

Weak B 111

Chapter 111: Do You Need My Help?

For example, there were just five fried chicken legs, less than half a pound of braised pork, a small handful each of water spinach and green beans, and as for the tomato and eggs, Kang Li had used only one tomato the size of an adult's fist and two eggs.

Speaking of which, Kang Li had prepared these five dishes and a soup for lunch today with the principle in mind that they should have a good meal.

Moreover, the male head of the house had been busy working for more than half a year and was finally coming home, so making a couple of extra dishes was like a welcome for him.

"Wow! Mom, today's lunch is so plentiful!"

As the dishes were served, Xiao Ming Wei couldn't help but exclaim while holding her face in her hands.

Xiao Ming Han blinked and asked Kang Li, "Is it because Dad is coming home?"

"Our Hanhan is so smart!"

Kang Li's fox-like eyes twinkled with amusement as she looked at the little one, "But that's just one of the reasons."

“Mom, Mom, is the other reason because Hanhan and little sister, and also brother, wanted to eat fried chicken legs and meat?” Xiao Ming Han said with a grin on his face.

Kang Li smiled and responded, “Right!”

At this point, Xiao Ming Rui called the twins to go wash their hands, and after the three little ones left the living room, Luo Yanqing’s lips twitched slightly, he clearly wanted to say something to Kang Li, but in the end, he remained silent.

Shortly after, the group of two adults and three youngsters sat around the dining table.

Perhaps out of habit, Kang Li picked up a pair of serving chopsticks and put a fried chicken leg into each of the little ones’ bowls, saying softly, “Eat up.”

Then, she placed the remaining two fried chicken legs in Luo Yanqing’s bowl.

“No need, you eat,” he said.

As he tried to move the fried chicken legs into Kang Li’s bowl, she shook her head and declined, “I prefer this.” She casually picked up a piece of the braided pork for herself.

The meal was eaten in relative quiet, and as Kang Li glanced at the empty plates on the table, the corners of her lips subtly curved upwards, it seemed not only the little ones were quite satisfied with her cooking!

“I’ll clean up.”

Luo Yanqing moved quickly, and in no time had cleared the dining table spotless.

Kang Li fluttered her fox-like eyes and watched the man carrying plates out of the living room, she couldn’t help but smile contentedly.

It sure was nice having someone help with the household chores!

Xiao Ming Wei: “Mom, Vivi will help you wash the dishes when she grows up.”

“Me too, me too, Mommy, I’ll help Mommy too!” Xiao Ming Han lifted his hand and said in his baby voice, “Hanhan doesn’t want Mommy to be tired!”

“Good, Mommy will wait for you to grow up.”

She certainly wouldn’t raise the little ones to be ladies and gentlemen who only knew how to stretch out their hands for clothes and open their mouths for food; she wanted them to learn to do laundry and

cook at an appropriate age, so they wouldn't end up highly educated but incompetent, with no ability to live independently.

Collecting her thoughts, Kang Li reminded them, "It's hot in the yard, so just walk around the living room after eating to help digest, then go back to your rooms to rest."

The twin with mixed sex: "Okay!"

Xiao Ming Han nodded.

In the kitchen, Luo Yanqing stood by the sink washing the dishes, his movements paused for a moment when he heard footsteps approaching, then he continued scrubbing.

Kang Li: "Do you need any help?"

Luo Yanqing: "No."

Yet Kang Li didn't speak; she just picked up a clean dishcloth and began wiping the dishes Luo Yanqing had washed.

While the couple in the kitchen worked together in unspoken harmony, next door at Wen's family, Su Man was sitting on the edge of the bed having a silent argument with Wen Siyuan.

“You promised me last night; why go back on your word today?”

The washing machine wasn't only for her laundry, and the television wasn't just for her to watch.

Su Man frowned, her gaze sharp as she stared at Wen Siyuan.

“I was thinking that our family is going to have a new addition soon. If we spend money on things we don't need right now, when our son is born...”

Chapter 112 Vanity

With a troubled expression, Wen Siyuan tried to explain, but was interrupted by Su Man, “What if the child in my belly isn't a son?”

“Not a son?”

Wen Siyuan was taken aback, then laughed, “Even if it's not a son, it doesn't matter, it will still be our child.”

Hearing this, Su Man's expression slightly improved, yet she persisted, “You must have received a bonus this time you came back, I don't care, we must buy a washing machine and a TV!”

“I did receive a bonus, but I have to give part of it to my parents, and the rest needs to be saved to support you and the kids.” A washing machine required a foreign exchange coupon to purchase, and it was costly; although a TV didn’t need a foreign exchange coupon, it required a TV license, and even so, the price wasn’t low.

To ask him to spend a large sum of money to buy two household appliances at once, it wasn’t that he couldn’t afford it, but he genuinely felt there was no need for it.

Why?

Could a washing machine really get clothes clean?

Moreover, it wasted electricity and might even tear the clothes; wouldn’t that be a loss?

As for the TV... Not to mention the electricity it consumed, once you started watching a series, it was very easy to get addicted.

In short, buying them brought no benefits to the household.

“You already give part of your monthly salary to your parents, why should your bonus be divided among them too? You do realize your parents don’t only have you as a son!”

Su Man was very dissatisfied with Wen Siyuan's parents. Not to mention that the two had secure jobs with regular salaries, but in their family, aside from Wen Siyuan, who was the second child, didn't the eldest and third siblings and their spouses all have jobs?

Yet just because they had a younger brother and sister who weren't yet married, they reached out to the second son for money every month, claiming it was for living expenses.

Laughable, his family didn't share meals with that big family; why should they pay any living expenses?

Thinking this, Su Man's dissatisfaction with her in-laws grew, and so did her determination to buy a washing machine and a TV. She didn't want to be looked down upon by Kang Li, nor did she want all their money to go to her in-laws.

She wanted the neighbors to know that she, Su Man, could afford a washing machine and a TV too, and to show her in-laws she wasn't a pushover!

Wen Siyuan, "Manman! Look, how about this, next year, let's buy them next year..."

Su Man interrupted again, "I want to buy them now. Just look at next door, Comrade Luo's wife not only bought them a washing machine and a TV for their house but they also bought a sewing machine, a bicycle, and a radio. I'm about the same age as her, and the man I married is also on his second marriage; why can't my man buy me those things too?"

"You..."

Wen Siyuan's face showed a slight change as he struggled to suppress the frustration rising within him and spoke as patiently as possible, "Even though I only came back yesterday, I've heard people saying, the items Comrade Kang added to his home were either bought by Kang's second brother or came with her as part of her dowry, they weren't actually purchased by Professor Luo."

Luo Yanqing had studied abroad and was a key talent in the institute, with a basic salary each month that was higher than his not to mention other benefits...

What about him?

Though he was a graduate from a prestigious university, he hadn't studied abroad like Yanqing. If it weren't for his hard work over the years, following Luo Yanqing diligently in research, his status in the institute would probably be like that of the guy across the way (Zhang Sheng) — many years of work, but still just a junior researcher, older than him by seven or eight years, yet his salary was still not as high as his.

"I get it now, you resent that my family didn't give me a more generous dowry, right? But is that my fault?" Su Man's eyes reddened, "The dowry was held by my mother, what could I have done?"

Wen Siyuan, "Manman, you've misunderstood me, that's not what I meant."

Chapter 113: Has the light finally dawned on you, boy?

Su Man: "You know what I mean. Now, I'll ask one last time, are you buying the washing machine and TV or not?"

Worried that Su Man's mood might affect the development of their unborn son, Wen Siyuan finally relented. He said, "Let's skip the washing machine for now. I'll try to get a TV license and buy the TV first. Will that do?"

"What if you can't get the TV license? Are we not buying it then?" Su Man considered it more practical to buy a washing machine as it would spare her from hand washing, but the thought of having a TV that could attract neighbors to their home made her favor the TV more.

In fact, it was Su Man's vanity at play.

Outside the master bedroom, sisters Wen Yue and Wen Yi were secretly listening to their father and stepmother talking. When they heard their father mention buying a TV, both sisters' eyes lit up instantly.

"Let's go, back to the room."

Pointing to the bedroom where the three sisters stayed, Wen Yue hinted to her younger sister, Wen Yi.

Wen Yi nodded her head.

"Big sister, second sister, wait for Little Fish!" Wen Yu, at the age of three, saw her two sisters heading to their bedroom and couldn't help but follow them with her little legs.

As the bedroom door was not soundproof, hearing the noise in the living room, Wen Siyuan opened the master bedroom door and saw his little daughter running away from the living room. He frowned slightly and turned back to look at Su Man, saying, "Spending a bit more money should do the trick."

Wen Siyuan knew it was tough to get a TV license, but he planned to first ask someone he knew. If he could borrow it, great; if not, he would have no choice but to buy one from the scalpers outside the department store.

And when Wen Siyuan thought about borrowing a TV license, the person he immediately considered was Director Song.

So, he left the house and headed straight for the Song family's place.

Unbeknownst to him, Luo Yanqing was there too, sitting with Dean Song, and just like him, was there to borrow a TV license.

"TV license?"

Elder Song looked puzzled: "Didn't your family just buy one, and now you're asking for a TV license? What for?"

Luo Yanqing: "It's useful."

Elder Song almost choked, took a moment to catch his breath, and glared: "Isn't that obvious? If it's useless, do you plan to eat the license or something? I was asking whom you are helping to borrow it!"

"To buy a TV for Aoli Village."

Luo Yanqing's reply was concise.

Upon hearing this, Elder Song was taken aback for a while, then slapped his thigh and burst into laughter, saying, "You've got it figured out, huh? Trying to please your in-laws now!"

Luo Yanqing pursed his lips and remained silent, simply watching Elder Song quietly.

"What a bore, you really are a bore!"

Felt awkward under Luo Yanqing's unblinking gaze, Elder Song coughed twice and shouted for Mrs. Qi: "Fangfang! Fangfang, I remember you have a TV license, do you still have it?"

Mrs. Qi was in the bedroom but came out to the living room soon after hearing Elder Song: "I have it, does Little Luo need it?"

"Yes, this young man wants to buy a TV to send to his in-laws."

"I'll fetch it right now."

Mrs. Qi, with a smile on her face, left and returned shortly to the living room, handing the TV license to Luo Yanqing: "Here you go."

"I'll pay you back with a license later."

Having received the TV license, Luo Yanqing stood up from the sofa.

Mrs. Qi: "No rush." She had the license because she had figured out a way to help her brother obtain it. She had planned to call someone to pick it up later, but now that Little Luo needed it, she simply gave it to him first.

If her brother asked later, she would say she hadn't managed to get one yet.

That was a simple matter of words.

Chapter 114: I Just Feel That She Might Be Somewhat Fake Her brothers wouldn't have said anything.

No sooner had Luo Yanqing left the Song Family than Wen Siyuan entered the Song Family Courtyard.

"Director..."

“Sit.”

As soon as Wen Siyuan walked into the living room, Elder Song, although puzzled about his visit, showed nothing but a smile on his face.

“Hello, Comrade Qi.”

After greeting Mrs. Qi, Wen Siyuan sat down on the sofa opposite Elder Song and said somewhat uncomfortably, “I came to ask if you have a TV license. If so, could I borrow it for now? I’ll return it once I get one.”

Elder Song and Mrs. Qi looked at each other, then Mrs. Qi said, “Director Song doesn’t have any TV license. I did manage to get one for my brothers a while back through some connections...”

After briefly explaining the source and destination of the TV license she had, Mrs. Qi specifically didn’t mention that it was Luo Yanqing who had borrowed the license.

“I see, then I’ll ask some other acquaintances in the courtyard,” said Wen Siyuan as he got up. “The kids at home are fussing over the television; I won’t bother you any longer.”

After seeing Wen Siyuan out of the courtyard, Mrs. Qi stood at the door of the living room a moment longer before going back to sit next to Elder Song, “What brought on Xiao Wen’s sudden idea to buy a television for the house?”

Elder Song: "How would I know?"

Mrs. Qi pondered, "If you ask me, it's probably that Xiao Su wants to buy it."

"You women, your minds change so fast."

Elder Song shook his head, "Just take yourself, for example, one moment you're asking why Xiao Wen suddenly wants to buy a television, the next moment you're outright saying it's Xiao Wen's spouse who wants to buy it. It's mystifying, truly mystifying!"

"Would she still be a woman if she were easy to figure out? Haven't you heard the saying, 'a woman's heart is a needle in the sea of fathomlessness'?"

Mrs. Qi gave Elder Song a stare, speaking rather bluntly.

Elder Song laughed, "Right, right, right, whatever you say is correct." Over the years, he had consistently found himself unable to provoke his own Comrade Qi!

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Qi couldn't help but roll her eyes at Elder Song, "I think you're just a naughty old man!"

“Whatever you say is right.”

Elder Song, face all smiles, repeated his previous response, managing to amuse Mrs. Qi, “You’re all grown up, yet you still can’t be serious.”

She paused briefly, then added, “I always feel like Xiao Su’s true personality isn’t like what she shows in front of others.”

After a long silence, Elder Song spoke, “The human heart is the most complex thing, and what kind of person Xiao Wen’s spouse really is, as long as Xiao Wen himself doesn’t mind, how does it concern us outsiders?”

Mrs. Qi: “I just feel like she’s somewhat fake.”

Elder Song: “Let it be, how others are, we needn’t think too much about it.”

“Are you tired of listening to me talk?” Mrs. Qi’s expression suddenly darkened. “You’re hardly ever home, and the rare times you are, all I want is to talk a bit more with you. If you’re so unwilling to listen, maybe we shouldn’t be together at all, how about that?”

“I... you’re wrongly accusing me! When have I ever been tired of listening to you talk? I just don’t want you to worry over other people’s business!”

Elder Song felt he was more wronged than Dou E in June Flying Snow at that moment!

“You think you’re as handsome as Little Luo, with that demeanor of yours, disgraceful!” Glaring at Elder Song, Mrs. Qi couldn’t help but burst out laughing.

Elder Song, not to be outdone, “I was no less handsome than that kid Luo when I was young.”

Mrs. Qi: “Really? I didn’t notice.”

Elder Song sighed, “It seems I really have gotten old, no longer catching your eye!”

Chapter 115 Luo Yanqing, You’re Pretty Good Too “Speak nicely,”

Mrs. Qi’s face showed displeasure, but she quickly returned to normal, “Have I ever told you how much I like Xiao Kang? Right, I have to tell you, the bride you found for Little Luo is truly the right choice! Not only is the young lady as beautiful as a Fairy Girl, but she is also talented and has an elegant way of speaking. In short, I like her no matter how I look at her!”

“That should be credited to Xiao Wu’s merit. Without his eye for people, how could I have helped Little Luo find such a good wife all the way from North City?!”

Elder Song said this sincerely. He truly felt that he played no significant role in the marriage of Luo Yanqing and Kang Li.

“Indeed, thanks to Comrade Wu Jiang’s keen eye, which led to the beautiful marriage between Little Luo and Xiao Kang,” Mrs. Qi said with a smile, “These past two days, I’ve been thinking about whether or not to take Kang Li as my goddaughter. To tell you the truth, I really like this young lady!”

“If you’re considering it, just talk to the young lady and see what she thinks. As for me, I’ll follow your lead, as you well know.”

He had only one son in his lifetime, but unfortunately, it was a case of the elder sending off the younger. Now, aside from his spouse... he only had one grandchild left, and that child was special. What to do when one day he and his spouse were gone, leaving the grandchild all alone?

...

Luo Yanqing came home in the late afternoon. Not long after entering, he took out a thick envelope from his pocket and handed it directly to Kang Li, “This is the bonus. It was originally five thousand, but I spent some in the afternoon; now, there’s four thousand left. You take it.”

Kang Li did not pretend. She took the envelope and then smiled, “From seeing you this morning until now, that sentence you just said has the most words.”

“...”

Luo Yanqing remained silent.

As their eyes met, Kang Li felt slightly uncomfortable under his unwavering gaze, but she did not show any shyness. Instead, she boldly let him look at her and she, in turn, met his gaze directly.

The man's features were flawless. It could be said that a bit more would make him seem too flowery, and a bit less would appear too plain. Only as he was now, did he seem just right.

He could be described as having the serenity of a calm wind and the purity of the moonlight; sublime and otherworldly.

After some time, Kang Li asked, "Are you still satisfied with me?" Curiosity filled her fox-like eyes.

Luo Yanqing's dark eyes flickered briefly, then he silently watched her for a moment before moving towards the study. Kang Li thought he had left without answering her, but then she heard the man's deep and clear voice, tinged with a trace of indifference, "What about you?"

Kang Li: "I asked you first, Comrade Luo Yanqing."

After a moment of surprise, Luo Yanqing responded, "Not bad." It was the truth; she had initially given him a good impression, just as the chief said. He also noticed that the three children at home got along with her quite well.

As for how things would be in the future, that would require time to tell.

Kang Li fluttered her clear fox-like eyes, “Just ‘not bad’?”

Luo Yanqing: “...” Was there something lacking in his answer?

After locking eyes for a while, Kang Li curved her lips into a smile, “Alright, I won’t trouble you further.” She paused briefly, then continued, “Luo Yanqing, I think you’re quite good too.”

The light in the living room was already bright from the outside, and with Luo Yanqing standing backlit, his face wasn’t particularly clear, but his eyes became even more intensely dark.

Luo Yanqing: “Hmm.”

Kang Li: “...” What did that mean? Was that his simple response to her?!

Chapter 116 Kang Li: Received! I will also be loyal to our marriage. Luo Yanqing displayed no particular expression as he stood with one hand in his pocket, quietly observing Kang Li, the delicate girl who stood a few steps away from him, his wife now protected by law. His lips moved slightly as he uttered, “Now that we are married, I will certainly treat you well.”

He hadn’t forgotten the director’s instructions, so he needed to clarify his position to her to avoid any misunderstanding due to his naturally indifferent nature and make her think he didn’t value their marriage.

Kang Li: “...Should I be happy?” Thinking thus, a smile gradually spread across Kang Li’s crafty fox-like eyes: “Received! I will also be loyal to our marriage.”

The man's figure was straight and tall, his features more striking than snow, truly eye-catching.

"If there's nothing else... I'm going to study in the library."

This was his way of informing her about his plans.

Kang Li listened, having already felt his respect for her when he mentioned he had plans that afternoon. Now, experiencing his respect again, she couldn't help but find it amusing.

However, she didn't show an inappropriate smile but said, "I've made a daily schedule for Ruirui and the others during the holidays. You're supposed to rest at home for a month now. I hope you can supervise Ruirui and his siblings according to that schedule and spend time with them."

"...I'll try." The living room was very quiet, Luo Yanqing's voice sounded as refreshing and pleasant as a mountain stream, yet it carried his characteristic detachment.

His eyes were as clear as water, and under his gaze, Kang Li's face felt unexpectedly warm.

Time ticked by. Eventually, Kang Li couldn't withstand his focused gaze on her for long. She lowered her eyelids slightly, a sly spark flickering in her eyes,

then looked up again to meet his gaze, stepped closer to him, and when she was just a little more than a step away, she stopped. On her tiptoes, she whispered in the slightly stunned man's ear, "You must look especially handsome when you smile."

Having said that, a smile played on her lips as she casually stepped back two paces.

The playfulness in her eyes was fully captured by Luo Yanqing, who still appeared out of sorts.

"..."

A strange feeling surged through him when she approached, his heart rate going awry... The unfamiliar sensation intensified when he heard her whisper in his ear.

He must be sick!

For a long while, Luo Yanqing made no response.

Kang Li: "What's the matter with you?" She asked, knowing full well.

After teasing him, she still asked such a question, Kang Li couldn't help but think: Did she scare him?

The reason?

Considering her experience as the former head of Kang's, the man before her was truly naive, almost as if he had never been in love. Though it was their second marriage, even if his nature was indifferent and he had not loved deeply before... It wouldn't make sense for him not to understand anything about the interactions between men and women, would it?

Moreover, Ruirui and the others were blatantly present. Could it be that he and his ex-wife were just fulfilling marital obligations, thus having the three children?

Therefore, devoid of emotional attachment in marriage, coupled with his indifferent nature, was he then not very concerned about his children?

Kang Li thought secretly, but her intuition told her that this was not right!

A man who could say, "Now that we are married, I will certainly treat you well," clearly showed he was responsible and committed.

Chapter 117 Miss You How could he not care about his own child?

Kang Li's mind was clouded with doubts... Perhaps it was indeed his indifferent nature, after all, Comrade Qi had told her that this man was indifferent to everything but his work.

Thinking about this, Kang Li shook her head secretly, feeling that she shouldn't overthink.

Luo Yanqing was about to say he was fine, but when he saw Kang Li distracted, his eyes flickered slightly, and he seemed to ask casually, "What are you thinking about?"

Drawn back by the man's pleasant voice, Kang Li blurted out, "Thinking of you."

As soon as the words fell, Kang Li instantly bowed her head in embarrassment, feeling extremely awkward!

What was she doing? What exactly was she doing? Why did she blurt out "thinking of you"?

Should she... pretend she had said nothing and just walk away?

Lost in her wild thoughts, Kang Li couldn't help but look up at the man, seeing him stunned by her words, she simply cleared her throat and found an excuse to leave, "I'm going to the courtyard where Ruirui and the others are."

The three little ones were playing with their friends under the old banyan tree outside the courtyard gate and had greeted Kang Li before going out.

Enduring the awkwardness, without waiting for Luo Yanqing to speak, Kang Li hurriedly walked out of the living room.

Watching her retreating figure, Luo Yanqing slightly curved his lips, and at the same time, his eyes, dark as ink, seemed to hold a trace of amusement.

Kang Li naturally didn't see it, and well, perhaps even Luo Yanqing himself didn't realize it.

Under the old banyan tree outside.

"Believe it or not, my dad will definitely bring the TV back in a bit."

"My sister isn't lying to you!"

"We'll only know when your dad actually brings it back."

"That's right, otherwise, Wen Yi, you and your sister are big liars!" Feng Loo, holding Xiao Ming Wei's hand, pouted and said, "Are you trying to show off to me, thinking that my family can't afford a TV?"

Wen Yi: "I'm not showing off."

Wen Yue: "Feng Loo, why are you bullying my sister?"

Feng Loo: "Brother!"

Feng Tao glared at Wen Yue, "My sister didn't bully your sister. Don't accuse her falsely, otherwise, I don't mind hitting a girl," he said, waving his little fist in front of Wen Yue.

"Hmph! I'm not afraid of you!" Wen Yue glared back at Feng Tao. "This is right at my family's courtyard gate. If you dare to hit me, I'll get my family to hit back!"

Feng Tao: "Didn't you say your dad went to the department store to buy a TV and isn't home yet? Do you think your stepmother can help you beat me?"

"I don't need her help!"

Wen Yue's face fell.

"Brother Tao, we are men, let's not stoop to the level of girls!"

Feng Tao's good friend Song Hui advised beside them, not wanting to disgrace himself by helping his friend hit a little girl.

"Am I bullying her? Whom are you underestimating?!"

Feng Tao rolled his eyes then turned to Xiao Ming Rui, “Ruirui, when your dad comes back, can we still come over to your place to watch cartoons?”

Xiao Ming Rui hadn’t spoken yet, and Xiao Ming Han hurriedly said, “My dad is great!” implying that they should definitely come over to watch TV as usual.

“Come over to my place! When my dad brings the TV back, all of you can come over to my place to watch TV.”

Wen Yue invited all the kids playing under the old banyan tree and said, “Just now, you all saw that Vivi’s dad walked past us without even giving us a smile.”

“You’re quite observant.”

Feng Tao smirked.

Wen Yue: “I’m just telling the truth.” Wei Wei’s dad really didn’t smile!

Xiao Ming Wei looked up at Wen Yue and said defiantly, “My dad is a good dad!”

Chapter 118: Is there a connection between being likable and raising children? “Vivi, sweetie, your sister didn’t say your dad isn’t a good dad,” Wen Yue patted Xiao Ming Wei’s head and sighed like an adult. “I don’t know when my dad will be back; he’s been out for hours now.”

Just then, a boy around eight or nine asked, "Wen Yue, if we go to your house to watch TV, your mom won't kick us out, will she?"

"She's my stepmom, not my mom, Xiaochao, you need to get that straight," she corrected.

The Xiaochao Wen Yue was talking about was the boy who had just asked her the question.

Wang Xiaochao scratched his head: "Aren't they all the same!"

Wen Yue crossed her arms. "They are not the same! My mom is Song Ning; she is Su Man!"

"Sister Yueyue, is the mom at your house now not nice to you?" Xiao Ming Han asked, tilting his head.

"So-so," she replied.

No matter whether Su Man, that awful woman, was nice to her and her two sisters or not, she hated this stepmother!

On one side, a group of kids gathered under the old banyan tree, chattering away, while on the other side, outside the Xue Family's gate, two women stood talking and laughing, watching the children play.

At that moment, Kang Li came out of the yard; before her gaze could shift towards the banyan tree, someone called out, "Ruirui's mom!"

Looking in the direction of the voice, Kang Li smiled, "Comrade Fang, did you need something?" Fang Ju, the lady next door from the Xue Family.

"I've told you just to call me Sister Fang or sister-in-law; you always address me formally as Comrade Fang, which feels so formal. It sounds quite awkward," she complained.

Fang Ju was that woman who had frequently clashed with Loo Ping and often came to the Luo Family to watch TV. She was also Xue Chong's mother.

Kang Li: "Alright, from now on I'll call you Sister Fang." Fang Ju was frank and not one to hold back, qualities that made Kang Li willing to be near her.

Fang Ju: "I think I saw Ruirui's dad at your place today, is Professor Luo on vacation?"

Kang Li: "Yes, he came back at noon."

"What did you cook for Professor Luo for lunch?" The question was purely a way to make small talk.

Feeling somewhat helpless, Kang Li still responded, “Just regular homestyle food.”

“Mommy, Mommy! Did you come out to look for Vivi and big brother and second brother?”

Xiao Ming Wei’s voice timely interrupted.

Kang Li smiled apologetically at Fang Ju before shifting her gaze towards the cute child who had run up to her unexpectedly. She nodded and said with a smile, “You’ve been playing outside for quite a while, isn’t it time to go home?”

Xiao Ming Wei: “Home, Vivi will go home with Mommy.” She stuffed her little hand into her mother’s palm.

By now, Ming Rui was leading Xiao Ming Han over as well: “Mommy, we are going home.”

As the four entered the yard, the woman beside Fang Ju watched the empty entrance of the Luo Family and commented, “She really adores the children, doesn’t she?”

“Who would adores them so much to fatten up the three siblings in just over half a month?!” Fang Ju remarked as the woman beside her nodded, “Yes, it’s quite obvious. Before Comrade Xiao Kang came along, Professor Luo’s kids were all skinny, but now they not only look healthier but also have gotten chubby.”

Hearing this, Fang Ju lowered her voice, "Do you think it's fair to compare people? At Comrade Wen's home, Xiao Su has been married to Comrade Wen for over half a year. She seems very popular, but the child she's raised is just so-so."

"Is being popular related to raising children?"

"Isn't there a relation? Being popular means one has a good temper, and a good temper possibly means one can be good to children, right? But look at Wen Yue and her sisters; I think they looked thinner than before Xiao Song left."

Chapter 119 It seems that being a salted fish is not easy either! "Don't talk nonsense, that's not good for the mood. Besides, I don't see where those three kids have gotten thinner." The woman standing next to Fang Ju looked at the three sisters under the old banyan tree and said, "They all look so clean and bright, full of energy."

Just then, Wen Siyuan was carrying a television box from a distance, nearing the front door.

"Am I seeing things, or did Comrade Wen buy a television set for the home?!"

Fang Ju looked surprised.

"Such a big box for the television, if you saw that wrong, then I really think you should visit the hospital for an eye checkup."

"You, always arguing with me."

...

The laughter and noise from the Wen Family Courtyard was loud, and Kang Li could hear it even while sitting on the rattan rocking chair in the living room.

Bought a television?!

Could it be the female protagonist's idea?

Thinking this, Kang Li didn't ponder further and looked at the three little ones freely coloring the children's coloring books in front of them.

The coloring books came from the System Mall, Kang Li thought they shouldn't be available on the current market. However, when she mentioned wanting them to System Dwen Dwen, Dwen Dwen didn't hesitate and used points to buy three books and three boxes of crayons for her from the mall.

There was no publication date seen on the simple covers that only had "Children's Coloring Book" written on them, nothing more.

No need to worry about exposing anything.

Sigh! A bit boring, isn't it?

Could she be someone who can't stay idle?

But in this life, she truly just wanted to be lazy...

Leaning back in the rattan rocking chair, Kang Li covered her forehead with one hand, squinting her eyes slightly, musing: It seems being lazy isn't so easy after all!

But, you get used to it, you get used to it. She believed she would slowly get accustomed to it since forming a habit is just a matter of time.

"What do you want for dinner? I'll cook."

As the rattan rocking chair swayed, Kang Li was drowsy when she suddenly heard a familiar male voice. She slowly opened her eyelids and saw a tall and erect figure standing a couple of steps in front of her.

"You cook... are you sure?"

After a moment of surprise, she straightened up and tilted her head to look at the man.

Luo Yanqing nodded.

“Then you do the cooking, I’m fine with anything.”

If someone else was cooking, then she might as well be lazy!

Luo Yanqing said nothing and turned to leave the living room.

Kang Li watched his back for a long while without moving her eyes away.

A simple white shirt and black pants, yet he wore them with the elegance of a “noble young master like jade.”

Handsome!

With his sleeves rolled up, the shirt tucked into his trousers, tall and handsome, his every move full of grace and composure.

Lying sideways on the rocking chair, Kang Li supported her chin with one hand, still watching the empty doorway.

Recalling the man's focused expression while picking and washing vegetables at noon, Kang Li couldn't help but think of the word "cute", but soon she lay back in the rocking chair, covering her eyes with one hand, her lips twitching almost imperceptibly.

What was she thinking?

Luo Yanqing was a researcher, undoubtedly associated with "meticulousness", how could she associate him with "cuteness"?

"Mommy, can Daddy cook?" Xiao Ming Wei's milky voice suddenly sounded.

Kang Li snapped back to reality, her eyes soft. She looked at the little girl, "He probably... can!" Saying this, Kang Li stood up, "Maybe Mommy should check the kitchen."

The man was entirely focused on his work, and she really wasn't sure if he could cook.

Moreover... moreover, they had only officially met today. Even though she had observed him closely during their time together and concluded that he was a responsible and dependable man, this didn't necessarily correlate with his cooking skills.

Chapter 120: You're too tall, I can't reach. Can you bend down a little? Wait a minute... A bright idea suddenly flashed through Kang Li's mind!

How could she have forgotten?

During lunchtime, when she cooked, the man had helped her out. Whether it was picking vegetables, rinsing them, or washing dishes after the meal, his actions did not reveal any unfamiliarity.

From this, could she deduce that there was at least a fifty percent chance he knew how to cook?

Thinking this, Kang Li continued her steps toward the kitchen without stopping.

“Do you need any help?”

Standing at the kitchen door, Kang Li looked towards the man who was cutting potatoes at the chopping board, side-on to her.

“No, go and rest.”

Luo Yanqing’s hand froze as he turned to look at Kang Li.

“Are you sure you don’t need help?”

Kang Li stepped forward and stood beside the man.

Luo Yanqing nodded and made a sound of agreement.

“Why aren’t you wearing an apron?” Kang Li said as she casually took an apron, “Let me help you put it on!”

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing did not respond for a long while.

Kang Li: “Turn around!” Seeing the man still facing the chopping board and not turning, Kang Li couldn’t help but urge him with her cheerful yet gentle voice.

With his lips slightly pursed, Luo Yanqing put down the knife and turned around.

“You’re too tall, I can’t reach it. Can you bend down a little?”

Actually, she could have easily put the apron on his neck by tiptoeing, but she didn’t want to do so. She wanted to interact with the man, to see his embarrassed look.

Luo Yanqing hesitated for a moment then slightly bent his waist.

Noticing the man's ears turning red, Kang Li kept her face unchanged, yet she couldn't help but laugh inwardly: This man is really too innocent, not at all like a man in his mid-twenties who had been married!

"Are you planning to stir-fry the potatoes?"

After helping the man put on the apron, Kang Li moved behind him and tied the straps for him.

Luo Yanqing: "Yes."

"If you don't need my help, then I'll stay here and talk to you." Kang Li did not leave. She stepped aside to stand, making sure not to block the light and affect the man's cutting.

Luo Yanqing, hearing what she said, did not respond.

Kang Li raised her eyebrow: "Don't you want to talk to me?"

Luo Yanqing shook his head.

"At home, you can call me Kang Li, or you can call me Li Bao. Actually, from childhood, my family and fellow villagers have all called me Li Bao, they all feel it's more affectionate."

Kang Li casually chatted, even though Luo Yanqing did not verbally respond, she didn't feel awkward at all. Her eyes sparkled purely as she looked at the man's handsome profile and spoke in a relaxed and casual tone:

"I have five brothers. I don't know if you have heard from Director Song, but among my five brothers, the oldest and the third one work on the farm. My second brother is in the military,

my fourth brother is a driver working for the transport team in our county, and as for my youngest brother, who came with me to North City, he now works at North City Petrochemical."

Luo Yanqing: "The director mentioned it to me."

Kang Li blinked her eyes slyly, tilted her head and asked, "Then did you know that my younger brother's job here was actually arranged by your organization for me?"

Luo Yanqing: "Yes."

Kang Li: "You don't have any objections, right?"

Luo Yanqing shook his head.

Kang Li smiled, "That's good."

As porridge simmered on the stove, Luo Yanqing finished cutting the potatoes, rinsed them briefly, and then soaked the potato strips in a small porcelain basin, methodically preparing other ingredients.

"I've been frail since I was born, growing up constantly taken by my parents to seek doctors and medicine, but don't worry. Although I'm a bit weak, it's fine as long as I don't do heavy physical work."