

Weak B 141

Chapter 141 Selfishness He had no such thoughts, but as the saying goes, many mouths can melt metal; slander wears away reputations.

Moreover, Elder Song and his wife now only had Song Xuan as their unconventional grandson, and since he himself disliked trouble, when Director Song today, on behalf of Auntie Qi, proposed the idea of recognizing his wife, Kang Li, as their goddaughter, he had no other thoughts besides agreement.

“Actually, I don’t quite understand why Uncle Song and Auntie Qi want to recognize me as their goddaughter. Don’t think I am being suspicious, but if it’s just because they like me at first sight and want to recognize me as a goddaughter, to be honest, that’s quite unconvincing for me to acknowledge this kind of honorary kinship.”

After voicing her doubts, Kang Li lay down in her spot on the bed, her fox-like eyes blinking, her lips slightly pursed as she continued to ponder Elder Song and Mrs. Qi’s intentions.

“There’s no need to overthink it. Perhaps Uncle Song and the others really just find you congenial, or maybe...” Kang Li couldn’t help but ask when Luo Yanqing paused, “Or maybe what?”

Luo Yanqing: “Or maybe it has to do with the reason of Song Xuan.”

“Are they looking for a future support for their grandson? If that’s the case, why not just recognize a godson directly?”

Kang Li lay on her side, resting her chin on one hand, looking at the man.

Luo Yanqing: "Song Xuan doesn't warm up to strangers, and even in front of others... he is very timid."

"You mean, Xuan Xuan is close to me, and because of this reason..." Kang Li began, then suddenly stopped, her fox-like eyes flashing with insight after a moment:

"I get it, by recognizing me as their goddaughter, Director Song and the others are, in a way, also recognizing you as their godson. When their time comes, I am to take care of their posthumous affairs and..."

Luo Yanqing: "You're thinking too much."

Although her guess was very close to the truth, there was no need to be too explicit. Glancing at Kang Li, Luo Yanqing closed his book and placed it carelessly on the nightstand beside him, turned off the bedside lamp, and laid down in his own spot: "Let's sleep."

The Song Family.

Mrs. Qi lay beside Director Song and sighed softly, asking, "Do you think Xiao Kang will be willing? And her family, do they agree to let Xiao Kang become our goddaughter?"

Elder Song: "Being recognized as honorary kin by us has no downsides for Xiao Kang; moreover, her family is far away in the Great Northwest. Having you and me as her godparents is like giving Xiao Kang an additional support in North City."

“But after all, we do harbor some selfish motives, yet I... I can’t help but think more for the sake of Xuan Xuan. These past few days, you must have noticed that Xuan Xuan shows no timidity around Xiao Kang,

and even takes the initiative to approach her. Besides... Xiao Kang’s character is genuinely good, and I sincerely like this girl. Moreover, once Xiao Kang becomes our goddaughter, it undoubtedly gives us another godson like Little Luo. In the future, when we are gone, with him helping Xiao Kang look after Xuan Xuan, those with lowly intentions trying to attack Little Luo will only make a fool of themselves.”

While admitting their ulterior motives, Mrs. Qi wouldn’t forget why she initially thought of recognizing Kang Li as her goddaughter.

Indeed, she wouldn’t forget it; she truly felt Kang Li was to her liking, feeling delighted at the sight of Kang Li, thinking how wonderful it would be to have such a bright and fairy-like daughter of her own!

Director Song: “Hmm, you’ve thought this through well.”

Mrs. Qi: “Then, do you think Little Luo would guess our intentions?”

“With that boy’s smarts, the moment I brought up the idea of recognizing Xiao Kang as our goddaughter, he most likely figured it out.” Director Song’s face broke into a smile: “Putting Little Luo and Xiao Kang together, the more I look at them, the more I think they’re well-matched. To use an old phrase, they truly are a perfect pair.”

Chapter 142 Sincerity Mrs. Qi laughed out loud, “That’s right, I feel the same way. By the way, I guess Xiao Kang must have realized our intentions by now.” With the girl’s intelligence, after a little thought, it

wouldn't be hard for her to realize that their request to be her godparents was mixed with a bit of self-interest.

She didn't deny that once the girl agreed to recognize her as her godmother, she would speak openly and hope the Little Fairy and Little Luo would take more care of their grandchildren after she and her old man passed away.

"You're not asleep, are you?"

"What do you think?"

"Once Xiao Kang recognizes us as her godparents, we really must love and protect this daughter with all our hearts."

"Of course."

Mrs. Qi was very satisfied with Director Song's response, and she said, "I will take Xiao Kang to buy pretty clothes, little leather shoes, and all the things girls like."

"As you wish."

Director Song's reply was full of laughter, completely under the thumb of his wife.

...

Kang Li did what she said she would. The next day, when Director Song brought Song Xuan to her home, she actually gave the boy a thirty-minute lesson on the erhu. Afterwards, when Director Song and his son were about to leave, she gave her consent, willing to recognize Director Song and Mrs. Qi as her godparents.

As soon as she heard the good news, Mrs. Qi immediately prepared plenty of money and coupons. Right after breakfast that day, she called Kang Li to go shopping at the department store.

"Little Luo, Auntie is taking Li Bao away now. You better take good care of Ruirui and the others at home!"

The nickname "Li Bao" was something Mrs. Qi had picked up from Captain Kang, Big Brother Kang, and Kang Guoan. Now that she knew Kang Li would soon officially become her goddaughter, Mrs. Qi simply started calling her "Li Bao" in advance, referring to her precious daughter.

Luo Yanqing: "Mhm." His expression was indifferent as he nodded and glanced at the three little cubs.

Xiao Ming Wei stood next to her brother Min Rui, looking up at Kang Li and said cutely, "Mommy, Vivi will miss you. You have to come home early!"

"Okay."

Kang Li nodded.

“Mommy, Hanhan will miss you too!” Xiao Ming Han didn’t want to be separated from his mom, but he was a good baby who didn’t want to cause trouble when adults had important things to do or make his mom and Granny Qi angry.

After ruffling the three little cubs’ heads, Kang Li smiled, “Don’t worry, Mommy will come back early.”

On the way to the department store, Mrs. Qi looked at Kang Li with a loving gaze frequently, feeling extremely pleased. As the two of them got off the bus, Mrs. Qi said:

“The day after tomorrow, your godfather and I will hold two tables for a banquet at home. We’ll invite friends and family to bear witness and introduce you to them, so that those acquaintances will know that your godfather and I have a daughter, and our daughter is a beautiful little fairy.”

Kang Li smiled, “I’ll follow whatever Godfather and Godmother have arranged,” as she walked into the department store with Mrs. Qi.

Mrs. Qi patted her hand gently and said with a warm smile on her face, “Good child, Godmother is very happy to have a daughter like you.”

Mrs. Qi led her straight to the women's clothing counter. Before Kang Li could take it all in, Mrs. Qi pointed to the display and picked out two dresses, a white short-sleeve top, and a mid-length skirt, asking the salesperson to get the sizes that would suit Kang Li.

Kang Li: "Godmother, weren't we supposed to buy clothes for you?"

Mrs. Qi gave her a reassuring look and then said, "Godmother will look for her own clothes in a bit."

Hearing this, Kang Li pursed her lips, "But I don't lack..." Her words were cut off mid-sentence by Mrs. Qi's gentle interruption, "Godmother knows you don't lack clothes to wear, but this is Godmother's sentiment. Just listen to Godmother today, okay?"

Chapter 143: Three Kids Get Punished Kang Li: "...Okay then."

Mrs. Qi laughed, "Do you like the color your godmother picked out?"

"Yes." Kang Li nodded and said, "Godmother has the best taste!"

After making their purchases, Mrs. Qi took Kang Li to the footwear department. She asked Kang Li about her shoe size and preferences, then chose a pair of white and a pair of black leather shoes without hesitation and paid using money and coupons.

More than two hours later, the two of them walked out of the department store, their hands filled with several shopping bags. Mrs. Qi's eyes were filled with satisfaction: "It feels different shopping with a daughter."

Kang Li: “I am also very happy to go shopping with godmother.” This trip to the department store, Kang Li bought items not only for everyone at home—one adult and three children—but she also followed the principle of reciprocity and bought gifts for Director Song, Mrs. Qi, and Song Xuan.

She bought a short-sleeved shirt for Director Song.

She bought a pair of leather shoes for Mrs. Qi.

She bought a two-stringed fiddle for Song Xuan.

The two returned to the complex, and Kang Li escorted Mrs. Qi to her doorstep before returning to her own home.

But just before she reached her doorstep, the voice of System Dwen Dwen rang out in her mind: “Miss, miss, your three little kids are being punished!”

Kang Li’s eyebrows furrowed slightly: “Suddenly popping up, are you looking to switch hosts?” His suddenness could have startled her, such a rash little thing!

Dwen Dwen felt wronged: “Miss, I’m sorry, I’m not looking to switch hosts, I just wanted to give you a heads-up.”

Kang Li: "Why are they being punished?"

Dwen Dwen: "They were fighting with other kids."

Kang Li: "Were they hurt?"

Dwen Dwen: "Naturally, but not seriously."

Her expression changing, Kang Li asked further: "What was the cause?"

Dwen Dwen: "Here's what happened..." As Dwen Dwen finished explaining, Kang Li pushed open the gate and entered the courtyard.

"You seem to be in a good mood, have you been doing well since you arrived in North City?"

"That's all thanks to you, Miss!"

Dwen Dwen, happy, began twirling around.

Kang Li's mouth twitched slightly: "You've saved up a good amount of rewards for me, haven't you?"

Dwen Dwen: “Miss is so smart, yup, Dwen Dwen is keeping all those rewards safe for Miss, you can check them out when you’re free.”

Kang Li: “Got it, go play on your own.” Fluttering a bit, Kang Li had a clear sense of it, and guessing its recent gains weren’t hard. She was also quite happy, be it happiness points, affection value, or Life Points, having more had no downside.

As she entered the living room, before Kang Li could stabilize herself, a “Little Cannonball” rushed towards her.

Steadying herself, Kang Li thought it was Xiao Ming Han, but unexpectedly, the “Little Cannonball” turned out to be Weiwei.

The little girl was now hugging her legs, looking up at her with tear-filled eyes.

Her face was like a little mottled cat, her big eyes noticeably swollen. The hair bun she had neatly tied in the morning now resembled a bird’s nest, all messed up.

Her little dress was covered with mud, and her exposed arms and legs were slightly bruised and purple.

All in all, she looked very pitiful.

“Weiwei, what happened to you?”

Though she had heard from System Dwen Dwen that the little girl was injured, seeing it with her own eyes made Kang Li feel both angry and heartbroken. She was angry that the children were still being made to face the wall as punishment when they were already in this state—alright, even if they had to be punished for fighting, at least their injuries should have been treated first, right? How was it handled?

As for the heartache, the present state of Cute Baby Weiwei had indeed impacted Kang Li significantly.

Chapter 144: Grievance She freed one hand, intending to comfort the little girl by patting her head, but to her surprise, the girl burst out crying loudly: “Mommy! Waaa...”

With a leg injury, Kang Li had to move slowly until she finally reached the hardwood sofa. She placed all the shopping bags on the coffee table, then hugged the little girl into her arms: “There, there, no more crying. Tell mommy what happened that made you end up like this?”

The little girl was too busy crying to speak.

Seeing this, Kang Li looked toward the entrance of the living room, where Ming Rui and Hanhan were standing against the wall. Her anger surged but she managed to suppress it and called out softly to the boys: “Ruirui, Hanhan, come here.”

The two hesitated for a while before moving their little legs over to Kang Li.

“Which one of you will tell me what happened?” Ruirui had a bruise on his face and Hanhan had scraped his knee. Their clothes, like Vivi’s, were covered in mud, and they both had dirt-smudged faces.

“Mommy, I’ll tell.”

Knowing his brother would not speak, Milk Bun Ming Han held back tears and said in his childish voice: “We fought, brother, sister, and I fought with the bad boys!”

“Why did you fight?” Kang Li asked but immediately stood up, holding Vivi: “Let’s go, first to the yard. I’ll help you all wash up and put on some medicine, then we can continue our talk.”

“Okay.”

Xiao Ming Han nodded her little head, took her brother’s hand, and followed Kang Li out of the living room.

Setting the little girl on the ground, Kang Li picked up a basin to fetch water. She was extra careful as she cleaned the faces and hands, as well as the arms and legs, of the three little ones.

Then, she took the three little ones back to the living room.

In the bedroom, she used Points in the System Mall to buy iodine and cotton swabs.

“It might hurt a bit, but it will pass if you endure it.”

Sitting on the hardwood sofa, Kang Li disinfected the scraped areas of the three little ones with iodine. Afterwards, she said, “For the next few days, you can’t let the wounds touch water or jump around.”

The three little ones nodded their heads.

Seeing Xiao Ming Wei still on the verge of crying, Kang Li said softly: “Be good, no more crying.” The little girl let out a sob, tears pooling in her eyes as she sniffled and responded, “Vivi won’t cry, Vivi won’t cry anymore, mommy, don’t be mad at Vivi.”

Kang Li felt helpless: “Mommy is just worried you might hurt your throat with all the crying, and I’m not angry.” With that, she shifted her gaze to Xiao Ming Han: “Now you can continue.”

Meanwhile, Ming Rui stood stiffly next to his brother, his mouth tightly closed, with no intention of speaking.

“Xiaochao is a bully. He called Brother Xuan Xuan a big dummy while we, along with Brother Xuan Xuan, were outside in the yard looking to play with other kids. Xiaochao said that... said that my siblings and I were unwanted wild kids and that wild kids should only play with dummies...” The tears rolled down in big drops as Xiao Ming Han looked so distraught, his little voice tinged with sobs and utterly heartbreaking.

“The bad boy also said that mommy looked like a bad person, said that if we siblings didn’t obey, mommy would beat us to death... My sister got really angry, she scolded the bad boy, saying he was lying,

saying the bad boy shouldn’t bully Brother Xuan Xuan. Then the bad boy pushed her down, and when my brother and I saw her getting bullied, we... we rushed to fight the bad boy. Brother Xuan Xuan was so scared, he trembled beside us...

Mommy, I didn’t want to fight, and my brother and sister didn’t want to, either. We didn’t want to fight with the bad boy, but... but we were dragged here by the bad boy’s mom,”

Chapter 145: Visiting to Find a Venue Little hands reached for the back of his collar, Little Ming Han didn’t want to cry, but he couldn’t hold it in, his voice carrying a sob as he continued, “Send me and my sister back home, tell Dad we knocked the bad brother’s teeth out, but we didn’t...”

Kang Li was truly impressed by Milk Bun Ming Han’s thinking and speaking abilities. Just listen, as soon as little Bun started, although he spoke intermittently while telling her the story, he made everything crystal clear, unlike the expression of a child under three years old.

In fact, the one recounting the incident to Kang Li was not Little Ming Han, but the “Big Minghan” inside Little Ming Han’s body.

In other words, Milk Bun Ming Han’s body was currently under the control of Big Minghan. It was Little Ming Han who asked for Big Minghan’s help, fearing he wouldn’t be able to explain himself clearly and that Mom would get mad like Dad did and punish him along with his brother and sister.

Little Ming Wei picked up where her second brother Ming Han left off, adding, “The bad brother fell to the ground and knocked his own teeth out!”

“Mom, the bad brother is so tall and big,” Big Minghan used Little Ming Han’s tone and childlike gestures, stood on his tiptoes, and raised his hands to gesture, “He’s very strong, my brother and sister and I couldn’t push him over at all!”

Kang Li: “Just for this, Dad made you stand as punishment against the wall?”

Little Ming Wei, with tears in her eyes, nodded her little head, “The mean auntie was so fierce, she yelled so loud in our house. She said me, big brother, and second brother have a mother but were raised as if we didn’t, calling us bad kids!”

“Okay, Mom knows everything now, let’s go and find the bad brother and mean auntie you’re talking about, so they can apologize to you.”

Kang Li wasn’t one to simply take things lying down. If her children were not at fault, why should they be reported to their parents by someone else? And as much as she knew about a certain someone, he was probably just afraid of having to compensate the other party.

Thinking this, Kang Li couldn’t help but ask Milk Bun Ming Han, “Did your dad actually pay them compensation?”

“Twenty bucks, the mean auntie asked Dad for twenty bucks, saying the bad brother had lost a tooth and bled a lot, that they needed to see a doctor, and Dad gave them the money.”

Big Minghan stepped back, and at this moment it was Little Ming Han who responded.

One adult and three little ones left the yard, and at the same time, Mrs. Qi and her grandson Song Xuan also left their home, heading toward the home of the bad brother mentioned by Little Ming Han and Little Ming Wei.

With Little Ming Han leading the way, Kang Li quickly arrived at a household.

“Wang Xiaochao! Wang Xiaochao! Luo Mingrui’s stepmother is here to settle accounts with you!”

A few kids playing near Wang Xiaochao’s house saw Kang Li and the Luo siblings, one of them immediately ran towards Wang Xiaochao’s house while loudly warning him.

“Li Bao!”

It was Mrs. Qi’s voice.

Kang Li stopped and turned around: “Godmother, you...”

“Let’s go, we’ll talk after we enter Comrade Wang Qiming’s yard,” Mrs. Qi had gone home and seen her grandson locking himself in the room and not coming out, so she asked Director Song what happened. Learning that her eldest grandson had been called a big fool and had been scared, she was immediately

so angry that she glared fiercely at Director Song, scolding him for choosing to keep the peace at the expense of justice.

So, she comforted her grandson Song Xuan and then led the young man directly to the Wang family's door.

"Ah, it's Comrade Qi, how do you have time to visit my house? Come in and have a seat!"

Wang Xiaochao's mother, who went by the name Xiao Feng, worked at the Friendship Store, earning a decent monthly salary. She always looked down on those in the compound who didn't match her abilities or had a household that wasn't as well-off as hers.

And coincidentally, Comrade Xiao Feng at the Friendship Store was exactly the one responsible for selling washing machines. As a result, the washing machine Kang Li had purchased for her home had undoubtedly involved Xiao Feng processing the payment.

Chapter 146: The Brat's True Skills at Annoying Mom Without knowing Kang Li's status, or that Kang Li lived in the research institute's compound, everything was easy to deal with. But when Xiao Feng bumped into Kang Li in the compound more than a week ago, out of curiosity, she asked someone she knew, and almost instantly felt off balance.

She remembered Kang Li, because Kang Li was truly beautiful, making a lasting impression on people. Moreover, Kang Li had paid for a washing machine promptly and had a military-dressed man and a well-dressed woman with her. At that time, Xiao Feng was genuinely envious of Kang Li's wealth.

Little did she know, the person she envied was the new wife of Professor Luo from her own compound. Xiao Feng grew jealous, and inevitably, she started gossiping at home.

Wang Xiaochao, Xiao Feng's eldest son, was nine years old this year and was always mischievous, especially fond of mimicking adults' speech.

Today, after having a conflict with Xiao Ming Rui and his two siblings, he blurted out what he had heard his mother saying at home, directing it at Xiao Ming Rui, his siblings, and Song Xuan.

At this moment, seeing Mrs. Qi and Kang Li come to her door, Xiao Feng felt quite apprehensive, especially in the presence of Mrs. Qi, and was filled with guilt.

After all, her man worked at the research institute. If she offended Comrade Qi, even if Director Song didn't make things difficult for her man, with her man's temperament, he'd likely be too ashamed to raise his head in front of Director Song.

"No, I've come to ask you, how did my grandson become the 'big idiot' according to your son?"

Mrs. Qi didn't give the other party any face and stated her purpose for the visit right away.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Feng's face was filled with embarrassment and discomfort.

"Comrade, my last name is Kang, Kang Li. I'm the guardian of Luo Mingrui and his siblings. I've come here with a few questions of my own for you. How did my children become 'wild kids', and how am I as a parent supposed to have killed my own children?"

I think, comrade, you owe me an explanation. Additionally, your child firstly insulted others and pushed my child, causing him to fall and sit on the ground,

while your child accidentally fell face down and lost a tooth. As a parent, without clarifying the situation, you brought my child to my doorstep, creating a fuss and demanding medical fees. How does that make any sense?”

In a series of inquiries, Kang Li called Xiao Ming Rui and his siblings forward, pointing out the injuries on the three kids: “Comrade, I hope you see clearly, these injuries on my children,

were all caused by your child. If we’re to talk about covering medical fees, it’s you, as a parent, who should be paying for my children’s injuries, yet you’ve turned everything upside down!”

Kang Li’s expression grew cold. Though she wasn’t exuding a powerful aura, she appeared formidable in Xiao Feng’s eyes, not to be underestimated.

“What are you going to do about it? I haven’t said anything wrong, Song Xuan is a big idiot, Luo Mingrui and his siblings are wild kids...”

Worried about his mother being bullied, the mischievous Wang Xiaochao immediately started shouting at Mrs. Qi and Kang Li.

“Xiaochao, shut your mouth!”

Xiao Feng roared at her son in a low voice.

Wang Xiaochao: "I won't! Song Xuan's grandma and Luo Mingrui's stepmother are bullying you. I will say that Song Xuan is a big idiot, and that Luo Mingrui and his siblings are wild kids!"

"You still dare to speak!" Xiao Feng walked over to her son and smacked him on the back: "Where did you learn such nonsense? I'll beat you to death!"

Wang Xiaochao dodged: "Isn't it you, mom, who always says that Song Xuan is an idiot, and that Luo Mingrui and his siblings are wild kids at home?"

Upon hearing this, Xiao Feng nearly passed out!

She really wanted to say... she really wanted to say she never had this troublesome son, who was specially made to trouble her, his mother!

Chapter 147 Kang Li Gives a Cold Rebuff "Xiao Xiao, I hope you can give me and my goddaughter Li Bao an explanation right now. That's not too much to ask, is it?" Mrs. Qi coldly said, her patience thinning as she watched the other party feign teaching their child.

Goddaughter?

Xiao Feng looked at Kang Li, then glanced at Mrs. Qi, and in a moment felt that she had been too impulsive today. She shouldn't have vented her frustration on the three Luo family youngsters just

because her son fell to the ground and lost a tooth. Moreover, she should not have spoken recklessly at home, causing her foolish son to overhear and make her wish she could hide in a crack in the ground.

“Comrade Xiao, your son fell and knocked out a big tooth. Could it be that he was just in the midst of changing teeth, and that specific front tooth happened to be knocked out?”

As soon as Kang Li said this, Xiao Feng’s expression subtly changed, clearly hit the mark.

Ignoring Kang Li’s words, Xiao Feng pushed her son in front of Mrs. Qi and her grandson: “Comrade Qi, I’m sorry, it’s my fault for not properly educating my Xiaochao. I’ll have him apologize to your Song Xuan right now, is that okay?”

Wang Xiaochao: “I don’t want to say sorry. I didn’t do anything wrong!” Seeing his son stiffen his neck and try to run, Xiao Feng grabbed her foolish son firmly, facing Mrs. Qi with an apologetic smile.

“Comrade Qi, I’m truly sorry. Today’s mess was my Xiaochao’s fault. I will definitely educate him properly when we get back!”

“Fine, with that attitude, I won’t dwell on today’s issue anymore, but listen carefully now. My Song Xuan is not foolish; he can already speak. If I ever hear your Xiaochao randomly hurling insults at my grandson in the courtyard again, I won’t be as reasonable as today. Also, I believe you owe an explanation to my goddaughter as well!”

Kang Li then said, “Godmother, please take Song Xuan and go back first. I will handle Ruirui and the other’s issue, I’ll seek justice for them.” It was already lunchtime, and there were quite a few spectators.

She didn't want Mrs. Qi, as the newly appointed godmother, along with Song Xuan, to be treated like monkeys on display.

"It's okay, once you've handled things here, the two of us and the kids will leave together." Mrs. Qi shook her head, understanding Kang Li's sentiment, but she did not mind the onlookers.

After all, the whole courtyard knew what situation the Luo family's Song Xuan was in. Those who wanted to laugh at her family had already done so; she had no need to worry about being treated as monkeys for a moment.

Xiao Feng knew she couldn't bluff her way out anymore. She gritted her teeth, and pulling her son along, she came in front of Kang Li's mother and her group, her face full of remorse, "Ruirui's mom, I admit I didn't control what I said at home, which my Xiaochao overheard inadvertently. Today, in front of your three children, I spoke carelessly,

I'm truly sorry. I promise that something like this will never happen again. As for the incident of Xiaochao knocking out his tooth, I also did not inquire beforehand. Wait here, I will go get the twenty dollars Professor Luo compensated."

She hurried back to her house, and quickly, Xiao Feng returned to the courtyard, first handing Kang Li two Great Reunion banknotes, then giving her five dollars: "Take these five dollars and buy some Purple Medicine to apply and disinfect the wounds for Ruirui and the others, and use the rest to buy some treats for the kids to calm their nerves. Does this seem fair?"

"We can afford Purple Medicine, and there's no need to calm nerves. What my children need now is an apology, and as a parent, I need one too."

Kang Li did not accept the five dollars from her hand, her voice cold and distant: “Indeed, I’m not the biological mother of Ruirui and his siblings, but having married their father, I am like Professor Luo, a legal guardian to Ruirui and his siblings,

Chapter 148 Advice “As a senior figure and as the ‘stepmother’ you mention, whether I mistreat my own children is not for you to dictate. Time will prove it, and so will the growth of my children, whether I am a qualified mother or not.”

Kang Li said this not only for Xiao Feng but also for those onlookers, to prevent them from having nothing better to do than to gossip about other people’s private affairs.

Yes, she admitted that the term “stepmother” tended to have negative connotations, which could easily lead to bad thoughts, but who could say that all stepmothers in the world are evil and treat their stepchildren poorly?

If someone is judged unfairly just because they are a stepmother, that would be too unjust!

And the fact that she was now a stepmother was undeniable, but she would prove through her actions to everyone around her that she—Kang Li, was not a negative example of someone who abused children!

“...I’m sorry!”

Wang Xiaochao didn’t wait for his mother to speak; he stood politely in front of Kang Li with flushed cheeks, apologizing to her, “Ruirui’s Mom, I ... I was wrong. I shouldn’t have said that Ruirui and his siblings are wild children, nor should I have called Song Xuan brother an idiot. I know I was wrong!”

He really shouldn't have spoken recklessly; how could this aunt, who looked like a Fairy, possibly be a wicked stepmother who kills children?

The Little Fairy is beautiful and kind. What mom said at home was wrong. He shouldn't have mimicked his mom by speaking carelessly outside!

The more Wang Xiaochao thought about it, the more ashamed he felt. He bowed to Kang Li to apologize, and then, feeling immensely ashamed, he turned to look at Ruirui and the twins, "Ruirui, Hanhan, Vivi, today I was wrong. I shouldn't have called you wild children or insulted Song Xuan brother. I'm sorry, can you forgive me this once?"

"My siblings and I are not wild children. We have a dad and a mom! You are also not allowed to speak badly about brother Xuan anymore or else, I will still beat you up in the future!"

Min Rui held his head up high, his small hands clenched into fists at his side, steadfastly staring into Wang Xiaochao's eyes, his expression serious and his youthful voice full of earnestness.

"Definitely not, definitely not, Ruirui. I promise you, I won't speak those nonsensical words again!" Meeting Min Rui's gaze that seemed to peer into one's soul, Wang Xiaochao couldn't help but stiffen up, feeling his face grow hotter.

This was undoubtedly due to the embarrassment and shame, making him wonder whether he should raise his hand and swear on it.

Just then, Min Rui, looking like a little adult, nodded, "I will temporarily believe you!"

Kang Li saw this and couldn't help but find it amusing. Could this be another Luo Yanqing?

Or perhaps, had someone when they were young, been just like Min Rui is now?

Always with a serious little face, being stingy with words when he spoke?!

With her thoughts drifting to this, Kang Li gathered her wits. She turned her gaze back to Xiao Feng, Wang Xiaochao's mother, her eyes cool and distant, and she calmly said, "Parents are a child's first teachers and the most important ones in their lives! Our actions daily...",

significantly affect a child's character, habits, emotional expression, attitude towards life, and future problem-solving abilities. Therefore, Comrade Xiao, to prevent yourself from regretting it later and to avoid causing lifelong regrets for your child, you better practice what you preach and stop influencing your own son with your negative traits. Otherwise, you're only harming him!"

After a brief pause, Kang Li held the twins' hands and faced Xiao Feng, leaving her with one last remark, "I have said all that I needed to say. If Comrade Xiao finds this unpleasant, feel free to ignore it as if it were wind passing by your ears."

Chapter 149: The Needle Against the Awl The music stopped, and Kang Li shifted her gaze towards Mrs. Qi, her eyes bright and pure, her face delicately beautiful and radiant with a smile, "Let's go, godmother."

Mrs. Qi couldn't hide her pride as she nodded and said with a smile, "Li Bao, what you said just now was very good!"

Kang Li just smiled without responding and called to Xiao Ming Rui, "Ruirui, let's go, time to go home."

"Okay."

Xiao Ming Rui nodded his head and took his younger brother Ming Han's other hand. Together with Kang Li and Mrs. Qi, they left the Wang family's courtyard under the stunned gazes of Xiao Feng and his son, indifferent to the surrounding spectators' baptism of surprised and complex looks.

Alright, whether it was the astonishment in Xiao Feng and his son's eyes or the surprise and complexity revealed by the onlookers, all were undoubtedly triggered by Kang Li's words a moment ago. Naturally, all these varied gazes were focused on Kang Li.

But Kang Li had seen it all before; she walked with an elegance and lightness, calm and confident, completely unaffected by those stares.

"Xiao Xiao, you really need to change that unreasonable temper of yours, or else, I'm afraid you're going to offend everyone in this big courtyard."

"Sister Su, just take care of your own family's issues, I don't need you to worry about me!"

A dog poking its nose into a mouse's business!

Ugh!

Xiao Feng glared, searching for her presence in front of her, the middle-aged woman with whom she had always been at odds.

"How can you be so ungrateful?!"

The middle-aged woman named Su Juan lived next door to Xiao Feng; you'd think there shouldn't be any unpleasantness over trivial matters since they were neighbors and there was a ten-year age difference. However, the truth was both of them were spiteful and competitive, liking to compare with one another.

For instance: if today your family is eating meat and the fragrance wafts over the wall making my children cry out with longing, and won't stop fussing, tomorrow my family will also eat meat to make yours drool with envy!

Or for another example: if today yelling and curses come from your courtyard, tomorrow, my courtyard will not be outdone.

This way, a series of trivial matters added up, making Xiao Feng and the middle-aged woman named Su Juan like a needle against a thistle, neither willing to give in, causing such a commotion that the children of both families didn't dare play together.

Su Juan, in her early forties, had three sons and one daughter. The two older sons had gone to the countryside to work as part of an educated youth program after high school. She still had one son and one daughter at home, eleven and nine years old, still in school, attending the same one as Wang Xiaochao. Yet, even so, the three youngsters, because of the conflict between their mothers, would ignore each other upon meeting; they didn't even exchange greetings.

"I just don't know what's good for me, what can you do about it?"

Xiao Feng was already holding back her anger, and now she had found a target to vent on. Paying no attention to the still lingering crowd around her home, she confronted her nemesis, "Mrs. Su, don't you gloat at my door. Even if I offend people, it's my business. Stay as far away from me as you can and don't block my door!"

Someone tried to calm them down, "Xiao Xiao, Comrade Su Juan means well. Just as Comrade Kang Li just said, if you can take it in, listen; if not, act as if Comrade Su Juan never said anything. It really isn't worth all this ceaseless quarreling."

One person tried to mediate, followed by successive waves of persuasion.

"Yeah, Xiao Feng, with your foul temper, honestly, I've been wanting to say something too. After all, we all live in the same courtyard. You don't see anyone looking down on you, but if you keep being so provocative, looking down on everyone, I think sooner or later, you're going to end up all alone!"

Chapter 150 Regret "Little Xiao, think it over carefully and don't cause trouble unnecessarily!"

...

Xiao Feng frowned, her expression changing back and forth, unable to contain her anger. She grabbed a broom and began chasing the people out of the yard: "Yes, yes, I have a bad temper and am narrow-minded, I can't tolerate people and like to stir trouble. Since you have such big complaints against me, please hurry back to your own home and rest!"

The scene that occurred at Wang Xiaochao's house was unbeknownst to Kang Li and Mrs. Qi, as the two of them walked to a crossroad.

Mrs. Qi said, "Li Bao, you take Ruirui and the others back. Your godmother and Xuan Xuan will take this road, and we'll see each other later." With a loving and indulgent gaze, Mrs. Qi looked at Kang Li and gently touched the heads of Ruirui and the others, then bent down to speak to the little ones: "My little heroes, grandma wants to thank you today!"

"Grandma? Granny Qi, why do you say you're Vivi's grandma? And why does Granny Qi want to thank Vivi, big brother, and second brother duck?"

Xiao Ming Wei blinked her eyes, her chubby face full of innocence as she looked at Mrs. Qi, her eyes full of curiosity like crystal grapes.

"Because your mom is now my daughter, and you are her children, so naturally you should start calling Granny Qi 'grandma'!"

Mrs. Qi gently replied to the little charmer: "As for grandma calling you little heroes and thanking you, it's because you stood up today and protected your Brother Xuan Xuan from being bullied, understand?"

Before Xiao Ming Wei could respond, Milk Bun Ming Han raised his hands: "Grandma, I understand! Mom is grandma's child, and we are mom's children, so we should now call Granny Qi 'grandma'."

At this, the child became bashful. He glanced at his mom, then at Mrs. Qi, and with a blushing face, he said: "But Brother Xuan Xuan was indeed scared today, Hanhan... Hanhan and brother and sister aren't little heroes!"

Unexpectedly, Song Xuan picked up Milk Bun, looked directly into the little one's eyes with utmost seriousness, and, after a long pause, uttered one word: "...is..."

"Did you hear that? Your Brother Xuan Xuan says you are little heroes!"

Mrs. Qi smiled kindly, gently touched Milk Bun Ming Han's head again, then said to Kang Li: "Our courtyard may not have a lot of residents, but it's not few either, and where there are many people, there inevitably are disputes. I saw clearly what happened today, and it must be that Xiao Feng for some reason is adverse to you, speaking nonsense at home,

which her kid overheard and thus, mimicked by saying the hurtful things to Ruirui and the others, damaging your reputation in the process. But you don't need to worry about Xiao Feng. As long as she still lives in this courtyard, I doubt she will concoct any more trouble to target you."

With her and Old Song here, she would like to see who dares blatantly trouble her daughter again!

With a fleeting sharp look in her eyes, Mrs. Qi added: "Once you've met our family's friends and relatives, you'll know that our family members aren't ones to be trifled with so easily by just anyone."

Kang Li felt warmth in her heart: “Godmother, rest assured, today’s events haven’t affected me at all, and I haven’t taken them to heart. After all, ‘The road tests the stamina of the horse and time reveals the person’s heart.’ I, Kang Li, behave appropriately and walk straight, I’m not afraid of those evil spirits coming my way.”

She fears trouble, but she’s not afraid of it; anyone who messes with her will learn what regret is!

At this moment, one might ask if Xiao Feng regretted her actions?

The answer is definitive.

Xiao Feng not only regretted it, but she regretted it very deeply. She wished she could turn back time to before she had spoken carelessly about Kang Li and the Song Family’s eldest grandson.