

My Wife Is a Superstar Chapter 357

Ning Ran couldn't seem to fall asleep after she hung up on Cheng Xiangyun and hit the hay.

I thought he's not interested in women. Isn't he a brick of ice?

It's all fake! That shameless bastard! What a hypocrite!

Ning Ran started cursing inwardly, but she realized that the more she cursed, the more she couldn't sleep.

The man's sheer effrontery had gotten under her skin.

It was worse when her mind went abuzz with chaos, wondering what the man was doing at this time.

Right, what else can they do besides going to the hotel after the recital?

God! What a nasty pervert!

Just as many uncalled scenarios played in her mind, she seemed to have heard a noise.

It was the sound of a car engine running.

Poker Face didn't check in to a hotel with that little minx? He's back?

Is he back because he's done fooling around?

Ning Ran didn't bother to put on her slippers as she rushed toward the balcony barefooted. Sure enough, Nan Chen's car was seen pulling into the garage.

What's going on? Why do I feel comforted to see him come back?

Ning Ran pretended to sleep, but she soon realized that it was unnecessary since he won't enter her room at all. He went to the room upstairs instead.

What's the meaning of this? Hasn't he been forcing himself on my bed just so he could reassure Dabao and Erbao?

Is he not interested in sleeping in the same bed with me after banging that pretty lady?

How disgusting is that!

Ning Ran started cursing inwardly again.

Or maybe he didn't? He could have gone back to the office after the recital. He's a workaholic. It's impossible that he'd spend so much time with a woman.

As the angel and devil battled out in her mind, she sank into a deep sleep.

The next day, Ning Ran was so tired that she couldn't get up.

Usually, when Ning Ran was still in bed, the two children would work together to prepare breakfast before waking up their mother up to have breakfast together.

No different today, Erbao knocked on her door. "Mommy, wake up! It's time for breakfast."

Ning Ran could only get up at Erbao's morning call.

Nan Chen was also there, eating breakfast.

He didn't bother to look up when Ning Ran approached the dining table.

Breakfast was sumptuous. Ning Ran supposed Nan Chen had someone deliver them as the children weren't capable of preparing that many dishes.

She chose a sit somewhat far from him, not sparing him a glance.

Thereafter, there was complete silence at the table.

Dabao and Erbao looked at each other. The atmosphere was so tense that they didn't know what to say.

However, they could only rely on Erbao to lighten the mood.

"How's breakfast, Mommy?" Erbao asked.

"Good," Ning Ran gave a simple reply.

"What's your favorite?" Erbao asked again.

"I like all of them," Ning Ran answered.

"Daddy had specially prepared them for you. Daddy knows what you like to eat, so he sent someone to deliver them," Erbao said.

"I didn't," Nan Chen denied firmly.

Well, this is awkward.

Erbao was completely flustered, as it was her first time dealing with such a situation, and little did she expect her daddy to disregard her goodwill.

“And I don’t need it too,” Ning Ran retorted.

You didn’t prepare this specially for me and I don’t need you to prepare them for me!

“Erbao, put them away,” Nan Chen instructed.

“Huh?” Erbao was even more flustered. *Mommy hasn’t even started eating yet and Daddy is asking me to put them away?*

Ning Ran, who was about to dig in, put down her chopsticks. “Put away then. I couldn’t care less. It’s not like I can’t make my own breakfast.”

“No! It’ll be a waste to put them away,” Erbao said hastily.

“It doesn’t matter,” Nan Chen said.

“Just dump them in the trash,” Ning Ran said, her anger flare up.

So you think you’re on the right after fooling with some chick outside?

You think you’re so great now just because you have Ouyang Qi to support you?

Both Ning Ran and Nan Chen were deep in thoughts.

Nan Chen got up with a snort and left the dining table.

He was well aware of Ning Ran’s temper. If he were to keep this up with her, he knew she would have skipped her breakfast.

Breakfast is very important, as it determines one’s health.

Hence, he gave Ning Ran an out just so she would eat her breakfast.

“Mommy, Daddy bought these for you. They’re your favorite. It’s a pity to throw them away,” Dabao persuaded Ning Ran to eat.

Seeing that Nan Chen had gone upstairs, Ning Ran didn’t need to pretend so she resumed eating.

Well, they sure taste good. I’d rather eat to my heart’s content than get angry with him.

“Mommy, what’s going on between you and Daddy?” Erbao asked.

“Nothing. We were already on bad terms in the first place,” Ning Ran said while munching her food.

“I don’t think so. It was bad before, but it was still okay. It seems worst today,” Erbao analyzed seriously and Dabao nodded in agreement.

“There’s nothing of the sort. Stay out of adult business and eat your food,” Ning Ran said.

“My teacher said that if there’s a misunderstanding between good friends, just say sorry to each other and shake hands. Mommy, why don’t you shake hand with Daddy?” Erbao suggested solemnly.

“No,” Ning Ran refused.

I’m not gonna touch that filthy hand of his!

“If you don’t reconcile with Daddy, it will hurt Dabao and me a lot,” Erbao said with a frown.

“Oh? And how does it hurt you?” Ning Ran asked.

“We’ll be sad And when we’re sad, we’ll lose our appetite. And when we lose our appetite, our body will become weak. I ate very little today. If this goes on, I’ll only lose weight and become very thin.”

Erbao thought it was so ridiculous that she could no longer lie.

“You ate so much and you call that little? In that case, I do hope you’ll become sad and lose a little weight. You’re turning into a chubby little girl,” Ning Ran chided.

Erbao looked at Dabao for help, thinking that her argument didn’t sound convincing.

Dabao found this tricky as well because he was mindful of the root of the conflict between Ning Ran and Nan Chen.

It wouldn’t be easy for the adults to deal with it, let alone a child like him.

“Mommy and Daddy will make up. You’re both good people,” Dabao adopted a different approach.

My son sure is smart. He knows that hard advice doesn’t work.

“Yes, Mommy and Daddy are good people. Dabao and I are also good people.” Erbao nodded gravely in agreement.

What Dabao says is always right. Nothing will go wrong.

“I’m full. Put the bowl away, good people.” Ning Ran put down her chopsticks.

Right then, Nan Chen came down in full suit, ready for work.

Ning Ran looked away.

Upon noticing Ning Ran's little action, Nan Chen snorted inwardly, *I don't want to see you either.*

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As it was a weekend, both Dabao and Erbao didn't have to go to school, so Nan Chen had arranged for a maid to look after them since Ning Ran had to go to work as well.

However, as Dabao and Erbao were very independent and didn't like to be followed, the maid stayed downstairs and only went up when she was needed.

Waking up from their naps, Dabao and Erbao started discussing the matter between their parents. It was an important matter, so it had to be taken care of.

Dabao creased his brows, looking deep in thoughts, while Erbao imitated her brother's movements to look as if she was trying hard, although her mind was blank.

"Do you have any good idea?" Dabao asked Erbao.

Erbao immediately shook her head.

Are you kidding me? How could I possibly come up with a plan? Do I look like someone who has a plan? Obviously not.

"I think this won't be easy," Dabao said.

Erbao nodded hurriedly. *Indeed.*

“There’s a conflict between Daddy and Mommy. They’re both proud, so this conflict is not easy to resolve,” Dabao continued.

Erbao could only nod, as she thought her brother was always right.

“We can only try to prevent the current situation from getting worse. Otherwise, it’d be troublesome if the conflict grows bigger.”

Erbao nodded again.

“So, we must get Daddy and Mommy to have dinner together tonight. We can’t let Daddy meet that lady again,” Dabao said.

“You’re right! That lady is a demon!” Erbao commented.

“No cursing. It’s rude.”

“Not even the bad guys?” Erbao expressed her displeasure.

“No. We’re kids and it’s wrong for kids to curse at someone.”

“All right,” Erbao conceded, despite the displeasure she had.

“Give Daddy a call and ask him to take us out for dinner,” Dabao instructed.

“Why don’t you do it yourself?” Erbao asked, puzzled.

“You’re a glutton. Daddy won’t suspect us if you make the call.”

“I’m not so much a glutton,” Erbao said shyly. “How could you say that?”

Thereafter, she picked up the phone and called Nan Chen.

“Yes, darling?” Nan Chen answered the call.

“Daddy, I miss you,” Erbao chirped sweetly.

Nan Chen’s gaze softened as warmth crept into his heart. “What’s wrong? I’ve just seen you this morning and you miss me already?”

“I want to see Daddy all the time.”

“Be good, Erbao. Like every adult, Daddy has to work,” Nan Chen said, a ghost of a smile on his stern face.

“I know that. Then can you take me out for dinner after work? It’s the weekend. No matter how busy adults are, they have to accompany their children. The relationship between parents and children is built by spending time together.”

“You know this? Who taught you that?”

“Dabao taught me.”

Erbao instantly regretted after saying that. *Why did I tell the truth when I could’ve said that I learned it from the books?*

“That makes sense. Okay, Daddy will take you out for dinner after work,” Nan Chen said.

“Can I bring Mommy along?” Erbao asked tentatively.

“Mommy will be very busy these two days. Let’s not disturb her.”

Nan Chen was upset when he thought about the incident with Ouyang Qi. He didn’t want to have dinner with the woman, at least not for the time being.

“All right. You go back to work, Daddy. I don’t want to disturb you.”

“It’s okay, darling. Just tell me if you have something to say,” Nan Chen said softly.

“Um, I think that’s about it. Bye-bye, Daddy.”

“Bye-bye.”

Erbao hung up and made another call to Ning Ran.

At this moment, Ning Ran was taking a break.

“Mommy, I want to eat something yummy. How about you take us to dinner tonight?”

“Is food all you can think of, you chubby little girl?” Ning Ran snapped.

“Mommy, how could you hurt me by calling me a chubby little girl? I just look a little plump, that’s all. How am I a chubby little girl?” Erbao complained.

Ning Ran was amused. “All right. You’re not a chubby little girl. But you’ll become one if you keep eating and I’ll abandon you when that happens.”

“Where will you send me if you don’t want me?” Erbao asked curiously.

“To the zoo, with the monkeys,” Ning Ran said blithely.

“Mommy, you’re so cruel. How could you say that to your child? It was Dabao’s idea to ask you to take us to dinner. It’s Dabao who wants to eat something yummy, not me,” Erbao shifted the blame to her brother.

“Is it? But Dabao is not a glutton.” Ning Ran expressed her doubt.

“Dabao’s not a glutton, but he wishes to be with Mommy. Promise us, please? Dabao rarely takes the initiative to ask for something. Please, Mommy?” Erbao started acting in a cutesy manner.

“All right. I’ll finish work early and take you guys out for some good food,” Ning Ran promised.

“Can I bring Daddy along?”

“Daddy’s very busy lately. Let’s not disturb him.”

What’s with that chemistry? Their excuses are exactly the same.

“Okay.” Erbao hung up.

“Daddy and Mommy said the same thing. What should we do now?” Erbao asked Dabao.

“Isn’t that great? We’ll set the place and figure out what to do later once we bring them together,” Dabao said steadily.

“I’ll do whatever you say, Dabao.”

Ning Ran arrived at Champs French Restaurant at seven o’clock in the evening.

This French restaurant looks too posh. Why did Dabao choose such an expensive place?

He’s just a kid, and he’s already taken a liking to French cuisine?

Aren’t barbeque and fried noodles good enough? Is he trying to be sophisticated?

I mean, that’s fine if he wants to be sophisticated. But this place is expensive!

Meanwhile, Nan Chen was walking over from the parking lot. His thoughts were the complete opposite of Ning Ran's.

Dabao has such good taste to choose a classy restaurant! He sure is my son and an heir to the Nan family!

"Ma'am, this is for you from Sir." A waiter went up to Ning Ran with a bouquet as soon as she entered the restaurant.

"Wow, thank you. But who is this Sir you are referring to?" Ning Ran asked.

"Mr. Nan, of course," the waiter replied.

"Oh, thank you." Ning Ran accepted the flowers.

What is Poker Face up to? This doesn't seem like something he would do.

Is he trying to make it up to me for his mistakes yesterday?

Hmmph, I don't buy this!

Dabao gave Erbao a wink upon seeing Ning Ran walking in with the bouquet.

Erbao winked in return, thinking that her brother was simply a genius to come up with such an idea.

Dabao had found this restaurant on the internet. It was the most expensive French restaurant in Flower City.

Dabao had also requested for the restaurant to arrange the flowers, for a price of course.

He didn't have to worry about the price, as they would be charged together at the checkout. Given that he had a rich father, even sending a garden wouldn't be a problem, much less a bouquet.

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Ning Ran looked at the flowers in her hands, then at the kids, feeling as though an explanation was necessary.

"This bouquet..."

"It's beautiful," Dabao and Erbao chorused.

The children's response caught Ning Ran off guard. She didn't know what to say.

She put down the flowers at the side and stared at them for a long time, wondering if she was feeling touched by the man's unexpected gesture.

Nah, it's just a bouquet of flowers. There's no need to get all excited.

But why is my heart thumping so fast?

What a country bumpkin. Why am I mesmerized by just a mere bouquet?

As Ning Ran was deep in thoughts, Nan Chen had arrived, clad in a black suit.

Nan Chen furrowed his brows at the sight of Ning Ran.

Didn't we agree not to call her? Why is she here?

Is she here to scrounge a free meal, knowing that I would be treating the kids to dinner?

Well, I can't just chase her away in front of the kids. She's their mother, after all.

Ning Ran, assuming that it was Nan Chen who got her the flowers, so she stood up and pulled the chair for him.

However, upon noticing the layer of frost on his face, her mood gradually turned for the worst.

What's with that face? Why didn't you put on that face when you were taking selfies with that pretty lady?

Not in the mood as well, Nan Chen simply ordered two sets of kid's meal and two sets of adult's meal.

Ning Ran sneaked a peek at the menu and was utterly shocked at the price.
Thank God Poker Face is here. Saves me from the heartbreak of burning a hole in my pocket.

"Mommy, Dabao and I want to take a picture with you and Daddy. We have never taken a family photo," Erbao proposed. "Can we?"

Dabao nodded in agreement.

It was his idea, after all, and this was only the first segment of his overall plan.

Ning Ran and Nan Chen held their tongues, although they thought it was a reasonable request so they weren't so repulsive about the idea.

However, neither of them were willing to say yes first for fear that the other party would misunderstand their intentions.

After all, being together in the same photo was something new to them.

“Daddy, can we?” Erbao changed his target to Nan Chen.

Nan Chen had no choice but to nod his head.

“You’re okay with it too, Mommy? You guys are not unhappy about taking pictures with me, are you?” Erbao asked.

Of course not. My daughter is the prettiest girl in the universe. It’s our honor to take a picture with you,” Ning Ran said with a smile.

Erbao pretended to be shy. “I know I’m pretty, Mommy, but you don’t have to exaggerate it. You’re embarrassing me.”

With that, Nan Chen called for the waiter to take a family photo of them.

To the waiter, they were perhaps the only family that didn’t need to have their pictures beautified.

The man and woman had such fair and youthful complexion that showed no signs of aging, while the children were as adorable and beautiful like dolls.

“Wow, you have a beautiful family, Sir,” the waiter complimented sincerely.

Well, of course. My kids and I are gifted with good looks. As for a certain woman...

I gave birth to them, so how bad can they look? As for a certain man... Hah, he’s called Poker Face for a reason!

“Ready?” the waiter asked.

“Wait,” Erbao interrupted. “Shouldn’t Mommy and Daddy get a little closer?”

Dabao nodded.

Nan Chen and Ning Ran inched closer mechanically, without looking at each other and as a result of the lack of eye contact, their heads almost collided.

In any case, it was close enough for the waiter to take the first family photo of the family.

Given the good looks of everyone in the family, one would have thought that the picture taken was the stills of a movie or a drama.

“I wanna see.” Erbao grabbed the first look, then touching her face, she said, “Is my face that big?”

Ning Ran laughed. “How much you eat every day will result in how big your face is. Don’t you know that?”

“Hmph, my face is not that big. It’s the camera’s problem. How could my face be bigger than Dabao’s?” Erbao grumbled.

“You used to love pretending to be me, but you can’t now because you’ve gained weight,” Dabao said.

“No! No! I’m going to lose weight,” Erbao shouted anxiously.

“How about you skip this meal tonight, then? You have to take immediate action when it comes to dieting. Otherwise, they’re just empty talks,” Ning Ran teased.

“Oh, no. That won’t work. Let me finish this meal first.” Naturally, Erbao wouldn’t agree.

Thanks to Erbao, the atmosphere in the room seemed to have lightened up. It wasn't as heavy as before.

Halfway through their meal, Nan Chen's phone vibrated.

After picking up the call at the side, he returned to the table and said to Dabao and Erbao, "I have to leave soon. You two enjoy your meal and I'll get the driver to send you home later."

"Where are you going, Daddy?" Erbao asked.

"I have something to take care of," Nan Chen said, looking a little distracted, so much so that he stopped eating.

A few minutes later, his phone vibrated again. He answered the call while waving at Dabao and Erbao, signaling that he would be taking his leave.

Feeling something in her bones, Ning Ran walked toward the window and saw a red sports car pulled over. A beautiful young woman alighted the car, and she was none other than Ouyang Qing.

After the two exchanged a few words, Nan Chen got into her car and the car soon sped off.

Ning Ran suddenly felt as if her heart was stuffed with balls of cotton.

Meanwhile, in the car, Nan Chen asked Ouyang Qing, "Is it very serious?"

"She complained about having an abdominal pain during dinner, then it got worse. But she refused to go to the hospital when I told her to. I had no choice but to call you," Ouyang Qing said.

"She should go to the hospital if she's not feeling well. Why didn't she go to the hospital?" Nan Chen was a little riled up.

“She probably doesn’t like the smell of the hospital.”

“Then you should have called the doctor over. She can’t just hold it in.”

“That’s why I called you. I can’t get through her no matter how much I’ve persuaded her,” Ouyang Qing said, feigning an aggrieved look.

Nan Chen clammed up.

Soon, they arrived at a neighborhood in Red Maple City.

“You guys live here too?” Nan Chen asked in surprise.

“I have an extra house here, so I told her to move in and she likes it here,” Ouyang Qing explained, and seeing that Nan Chen didn’t respond, she asked, “Why? Is there someone else living in this neighborhood?”

Nan Chen remained silent.

Naturally, he wouldn’t tell Ouyang Qing that Ning Ran also lived in this neighborhood.

In fact, Ouyang Qing had asked that question on purpose. She had someone follow Ning Ran and knew that she lived here too.

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Bai Hua was lying on the sofa when they entered the villa.

She was about to get up when she saw Nan Chen, but the latter quickly signaled her to lie down as he said, “Just lie down for now. If you really don’t want to go to the hospital, I’ll ask the doctor to come over.”

“It’s okay. I’m feeling better now.” Bai Hua insisted on sitting up.

“Don’t try to be strong when you’re sick. It’s pointless,” Nan Chen said grouchyly.

“I’m really feeling better now. Besides, I’m already in poor health so discomfort is a common sign. I can’t just stay in the hospital all the time, right?” Bai Hua said.

“So, how do you feel now? Do I need to call the doctor or not?”

“No. I feel like I’m back to normal. I don’t usually see you, but I feel much better now that you’re here.”

Bai Hua gestured for Nan Chen to sit next to her.

Nan Chen couldn’t bear to reject a patient, so he sat next to her as she asked.

“You guys talk. I’m going to do some reading for a while. I’ve been studying about film production lately,” Ouyang Qing said.

“Look at how ambitious this child is. You go ahead. I’ll be fine with Chen accompanying me.” Bai Hua exchanged a knowing look with Ouyang Qing.

It was by chance that Ouyang Qing had discovered that Nan Chen and Ning Ran were having dinner together.

Ouyang Qing had a friend who ran into Nan Chen at Champs French Restaurant.

Upon learning that the couple was together, Ouyang Qing came to Bai Hua to vent her grievances.

Bai Hua then pretended to be sick and told Ouyang Qing to give Nan Chen a call.

They knew that Nan Chen was a filial son and were sure that he would rush over upon receiving the call.

Just as expected, Nan Chen had come over in no time.

As for why Ouyang Qing had arrived at the restaurant so soon, it was because she had deliberately hurried there just so she could tell Nan Chen that she was nearby and that she could pick him up on the way.

Nan Chen might be smart, but never would he expect his mother to join forces with Ouyang Qing to deceive him.

Coupled with the fact that his mother had always been ill, Nan Chen naturally took the bait.

As Ouyang Qing stepped away, Bai Hua had a heart-to-heart talk with Nan Chen.

“Have you been very busy lately, Chen? You have to take care of your health.” Bai Hua first offered the concern a mother should have.

“I’m fine,” Nan Chen said placidly.

“Is everything all right at the company? Is it stressful?”

Nan Chen didn’t really know how to answer that question. It would be a lie to say that managing a consortium wasn’t stressful at all.

The bigger the company is, the faster it collapsed and the harder it is to save, and all that glitz and glamour came with a price.

“It’s fine,” Nan Chen gave another placid response.

“Take care and don’t overwork yourself,” Bai Hua said softly.

“I will. You take care too.”

“Right, you’re not getting any younger now. Is there someone you are interested in?” Bai Hua started to get to the point.

“No,” Nan Chen replied briskly.

“The kids that the woman brought to Grandpa’s birthday banquet... Are they really yours?” Bai Hua asked.

Nan Chen was triggered by those words.

Putting the DNA report aside, isn’t it obvious that they’re my children just by their looks?

How could they look so much like me if they’re not my biological children?

“Do you think I would have brought them to Grandpa’s birthday banquet if they’re not my own?” Nan Chen replied with a question of his own coldly.

Sensing the displeasure from his voice, Bai Hua laughed dryly, “You’re right. I shouldn’t have asked that question.”

Nan Chen kept quiet.

“But I heard that the woman suddenly showed up with two children. Could she be up to something?” Bai Hua asked again.

Nan Chen had to admit that he used to share the same sentiment as his mother, but he had long dismissed that thought.

Ning Ran wasn't dull-witted, but neither was she smart enough to devise any earth-shattering schemes.

Based on Nan Chen's observation over time, she was just a woman with a slightly loose screw.

To say that she was a scheming person was an overstatement.

"No," Nan Chen said.

"Chen, don't get mad at me for talking too much. But the poorer the people are, the stronger their desire for money and they will do anything for money. Why didn't she inform the Nan family when she was pregnant? Instead, she gave birth to them and raised them for years before showing up unannounced. It's hard to believe that she's not up to something."

Nan Chen was pensive for a moment.

He wasn't offended that Bai Hua would say such words because he once had these thoughts as well. It wasn't surprising to him that his mother would have those concerns, and he didn't feel like explaining because certain things couldn't be explained.

Opinions about a person are something too subjective.

Unless one changes one's perceptive, it is difficult to see a person anew via someone else's explanation.

When Nan Chen first thought that Ning Ran had an ulterior motive, he was unmoved, no matter how hard Nan Xing had tried to convince him.

It was only through his own observations that he started to see Ning Ran in a different light.

“Chen, you’re now the leader of Nanshi Corporation. Many people would approach you for their personal gains. But marriage is a huge thing and it can’t be taken lightly. I hope you can keep your distance from that woman,” Bai Hua eventually spoke her mind after beating around the bush.

Nan Chen didn’t respond immediately. For one, she was his mother, and he had to show his respect, and for the other, he was still a little dissatisfied with the woman’s incident with Ouyang Qi.

Nan Chen couldn’t seem to make up his mind because of the woman’s casual display of superficiality.

“Marriage is not a trivial matter. It’s about meeting the right woman from the right family. Marriage and love are not the same. Love is about liking each other, but what lies behind marriage is a complex relationship of economic interests—”

“Marriage is indeed an economic activity to a certain degree, but not all marriages depend on the interests at stake first,” Nan Chen interrupted, more or less knowing what she would say next.

“You’re different from others. You can’t just marry a clown who doesn’t have any powerful connections,” Bai Hua said.

There was a hint of coldness in Nan Chen’s eyes at the word “clown”.

What era is it now that there is still such discrimination against artists?

“Artist is also a profession. This society needs the work of artists to fulfill the spiritual needs of the public, whether it’s movies, television dramas or variety shows, or even reality shows that have no educational value. There’s a reason why so many people are watching them. To the artist, that’s their job. They should be respected as long as they work by the rules and make a living through their own efforts. As for me, investing in artists is a business no different from any other businesses.”

Nan Chen's long-winded speech made it obvious that he was rather upset deep inside.

Given his temper, he disdained to argue with others.

However, since the topic revolved around the woman and the person saying that was his mother, he couldn't help but say a few more words.

His stance was so assertive that Bai Hua was dumbfounded. She didn't expect him to stand up for Ning Ran at all.