

RTAMM 1651

Chapter 1651: Capable

Just the thought of that possibility utterly disgusted the secretary.

In an instant, the secretary understood that Sun Guohong had intentionally made a call to him to remind him to not be cheated by Sun Guoming and Mother Sun. "I'm reminding you that our Guohong is not just an ordinary person. He's a soldier. Soldiers' marriages are not recognized legally just because you've organized a wedding in the village. Besides, Guohong himself didn't even turn up for this wedding! Our society isn't like before. You can't get married just like that. Even after today's wedding, Yanyan will have nothing to do with Guohong, and neither will she be part of Guohong's family. Guohong's household register is no longer under the village. Before Old Sun left, he already set up an individual household register for Guohong. Once Guohong finds someone that he likes and is suitable, he can get married to her."

Apart from wasting money, there was nothing to gain from this wedding that Mother Sun had organized.

Thinking about how materialistic Mother Sun was, the villagers did not bother to give them any red packets for the wedding. There was no choice. Sun Guohong had not returned for this wedding. Besides, Mother Sun had said that they would hold another wedding when Sun Guohong took time off to return to the village. It was just that they could not put the wedding off any longer due to Yanyan's baby.

So as to give Yanyan and her baby a proper status, they had to settle for a simple wedding without Sun Guohong present.

Even though they did not receive any red packets, Mother Sun had spent quite a sum of money on a good spread of fish and meat at the wedding. At the thought of Mother Sun's loss from organizing this wedding, the secretary was a little happy. "Alright, I'm not going to waste any more time on you. I have to tell Nier to pack her things and return all the things that Sun Guoming has given her."

After that, the secretary paid no heed to Mother Sun and rushed home angrily. He then instructed his wife to find everything that the Sun family had sent them so as to return them all to the Sun family. They would return whatever his daughter had received from Sun Guoming if they could. For the things that they had already used, they would use money to offset it.

The moment the secretary's wife and daughter learned that the child in Yanyan's stomach was definitely not Sun Guohong's, and could even be Sun Guoming's, they were both stunned and flushed with anger. "The Sun family is such a bully! How can they do such shameless things? Call it off! We have to call this marriage off! It's not as though our daughter won't be able to get married. In the first place, I wasn't even happy with Sun Guoming becoming my son-in-law. He's not worthy of our daughter! No matter how outstanding Sun Guohong is, Sun Guoming can't become Sun Guohong!"

It was true that Sun Guohong was much older than Sun Guoming, but he would much rather let his daughter marry Sun Guohong than have a son-in-law like Sun Guoming. Who would have known that Sun Guoming was even worse and even more shameless than everyone had expected? "Nier, don't cry. It's good that we found out about this early. If we only found out after you married into the family, we would really have to cry then. You're still young, and our family background is good. You won't have to worry about finding someone better than Sun Guoming. I'll tell you what. I'll get a few guys back for you to choose from."

The secretary's wife was a very decisive person. Once she made a decision, she did not hesitate for even just a moment and immediately took out all the things that the Sun family had given them. The secretary's daughter did not feel much for Sun Guoming either. It was just her father who felt that Sun Guohong was sure to make a name for himself in the future. After his daughter, Nier, married Sun Guoming and had a child, her child would have a powerful and intelligent uncle like Sun Guohong. Then, that child would be destined to be much more capable than his grandfather.

Chapter 1652: Not Going To Be a Solider Anymore

After knowing that she and Sun Guoming were an unmarried couple, he even entangled himself with another woman, who was his future sister-in-law. The secretary's daughter felt hurt and disgusted. She insisted on backing out from the marriage without a word.

Backing out from the marriage would worsen her reputation. However, if she continued to be with such a man, she was afraid that she would lose more face than if Sun Guoming created more trouble in the future and did something more embarrassing.

The secretary's family moved so quickly that before Mother Sun and Sun Guoming could think of ways to salvage the situation, the dowry they had sent to the secretary's family before was all returned. "In the future, Sun Guoming has nothing to do with our Nier. It's none of their business who they choose to marry. Also, I warn you. We have already backed out from the marriage. Everything that belonged to you is already here. If anyone dares to say that you are related to our Nier or badmouth her, don't blame me for being rude!"

Specify terms clearly at first and use a good deal of courtesy later.

Mother Sun was so perverse that she said Sun Guoming's child was Sun Guohong's. When Sun Guohong wasn't at home, she even held Sun Guohong's and Yanyan's wedding banquet secretly, just like how it was that year when Sun Guohong got engaged.

How was this a birth mother? Even a bandit wasn't as formidable as Mother Sun.

Mother Sun had already treated her birth son this way. Would the secretary expect Mother Sun to show mercy to his daughter? The secretary knew it clearly in his heart what Mother Sun was up to.

He didn't have a son. Even if Nier didn't get engaged with Sun Guoming, on account of Sun Guohong, he had wondered if he should give Sun Guoming a chance. After that, the two of them

would become in-laws. The secretary no longer had other thoughts about Sun Guoming. Mother Sun had also set her sights on this. It was a good phenomenon for both families to be working together.

However, it was definitely impossible for the secretary to help Sun Guoming now. Moreover, he had to guard against Mother Sun from doing shameless things, ruining his daughter's reputation, and forcing his daughter to get married to Sun Guoming.

The secretary smiled coldly. It was already the 21st century now. To put it bluntly, if Sun Guoming dared to force himself on his Nier, he would sue Sun Guoming and make him go to jail! He had already sorted out his thoughts even in this aspect. What other ways could Mother Sun and Sun Guoming come up with to force him to commit a crime?

"In-law, no. It's really a misunderstanding. Don't listen to Guohong's nonsense. Who else could the child in Yanyan's stomach be if not his? You can't let Guoming take the rap for Guohong. Guohong was the one who created this trouble. You have to know that Guoming is about to become your son-in-law soon. Why didn't you believe Guoming? Why believe the words of an outsider like Guohong?" Mother Sun was about to cry. This was such a good marriage.

One had to be realistic. It was already enough that Guoming could be the village secretary. However, without a powerful father-in-law, Guoming's plans of being a secretary could be considered to be completely ruined.

No. Absolutely no. She couldn't let Guoming's bright future be ruined just like that. "Secretary, can you let me explain this to you?"

"No!" The secretary fell out with her. "I've said it before. I don't care which son of yours is the father of the child your daughter-in-law is pregnant with. This is your family's affair. You just need to know it yourself. I'm just an outsider. Why do I want to know so much? Don't call me in-law anymore. Our family will not agree to this."

Without a doubt, the marriage between Sun Guoming and the secretary's daughter was unsuccessful. Mother Sun didn't have the ability to turn the tide.

The secretary was willing to let his daughter marry Sun Guoming because he had a successful brother, Sun Guohong. Now that he knew that Sun Guoming had done something sorry to Sun Guohong, as a man, the secretary understood that the relationship between the two men would be broken.

No one would have been able to accept such a matter.

With a brother like Sun Guoming and a mother like Mother Sun, Sun Guohong was really unlucky.

The secretary was right. Ever since that incident, Sun Guohong no longer contacted anyone from the Sun family. That was not it. In the past, Sun Guohong would not keep a single cent of the allowance he earned in the army. Instead, he would send all of it back to Mother Sun. With this amount of money, Mother Sun was able to build a three-story building for Sun Guoming in the village.

Sun Guohong no longer sent any allowance home. Sun Guoming's work was easy and he didn't earn a lot of money. He didn't have enough money to spend on himself, let alone providing for the family. The Sun family's days became difficult. It really wasn't easy to lead a life without money.

Without Sun Guohong's allowance, the Sun family immediately had a lot of difficulties to cope with. With everything happening at once, Mother Sun, who was in a sorry plight, threw a huge tantrum. She cursed and swore at Sun Guohong before contacting him in the army. She wanted to urge Sun Guohong to send money back home quickly. Not a single cent could be missed from the two months that he didn't send back any money.

There were a lot of expenses. Now, they had to feed Yanyan as well. Yanyan was Sun Guohong's wife. The son Yanyan was pregnant with didn't belong to Sun Guohong. If Sun Guohong didn't provide for this family, then who would?

Mother Sun thought of a hundred reasons that could force Sun Guohong to resend allowance to her in her heart. However, they weren't as powerful as the words the people in the army told her. "Oh, you're looking for Commander Sun? How are you related to him? Oh, it's auntie. That's strange. Commander Sun is no longer a soldier. He left the army two months ago. Hasn't he returned home?" Even if he was walking, he should have walked home by now, right?

"What? He's no longer a soldier? How could that be? Could it be that the army no longer wants him now that he has suffered some injuries?" Mother Sun was shocked. "How can the army do something like this? Didn't he get injured because of you? His injuries have recovered and they don't affect his movement now. On what basis do you not want him anymore and chased him out of the army?"

The monthly allowance that the country gave to its soldiers was quite a huge amount. It was enough to let her build a building in her hometown. Most importantly, Sun Guohong stayed in the army every day. The army had provided for all his needs. Even if he had money, there was nowhere for him to spend. As such, Sun Guohong sent all his monthly allowance back home to her.

Thus, Mother Sun was really reluctant to lose the money the army provided. If it was possible, she really hoped that Sun Guohong would be a soldier forever. That way, the money which Sun Guohong had nowhere to spend on could all be given to Sun Guoming and provide him for life.

The other party could neither laugh nor cry. He didn't explain much to Mother Sun either. "I think you're mistaken. Commander Sun was the one who wanted to leave. It's naturally impossible for the army not to want Commander Sun. After all, Commander Sun is a very outstanding soldier."

Chapter 1653: Called Off

Left on his own?

Mother Sun's expression darkened. What a scoundrel! "Then, do you know where he went? How about his address? Do you have a way to contact him? I need to contact him urgently. I... I'm sick with a very serious illness. I'm going to die soon. If he doesn't contact me, I might not even get to meet him for the last time before I die!"

From Mother Sun's tone that was full of vigor, it was hard for Madam Fang to believe that she was about to die from an illness. "I'm sorry. When Commander Sun left, he didn't leave any contact details. I don't know where Commander Sun is either. I'm sorry. Someone else is calling me. Goodbye."

"Why did Sun Guohong leave the military at that time?" Qiao Nan lifted up her head to look at Zhai Sheng. "You probably couldn't bear to let him leave either, right? You put so much effort into cultivating him into a company commander. It would have been a huge loss if he were just to leave like that."

"Exactly!" Zhai Sheng sighed. He had indeed put in a lot of effort in grooming Sun Guohong into a company commander. "Sun Guohong had a chat with me, and I agreed with Sun Guohong. As a soldier, he represented the military. With his mom around, his mom would continuously make unreasonable requests. To protect the military, Sun Guohong had no grounds to reject his mom. Otherwise, Mother Sun might even slander the military by saying that Chinese soldiers don't care for the elderly and are even willing to let their younger brothers die, while the soldiers themselves lead good lives. It's just that Sun Guohong was no longer willing to unreservedly send his salary back home anymore. He felt too aggrieved to do so."

Now that Sun Guohong's mentality had changed, he was afraid that he would no longer be able to remain calm and collected while completing his mission and protecting the country even if he were to stay on in the military. After much hesitation, Sun Guohong finally made the decision to leave the military, giving up his career as a soldier that he was so passionate about.

“I’m sure you know what line of work Sun Guohong is in now. Only after he stabilized his career did he continue sending money back to the Sun family. But what was different from the past was that he was now only willing to send his mother’s share back home. In the countryside, the Sun family could grow their own rice and vegetables. Since they wouldn’t spend much, Sun Guohong did not give much money either.”

But the difference was that Sun Guohong was earning much more than he did in the military now that he was a private detective with his own company. He earned more but gave his family less. Thankfully, Mother Sun and the Sun family did not know about this. Otherwise, Mother Sun would definitely fly into a rage.

“But Mother Sun had really fallen ill and had even been hospitalized. Mother Sun had not yet found a way to contact Sun Guohong, but Sun Guohong had already paid off her hospital bills in advance!” That was Sun Guohong’s limit.

Qiao Nan frowned. “What if Mother Sun used the money meant for her hospital bills on Sun Guoming? What if she was hospitalized again in the next few days? What would happen then?” Ding Jiayi had done this to her in the past.

“Nothing much.” Zhai Sheng could laugh with great ease. Obviously, this situation had not baffled Sun Guohong. “Sun Guohong had already forked out money for Mother Sun’s hospitalization. If Mother Sun were to get hospitalized again, Sun Guohong would wash his hands off the matter. Sun Guohong had already helped out. How could he let Mother Sun ask for limitless access to money just because she fell sick just this once?”

It had to be said that without the burden of a soldier’s status, Sun Guohong no longer restrained himself in getting back at Mother Sun. He could even swear that he had done nothing wrong and thus had a clear conscience.

Mother Sun was really ill, and the family did not have much money. Once Sun Guohong hardened his attitude, Mother Sun had no other choice unless she was willing to endure the torturous pain until she died. So Mother Sun had no choice but to return that money so as to treat her illness.

Afterward, Mother Sun tried to extract money from Sun Guohong once again. The last time, Mother Sun had indeed been sick. But this time, Mother Sun was only faking it. She insisted on being hospitalized for a mere cold just because it would cost more to stay in the hospital.

She was thinking of immediately withdrawing the money once Sun Guohong transferred it to her. It was just a cold after all. She could simply treat it with any over-the-counter medications that would cost less than a hundred yuan.

But who would have known that the very day that Mother Sun was warded in the hospital, someone passed a hundred yuan note to Mother Sun, saying that someone had asked her to pass it on to her?

At first, Mother Sun was confused and wondered who could have given her this hundred yuan. But until the second day of her hospitalization, she had not yet heard any news of Sun Guohong transferring money for her hospital bills over to her. It was then that Mother Sun suddenly realized that this hundred yuan was from Sun Guohong. It was meant for her to seek treatment for her cold.

Right then and there, Mother Sun broke out in tears. It was only a hundred yuan. It would not even be enough to pay for her hospital bills, let alone buy extra medications for her cold. In the end, Sun Guoming had to fork out a part of his salary to pay for Mother Sun's hospital bills before Mother Sun was able to leave the hospital.

After this happened twice, Mother Sun finally learned her lesson and did not dare to risk her own health to ask Sun Guohong for any more money. She knew that Sun Guohong would not be deceived. Even though he had not appeared in front of her for a few years, he must be watching from afar and know about her situation like the back of his hand.

So there was no way that she could ever successfully deceive Sun Guohong, and neither could she cheat Sun Guohong of his money. If Mother Sun were to continue with her antics, what she would sacrifice was not Sun Guohong's money but Sun Guoming's.

“Smart.” Qiao Nan gave him a thumbs-up. It was only because she had been reincarnated that she had thought of ways to deal with Ding Jiayi and Qiao Zijin. As a native, Sun Guohong was much smarter than her by not being calculative about the past. But when Sun Guohong finally came to a realization, the Sun family was no longer able to take advantage of Sun Guohong. “What about that child? Since his marriage to the secretary’s daughter was called off and that child was Sun Guoming’s, could Mother Sun bear to give up her eldest grandchild?”

Zhai Sheng patted Qiao Nan’s back and stroked it. “It can be said that Mother Sun’s wish came true. You could tell from just one look that Sun Guohong’s fiancée was a very scheming person. If she had not coaxed Mother Sun at that time, there was no way she could have had the chance to become Sun Guohong’s fiancée.”

“She lived in the village and thus knew that Sun Guohong was the most promising person in the Sun family, but the one who was most favored was Sun Guoming. Mother Sun had taken all of Sun Guohong’s hard-earned money and used it all on Sun Guoming. She had even constructed a house for Sun Guoming, and that house was under Sun Guoming’s name. She refused to let her husband’s hard-earned money go to supporting someone else’s husband. That was why she plotted such a scheme to get into a relationship with Sun Guoming. She clearly had other plans in mind.”

Chapter 1654: Second Relationship

“She was intending on letting Sun Guohong support her entire family, including her, her husband, and their children.”

1

But what that woman had not expected was that Mother Sun was even more scheming than she was! Mother Sun already had her eyes on the secretary’s daughter as her younger daughter-in-law.

Unfortunately, when Sun Guoming and the secretary’s daughter got engaged, she was already Sun Guoming’s woman. Since that was a fact that could not be altered, that woman chose to stay with

Sun Guoming. That way, Mother Sun would take better care of her too. She even had a joke whenever she saw Mother Sun. After all, Sun Guoming was Mother Sun's favorite son, and he even constantly reminded Mother Sun that Yanyan was a good young lady.

It was not until Yanyan got pregnant with Sun Guoming's child did Mother Sun find out about the relationship between her elder daughter-in-law and her younger son.

"Even after the marriage between Sun Guoming and the secretary's daughter was called off, Mother Sun was unwilling to let the matter slide. She felt that she had already found the first, so she would definitely be able to find a second one. Anyway, she had already organized a wedding for Yanyan and Sun Guohong, so Yanyan was her elder daughter-in-law. Naturally, she would be able to find an even better younger daughter-in-law for Sun Guoming. Unfortunately, the news had already spread like wildfire, and every single young lady whom Mother Sun had her eyes on already knew that the child in Yanyan's stomach was not Sun Guohong's but Sun Guoming's."

"..." Qiao Nan understood that Mother Sun still wanted to find Sun Guoming a bride who had a better family background and whose family could give Sun Guoming a helping hand, but this was now impossible. Ordinary young ladies were not even willing to go for a blind date with Sun Guoming, let alone those young ladies with good family backgrounds.

He had once enjoyed a glorious past as the secretary's son-in-law, but now, no decent young lady was even willing to meet with him. In short, there was no one else Sun Guoming could marry but Yanyan. The only young lady who was willing to put aside everything to meet Sun Guoming was Yanyan alone. "So that's to say that Yanyan eventually gave birth to a son and Mother Sun really got a grandson?"

"Yes."

"So Sun Guoming married Yanyan?" That was quite a good ending. A bast*rd with a wh*re. It was not that Qiao Nan wanted to put Yanyan down, but Yanyan had really done some downright despicable things. Without Sun Guohong's assistance, she would have married an abusive old man long ago. Sun Guohong had simply done a good deed, but Yanyan firmly clung on to him. And that

was how Sun Guohong decided to take on the responsibility and marry her. But Yanyan did not cherish such a good man like Sun Guohong, and she even got together with Sun Guoming...

Toward such a woman, Qiao Nan could not, in good conscience, give her a 'good rating'.

"No." Zhai Sheng sneered. "Sun Guoming's son should be around ten years old, but this is Sun Guoming's first marriage."

"??" Two question marks appeared in Qiao Nan's eyes. How about Yanyan? If the child was around, then what about his mother?"

"She ran away right after giving birth." Because Sun Guohong had stopped sending money back to his family for three to four months, the Sun family could no longer afford their own expenses. Mother Sun favored Sun Guoming, so it was all right for Sun Guoming to have a job with a low salary as long as it was comfortable and easy for him. But with Sun Guohong's allowance in the past, Sun Guoming's monthly expenses exceeded twice of his own salary!

1

Without Sun Guohong's allowance, the Sun family's lifestyle underwent a drastic change. With no good life in sight, there was no way that woman would have suffered and stayed on in the Sun family or even get married to Sun Guoming. What she valued was Sun Guohong's money after all.

Even if she were to become Sun Guoming's wife, she would not get to touch a single cent of Sun Guohong's money. And so, the Sun family was no longer attractive to that woman. After toiling for eight months in the Sun family, she immediately disappeared with no trace after giving birth and serving her confinement period. Sun Guoming did not have a wife, but he did not lack a son anymore.

After listening to Sun Guohong's story, Qiao Nan could not help but yawn. "Alright, I'll take care of Sun Guohong's matter. I can tell that Senior Xu actually likes Sun Guohong, and Ling Ling has already accepted Sun Guohong as well. The only troublesome part is Senior Xu's parents." Both of them had once been hurt in their relationships. Because of this, they would probably cherish each other and their family even more after getting together.

"Go to sleep." Zhai Sheng covered the blanket over Qiao Nan. He knew that as long as Qiao Nan agreed to this matter, Sun Guohong would definitely be able to get married by the end of this year. Xu Shengnan got along well with Qiao Nan, and Father and Mother Xu had always treated Qiao Nan as Xu Shengnan and the Xu family's benefactor. If Qiao Nan were to interfere in the matter, Father and Mother Xu would never reject Sun Guohong as a son-in-law.

1

Having finally settled the matter of Sun Guohong's marriage, Zhai Sheng was quite happy. He had so many soldiers under him, but Sun Guohong was probably the most pitiful. At that time, if that incident between Sun Guoming and Yanyan had not happened, Sun Guohong would probably have stayed on loyally in the military and devoted his life to being a soldier, even if his mother was a little overbearing.

He was accountable to the country and its people, but Sun Guohong himself was betrayed by his closest kin. Thinking about how Sun Guohong was finally getting a new lease of life at the age of forty, Zhai Sheng was immensely grateful. Thankfully, he had met Nan Nan early and had formed a happy and complete family with Nan Nan.

Staying alone until the age of forty and enduring another decade before getting married seemed like such a lonely life to lead.

Zhai Sheng felt that he was getting old and felt sorry, and even fearful, about whatever Sun Guohong had experienced throughout the years. Thankfully, he was much luckier than Sun Guohong. Early on in his life, he had met the right one and had even written the best ending possible.

Father and Mother Xu did not understand Sun Guohong, but neither did they want to. But once Qiao Nan appeared, the standstill between Xu Shengnan and Sun Guohong was finally broken and changed for the better. But that was all Qiao Nan was going to do for Sun Guohong. She just hoped that Father and Mother Xu would give Sun Guohong a chance to introduce himself and that they would be more willing to try to get to know Sun Guohong better.

If Father and Mother Xu still felt that Sun Guohong was unsuitable as Xu Shengnan's husband and Ling Ling's stepfather after all these, Qiao Nan expressed that she would not interfere in whatever followed. Neither would she try to persuade Father and Mother Xu.

But Sun Guohong was a good man after all. What he lacked was an opportunity to show himself off in front of Father and Mother Xu. If Sun Guohong was not desperate to have a family of his own with Xu Shengnan, he could probably get it done in two or three years with his own capability.

But the problem was that both Sun Guohong and Xu Shengnan were in their forties. They did not have two to three years to spare. Otherwise, they would not have set their wedding date to be three months later after coming to a mutual understanding. Qiao Nan's presence gave Sun Guohong this opportunity to rapidly move Father and Mother Xu.

As one could imagine, on the day he got married to Xu Shengnan, he sincerely gave a red packet of a significant sum to Qiao Nan.

Chapter 1655: Shameless

However, to Qiao Nan nowadays, she had no feelings no matter how much money was in Sun Guohong's red packet. It was simply because she knew how to earn money well.

After accepting Sun Guohong sincerely, the more Xu Shengnan's parents looked at Sun Guohong, the more satisfied they felt about him being their son-in-law. They felt that he was so much better than Fang Shiyu. Thankfully, they didn't miss out on such a good son-in-law and didn't let Xu Shengnan miss out on such a good man.

Indeed, Qiao Nan was their daughter's greatest blessing in this lifetime. Even if something was initially bad, it would eventually turn into something good after their daughter met Qiao Nan.

After Fang Shiyu received news that Xu Shengnan was now married to Sun Guohong, he couldn't accept it at all. He initially wanted to kick up a fuss in the Xu family such that they wouldn't dare to let Xu Shengnan marry Sun Guohong.

Thankfully, the Xu family was long prepared. When Fang Shiyu came running to the Xu family as if he was looking for his enemy, he couldn't even enter the main gate of the community, let alone kick up a fuss. The security officer had blocked his way at the door.

1

Before Xu Shengnan officially married Sun Guohong, Fang Shiyu had tried all means. He even made a trip to Xu Lingling's school, wanting to persuade her to stop Xu Shengnan from getting married. He didn't believe that he would be the only one who was unhappy and unwilling to agree to Xu Shengnan marrying Sun Guohong.

Xu Lingling's reaction should be stronger than his. From then on, there would be another person in the Xu family, and Xu Shengnan would no longer belong to Xu Lingling alone. He was different. He was Xu Lingling's birth father. As long as he remarried Xu Shengnan, their family would be reunited. As long as Xu Lingling stood on his side, he believed that he stood a chance of success.

In the beginning, Xu Lingling didn't plan to see Fang Shiyu. However, upon thinking that her mother was about to get married, she hoped that Fang Shiyu would also find another partner seriously and not disturb her and her mother's lives from then on.

After her mother married Father Sun, she felt that Father Sun would definitely not be happy if he saw her father coming over to find her mother often.

What Xu Lingling didn't expect was that before she could say her words of persuasion, Fang Shiyou's words stunned her and she nearly couldn't answer him. "Dad, after saying so much, do you mean for me to commit suicide so that I can force my mother not to get married?"

"Silly child. I've already said that it's a fake suicide, not a real one. You're my only daughter. Can I really let you die? However, your mother is about to get married to that man. Aside from this method, I can't think of any other ways. Don't worry. Nothing will happen to you. At most, you will suffer minor injuries. If you don't get injured, your mother would take it as you lying to her, and she wouldn't take your words seriously. Ling Ling, for the sake of our happiness, this little pain is worth it. Don't worry. When your mother agrees to remarry me and dumps that man surnamed Sun, I will definitely make it up to you. When that happens, I'll give you the house that your grandparents are living in as a dowry. I guarantee that when you get married in the future, your in-laws wouldn't dare to belittle you."

There were three houses anyway. He would definitely feel the pinch for giving one to Ling Ling as dowry. However, no pain, no gain. He had two houses left anyway. He would leave them to his and Xu Shengnan's son.

This time, if he had the opportunity to remarry Xu Shengnan, he promised not to be promiscuous in the future and do anything sorry to Xu Shengnan. He would lead a good and honest life with Xu Shengnan. Compared to those women outside, Xu Shengnan was so much better. With such a good wife like Xu Shengnan, he should count his blessings.

Xu Lingling smiled. "Dad, don't worry. After Mom marries Uncle Sun, the house that grandpa and grandma are living in and our current house would all belong to me. Uncle Sun said that if there's a need, he can give me another house. Dad, you should leave your house for yourself. Indeed, it has nothing much to do with me. As for the dowry for my future marriage, Uncle Sun has already considered this for me. You don't have to bother yourself with it."

Even if her mother didn't have a husband, she would have two houses at least. If her father remarried her mother, the number of houses she had would become less. Even if she had never looked at the topic of whether her mother should remarry because of the number of houses she would receive, Xu Lingling couldn't help but feel disappointed when she heard her father say this.

It turned out that only a son and a house was in the mind of her birth father. "Dad, the reason why I came here to see you today is to tell you that Mom has already found her happiness, and I hope you can too. I know that the little boy that auntie previously gave birth to had nothing to do with you. I didn't grow up with you by my side as well. Since you're still young, quickly go and find a woman who's good to you, marry her, then try for another child."

After her father had another child, he could basically treat her as dead.

However, even if her father didn't have another child, he could similarly treat her as dead. Anyway, in her heart, her birth father had the image of death. Well, a 'dead' father and a 'dead' daughter were fine, then. No one owed anyone.

It was enough that she had such a father. If he came to look for her in the future, she wouldn't appear nine out of ten times.

After saying this sentence, Xu Lingling placed a hundred yuan note on the table. "Dad, we didn't get to have a lot of time to interact with each other. However, that's fine. The money here comes from the pocket money Uncle Sun gave me. Even though I didn't earn this, make do with it first. I'll treat you to this cup of milk tea today."

Her birth father had spent money on women outside. However, her stepfather gave her quite a bit of money such that she didn't have to worry about money at all. If all the stepfathers in this world were as good as Uncle Sun, then those with a 'step' in their names wouldn't become a synonym for bad people. In their family, this stepfather was so much better than the birth father.

“You...” Fang Shiyou was so angry his face turned green. “Are you really prepared to watch your mother marry another man? Don’t forget that I’m your birth father. You have no conscience at all. No wonder I didn’t like you since you were young. It’s also for your own good that I disagree to your mother marrying another man. The man surnamed Sun looks like he’s not short of money. If he really wanted to get married, he could have married anyone. Why did he fancy your mother?? Are you sure that the man surnamed Sun wanted to marry your mother and not you? Do you really think that it’s good for an unrelated man in the family to give you some money?”

1

Fang Shiyou’s words became more overboard and unkind. Xu Lingling was so angry that her face turned red.

Chapter 1656: At Stake

Because she understood that Fang Shiyou’s words were not just unpleasant, but they were also insulting. “Humph! Just based on your words, I think Uncle Sun is a hundred times better than you are. Maybe even a thousand times! Uncle Sun treats me like his own birth daughter, and I often take myself to be Uncle Sun’s daughter too! I guess you don’t know that I was the one who persuaded Mom to get married to Uncle Sun when she was still hesitating. I even told Mom that she would regret it for her whole life if she were to miss out on Uncle Sun. That was why Mom agreed to Uncle Sun’s proposal!”

Since Fang Shiyou’s words were already so unpleasant, Xu Ling Ling did not mind speaking her mind and being direct either.

She was not an ignorant three-year-old toddler who would be deceived by Fang Shiyou’s lies. She had eyes to see for herself as to whether Sun Guohong was a good guy or a bad guy. She could feel it too. At the very least, she did not feel anything bad about Sun Guohong. On the other hand, her birth father, Fang Shiyou, had made her feel utterly disgusted with his words today.

She found it hard to believe that those words were spoken by a father to his underage biological daughter! He was perverted!

With these provoking words aimed at Fang Shiyou, Xu Ling Ling raised her chin and walked away proudly. Fang Shiyou still wanted to scold her and even wanted to chase after Xu Ling Ling, pull on her hair, and ask if she had gone mad.

It turned out that Xu Shengnan had not agreed at first, but it was because of Xu Ling Ling's help that Sun Guohong had finally succeeded in proposing to Xu Shengnan. Upon learning of this fact, Fang Shiyou suffered a huge blow and felt that he had raised his daughter for nothing. Whose daughter was Xu Ling Ling? Whose side was she on?

This was incredulous and ridiculous!

But when Fang Shiyou saw the hundred yuan that Xu Ling Ling had thrown onto the table, he refused to leave. The two cups of milk tea probably cost only fifty yuan, so there would be half of that hundred yuan left. He did not want to let the waiter take that change.

1

And so, Fang Shiyou sat down patiently and instructed the waiter to get him his change quickly. His time was tight. After he was done here, he still had to take care of matters elsewhere. As he said that, Fang Shiyou stretched out his neck and gazed in Xu Ling Ling's direction. Now, the only one who could change Xu Shengnan's mind about marrying Sun Guohong was Xu Ling Ling alone.

His daughter now favored an outsider over him, so he would have to find a way to pull his daughter back to his side and make her stand on his side before the two of them got married.

Unfortunately, in order to get his change of fifty yuan, Fang Shiyou never got a second chance to interact with Xu Ling Ling alone until the day of Xu Shengnan and Sun Guohong's wedding.

Upon finding out that the two of them had already registered their marriage legally and were now recognized as man and wife in the People's Republic of China, Fang Shiyou was so taken aback that he finished off a pack of beer all by himself. He got himself drunk with no apparent reason and howled at the moon, cursing and swearing that Xu Shengnan was a liar who had cheated on him. When the two of them got married, Xu Shengnan had sworn that she would never leave nor forsake him until the moment their lives ended.

1

He would still have many more years to live, but Xu Shengnan had taken some other man's hand and stepped into the church for the second time. She had completely forgotten about his existence and their past together. Could it be that Xu Shengnan had not meant a single word she had said when they had gotten married?

It was already troublesome enough for Fang Shiyou to try to win Xu Shengnan back while she was still unmarried. Now that Xu Shengnan had held her wedding with Sun Guohong, Fang Shiyou stood no chance at all. As such, he wallowed in self-pity and got himself drunk for three consecutive days and did not even bother returning to work. Thankfully, Fang Shiyou's salary was not high since his salary was docked whenever he applied for leave. If it got any more serious, he would not even be able to keep his job.

With his monthly salary, not only did he have to support his family, but he also had to pay off his mortgage. As such, Fang Shiyou was almost never late to work, and neither did he leave work early. In that case, his salary would not be docked. Because Fang Shiyou had such a good track record, he applied for a three-day leave to stay at home under the pretext that he was not feeling well.

Otherwise, if Fang Shiyou were to go to work in such a mental state, he might not only make a slew of mistakes, but he might even lose his job! If Fang Shiyou lost his job again, putting aside how he would live, Fang Shiyou would be unable to repay his mortgage. Then, in no time, even this house that he had not paid off would be taken back by the bank.

No matter how messed up Fang Shiyou's life was, Xu Shengnan, who had just gotten remarried, smiled blissfully. Only after meeting Sun Guohong did Xu Shengnan learn that a woman could have

such a life after marriage. She had never thought that it would be possible after her marriage to Fang Shiyu. It turned out that after men got together with women, household chores were not only the responsibility of women, but men could take on that responsibility too. And when a man was doing that, a woman could rest comfortably in front of the television with her legs crossed and snack idly on some melon seeds in her hand just like men did.

It was the first time she was enjoying life like that, and it did not feel bad!

Compared to her previous marriage life, this was so much more blissful. Xu Shengnan felt that the second best thing she had done in her whole life was to listen to her daughter's advice to marry Sun Guohong. If she had married any other man apart from Sun Guohong, she would not be living such a happy and leisurely life!

From Mrs. Fang to Mrs. Sun, Xu Shengnan's life improved by leaps and bounds.

"Mom, are you still intending on being a matchmaker in the future? I think it's not right for you to be a matchmaker, but those couples that you've brought together are all doing well! You have a hundred percent success rate!" San Bao gave her mom a thumbs-up. She felt that her mom could have some talent in this area. Otherwise, no matter how much effort one put in, it was bound to fail. But as for her mom who was unwilling to be a matchmaker, she sealed the deal once she put her foot down. The quality of her mom's work was even higher than other people's.

San Bao stroked her chin. She was already twenty. If her mom introduced her to her future partner, perhaps she would be able to find a husband that was not only faithful to her but would also pamper her like a princess, just like her godmother, Auntie Fang Fang, and Auntie Xu had.

If that was the case, she would not even rush to find a partner for herself in the remaining two years of university. She would simply wait for her mom to introduce someone to her.

“Matchmaking? No way!” Qiao Nan, frustrated, answered. It was not just San Bao who had posed this question. Many others had too. She did not even know when her reputation as a ‘matchmaker’ had started to spread.

Chapter 1657: Impossible

It was not just outsiders, but even people within the courtyard were spreading the news of how successful she was as a matchmaker. The couples whom she had brought together had especially blissful lives after marriage, got along well, and hardly fought. Even if they were to fight, their relationship only improved after that. It was completely different from those couples who quarreled with each other, eventually ending in a divorce.

Everyone wished that their children would lead blissful lives after getting married. They hoped that their children would fight less and smile more.

Knowing about Qiao Nan’s capabilities, at least a few people in the courtyard had individually approached Qiao Nan, requesting that she be their matchmaker. Thankfully, Miao Jing had managed to fend them off. Miao Jing said that Qiao Nan was a cadre in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was already overwhelmed with her work as it was. She had no time to spare to be a matchmaker. Besides, Qiao Nan was not in this line of work either.

If their neighbors had such needs, they could find someone else. There were other people who were just as capable.

Miao Jing did a decent job as a ‘public relations officer’. Not only did she manage to fend off a lot of trouble for Qiao Nan, but she had also managed to pass the job on to others so that they would have the chance to make money. Qiao Nan had no lack of money, but other people might not think that this matchmaker fee was unnecessary.

Miao Jing had managed to get rid of all those who had come looking for Qiao Nan to be their matchmaker. But now, even her own daughter, San Bao, was joining in. Qiao Nan had the urge to

punch someone. “Are you trying to mess with me too? Do you think I don’t have enough trouble? How old are you? You’re still so young! What nonsense are you talking about being a matchmaker? What’s in that head of yours? I’ve said it before that you can’t take it easy just because you’re in university now. It’s exactly because you’re in university that you have to pay more attention to your studies. Your four years in university are crucial.”

Qiao Nan had told San Bao this a hundred times.

It was not that Qiao Nan had groundless worries or was overly anxious about her daughter. But there had been too many bloody lessons that left Qiao Nan in a frenzy. She had thought that there would be peace in the department after Xu Xinming and Li Dawei left. But who would have known that that was impossible? Occasionally, young people would dip their toes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was only when he was in that position did Deng Wenchang finally understand how He Yi had felt when facing him in the past. He finally understood why He Yi had always given his documents to Qiao Nan instead of him at that time. Young people did not even have the heart to work hard and were content with just floating along, yet they thought highly of themselves.

In the face of these young people with self-deceiving confidence, Deng Wenchang could feel the malice of the graduation party toward their department. “No wonder you were so generous to give me the position of the minister of foreign affairs. I’ve faced so much trouble in this position. Is it too late to return this position to you?” Deng Wenchang looked at Qiao Nan and asked bitterly. This position was indeed not for just any ordinary person.

Qiao Nan grinned at Deng Wenchang. “Do you think you own the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? Do you think you can just pass this ministerial position on so easily? If it’s really so easy, would you have treated me like your enemy when we were younger? Alright. Since you’ve already gotten the position, just hold on to it well until you retire.”

Return it to her? What a joke!

She had finally managed to hand the position over to Deng Wenchang after much difficulty. Now, she handled only practical affairs, while leaving public relations to Deng Wenchang to handle. That alone was enough to keep her busy. If she were to become the minister of foreign affairs again, wouldn't she have to take over all the work she had finally been able to hand over to Deng Wenchang?

Did he take her for a fool?

Qiao Nan patted Deng Wenchang on the back with a face of helplessness, encouraging Deng Wenchang to continue his job with a smile. At that time, Deng Wenchang was just one step away from starting a full-on war with her. He even had Peng Yu, with his fierce gaze, by his side to help him. Now, Deng Wenchang wanted to pass on the position. How could so many good things happen to Deng Wenchang alone?

It was impossible for Deng Wenchang to escape this sea of misery. The only thing Qiao Nan could do for San Bao's future superior was to manage San Bao well and get San Bao to master her knowledge while she was still in school. That way, when San Bao entered the workforce after graduation, she would not have only good grades but be poor at applying them practically. This would save her superiors a lot of trouble too.

"If you don't master the content in university, you'll be lectured with no end when you start working. I'm just warning you in advance. If something like that ever happens to you, don't even mention the Zhai family or my name. We won't help you. If you mention our names because of that, we'll lose all dignity!"

San Bao rolled her eyes at her mom's words. "Mom, can't you expect more from me? Why do you think so lowly of me? Ever since I entered university, my grades have been excellent. I've always won scholarships! Do you think they're all fake and that I've made them up?" She felt wronged. They had been talking about matchmaking. How had the topic of their conversation suddenly veered off to her career?

“Mom, just be outright if you don’t want to be a matchmaker for me in the future. Why do you have to bring other matters into this matter and lecture me? Mom, you’re not as gentle as you were in the past. Mom, are you going through menopause?” She made some mental calculations. She was already a university student. It would be no wonder if her mom was indeed going through menopause.

1

Sigh, no matter how gentle and kind her mother was, there was bound to be a terrible year once she hit that period of menopause.

Thankfully, her mom’s menopause had only started a year or two later than normal, and she was already in her second year of university. “Mom, I saw an advertisement lately. That calming oral medication seems quite effective! How about that? I’ll get two courses for you to try!” Her mother was so much better in the past. She could only hope that this menopause phase would pass quickly, and that gentle mother of hers would return.

Qiao Nan knocked gently on San Bao’s head in anger. “You sure know how to bicker with me. By the way, you’re already in your second year of university. Do you have a boyfriend yet?” At that age, she had already gotten married and given birth to the triplets. Qiao Nan really had no right to advise the three children not to start early relationships. After all, she and Zhai Sheng had set a ‘bad’ example for them.

1

“No.” San Bao denied decisively. “All those people are too childish. They can’t even compare with Da Bao and Er Bao. How will I ever take a fancy to anyone?” With those people, she did not feel as though she was dating. It was much more like taking Xiao Bao and his friends out to play.

1

She had only ever lacked a younger sister, never a younger brother. If she really wanted a younger brother by her side to take care of, she had plenty. She could just call one of them out whenever she wanted.

Chapter 1658: Er Bao Has a Girlfriend

She would just leave those ‘younger brothers’ in university to her seniors or juniors. She had no interest in them at all.

“How about Da Bao and Er Bao?” Males were always more impulsive than females. Da Bao and Er Bao had always been in good health. Now that they were in university, they would probably experience great sexual impulses, right? “I’m sure the three of you know when your dad and I got together. When I was your age, I already had the three of you. Do you think Da Bao and Er Bao will make me a grandma only when I’m forty?”

If she really became a grandma in her forties, in another twenty years, there would be children calling her great-grandma before she turned seventy!

San Bao’s eyes twinkled. “Make you a grandma? That’s an exaggeration! Da Bao and Er Bao won’t dare to do that. You know it well that Da Bao is the spitting image of dad. He’s as cold as an iceberg. I wonder if he’ll have his first relationship and first kiss while he’s still in university. As for Er Bao... He has someone.”

That bad Er Bao. She and Da Bao had not found anyone. As a triplet, how could Er Bao push Da Bao and her aside and have found a girlfriend first? He was too disloyal!

But what made San Bao the angriest was that Er Bao had been extremely concerned about Xu Ling Ling a year ago when Xu Shengnan had gotten married to Sun Guohong. He insisted on San Bao making sure that Xu Ling Ling would not be hurt once Xu Shengnan and Sun Guohong got married.

Based on Er Bao's behavior at that time, it was not only Da Bao who suspected that Er Bao had feelings toward Xu Ling Ling. San Bao had such suspicions too. They had all grown up together, and Da Bao treated Xu Ling Ling as his younger sister too. But compared to Er Bao, Da Bao was much less concerned about Xu Ling Ling.

This only showed that Er Bao felt much more for Xu Ling Ling. Since they were not biological siblings, no one believed Er Bao when he said that he was merely concerned about Xu Ling Ling but had no feelings toward her.

Of course, that was what San Bao assumed a year ago. A year ago, she had secretly asked Er Bao whether he had any feelings for Xu Ling Ling. At that time, Er Bao had immediately denied it, but San Bao refused to believe that Er Bao did not harbor any feelings toward Xu Ling Ling. But now, there was no way for San Bao not to believe that.

There were no scums in the Zhai family. Now that Er Bao already had a girlfriend, it probably meant that he truly had no special feelings for Xu Ling Ling and only thought of her as his younger sister. In this one year, San Bao had tried to test Er Bao many times by taking the initiative to talk about Xu Ling Ling's situation. Every time, Er Bao never failed to say innocently, "Why do you keep talking about Ling Ling? Do you think my workload is very light to have so much free time to gossip with you, miss?"

San Bao had not expected such a reaction from Er Bao. Aside from his extraordinary concern toward Xu Ling Ling when Xu Shengnan and Sun Guohong had gotten married, Er Bao reacted in the same way as Da Bao whenever it concerned Ling Ling and never mentioned her in their conversations.

After learning that Er Bao had gotten a girlfriend, San Bao finally gave up on Er Bao and Xu Ling Ling.

However, even though San Bao knew that Er Bao was dating, she did not relay this news to Xu Ling Ling. After entering university, the number of times Er Bao asked after Ling Ling had

decreased. But Xu Ling Ling was still as concerned about Er Bao as she had been before. Once, Xu Ling Ling even asked San Bao whether Er Bao was dating in school.

At that time, San Bao had simply joked. “There’s nothing weird about Er Bao dating at this age. Why? Are you curious about the kind of sister-in-law Er Bao has found for you? Don’t be so anxious! If such a day ever comes, he’ll definitely have to bring that young lady home for my parents to meet her. Won’t you know everything about her then?”

San Bao realized that Xu Ling Ling’s expression had changed right after she had said that. San Bao wondered if Xu Ling Ling thought of Er Bao as something more than just an elder brother. From then on, Xu Ling Ling had never mentioned Er Bao. If she mentioned him, she would always mention Da Bao as well.

Xu Ling Ling behaved very nonchalantly, no different than before, and she was no longer as curious about Er Bao as she had been. Before long, San Bao naturally gave up her suspicions on whether Er Bao and Xu Ling Ling had feelings for each other.

“So he’s really dating.” Qiao Nan was just a little surprised, feeling that it was normal. “But Er Bao is in the PLA National Defense University. Do you mean that his girlfriend is there too?” Was Er Bao planning on finding someone who would take the same path as him?

Qiao Nan thought about how her sons did not spend much time at home and would take the same path that Zhai Sheng had taken back then once they really became soldiers. Qiao Nan was in a dilemma. That meant it was not just Er Bao who would do that, but his wife would do so as well? Then, would they still have time to take care of their children?

“No.” San Bao shook her head before hesitating and correcting herself. “Not really.”

“What do you mean by not really?”

“Er Bao’s girlfriend is a military performer. She’s studying dance in the military. I heard that she was a very conscientious student back then, but her results weren’t very good. Of course, they weren’t that bad either. It was just coincidental that there was a chance for her to join the military as a performer, so she left school before graduating from high school and gave up the opportunity to attend university. I’m sure you know that the military gives young people like her the opportunity to learn. Her educational qualifications won’t be too bad.” San Bao had clearly listed out Er Bao’s situation. To be more exact, Da Bao had listed out Er Bao’s situation clearly before telling San Bao about it.

Da Bao knew that Qiao Nan was most concerned about the three of them. Qiao Nan would definitely want to know about Er Bao dating, so he had given all the relevant information to San Bao in advance. When Qiao Nan wanted to know, San Bao could simply quote him ad verbum so that Qiao Nan would not get too anxious from not knowing anything.

Qiao Nan had managed to see through that scheme. With such complete information, this had definitely been prepared specially for her. “She didn’t even graduate from high school. This young lady... isn’t old, right?” She was not old, probably quite young.

“That...” San Bao laughed but did not hide the truth. “You’re five years younger than Dad, right? That young lady was quite intelligent when she was younger, and she even skipped a grade. So even though she’s already been through high school, she is younger than Er Bao by... five years I think. It’s just like you and Dad.”

That young lady’s age was ‘younger’ than what her mom had said. Typical high school students would be just two or three years younger than Er Bao, but this young lady had started school early and had even skipped a grade in elementary school. And so, she was five years younger.

Chapter 1659: Breaking Up or Not

“...” Qiao Nan’s expression changed. “Nonsense. Does Er Bao think that I won’t be able to meddle in his affairs now that he is in school and so far away from me? He is young himself, but at least, he is already of age. That girl is probably only sixteen! Let’s not talk about whether she is of age. She probably hasn’t even gotten her identity card, right? Is Er Bao crazy? How could he have found a girlfriend like this? Does he really want to follow in his father’s footsteps?”

If Er Bao was in front of her now, Qiao Nan would not be able to hold in her anger and would give Er Bao a tight slap right then and there, even though she loved her children dearly and was unwilling to use force against them. But this rascal deserved it!

If Er Bao really wanted to learn from his father, then he had to see if that young lady was like his mother, who had been reincarnated and was not actually a bumbling young lady who did not know anything. In fact, she was an old auntie with a wealth of experience who was already approaching her forties!

“Mom, don’t get upset! Don’t get upset. It’s not as bad as you think. That young lady is a little young...” San Bao hugged Qiao Nan. When Da Bao told San Bao about this, he reminded San Bao that Qiao Nan’s temper meant that she would probably get so upset that she would rush down to their school to give Er Bao a good beating. “Don’t get agitated.”

“A little young?” Qiao Nan sneered. “Is this just a little? I don’t want to describe my son as one to rob the cradle. If that young lady was twenty-one and Er Bao was twenty-six, I don’t think I would have a problem with that. In fact, I think it would be just right. But the problem is that that young lady is only sixteen. I...”

She had not given birth to Er Bao and raised him so that he could mess around and simply get just any girl as his girlfriend. “That won’t do. If that’s all he has learned in school, I’d rather he not graduate from university. Fine. He shouldn’t study for the time being. Ask him to take a leave of absence and join the military with his dad to polish this frivolous character of his. He’ll return to school when he’s more matured!”

“Mom, it’s not that serious.” San Bao did not know whether to laugh or cry. “Isn’t it just dating? Da Bao has already said that he’ll have his eyes on Er Bao since they share a room. Er Bao won’t have a chance to make a serious mistake either. Mom, even if you don’t believe that Da Bao will be able to take care of Er Bao, you should have faith in yourself. You were the one who raised the three of us. Based on your teachings, do you think Er Bao will make such a low-level mistake? It’s just unfortunate that that young lady entered the military and even met Er Bao at such a young age. I heard that it was the young lady who pursued Er Bao.”

1

Her mom had never seen high school students, or even junior high school and elementary school students, calling each other husband and wife. She had experienced it more than once on public buses. Er Bao was one with clear limits. Aside from having such a young girlfriend, there was nothing else he would do to anger his mom.

“Mom, Er Bao is your son. I think Er Bao always fools around and doesn’t appear serious. But when it comes to serious matters, Er Bao has never committed a folly. Has he ever disappointed any of us?” Her mom could put more trust in Er Bao.

Qiao Nan calmed down a little. “I know Er Bao has good discretion. But what if he loses all sense on just this matter? What will we do? Even a tiger has moments when it dozes off. Do you really think that Er Bao will never make any mistakes at all? He’s still young and might make mistakes. But it’s exactly because he’s young that I have to pay more attention to his mistakes and be strict about them. Not only do I have to get him to correct his mistakes, but I also have to make sure that he won’t make such a mistake again in the future. That young lady is only sixteen years old. If Er Bao commits any mistakes now, he can still correct them. But what will happen to that young lady? It’ll be for her entire life.”

“Don’t tell me that society is more open and that no one cares about this anymore. No matter how advanced China is as a country, we’ll never have everyone being so open-minded. I think this shouldn’t be allowed even if Er Bao is still young. Youth is no excuse for making a mistake.”

San Bao leaned against Qiao Nan. She could feel that her mom had high expectations of the three of them. Her expectations were higher than other mothers’, but that was why she could clearly feel her mom’s love for them. Their mom was simply afraid that they were young and insensible and would

do something unforgivable while they still did not understand anything. When they understood it and became more sensible, they would have a lifetime regret, knowing that some mistakes were irreparable and could never be forgiven.

Their mom simply did not wish for them to spend the rest of their lives in regret and blaming themselves. She was unwilling to let them spend their lives making up for that one mistake that they had committed in their moment of folly.

Only by avoiding this would they be able to choose their own paths when they were truly grown up. Only then would there be no obstacles in their way for their future developments and their lives in the future. All their current constraints were for the sake of their freedom in the future.

“Mom, I know what you’re worried about. I think Er Bao may not have heard your words today, but I’m sure he knows, and Da Bao knows as well. All three of us can feel your love for us. Mom, I firmly believe that Er Bao won’t make such a mistake. That girl is young, and I’m even guessing that she might have tried too hard in pursuing Er Bao. Er Bao might have been afraid that the young lady would be hurt and just agreed to just fend her off for the time being. I’m sure you know about Er Bao’s situation too. He and Da Bao may leave for a month or two at any time to go on a mission.”

“That young lady is still so young. She probably just looks up to Er Bao and treats Er Bao as her hero. But because she’s young, someone would have to coax that young lady. While she’s at home, she’s pampered like a princess. Would she be able to accept her boyfriend not coaxing her? Then, Er Bao would not have to say a thing. That young lady would take the initiative to break up with Er Bao. In short, the two of them have already confirmed that they are in a relationship, but do you think that they’ll be able to spend a lot of time together? Other people may not know about this, but shouldn’t you be clear about it, Mom? I heard that you only met Dad twice a year while you guys were still dating!”

Weren’t her dad and mom together at the same age as Er Bao was now?

But she could not believe that the girlfriend that Er Bao had found would be able to compare to her mom. She was just afraid that that young lady was still young and needed someone to coax her, but Er Bao might not have time for her and might contact her only sporadically. Because of this, that young lady might just lose her temper and feel that there was no difference between having a boyfriend and not having one. Then, she would pester Er Bao for a breakup.

Whether Er Bao truly liked that young lady, she believed that Er Bao would not hesitate and would definitely agree immediately should that young lady request for a breakup.

Chapter 1660 - Slip of the Tongue

Chapter 1660: Slip of the Tongue

So why was her mom so worked out over this? Putting aside the matter of whether Er Bao had discretion, it was obvious that this relationship was not going to last anyway.

“Mom, I feel that if you really interfere in this matter, Er Bao’s temper may flare, and this relationship may end up lasting longer than it would originally have. You know Er Bao’s temper as well. Er Bao hasn’t gone through his teenage rebellious stage yet. Don’t use up all of Er Bao’s rebellion on this one matter. It won’t be good if you make a fool out of yourself in the end.”

With San Bao’s persuasion, Qiao Nan finally calmed down. “Well, I guess you’re right. Sigh. I’m old. I don’t think in the same way that I did when I was younger. San Bao, be honest with Mom. Did Er Bao bribe you with something? Why are you helping Er Bao in every way on this matter? Er Bao bought you over, didn’t he?”

Usually, when the three children were together, Er Bao and San Bao quarreled with each other the most. The two of them were like sworn enemies. There was sure to be a fight between the two of them before they could even finish ten sentences.

But now, San Bao was wholeheartedly speaking up for Er Bao. There was no way for Qiao Nan not to think that this was strange. “When did your relationship with Er Bao become so cordial? I thought that you only liked Da Bao and despised Er Bao for being too childish and coming before you, depriving you of the chance to be an elder sister.”

“I do hate it.” San Bao slapped her thigh and said, “Even up until now, I hate that he’s so childish. But I’m still his triplet and spent time with him in your womb. No matter how much we argue, we only do so behind closed doors. It’s our own family matter. But in front of outsiders, I’ll definitely stand with Er Bao. Mom, you belittle me and Er Bao. Putting aside my arguments with Er Bao, our relationship is actually very good.”

“...” Qiao Nan could only chuckle. It was good that they shared a close relationship. “Alright, we’ll do as you said. As long as Er Bao has a clear idea of what he’s doing. But I’m warning you. You vouched for Er Bao in front of me. If Er Bao doesn’t have as much discretion as you said and gets into trouble, I won’t just deal with Er Bao. I’ll take you down with him.”

Qiao Nan was not worried about anything else. She was simply worried that Er Bao knew that San Bao was on his side and would get San Bao to act as his shield and cover for him because they shared a good relationship.

If the situation was truly like San Bao’s analysis, then nothing would happen in the future. But if what Qiao Nan was afraid of really happened, San Bao would be in the wrong too and would have to be punished as well. Was it so easy to be a guarantor? If anything happened, the siblings would be punished together.

San Bao scrunched up her face pitifully. “What about Da Bao? There’s no reason for Da Bao to get off with it alone, right? We’re triplets. If Er Bao gets in trouble, I’ll be in trouble too. But why should Da Bao be let off?” If that were the case, it would be too unfair. Da Bao had found out about Er Bao’s relationship even earlier than she had.

Da Bao was even by Er Bao’s side, but Da Bao had not even stopped Er Bao from getting into a relationship. So if she was going to get into trouble, then Da Bao should not be let off either. Otherwise, this would be clearly unfair. Her mom was just being biased, and she and Er Bao were children whom no one loved.

“Don’t spout such nonsense.” Qiao Nan tugged on San Bao’s braids. “The problem hasn’t even occurred yet, but you’re already so eager for the three of you to be punished together? Don’t worry. If any of you three make a mistake, the other two are not going to get away with it either. It’s your fault for meddling in it. You’re all my children, so I’ll treat all of you equally.” If she were to punish them, the three of them would face the same punishment. None of them would be spared.

San Bao could feel a murderous aura emanating from Qiao Nan. San Bao shrank her neck and her gaze lost their previous confidence. Once she returned to her room later, she would make another call to Da Bao and confirm that Er Bao still had self-control and would not drag Da Bao or her down with him.

It was Er Bao who had committed the mistake, so it was only right for Er Bao to be punished. But how unjustified it would be for both Da Bao and her to be punished as well! Neither she nor Da Bao had done anything. They had simply been obedient children.

Seeing San Bao's hesitation and guilt, Qiao Nan smiled and did not stop San Bao from running back to her room. Being fearful was good too. Only if she was fearful would San Bao be concerned about the development of the matter and help keep Er Bao in check so that nothing would happen.

"Hello, Da Bao. It's me, San Bao."

Zhai Yi raised his eyebrow. "Are you sure you want me to call you San Bao, and not Zhai Yu?" Ever since he started university, Zhai Yi had not heard anyone call him by the familiar nickname 'Da Bao' for almost two months!

"Bah, that was just a slip of the tongue. Eldest brother. Can I call you eldest brother?" The three of them had been born just minutes apart. As the youngest, Zhai Yu was annoyed that she had not been born just a little earlier. If she was born just a little earlier, she would not only be older than Er Bao, but she might even be older than Da Bao and be the eldest sister among the three children.

Just because of that little difference, she had not only lost her status as the eldest sister but had also become the youngest. In the short span of a few minutes, she had suffered such a great loss.

But today's situation was different. The moment she realized that Zhai Yi was upset, Zhai Yu did not even address him as Zhai Yi. Instead, she affectionately addressed him as 'eldest brother'. It was obvious just how anxious San Bao was to be trying to suck up to him.

The moment he heard Zhai Yu address him as 'eldest brother', Zhai Yi knew at once that his mom had scared Zhai Yu badly. "Spit it out. What did Mom threaten you with? You're the only one who stays by Mom's side most of the time. Shouldn't your relationship with Mom improve because of that? Why has Mom scared you so badly?" At twenty years of age, Zhai Yi knew that it was not easy to hear Zhai Yu address him as 'elder brother'. It was even rarer than winning the lottery.

"Mom said that if Er Bao commits a folly or makes a mistake, she'll punish both of us as well. Eldest brother, for the sake of our health, please keep an eye on Er Bao while you're by his side. Don't let him have any chance to make a mistake at all. Apart from class time, don't let him have more than an hour to spend with his girlfriend every day, and this hour definitely cannot be in the evening. It has to be in the day. Of course, spending the night is absolutely out of the question. Even if he dies, you'll have to carry Er Bao's corpse back to your dormitory."

"..." Zhai Yi finally understood why Zhai Yu had been so afraid. So that was what it was.