

Weak B 131

Chapter 131: Blocked Team Leader Kang had mentioned Comrade Li, whose name was Changan, was a postal worker for the town's post office, responsible for delivering mail to Aoli Village and several neighboring villages.

On hearing this, Cai Xiufen couldn't help but voice her complaint, "If that's the case, why didn't you explain it all at once?!"

"Alright, alright, it's my fault for not explaining everything at once, causing you not to understand," Captain Kang replied with a good-natured smile and continued, "You go about your business, and I'll ride into town right away to pick up the parcel."

"With Big Brother and Third Brother around, there's no need for you to make the trip," Cai Xiufen said. "Go back to the room and rest. I will go and tell Big Brother to do it."

Saying this and without waiting for Captain Kang to respond, Cai Xiufen called out to Big Brother Kang, "Big Brother! Ride into town once, Li Bao sent something to our home, and remember to bring the pickup slip from dad."

"Got it."

Big Brother Kang responded.

"Dad, Mom, what did Li Bao send to our home?"

Coming into the main room, Big Brother Kang looked at his elderly parents and heard Captain Kang say, "We're not sure what exactly it is. Just take the slip and go pick it up. We'll know once we open the box at home."

After handing the pickup slip to his son, Captain Kang added, "And take the household registration book with you as well."

Big Brother Kang, puzzled, asked, "Why do I need to bring the household registration book?"

"Comrade Changan said that the item sent from North City to our home is a large package. To prevent others from mistakenly claiming it, it's safer to pick it up with the household registration book," explained Captain Kang. In those days, there were no separate identity documents. When running errands, one either had to provide the household registration book or an introduction letter issued by the authorities to prove one's identity.

Otherwise, one was bound to encounter difficulties when trying to get things done!

"Oh."

After acknowledging with an "okay," indicating he understood, Big Brother Kang mounted his bicycle and was out of the courtyard in a blink.

"Grandpa, Grandpa, what is Uncle going to pick up at the post office?"

“Grandma, do you know?”

“Grandpa, is the item Auntie sent to our home?”

“Ah, I wonder if Auntie has received the letter I wrote to her.”

...

Surrounded by their grandchildren, Captain Kang and his wife felt like a flock of sparrows was chirping incessantly around their ears.

Cai Xiufen said, “Go do what you’re supposed to do. Wait until your dad and your uncle bring the item back, and then you can see for yourself.” Like shooping ducks, Cai Xiufen raised both hands and chased all the grandchildren surrounding her out of the main room.

After about forty-fifty minutes, Big Brother Kang cycled back into the village.

Some villagers, upon seeing a square box tied to the back seat of his bicycle, couldn’t resist approaching and curiously asking, “Guowei, what’s in that big box on the back of your bike?”

“Yeah, Guowei, tell us, this box looks sizeable—must be something good inside, right?”

“I think it looks like a television!”

“What? A television! What is a television?”

“I’ve seen it too, on display at the department store counter in the county city. Look at the picture on this box, square with a rod on top, if that’s not a television, then what is?!”

Before long, Big Brother Kang found himself surrounded by curious villagers, which forced him to dismount from his bike seat.

“As for what’s inside the box, I haven’t opened it yet, so I wouldn’t know,” he said.

“Guowei, you’re not trying to keep us in the dark, are you?”

“Exactly, Guowei, if there’s a television in that box, we can’t miss coming over to your place to watch TV tonight!”

Guowei was Big Brother Kang’s name.

"Auntie, rest assured, if there really is a television inside this box, I certainly won't keep everyone out in the yard," Guowei assured her.

Chapter 132: I am Luo Yanqing, you're my father-in-law, right?! Actually, Big Brother Kang had pretty much confirmed that the box contained a television as soon as he completed the pick-up procedure and carried the box out of the post office, because the box was brand new and had never been opened.

"Grandpa! Grandma! My uncle is back!"

This was the voice of Third Brother Kang's youngest son, an eight-year-old boy named Yilin. He had originally been playing outside the courtyard gate with his brothers but upon seeing Big Brother Kang, he got so excited that he instantly jumped up and started yelling into the courtyard.

"Dad (Uncle)."

With one hand steering the handlebars and the other supporting the TV box on the rear seat, Big Brother Kang entered the courtyard gate, and the next moment, his sons and nephews all came rushing over, their eyes gleaming as they stared fixedly at the square TV box without looking away.

"Dad, let me help you."

Big Brother Kang's eldest son said as he started to untie the ropes that were securing the TV box.

"Big brother, I'll help you hold it steady."

Another teenager stepped forward to help his elder brother stabilize the TV box, so it wouldn't fall to the ground when the ropes were untied.

It should be mentioned that Big Brother Kang had four sons, and Third Brother Kang had three sons.

"Alright, alright, make some space, let your big brother carry the box into the main room."

Cai Xiufen stood at the doorway to the main room, watching her eldest grandson holding the TV box and calling for the other grandchildren to clear a path so that her eldest grandson could walk through.

"It really is a television!"

Once Big Brother Kang's eldest son carried the television into the main room, Captain Kang then used scissors to slice open the taped seal on the top and around the edges of the box, and immediately after, Cai Xiufen's voice, filled with surprise, rang out.

"Grandpa, look, there's an envelope!" After Big Brother Kang lifted the television out of the box, his eldest son immediately spoke up. He bent down, picked up a kraft paper envelope from the box, and handed it over to Captain Kang.

"This..."

The envelope was unsealed, and Captain Kang initially thought he would pull out a letter, but instead, it turned out to be several Great Reunion Banknotes, roughly estimated at three to four hundred yuan.

“Why is Li Bao sending us both a television and money? If she keeps doing this, not to mention whether her son-in-law would have a conflict with her, even her own attitude of not taking money seriously is concerning, how is she going to manage her life in the future?!”

Cai Xiufen worried.

“Keep the money for now, I’m going to call Li Bao right away and ask her what’s going on.”

Passing the envelope along with the stack of Great Reunion Banknotes to his wife, Captain Kang lifted his foot and left the main room.

North City.

“Hello, may I ask who you are looking for?”

Luo Yanqing picked up the receiver, his voice as detached as ever.

“I’m looking for Li Bao... that’s right, Kang Li, I’m looking for Kang Li, is she there?” Captain Kang didn’t know he was speaking to Luo Yanqing, but from the moment he heard Luo Yanqing’s voice, he began to guess his identity.

Luo Yanqing: "She's in the study."

Captain Kang: "You are...?"

Luo Yanqing: "I am Luo Yanqing, you must be my father-in-law, right?!"

Captain Kang: "Yes... yes, that's me."

Luo Yanqing: "Please hold on a moment, I will get Kang Li to take your call." Setting down the receiver, Luo Yanqing entered the master bedroom and then stepped into the adjoining study: "Kang Li."

"Huh?"

Kang Li had been resting her chin on her left hand, holding a ballpoint pen in her right hand deep in thought when she heard Luo Yanqing's voice, startling her to the point that the pen dropped onto the desk. After a moment, she turned her head to look at Luo Yanqing: "What's up?"

Luo Yanqing: "Your father has called..."

Kang Li didn't wait for the man to finish speaking, and she got up and left the study.

Seeing this, Luo Yanqing stood still, his expression unreadable. He lingered in place for a while,

Chapter 133 Luo Yanqing: No Wasteful Spending Then he involuntarily took two steps forward, stood still in front of his desk, and looked at the spread-out manuscript papers, or more precisely, the content written on those papers.

“Dad, it’s Li Bao. Did you call because something happened at home?”

The moment the phone reached his mouth, Kang Li started by asking Captain Kang, his voice sounding somewhat anxious.

Captain Kang, “Everything’s fine at home. I called you because I wanted to ask why you sent a TV back home? Also, what’s with the money you sent? Li Bao, you have to learn to live your life; you can’t just frivolously spend money, you know? Otherwise, if your husband finds out, will you two be able to still live smoothly?”

“Dad, what are you talking about? A television?! You’re saying I sent a TV and some money home?” Kang Li was confused. She had thought about sending a TV home as the new year approached, but that was still several months away. How could her father be...

Suddenly, Kang Li understood something and said into the phone, “I know now, Dad. The TV was bought and sent by your son-in-law, and the money was also provided by him. He mentioned it to me in passing; I didn’t expect him to act so quickly.”

Captain Kang, slightly stunned, “What did you say? Li Bao, you mean that the idea of sending the TV and money to our home all came from your son-in-law, and it was all managed by him?”

“Yes, indeed it was your son-in-law who did it. Dad, you can rest assured and let Mom hold onto the money, buy whatever you want. As for the TV, it’s to keep our family entertained and informed about the outside world. Have my older brother, third brother, or Yangyang follow the instructions to set up the antenna and then search for channels to watch TV programs.”

“Why would your son-in-law spend this money?! We have three kids to raise, and suddenly he’s buying a TV for us and sending money home. You should talk to your son-in-law and tell him everything’s fine at home, and ask him not to send anything more.”

Despite saying that, Captain Kang was quite happy inside. After all, having a son-in-law who thought to send things to their home, especially a sought-after TV, and stuffed so much money into the TV box, showed that he must be pleased with his daughter Li Bao as a wife. Thus, he was inclined to send things and money to their old home.

Kang Li said with a laugh, “Dad, that’s your son-in-law’s intention. You and Mom just accept it with peace of mind. As for whether your son-in-law will send anything in the future, that’s his own matter. I really can’t control that.”

“You girl... Well, as long as you and your husband are doing well, your dad and I will be at ease,” Captain Kang said, his voice full of resignation.

Kang Li, “Luo Yanqing and I, along with the three kids, are doing well. But you and Mom should take extra care of your health. Otherwise, I’ll worry about you from North City.”

“Understood, understood. That’s it then. I’m hanging up.”

“Alright, goodbye.”

After ending the call, Kang Li put the handset back on the landline base. As she straightened up and turned around, she saw Luo Yanqing bending over instructing the three little ones with their crafts.

“Luo Yanqing.”

She called out softly.

“...” Luo Yanqing looked over, his eyes asking, “What’s up?”

“Thanks!”

Kang Li smiled warmly, “My family is very happy with the TV you sent. But my dad wanted me to tell you, we understand your intention, so please don’t spend frivolously in the future.”

Luo Yanqing, “Didn’t spend frivolously.” He just felt it was right to buy it and right to send some money over!

Chapter 134: Just Be Sour! Kang Li looked at the man, smiled, and said no more.

On one side, the young couple exchanged glances, a faint and unusual emotion lingering in their hearts; on the other, in Aoli Village, Captain Kang hung up the phone, a beaming smile spread across his face as he walked out of the Team Leader's office.

"Team Leader, your Li Bao is really capable. It wasn't long after her marriage that she sent a TV set back to your family. If my daughter had that ability, I would wake up laughing from my dreams!"

"Mu Laosan, it looks like we'll only be left with envy in this lifetime. After all, among all our daughters, there's none who looks like a fairy quite like Li Bao. She had just stepped into her husband's family's home and already her son-in-law dotes on her, allowing Li Bao to send a TV set to Captain Kang's house!"

Hearing these sour words, Captain Kang didn't get angry in the slightest; the smile on his face remained: "Look at how sour you all are. But you're all wrong. That TV set at my place wasn't sent by Li Bao, it was my son-in-law who bought it to show his respect to me and Li Bao's mother."

Just be sour about it!

Each and every one of them spent their days waiting to see a joke out of his family, waiting for Li Bao to become unable to stand being a stepmother and run back home in tears. Now, they were the ones who got sour, and the thought alone was satisfying!

Watching Captain Kang's retreating figure, the middle-aged men standing by the village road chattering couldn't help but feel a face full of jealousy.

After a while, one of them said, "Do you think what the Team Leader said is true?"

“Who doesn’t know Captain Kang? He’s never been one to brag or lie.”

“So you’re saying... that TV set in Captain Kang’s house really was sent by Li Bao’s son-in-law out of respect for the two old folks?”

“It can’t be fake.”

Someone sighed, “You know, those women gossip about Captain Kang’s family all day, saying that who knows when Li Bao would come back to the village crying. They laughed at Li Bao for being a stepmother, thinking Captain Kang’s family was pushing their daughter into a pit of fire. Now they probably have nothing to say, right?”

“Women with long hair but short on wisdom, what do those women know!”

As Captain Kang had gone out of sight, he naturally had no idea what discussions were happening behind his back about him and Kang Li.

“Did you ask clearly?”

In the short time that Captain Kang went to the Team Leader’s office to call Kang Li, Big Brother Kang and Third Brother Kang, following their son’s (nephew’s) guidance, had already set up the antenna on the roof. At this moment, the family sat in the hall, each with gleaming eyes, watching the television program.

Of course, aside from their own family, many villagers and children had also come over.

In short, the spacious hall was filled with people.

“Did you ask?”

When Cai Xiufen saw Captain Kang walk into the hall, she immediately called him into the room, “What did Li Bao say?”

“The TV was bought by the son-in-law, and he paid for it himself; it has nothing to do with Li Bao.” Captain Kang believed his precious daughter wouldn’t lie to him and besides, he felt there was no need for her to deceive him.

After all, a TV was not a trivial item, and his daughter, Li Bao, had become somewhat more shrewd since going to North City, but she wouldn’t go as far as to buy a TV to gild her son-in-law’s image in the eyes of their family, to induce them to have a better impression of him.

Cai Xiufen was astonished, “The son-in-law bought it for us? Why would he do that?”

Captain Kang, “Li Bao said it’s a little token of our son-in-law’s regard for us.”

By the afternoon, when work was over, more and more villagers appeared at the Kang Family's house to watch television, to the point where Captain Kang had to ask Big Brother Kang to move a table outside the hall's door and place the TV on it.

Men and women, young and old, crowded the entire yard. Some even sat atop the wall or stood on stools to watch the television.

Chapter 135: You're Being a Bit Silly Like This The scene could not be said to be anything but lively.

Before going to bed at night, in Captain Kang's room, Cai Xiufen turned over on the kang and muttered, "Turning on the TV every day, it must use quite a bit of electricity."

"Electricity in the village is there for people to use, don't say anything unnecessary in front of the villagers."

Captain Kang cautioned.

"I'm not brainless." Cai Xiufen's tone carried a hint of dissatisfaction as she said, "I just think it's not right to have so many people in our house watching TV every day."

Captain Kang asked, "So what do you suggest we do?"

Cai Xiufen replied, "You're asking me? Who am I supposed to ask?"

“Let’s sleep. Watching TV can broaden one’s horizons. I’m the Team Leader and our house has this TV, consider it as serving the villagers.”

“Whatever you say.”

After saying this, Cai Xiufen turned over, turned her back to Captain Kang, and soon was swept over by sleepiness, closing her eyes to sleep.

At the same time, in Big Brother Kang’s room.

“Our brother-in-law sure is generous, don’t you think?”

Elder sister-in-law Kang lay beside Big Brother Kang, pondering as she spoke, “Could it be that Li Bao asked our brother-in-law to buy the TV?”

“Whether it is or isn’t, what can we do about it?” Big Brother Kang was a man of understanding and said, “Let’s say Li Bao asked our brother-in-law to buy it; this means our brother-in-law cares about Li Bao, willing to listen to her.” If that were really the case, with Li Bao in North City, he, as an older brother, could be more at ease!

Elder sister-in-law Kang said, “Going by what you’re saying... does our brother-in-law really like our Li Bao a lot?”

Big Brother Kang replied, "Perhaps he does." Besides liking, there's more of responsibility between a man and a woman, but he indeed hoped his brother-in-law liked his Li Bao, not simply out of responsibility to treat his sister well but by sending their family a TV, to show them he would be good to Li Bao.

However, if Li Bao and the other person truly couldn't develop feelings for each other, it actually wasn't bad for the other person to treat his sister well out of responsibility.

At least Li Bao wouldn't suffer in that household.

North City.

"Luo Yanqing, turn over and lie down, let's talk."

Moonlight flowed like water, filling the room, and the occasional chirping of insects came from outside the window. Kang Li lay on her side in bed, extending her index finger to lightly poke the arm of Luo Yanqing next to her, calling him to lie face-to-face with her so they could talk more comfortably.

Luo Yanqing had been lying on his back, but upon hearing her, a flicker of hesitation crossed his narrow Phoenix Eyes. After a moment, he softly hummed in acknowledgment and turned over to face Kang Li.

"I've noticed that you quite like to do things silently," said Kang Li, her bright fox-like eyes curved like Crescent Moons, her voice disarming and melodious like the sound of wind chimes hanging below the eaves, extremely pleasant to the ear.

Luo Yanqing didn't respond but silently looked at her as she continued, "But from my perspective, that's not a good habit. After all, actions done in silence often go unnoticed, and don't you find that frustrating?"

Luo Yanqing replied, "Not really." There was no hesitation, his response was very straightforward.

"You're a bit silly!" Sending a TV to her family behind her back, also stuffing money into the TV box, and saying you don't find it frustrating, is this man too sincere?

The moon was particularly bright that evening, and with the help of the bright moonlight streaming through the window, Kang Li looked at the man's distinct features. She blinked and suddenly asked with a smile, "Have a lot of people told you that you're handsome since you were young?"

Luo Yanqing replied, "...No." He looked at her, the bright moonlight falling on her face, making her porcelain skin seem to glow with a layer of faint silver light. Her clean and bright smile resembled the most beautiful painting, or the most vibrant bloom on a springtime branch...

The two looked at each other, and for a moment, neither spoke again.

Chapter 136 I Will Try Time streamed by, second by second, and as Kang Li noticed the atmosphere around them gradually growing ambiguous, the smile on her face involuntarily stalled. She then deliberately averted her eyes and coughed lightly, saying, "It's getting late, huh."

Yanqing: "Hmm."

Kang Li: "Tired?"

Yanqing: "I'm okay." Since she wanted him to accompany her in conversation, he would stay with her until she felt sleepy and closed her eyes, then he could sleep without delay.

"Yanqing."

Kang Li called the man's name.

"Hmm?"

Yanqing looked puzzled.

Kang Li: "Can't you just smile? Even a casual smile now and then would be nice." He must look really attractive when he smiles.

"I'll try." Since learning of his father's sacrifice on the battlefield, he had never smiled again because, after that... his life had been clouded with one misfortune after another.

First, his mother remarried without hesitation, took all the family savings to marry another man, and left him in the care of his grandparents. But that good time didn't last long; his grandparents fell ill one after

the other and passed away. Then, his aunt and uncle felt he was bad luck, a jinx, a burden, and they abandoned him to be raised by the state.

One misfortune after another robbed him of the innocence and smiles a child should have.

He had vowed more than once to become strong, so strong that he wouldn't need to rely on anyone, so that he wouldn't be abandoned over and over again, and wouldn't yearn for any family affection.

Then again, he didn't smile much as a child, to be more precise, he didn't tend to show much emotional fluctuation. But he still remembered that he had smiled, when his mother told him... his dad would soon be coming home to see them, and he saw his mother's happy smile, his mood during that time was so good that he often grinned.

Even if the smile was not wide, the smile not obvious, but he wasn't mistaken, he was indeed smiling...

"That's how it should be."

The smile on Kang Li's face didn't hide how happy she was at the moment.

"Did they give you any trouble?"

This was one of the rare occasions Luo Yanqing initiated a question about something specific while on leave at home.

Well, to be exact, twice.

Once was on the day he returned home, when he asked her if she had touched any books on his shelf, and now, asking if the three little ones had been bothering her.

“The kids are both well-behaved and smart; I really like them.” Speaking of the three youngsters at home, Kang Li couldn’t help but ask him, “Are you truly so busy with work that you can’t even come home once in a whole year?”

She could see that the youngsters were eager for their father’s affection, and while this father didn’t show much emotion toward his children, even if he was naturally aloof, they were still his own kids. Shouldn’t he at least show some concern?

Even if work was very busy, she couldn’t believe that the research institute couldn’t give a single day off in a month.

After all, whatever the job, a balance of work and rest is needed, especially for researchers who stay in the lab all day. There’s a risk of getting stuck on a particular research assertion.

In such cases, it’s necessary to unwind and relax the mind, perhaps to find a new breakthrough.

Yanqing watched her eyes, a pair of pure, clear eyes that one could see through, with a faint smile swirling within them, looking like the spring breeze that turns into rain or the warm sun of winter, making it hard for one to shift their gaze.

“Once a research project starts, I get so busy that I forget about time.” It wasn’t an excuse; it was just the nature of his work, and since he loved his scientific research, he naturally wouldn’t waste time on trivial matters.

Kang Li: “But no matter how busy, you still need to rest.”

Yanqing: “Hmm.” He agreed.

Kang Li: “A balance of work and leisure is not just talk. Sometimes inspiration strikes or a new breakthrough is found precisely during moments of entertainment and relaxation, when the mind is at ease.”

Chapter 137: Is This Something He Can Decide? “Besides, health is essential for revolution. If you are stripped of it, all the things you wish to accomplish will only turn into regrets.”

“Yes.”

Luo Yanqing agreed.

“Since you agree with me, please remember to rest during work, don’t forget to eat on time, and when you have days off, come back and see the children.”

Kang Li said this, and after a while, he finally heard Luo Yanqing respond, "I'll try my best."

"All right, I'll remember your words." Covering her mouth, Kang Li yawned gracefully. Her eyelids began to droop significantly, and she slowly closed her eyes, saying, "I'm tired, good night, Luo Yanqing!"

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing's lips slightly parted, "... Good night." Did she dislike his demeanor? Did she find him too serious and distant?

No one answered him, and soon, Luo Yanqing also closed his eyes and fell asleep.

Recently, Director Song was also on leave at home. Therefore, whenever Song Xuan walked towards the courtyard door, Director Song would certainly follow behind. After a few occurrences, Director Song noticed that his eldest grandson was very fond of visiting the Luo Family, and once there, he not only enjoyed playing with Ruirui and his siblings but also loved listening to Comrade Xiao Kang tell stories, play the erhu, and teach crafts.

Although still seeming to live in his own world, always silent, the grandson's gaze constantly followed Comrade Xiao Kang.

With this discovery, Elder Song naturally would not keep his grandson confined at home.

He made a decision and talked to Luo Yanqing first—he and Mrs. Qi wanted to adopt Kang Li as their goddaughter.

Thus, that day, Director Song brought Song Xuan to the Luo Family, and upon seeing Kang Li telling stories to Ruirui and the others, Song Xuan walked forward obediently, placed his hands on his knees, and quietly sat on a small chair, watching Kang Li and listening intently.

“Come, let’s go to your study, I have something to talk to you about.”

Patting Luo Yanqing’s shoulder, Director Song led the way.

The study door was halfway open; after both seated themselves, Luo Yanqing looked up at Director Song and heard him say, “Your Auntie Qi and I would like to recognize your Comrade Xiao Kang as our goddaughter, what do you think?”

Luo Yanqing: “...” Was this something he could decide?

After a while without a response from Luo Yanqing, Director Song added, “You know my family’s situation. Over the years, your Auntie Qi has always harbored concerns. To outsiders, it seemed she had emerged from her past sorrows with a smile on her face, but I know that your Auntie Qi has... never really let go of that matter.

She has been holding on because she knows she cannot fall; she still needs to raise Xuan Xuan... But recently, I’ve seen her truly happy, and it was Comrade Xiao Kang from your family who brought her that joy. She said she really took a liking to Comrade Xiao Kang, saying that watching Comrade Xiao Kang was like watching her own child,

and couldn't help but discuss with me the idea of adopting Comrade Xiao Kang as our goddaughter. I know this might come as a surprise to Xiao Kang, but I still want you and Xiao Kang to talk about it and see if she is willing."

After a moment of silence, Luo Yanqing spoke, "I can bring it up with her, but... but I think it might be best if you or Auntie Qi personally talk to her about it." Doing so would show sincerity, and without him intervening, she might not agree.

After all, she has both parents and plenty of family members; she is not lacking in god-relatives.

Just as Luo Yanqing finished speaking, the sound of an erhu echoed from the living room.

Director Song opened his mouth but swallowed the words he was about to say, and together with Luo Yanqing, they listened to the melody.

"Xiao Kang really plays the erhu well, and each piece is delightful to hear."

Chapter 138 Excitement "Mm."

"But you play just as beautifully."

Luo Yanqing had recently been doing the stay-at-home dad routine and, of course, included playing tunes on the erhu for Ruirui and the other two during the music appreciation time Kang Li had scheduled.

The erhu was a gift from an elderly person who had also taught Luo Yanqing how to play it.

At that time, Luo Yanqing was still young, placed in an orphanage by the relevant authorities, and the elder was a staff member there. One day, Luo Yanqing heard the elder play the erhu and found it pleasing. So, after completing his homework on weekends and hearing the elder play, he would silently stand by and listen.

This back-and-forth made them familiar with each other, and the elder asked if Luo Yanqing would like to learn. Without hesitation, Luo Yanqing nodded, and from then on, whenever he had a holiday, he would stick close to the elder to learn while the latter was free.

Regrettably, the elder fell seriously ill before Luo Yanqing was sent abroad by the country for further studies. Knowing Luo Yanqing was about to leave, the elder personally handed his erhu to Luo Yanqing, urging him to study hard overseas and if he ever missed his homeland, to play the erhu.

He also implored Luo Yanqing to return home after completing his studies, so as not to let down the country's years of nurturing.

With such a story behind it, Luo Yanqing understandably cherished his erhu. Therefore, many years after he received the erhu from the elder's hands, he would carefully wipe it down whenever he was at home.

His choice to play the erhu for Ruirui and the others came about when Kang Li accidentally saw Luo Yanqing wiping the erhu in the study a few days earlier and casually asked if she could borrow it.

Luo Yanqing hesitated, but ultimately nodded in agreement.

“Not as well as she plays.”

After replying to Director Song, Luo Yanqing’s lips curved slightly, and he fell silent for a good while.

In the living room.

After Kang Li played “Flying Insects” three times in a row, she placed the erhu on the side tea table. She then saw Song Xuan staring intently at the erhu and couldn’t help but ask the young boy, “Do you like the erhu, Xuan Xuan?”

A couple of minutes passed, and Song Xuan nodded, his gaze still locked on the erhu.

Kang Li: “Then do you want to learn how to play the erhu, Xuan Xuan?”

Upon hearing this, Song Xuan finally moved his gaze away from the erhu, looked intently at Kang Li for a moment, and seriously nodded again.

Kang Li: “Alright, Auntie will teach you.” Looking at the young boy, a smile was evident in her eyes: “You have to study hard, because Auntie is very strict!”

This time, Song Xuan didn't just nod; he even made a surprising "Mm" noise.

Ruirui and the other two didn't notice this unusual behavior, but Kang Li heard it clearly. She felt happy for the boy and for Director Song and Mrs. Qi. She couldn't help but shout towards the direction of the study: "Uncle Song, Luo Yanqing, come out quickly, Xuan Xuan's spoken!"

"Xiao Kang, are you sure you didn't deceive Uncle Song?"

Despite his advanced age, Director Song moved as if carried by the wind, appearing in front of Kang Li almost in the blink of an eye.

"Of course not. If Uncle Song doesn't believe me, why not listen for yourself?" said Kang Li, her eyes softening as she looked towards the young boy: "Xuan Xuan, do you want to follow Auntie and learn to play the erhu?"

She spoke at an unhurried pace, enunciating each word clearly so the young boy could understand her.

The next moment, under the watchful eyes of Director Song and Luo Yanqing, Song Xuan nodded at Kang Li: "...learn..."

Director Song was overwhelmed with excitement.

His eyes reddened, his lips trembled, and he strode forward, hugging his grandson tight: “Good, good, good, Grandpa’s Xuan Xuan can talk now. If your grandma knew, she would be so happy!”

Chapter 139: Revealing the Truth Song Xuan allowed his grandfather to hold him tightly. However, his gaze was still fixed on Kang Li, his lips quivering as he struggled to say again, “Xuan... wants... to learn...”

“Auntie understands, Xuan Xuan wants to learn erhu from Auntie, right? How about this? From tomorrow on, Auntie will start teaching you, and we’ll learn a bit every day. Auntie believes it won’t be long before our Xuan Xuan can play beautiful tunes just like Auntie.”

Children with autism are often geniuses, and who knew, the teenager before her might just be a musical prodigy!

Because through continuous observation over the past few days, she could tell that this handsome teen, whenever listening to her play the erhu, was always extremely focused.

His eyes never once looked away from the erhu.

Concentration and perseverance — he clearly had great interest in the erhu, and interest is undoubtedly the best motivation for learning.

She was looking forward to the day when the young man would showcase his astonishing talent in front of others!

“...Okay!”

Song Xuan responded.

Seeing with his own eyes and hearing with his own ears the obvious changes in his eldest grandson compared to the past, Elder Song's eyes, wet with emotion, were filled with relief. He ruffled his eldest grandson's hair and then looked at Kang Li, "Xiao Kang, this won't cause you any trouble, will it?"

"I'm already at home taking care of the kids, so it's not troublesome at all. Besides, Xuan Xuan is very well-behaved and gets along harmoniously with Ruirui and the others. I believe teaching him to play the erhu won't take much effort," Kang Li said, her clear, fox-like eyes swirling with a genuine smile that showed no hint of pretense.

"Then from tomorrow on, Xuan Xuan will learn the erhu from you, and we'll be counting on you to take extra care of him."

Having said this, Elder Song thought for a moment, called Ruirui to take Song Xuan and the twin with mixed sex to play in the room for a while. When only Kang Li and Luo Yanqing, along with himself, were left in the living room, Elder Song signaled Kang Li and Luo Yanqing to sit down and talk. He then spoke, "Xiao Kang..."

Seeing Elder Song's gaze resting on her, Kang Li blinked her fox-like eyes, "Uncle Song, please feel free to speak frankly."

"Good girl, with your wit and cleverness, no wonder your Auntie Qi said she liked you from the bottom of her heart the moment she laid eyes on you."

If this girl were born to him and his wife Qi, without a second thought, he would know that they would treasure her as the apple of their eye, protecting her from any hurt as she grew up. But that was just his fancy... However, if the young girl were willing to recognize him and his wife Qi as her godparents, then it would be as if she were their own daughter.

Blessed with both beauty and talent, as well as a pleasant disposition and versatile abilities, this young girl truly seemed wonderful from every angle!

Elder Song was nodding in approval, and he looked at Kang Li with a kindly expression, continuing in a gentle voice, "Xiao Kang, Uncle Song and your Auntie Qi once had a son, who was Song Xuan's father,

but that boy and his wife both sacrificed their lives on the battlefield years ago, leaving only young Xuan Xuan as their descendant. Losing a son and a daughter-in-law was undoubtedly a huge blow for the two of us... Over the years, your Auntie Qi seemed to have forgotten the wounds of the past,

but I know she's never really let go, especially when she's alone, she's often wiped away her tears... I'm telling you all this because Uncle Song wants to let you know,

ever since we met you at the train station, your Auntie Qi has been very happy. She told me you caught her eye, and looking at you was like looking at her own child. So recently, she discussed with me and would like to recognize you as her goddaughter. Xiao Kang, what do you think..."

Chapter 140 I Understand Kang Li's expression faltered slightly, she never expected that the elderly man before her and the kind Mrs. Qi wanted to recognize her as their goddaughter.

Luo Yanqing's clear, indifferent voice arose, "Uncle Song and Auntie Qi are very nice people."

“Xiao Kang, you don’t have to feel troubled. If you’re unwilling, Uncle Song and Auntie Qi won’t blame you. After all, it’s we old folks who want to recognize you as our goddaughter. It’s because we like you and want to establish a bond with you, but we will absolutely not force you,” he said.

Alas, the young girl has a father and a mother, a bunch of brothers, and she is the only female child in the Kang family up to the third generation, deeply cherished at home. Probably... probably she won’t fancy having another godfather and godmother?

Elder Song’s understanding of Kang Li undoubtedly came from Director Wu.

Therefore, how much the Kang family adored Kang Li, how meticulously Elder Song knew, was unclear, but he was aware that for the family, Kang Li had always been a treasured, doted-on daughter.

As Elder Song secretly felt a sense of loss, Kang Li’s clear, pleasant voice broke through, “Uncle Song, could you allow me to consider it? Also, I need to inform my family about this and see what their thoughts are.”

The sense of loss that had welled up in Elder Song’s heart instantly dissipated. His eyes brightened, and he said very straightforwardly, “Of course, of course. You should talk to your family and see what they think.”

At that moment, Elder Song knew that there was at least a fifty-fifty chance of making Kang Li his goddaughter.

Because the person involved clearly hadn’t rejected the idea outright, it seemed she probably wasn’t opposed to having an additional set of elders.

As evening approached, Kang Li made a call to the Team Leader's office in her hometown, telling Captain Kang about Elder Song and Mrs. Qi's wish to recognize her as their goddaughter. Cai Xiufen, upon hearing that her precious daughter was calling, went with Captain Kang to the Team Leader's office to take the call.

Without much discussion, Captain Kang replied to Kang Li that, in North City, recognizing Elder Song and his wife as godparents was like gaining additional support, and as for the responsibilities that a goddaughter should bear in the future, Captain Kang also reminded Kang Li to remember, to care for them both, just as she would respect her own parents at home, to honor Elder Song and Mrs. Qi.

After bathing and freshening up, Kang Li entered the master bedroom and saw Luo Yanqing leaning back on the bed reading a book, and casually spoke, "My parents have no objections to Uncle Song and Auntie Qi wanting to recognize me as their goddaughter. What about you? What do you think?"

Luo Yanqing replied, "I think it's quite good."

Kang Li asked, "So you mean to say, you also have no objections?"

Luo Yanqing confirmed, "Mhm."

Kang Li warned, "Then you'd better listen well. Once I agree, then Uncle Song and Auntie Qi won't just be my godparents, Kang Li's godparents. The responsibility and the duties to be borne in the future will also rest on more than just my shoulders."

It wasn't a big deal for her to take care of two elderly people and a little one in the future, but she needed to make things clear beforehand with the man before her. After all, they were husband and wife, and naturally, they had to confront issues together to avoid rifts between them, making life difficult to sustain in the long run.

Without hesitation, Luo Yanqing responded, "I understand." Not to mention other things, just the several years of kindness from Director Song and his wife toward him, if they had any issues in the future, he would not stand by idly.

Now, merely adding the title of godson-in-law had no significant impact on him. On the contrary, it would make caring for them in the future more justified, sparing him from accusations of harboring ulterior motives.

—Such as coveting the wealth of the two elders.