

Weak B 1241

Chapter 1241: Kang Li Agrees (4)

“More than three years ago, Dad didn’t know about his existence. From the moment I found out until now, he’s never once considered the issue. To put it bluntly, Dad has only ever had you, his one and only child, in this lifetime.”

This was Jiang Boya’s heartfelt truth.

Kang Li raised an eyebrow: “Does Old Mr. Jiang agree?”

“Lili, your grandfather thinks the same as Dad, there’s no need for doubt there.” Jiang Boya’s earlier unease disappeared, and he spoke with solemnity: “To Dad, that child is just an accident!”

Saying this, she looked towards the boy: “Do you want to come with me to that side?” She pointed to the piano’s position, asking the boy.

However, the boy remained silent.

“If you’re not coming, then I’ll go by myself,” she said, a smile playing in her bright eyes. Seeing that the boy still didn’t react, she stepped towards the piano.

Unexpectedly, just as she sat on the piano bench, the boy grabbed the wheelchair's armrest, got up, and walked step by step towards Kang Li. Seeing this, Miss Lily was once again overjoyed to tears, covering her mouth with surprise and disbelief gleaming in her tearful eyes.

"Sit."

Kang Li didn't show any surprise; she patted a space on the side of the piano bench to indicate where the boy should sit.

To her surprise, the boy sat on the same bench right beside her.

"What piece should I play? Let's do this, I'll just play whatever comes to mind." Kang Li said as her slender, jade-like hands gently rested on the black and white keys. In the next moment, melodious and touching notes flowed from her nimble fingertips.

"Want to join in?"

After finishing the piece, Kang Li asked the boy casually while starting to play the second time.

There was no need for more words, naturally, there was no response.

But unexpectedly, the boy unconsciously joined in, his pale and clearly jointed fingers danced across the keys perfectly in sync with Kang Li.

"I invited a teacher to teach Allen to play the piano, and I played the piano for Allen many times, but Allen never played before..." Miss Lily spoke with tears of joy, choked with emotion. Beside her, Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya heard it, and both remained silent.

After the duet ended, Miss Lily sincerely thanked Kang Li once again and invited her to Rose Manor when she had time. Afterwards, she chatted with Jiang Hongfa for a while, then left with Allen.

But no one expected that as Miss Lily was pushing the wheelchair about to leave the living room, Allen called out to Kang Li as "sister."

Just like when he introduced himself before, the boy's voice was still hoarse, and the word "sister" came out with a ten-second gap.

Before others could react, Kang Li reacted first. She smiled, gently ruffling the boy's hair: "Allen, you're amazing! Having such a handsome brother like you makes me very happy!"

The boy looked at her steadily, showing no change in his expression.

Jiang Hongfa spoke, unable to help but sigh: "How is it that the child was born with autism? And why was he diagnosed at ten years old with a blood-forming disorder? Our ancestors never had such strange diseases."

“Autism is related to genetics, our ancestors didn’t have it, that means someone in the Davis Family had it. As for the problem with blood formation, it could be due to immune factors, or possibly due to infection...”

Hearing Jiang Boya say this, Jiang Hongfa furrowed his brows slightly: “Didn’t you ask Miss Davis?”

“No.”

Jiang Boya shook his head.

“Alright, go and talk to Lili, make sure to clarify your stance to avoid her misunderstanding.” Jiang Hongfa reminded, and Jiang Boya nodded: “Understood.”

...

“Knock, knock, knock!”

Kang Li was reading in the room when she heard the knock; she didn’t even lift her head and responded, “The door’s open.” She was now naturally familiar with Jiang Boya’s footsteps. As he approached, she looked up: “Mr. Jiang, is there something you need?”

“There is something.”

Jiang Boya nodded slightly.

“Come sit.”

Kang Li invited him to sit, then said, “Mr. Jiang, go ahead.”

Jiang Boya hesitated for a moment but eventually said, “Dad wants to tell you a story.”

“...You want to tell me a story?” Kang Li was puzzled, but she suddenly rolled her eyes playfully and asked smilingly, “Could it be a story related to you?”

“Yes.”

Jiang Boya appeared a bit uneasy.

“Alright, I’m all ears.” Kang Li said, but in her heart, she was already guessing whether the story Jiang Boya would tell was related to Miss Lily.

Because she could tell that there was definitely something between Miss Lily and Jiang Boya, otherwise, the two wouldn’t have avoided others today and gone upstairs to the study to talk.

Jiang Boya coughed lightly and slowly recounted the unexpected events between him and Miss Lily back then, and then he mentioned how Miss Lily had sought him out more than three years ago. Hearing this, if Kang Li still didn't understand, she would seem a bit foolish.

"I understand, Miss Davis's appearance today is actually to get me to be tested, right?"

"Yes."

Jiang Boya was surprised.

"Mr. Jiang, you don't need to look so shocked. I'm not doing this because of you, nor because Allen and I share a blood connection. I just think he's still so young, and if I might be able to help, then I should." Kang Li said, pausing briefly, before asking Jiang Boya: "Mr. Jiang, you don't intend to recognize Allen as your son?"

"More than three years ago, Dad didn't know about his existence. From the moment I found out until now, he's never once considered the issue. To put it bluntly, Dad has only ever had you, his one and only child, in this lifetime."

This was Jiang Boya's heartfelt truth.

Kang Li raised an eyebrow: "Does Old Mr. Jiang agree?"

“Lili, your grandfather thinks the same as Dad, there’s no need for doubt there.” Jiang Boya’s earlier unease disappeared, and he spoke with solemnity: “To Dad, that child is just an accident!”

“Since you understand, don’t burden Lili with pressure.”

“I won’t. I am very aware that Lili doesn’t owe me anything, nor does she owe that child anything. Whether she wants to get tested is completely up to her.”

“As long as you understand.”

Jiang Hongfa spoke, unable to help but sigh: “How is it that the child was born with autism? And why was he diagnosed at ten years old with a blood-forming disorder? Our ancestors never had such strange diseases.”

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Chapter 1242 Rebellion

"Okay, Mom heard it all, you were all great!" Kang Li's gentle voice was filled with laughter: "It's cold, you must make sure to stay warm!"

Min Rui replied, "Mom, when winter started, you specifically called to remind us, plus Grandma is watching over us, we're all dressed very warmly."

"That's good." The kids at home were obedient and sensible, which made Kang Li very pleased: "By the way, Hanhan hasn't been playing in the snow for a long time, right?"

"No, Mom, I haven't, you can rest assured!"

Ming Han responded instantly.

Kang Li: "Are you sure?"

"Mom, I promise I'm not lying!" Ming Han emphasized his tone, answering with certainty.

"Alright, Mom trusts you." Kang Li said, and suddenly asked: "Is Grandma and Grandpa not at home?"

Min Rui: "They went to prepare New Year's goods for the home."

"What about your Little Uncle and the others?"

With the New Year approaching, primary schools, middle schools, and even universities had all gone on winter break, but Kang Li didn't hear the voices of Kang Guoan and others on the phone, and couldn't help but feel curious.

"Little Uncle went with Grandma and Grandpa, Big Cousin is at the courtyard house, right now it's just the four of us at home."

This naturally included Xiao Loh En among the four.

"I see, then you must take good care of your siblings, don't go outside since it's cold, stay home to watch TV, play the piano, play the erhu, or read books, it's more comfortable than freezing outside, understand?"

"Understood."

Min Rui responded.

"Mommy, Mommy, when can Xiao En see Mommy?"

Xiao Loh En's voice suddenly rang out.

"Soon, but when Mom will come back, she'll call you in advance." Thinking of Xiao Loh En dressed like a round ball, Kang Li couldn't help but laugh. She teased the child: "Mom's not around, Little Luo didn't cry, did he?"

"Didn't cry, Mom, Xiao En didn't cry."

Xiao Loh En shook his head like a rattle drum.

"You like that, Mom can't see."

Ming Wei interjected.

"I know." Xiao Loh En replied to his sister Ming Wei in a childish voice, then continued speaking into the receiver in a childish voice: "Mommy, Xiao En likes his siblings!"

"Mommy heard, the siblings also really like their Xiao En brother."

Kang Li's call lasted about six or seven minutes, then she said goodbye to the four of them.

"Big Brother, I miss Mommy so much!"

Xiao En was a bit unhappy, being held on the sofa by Min Rui, the child's voice sounded endearingly soft as he said: "I haven't seen Mom for a long, long time!"

"Didn't you forget we just finished on the phone with Mom?"

Min Rui looked at Xiao Loh En and asked.

"Didn't forget."

Xiao Loh En shook his head, but still was unhappy: "But Xiao En just misses Mom!"

"We all miss Mom, but Mom is studying abroad, plus she's pregnant with siblings, so it's inconvenient for her to come back right now." Min Rui tried to comfort Xiao Loh En: "How about second brother takes you to the room to look at the photos Mom sent last time?"

Xiao Loh En had no objection to Ming Han's suggestion, he immediately smiled and nodded his little head: "Xiao En wants to see!"

"I also want to see Mom's photos."

Ming Wei spoke up at this moment.

"You're not a little kid, if you want to look, look by yourself." Saying that, when Ming Han saw Xiao Loh En was placed on the ground by his brother Min Rui, he cheerfully extended his hand to the little guy: "Come on, second brother takes you to the room."

Xiao En placed his little hand in Ming Han's palm, and the two left the living room.

Ming Wei glared at Ming Han's back and hurried to follow, leaving Min Rui still sitting on the sofa.

Suddenly, the landline phone rang.

"Hello..." Min Rui picked up the receiver, hearing an unfamiliar woman's voice, he couldn't help but show confusion. When the caller mentioned Kang Li's name, he said: "My mom isn't at home." As soon as Min Rui said this, there was no further response from the other end, they just hung up the phone.

"Big brother, whose call was that?"

Ming Wei's voice came from the room.

"Don't know."

His mom had already been abroad for several months, if it was a friend, wouldn't they know? Min Rui was puzzled, thinking the woman who called was probably a scammer?

But what Min Rui thought was a scammer was actually Xu Chunxia.

Before the winter break, hearing Fang Su mention her wedding in front of the whole family, Xu Chunxia's first reaction was both delighted and nervous, but soon she noticed everyone's expressions became very strange except for Fang Su.

Chapter 1243 Rebellion (Part 2)

Old Master Feng's face was dark, while the Feng Wei couple and the Feng Kai couple were both shocked and somewhat incredulous.

Even the children of the two stepbrothers, who were already sensible, were all stunned.

In short, aside from Fang Su, who couldn't stop talking and was all smiles, Xu Chunxia didn't see a hint of happiness on anyone else's face.

She found it very strange.

Feeling uneasy, she privately inquired within the courtyard and learned why, apart from Lady Fang who was her mother, the rest of the family showed unusual expressions toward the marriage alliance with the Hu Family.

It turns out the Hu Family isn't a good match!

Despite their good family background, the son from the Hu Family is not an ideal partner; specifically, he is not only a fool but also has violent tendencies.

He had married before, but within two years, his wife passed away, and since then, he hasn't succeeded in marrying again.

Xu Chunxia panicked!

She never imagined that even if she escaped the Xu family, fled to North City and reunited with her birth mother, she still couldn't avoid falling into a marriage as hellish as this.

Should she resign to fate?

No, Xu Chunxia doesn't want to resign to fate, but if she doesn't, what can she do? There's no good life waiting for her back at the Xu family, and if she leaves the Feng family, where else can she go?

Moreover, the Xu family no longer has any relationship with her, and as for the Feng family, only Lady Fang, her mother, is her relative.

Her job has been ruined by her doing, and if she loses the support of her mother, how will she manage in the future?

Racking her brains, Xu Chunxia hurried to the nursery where she used to work, where Min Rui and Little Loh En studied, and found Wang Xiaoxiao to ask for help.

Of course, to persuade Wang Xiaoxiao to agree to help, Xu Chunxia slipped her ten yuan.

Her goal was achieved, but then Xu Chunxia began to hesitate again, frequently hiding in her room and staring at a string of landline numbers recorded on a scrap of paper.

Notably, this string of landline numbers belonged to Kang Li's home.

Yes, it was Kang Li's home phone number, and Xu Chunxia sought Wang Xiaoxiao's help by having her look up contact numbers for the children's parents.

The child in question specifically referred to Little Loh En.

Because Xu Chunxia knew Little Loh En, she thought Little Loh En was Kang Li's child, and based on this assumption, finding Little Loh En's contact number meant she could find Kang Li.

In North City, Xu Chunxia didn't have many friends, especially those who could solve her problems, so she instinctively thought of Kang Li. Even though there was a past grievance with Kang Li, she could only choose to reach out to Kang Li to get help from this fellow hometown acquaintance to avoid falling into a fiery pit.

But considering her pride made her indecisive.

"Ring ring! Ring ring..."

The landline rang again, and Min Rui picked up the receiver: "Hello! Who are you calling?"

Xu Chunxia: "Is Kang Li really not at home?"

"She's not,"

Min Rui responded.

"Then is her mother there?" Knowing Cai Xiufen was in North City helping Kang Li take care of the children, Xu Chunxia asked about Cai Xiufen when unable to contact Kang Li.

"My grandma is not here either, why do you need my mom and grandma?"

The response led to a hung-up call from the other side.

Indeed, Xu Chunxia suddenly hung up, not because she wanted to, but because Fang Su walked in from the living room door.

With the New Year's goods in hand, Fang Su furrowed her brows and looked at Xu Chunxia: "Who were you talking to just now?"

"I..."

Xu Chunxia felt a deep panic, stood up, lowered her head, and didn't speak further for a while.

"Speak up, you know I've never had much patience." Making calls at home when no one else was around, does she really think she's part of this family?

Fang Su looked disdainful and scornful: "How many times have I told you to remember your place in this family? Haven't you listened to anything I said?"

"Mom, aren't you being too harsh with your words?" Xu Chunxia's eyes turned red: "I am your daughter, is this identity shameful? Or do you find having me as your daughter disgraceful?"

It's not that she wanted to recognize her mother, but this woman in front of her suddenly claimed she was her long-lost daughter and voluntarily reunited with her. Yet not long after, she kept emphasizing her identity, leaving Xu Chunxia confused — does her identity have an issue?

"Don't you feel it yourself?"

Fang Su said coldly: "From the start when we reunited, I told you, girls should have self-esteem and self-respect. Now, you tell me, have you achieved that?"

Chapter 1244: Resistance (Part 3)

Perhaps the accumulation of emotions was too much to suppress, and Xu Chunxia finally erupted: "How am I not having any self-respect or self-love? I told you clearly, I was deceived—why don't you believe me? And since you think I'm no good, why did you accept me in the first place? Now you find me

shameless and want to marry me off to an older man with violent tendencies—a big fool. You’re trying to put me in harm’s way, aren’t you?

If you want me dead, why did you save me on the street earlier?”

“You ungrateful girl!”

Fang Su stepped forward and slapped Xu Chunxia across the face, gritting her teeth: “The Hu family’s status even surpasses the Feng family. I put in a lot of effort to find this match for you!

Besides, what’s wrong with marrying a fool? The Hu family only has one son; if you marry him and bear children quickly, wouldn’t the Hu family treat you like royalty?

You don’t understand my intentions, yet you accuse me of wishing you dead. Now, you tell me, what good would it do me if you died?”

“You know it yourself! If it wouldn’t benefit you, why would you push me into the fire pit, why send me off?”

Xu Chunxia cried out: “You lost me when I was a child, causing me to suffer so much and endure hardships in the Xu family, yet I never blamed you for it.

Later, when you recognized me, I was uneasy yet happy. I thought I was the luckiest girl in the world, having a mother who would love me, not casually beat and scold me, and ensure I had enough to eat and wear. But how did you treat me?

You were nice to me for a few days, then started seeing everything wrong with me, thought I embarrassed you outside... To make you happy, I changed my bad habits, learned to dress and groom from others, yet you said I made myself look neither human nor ghost. Tell me, what did I do wrong?"

With tears in her voice questioning, Xu Chunxia felt deeply hurt by Fang Su, her biological mother. Her expression was pained: "Usually, when parents find matches for their children, they truly choose the best. But you?

You're just focused on pushing me into the fire, afraid my life might be too comfortable. I want to ask, did you ever have good intentions for me? Or, from the moment you identified me as your long-lost daughter, you've been against my happiness?"

If she truly opposed her happiness, why would she send her to the hospital, treat her so well?

"I picked you up from the street in the cold winter, sent you to the hospital, and recognized you as my long-lost child. Wasn't that right?"

Fang Su was seething with rage, glaring at Xu Chunxia: "I gave you the best food and clothes, only hoping you would follow my words and be a well-behaved daughter—am I harming you by doing this?

But you defied me, first learned bad things from dubious girls, made yourself look so unnatural, then involved yourself with foreign men, lacking self-respect, deceived and taken abroad, losing your purity.

You were abandoned, and if it hadn't been for the embassy staff kindly arranging your return, you'd likely be a pile of bones overseas by now!

Yet, despite how you've become, I never turned you away, thinking you're over twenty, without purity. If you don't marry, won't you ruin your entire life?!

So I worked hard to find a match for you, deciding to match you with the Hu family so you have a good future, living without financial worries. What are you unhappy about?

Complaining that the Hu family's child is a fool—if he weren't such, would he agree to marry someone like you?"

Fang Su's words were harsh: "Rumor has it, not only does their child lack violent tendencies, but even if he did, as long as you're gentle and obedient at home, would he lay a hand on you?"

"I won't marry him!" Xu Chunxia screamed amidst her tears: "If you think it's good, then you marry into the Hu family yourself. Don't even think about getting me to agree!"

"It's not up to you whether you marry or not!"

Fang Su coldly said: "The date is set for the twenty-eighth of December, just the day after tomorrow. If you dare to act up, watch out, I'll skin you alive!"

"I hate you! You're not my mother!" Xu Chunxia cried desperately, then she ran upstairs, grabbed her bag, came back down, and under Fang Su's fierce gaze, ran to the door.

"If you run out that door, don't even think about coming back!"

Fang Su's gaze was fierce enough to devour someone, yet Xu Chunxia didn't stop, and in a blink, she was gone through the door.

Chapter 1245 Rebellion (Part 4)

Seeing this, Fang Su picked up the blanket on the coffee table and threw it on the ground. Just then, Old Master Feng happened to walk in the door, and his face immediately turned sour: "Can't you just be peaceful at home? You find any excuse to get angry with Leilei, you're quite the mother!"

As Xu Chunxia ran out the courtyard gate, Old Master Feng inadvertently saw her while sitting in his car. Before Old Master Feng could react, the car drove into the courtyard gate.

Seeing Fang Su's ferocious expression and her throwing things, what else was Old Master Feng unclear about?

"That brat said I was harming her, putting her in harm's way, and she won't agree to marry into the Hu family!" Fang Su sat on the sofa, angry and panting heavily.

Old Master Feng: "Did the child say anything wrong? I really don't understand. She is your daughter, do you, as her mother, really have a feud with your own child? Otherwise..."

"Enough!" Fang Su's temper flared, not even giving Old Master Feng face, she said coldly, "Haven't I told you the reason? What other better choice does she have compared to marrying into the Hu family?"

"Divorced women or widows have choices in remarriage, why can't a young girl like Leilei choose a better man?"

Old Master Feng felt it was pointless to talk to Fang Su, but he couldn't help but vent: "I think you have a problem with your daughter, or maybe you recognized the wrong child!"

Xu Chunxia: "Is Kang Li really not at home?"

"Not here."

Min Rui responded.

"Then is her mother around?" Knowing that Cai Xiufen was in North City helping Kang Li care for her child, and unable to contact Kang Li, Xu Chunxia asked about Cai Xiufen.

"My grandma is not here either, why are you looking for my mom and grandma?"

The response was the other party hanging up the phone.

Indeed, Xu Chunxia abruptly hung up the phone—not that she intended to hang up, but Fang Su had walked in from outside the living room.

Placing the purchased New Year goods on the coffee table, Fang Su frowned and looked at Xu Chunxia: "Who were you talking to just now?"

"I..."

Xu Chunxia was filled with panic, stood up, lowered her head, and didn't speak for a while.

"Speak up, you know I've always been impatient." Taking the opportunity of no one being home, was she making calls, truly considering herself part of this family?

Fang Su's eyes showed disdain and sarcasm: "How many times have I told you, remember your identity in this household, are you not listening to me at all?"

"Mom, aren't your words a bit too hurtful?" Xu Chunxia's eyes filled with tears: "I'm your daughter, is this identity so shameful? Or, do you feel having me as a daughter is disgraceful?"

It's not that she wanted to acknowledge her as a mother, it's that the woman in front of her suddenly claimed she was her long-lost daughter, voluntarily recognized her, but after not long, she kept emphasizing her identity. She really didn't understand; could there be an issue with her identity?

"You don't feel it yourself?"

Fang Su said coldly: "When we first recognized each other, I told you, a girl must have dignity and self-respect. Now, do you think you've achieved that?"

Perhaps the anger was too accumulated to be restrained, Xu Chunxia finally exploded: "Why am I not dignified or self-respecting? I've clearly told you I was deceived, why won't you believe me? Since you think I'm bad in some ways,

why did you recognize me in the first place? Now you find me disgraceful and want to marry me to an older, violent fool, is this your plan to put me in harm's way?

If you want me dead, why did you save me on the street earlier?"

"Brat, don't you know a good thing when you see it!"

Fang Su walked up and slapped Xu Chunxia across the face, then said through clenched teeth, "The Hu family's status even surpasses the Feng family, and I worked hard to match you with them!

Besides, what's wrong with marrying a fool? The Hu family has only one son. If you marry him and quickly have children, wouldn't the Hu family treat you like royalty?!

You don't appreciate my efforts, instead, you say I want to harm you. Now tell me, what benefit does it bring me to want you dead?"

"You know yourself! If it doesn't benefit you, why push me into a fire pit, to send me to a dead end?"

Xu Chunxia burst into tears: "Since you lost me as a child, I suffered so much at the Xu family, went through so much hardship, I didn't resent you.

When you recognized me later, I was anxious but happy. I felt I was the happiest girl in the world to have a loving mother who wouldn't hit me indiscriminately and would let me have enough to eat and wear. But how did you act?

After being nice to me for a few days, you began to find faults in me, felt embarrassed by me... To make you happy, I changed my bad habits, I learned from others how to dress, yet you said I put on airs, looking neither human nor ghost. You tell me, where did I go wrong?"

With tears in her eyes questioning, Xu Chunxia felt deeply hurt by Fang Su, her biological mother. Looking pained: "Other parents give their children—"I hate you! You're not my mom!" Xu Chunxia sobbed uncontrollably, then she ran upstairs, grabbed her bag, came back down, and under Fang Su's piercing gaze, ran out the door.

"If you dare to run out that door, then don't come back!"

Fang Su's gaze was almost enough to devour someone alive, yet Xu Chunxia's feet didn't stop, and in a flash, she vanished out the door.

Seeing this, Fang Su picked up the blanket on the coffee table and threw it on the ground. Just then, Old Master Feng happened to walk in the door, and his face immediately turned sour: "Can't you just be peaceful at home? You find any excuse to get angry with Leilei, you're quite the mother!"

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Chapter 1246: Selfish Motives

"Kang Guoan, what do you mean by this?"

Xu Chunxia's tearful eyes were filled with resentment and accusation: "I've already said I wasn't born to the Xu family couple, I said I'm now called Jiang Lei, I have my own real mom, don't you understand human speech? Fine, even if you don't understand, even if you tell the Xu family about my situation in North City, do you think I'll be scared?"

"I don't care if you're scared or not, the only thing I want is for you not to bother my family again!" Kang Guoan's expression was icy: "Go back to where you came from, if you don't want to be pushed into the pit you mentioned, then hurry back home, this is my final advice considering we're from the same village!"

"I think you're sick!"

Advice?

Or is it the final advice?

Why does she need advice from him?

The Xu family already has nothing to do with her, she is Jiang Lei, her mother's surname is Feng, hasn't she been clear enough?

Xu Chunxia angrily glared at Kang Guoan: "Listen well, Kang Guoan, I'll tell you one last time, my surname is Jiang, as in River Jiang, and my name is Lei, just one character, Lei, as in flower bud Lei. I'm not the daughter of the Xu family from Aoli Village, and I'm not called Xu Chunxia. If you still can't remember, then it proves there's something wrong with your brain!"

"Chunxia, how are you speaking?" Cai Xiufen was annoyed, she coldly looked at Xu Chunxia: "I clearly told you everything; you were born at the field's edge by your mom, many elderly in the village know about this. If you don't believe it, it's up to you, but why curse our Guoan here?"

Seeing Cai Xiufen clearly angry, Xu Chunxia couldn't help but feel anxious. Today, she thickened her skin to find them, intent on asking for help, how did it become a fight instead?

"Aunt, I..."

Xu Chunxia wanted to retract what she said earlier, but when she opened her mouth, she couldn't utter a word.

To be precise, she didn't know how to respond, how to justify herself.

"Mom, kind words can't dissuade a damned soul, let's go inside."

Without looking at Xu Chunxia again, Kang Guoan helped Cai Xiufen walk toward the courtyard.

"Aunt! Aunt, please let me see Li Bao, let Li Bao help me, can't you?" In her desperation, Xu Chunxia swiftly stepped forward, kneeling in front of Cai Xiufen: "Aunt, if Li Bao doesn't help me, I'll die!"

Before Cai Xiufen could speak, Kang Guoan's cold gaze fell on Xu Chunxia, filled with disgust, he said word by word: "Kneel if you love to, dreaming of morally blackmailing our Li Bao? Don't even think about it!"

Even setting aside that Li Bao's not at home, even if my sister were, do you think she'd help you? Abandoning your biological parents, randomly accepting another as your mom, taking advantage of others,

now you're set to marry a man with issues, you brought this upon yourself; how dare you seek my sister's help? If you don't want to marry, you can completely choose to save yourself, don't you know?"

"Why don't you believe me, Kang Guoan? I've said my mom's surname is Fang, I'm not randomly acknowledging someone as mom! Moreover, it's my biological mother who recognized me as her long-lost daughter, I didn't actively seek her!"

Unknowingly, almost everyone entering and leaving the courtyard stopped and gathered at the courtyard entrance to watch Cai Xiufen and the three others.

Cai Xiufen's expression worsened, infuriated by Xu Chunxia: "Little Wu, let's go, let her do as she pleases!" With that, Cai Xiufen ignored the gazes on her and Kang Guoan, and the mother-son duo walked into the courtyard.

"What's happening?"

Among the spectators, some people were unaware of the prior situation and couldn't help but ask the person beside them.

"I don't know."

"I actually saw everything..." A woman around forty explained what she had heard to those around her, and following her account, the crowd of older women began to criticize Xu Chunxia.

"What are you thinking, young lady? Since you have parents, why believe others so easily? Being casually recognized as a daughter, could it be you think city life is better, just going along with it, genuinely considering yourself someone's child? If that's really your mindset, then don't blame anyone for marrying you off cheaply to a simpleton!"

"Exactly, there's no free lunch in this world!"

"That's right!"

...

Listening to the chatter, Xu Chunxia abruptly stood up, glaring at the crowds surrounding her: "What do you know? If my mom says I'm her long-lost daughter, then I am!"

"If that's indeed the case, how could she bear to marry you to a simpleton?"

Chapter 1247: Selfish Motives (Part 2)

"I...my mom is confused!"

"Girl, do you really believe that? Even if your mom is confused, if you don't agree, won't your real father stand up for you?"

"I've never met my dad. I live with my stepfather."

"And your stepfather doesn't care?"

"My mom doesn't listen to my stepfather."

"If even your stepfather can't control your mom, why do you think Comrade Kang, Professor Luo's spouse, can help you?"

"Big sis, are you talking about Kang Libao when you mention Comrade Kang?"

"Comrade Kang is called Kang Li."

An older woman interjected.

Xu Chunxia: "Kang Li is Kang Libao. She and I grew up together. She and her husband must know some big shots. As long as she's willing to help me, my mom... my mom will definitely cancel the wedding."

"But Kang Li's own mother says you're the daughter born on the roadside, yet you refuse to admit it, and you're dead set on calling a woman with no blood ties your mother. I think you just want to live the good life in the city!"

"I think so too. Otherwise, she could just leave her stepfather's home, why bother marrying a fool?!"

"Let's go, let's go, this girl must be out of her mind!"

Not long after, except for the police officer on duty, only Xu Chunxia remained standing at the gate of the courtyard.

After a while, Xu Chunxia stomped her foot hard and turned to walk towards the bus stop.

She hated not only Kang Li, Cai Xiufen, and Kang Guoan, but also the entire family of Captain Kang! She thought Kang Li could help her but didn't reach out, and she believed they were just watching her die. If she ever got the chance, she would seek revenge!

"Why did you come back?"

Xu Chunxia took the bus all the way back to the Feng family, and as soon as she entered the door, she heard Fang Su's voice coming from the living room.

"Am I really your daughter?" On the bus, Xu Chunxia kept thinking about what Cai Xiufen had said, that she was born on the roadside by that wicked woman from the Xu family. She didn't want to believe it, but she vaguely recalled her eldest sister mentioning something like that when she was little.

They said her mother was heavily pregnant, working in the fields, and suddenly went into labor. There wasn't time to get home, so...so she gave birth to her right there on the roadside.

When she was little and ignorant, she thought her elder sister was teasing her. Now that others mentioned it, and that 'other' was Kang Libao's mother, it was undoubtedly more credible.

Or maybe she really was the child of that wicked Xu woman, and this woman in front of her had mistakenly identified her daughter?

Thinking all the way, Xu Chunxia appeared somewhat dazed, and Fang Su's voice pulled her back to the moment, and she stared blankly at her, hoping to catch a hint of truth from her expressions.

Sure enough, she noticed a subtle change, even if it was fleeting. Xu Chunxia was sure she saw it clearly.

Fang Su, the woman who claimed to be her mother, had a moment of unnatural expression when she heard her question. Despite her face of anger, she couldn't hide that brief unnaturalness.

Xu Chunxia's heart sank to the bottom.

Yet, she still appeared relatively composed.

"Is this how you talk to me?" Fang Su's expression was sullen as she glared at Xu Chunxia. "I told you to leave if you're not mine, you ungrateful thing. I treated you sincerely, yet you suspect I'm not your mother. Do you think I'm blind enough to mistake my own child?"

For her own selfish reasons, Fang Su could not let Xu Chunxia just slip out of her control.

Two years, she wanted to give Jiang Boya two more years. If Boya still didn't return to the country to find her, then Xu Chunxia would have no further ties to her.

By then, whether Xu Chunxia lived or died in the Hu family, she wouldn't care!

"If I really am your daughter, why are you setting up such a marriage for me?" Xu Chunxia felt deeply hurt. She didn't expect her life to be so bitter.

In the Xu family, she was almost married off to a cripple with a leg condition. In North City, she was about to marry a fool. Why? Why is heaven so unfair to her?

Clearly, she and Kang Libao both came from peasant families, and Kang Libao was even a sickly child, yet she married a good man. But for her, even marrying a normal man seemed like a luxury.

Filled with sorrow, Xu Chunxia's face was unknowingly covered in tears.

"What's wrong with the Hu family? I'm telling you, don't be ungrateful. If it was another girl marrying into the Hu family, she'd probably laugh herself awake even in her dreams!"

"Do you think I'm that stupid?"

"I don't think you're stupid, I think you're foolish, and extremely so! So what if the man is somewhat dumb? Once you're married, can't you manipulate him? When his parents are gone, won't the entire Hu family be yours..."

Chapter 1249: Selfish Motives (Part 4)

This makes it increasingly difficult to find another wife for their son.

Unexpectedly, after several years, Fang Su suddenly visited to discuss their children's marriage, which surprised Hu Dongting and his wife.

Even more surprising, the matter was quickly settled, and preparations for the children were made before the year's end.

But today, rumors spread that the stepdaughter of the Feng family, namely Fang Su's daughter, seemed unwilling to proceed with the marriage.

Upon hearing the rumors, Sun E naturally felt worried and quite angry.

"Are you blaming our Xiaochuan?"

Sun E glared at Hu Dongting, saying irritably, "Don't start with that talk of taking care of Xiaochuan for a lifetime. With our health, we could die in another twenty years at best. What will Xiaochuan do then?"

"I'm ten years older than you."

"Yes, I'm younger by ten years, but who can guarantee I'll live longer than you? Anyway, I don't care; since Fang Su agreed to marry her daughter to our Xiaochuan, I won't allow her to backtrack!

But if that girl can give us a son or a daughter, I don't mind if she divorces Xiaochuan."

In essence, Sun E just wanted a tool to bear a child for their son.

She knew better than anyone that no woman would willingly marry a fool and live a good life with a fool.

Knowing this, she would not tether her son to anyone for life. Once they have a grandson or granddaughter, the couple can raise the child and have a future support for their son.

"..."

Hu Dongting was silent for a while and then said, "Let's just pretend we don't know anything and wait until the twenty-eighth to bring her home. However, when the new bride comes in, you must keep an eye on Xiaochuan, lest he unexpectedly harms her."

"Don't worry, I'll watch Xiaochuan."

She knew that as long as her son didn't have an episode, he wouldn't hurt anyone.

"If I can hold a grandchild next year, I would finally feel at ease!"

Hu Dongting sighed.

In response, Sun E agreed, "I feel the same. By the way, when you get promoted, Old Feng will fill your current position, right?"

Hu Dongting: "That's uncertain."

Sun E: "Remember to put in a good word — that's part of Fang Su's conditions for marrying her daughter into our family."

"I won't forget."

Hu Dongting responded and then said, "That condition is probably Fang Su's own idea."

"It doesn't matter whose idea it is, just do it. Whether Old Feng fills your position isn't our concern anyway."

"Mm."

Before long, on the twenty-eighth of the lunar month, Xu Chunxia entered the Hu family crying, escorted from the Feng family. The day before, with the female heads of the Fang and Sun families taking charge, the marriage certificates for their children were obtained through their connections.

This meant Xu Chunxia and Hu Chuan became legally married.

It was New Year's Eve.

Luo Yanqing had a two-day holiday, naturally returning home to spend the New Year with family. But without his wife by his side, Luo Yanqing's enthusiasm for the celebration was dampened.

"Alright, your sister-in-law is helping Mom in the kitchen. You, Little Wu, and Yangyang shouldn't just stand here!" Cai Xiufen shooed Luo Yanqing, Kang Guoan, and Kang Yiyang out of the kitchen: "Go sit in the living room with your dad and brother, we really don't need your help here!"

"Old Feng, you..."

Fang Su looked at Old Master Feng: "Why are you so angry with me?"

In the living room, Old Master Feng glared at Fang Su: "How dare you pretend not to know? Just who were you cursing earlier?"

"I..." Remembering what she had just said, Fang Su became uneasy: "I just said it off the cuff. Don't blow it out of proportion and accuse me of cursing someone. Besides, everyone eventually dies. What's wrong with me saying it?"

The more she talked, the more Fang Su felt she wasn't in the wrong. She looked back at Xu Chunxia: "Tell me, on the twenty-eighth, will you marry or not?"

"I will! I'll marry!"

Xu Chunxia agreed through tears, then ran upstairs.

If she didn't marry, where could she go?

At least the Hu family had money and power. If she was cautious and avoided any harm from that fool, wouldn't life go smoothly?

Moreover, she had found out that the Hu family's son had become a fool due to a fever in childhood, not because of congenital issues.

Looking ahead, if she...if she got pregnant, the child should be okay.

In this way, she would have future security.

Yes, even though Xu Chunxia already knew Fang Su likely mistook her as a daughter, she still did not plan to leave the lap of luxury and return to her former life of hardship.

Because starvation was truly unpleasant, not to mention she loved wearing beautiful clothes, shopping, eating delicious food, living with ease and comfort every day.

In other words, it's easy to go from frugality to luxury but hard to go back from luxury to frugality.

Xu Chunxia grew up in hardship and finally enjoyed a wealthy life. She was unwilling to return to the days of lack of food and clothing and live toiling away under the sun!

"Enough talking!" Sun E, Hu Dongting's wife, interrupted her husband's words: "Xiaochuan's previous wife died in an accident — she fell and hit her head on the table edge, not because Xiaochuan directly..."

Hu Dongting interrupted his wife: "Would she have fallen if she wasn't trying to avoid Xiaochuan's fists?"
Hu Dongting's current wife, Sun E, was his second wife.

Many years ago, Hu Dongting and his first wife shared common ideals, crossing grasslands and climbing snowy mountains, and together they had a son and daughter. Unexpectedly, their daughter died shortly after birth, and their son sacrificed himself on the battlefield at eighteen.

During this time, Hu Dongting's first wife also passed away; more precisely, she died when their son was only ten years old.

After being single for years, Hu Dongting eventually came together with his second wife, Sun E, but she struggled to conceive. It was not until a year before the founding of the nation that she gave birth to their son, Hu Chuan.

However, both were too busy with work and left their son in a nanny's care, unaware it would lead to an issue.

Seeing their initially smart son become a fool due to a severe fever broke their hearts. But regardless of the pain, nothing could be done. The couple painstakingly raised their son.

And they even arranged a wife for him.

To their dismay, the daughter-in-law died less than two years after joining the family. Despite trying to keep the matter quiet, it spread among acquaintances.

This makes it increasingly difficult to find another wife for their son.

Unexpectedly, after several years, Fang Su suddenly visited to discuss their children's marriage, which surprised Hu Dongting and his wife.

Even more surprising, the matter was quickly settled, and preparations for the children were made before the year's end.

But today, rumors spread that the stepdaughter of the Feng family, namely Fang Su's daughter, seemed unwilling to proceed with the marriage.

Upon hearing the rumors, Sun E naturally felt worried and quite angry.

"Are you blaming our Xiaochuan?"

Chapter 1250

"Your voice is so soft, are you feeling shy?" Kang Li's voice was gentle and filled with laughter. "Let me guess, it's not just my dad sitting in the living room right now, is it?"

Luo Yanqing's face got warmer, and his ears turned a noticeable shade of red. He whispered, "No."

"I don't believe you."

Kang Li chuckled, "From what I know about you, saying 'I miss you' in front of my dad, my elder brother, younger brother, and Yangyang... Ruirui, you would definitely feel a hundred percent embarrassed."

"You knew and you still asked." Luo Yanqing's tone was filled with helplessness. He said, "Except for Mom and elder sister-in-law who are busy in the kitchen preparing the New Year's Eve dinner, everyone else is sitting in the living room."

Kang Li let out an "oh" and then said, "You're not hoping I'll apologize to you, are you? It's my fault for teasing you, but I can't help it; I just love teasing my dear Professor Luo. Why don't you fly over here and settle the score, hmm?"

Having lived with Kang Li for several years, Luo Yanqing easily picked up on Kang Li's teasing tone. For a moment, he was filled with helplessness, which seeped into his voice mixed with a trace of affection, "I'll try to be there with you before you give birth."

"Actually, there's no need." Kang Li said softly, "I know you're busy with work and don't have time to come over. Besides, given your status, it might not be convenient to travel internationally."

Luo Yanqing: "You don't need to worry about these things. I have a plan."

"...Alright then!" Hearing Luo Yanqing's determination, Kang Li didn't press further. She said, "Luo Yanqing, remember what you promised me, okay?"

"Mm. I'll take care of myself, so you don't have to worry."

"Keep your word."

"Mm."

"Today is New Year's Eve. I'm wishing you a Happy New Year in advance! Good health and all the best!"

"Same to you!"

"You're so concise." Kang Li teased with a laugh, and then continued, "Alright, press the speaker button, and then go call Mom and elder sister-in-law to the living room. I want to talk to everyone and wish Dad, Mom, and elder and younger brothers a Happy New Year too."

"Okay."

Pressing the speaker button, Luo Yanqing placed the handset next to the landline. Before he could get up to go to the kitchen, Ming Han was already standing at the living room doorway, shouting towards the kitchen, "Grandma! Auntie, my mom called!"

"Eldest daughter's family, come on, let's go to the living room. Li Bao called; she's probably calling to wish us a Happy New Year!"

Cai Xiufen said, calling Elder sister-in-law Kang to the living room.

"It's probably just after eight in the morning over there for Li Bao. I wonder if she's had breakfast, hopefully she doesn't go hungry."

Following behind Cai Xiufen, Elder sister-in-law Kang said, "It's hard to help out from such a distance, even if I wanted to as her elder sister-in-law."

"Oh, you're worrying unnecessarily." Cai Xiufen chuckled, shaking her head, "Li Bao isn't a child; she won't let herself go hungry."

...

Just hearing her darling daughter's voice, Cai Xiufen's eyes turned red.

"Li Bao, are you doing well?"

"Mom, I'm doing great!"

"Have you eaten?"

"I just did."

"You're heavy now, so whatever you do, make sure you stay safe, understand?"

"I understand. Mom, I can eat, drink, and sleep well. Plus, someone is always with me wherever I go, so there's no safety issue. I'll keep everything you said in mind."

"That's good."

"Mom, you've worked hard these past few months. Now that Ruirui is becoming a little man, if you need help at home, don't hesitate to ask him."

"What do I need a child to help me with?! Your dad's here! Besides, there's no heavy work at home; I can manage everything by myself just fine."

"Kids need practice as they grow. Mom, just treat it as training for Ruirui. Simple chores like tidying up dishes or sweeping the floor, not only can Ruirui do them, but Hanhan and Vivi can do them too. This is something I discussed with them long ago."

Ming Rui, upon hearing Kang Li's words, looked earnestly at Cai Xiufen, "Grandma, what my mom said is right. Besides, before my mom went abroad, we used to do simple chores, and you know that. But in recent months, with my mom not around, you haven't let us do anything, and that will spoil us."

Ming Wei: "Grandma, I want to be a good child!"

Ming Han: "A good child should do chores within their ability to lighten the burden on the elders."

"You are all very well-behaved already."

Cai Xiufen's eyes were full of affection.

Outsiders might not know this, but the family was well aware that her cherished daughter raised the three stepchildren exceptionally well. The three children were not only sensible but also considerate and often volunteered to do simple chores at home whenever they were around.