Ling is different from other children because she doesn’t have a father. Auntie Xu cares about her daughter the most in this lifetime. Ling Ling is worried that her father would use her to play the kinship card and Auntie Xu wouldn’t be able to withstand it.”

How shameless. He still wanted to make Auntie Xu give birth at her age when she was at a higher risk level, and he even dared to say it was for Ling Ling’s good. San Bao was willing to interfere in this matter after she heard Ling Ling talk about this situation. She was immediately angered and thus patted her chest and said that she would help Ling Ling get this matter done.

Qiao Nan touched San Bao's face. "Haven't you already said so? Your Auntie Xu cares about Ling Ling the most. Regardless of whether she chose to remarry or not, your Auntie Xu would definitely seek Ling Ling's opinion before deciding. Ling Ling is not a fool. Haven't you said that Ling Ling has a clear mind? As for the rest, you children don't have to worry about it."

Qiao Nan didn't expect Fang Shiyou to have such a side. Even if he could hide his thoughts from Ling Ling, Ling Ling might not be willing to accept him as a father now. Furthermore, Ling Ling already knew what Fang Shiyou was up to. Upon thinking of Xu Shengnan's age, Qiao Nan expressed that Fang Shiyou was really daring to have thought of this.

Senior Xu was already at this age. Anyone with common sense would know how dangerous it was for her to be pregnant now. For his own son, Fang Shiyou didn't even care about Senior Xu's life and death.

San Bao heaved a sigh of relief. "If that's really the case, I don't have to worry about anything. I'll tell Ling Ling this now so that she'll feel more at ease." That was true as well. If Auntie Xu were to get married, how would she not have told Ling Ling?

If Ling Ling was against it, it wouldn't be easy for her father to remarry her mother.

After calming San Bao down, Qiao Nan personally sent her three children to university. All of them had scored well in their college entrance examinations. Da Bao was the first in the science stream while San Bao was the first in the humanities stream. Er Bao, who was second in the science stream, stomped his feet. He felt that San Bao had deliberately chosen to be in the humanities stream in the first place so as to avoid Da Bao, a strong opponent.

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Great. Now, out of the three of them, he had become the one and only 'second child'.

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Although Da Bao scored well in the college entrance examinations, he had enrolled in PLA National Defense University, which was the university Shi Qing and Zhu Baoguo had studied in back then. Not only did Da Bao enroll in this university, but Er Bao did so as well.

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Knowing that the men of the Zhai family were passionate about being soldiers, Qiao Nan hoped that her children could live according to their own wishes. As such, she didn't stop them. The only thing that made Qiao Nan's heart skip a beat was that San Bao nearly enrolled in PLA National Defense University as well.

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Da Bao was determined to follow the old path of the Zhai family's men and take the army route. Er Bao, who had extraordinary balancing skills, was prepared to develop himself in the air force. Out of the land, sea, and air forces, the triplets had already occupied two routes. Back then, Er Bao joked that San Bao should have just developed herself in the navy.

That way, all three forces would be complete.

Qiao Nan didn't care about her two sons. After all, if they really became soldiers in the future, it would be rare for them to spend time together with their family. Furthermore, they had to carry out so many dangerous missions. Qiao Nan wanted to keep her only daughter by her side.

Upon thinking of how much San Bao loved to look pretty, Qiao Nan told her directly. "I don't think that army uniform is nice. Haven't you remembered how many skirts and dresses you have bought since you were young? If you really become a soldier, you would basically say goodbye to these skirts and dresses in the future."

San Bao hesitated for a while. She always thought that the army uniform was nice and looked especially majestic. Furthermore, Da Bao and Er Bao had chosen this route. If she didn't, it would look like she wasn't sociable. However, what her mother said was a very realistic issue as well.

Although San Bao was usually anxious and stubborn, she was still a girl after all. After growing up, she would be more caring compared to a son. San Bao knew that Qiao Nan couldn't bear for the three of them to leave her. She was especially afraid that her daughter could not endure hardship and thus wanted to keep her by her side.

There wasn't a choice. Who asked her to be the youngest in the family? Since they were young, Da Bao and Er Bao had taken care of her. Now that she was a grown-up, it was time to repay her brothers' kindness.

After San Bao applied for Peking University, which was where Qiao Nan studied formerly, most people in the Zhai family heaved a sigh of relief. Er Bao even started to treat San Bao like she was a small ancestor. He understood that San Bao had sacrificed herself to fulfill his and Da Bao's wishes.

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"Mom, I'll go in with Er Bao. You can just send San Bao off." Once Da Bao was of age, he obtained a driving license. This driving license was still new to him.

Qiao Nan was wealthy. Even if she was stingy, she couldn't be stingy toward her three children. Since Da Bao had now obtained a driving license, Qiao Nan bought him a scooter. It wasn't particularly expensive but was cost-effective and practical.

When they knew that the 'stingy' Qiao Nan had bought Da Bao such a car, Fang Fang, who often flaunted her wealth, said that she was willing to sponsor Da Bao and give him some money to buy a better car. Fang Fang wasn't the only one who said that. Even Zhai Hua joined in the fun.

In the end, Da Bao rejected them. As a university student, it was already rare for him to own a car of his own. It was pointless to buy too eye-catching a car. After all, he went to school to study. The car his mother bought for him was the most suitable.

However, Da Bao had a deeper understanding of these elders' wealth. They had children as well but didn't think of buying a car for their son. Instead, they felt heartache for him and felt that his mother was too stingy. Da Bao couldn't help but feel aggrieved for his two younger brothers, Xiao Bao and Gao Feng.

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If he didn't remember wrongly, Gao Feng wanted a higher quality camera for his tenth birthday.

Chapter 1632: Uneasy

Auntie Fang Fang did not even give any thought to it before heartlessly rejecting it. Auntie Fang Fang said that Gao Feng was only ten years old and had not even earned a single cent for himself. He would be a wastrel to be spending money on a camera that cost more than ten thousand yuan! They would never tolerate such behavior.

When Gao Feng grew older and truly understood what he needed, then they would reconsider whether to purchase the presents that Gao Feng requested for.

When Da Bao bought a car, Fang Fang and Zhai Hua wanted to have a hand in it. The amount that they forked out must have been a six-figure sum. But toward their own biological son, Fang Fang had refused to give him a present that cost only ten thousand yuan. Da Bao expressed that it was indeed exhausting to be the one always favored by the elders, especially when those little ones looked at him with resentful eyes. He always had to make promises that drained his wallet.

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Thankfully, Da Bao was not an easily spoiled child. He was clear that his mom was the one who treated him the best. He believed that his mom had his own reasons for buying this car for him. And so, Da Bao rejected the elders' care for him.

As a car owner, Da Bao felt that he could handle such a trivial matter like going to school on his own. He would no longer have to rely on his mom to send him around, and she would not have to work so hard anymore.

"That's right. Da Bao and I aren't kids anymore. Dad has thrown the three of us into the military so many times. There's nothing we haven't seen. Do you think that we'll be beaten down by a university's reporting day? You'd better just take care of San Bao." Er Bao agreed with Da Bao.

After all these years, as a young man who had already gotten his identity card and was about 1.89 meters, Er Bao felt a twinge of sadness being called Er Bao by his mom every day. Had he not said that he despised his mom addressing him as so? It was still all right for his mom to do so while they were at home, but to still call them Da Bao and Er Bao while they were outside? That did not seem too good. It would ruin his image as a strong young man.

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The thought of people at school hearing his mom addressing him as Er Bao made him feel as though his university life had ended before it had even begun. Once he started attending university, it would no longer be an early relationship. He even hoped that he would start to receive love letters once he went to university.

In order for his university life not to end before it had even begun, Er Bao felt that he had to stand tall on the front line with Da Bao. He had reason to believe that Da Bao would have the same thoughts as him. The nicknames of Da Bao and Er Bao were really only suitable for use at home.

It was all right for a young lady like San Bao, but he and Da Bao were already real young men.

Da Bao side-eyed Er Bao, warning Er Bao not to go overboard. Even if he did have the same thoughts as Er Bao, he would not want to anger his mom by saying that they did not want other people to learn of their nicknames. There was no need for their father to get involved. He would rein Er Bao in before the situation became too dire.

Er Bao hit his own head. Did he seem like someone who had no limits? He loved his mom very much too! If he were to anger his mom or make her sad, he would not need anyone to interfere. He would give himself a good beating before anyone did.

Qiao Nan did not give it much thought and innocently thought that her sons had grown up. Moreover, her three children had always been more independent than other children their age, so it was nothing much for Da Bao and Er Bao to go to school on their own. “Fine. Then, I’ll send San Bao for her reporting day. You two shouldn’t dawdle either. Remember to call home when you’re free.”

After discussing it through, it was decided that Qiao Nan would send San Bao to Peking University, while Da Bao and Er Bao would drive themselves to PLA National Defense University.

“Mom, I can handle the rest on my own. You can go home first. Since you have time, it’s better for you to get some rest.” Once they reached the school, San Bao hurried Qiao Nan home. San Bao knew that her mom was even busier than her dad. Apart from her work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, her mom was the one who took care of all the three children. Her dad returned only occasionally to take care of them.

San Bao pitied her mom for needing to work so hard. Otherwise, she would not have given up her dream to enter the military and instead joined Peking University, where her mom was an alumna.

“Can you really handle it on your own?” Qiao Nan was hesitant after seeing how other children had at least two adults with them for today’s reporting day. This month, Zhai Sheng had other things to

settle and had no time to spare for his children's university reporting day. Thankfully, Da Bao and Er Bao had gone on their own. That had significantly reduced Qiao Nan's burden.

But Qiao Nan had never let the triplets feel any different from other children just because their parents were busy.

"Of course!" San Bao was just one step away from raising her right hand to make an oath. Her mom was just like any other mother, who was afraid that her child would be bullied. The problem was that her mom never stopped her father from throwing the three of them into the military every winter vacation.

This was just reporting to university. She had not needed any help with making her bed or sunning her blanket since the age of ten. San Bao felt that her father's military training was several times stricter than the university's.

She had survived through her father's harsh training. Whatever she would have to face in university would be nothing to her. There was nothing to worry about. Perhaps, having gone through her father's hellish training, the university's military training might be a walk in the park!

Hearing San Bao's words, Qiao Nan could finally rest easy and left.

When Qiao Nan returned home, Zhai Sheng was coincidentally there too. Zhai Sheng reached his arm out and Qiao Nan instinctively sat down. "It feels as though I've grown old in the blink of an eye. The triplets are now university students, and I'm an old lady now." Qiao Nan held out her hands to count. She was already forty this year.

Forty years old...

In her previous life, she had not even turned forty by the time she died. Qiao Nan almost mistook her previous life for a dream. Perhaps, what Qiao Nan had now was what was truly real.

In actual fact, two years ago, when Qiao Nan had been thirty-eight years old, Qiao Nan had tensed up. After all, this was when she had gotten into an accident and passed away in her previous life.

Qiao Nan was most worried that it would happen during her children's vacation. Zhai Sheng had felt Qiao Nan's uneasiness and asked her about it. But Qiao Nan had refused to disclose anything. In the end, Zhai Sheng had no choice but to shorten the children's military training to return to Qiao Nan's side to accompany her.

It was not until a certain day passed did the Zhai family suddenly realize that Qiao Nan's uneasiness had suddenly disappeared and that she had returned to her previous calm demeanor.

Chapter 1633: No Response

At that time, the cheekiest Er Bao could not contain his curiosity and secretly asked his father, "Dad, do you think Mom is going through menopause? But that can't be. Mom is still so young. Menopause doesn't occur so early on in life."

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Or was it that his mom's hormones were out of control? Was it because his father was not spending enough time at home and was not fulfilling the responsibilities of a husband? Er Bao was just one step away from saying that Zhai Sheng was incapable and that was why his mom had become so dispirited and out of it.

Without question, Zhai Sheng did not kill Er Bao for being bold enough to ask such a question, even questioning Zhai Sheng's capability, only because Er Bao was his own son. If he was not his son, that bast*rd would have died a terrible death!

Of course, Er Bao could not possibly die. But he did get a terrible beating.

Qiao Nan's temper had always been good. She had raised the three children herself, but as obedient as the triplets were, they were bound to be cheeky sometimes. Even when the triplets showed this side of them, Qiao Nan always took even more care and patience to teach the children slowly.

Thus, it was the first time that anyone in the Zhai family had ever seen Qiao Nan in such an emotional state. It was not just the three children and Zhai Sheng who were worried. Even her father-in-law, Zhai Yaohui, could not help but pull Zhai Sheng aside to ask if a troublemaker had recently joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had caused trouble for Qiao Nan.

Zhai Yaohui was clear that there would only be more cases like Xu Xinming and Li Dawei. No one knew when, but there would definitely come a day when another Li Dawei would appear to bother Qiao Nan. If that was really the case, with Qiao Nan's long history in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there was no reason for her to purposefully bully any newcomers. But there was no reason for her to be bullied by newcomers either.

Zhai Yaohui was clear that Qiao Nan was the one who had pushed Deng Wenchang up into his position. On the surface, Deng Wenchang was the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But in actual fact, Qiao Nan was the one making the decisions when it concerned important matters. What Zhai Yaohui had never expected was that Deng Wenchang himself was an extremely ambitious person.

Before Qiao Nan had risen into that position, Deng Wenchang had always wanted to fight with Qiao Nan for it. Afterward, Qiao Nan had pushed him into that position. With such a good opportunity, Deng Wenchang had not only not taken advantage of Qiao Nan but had even willingly acted as Qiao

Nan's shield and clearly severed his ties with the Peng family. Until today, Zhai Yaohui had no idea how Qiao Nan had managed to do that.

Logically speaking, if Qiao Nan was capable of doing so, there was no reason for her to be bullied by a newcomer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But one had to be prepared for all scenarios, and that was why Zhai Yaohui had called Zhai Sheng in for a discussion. If Qiao Nan was too softhearted to get rid of a newcomer and instead wanted to give the newcomer another chance, this was naturally Zhai Sheng's time to step in as a husband.

What Qiao Nan was too embarrassed to do, Zhai Sheng would do it. If Qiao Nan was being softhearted, then Zhai Sheng should harden his heart to do it. In short, whatever Qiao Nan could not handle, Zhai Sheng should solve it as her husband.

As such, when Qiao Nan's 'menopause' period passed, everyone in the Zhai family heaved a sigh of relief.

What the Zhai family was even more thankful for was that there was no sign of Qiao Nan falling into relapse for even a month or a year after that year. But just that one experience was enough for the Zhai family to remember for a lifetime.

"An old granny at forty years old? Where did you hear of such rubbish? Don't you know that our bodies are at their peaks at forty?" Zhai Sheng surveyed Qiao Nan's face that was still as tender as a young lady's. He felt that Qiao Nan's words could be no further from the truth. "I remember that people even mistake you for the children's elder sister whenever we go out!"

Nan did not look old. This meant that her life after marrying him had been quite good. This was probably the greatest praise she could give him.

But Zhai Sheng did mind a little. When his wife and daughter stood together, other people mistook them for sisters. He was afraid that other people would get the wrong idea if he were to stand beside Qiao Nan. "If other people were to hear that, our family's going to get into trouble again."

Normally, Zhai Hua did not act like a woman apart from being able to give birth to children. But at the mention of one's age, Zhai Hua would act very differently indeed. She would be like any other woman, who was very conscious of other people talking about her age.

Zhai Hua and Shi Qing had been through thick and thin and all kinds of trials. Based on this alone, it would be foolish to see compare whose skin was more tender between Zhai Hua and Nan Nan. It would be like comparing someone's weakness with someone else's strengths.

Obviously, Qiao Nan had thought of Zhai Hua's and Shi Qing's reactions. "These two people are really too ridiculous. Don't they feel embarrassed to be fighting over this now that they're both mothers and have sons who are already in junior high school and high school? Aren't they afraid that their children will laugh at them?"

Qiao Nan was the youngest among the women, but her children were the eldest among their generation. Sometimes, Qiao Nan could not help but sigh that she had married and given birth to her children early. When others were still 'elder sisters', she was already a 'mother' and an 'auntie' in the eyes of other children.

"Aren't you women all the same? Didn't you just say that you've gotten old?" Zhai Sheng helplessly looked at his wife in his embrace. Women were fickle indeed. They were so firm and resolute when talking about others, yet they would never talk about themselves.

Qiao Nan was infuriated. When she was younger, Brother Zhai had never acted in this manner. Even if he would not try to coax her with sweet talk like other men, he was not as obtuse as he was now. Now, he was just like a piece of wood that had no reaction at all. "Sister Zhai Hua and Shi Qing are just concerned about their faces. I'm concerned about my mentality. In a few years, Da Bao and Er Bao are going to bring their wives home and I'm going to be a grandma. Is it wrong for me to say that I'm old?"

What was different was that Sister Zhai Hua was seven to eight years older than her but had gotten married and given birth later in life. The triplets were already in university, but Xiao Bao had just started high school, and Zhu Yu had just started junior high school. And this was excluding the whole line of elementary school students behind them.

In the beginning, they had all been from the same generation, and she had even been the youngest. In the blink of an eye, the triplets were now the elder brothers and sisters among all the children. That caused such a mixed feeling.

“Grandma?” Looking at Qiao Nan’s skin that was just as smooth and tender as that of an eighteen-year-old with no sign of aging, Zhai Sheng laughed. “When we really have grandchildren and when you bring them out, do you think that people will think they are really your grandchildren? Or will they think that you’re their elder sister?”

Chapter 1634: Regretful Again

Qiao Nan was exasperated by Zhai Sheng. “I know you’re trying to flatter me, but there’s no need to go so far. Do you think it’s even possible that anyone would mistake me for my grandchild’s sister? You’re being too ridiculous!” Between a grandma and a sister was a difference of a whole generation!

“I won’t fight with you anymore. I’ll go help Mom prepare dinner in the kitchen. Are you craving anything in particular? I’ll tell Mom and ask her to prepare it for you.” Knowing that her mother-in-law’s cooking skills were now superior to hers, Qiao Nan did not try to show off either. Instead, she chose to stay by her mother-in-law’s side as an assistant.

Things like frying things in a wok, Qiao Nan had always left them to Miao Jing.

This meant that she would just relay Zhai Sheng's wants to Miao Jing. Whether she cooked it or not, it would all depend on Miao Jing's own decision.

Zhai Sheng raised his eyebrow. "Even my dad doesn't have the right to order his meals. I think I'd better not be picky. The men in our family get jealous easily. There's no need to provoke my dad. I'm not picky. I'll eat whatever my mom cooks. There's no need to specially prepare something for me. Just cook whatever is convenient for you." If he were really to order his meal, his father would never let him off.

Zhai Sheng did not allow his sons to fight for his wife's attention. It was best he did not do to others what he did not want them to do to him. On this matter, Zhai Sheng did very well. At least, Zhai Sheng was much more pleasing to the eye for Zhai Yaohui than his three grandchildren. Even if their youngest grandchild, Xiao Bao, came to visit, seeing Miao Jing prepare a full table of Xiao Bao's favorite dishes always evoked memories of Miao Jing's world revolving around him in his younger days.

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But there was no way that he would ever return to those glorious days.

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"You've probably asked me out for tea because of the recent incident, but you don't seem like someone who would do that." Qiao Nan rarely had any free time to herself, but she had given that up. It was also rare that the successful career woman, Xu Shengnan, did not have to work overtime. And so, the two schoolmates came together to have snacks and drink some tea together. Such days were truly hard to come by.

Xu Shengnan laughed bitterly. She even felt that the tea that she was drinking was bitter. "Junior, hearing what you've said, I'm sure you know about my situation. I'm... I'm quite hesitant. I'm not sure what I should do. I think I may have owed that guy, Fang Shiyou, in my previous life. That's why I'm still repaying him in this life. I don't know why my whole brain is so muddled whenever I meet Fang Shiyou. It's just like I've fallen in muddy waters. I'm so afraid, so..." That's why she could only find her junior, Qiao Nan, for help.

Qiao Nan put down her teacup. Qiao Nan was even more surprised to receive such an answer. “Actually, if you can’t make up your mind, why don’t you try asking for the opinions of people around you?” All right, Xu Shengnan being muddled was even rarer than asking her out for tea.

The pair had known each other for almost twenty years. At that time, Fang Shiyou had appeared rather honest. On the day Xu Shengnan married Fang Shiyou, Qiao Nan had even attended their wedding. Qiao Nan had not seen anything wrong with Fang Shiyou at that time.

So, when Xu Shengnan fell into that grave that was called Fang Shiyou, Qiao Nan did not think that it was Xu Shengnan’s fault. It was not because of Xu Shengnan’s foolishness that had caused her to fall into Fang Shiyou’s trap. Even after knowing someone for more than ten years, it was entirely possible not to know his true nature.

But the only thing of Xu Shengnan that had disappointed Qiao Nan was that Xu Shengnan had not been resolute even after Fang Shiyou had supported his mistress and had even plotted to take Xu Shengnan’s money. She had been too hesitant even after knowing that Fang Shiyou had been unfaithful to her and wanted to take what rightfully belonged to her.

Qiao Nan had been firm in her stance and made clear that she felt that the best decision was for Xu Shengnan to get a divorce from Fang Shiyou. Otherwise, Xu Shengnan could very well have endured her moment in wrath in the hope that it would bring about peace in the future.

Xu Shengnan sighed once again. “I’ve asked, but my parents...” Supported her reconciling with Fang Shiyou. They said something about a new one being no better than an old one. Getting remarried could not be any better than the first marriage. After so many years, Fang Shiyou must have already realized his mistake. Besides, that woman had not given birth to her son after all.

Even if she really reconciled with Fang Shiyou, she would not have to take care of another woman’s child. But Ling Ling would have a complete family and would be able to live with her birth father.

“Your parents told you to reconcile with Fang Shiyou, but you’re hesitant because you don’t wish to do it?” If Xu Shengnan did not have any intention of reconciling with Fang Shiyou, she would not have asked to talk to Qiao Nan when her parents expressed their opinion toward her. She was truly afraid that she would only find out once Xu Shengnan reconciled and got remarried to Fang Shiyou.

After thinking for a while, Qiao Nan put down the teacup in her hands and looked at Xu Shengnan sternly. “Senior Xu, actually, the person that you know is rather eye-catching to our Zhai Sheng. Otherwise, Brother Zhai wouldn’t have forked out such a huge sum of money to help these people set up a company. But now that Fang Shiyou’s matter is out in the open, have you decided whom you are going to choose? Don’t think that these military men are tough just because of their outward appearances. There are no solid iron walls when it comes to emotions. Everyone’s heart is soft and can get hurt. Senior Xu, it’s time you take out the courage you had in the past and make a decision.”

When San Bao had asked Qiao Nan about it that day, Qiao Nan had only given San Bao a vague answer. But in reality, Qiao Nan knew much more about the matter than what she had revealed to San Bao.

Initially, when Xu Shengnan was trying to secure evidence of Fang Shiyou cheating on her to get a divorce, Qiao Nan had introduced a retired comrade of Zhai Sheng’s to Xu Shengnan to let this man help investigate Fang Shiyou.

He was truly worthy of being a scout. It was putting great talent to waste by letting such a righteous and strong man be a private detective. Within a few days, the private detective was just one step away from finding out what color of underwear Fang Shiyou was wearing that day.

With such solid evidence, it was naturally not difficult for Xu Shengnan to get divorced from Fang Shiyou and prevent Fang Shiyou from taking advantage of her. It could be said that Zhai Sheng’s comrade had been the greatest help to Xu Shengnan in this matter.

Initially, when Xu Shengnan got divorced from Fang Shiyu, she had even changed Fang Ling Ling's name to Xu Ling Ling. Qiao Nan had always thought that that was the end of the matter and that nothing would happen afterward. Since they were no longer related to each other, there would be nothing more to this.

Chapter 1635: Wishful Thinking

Who knew that within a few years, something happened to those people whom Qiao Nan thought she would no longer have anything to do with? Ever since Fang Shiyu wanted to get back together with Xu Shengnan, that 'comrade' had presented a complete set of information to Xu Shengnan so that she knew how his life was after the divorce.

If Xu Shengnan knew about it, it meant Qiao Nan knew as well. After the divorce, the life that Fang Shiyu was leading was definitely not comparable to the times he had when he was together with Xu Shengnan.

Fang Shiyu would occasionally despise Xu Shengnan for not being caring enough as she was too focused on her career. He felt that she was unlike an ordinary woman who would care for her husband. However, Fang Shiyu knew it clearly that if not for Xu Shengnan working so hard, who would have paid the mortgage for the house they were living in now?

It was because Xu Shengnan was paying the mortgage completely on her own that he could place all his wages in his pocket and spend however he liked. He didn't have to be like other colleagues, who had to hand over most of their wages and make their own lives miserable.

It was just that men were always greedy. He obviously knew that Xu Shengnan was stronger than his colleagues' wives, but he felt that this wasn't enough.

However, when the two were really divorced and Fang Shiyu was together with his 'true love', he would think of Xu Shengnan's pros from time to time and even compared his current days to the previous.

Without a capable assistant like Xu Shengnan, Fang Shiyou's monthly salary was simply not enough. That was the first time Fang Shiyou realized that he could lack money to this extent. More importantly, he realized that life could be so hard-pressed when he was lacking money.

Fang Shiyou didn't dare to attend gatherings with his colleagues at times, no matter if it was going Dutch or if someone was treating him. If they were going Dutch, Fang Shiyou couldn't afford it. The meals ordered during such gatherings usually wouldn't be cheap and would cost him approximately two to three hundred yuan.

If someone was treating him, let's not be naive. How was it that he didn't need to return the favor?

The so-called treat was just that it was your treat today but my treat tomorrow. Either way, nobody would be at the losing end.

Before divorcing Xu Shengnan, Fang Shiyou loved to attend such gatherings. Regardless of whether it was going Dutch or taking turns to treat, Fang Shiyou would never refuse. He would do whatever others said. Back then, a lot of people were envious of Fang Shiyou for having married such a virtuous wife who didn't care how he spent his money at all.

They were unlike him. Among the men who had a family and child, Fang Shiyou was the one who had the most freedom and lived the most comfortably. There were times they wouldn't attend such gatherings. However, only Fang Shiyou was one of those who would always be attending them.

Back then, Fang Shiyou had enjoyed the envious looks of many people. After getting a divorce with Xu Shengnan and having to bear the burden of the entire family like other men, many of them would give him strange and even gloating looks when he rejected these gatherings time and again.

He didn't want to lead a good life and had to break up a good family just for one woman. Was there any meaning in letting his life go back for fifty years? Was there a big hole in Fang Shiyou's brain?

When Fang Shiyou's wife was still Xu Shengnan, not only did Fang Shiyou attend every gathering, but he would also be dressed nicely. After changing his wife, he looked extremely sloppy and didn't look as if he had new clothes from the new year.

A lot of people were really jealous that a person like Fang Shiyou could actually marry such a good wife like Xu Shengnan. When they heard that Fang Shiyou had an affair and got a divorce with Xu Shengnan after she had found out about it, they were secretly applauding and were immensely satisfied.

Fang Shiyou didn't have as high academic qualifications as them. He wasn't as good-looking and tall as them either. How was it possible that a man who couldn't compete with them in every way had married such an outstanding wife? Thankfully, things were set right in time.

In short, without Xu Shengnan as his wife, the treatment Fang Shiyou received from his colleagues plummeted. The people who tried to get close to him in the past were now seeing him as a joke instead. Fang Shiyou used to have a lot of face in the past. Now, everyone was just stepping on him.

For a man, nothing was more important than face.

Based on this point alone, Fang Shiyou had sufficient reason to regret giving up Xu Shengnan, who had helped him earn a lot of face, for his 'true love'. Furthermore, due to economic distress, Fang Shiyou could still tolerate for the sake of his son for a short period of time.

As the saying goes, everything goes wrong for a poor couple. As time went by, Fang Shiyou started to have second thoughts about Xu Shengnan. Aside from the fact that his 'true love' might be

pregnant with a son, she couldn't compare to Xu Shengnan in other aspects at all. Even her face was not as pretty as Xu Shengnan's.

When it came to earning money, his 'true love' was nothing compared to Xu Shengnan. After buying a house for her family, Xu Shengnan even shouldered the burden of paying for the mortgage of the house they were living in. If his 'true love' was equally capable, how would she have found Fang Shiyu, who had both a wife and a child?

After getting a divorce with Xu Shengnan, the Fang family was very cash-strapped. After losing Xu Shengnan's salary, the Fang family's monthly living allowance suffered a huge drop. It wasn't even one-third of the original amount.

Thankfully, Fang Shiyu had some money from the central provident fund. Otherwise, the Fang family probably couldn't even spend that one-third of the living allowance.

It wasn't only Fang Shiyu who couldn't tolerate it any longer. Even Fang Shiyu's mother couldn't hold back and started to complain. "Even when times were tough in the past when I was following your father, we had never suffered this much. Shiyu, the baby is not born yet. Once he is born, his milk powder and diapers will cost money. Things that a child requires are much more expensive than those of an adult. When the time comes, are the three adults in our family not going to eat anymore? Are we just going to feed one child?"

Mother Fang really didn't dare to imagine how bad their family situation would be once her new daughter-in-law gave birth to the child.

Just the thought of it made Mother Fang realize that she couldn't face that kind of life at all. Her head felt stiff and she had goosebumps all over. "Shiyu, no. This won't do. We can't lead such a life. Don't you think that that new daughter-in-law now looks at you differently?"

Chapter 1636: Whose Work?

“It’s been so long, but she hasn’t let you into her room, right?”

She had already gotten a certificate with her son, and the two of them already had a child together! But she still refused to let Shiyou enter her room! Did she really think she was still a young virgin?

Regarding this, Mother Fang flared up. “This doesn’t even matter. She’s already in her twenties. After you met each other, has she ever worked or earned a single cent for herself? We’ve just bought this house. We don’t even know when we’ll be able to repay the mortgage on the house. When the baby is born, will we really not need to lead our own lives anymore? Don’t you think you should have a discussion with her and ask her to go out to get a job?”

She could not expect to stay at home and be supported by Shiyou, right?

Thinking about the times when Xu Shengnan had still been her daughter-in-law, Xu Shengnan had never idled around at home, apart from the three months when she had just given birth. Even when it was Xu Shengnan’s turn for time off, she chose to work overtime so as to earn more money and relieve Shiyou’s burden. Working overtime was as common as having a meal for her.

With such a pearl like Xu Shengnan in front of her, her first impression was that the fake pearl was bigger and rounder. But upon closer inspection, she naturally realized the differences between the real and fake pearls. The fake pearl’s dull color could never compare to the glistening and translucent glow of the real pearl. The fake pearls were too obviously fake.

“Work?” Fang Shiyou grabbed at his own scalp. “Do you think she’s the kind of person who would be willing to find a job?” Ever since he met her and got together with her, he had never seen her go out to work or earn a single cent.

He thought about how he had never needed to care about household expenses in the past. He could always use his salary to support his 'true love'. At that time, he had never felt hard-pressed for money or lacked anything financially.

If he had not gotten divorced from Xu Shengnan, and the three of them had maintained their relationship as it was, he would still be living a good life now. Xu Shengnan would be his legal wife, while his 'true love' would be the one he had outside just to give birth to his son. With Xu Shengnan around, he would not even need to worry about finances at all.

If his son was really born and there was no way to hide the matter anymore, he would simply register his son under Xu Shengnan's name. In that way, his son would not only have a register in the capital but would also be able to attend a good elementary school.

To him, this was having the best of both worlds.

Mother Fang had similar thoughts to Fang Shiyu. "Shiyu, don't you think it would have been great if you hadn't gotten a divorce from Shengnan? I guess I'm finding out now that there's no use of being a gentle lady. It doesn't help us get by anyway. Women like Shengnan who can help us get by are truly suited to be wives. The one in the room doesn't look like a wife-material."

"Mom, don't you think it's a little too late to be saying all these?" He had already gotten a divorce. It was provoking to talk about how it would have been better if he had not done so.

Mother Fang smiled. "There's nothing that is too late. Anyway, Xu Shengnan is still single, right? At the very most, you can just get remarried to her. She loves Ling Ling so much. As long as Ling Ling wants to be with her dad, do you think Shengnan will refuse to reconcile with you?"

Forget it. She was resigned to her fate. Her daughter-in-law, Xu Shengnan, was indeed a little domineering, but at least, she was capable. In the future, she would let Xu Shengnan handle all their

family affairs. Since she was already a grandma, she would just stay at home and enjoy her life as an old lady.

“No!” Thinking about how resolute Xu Shengnan had been when the pair had gotten a divorce, Fang Shiyu still bore a grudge in his heart. “If she doesn’t come to beg me to reconcile with her, I’ll never turn back and beg her! A good man doesn’t backtrack! I’ve already gotten remarried. The one who doesn’t have anyone is not me but her. Why should I go find her instead of her coming to find me? Don’t forget how happy she was when she managed to get a divorce from me!”

It was easy for him to find a wife. But based on Xu Shengnan’s temper, it would probably be far more difficult for her to get remarried.

Once Xu Shengnan was badly bashed and battered from trying, she would know how good he had been to her. He believed that Xu Shengnan was bound to regret having forced him to divorce her.

Even after he had his ‘true love’, he had not expected that he would divorce Xu Shengnan for sure. But Xu Shengnan had unexpectedly taken the initiative to ask for it. He was so angry that he could not refuse it.

Fang Shiyu was truly stubborn and Mother Fang could not help it either. After all, if Fang Shiyu was not willing to approach Xu Shengnan, and if Xu Shengnan did not come to find Fang Shiyu, all these would just be the wishful thinking of Mother Fang. No matter how grand her plan was, there was nothing she could do.

But she knew that Fang Shiyu’s stubbornness would not last for long. After his ‘true love’ gave birth to his son, just the money spent on his son’s milk powder and diapers was already a heavy burden to Fang Shiyu. Thankfully, it was not Fang Shiyu’s first time being a father. At least, he still had his daughter, Ling Ling.

So, he had a vague impression that when children grew older, not only would their milk powder become more expensive, but they would even start to eat more every day.

Although this was indeed a son and it had only been two months, Fang Shiyou felt that if he were to continue supporting his son, his mother's words would turn into reality. If they were to feed his son, then the three adults in the family would all go hungry and starve to death!

Fang Shiyou was already trying very hard to control himself. In the past, he had never refused any dinner appointments. But after getting remarried, he had never gone for a dinner appointment even once just to get some relaxation. Now, the situation was so dire that if he chose to support his son, he would not be able to support himself. Fang Shiyou was on the verge of collapsing.

Fang Shiyou could no longer hold it in and began communicating with his 'true love'. After all, she was not young anymore. She could not possibly stay at home as a full-time housewife, right? Moreover, his 'true love' had never cleaned or tidied up her house while she was still single. She had always hired a part-time cleaner to do all her household chores. His 'true love' was not only bad at cleaning up but hopeless in cooking as well.

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If he were to let his 'true love' stay at home, she would do nothing but snack and watch television. There would just be another mouth to feed. When Xu Shengnan was still around, Fang Shiyou did not mind his 'true love' resting at home because that would just show how capable he was. But now, Fang Shiyou could no longer take it. He really needed his 'true love' to chip in financially too.

It did not matter how much she would make. Any amount would help. At least, there would be one less bum to feed. The way Fang Shiyou saw it, it would lessen his burden at the very least.

At first, his 'true love' refused and tried to find various excuses to procrastinate until her son turned four months old.

When Fang Shiyou was on the verge of breaking down, even Mother Fang could not hold on anymore. She took the initiative to discuss the matter with Fang Shiyou. If her new daughter-in-law was unwilling to find a job, there was no way the four of them would survive on her son's salary alone. If there was no other choice, she would go out to work. Even if her salary was low, at least, she would still get an income.

Chapter 1637: Divorcing With What?

She would just take however much she could earn. At this, his 'true love' finally reacted.

"I know that you mother and son despise me and my son for bumming around at home. But Fang Shiyou, do you remember how you coaxed me when you were still chasing me? Do you remember what you promised me? I always felt that I should never believe whatever men say but that you were different. Now, I know that I was too young and innocent. All men are the same. Men's words cannot be trusted. You don't love me anymore. You think I'm a burden to you. You feel that I'm an old hag now that I've given birth to your son. Since you don't treasure me like how you did in the past and have forgotten about our relationship in the past, then I won't bum around in your house anymore and degrade myself."

With such accusations from his 'true love', Fang Shiyou's face flushed red. When he was chasing her, he had indeed said that he was capable of letting her stay at home without working once they got together. He would let her rest easy at home, while he would be responsible for earning enough to support the family. As for her, she would be responsible for keeping up her beautiful appearance.

Unfortunately, he could not fulfill a single promise that he had made to her and had even asked her to find a job. At this, even Fang Shiyou felt a little shameful. Even so, Fang Shiyou gritted his teeth and did not change his mind. Through his silent attitude, he wanted to tell his 'true love' that there was no room for discussion about her going to find a job if they wanted to survive.

Seeing Fang Shiyou's attitude, his 'true love' could not help but sneer. This was the last chance that she had given to her and Fang Shiyou. Since Fang Shiyou was treating her with such an attitude, neither was she going to be polite anymore. "Since you're talking about this, I don't think I have to

be polite anymore. Since you can't keep your promises to me, then there's no point in us continuing our relationship together. Fang Shiyou, let's get a divorce. I'll take our son."

Initially, Fang Shiyou had told her that he had a huge house within the Third Ring neighborhood. But now, it was just a house of barely more than eighty square meters near the Fifth Ring. Where was the hundred-square-meter house that he had promised? Even so, she had not argued with Fang Shiyou and was still willing to get married to him. But now, Fang Shiyou's behavior was simply too disappointing.

Divorce!

Since she was not going to have anything if she stayed with Fang Shiyou, why would she bury herself alive in this grave along with Fang Shiyou?

"What did you say?" Both Fang Shiyou and Mother Fang were flabbergasted. "What did you say? I... I didn't catch you."

"I said I want to get a divorce. I'll take our son. Don't you guys despise my son for spending too much and using expensive things? That's all right. When Fang Shiyou gets divorced from me, I don't need you to support my son. I'll raise him myself. That'll be my own business and nothing to do with you. When that time comes, you mother and son can spend Fang Shiyou's salary on whatever you like. In short, I won't touch a single cent of yours." His 'true love' spoke with a resolute tone, holding her child's hand even more tightly.

Fang Shiyou took a deep breath. "Are you crazy? If you get divorced from me, where can you go? You should know that this house has nothing to do with you! You aren't even Xu Shengnan! I paid for the entire down payment of this house. We haven't even been together for a long time. We got married less than a year ago, and you've never made a single cent of contribution toward the mortgage of this house. If you think that you'll get half of this house when we get divorced, like Xu Shengnan, I think you'd better think again."

If she really angered him, he would bite the bullet and really get a divorce from her.

His 'true love' was entirely different from Xu Shengnan. Xu Shengnan had requested for a divorce because he had wronged Xu Shengnan. It was totally understandable that Xu Shengnan would get angry at him and make such a decision.

But as for his 'true love'? He had thrown away such a good wife for the sake of his 'true love'. And because of this matter, he had not even seen his daughter, Ling Ling, in a long while. So, what rights or reasons did his 'true love' have to request for a divorce from him? Did she feel that threatening him like that would make him give in and allow her to continue bumming around at home?

Impossible!

His 'true love' snorted. "Don't worry. I'm perfectly clear about how Xu Shengnan got divorced from you. I'm indeed not as capable as Xu Shengnan to plot against the two of you. But no matter how capable Xu Shengnan was, didn't you still abandon her without any care? No wonder you two don't like me now. I'm serious about getting a divorce. Let's get it done immediately. It's not the weekend today and I'm sure the officials are still working now. The sooner we get divorced, the sooner the matter will end. I'll bring our son with me. Then, there'll be one less mouth to feed in this household. That'll lessen your burden."

"Stop messing around!" Fang Shiyu tugged on her hand. "If you go on with this nonsense, I might just treat this seriously. Our son is sleeping so well. Hurry and put him back in the room. Aren't you afraid that you'll scare him into crying with your loud voice?"

"Divorce. Quickly. I'll go first. Hurry and follow behind. I'm really going." His 'true love' held her son's hand, not letting Fang Shiyu touch him.

With that, his 'true love' walked ahead of Fang Shiyu, really intending to get a divorce.

Witnessing this situation, Mother Fang was infuriated. "Just look at this! What kind of thing have you married? She's worlds apart from Xu Shengnan! She knows she can't compare to Xu Shengnan, but she's still so brazen! I've never even seen Xu Shengnan act so brazenly after marrying into our family for more than ten years. She's going to be the death of me! Shiyu, your taste in women is really bad!"

Fang Shiyu was utterly confused. "Mom, do you think she's serious about getting a divorce, or do you think she's just threatening me so that she can stay at home and not need to find a job?"

"Of course she's just scaring you. She even has a son with you. What other paths will she be able to take if she gets a divorce from you? She's not Xu Shengnan. Xu Shengnan can rely on herself and can probably make a better life for herself without a man. Just take a look at her. I'm afraid she might starve to death without a man at her side." Mother Fang truly hated her new daughter-in-law. "Just go along with her. Let's see who'll get the last laugh."

With Mother Fang's encouragement, Fang Shiyu helplessly left the house.

When Fang Shiyu arrived downstairs, his 'true love' had already hailed a cab and was waiting for Fang Shiyu. Mother Fang remained upstairs and looked on at the couple below in glee. Did they really think she was an old foggy whose brain no longer functioned? Divorce? How would they get a divorce with no documents with them?

As for this, Mother Fang specially watched the car leave before summarizing the situation into a short text to Fang Shiyu. Upon seeing Mother Fang's text, the initially uneasy Fang Shiyu started to relax. That's right. If they wanted to get a divorce, they would have to alter their marriage certificate into a divorce certificate. They had not even brought anything along. How would they get a divorce?

Forget it. He was the one who had broken his promises to her. He would just let her vent her temper. Once she had finished venting her anger, as long as she was willing to find a job to support the family, this was no big deal to him.

Fang Shiyu walked in through the door full of confidence beside his 'true love'. But when he saw his 'true love' pull out the required documents for a divorce one by one, Fang Shiyu's expression changed drastically. This was not just threatening him so as not to go to work. This was clearly trying to get a divorce from him!

In short, when Mother Fang saw her son again, Fang Shiyu was holding a divorce certificate in his hands. Her son was weak and listless, as though he was a blade of grass that had been dried up by the summer heat in June. "Shiyu, what's wrong with you? What's this?"

She recognized the words carved on it when they were apart. But now that they were put together, she did not understand what it meant.

"What's this?" Fang Shiyu laughed bitterly. "What else could it be? It's a certificate of divorce. She had long taken with her all the documents required for a divorce. She really wanted to get a divorce from me. She even took our son away." It was true. She had taken only their son. She had not taken a single thing in their house.

Fang Shiyu could not understand how he could have gotten divorced twice in a short span of two years. Why did every woman appear so unhesitant and nonchalant when getting a divorce from him? It was as though they were breaking away from a sea of suffering by getting a divorce from him.

Was he that bad?

“Is your wife crazy? Where can she go with a child after getting divorced from you? She won’t even be able to find somewhere to stay today, right? Is she planning to starve to death on the streets with my grandson? No way! I’m not going to let her do that! Hurry and get her back for me. If she wants to leave, I won’t stand in the way. But my grandson has to follow us!” If it was not for a grandson, would the Fang family be willing to lose such a good daughter-in-law like Xu Shengnan?

If even her grandson was taken away, they would have worked so hard for nothing! They would have neither her grandson nor her good daughter-in-law!

At the thought of facing a double loss in her family, Mother Fang was on the verge of going crazy. “Hurry! Where’s she? Bring her back! Remember. The most important thing is to bring my grandson home! That woman is no good person either! It’s probably better that she left. Now, you can get remarried to Xu Shengnan without any other considerations. Tell Xu Shengnan that you find her better than that woman after getting together with her and that you got divorced from that woman just to get her back.”

Now that Mother Fang said those words, she suddenly realized that bad situations could be turned into good ones too. “That’s right. That’s what you should do. Then, I’ll not only have my grandson but Xu Shengnan will also return to your side. With Xu Shengnan around, we’ll be able to live a good life like we did in the past.”

It could be said that that woman’s departure meant a new beginning for the Fang family!

Mother Fang’s idea was great. She thought about the consecutive blows her son had been dealt with. Even a woman like his ‘true love’ who relied on men for their survival could be so decisive and resolute in getting a divorce without a moment of hesitation. Would a woman like Xu Shengnan, who was even stronger than a man, care for him? Would Xu Shengnan rejoice and be willing to reconcile with him just because he wanted to?

Initially, Fang Shiyou knew his own limits at the very least and decided to press on without approaching Xu Shengnan for the fear of being embarrassed if he were to be rejected by Xu Shengnan. But after such a long time, nothing was important anymore. Not even his own dignity. What mattered was reality.

After having toiled for a few years, Fang Shiyou did not care if Xu Shengnan would reject him or whether he still had a place in Xu Shengnan's heart. He knew that he had to win Xu Shengnan back and get remarried to her in order to lead a better life.

Otherwise... There was no otherwise. He could accept a future without Xu Shengnan. Such a future was too dark. He would lose all confidence to live.

In the few years following his divorce from Xu Shengnan, he had had a hard time. If he had to receive retribution for cheating on Xu Shengnan and having an affair, this should make up for it, right?

Moreover, they were still a family after all. Couples always eventually made up after their fights. At their age, what could be better than living together harmoniously?

Fang Shiyou felt that Xu Shengnan would definitely not reject his request to reconcile with her. After the couple had split, he had remarried, but Xu Shengnan had not. Perhaps, Xu Shengnan was planning on reconciling with him too?

As a man, he had ruined his complete family with a single mistake. Since they both meant to reconcile, he did not mind taking the first step. He would just take it as though he was saving Xu Shengnan's dignity and would take the initiative to ask for reconciliation.

What Fang Shiyou had not expected was that Xu Shengnan, who had remained unmarried, expressed her disbelief the moment Fang Shiyou said that he wanted to reconcile. Then, she unexpectedly rejected him. “Fang Shiyou, we’ve been divorced for so many years. We can’t even be friends now. Do you think reconciliation is possible? Are you joking around with me? What will happen to your son’s mother if you remarry me?”

At that time, Xu Shengnan was still in the dark about Fang Shiyou’s situation. She did not know that Fang Shiyou had gotten divorced barely a year after getting married to his ‘true love’. Moreover, his son had even been taken away by his ‘true love’! Even so, she did not think that there was any future with Fang Shiyou. “All right. It’s not April Fool’s Day today. There’s no meaning in you making such a joke. If you’re here to see Ling Ling, I won’t stop you. But I don’t have anything to say to you.”

Xu Shengnan was already bothered by the fact that someone was chasing her at her age. The problem was that the man knew that she had gone through a divorce. Without his help, it would not have been so easy for her to get divorced from Fang Shiyou and prevent Fang Shiyou from taking advantage of her. He knew clearly about her past, so she could not understand why he was still willing to chase a woman like her. Besides, he had been doing so for two years!

The other party had spent two years chasing her. In these two years, he had never once wavered, nor changed his mind because of the appearance of young ladies around him. Xu Shengnan was not a man after all, and neither did she have an iron-clad heart. So of course, Xu Shengnan was not entirely unmoved by this situation.

Because of this matter, Xu Shengnan was already troubled enough. But who would have expected Fang Shiyou to come up to her and make such a ludicrous suggestion today? Xu Shengnan even doubted herself and wondered if she had developed hearing problems.

Chapter 1639: Suspicion

Xu Shengnan was already trying very hard to hold back by not splashing the drink in her hands on Fang Shiyou’s face to wake him up.

Knowing that Fang Shiyou had no other legitimate reason for approaching her, Xu Shengnan did not hesitate to leave. Fang Shiyou, who had been left behind, blinked blankly in confusion. Did that mean that the reason Xu Shengnan had not found someone else after the divorce was not that she had been waiting for him? That was impossible. Xu Shengnan was definitely denying it and lying to him just because of that incident that happened a few years ago.

If he were to give up at this moment, there would really be no chance of him being married to Xu Shengnan again in his entire lifetime.

With his persistent and dauntless spirit, Fang Shiyou's attitude toward Xu Shengnan was even more eager than he had been when the two had first met when they were much younger. He did not treat Xu Shengnan lightly or put in less effort just because this was a remarriage. Now that he had gotten older, Fang Shiyou finally understood that he could no longer work so hard.

In a few years, his elder daughter would graduate and join the workforce. At his age, he was going to reach the retirement age after a few more years of work. But the problem was that currently, not only did he have to work hard, but he even had to reduce his expenses to repay his mortgage.

Once his daughter graduated, even if Xu Shengnan did not help repay the mortgage, at least his daughter could do so. Two people repaying it was better than one. He would put aside the matter of his second child for the time being. Up until now, he only had one daughter. That was Ling Ling. If Ling Ling were to help him repay the mortgage, would this apartment not go to her eventually?

Even after having gotten a divorce, Fang Shiyou did not entirely ignore Xu Shengnan's matters. Initially, Fang Shiyou did not specially keep up with Xu Shengnan's situation.

When the two of them had just gotten divorced, Fang Shiyou had devoted all his passion to his 'true love' and his son. After his 'true love' insisted on getting a divorce out of the blue and even took their son away after the divorce, Fang Shiyou was now helpless and troubled since he had neither

money nor companionship. The thought of having to repay his monthly mortgage and live a bitter life killed Fang Shiyou's mood.

One day, Fang Shiyou was unable to relieve his depression and went for a walk. He unknowingly returned to the gate of that huge house in the Third Ring neighborhood that he had shared with Xu Shengnan. What surprised Fang Shiyou was the sight of Xu Shengnan returning home with a smile on her face and Ling Ling's hand in hers.

Fang Shiyou's first reaction was suspecting that Xu Shengnan felt the same way as he did. Perhaps, after their divorce, she realized that her happiest days were when they had not got divorced and were still living in this house together. So, Xu Shengnan had deliberately brought their daughter back to reminisce about the times that they had together before the incident.

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But before Fang Shiyou got his hopes up, he immediately saw two people that surprised him even more: his former father-in-law and mother-in-law, or in other words, Xu Shengnan's parents.

Mother Xu's dressing was very homely. Just one look at her was enough to conclude that she had no intention of going out. Besides, there was a bag of rubbish in her hands. That clearly meant that she had just come out of the house and was intending to return home immediately after throwing away the rubbish. As for Father Xu, he was dressed casually, and he was rather relaxed as well.

Fang Shiyou had lived in this estate for a good eight to nine years. Upon seeing the direction that Father Xu was taking, he was clearly heading to the neighborhood minimart. No one would head directly to the large supermarkets if they were just occasionally out of some basic ingredients at home. For the sake of convenience, they would head to the neighborhood minimart at times like this.

Evidently, Father Xu's house was just lacking some small items. That was why he was headed to the minimart. But the problem was that Father Xu and Mother Xu did not live here. Why had the two of them come down from there? And why did they act as though they lived here?

Fang Shiyou could not hold in his curiosity. After registering his name under the visitors' list, he entered the neighborhood to take a look. When he saw Father Xu return happily with a bottle of soy sauce, Fang Shiyou hid himself once again and personally saw Father Xu enter the elevator. Only after the elevator doors shut did he run to the elevator and watch the ever-changing numbers on the elevator display, which stopped at the number that he had pressed for eight to nine years.

The same neighborhood, the same block, and the same floor.

Did such coincidences really exist in this world? Did Xu Shengnan's family really purchase an apartment in the same building as their previous apartment? Moreover, the property prices in this neighborhood had long ago risen beyond affordable prices. Even if it was Xu Shengnan, she could not have purchased it so easily.

Fang Shiyou had reasons to believe that the Xu family was staying in the exact same apartment that he and Xu Shengnan had purchased in the past.

With such speculation and suspicion, Fang Shiyou left with a dark expression.

In the next few days, Fang Shiyou spent a Herculean effort to figure out this housing situation. When he had gotten divorced from Xu Shengnan, they had indeed sold the house to someone whom they did not know. But within a month's time, the apartment had once again landed up in Xu Shengnan's hands.

Fang Shiyou was no fool either. His divorce from Xu Shengnan had indeed happened a few years ago. But even then, Xu Shengnan could not have coughed up such a huge sum of money to pay for the apartment in such a short period of time. So, there must have been someone who had helped Xu Shengnan get the house back into her possession.

At this moment, Fang Shiyou did not even think about anyone else. The first person who came to mind was naturally Qiao Nan. Ever since he learned from his mother that Xu Shengnan's close junior was such a brilliant figure, one could tell at first glance just how envious Fang Shiyou was.

Naturally, Fang Shiyou could not think of anyone else who had such a huge sum of money lying around to help Xu Shengnan settle the matter of the house. There could only be one person: Xu Shengnan's junior.

Ever since he moved away from this apartment, his houses had only gotten smaller and further away from the city center. On the other hand, Xu Shengnan had happily moved into their previous apartment along with her parents and was now living comfortably. What right did she have to do that? Just because she had an outstanding junior?

Fang Shiyou could not hold this in any longer. In the end, he spilled the truth of the matter to his mother. It felt like a stab in the back. Up until now, Mother Fang was still unable to forget their previous apartment. But who would have expected that Father and Mother Xu, whom she had looked down on for coming from the countryside, were now living there in her place! Mother Fang was just short of screaming her lungs out that the Xu family was shameless to have snatched their Fang family's house.

Chapter 1640: I'm the Person You're Waiting For

In the end, after Fang Shiyou discussed with his mother for a long time, they decided to come up with a plan: Fang Shiyou had to pursue Xu Shengnan, win her back, and remarry her. Xu Shengnan was the one who caused them to lose that grandson previously. As such, after they remarried, Xu Shengnan would still have to give birth to a son for the Fang family.

Otherwise, their two families would owe three houses. Was it that easy to buy a house in the capital? It was already remarkable if an ordinary family could own one house. They were

considered rich if they had three houses. This property alone would be worth at least tens of millions of yuan!

If such a property wasn't passed down to a grandson of the Fang family, could it be that it would be left to Ling Ling and her future husband after she got married? What use was there to give birth to a daughter? She would be like Xu Shengnan. No matter how much she earned, these would all belong to the Fang family. Only by giving birth to a son would these things be passed down from generation to generation in the Fang family.

After having this idea, Fang Shiyou started to work on Xu Shengnan. After pursuing her for two to three months, he realized that not only did Xu Shengnan's attitude to him not become better, but she had become irritated and started to avoid him. Fang Shiyou didn't hesitate to choose the second route and started to work on Xu Shengnan's parents and Xu Ling Ling.

Of course, Xu Shengnan's parents liked Ling Ling. However, they felt that their daughter was still young. When Ling Ling grew up, not only would she head out to study, but she would also marry someone someday. Both of them were old and the time that they could spend with their daughter was getting lesser and lesser. Without a doubt, they would feel the safest if Xu Shengnan could find another good man to marry.

In the past, no matter how they persuaded, Xu Shengnan refused to date another man. After a long time, it was inevitable Xu Shengnan's parents would misunderstand that Xu Shengnan's unwillingness to find another man was because she still couldn't forget Fang Shiyou.

If that was really the case, it didn't matter if they liked Fang Shiyou or not. It was enough as long as their daughter was happy in the future. After being led around the nose by Fang Shiyou, Xu Shengnan's parents felt that since their daughter hadn't forgotten Fang Shiyou and that an original couple was still the best, they agreed to help Fang Shiyou.

Once Xu Shengnan's parents' attitude changed, Xu Shengnan immediately became at a loss. She had no choice but to look for Qiao Nan to come up with an idea.

Qiao Nan let Xu Shengnan drink some water to soothe her throat. “Do you know that for families in China, what most parents lack with their children is communication? They naturally want you to find another man so that he could accompany you in the future. Otherwise, they would be worried that you’ll be alone if Ling Ling gets married in the future. When you fall ill, there won’t be anyone by your side to take care of you. You have to let them know what kind of life would make you happy and what kind of life you could no longer accept. Also, I think you can bring Ling Ling into the picture. Don’t underestimate your daughter. Who knows? Ling Ling might be better than you when it comes to persuading your parents.”

After all, this was someone else’s family affairs. Back then, Qiao Nan had intervened enough. That was why Qiao Nan wasn’t willing to do so much now. Furthermore, Ling Ling would be an adult who could get her identity card in two years’ time.

Nowadays, there were a lot of people who could help Xu Shengnan solve problems together. She wasn’t lacking her.

“Ling Ling?” Xu Shengnan was very surprised that Qiao Nan would mention Ling Ling. “Do you think Ling Ling would want to live together with her father?” She was moved by that man. She could clearly feel thoughtfulness and peace of mind from that man, which was something she could never experience from Fang Shiyou in the past.

Even if it was not for this man, she was actually not willing to be together with Fang Shiyou again.

“Rather than hesitating, worrying, and feeling scared here, why don’t you be more open about it? Indeed, it shows that you’re in love. What happened to your IQ? Don’t be scared. Have an open conversation with your family. I assure you that there would be surprises.” She didn’t know if other children would feel vulnerable under such circumstances, but she dared say that Ling Ling wouldn’t.

Under Qiao Nan's encouragement, Xu Shengnan finally mustered up the courage and had a conversation with her family.

The end result was that Fang Shiyou would never be able to see Xu Shengnan's parents again. After knowing that their daughter no longer had any feelings for Fang Shiyou and didn't want to be together with him and instead had someone else in her heart, why else would they care about Fang Shiyou, the b*stard ex-son-in-law?

What a joke!

Ling Ling's attitude was firmer. She liked a new father. She had not seen her birth father for so many years and couldn't remember clearly how he looked like. She only remembered the existence of such a person.

Yes, Xu Ling Ling knew that there was an uncle who was pursuing her mother. Seeing that her mother didn't agree to this uncle's pursuit, she was also worried that her mother still liked that bad father of the past. If that was really the case, Ling Ling couldn't possibly stop her mother from being together with her bad father just because she liked that uncle, right?

Thankfully, once someone started talking about it, it wasn't difficult to say the words that followed. In fact, all the misunderstandings had been cleared. Everyone understood that they were just caring too much about one another's feelings and had thus misunderstood one another. They were a family. After talking things out, they smiled and were ready to embrace the better days.

Because of this incident, Xu Shengnan, who had been hesitating, finally accepted this boyfriend. Both of them even discussed to get the marriage certificate three months later. Although they might not have been in love for a long time, they had known each other for five to six years. Coupled with the two years he had been pursuing her, their understanding of each other was definitely deeper than that of ordinary people.

When Fang Shiyou came knocking on the door again, he didn't see anyone from the Xu family. Instead, it was a person whom he had never seen before.

He had dressed up, deliberately went to the salon to get a new hairstyle, and wore a suit which he had just bought. Fang Shiyou came early to the meeting venue and waited for Xu Shengnan to appear. He imagined that the two of them would reconcile after sitting down, and if everything went smoothly, they could get the marriage certificate tomorrow.

It was just that when this man appeared in front of him, all the beautiful images in Fang Shiyou's mind disappeared. "Sorry, someone is taking this seat." Didn't he see someone as big as him? If he wanted to take a seat, he should have sat to the side. "Although she hasn't arrived yet, I think there isn't a shortage of seats at this time, and there isn't a need for us to share tables."

"I'm the person you're waiting for."