

Weak B 1011

Chapter 1011

"So happy, it seems your future father-in-law and mother-in-law are quite satisfied with you!"

"Aunt..." Kang Yiyang's smile froze on his face, followed by an expression of deep embarrassment. He said, "I'm happy to see you and Uncle back, please don't tease me about other things."

"Tease? Did I say something wrong?"

Blinking her fox-like eyes, Kang Li's gaze was mischievous. She looked at Kang Yiyang for a while and said, "Could it be that her parents didn't even let you in the door..."

Before she could finish, Kang Yiyang spoke up, "No, Uncle Lin and Aunt Yuan were very nice to me, Uncle Lin even personally cooked a whole table of dishes to entertain me."

"Really?"

Kang Li pretended not to believe him.

"If you don't believe me, you can ask Lin Dan's cousin." Kang Yiyang took two bulky travel bags from Luo Yanqing, helping to carry them. Walking beside Kang Li, his tone sounded particularly serious.

"You kid are moving fast, now you're not calling Aunt Wu Yue on my side but standing with Lin Dan, tsk tsk, got a crush on the girl?"

With a teasing look, Kang Li made Kang Yiyang feel embarrassed again, then laughed wickedly: "Ah! You're blushing!"

"Say whatever you want, Aunt."

Kang Yiyang's cheeks were burning; he knew his aunt was teasing him deliberately. To avoid further teasing, he simply put on a "dead pig unafraid of boiling water" attitude.

Seeing this, Kang Li turned her gaze to Kang Guoan: "Brother, have you noticed, our Yangyang's skin is getting thicker!"

Kang Guoan nodded in agreement: "Yesterday he even brought his partner over to see our mother!"

"Tsk tsk, just like that, still being stubbornly unadmitting when I called it out earlier."

Glancing at Kang Yiyang, Kang Li's gaze showed some mockery.

Kang Guoan: "He's just embarrassed, you're the elder, don't tease the kid anymore, or be careful he complains about you to our mother."

Kang Yiyang: "I'm not a kid."

"Only a snitch would tattletale!" Ming Han, holding hands with his brother Min Rui, suddenly interjected.

Ming Wei was also holding Min Rui's little hand, and after Ming Han spoke, nodded her little head in agreement: "Big cousin, if you tell Grandma about my mom, then you're a snitch, and Big Brother and Second Brother will look down on you!"

"I've already said I'm not a kid."

Looking at the twins, Kang Yiyang laughed: "Only you kids like tattling, let me guess if you two are snitches."

Ming Han and Ming Wei spoke in unison: "We're not!"

"Are you sure?"

Kang Yiyang raised an eyebrow, clearly pretending to be skeptical.

Ming Han: "My mom said one should be open and upright!"

Ming Wei nodded: "That's right, that's what my mom said. Me, Big Brother, and Second Brother are all good kids, we listen to mom the most!"

The group laughingly entered the courtyard gate.

Su Man was originally standing at her home's courtyard gate, watching her son squatting and playing with other children of similar age. When Kang Li appeared in her view, her gaze never left Kang Li for a moment. Upon careful observation, it was not difficult to find the complexity in her eyes.

As for why such an expression appeared, it stems from Su Man hearing from her brother Su Tao that Su Qing's family of three returned to North City. For unknown reasons,

she ran back to her parents' home that day, and after hearing Su Qing and Su Tao casually mention the national perfect score science champion coming from Aoli Village,

Chapter 1012

It happened to be the time when the youngest daughter of the Team Leader's House in the village where they were sent was around, so Kang Li couldn't help but perk up and listen in. She then learned that Kang Li turned out to be Su Qing's defeated opponent, who was rejected by her good brother-in-law, and subsequently got together with Luo Yanqing.

Su Qing took advantage of Zhou Weimin's absence to bring up the matter while Su Man was nearby, listening to her and her brother Su Tao casually chatting. Her tone carried a hint of smugness, aiming to tell Su Man that although her own sister had snatched her marriage away,

her personal charm hadn't disappeared. Look, someone even broke off an engagement of several years for her, and the one rejected, despite looking like a Fairy Girl, still couldn't keep a man's heart.

Su Man was not stupid, so she could easily discern what Su Qing's words implied. However, she just found Su Qing laughable, and couldn't resist sarcastically retorting before leaving, "Perhaps she's thanking my brother-in-law for not marrying her!"

Upon hearing Su Man's words, Su Qing was infuriated.

At this moment, eyes locked on Kang Li's figure, watching Kang Li and Luo Yanqing enter through the courtyard gate with their group, Su Man recalled what she had heard from Su Qing, and her gaze inevitably became complicated.

She thought Kang Li must have stepped in luck, being able to marry into North City to a good man like Luo Yanqing even after being rejected. Unlike her, she had to resort to tactics to marry Wen Siyuan, a second-marriage man with three kids in tow.

"Why don't I see Chenchen?"

Entering the living room, Kang Li didn't see Kang Yichen's figure and couldn't help but ask her mother.

"Your second brother already reported to their school two days ago; your uncle and I took him there," Kang Yiyang casually replied as he put down the luggage in his hand.

Cai Xiufen: "Chenchen's school registered early. Knowing you and Yanqing couldn't make it back, your little brother and Yangyang took Chenchen to his school."

"We were still on the train the day before yesterday!" Kang Li said with a smile, then enquired about Kang Yihong and his wife's situation: "Xiao Hong and Yan Rou didn't come over?"

Cai Xiufen: "They came over for a day before Chenchen reported to school and then returned to Yan Rou's house."

Kang Yiyang: "I think our third brother might become a live-in son-in-law."

"What nonsense are you talking about? Our family isn't poor enough to need any of you to be someone else's live-in son-in-law!" Cai Xiufen glared at her eldest grandson in discontent: "Being a live-in son-in-law doesn't have a good reputation where we're from, and it's surely the same in this city. Plus, your brother is a university student now, having a promising future, so why would he need to rush to be someone else's live-in son-in-law?"

Seeing that his grandma was genuinely upset, Kang Yiyang quickly offered a conciliatory smile and made a surrender gesture: "Grandma, don't be angry. It was my loose tongue, I said something wrong. How about you hit me twice?"

Leaning closer to his grandma, Kang Yiyang said: "Hit me wherever you want; I guarantee your eldest grandson won't complain!"

"Shoo, shoo, go away, I don't want to see you, you little rascal!" Cai Xiufen waved her hand to shoo him off and asked Kang Li: "How are your Uncle Loh and Aunt Li's health?"

Kang Li replied: "They're doing well. Since returning to Hu City, they're being cared for with medicinal meals based on a traditional Chinese doctor's recommendations."

Cai Xiufen: "What about Xiao En?"

"He's just as well-behaved as Ruirui was when they were little. Aunt Li even hopes Xiao En could be a bit more mischievous."

As Kang Li spoke about Xiao Loh En, her eyes were full of warmth, "Knowing we were leaving, Xiao En was like a little kitten, clinging to me and crying, reluctant to let me go.

In the end, I repeatedly assured him I'd visit Hu City to see him when possible, and only then did the little guy let me leave. I was so heartbroken seeing him!"

Chapter 1013

"If you have time, make more phone calls. Even though Uncle Loh and Aunt Li are around the child, without parents, there's still a lack of security. Since you and Yanqing have accepted this godson, care for the little guy in daily life."

Like a kitten crying, Cai Xiufen couldn't help but feel sorry for Xiao Loh En.

"Okay! I will call Xiao En every week and also let Ruirui and the others talk to Xiao En more often!" Kang Li assured her mother with a smile.

Cai Xiufen then said, "The other day, Xiao Hong brought his wife over and asked me to tell you that Yan Rou won't be coming to stay, to avoid being a bother to you and Yanqing."

"Since Comrade Yan has resumed work, the house must be in perfect order, and given Comrade Yan's status, she must have hired someone to handle housekeeping. Yan Rou staying at her own home would definitely be more comfortable than staying with me, and she can accompany her father at the same time, which is great."

As she spoke, Kang Li linked her arm through Cai Xiufen's: "Besides, I can't bear to see you exhausted, after all, taking care of a pregnant woman isn't easy, even if it doesn't require constant attention!"

At this moment, Luo Yanqing said, "Why don't we transfer Ruirui and the others to a school near us, and mom can live with us on campus?"

"Why go through so much trouble? I'll just stay here to look after Ruirui and the others, so the children don't have to adjust to a new school." Cai Xiufen objected.

Kang Li: "The school is a bit far from the compound, but if we sleep a little less and take the bus back and forth every day or ride a bike, we should make it to classes on time." While saying this, Kang Li thought it might be a good time to buy a car for the family, which would solve everything.

Luo Yanqing: "Shall we talk about it later then?"

Kang Li nodded affirmatively.

Min Rui: "Mom, I can take my younger siblings to and from school. No need for Grandma to worry, and you and Dad don't have to worry about us either."

Ming Han: "I will listen to my brother!"

Ming Wei: "Mom, Second Brother and I are big kids now, we'll be fine going to school with Big Brother!"

"Alright, alright, you've all grown up, and Mom and Dad trust you, but in our hearts, no matter how big you are, you are still kids. Now go play, and don't worry about anything else."

After sending off Min Rui and the others, Kang Li said to Luo Yanqing, "If there's a chance, I'll buy a car for our family. What do you think?"

"If you want to use the car arranged for me at work, we can keep using it, but if you're sure about buying one for our family, I have no objections. But do we have enough money?"

Luo Yanqing always supported Kang Li's decisions unconditionally.

"Don't worry about that!"

No matter what task she completed, the cash rewards from "Dwen Dwen," along with the gold medal awards she won in competitions over the years, the nation's rewards together amounted to a significant sum.

Suddenly, the landline phone rang.

Cai Xiufen picked up the receiver casually: "Hello..." The next moment, she smacked her forehead and quickly handed the phone to Kang Li: "It's your Grandpa Xiao, he's been calling these past few days saying he needs to find you."

Taking the receiver from her mother, Kang Li hadn't yet spoken when she heard a familiar voice tinged with sorrow.

"Li Bao... come home! If you have time now, can you please..."

Old Man Xiao spoke in a broken voice, and his words fell into Kang Li's ears, which made her feel empathetic. Her heart tightened, and after Old Man Xiao's voice faded, she quickly responded, "Okay, I'll head over right away!"

Chapter 1014

After hanging up, Kang Li glanced at Luo Yanqing, then said to Cai Xiufen, "Mom, Grandma Yu is not doing well. Grandpa Xiao said Grandma Yu wants to see me one last time before she goes. I must rush to the hospital now!"

"Then what are you still standing here for? Go, take Yanqing and Ruirui with you!"

Cai Xiufen urged.

"Okay."

Kang Li nodded.

...

Hurrying to the hospital, Kang Li pushed open the ward door and felt the oppressive and heavy atmosphere inside. Her heart ached instantly, and at the same time, her eyes and nose stung.

"Grandma Yu..."

She walked to the bedside and looked at the weakly breathing old woman trying to focus her gaze on her.

"Li Bao, your Grandma Yu can't speak anymore. She wants to hear you call her grandma one more time!" It was Old Man Xiao's voice. He stood beside Kang Li, his eyes firmly locked on Old Lady Yu's face, afraid that if he blinked, they'd be separated by life and death.

Hearing this, Kang Li sat on the chair by the bed. She held Old Lady Yu's hand and softly called, "Grandma! Grandma... can you hear me? It's Li Bao..."

In response, Old Lady Yu managed a smile, full of affection and reluctance. Then, she slowly moved her gaze and eventually exchanged glances with Old Man Xiao.

"Don't worry, I know. I've remembered everything you told me!"

Old Man Xiao's eyes were wet, and he looked increasingly pained.

Is this really goodbye?

Having watched over her for a lifetime, he still wanted to keep her company, even underground, but he couldn't do that now... because he promised her to look after the people she cared about and handle the matters she entrusted to him...

Old Lady Yu's eyes moved slightly. Then, with a smile on her lips, her loving gaze returned to Kang Li before she slowly closed her eyes.

In the ward, the cries of Kang Li and Min Rui's three echoed. As for Old Man Xiao, he bent over and gently touched Old Lady Yu's face, tears silently falling.

Luo Yanqing stood quietly by, his lips tightly pressed. Although he didn't exhibit any obvious emotional changes, he seemed equally sorrowful.

Footsteps approached from outside the ward, and soon the doctor and nurse entered.

Confirming that Old Lady Yu had passed, the attending doctor offered a few words of comfort to Old Man Xiao and then left the room.

...

A few days passed, and Kang Li's family of five accompanied Old Man Xiao to bury Old Lady Yu. During this time, Luo Yanqing took the opportunity to complete the registration at Shuimu University for Kang Li.

Of course, Luo Yanqing didn't forget to enroll the three of Min Rui.

"Li Bao, come home with Grandpa Xiao for a visit."

Leaving the cemetery, Kang Li heard Old Man Xiao's words and nodded lightly. She said to Luo Yanqing, "You take Ruirui and them back to the compound first, and remember to send them to school after lunch." All the primary and secondary schools had officially opened yesterday.

"Okay."

Luo Yanqing nodded.

The group split up midway, with Kang Li accompanying Old Man Xiao to the courtyard.

"Take a look at this letter first."

After entering the house, Old Man Xiao retrieved a letter from a drawer and handed it to Kang Li.

"For me?"

Kang Li accepted the letter, her eyes filled with doubt as she looked at Old Man Xiao.

"It's for you. Before the Spring Festival, while she could still hold a pen, your grandma specifically wrote this letter to you. Read it, and you'll understand everything."

Saying this, Old Man Xiao raised his hand to wipe his eyes.

The letter wasn't sealed. With curiosity, Kang Li pulled out the letter paper inside. Then, she slowly unfolded it; roughly estimating, there were about four or five pages.

Chapter 1015

The letter was written in the old-fashioned style, and it was done in brush calligraphy, more precisely, it could have been used as a copybook with its fine small regular script.

Before reading the contents of the letter, just by looking at the layout of this fine calligraphy, a scene nearly leaped out before Kang Li's eyes.

A young lady of a prominent family sat at the desk, the window half-open. With delicate grace, holding a brush, her eyes downcast, she calmly wrote a letter on the paper before her.

A gentle breeze blew outside the window, the faint scent of flowers lingered in the air, wafting into the room with the breeze...

After a while, Kang Li pulled back her drifting thoughts and lowered her eyes to read the letter in her hand.

It was written in traditional Chinese characters, but Kang Li had no trouble with that.

The reason?

Before coming to this world, Kang Li had studied calligraphy with her grandfather in her childhood, and she was not unfamiliar with traditional characters at all.

The moments ticked by, and if Luo Yanqing were present, she would notice the gradual change in Kang Li's expression.

From shock to confusion, then from confusion to calmness, finally turning into complexity.

"If you don't believe it, take a look at this photo."

Old Man Xiao sat beside her, naturally observing the changes in Kang Li's expression. Seeing her fold the letter back into the envelope, he handed over a slightly yellowed photo.

"But why did Grandma Yu never mention it to me? Not even in front of my mother?" Taking the photo from Old Man Xiao, Kang Li glanced at it, her eyes calm, her tone indifferent, revealing no emotions.

Old Man Xiao: "She was worried about complicating things for you. Even now, although everything is getting better, she's still afraid of affecting you, so... so she never brought up those past matters with you, child,

you should feel it; her love and care for you are heartfelt. Ever since you saved her life by chance, she recognized you, and she's been happy every day in these recent years.

She said she's content. Even if she can't explain everything clearly to you, she's already satisfied in her heart! The reason she left this letter for you is mainly to give you the things passed down from your ancestors."

Speaking of this, Old Man Xiao stood up: "Come with me."

Kang Li followed behind Old Man Xiao, and the two of them came to a rather simple side room.

"Child, close the door first."

Old Man Xiao instructed.

Kang Li complied, turning to latch the door.

In the next moment, she saw Old Man Xiao move away an ordinary bed board, then press twice on an inconspicuous spot on the bed frame. The bed frame folded up before her eyes, and a seam in the floor slowly opened. Gradually, the seam widened until it could accommodate a person passing through, then it stopped changing.

"I'll go down first, and you follow."

In the opening large enough for a person to pass through was a wooden ladder, and looking down, there was a faint light visible.

Kang Li said nothing and followed closely after.

"Child, you've read the letter. Apart from what was donated to the country, what is stored here is all for you." Pointing at five large sandalwood chests, Old Man Xiao walked forward, opening each lid one by one.

Kang Li watched silently. Although mentally prepared, she was still slightly surprised.

Two chests of gold bars, two chests of antique calligraphy and paintings, and one chest of jewelry and ornaments.

Old Man Xiao took out a carved wooden box, about the size of two adult palms, from the chest containing jewelry and ornaments.

"This contains all the house and shop contracts. The Jiang Family ancestral home and most of the properties and shops were donated to the country by the eldest lady. As for the Yu Family ancestral home and two larger residences,

Chapter 1016

Back then, the young lady said it was meant to be lent to the country. The house deed was kept by the young lady in this box. Additionally, this little courtyard house was originally left by the young lady for the third young lady to rest when she was tired from traveling outside,

The house deed is, of course, kept properly... The Yu Family's early wealth was comparable to the Jiang Family's, but alas, the second young master was unwilling to manage the family business for his ideals, so the young lady had to thoroughly organize the family business before her wedding. Most of it was sold off, exchanged for gold bars divided into three parts, and the remaining family assets were also divided into three parts, one of which the second young master took directly for his revolutionary activities..."

Old Man Xiao talked a lot, as if he wanted to tell Kang Li everything in one go. Finally, he looked directly into Kang Li's eyes: "Child, the young lady has communicated with the relevant departments, and the items the country will return to her will be handed over to you. The young lady's only wish is to reopen the Yu Family Restaurant. If possible, please help fulfill her wish!"

With a solemn expression, Old Man Xiao paused, and sincerely said: "I'm entrusting it to you, child!"

Kang Li nodded, giving her promise: "Alright."

...

Upon returning to the courtyard, Cai Xiufen asked as soon as she saw her precious daughter, "What's wrong with you?"

"Nothing, I'm fine, I'm doing well!"

Kang Li entered with her own thoughts. Hearing her mother's voice, she suddenly snapped back to reality and shook her head with a smile.

"You don't look like nothing's wrong to me."

Cai Xiufen frowned slightly: "Are you going to school with Yanqing later, or are you going tomorrow morning?"

"Tomorrow morning."

Kang Li replied.

Cai Xiufen: "Will you make it?"

Kang Li: "I definitely will."

"Then you better get up early tomorrow." Cai Xiufen muttered while leaving the living room: "Really nothing's wrong? I just can't believe it!"

Hearing her mother's mumbling, Kang Li patted her chest guiltily.

"Looks like you're really hiding something from your mother."

Luo Yanqing emerged from the study, just in time to see Kang Li patting her chest, and couldn't help but say with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Kang Li raised her index finger: "Shh!"

"Then tell me about it."

Luo Yanqing shook his head with some amusement, but he didn't intend to let Kang Li off.

Unexpectedly, Kang Li changed the subject: "Are you going to pick up Ruirui and the others?" In about half an hour, Min Rui and the three would be out of school.

"Let's go together." Luo Yanqing had made up his mind to ask Kang Li about what she was hiding on the way.

"Why don't you go alone? I want to rest for a while."

Kang Li didn't move.

Luo Yanqing: "Tired?"

"Mhm." Kang Li deliberately displayed a bit of fatigue, but then Luo Yanqing said, "No problem, there are still twenty to thirty minutes before school is over, we can take it slow."

"You..."

Kang Li puffed up her cheeks.

"Let's go."

Extending a hand to Kang Li, Luo Yanqing's phoenix eyes brimmed with laughter.

"By the way, how many classes do you have in a week?"

Giving a light pat on Luo Yanqing's palm, Kang Li stepped towards the living room door.

"One major class, four minor classes."

Hearing Luo Yanqing say this, Kang Li blinked her fox-like eyes and asked: "Do you basically have classes every day?"

"Yes." Luo Yanqing replied.

Kang Li: "Based on my major, I shouldn't have to attend your classes, right?"

Luo Yanqing's mouth held a smile: "The four minor classes are major-specific, you indeed don't have to attend my classes."

"Is that one major class a general class? It's not... it's not added just because of me, is it?"

She knew that his going to teach at Shuimu University was secondary, mainly he was at home resting because it was a holiday. If he went to class every day, what difference would that be from working at the institute?

Chapter 1017

"Guess."

Luo Yanqing didn't answer directly.

Giving the man a meaningful look, Kang Li snorted proudly and said, "I can't guess, you tell me!"

This time, Luo Yanqing didn't keep her in suspense: "Advanced Mathematics."

"Oh."

Kang Li responded, indicating she understood. Seeing this, Luo Yanqing couldn't help but smile and ask, "What, you don't want to attend my class?"

Without thinking, Kang Li denied it: "I never said that." This guy is as sharp as a tack, if she dared to admit it, he'd definitely get moody with her.

Luo Yanqing: "Saying one thing and meaning another."

Kang Li: "Definitely not, I love listening to you talk. After all, your voice is so pleasant it could make my ears give birth to babies, how could I not want to attend your class? Besides, attending Professor Luo's class is my honor!"

"Is that so? Then I hope to see you in the classroom during my seminar, otherwise..." Luo Yanqing didn't finish the sentence, but Kang Li sensed the "danger" implied. At that moment, she felt she brought this on herself, and had no choice but to agree with a smile, lest the man saw she was forced to agree against her will.

Luo Yanqing didn't care what Kang Li thought; all he wanted was to see his little girl every day. At this moment he was in a good mood, but he didn't forget to chase the matter Kang Li was hiding. He said, "You're acting guilty in front of Mom; I know you must be hiding something. Can you tell me now?"

"I'll tell you later tonight." Kang Li casually diverted the topic, then said, "I thought about it, attending your seminar isn't appropriate. Right, there shouldn't be any major courses in the first semester of freshman year, so you're..."

Luo Yanqing: "You're free to attend my class, there's no such thing as appropriate or inappropriate." He paused briefly, then added, "I'm temporarily taking over for third-year students."

Kang Li: "A worker-peasant-soldier student."

Luo Yanqing made a sound of agreement.

Kang Li: "You must be teaching physics students, which means most of the class must be boys. Do you think it's appropriate for me to be there?"

"Gender equality, don't worry, I won't call on you to answer questions in class."

"Are you underestimating me? Do you think I can't understand, and you're worried that calling on me would cause a big embarrassment?"

"Don't misunderstand, I just want you to be in the class so I can see you at a glance, other than that I haven't thought of anything."

"Dare to underestimate me, watch me surprise you then!"

With a slight lift of her chin, Kang Li said proudly, "Don't forget, I was the top science student with full scores; math, physics, and chemistry are a piece of cake for me."

Luo Yanqing looked at her with gentle and doting eyes, smiling as he said, "Yes, yes, my wife is the best!"

Kang Li tried not to laugh, her tone light: "As long as you know."

At the school gate, the two waited for about seventeen or eighteen minutes until the school bell rang.

"Daddy! Mommy!"

The twins flew out of the school gate like birds out of a cage, running toward Kang Li and Luo Yanqing.

Behind them, Min Rui quickly caught up with a few quick steps.

"Time to go home!"

Gently pinching the twins' cheeks, Kang Li held one in each hand, calling over Luo Yanqing and Min Rui to follow. The family of five crossed the street laughing and talking, heading towards the compound.

"Didn't Aunt Kang go to school?"

Wen Yi spotted Kang Li and Luo Yanqing by chance, walking out of the school gate with her sister Wen Yue and younger sister Wen Yu.

Wen Yue: "She probably had something today."

"Aunt Kang is really great, and Uncle Luo too. Every day, as long as they're home, they pick up and drop off Brother Ming Rui and the twins from school."

Chapter 1018

Wen Yi's voice is full of envy.

Wen Yue: "I know what you want to say, Little Yi. We need to understand Dad."

Wen Yi pouted: "I do understand."

"That woman goes to school, so Dad has to pick up and drop off Pengpeng at kindergarten every day. It's hard for him to find the energy to pick us up. We shouldn't be upset with Dad because of this."

After listening to her sister Wen Yue, Wen Yi was silent for a while and said, "I'm not."

"It's best if you're not. Otherwise, if Dad finds out, he might think we're being childish."

After saying this, Wen Yue said no more.

...

After dinner, Kang Li checked Min Rui's homework, signed it, watched as Min Rui and Brother Ming Han soaked their feet and went to bed. Kang Li then went to Ming Wei's room and found the little girl lying in bed after soaking her feet. Her expression was gentle as she sat by the bedside and touched the little girl's forehead: "Sleep now."

Ming Wei blinked and said with her childish voice: "I want to hear a story from Mom."

"Okay."

Kang Li's eyebrows and eyes were full of smiles. She nodded and began telling the story of Jingwei filling up the sea, but before she got halfway through, the little girl was already fast asleep.

Seeing this, Kang Li smiled, got up to pull down the lamp, and quietly left the room.

"Mom, are you lying down?"

Standing outside her mother's door, Kang Li asked softly.

Cai Xiufen: "I'm lying down. Do you have something you want to say?"

After hesitating for a moment, Kang Li replied: "No."

Cai Xiufen: "Then hurry up and wash and go to sleep!"

Kang Li said "Oh" and went to sit on the bamboo bench near the heater.

"The water temperature is just right."

The slippers and towel were already placed, and Kang Li heard Luo Yanqing's words, nodded, and thanked him.

"So polite?"

Luo Yanqing raised an eyebrow.

Kang Li tilted her head and asked: "Is there something wrong?"

Luo Yanqing shook his head but still said, "You never need to say thank you to me."

"Got it."

Kang Li replied.

After soaking her feet, as usual, Luo Yanqing poured out the foot bath water.

“You want to know what I’m hiding from Mom? Here, you’ll know after reading this letter.” Sitting against the headboard, Kang Li handed Luo Yanqing the letter Old Man Xiao gave her.

Luo Yanqing took out the letter paper: “Small script in flower arrangement style!”

Kang Li’s expression was complicated; she softly said “hmm” before continuing: “The letter was transferred to me by Grandpa Xiao from Grandma Yu.”

After hearing this, Luo Yanqing didn’t say anything further. He quietly looked through the contents of the letter.

Approximately two or three minutes later, he folded the letter paper back into the envelope, and before he could speak, Kang Li handed him a photo: “Look.”

Luo Yanqing took the photo from her hand, and at a glance, his eyes revealed surprise: “This looks exactly like you.”

Kang Li: “Yes, it looks like me, almost as if made from the same mold. But it’s precisely because of this resemblance that I can’t deny what Grandma Yu said in the letter. But... my parents have never

mentioned it to me, and in my memory, I've never heard anyone else at home or in the village talk about it."

Luo Yanqing: "You don't know how to bring this up to Mom?"

Kang Li: "Mm. I don't want Mom to be sad, and I don't want to create a rift with my family because of what Grandma Yu said in the letter."

Luo Yanqing: "If the matter is true, why didn't Grandma Yu confirm it through Mom?"

"She said she didn't want me to be affected; moreover... she could see that my parents and family treated me very well. The letter mentioned this, didn't you see it?"

Kang Li looked at Luo Yanqing, her delicate eyebrows slightly furrowed.

"Perhaps I read too quickly and didn't notice." Luo Yanqing casually explained.

Chapter 1019

"Do you think I should tell Mother about this?"

Kang Li sought Luo Yanqing's opinion.

"Of course you should, but when to say it depends on you." After a moment of silence, Luo Yanqing added, "Maybe wait until you're ready to reveal the whole story."

"I agree with you, and besides... it feels a bit unreliable to just speculate based on a photo and a letter from Grandma Yu."

"With this photo, I think it's almost certain."

"There are many people who look alike in this world, does that mean they all have some blood relation?"

"That's true... but take a closer look at this photo. If you were to wear those clothes and braid your hair in two plaits hanging over your chest, it would be hard to distinguish between the two of you."

"You wouldn't be able to tell them apart either?"

Kang Li squinted her fox-like eyes, staring straight at Luo Yanqing.

With a sudden awareness for survival, Luo Yanqing shook his head: "I can tell with one glance that this isn't you."

Kang Li: "How can you tell?"

Luo Yanqing: "The demeanor and the eyes. Although the gaze in the photo is as pure and transparent as yours, she overall gives off a fragile impression, and seems quite introverted."

Kang Li: "What about me?"

Luo Yanqing: "You're like a bright pearl, radiating dazzling light wherever you are, making it impossible for me to look away."

"You really know how to sweet talk."

A trace of smile flickered in her beautiful eyes as Kang Li took the photo from Luo Yanqing's hand: "This looks like a well-bred young lady, both gentle and serene."

Luo Yanqing said, almost instinctively: "You're a Little Fairy, serene like a maiden but quick and agile like a rabbit. In my heart, no one else compares."

"I'm almost floating from your rainbow flattery!"

Kang Li chuckled.

"Rainbow flattery?"

Luo Yanqing clearly didn't understand what it meant.

Kang Li explained: "It means words of praise."

"You have so many new phrases in your mouth, I've heard quite a few from Luo Mingrui and the others, seems like they learned it from you." Luo Yanqing's delicate eyes were filled with a smile, hearing this, Kang Li raised an eyebrow: "Jealous?"

Luo Yanqing: "Certainly, but I'm more delighted that my wife knows so much!"

Kang Li laughed: "Your rainbow flattery is endless!" As she drew out the letter, Kang Li unfolded it, and casually said as she looked at the handwriting: "This elegant cursive is beautiful, it gives a refined, graceful feeling at a glance, which matches Grandma Yu's expressed aura well!"

Suddenly, Kang Li's expression changed: "Luo Yanqing..."

Seeing her like this, Luo Yanqing involuntarily showed a hint of nervousness: "What's wrong?"

Kang Li grasped Luo Yanqing's hand, she said: "When I accompanied Grandpa Xiao back to the courtyard, he told me many things, now that I recall, I... I have a bad feeling..."

"A bad feeling?"

Luo Yanqing held Kang Li's hand, comforting: "Perhaps you're overthinking it!"

"I hope it's just me overthinking, but whenever I think of the things Grandpa Xiao said, it feels like he was leaving me his last words..." Kang Li couldn't sit still for a moment.

Luo Yanqing drew her into his embrace: "Grandpa Xiao looks energetic, don't scare yourself. If you are really worried, we can go see him first thing tomorrow morning."

"Mm..."

On the other side, Old Man Xiao cleaned the courtyard and the house thoroughly, then stood at the door looking at the empty courtyard, turned back into the room, again looked at the vast room without the figure he longed to see, his eyes dimmed, and he sat by the bed where Old Lady Yu used to sleep, gazing at the pillow placed on the bed, sitting there until late into the night.

"The world truly is changing for the better, Li Bao should have no issues, I've told the young girl everything you wanted me to say, and now I want to follow my own heart to make a decision, don't blame me, I'm afraid if I wait any longer... I won't be able to catch up to you..."

Old

Chapter 1020 A Lifetime of Guardianship

The next day, before dawn, Kang Li and Luo Yanqing arrived at the four-walled courtyard. They knocked repeatedly on the ring, but for a long time did not hear Old Man Xiao's voice. Without thinking too much, Kang Li pushed the courtyard door open, only to find that it was not fully closed, merely resting together, seemingly with a latch inserted from inside.

"Grandpa Xiao!"

Entering the yard with Luo Yanqing, Kang Li raised her voice to call Old Man Xiao, but there was still no response from the old man.

"You go check Grandma Yu's room, and I'll look in Grandpa Xiao's room, maybe he's not up yet."

Luo Yanqing glanced at the wing room where Old Man Xiao lived and softly said to Kang Li.

Kang Li nodded: "Okay."

Before she entered the main room where Old Lady Yu used to live, Luo Yanqing's voice came through: "Xiao Li... come over here!"

Hearing that Luo Yanqing's voice was off, Kang Li felt a pang of distress in her heart. She knew that the uneasy premonition she had the previous night had now become reality.

Holding back tears, Kang Li turned to the room where Old Man Xiao lived and saw Luo Yanqing holding two letters in his hand. However, she didn't rush to read the contents of the letters but instead turned her gaze to the bed.

Old Man Xiao's eyes were tightly closed, his hands clasped and placed on his abdomen... His appearance was tidy, his silver hair was immaculately combed, the clothes and shoes he wore were all new, indicating that the old man had made all preparations and lay down on the bed to die peacefully.

She knew... She knew that the old man did this to avoid troubling others. For a moment, tears were uncontrollable, spilling from the corners of her eyes, dropping down her cheeks.

"Since this is what Grandpa Xiao wanted, we should bless him and Grandma Yu for their reunion in another world, continuing to hold each other."

Luo Yanqing's eyes were slightly red as he comforted Kang Li softly, meanwhile handing her a letter addressed to her: "This letter is for you, open it and have a look. I'll deliver the other letter to the recipient now."

Looking at the recipient unit, name and address on the letter in her hand, Luo Yanqing said, "It's someone from the public office, I'll be back soon."

"Hmm."

Kang Li nodded slightly. After Luo Yanqing left, she looked once more at the appearance of Old Man Xiao, then began to read the letter he left for her.

The content was less than three pages, written in traditional format, similar to the letter Grandma Yu had left for her, also in calligraphy, but Old Man Xiao used meticulously neat regular script.

After reading, Kang Li's heart was full of an overwhelming sourness. She saw Old Man Xiao's feelings for Old Lady Yu. In his youth, he was moved, but due to social status differences,

he could only bury his love deep in his heart, quietly guarding the woman he admired... Later, as the world changed, even though Old Lady Yu's husband took other family members abroad,

separating them across regions, and even though their marital relationship was already in name only, Old Lady Yu was deeply influenced by traditional beliefs. Despite carrying the title of Lady of Jiang Family for years, and even though over time her heart had grown fond of Old Man Xiao,

unfortunately, the status of being a Lady of Jiang Family was perhaps too deeply rooted, causing her and Old Man Xiao to continue living as mere distant relatives within this four-walled courtyard.

Thankfully, before Spring Festival when Old Lady Yu could still speak, she expressed her true feelings to Old Man Xiao, promising that if there were a next life, she wished to be ordinary husband and wife with Old Man Xiao, not to let down Old Man Xiao's deep affection for her.

To prevent Old Man Xiao from swiftly following her after her passing, Old Lady Yu specifically requested Old Man Xiao to help take care of the loved ones she worried about—namely, Kang Li.