

Weak B 1291

Chapter 1291

Jiang Boya opened his mouth and said, "Revealing the truth and acknowledging Lili is not about taking my daughter away from them."

"..."

Luo Yanqing looked at the other person, "Then what does Mr. Jiang want to do?"

"Just to have a couple more people love Lili," Jiang Boya spoke his mind, "I know Lili can't leave her parents, and I also know that in her heart, her grandfather and I likely don't have any standing. Yet she is the continuation of my bloodline, you can't deny that, can you?"

"I don't deny it."

In Luo Yanqing's view, blood relations aren't particularly important, much like himself...clearly he had a mother, but that woman, to live better herself, disregarded him as her son, took all the family money, and abandoned him as a child.

Mother and son, what an intimate blood connection!

Yet in the face of personal interests, is it useful?

On the other hand, his little girl was abandoned by her biological mother, encountered his father-in-law and mother-in-law, and was raised as their treasured jewel, without a shred of blood connection.

These two people are more like real parents than the so-called biological ones.

And his little girl is very reliant on the two elders, their affections are beyond what mere blood can compare to.

Jiang Boya looked at Luo Yanqing without blinking, "The day is set for the day after tomorrow, do you have any objections?"

His thoughts were pulled back, Luo Yanqing's expression was calm, "Mr. Jiang, you're joking, what objections could I have?"

"It's good that you have no objections." With that, Jiang Boya continued scrubbing diapers, but he still had one more thing he wanted to discuss with Luo Yanqing. However, given the current atmosphere, he had to hold back.

...

"What's wrong?"

The three little babies were in the nursery, being watched by Cai Xiufen, Song Sa, and Captain Kang, while Kang Li lay back on her bedroom bed feeling bored, noticing Luo Yanqing entering with a not-so-good expression, she couldn't help but ask.

Gently shaking his head, Luo Yanqing's eyes were soft, "It's nothing."

"You're not lying to me?"

Kang Li was skeptical.

"...No," Luo Yanqing shook his head, but Kang Li furrowed her brows, "I don't think so, you must be hiding something from me." Feeling a bit cornered by Kang Li's unblinking gaze, Luo Yanqing turned his face aside, "Really, nothing."

"Has Professor Luo forgotten what you said to me that day over here?"

Kang Li narrowed her eyes.

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing opened his mouth, but ultimately shook his head, "Really, nothing." After a brief pause, seeing Kang Li still seemingly unconvinced, the corners of Luo Yanqing's mouth curled into a smile, "What do you think I could be hiding here?"

Kang Li pondered for a moment, "That's true. Old Mr. Jiang and Mr. Jiang are decent people; they probably wouldn't say anything bad to you. As for my parents, even less likely. Maybe sitting in confinement has made me silly, starting to overthink things."

"Not silly at all." Luo Yanqing sat down beside her on the bed, holding her hand, his gaze filled with a gentle smile, saying, "Mr. Jiang was just in the laundry room, arguing with me over washing diapers, claiming that I won't let him do it for fear he wouldn't clean them properly."

"Didn't expect a contest over washing diapers."

Kang Li couldn't help but laugh, "Since Mr. Jiang wants to wash, just let him do it!"

"What need is there for me to say anything, Mr. Jiang went ahead and snatched several diapers, meticulously washing them beside me, occasionally giving me a look as if challenging me."

Hearing Luo Yanqing say this, Kang Li burst into laughter again, "Mr. Jiang is occasionally a bit childish; Professor Luo, I hope you can tolerate it."

However, Luo Yanqing didn't respond, he asked, "Do you want to acknowledge Mr. Jiang?"

Kang Li was stunned, after a long pause, she pursed her lips and shook her head, "I don't know. From a blood relationship perspective, Mr. Jiang is my biological father, that seems accurate, especially since I resemble his birth mother closely..."

Furthermore, regarding Mr. Jiang, leaving aside what Grandma Yu told me, Mr. Jiang's personality is actually decent. Not to mention anything else, just in the past half-year I've been abroad,

He truly took good care of me. I can feel he's sincerely good to me, feel that he cares for me, but...honestly, despite this past half-year together, I don't have deep feelings for him."

"You've only been together for half a year, naturally, there won't be deep emotions. If, and I'm just saying if...if Mr. Jiang and my in-laws reveal your true background, would you have any thoughts?"

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Luo Yanqing tentatively asked.

"Mr. Jiang knows how much I care about my parents; he wouldn't be dumb enough to talk nonsense in front of them."

Kang Li chuckled, not taking the 'if' from Luo Yanqing to heart. Seeing this, Luo Yanqing casually said, "I think you and Mr. Jiang will eventually recognize each other. After all, your brother named Allen, Mr. Jiang doesn't acknowledge his identity."

"You said 'eventually,' so we'll talk about it when the time comes."

"Actually, recognizing Mr. Jiang is just having two more people love you."

"Am I really lacking love?"

Luo Yanqing choked: "...” How could his little girl lack love? With parents, siblings, and nephews cherishing and protecting her, plus him and Luo Mingrui and the three little ones, along with the three young children in infancy guarding and loving her, she is surrounded by love and definitely doesn't lack this human emotion.

Encountering Kang Li's teasing gaze, Luo Yanqing cleared his throat and changed the subject: "Did Mr. Jiang really decide not to acknowledge your brother Allen?"

"I didn't expect Professor Luo to enjoy gossip so much."

In fact, Luo Yanqing only knew about Allen because Kang Li had told him.

"I'm just curious."

Luo Yanqing doesn't like gossip at all. He was merely changing the topic to avoid his wife looking at him with a teasing expression.

"If it were you, wouldn't you feel uneasy?"

Seeing Luo Yanqing didn't quite understand, Kang Li reminded him: "How did Allen come to be?"

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing instantly understood: "It's quite damaging to a man's self-esteem, but... what fault does the child have? Besides, isn't it just a..."

"Alright, let's not talk about the elders' matters. After all, it's Mr. Jiang's private issue." However, Kang Li knew quite well that Jiang Boya didn't truly dislike Allen in private.

Or rather, in his heart, he actually regarded Allen as a son.

In a blink, it's the day after tomorrow, at noon, in Jiang Hongfa's study.

"If Lili finds out, she'll probably argue with you."

Expressing his concern, Jiang Hongfa sighed: "I think we should speak plainly in front of Lili's adoptive parents. We're not competing with them over Lili,

we just want to recognize the little girl. For Lili, it's just having two more people to love. If Lili's adoptive parents agree, then I'll propose having one of Lili's children bear our last name. Of course, this must be agreed upon by Lili and her husband."

"I think the same as you."

Jiang Boya smiled wryly: "They raised Lili as their own daughter, while we, as the blood relatives, have contributed nothing. We certainly can't shamelessly take advantage of them. Dad, we must lower our stance; otherwise, it would be bad to cause their rejection."

"Do I need you to say that?"

Jiang Hongfa glared angrily.

Jiang Boya touched his nose: "I'm just worried you might get confused and wanted to remind you. Please stop glaring at me. Also, don't pick and choose among the three little ones."

"Do I look that dumb?"

Jiang Hongfa huffed and glared again: "Bun and the others all have our Jiang family's blood. No matter which one bears our name, as their great-grandfather, I would be thrilled."

Jiang Boya raised an eyebrow: "You don't favor boys over girls?"

"Get lost. If you have the ability to give me seven or eight granddaughters, I wouldn't look down on them." Jiang Hongfa almost chased Jiang Boya with a walking stick: "In my view, boys and girls are the same; they're all descendants of the Jiang family."

"You're really open-minded."

Jiang Boya laughed.

“You’re sure you’re not mocking your father?” Jiang Hongfa squinted at Jiang Boya: “If there aren’t any male descendants, inviting someone into the family is far better than having no one around. Besides, well-raised girls aren’t inferior to boys at all.”

“Certainly. For example, my precious daughter, your precious eldest granddaughter, though she’s a delicate little girl, she’s more outstanding than many boys.”

Speaking of Kang Li, Jiang Boya looked proud.

Jiang Hongfa: “For giving our family such a lovely girl like Lili, Ah Mei isn’t entirely useless.”

Jiang Boya frowned: “Why mention her? Without me, how could Lili be born from her? If she truly understood me back then and treated Lili well after birthing her, naturally, I would have compensated her. But what did she do?

She gave birth to Lili and abandoned her, forged an identity pretending to be someone else, and after so many years, attempted to use a fake to gain from me—her schemes are endless.”

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"The compensation you gave her ended up back in your hands and was donated by you to the welfare home over there, are you still mad about it now?"

Jiang Hongfa had little impression of the Ah Mei he mentioned, who was actually Fang Su; he only knew she eloped with Jiang Boya, her character was bad, not presentable.

"How could I not be mad? If Lili hadn't been picked up by her foster parents, would you have seen your big granddaughter twenty years later?" Jiang Boya's tone didn't sound good: "Looking back, I was practically a fool in my youth, couldn't see Fang Sumei's true nature."

"Alright, it's all in the past, let's not dwell on it."

"Hmph! If you had been tougher then, kicked that woman's entire family out, would this have happened afterward?"

"The affairs of the inner house were all managed by your mother, how could a big man like me interfere? Besides, if I really had kicked Ah Mei's family out back then, where would Lili have come from?"

"It's not like she's the only woman who can give birth."

Jiang Boya muttered under his breath, got up, and walked towards the study door: "Let's talk about this matter when Lili rests in the afternoon."

"Okay."

Jiang Hongfa had no objections.

"What's wrong?"

The three little babies were over in the nursery, watched by Cai Xiufen, Song Sa, and Captain Kang. Meanwhile, Kang Li was lying bored in her bedroom when Luo Yanqing pushed the door open and came in. Seeing that his expression was not good, she couldn't help but ask.

Lightly shaking his head, Luo Yanqing's expression was gentle: "It's nothing."

"Are you lying to me?"

Kang Li was skeptical.

"...No." Luo Yanqing shook his head, but Kang Li frowned slightly: "It doesn't look like it, you must be hiding something from me." Being stared at without blinking by Kang Li, Luo Yanqing felt a bit overwhelmed and couldn't help but turn his face away: "Really no."

"Did Professor Luo forget what you said to me that day here?"

Kang Li narrowed her eyes.

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing opened his mouth, but still shook his head: "Really nothing." After a slight pause, seeing that Kang Li seemed still unconvinced, he smiled: "What could possibly happen to me here?"

Kang Li thought for a moment: "That's true. Old Mr. Jiang and Mr. Jiang are good people; they should not say anything bad to you, as for my parents, it's even less likely. Seems like, this confinement period is making me silly, I am starting to like imagining things."

"You're not silly at all." Luo Yanqing sat by the bed, held her hand, and his eyebrows revealed a gentle smile as he said, "Mr. Jiang was just arguing with me over washing diapers in the laundry room, saying I didn't let him do because I feared he wouldn't wash them clean."

"I didn't expect there would be competition over washing diapers."

Kang Li couldn't hold back her laughter: "Since Mr. Jiang wants to wash, let him do it then!"

"No need for me to say anything, Mr. Jiang directly grabbed a few diapers and seriously scrubbed them next to me, occasionally glancing at me, I feel he was provoking me."

Hearing Luo Yanqing say this, Kang Li couldn't help but laugh again: "Mr. Jiang is occasionally a bit childish, hope Professor Luo can be more understanding."

However, Luo Yanqing didn't respond directly, he asked, "Do you want to recognize Mr. Jiang?"

Kang Li was stunned, after a moment, she pursed her lips and shook her head: "I don't know. From a genetic standpoint, Mr. Jiang is biologically my father, it shouldn't be wrong, after all, I look a lot like Mr. Jiang's biological mother..."

Besides, regarding Mr. Jiang, putting aside what Grandma Yu told me, Mr. Jiang himself has a good personality, not to mention, during my over half-year abroad,

Luo Yanqing was speechless: "...". His little girl could never lack love, having parents, brothers and sisters-in-law, and nephews to care for and protect her, along with him and Luo Mingrui, and the three little children still in swaddling clothes to guard and love her, she is absolutely not missing this human emotion.

Meeting Kang Li's playful gaze, Luo Yanqing cleared his throat and changed the subject: "Mr. Jiang truly decided not to recognize your brother Allen?"

"Never thought Professor Luo also likes gossip this much."

If Luo Yanqing knew about Allen's affair, it was no other than Kang Li informing him.

"I'm just curious."

Luo Yanqing doesn't like gossip at all, he was just changing the subject to avoid being stared at playfully by his wife all the time.

"If it were you, wouldn't you have qualms in your heart?"

Seeing Luo Yanqing didn't quite understand, Kang Li reminded: "How did Allen come about?"

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing suddenly understood: "It hurts male self-esteem, but... what fault is there with the child? Besides, isn't that just a..."

"Alright, let's not discuss the elders' matters, after all, in the end, it's Mr. Jiang's private affair." However, Kang Li clearly knew one thing, Jiang Boya in private was not unfavorable towards Allen.

Or rather, in his heart, he actually regarded Allen as his son.

In the blink of an eye, it was the day after tomorrow, at noon, in Jiang Hongfa's study.

"If Lili knows, she might get angry with you."

Expressing his worry, Jiang Hongfa sighed: "I think we should speak frankly in front of Lili's foster parents, that we don't want to take away Lili,

just want to acknowledge the little girl, it would just mean more people to love her for Lili, if Lili's foster parents have no objections, then I'll propose to have one of Lili's children take our surname, of course, this requires the consent of Lili and her partner."

"I'm thinking the same as you."

Jiang Boya said with a bitter smile: "They have raised Lili as their own daughter, while we, as blood relatives, haven't contributed anything, we certainly can't have the cheek to pick their fruits. Dad, we must keep a low profile, otherwise, it's bad to cause them to resist."

Jiang Boya frowned: "Why bring her up? If it weren't for me, would Lili have ended up in her belly? If she really understood me back then, if she had given birth to Lili and treated her well, naturally I would compensate her today. But what did she do?

She gave birth to Lili then abandoned her, then forged identity documents to impersonate someone, and years later tried to use a fake to gain benefits from me, she truly has a lot of nerve."

"The compensation you gave her ended up back in your hands and was donated by you to the welfare home over there, are you still mad about it now?"

Jiang Hongfa had little impression of the Ah Mei he mentioned, who was actually Fang Su; he only knew she eloped with Jiang Boya, her character was bad, not presentable.

"How could I not be mad? If Lili hadn't been picked up by her foster parents, would you have seen your big granddaughter twenty years later?" Jiang Boya's tone didn't sound good: "Looking back, I was practically a fool in my youth, couldn't see Fang Sumei's true nature."

"Alright, it's all in the past, let's not dwell on it."

"Hmph! If you had been tougher then, kicked that woman's entire family out, would this have happened afterward?"

"The affairs of the inner house were all managed by your mother, how could a big man like me interfere? Besides, if I really had kicked Ah Mei's family out back then, where would Lili have come from?"

"It's not like she's the only woman who can give birth."

Jiang Boya muttered under his breath, got up, and walked towards the study door: "Let's talk about this matter when Lili rests in the afternoon."

"Okay."

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After listening to Jiang Hongfa's words, Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen didn't say a word. The two of them almost simultaneously stood up, without even looking at Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya, and walked out of the study.

Luo Yanqing followed behind them.

"Li Bao's parents, they..."

Looking at the empty study doorway, Jiang Hongfa came back to his senses and turned his gaze to Jiang Boya. He couldn't quite figure out what Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen meant.

Unexpectedly, Jiang Boya shook his head: "I don't know either." He didn't know what those two were thinking.

The father and son sat in the study, neither of them speaking for a while.

Meanwhile, in the guest room where Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen were staying, Luo Yanqing was being watched intently by the two. After a long pause, Cai Xiufen spoke:

"Li Bao is indeed not biologically ours. Back then, when I was pregnant with her younger brother and nearing delivery, my pregnancy condition wasn't very good. To avoid complications, I went to the town clinic to await delivery..."

After quite a bit of trouble, perhaps because my luck is relatively good, I eventually gave birth to her younger brother safely. Originally, Li Bao's father and I were thinking of getting discharged that day, but the doctor said my body still needed observation,

and advised me to wait until the next day after a check-up to see if everything was fine before leaving, so I stayed at the clinic for an extra day. And it was in the latter half of that night that I heard a woman crying and screaming while going into labor, until the sky began to lighten, then there was no more sound."

After pausing for a moment, Cai Xiufen continued: "And Li Bao... was the one I found at that time. I was woken by an urgent need to use the bathroom, and when I was about to leave, I heard a weak baby cry like a cat from the trash can in the corner of the bathroom, intermittent and pitiful.

My heart tightened, and without much thought, I walked towards the trash can and took a look, I immediately saw a small baby wrapped casually in a tattered bundle, crying almost breathlessly.

At that moment, I felt so heartbroken that I picked up the little one and went back to the ward. As there was no movement from anyone walking through the bathroom and the hallway, no one knew I picked up a baby from the bathroom.

But as upright people, we can't secretly bring the child home just because no one saw it.

So, I asked the doctor on duty and was informed that the clinic had received a pregnant woman in the middle of the night. Since she had no family with her,

to avoid any life-threatening situation, the clinic staff quickly helped her into the delivery room to assist with the birth. But none of them expected that upon learning she had given birth to a sickly baby girl,

her face immediately fell, and she started cursing. Then, the doctors informed her that the child needed careful nurturing, otherwise she could easily die young.

The young woman agreed verbally, but when the nurse tried to send her to the ward, she said she could go herself. Yet, when the nurse later went to check the ward, the young woman was nowhere to be found.

After hearing my account, the doctor and nurse on duty concluded that the baby I had picked up from the bathroom trash can was abandoned by that young woman,

and in most people's eyes, baby girls were worthless. Some people, let alone abandon them, even when their daughter is born they would suffocate or drown them.

But I loved that child; I even felt she was a gift from Heaven. So I begged the doctor and nurse on duty, saying I had given birth to twins with mixed sex.

Thus, Li Bao and her younger brother became siblings. This matter, aside from me and your father-in-law, the doctor who delivered my baby, and that nurse, no one else knew.

I believe you can see that whether it was me, your father-in-law, or other family members, we truly loved Li Bao, cherished her. Let me put it this way, before Li Bao married you, we never let her do anything, just worried something might happen to her.

After all, Li Bao was weak when she was born; without diligent care, she could pass away at any time, which would be an unbearable blow for us." Wiping her eyes, Cai Xiufen asked: "Can you tell me now when Li Bao found out about her background? Her father and I never discussed this at home, let alone in front of Li Bao."

"Mother, you and father don't need to worry, Xiao Li never thought about leaving you."

Luo Yanqing looked serious as he spoke: "What Mr. Jiang said earlier was all true. Xiao Li only found out shortly before Grandma Yu passed away, and as Grandma Yu closed her eyes,

she didn't directly reveal her relationship with Xiao Li, she merely asked Xiao Li to call her grandma before closing her eyes. The specific understanding of her relationship with Grandma Yu came from a letter Grandma Xiao left for Xiao Li, and inside that letter, there was a photo,

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Xiao Li and I were shocked after reading, and then we learned from the letter Grandma Yu left about Xiao Li's relation to Grandma Yu. However, in that letter, Grandma Yu said she had asked comrades from the relevant department to verify Xiao Li's background, but unexpectedly they found nothing at our town's health center, and the trail went cold."

Captain Kang: "What do you mean?"

Luo Yanqing explained: "In the letter, Grandma Yu mentioned that Xiao Li's biological mother was a maid at her husband's house, that is, Old Mr. Jiang's place. Since Old Mr. Jiang disagreed with his son being with a maid, the woman eloped with young Mr. Jiang, and they fled to a small town in the Northwest to live."

Cai Xiufen: "Is it the town we live in?"

Luo Yanqing nodded: "Who knew, when Xiao Li's biological mother was over a month away from giving birth, Mr. Jiang happened to be found on the street of that town by people sent by Old Mr. Jiang, who forcibly took him back to North City.

The comrades from the related department found this out, so considering what Grandma Yu said, they went to the town's health center, trying to check which women had given birth within two months after.

But they were told that the health center's records and archives room had experienced a fire, burning everything to ashes, and also, the doctors and nurses who worked there during that period had been transferred elsewhere since.

But with the photo Grandma Yu left, telling the truth, mom, not just Li Bao, even I can't say blindly that Xiao Li has no connection to Grandma Yu."

"Then why did you hide it from us?"

Cai Xiufen's tone showed some dissatisfaction.

Captain Kang spoke up: "Alright, don't be so stubborn. Didn't the Jiang Brothers and Yanqing say that Li Bao was afraid we'd overthink, not wanting us to feel hurt, and that's why she didn't tell us what she knew or ask us if she's ours."

Upon hearing this, Cai Xiufen stayed silent.

Seeing this, Captain Kang continued, "Just think, if Li Bao directly asked if she was our biological child, or showed us the letter Aunt Yu left, would you or I feel comfortable?"

"Mom, Xiao Li genuinely didn't want to see you and dad in pain, so she chose to keep it from you. Even now, she hasn't thought of acknowledging Mr. Jiang; this shows how important you and dad are in Xiao Li's heart."

Luo Yanqing looked at Cai Xiufen and Captain Kang, seeing their expressions relaxed significantly, he couldn't help but continue: "Over the years, Xiao Li hasn't stopped talking to me about how good you've been to her, saying the brothers and sisters-in-law, and nephews and nieces all protect her and spoil her. Xiao Li says she loves you all very much."

"What's love got to do with it." Cai Xiufen glanced at Luo Yanqing, her face breaking into a smile: "Don't worry, mom's not angry with you, and Li Bao was raised by me and your father-in-law, we understand her well!"

Captain Kang nodded at Luo Yanqing, agreeing with Cai Xiufen, and then said: "When Li Bao wakes, your mom and I will talk about the past. If Li Bao is willing, she can acknowledge your Uncle Jiang, your mom and I have no objections."

"Giving Li Bao more people to care for her, I think now, is really nice."

Cai Xiufen said this to Captain Kang.

"I'll listen to dad and mom."

Luo Yanqing naturally had no objection.

Afternoon.

“ ... ”

Kang Li's eyes widened, staring straight at Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen: “Dad, mom, I... I didn't mean to hide it from you?” Damn Luo Professor, who indeed kept things from her two days ago!

“Mom knows, dad knows, you were worried we'd overthink, didn't want to see us upset, so you've never mentioned it to us.”

Meeting Kang Li's gaze, Cai Xiufen's eyes were kind, she casually smoothed Kang Li's hair at the back of her head, saying: “Regarding Mr. Jiang and the matter between him and your biological mother, Mr. Jiang and we have talked,

mom and dad aren't confused, can tell Mr. Jiang didn't intentionally abandon your biological mother back then, but you were maliciously abandoned by your biological mother in the garbage bin of the women's toilet at the town's health center.

If your biological mother were standing before me today, I'd definitely slap her hard, making her unable to say a word, let alone acknowledge you.”

Cai Xiufen's face suddenly turned cold: "That woman isn't just heartless, she's vicious! If you really don't want this daughter, she could have wrapped you up well and placed you somewhere visible, rather than directly throwing a newborn you in the garbage bin of the toilet."

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"Now I don't even know where that woman is. If I run into her again someday, just watch how I deal with her!"

Hearing that, Kang Li laughed. "That really isn't necessary. It's not like she's anything to me. In my heart, I only have one mom."

Cai Xiufen rubbed her darling daughter's head, grinning from ear to ear. "Listen to you, such a sweet mouth."

Kang Li said, "I'm just telling the truth, your daughter isn't buttering you up just to make you old folks happy."

Her gaze slid over to Captain Kang. "Of course, I only have one dad too, but as for Mr. Jiang, I'll just call him Dad, otherwise he'll look at me every day with those sad, resentful eyes, like I owe him a ton of money. Makes me want to hide from him."

Before Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen could say anything, Kang Li leaned in like she was telling them a secret and spoke again. "Dad, Mom, you can be a hundred times, a thousand times at ease. In Li Bao's heart—" she patted her chest lightly, "you're the most, most important, and I love you the very, very most!" As she spoke, she even fluttered her eyelashes at them.

Luo Yanqing looked at Kang Li's mischievous little act and couldn't help but curve his lips in a smile.

Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen both burst out laughing.

"You little imp!"

Cai Xiufen tapped her daughter's forehead. "Since you've put it that way, then from now on you should change how you address him."

"We'll see."

Kang Li didn't agree right away.

Cai Xiufen frowned. "What do you mean 'we'll see'? Your dad's willing to wash diapers for Bun and the others himself. Just from that alone you can tell, from the bottom of his heart, he loves you and those babies. Don't make him wait too long. Today when he mentioned how you still haven't called him that, he almost cried."

"Mr. Jiang is that fragile?"

Kang Li was skeptical.

"Why would your mom lie to you? If you don't believe me, ask your dad and Yanqing." As Cai Xiufen spoke, her gaze shifted to Captain Kang and Luo Yanqing. Kang Li followed her look over and saw the two of them nodding, one after the other.

After a brief silence, Kang Li said calmly, "All right, I get it."

Then she told them what Old Lady Yu had asked of her in the letter, and afterward, she locked her gaze on Luo Yanqing. "When I go back to China, I'll help the Yu Family rebuild the restaurant.

Also, even though Grandma Yu didn't directly say in the letter that she wanted one of our children to take the Yu surname, I can tell between the lines that she really regrets that the Yu family line has ended."

"I understand what you mean." There wasn't the slightest hint of reluctance on Luo Yanqing's handsome face. "No matter what surname the child has, they're born of you and me. They're our children."

Captain Kang said, "You two are really going through with this?"

Cai Xiufen was also staring straight at Kang Li.

"Dad, Grandma Yu gave me everything that she and her sisters left behind, and she also gave me several restaurant deeds. The state is currently returning those properties that were confiscated in the past to their original owners. Since I accepted Grandma Yu's trust, I can't let the old lady down.

Besides, my great-uncle gave his life for the country. If the Yu family really just disappeared like this, I'm afraid Grandma Yu and her siblings wouldn't be able to rest in peace underground."

After listening to Kang Li, Captain Kang spoke up. "If you and Yanqing don't have any objections, then your dad will support you."

Cai Xiufen said, "Once you open up this possibility, your dad and your grandpa will probably come to you too, wanting one of the kids to take their surname."

"Then we'll talk about it when they actually bring it up." As she spoke, Kang Li changed the subject. "We still haven't given Bun and the others their formal names yet. Dad, Mom, you should give us some ideas too." Then she asked Luo Yanqing, "Have you thought of anything?"

Just as Luo Yanqing was about to speak, there was a knock on the door, followed by Jiang Boya's voice. "Lili."

"The door's not locked."

Kang Li answered.

Jiang Boya pushed the door open and walked in. Seeing Luo Yanqing and the two elders, Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen, all there, he froze for a second, then quickly smiled and greeted them.

"Let's call Bun 'Ming Ting'. What do you think?" That was Luo Yanqing's voice.

Jiang Boya's eyes lit up. "You're picking formal names for Bun and the others?"

"Mr. Jiang, you're asking something you already know."

Kang Li shot a look at Jiang Boya.

"Li Bao!"

Cai Xiufen glared at her doting darling daughter. "Is that how you talk to your elders?"

"Got it."

Kang Li flashed her mom a smile, then turned to Jiang Boya. "I was a bit blunt just now. Please don't be mad at me, Mr. Jiang."

"No, no, Dad couldn't bear to be mad at you."

Jiang Boya did it on purpose, shamelessly calling himself Dad to Kang Li right in front of Captain Kang, Cai Xiufen, and Luo Yanqing.

"I haven't acknowledged you yet."

Kang Li put on a proud little face and gave Jiang Boya a cool glance, then let her gaze fall back on Luo Yanqing. "Ming Ting is a good name. Let's use it for Bun. Dad, Mom, what do you think?"

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Captain Kang and the other person: "Sounds good."

"Ming implies brightness, light, wisdom, clarity, profound righteousness, while Ting signifies solemnity, courage, stability..." Jiang Boya said, his eyes showing appreciation, "Naming Bun 'Ming Ting' is really great."

In the next moment, he asked, "What are Tangyuan's and Guoguo's real names?"

"Why don't the Jiang Brothers think of one? You're a cultured person too, I'm sure the names you give will sound as good as Yanqing's."

Captain Kang looked at Jiang Boya and said.

Immediately, Jiang Boya rubbed his hands with delight: "Really let me come up with one?" He looked at Kang Li.

Kang Li casually said, "Mr. Jiang doesn't have to trouble himself."

"No trouble at all, Dad has already thought it out, how about 'Ming Chen'? Tangyuan will be called 'Ming Chen', with the character 'Chen' under the 'king' radical, used as a boy's name, meaning precious, noble, and virtuous."

Saying this, Jiang Boya observed Luo Yanqing and Captain Kang's expressions, "How about it?"

Cai Xiufen: "I think it's quite good."

Captain Kang: "Tangyuan will be called Ming Chen."

Kang Li then said, "Dad, you and Mom give Guoguo a real name."

Unexpectedly, Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen shook their heads together, Captain Kang said, "Dad doesn't know many characters and can't come up with one that's wise."

"Who said that, I think my name and the names of my older brothers are very good, and Yangyang's too, they're all especially nice and meaningful."

Kang Li looked intently at Captain Kang: "Dad, do you not want to name Guoguo? If that's really the case, when Guoguo grows up, don't blame me for telling Guoguo you're biased."

Listening to Kang Li, Captain Kang felt both amused and helpless, he said, "Alright, let dad think for a bit." After a moment of contemplation, Captain Kang said, "How about 'Mingxi'? It's the 'xi' with the 'sun' radical."

Luo Yanqing and Jiang Boya nodded; Jiang Boya said, "Great name, Older Brother Kang, your naming skills are better than mine. The name Xi symbolizes sunshine and vitality."

"Dad, I reckon once Guoguo goes to school, every time she writes her name, she'll definitely wail and cry."

Kang Li said with a laugh.

"Why?"

Cai Xiufen asked.

"The character Xi has a good meaning, but it's too complex for a child to write easily." Saying this, Kang Li burst into laughter, "But, I love this name, from now on, our family's Guoguo will be called 'Mingxi'!" Little Guoguo's name was decisively set by her mom just like that.

After chatting for a while longer with Kang Li, Cai Xiufen wanted to check on the three children; Captain Kang and Luo Yanqing also headed toward the door. Seeing this, Jiang Boya intended to leave together, but unexpectedly, Kang Li spoke up: "Dad, stay a while longer."

Captain Kang, Cai Xiufen, and Luo Yanqing didn't show any visible expression upon hearing Kang Li call him 'Dad', they merely paused for a brief moment, then walked out the door, while Jiang Boya stood frozen.

He stood in the center of the room with his back to Kang Li, feeling both nervous and delighted, his face unknowingly streaked with tears.

"Mr. Jiang, what's wrong with you?"

Kang Li was naturally aware of Jiang Boya's emotional change, but she deliberately teased him: "Did Mr. Jiang cry from happiness?"

Chapter 1298:

"That's hard to say." Kang Li lowered her eyelids, pondered for a moment, then raised her head with a serious expression, and said to Jiang Boya, "How about we wait until Bun and the others are older to bring up the idea of changing their surnames?"

From Kang Li's tone, Jiang Boya could easily tell that his beloved daughter was discussing it with him.

“Okay, Dad will listen to you.” Actually, when Kang Li mentioned that she didn’t mind what surname the children had, Jiang Boya was quite touched.

The reason?

No matter what surname the children have, their blood relationship cannot be changed.

Just like with Kang Li, his beloved daughter, who didn’t want to change her surname and wanted to continue with her foster parents’ surname, he couldn’t help but feel a bit sour in his chest, but deep down, he didn’t think it was a big deal.

After all, the little girl had already agreed to let one of the three children take his surname, just that they’d wait until the children were older before discussing changing the surname, and as a father and grandfather, he had no reason to disagree, right?

Thinking of this, Jiang Boya couldn’t help but feel that Kang Li was thorough in considering the issue. He was well aware of why Kang Li said that—it was nothing more than wanting to seek the children’s opinions.

To prevent the three little ones from feeling dissatisfied in the future, thinking that their parents were arbitrary and didn’t respect their opinions.

“Don’t be mad, I’m saying this from the children’s perspective.”

To prevent her biological father, Jiang Boya, from feeling uneasy, Kang Li explained, "Kids grow up fast. When they start school, they'll only be three or four years old,

far from mature in terms of personality. If a friend brings up the fact that the three of them have different surnames, it could cause them harm."

"Don't worry, Dad understands what you mean."

Jiang Boya nodded with a smile.

Seeing this, Kang Li returned a smile, "So that's settled?!"

"Yes."

Jiang Boya nodded again and then said, "You rest now, Dad won't disturb you any longer."

"Okay." Kang Li agreed verbally, but she actually didn't want to rest at all. She'd had her nap, so where was all this sleepiness coming from? But in her current situation, when your dad thinks you need rest, it's really a sweet burden.

With a smile on her lips, Kang Li watched Jiang Boya's figure walk to the door, watching him pull the door shut casually.

...

At night, before sleeping, Kang Li recounted her conversation with Jiang Boya to Luo Yanqing and then asked, "Do you think I handled it well?"

Luo Yanqing hugged Kang Li and whispered, "Whatever you say or do is for the good of the children."

"No flattery allowed."

Kang Li teased.

"When it comes to the children, I truly feel that whatever you do or say is for their good. Take today's matter, for example, you just wanted to seek the children's opinions to prevent one with the Yan surname and one with the Jiang surname from feeling that we as parents didn't like them, which is why we changed their surname."

"Okay, you've caught me. I do have that concern."

"Don't worry, when they're older, we'll tell them about the Yu and Jiang families. I believe they'll happily accept and understand our actions."

“I hope so.”

“No confidence in Luo Mingting and the others?”

Luo Yanqing asked.

Kang Li didn't respond immediately, and then Luo Yanqing added, “I have great confidence in the children you raise.”

“Aren't you done flattering tonight?” Kang Li raised an eyebrow at the man, her smiling eyes filled with teasing. Meeting her gaze, Luo Yanqing lightly coughed twice and said seriously, “It's the honest truth.”

Hearing this, Kang Li let out a light laugh.

As this couple joked, in the guest room where Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen were staying, Cai Xiufen turned over in bed and said seemingly casually, “Li Bao just called him Dad today.”

“What's wrong? Are you feeling something about it?”

Captain Kang had just closed his eyes. Hearing this, he couldn't help but open them: "I've said that acknowledging this relationship just means there are two more people to love Li Bao. Don't overthink it or get stuck on it."

"I just feel a bit sour."

Cai Xiufen didn't feel she was getting stuck on it. She sighed, "Originally, she was just our daughter, but now she has a biological father, and I'm worried Li Bao will become estranged from us."

"Are you saying Li Bao will distance herself from us?" Captain Kang asked, but upon not hearing a response from Cai Xiufen, he said with a note of displeasure. "Could it be you're really stuck on it? Li Bao was raised by us. Do you really not trust your own child's character?"

Chapter 1299

Cai Xiufen immediately denied: "I didn't say anything."

Captain Kang: "You didn't say it outright, but you were thinking it, otherwise you wouldn't have said what you did before."

"How come you just don't believe me?" Cai Xiufen was a bit anxious. She kicked Captain Kang's calf in the bed and said, "If you keep wrongly accusing me, be careful, I'll never let it go."

Captain Kang didn't take Cai Xiufen's threat to heart. He said, "You're afraid our daughter despises poverty and loves wealth, slowly drifting apart from us. But have you ever thought about it? Does our Li Bao lack money?"

Back when she was in the country, even if she didn't really work much, do you know how much she received in manuscript fees each month? Also, every time Li Bao participated in a competition and won a gold medal, the country gave that to Kang Li, have you forgotten?

Aside from all that, not long after we arrived here, Li Bao told us she had made various investments, and some of them have already yielded returns. So you can see, money isn't really a big deal for Li Bao."

"Put away that bad temper of yours. I admit, I was overthinking, but I'm genuinely afraid of losing our Li Bao."

Cai Xiufen spoke her mind.

"Rest assured. Li Bao isn't that shallow. She acknowledged her relationship with the Jiang Brothers on one hand because she couldn't deny the father-daughter relationship, and on the other, the main reason should be related to Aunt Yu. Simply put, Li Bao didn't want to disappoint Aunt Yu."

Captain Kang said this, reclosing his eyes: "Sleep, Li Bao's recognition of her biological father won't affect the bond between us and Li Bao in any way."

"Got it, got it, it's my fault for overthinking, causing a lecture."

Feeling a bit embarrassed, Cai Xiufen pinched Captain Kang's waist spontaneously: "Don't assume you're the only smart one, my brain isn't that far off either."

"You stubborn wife!"

The pain on his waist made Captain Kang wince in pain, and he gritted his teeth: "Can't you go easy?"

"Since I've already acted, why should I hold back?"

Cai Xiufen snorted coldly, turned over, and lay back-to-back with Captain Kang: "Sleep, no more nagging."

"You women are really unreasonable; clearly, you're in the wrong, but now it's somehow my fault."

Shifting his body, Captain Kang moved slightly away from Cai Xiufen.

"If you're so capable, you can sleep on the floor!"

Noticing Captain Kang's movements, Cai Xiufen grumbled irritably.

"I'm too lazy to argue with you."

With that, Captain Kang quickly started snoring.

"Playing dumb again!"

Cai Xiufen kicked Captain Kang's calf again under the covers, trying to counter the tone Captain Kang brought her, but, this time, Captain Kang truly didn't react.

...

Postpartum recovery is uncomfortable, even in the warm spring weather. Although next to the mild outdoors sun, Kang Li was told by Cai Xiufen not to do this or that; apart from eating, drinking, feeding the child, and a bit of indoor exercise, all her time was spent resting in bed.

To Kang Li, it felt akin to torture.

She wanted to read, go out, and do everything else she desired, but she couldn't ignore her mom's words; otherwise, her dear mom would definitely give her an earful.

Luckily, Luo Yanqing would occasionally chat with her, alleviating some of her pent-up frustration.

The days passed by like this until tomorrow, when the Bun triplets would be a full month old. Kang Li was delighted, thinking she could finally finish her recovery, but then Cai Xiufen mentioned she gave birth to triplets, and at least a two-month recovery was needed.

Undoubtedly, Kang Li objected.

"I won't do it!" And so, Kang Li voiced her opposition, with firm determination: "Mom, look at me, my physique now compared to before having the Bun triplets, is there any difference?"

Not waiting for Cai Xiufen to respond, Kang Li answered herself: "No, I don't look at all like I've had kids, besides, overseas women don't even have postpartum confinement, and I've followed your words for a full month!"

Cai Xiufen frowned: "Who am I doing this for?"

"For me, for me, I know, but there's really no need."

Wearing comfy home clothes, Kang Li cozied up to Cai Xiufen, acting spoiled: "Mom, my body is in perfect condition now, look at my complexion. If you're still worried, we could go to the hospital for a checkup and hear what the doctors say."

Perhaps due to the effects of the body strengthening pill, Kang Li's body recovered quickly over this month, as she said. Currently, she looks exactly like she did before having the Bun triplets—with terrific visible energy, she doesn't appear at all like a mother about to complete her postpartum recovery.

Chapter 1300

"Really, your body doesn't feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

My precious daughter looked radiant, her complexion truly glowing, yet Cai Xiufen still wasn't quite reassured, because Kang Li's frailty was deeply rooted in Cai Xiufen's mind.

She was just worried about the unlikely event...

"Mom, are you still thinking I'm frail?"

Kang Li blinked her eyes and looked at Cai Xiufen: "Your silence means you really think that way. But Mom, you should reconsider. If my body wasn't well, how could I have conceived Bun and the others?"

How could I have safely delivered, and it was a smooth process? Moreover, considering my current health status, do I look like someone who is sick?"

"Honestly tell Mom, are you sure your body has recovered without any issues?"

Cai Xiufen stared at Kang Li intently, it was clear she was still a bit worried.

"How about this, the day after tomorrow we'll go to the hospital, I'll have the doctor give me a full body checkup, ensuring the results will make you smile from ear to ear."

Kang Li said with a cheeky grin.

"Be serious!"

Cai Xiufen lightly patted Kang Li's arm.

"How am I not being serious?" Kang Li said with a pout, "You're wronging your daughter here!"

"Now I understand why you used to say Hanhan is dramatic." Cai Xiufen shook her head, amused albeit helplessly, "For instance, right now, you're so dramatic!"

Kang Li burst into laughter, "Mom, your ability to adapt is really impressive, you've learned quite a few new words from my brother and Yangyang. Clearly, what you just said shows you've picked up a lot from Hanhan too."

Cai Xiufen: "There's a saying, 'Live and learn,' even if your mom is not that educated, I've heard it before."

Kang Li widened her eyes: "Who's saying my mom isn't educated? Remember, back in the day, you learned quite a few words from the literacy class, heard some truths from the teacher. Otherwise, how come you were appointed as the Women's Federation Director in our village right from the start!"

Cai Xiufen: "Stop buttering me up!"

Kang Li waved her hand, "I'm definitely not buttering you up, I'm just stating facts." Just then, as Kang Li's voice fell, Ah Xiang knocked on the door, followed by Ah Lan, each carrying two large gift boxes as they walked in: "Miss, these are the dresses Mr. Jiang prepared for you and Old Madam Kang."

"Just put them on the table."

Kang Li replied softly, then heard Ah Xiang say again: "Old Master Kang and your husband's suits, as well as the outfits for the two young masters and the young miss to wear tomorrow, are also prepared, I will bring them over with Ah Lan later for you to check."

"Alright."

Ever since Kang Li started calling Jiang Boya Dad, Jiang Hongfa instructed the servants at the manor to refer to Old Master Kang as Old Master, and Jiang Boya as Master. Therefore, Kang Li's title naturally changed to Miss, rather than Young Miss.

However, Jiang Boya disliked the title "Master" as it felt too feudal to him, preferring the servants to call him Mr. Jiang.

Jiang Hongfa glared.

Jiang Boya pretended not to see.

After setting down the gift boxes, Ah Xiang and Ah Lan left, and shortly returned to place two more large gift boxes.

After repeating the process three times, they didn't appear again.

"Are all these boxes filled with those so-called dresses?"

Cai Xiufen clicked her tongue, "Your dad and I already have new clothes, those you previously bought us, they've been washed once and still haven't been worn, no need for your dad to waste here."

Kang Li frowned, "You keep saying that! Every time I buy clothes for you and Dad, it's no less..."

Cai Xiufen sheepishly, "Alright, alright, Dad and I know your filial piety, but we came from tough times, plus, it's not like we're without clothes, how could we wear whatever you buy immediately, wouldn't it be drowned in spit then."

"That's jealousy."

Kang Li huffed lightly.

Opening the lids of the gift boxes one by one, Kang Li picked up a subtly elegant and regal plain patterned cheongsam and matched it against Cai Xiufen, she said with a smile, "Looks quite fitting, Mom, go try it on, let your daughter appreciate it." The cheongsam was slit to the knee, which Kang Li found quite nice.

"No, I can't pull it off." Cai Xiufen shook her head and waved her hand, "I'll wear the clothes you bought me tomorrow, this cheongsam I can't manage to wear."

"Mom, you have to wear it, this is something Mr. Jiang put thought into. You see, Mr. Jiang even prepared shoes and jewelry for you to wear tomorrow, and if I'm not mistaken, there's also probably going to be a styling team early tomorrow to doll us up, do our hair."