

Weak B 1501

Chapter 1501

It's not that Elder Xi is overthinking; the emotional entanglements between Feng Lu from the Feng family and the young man from the Xiao family in earlier years are known by quite a few in the compound.

And Min Rui does indeed resemble the young man from the Xiao family, and Feng Lu and Luo Yanqing were once married, so Elder Xi feels there's an eighty percent chance that Min Rui's background is questionable.

The Feng family.

"Auntie Fang, I have something to ask you."

"Coincidentally, I also have something to ask you!"

Returning from chatting outside, Fang Su pushed open Feng Lu's bedroom door, and upon seeing her, Feng Lu immediately spoke without expecting Fang Su to speak at the same time.

The two were briefly stunned, then Fang Su stepped forward and sat on Feng Lu's bedside: "Feel free to ask anything you want; if Auntie knows, she'll definitely tell you."

"Actually... it's not a big deal. I just find it a bit strange..." Feng Lu bit her lip with a hint of hesitation in her eyes and finally asked, "That person... why did that person's wife appear in our compound?"

Upon hearing this, Fang Su almost instantly knew who Feng Lu's "that person" referred to, she said: "Unclear, perhaps she knows someone in our compound."

"Impossible!"

Feng Lu said without hesitation: "I know she has some abilities, but the people living in our compound, is she someone they would know?!" Clearly agitated, Feng Lu shook her head repeatedly: "She took the man I didn't want and is raising my child; there's no one more foolish than her..."

Before Feng Lu could continue, Fang Su interrupted: "Lu Lu! Is there any need for such agitation? Auntie said that maybe she knows someone in our compound, but it doesn't mean she knows someone as important as your father. Besides, she has no relation with us; there's really no need for such a strong reaction."

"How is there no relation?"

Tears welled up in Feng Lu's eyes: "If not for that woman, why would Luo Minghan and his siblings not acknowledge me as their biological mother? And Luo Yanqing, no matter what, I was his ex-wife, yet when he saw me after all these years, he looked at me as if I were air, said two words, and left, not giving me any face at all."

"Lu Lu... I know some things I say will surely upset you, but for your own good, even though you may blame me, I still have to tell you. I heard about your staged death back then from your father not long

after it happened, and know that you signed some agreement, and your father and elder brother also signed as witnesses..."

Before Fang Su could finish, Feng Lu covered her ears: "I don't want to hear, Auntie Fang, don't say anymore, I don't want to hear!"

"You might not want to listen, but I have to say what needs to be said to prevent you from creating trouble for your father over the children matters. Since you signed back then, it means those three kids are no longer related to you. If you insist on asking Luo Yanqing for the kids, should anything happen, your father won't intervene."

Regarding Ming Han and Ming Wei's origins, to this day, Old Master Feng still hasn't mentioned it to Fang Su, but he did inform Fang Su that Feng Lu wants to reclaim Ming Han and Ming Wei, this set of twin siblings, from Luo Yanqing. To avoid escalating the situation, and revisiting Feng Lu's staged death years ago, Old Master Feng required Fang Su to make sure to persuade Feng Lu whenever she talked about the twins, lest she get carried away and cause a scene.

After all, Luo Yanqing is not an ordinary person and can't be easily manipulated by Feng Lu or even the Feng family.

So, the moment Fang Su heard Feng Lu mention Ming Han and Ming Wei, she instinctively tensed up, advising Feng Lu to reconsider her thoughts and the consequences.

"My dad won't care, yes, he won't care about me..." Tears fell as Feng Lu covered her face, sobbing: "Being treated like that by Han Bin's daughter, if my dad cared about me, would he let that damned girl continue to attend school?"

Fang Su rolled her eyes in her heart; she felt that Feng Lu was purely spoiled by Old Master Feng and her brothers — spoiled to the point of disregarding others' feelings and only thinking about herself, otherwise why would she have orchestrated the staged death incident back then?

Still, Fang Su knew, even though Old Master Feng and Feng Wei don't really care for Feng Lu nowadays, ultimately, Feng Lu is the daughter of the Feng family. Can a father and brother truly abandon this daughter (sister)?

The answer is undoubtedly no.

As the saying goes, even a vicious tiger won't eat its cubs; no one understands better than Fang Su how much Old Master Feng cares about the children left by his deceased ex-wife.

Chapter 1502

If not for this, she wouldn't have... She wouldn't have neglected her own child just to please those wolf cubs, even watching helplessly as that child was bullied by them.

Regret it?

Feng Yi, her son has been away from her for years, with no news at all. She has asked herself countless times, does she regret it, but the answer is she doesn't know.

Yes, she doesn't know if she regrets it, but anyway, that child hasn't returned yet, and in her heart, she feels nothing.

It seems like she never even thinks about having that child in her daily life.

Her thoughts come back to this, Fang Su sneers inwardly, maybe she's just like those cold-blooded animals, having no feelings for anyone. Otherwise, she wouldn't have abandoned her first child, wouldn't have let Feng Yi be bullied by those wolf cubs, left to fend for himself outside, and wouldn't have considered those family members even once over the years.

"Alright, what you've said are things that have already happened, let's not talk about it anymore. Besides, your father has helped negotiate terms with the Han Family for you, thinking about that matter now is pointless."

Fang Su doesn't want Feng Lu to continue dwelling on Han Qian's issue, so she changes the topic and asks about what she really wants to know: "Your first child resembles the Xiao Family, do you have any thoughts about that?"

"..."

Feng Lu didn't respond for a long time.

"Didn't I go for a walk outside? I accidentally overheard someone saying that a teenager of about fifteen or sixteen came to our courtyard this afternoon. They said the child is called Min Rui and looks very much like the Xiao Family's eldest. Lu Lu, do you think your father and your brother will come ask you about this once they find out?"

Furthermore, if I remember correctly, during your marriage with Luo Yanqing, your first child was named Luo Mingrui, and... and that child was born 'prematurely' after you accidentally fell and was sent to the hospital."

Fang Su emphasized the word "premature."

After pausing for a moment, she continued: "But when the child was born, I remember the doctor saying the child developed very well, almost like a full-term birth."

Observing the changes in Feng Lu's expression, Fang Su had a complex look in her eyes as she continued: "And the pair of twins you gave birth to later, their birth situation was like your first child, both were 'premature' births. Lu Lu, do you understand what I mean?"

"I don't understand! I don't understand anything!" Feng Lu glared angrily at Fang Su: "Auntie Fang, what exactly do you mean? Are you suspecting me of something?"

Suppressing her guilty conscience, Feng Lu tried to remain calm, as if trying to see through Fang Su's heart and figure out her purpose.

"How could I mean anything? What could I possibly suspect you of?" Fang Su stood up and stared at Feng Lu with an expressionless face: "I'm just trying to tell you, neither your father nor your brother will allow any scandals to reappear in this family. Mind your own behavior."

Not counting the scandal from years ago where this damn girl preferred to pursue the Xiao Family's second son who didn't want to marry her, the earlier 'fake death' incident that blew up within the courtyard has made the Feng family the topic of everyone's conversation.

Given that they all live in the same courtyard, people don't say much on the surface, but behind the scenes, when it comes to the Feng family's reputation, it can surely be summed up in four words—foul and unbearable!

Giving up a good life, abandoning husband and child, pretending to be dead for years, only to suddenly 'come back to life' and remarry the Han Family's young man.

Speaking of which, the Han Family originally lived in this courtyard too, so many of those who reside here are not unfamiliar with the Han Family.

However, Han Qian's actions against Feng Lu were well suppressed by the Han Family, with cooperation from the Feng Family, and apart from the Feng Family members, no one else in the courtyard is aware.

"You can't leave!" Seeing Fang Su about to leave, Feng Lu got down from the bed and grabbed Fang Su's arm: "Speak clearly, otherwise I won't let you go!"

"What do you want me to clarify?"

Fang Su pried Feng Lu's hand away, her face stern: "Do you want me to reveal why you faked your death all those years ago?"

"You..."

Feng Lu was at a loss for words.

"You should be well aware, ever since you were sent home by your brother to recuperate, your fake death had already been exposed, and in fact, that's exactly how it is. Everyone in the courtyard knows the truth, that when you were giving birth to the twins you encountered complications, that your massive hemorrhage death was fake,

after so many years, if you don't show up in front of these acquaintances, then the fake death matter might never be known to outsiders, but the reality is that such assumptions don't hold.

Chapter 1503

"Therefore, your feigned death has become a disgrace for the Feng family. If anyone in the compound finds out what you did after your feigned death, I don't have to tell you, you know this will be another big scandal for the Feng family."

Hearing this, Feng Lu's expression became very unpleasant.

"Can I leave now?" Staring at Feng Lu, Fang Su crossed her arms, her facial expression slightly relaxed:
"Lu Lu, if the Feng family falls because of you, it will do you no good."

Pausing briefly, she sighed: "Listen to Auntie, no matter what kind of background Min Rui has, in our family and in your life, he is, and can only be, your and Luo Yanqing's child, without any relationship to the Xiao family!"

Feng Lu looked at Fang Su, but she didn't speak.

"You must understand, if Min Rui's background is problematic and it reaches Han Bin's ears, then in Han Bin's mind you will become disgraceful, it's highly likely you'll completely push him to the side of that vixen you mentioned."

With those words, Fang Su retracted her gaze from Feng Lu and took a step to leave.

Standing still, Feng Lu heard two voices in her mind, one saying, "Who are you trying to scare? Han Bin's always messing around outside, where does he get the nerve to fuss over my past?"

The other voice said, "Han Bin is a man, you are a woman. If he finds out your first child is also not Luo Yanqing's, he will think you are inherently immoral, and believe the child you bore for him was perhaps a deliberate scheme!"

The first voice sounded again: "But I... I still want to get money from Xiao Jin. Anyway, he took advantage of me back then, I can't let it go just like that."

The latter voice sneered: "You were the one who got dead drunk because Xiao Shen would rather live in the countryside with Qin Zhen than marry you, found the Xiao Family, and muddle-headedly ended up in Xiao Jin's room, throwing yourself on his bed. Who can you blame? Moreover, you were the one tearing his clothes, calling him Big Brother Xiao again and again..."

The first voice got angry: "Shut up, don't say any more!"

The latter voice "hmphe" loudly: "Embarrassed and angry, right? Don't tell me you didn't know Xiao Jin liked you. That day, you were both getting back at Xiao Shen and indulging yourself, venting, and Xiao Jin was just your tool. His mistake was liking you, his mistake was losing control, his mistake was knowing the person in your heart was his brother Xiao Shen, yet still fulfilling your wish."

"What do you mean by fulfilling my wish?"

"Isn't it so? He tried several times to push you away and leave the room, but you held on to him tightly without letting go, crying as if you had lost your parents..."

"Alright! Even if I did go to him willingly, my first time was with him. Ultimately, he still took advantage of me, besides, I didn't get rid of his child. I gave birth and didn't ask him to raise the child, all these are what he owes me, he should compensate me."

"You're really thick-skinned! You didn't get rid of the child because you were afraid of pain, because you didn't dare to tell your family, and now you shamelessly say you kept the child out of kindness. I've never seen someone with such a thick face as you. Besides, did you raise the child? It was Luo Yanqing who raised him, that fool of an ex-husband of yours raised the child until now, so stop boasting for yourself."

"I don't care, don't think what you say will stop me from asking for compensation from Xiao Jin, humph!"

The two voices in her mind faded, Feng Lu changed out of her slippers, planning to go out for a walk.

"Lu Lu... where are you going?"

In the first-floor living room, Fang Su saw Feng Lu coming down from upstairs looking like she was heading out, and she couldn't help but ask.

"It's none of your business."

Feng Lu said in a bad mood, and in the blink of an eye, she was out of the living room.

...

Xiao Jin was originally resting at home, after all, it was the weekend and with only one day off a week, it was natural to get enough rest to be fully prepared for the busy work next week.

Who knew his father would call him at home, without much thought, Xiao Jin went to his parent's residence in the compound.

"Big Brother Xiao?"

Suddenly, seeing a familiar figure, Feng Lu tentatively called out to him.

"..."

Xiao Jin stopped, slowly turned his head towards the source of the voice, and saw the woman he once admired standing not far away — no, she was now walking towards him.

"It's really you, Big Brother Xiao!"

Walking up to Xiao Jin, Feng Lu gave a gentle smile.

"Hello."

Xiao Jin's expression remained calm, with no discernible change.

Chapter 1504

Regarding Feng Lu's "fake death" incident, Xiao Jin visited his parents a while back and heard Mrs. Xiao mention it briefly. At that moment, he found it incredible.

Fake death!

Using fake death to abandon husband and child, could it be for his brother Xiao Shen?

Xiao Jin thought this at the time.

However, he didn't seek answers from Xiao Shen.

"Can I talk to you?"

Feng Lu smiled, but after a long moment of hearing nothing from Xiao Jin, she couldn't help but say, "Big Brother Xiao, have you grown distant from me?"

Gently shaking his head, Xiao Jin said, "I don't have the time right now."

Feng Lu: "Not even a few minutes?"

Xiao Jin: "My parents are waiting at home." His intuition told him this woman in front of him wanted to discuss something, but he didn't want to say a word to her about that matter.

Regrets?

Feng Yi, her son had been away from her for years with no news, and so many times she asked herself if she had regrets, but the result was she didn't know.

Yes, she didn't know if she had regrets. Anyway, that child hasn't returned to this day and she feels nothing in her heart.

In her daily life, she hardly ever thought about having such a child.

As her thoughts wandered there, Fang Su sneered in her heart, thinking she might be like one of those cold-blooded animals, having no feelings for anyone. Otherwise, why would she abandon her first child and allow her son Feng Yi to be bullied by a pack of wolves, to struggle in the outside world, never once thinking of those family members of the past.

"Alright, what you've said has already happened, let's not talk about it anymore. Moreover, your father helped you negotiate terms with the Han Family, so thinking about it now is meaningless."

Fang Su didn't want Feng Lu to dwell on Han Qian's matter, so she changed the topic, directly asking what she wanted to know: "Your first child looks like people from the Xiao Family, do you have anything to say about that?"

"..."

Feng Lu didn't react for a long moment.

"Wasn't I just out walking around, and I overheard someone say that a fifteen- or sixteen-year-old boy came to our compound in the afternoon. They said the child's name is Min Rui and he looks a lot like the eldest of the Xiao Family. Lu Lu, do you think that, um, once your father and your brother know about this, they might come to you for clarification?"

Besides, if I remember correctly, in your marriage with Luo Yanqing, your first child was named Luo Mingrui, and... and this child was born 'prematurely' when you accidentally fell and was sent to the hospital."

On the word "prematurely," Fang Su slightly emphasized.

After a slight pause, she continued, "But once the child was born, I remember the doctor saying the child was developing very well, just like a full-term baby."

Watching the change in Feng Lu's expression, Fang Su's gaze grew complicated, and she said again, "And the pair of twins you had later, their birth was similar to your first child's, both born 'prematurely,' Lu Lu, do you understand what I mean?"

"I don't understand! I don't understand anything!" Feng Lu glared angrily at Fang Su, "Auntie Fang, what do you mean? Are you doubting me for something?"

Holding back her guilty conscience, Feng Lu forced herself to pretend calm, as if wanting to delve deep into Fang Su's mind to figure out the woman's intentions.

Fang Su pried Feng Lu's hand away with a serious face, "Do I have to spell out why you faked your death back then?"

"You..."

Feng Lu was at a loss for words.

"You should be very clear that ever since your Big Brother sent you home to recuperate, your fake death couldn't be kept under wraps. In fact, it's already known, everyone in the compound knows that the news of your death due to massive hemorrhage during the difficult birth of those twins was fake,

After so many years, if you didn't show up in front of these acquaintances, your fake death wouldn't be known to outsiders, but the reality is that assumption doesn't hold,

Therefore, your fake death has become an embarrassment for the Feng family, and once people in the compound know what you did after faking your death, you are well aware, it would become yet another scandal for the Feng family."

Upon hearing this, Feng Lu's face turned unsightly.

"Can I leave now?" Eyeing Feng Lu, Fang Su crossed her arms with a slightly softened expression, "Lu Lu, if the Feng family collapses because of you, it would do you no good."

After a slight pause, she sighed, "Listen to your Auntie, no matter what kind of background Min Rui has, in our family, and to you, he is, and can only be, the child of you and Luo Yanqing, with no connection whatsoever to the Xiao Family!"

Feng Lu looked at Fang Su, but she didn't speak.

"You must understand, once there's a problem with Min Rui's background, and if it gets to Han Bin's ears, then you will appear contemptible in Han Bin's eyes, likely pushing him entirely towards the Vixen you mentioned."

With that, Fang Su withdrew her gaze from Feng Lu and began walking away.

Standing in place, two voices in Feng Lu's mind started arguing, one saying, "Who is she trying to scare? Han Bin is fooling around outside, where does he get the nerve to judge my past?"

The other voice said, "Han Bin is a man, you're a woman. If he finds out that your first child isn't Luo Yanqing's either, he will think you're inherently immoral, suspecting that you bore his child on purpose, trapping him!"

The first voice spoke again, "But I... but I still want to get money from Xiao Jin, regardless of anything, he took advantage of me back then, it can't just end like this."

The second voice sneered, "You were the one who, because Xiao Shen would rather live with Qin Zhen in the countryside than marry you, got so drunk you stumbled into the Xiao Family, ended up in Xiao

Jin's room, and threw yourself at his bed. Who can you blame for that? Moreover, you were the one tearing off his clothes, calling him Big Brother Xiao..."

The first voice got angry, "Shut up, don't say any more!"

The second voice scoffed, "Ashamed, aren't you? Don't tell me you didn't know Xiao Jin liked you. That day, while partly retaliating against Xiao Shen, you were also indulging and venting yourself, and Xiao Jin was merely your tool. His mistake was liking you, losing control, knowing full well that the person in your heart was his brother Xiao Shen, yet still fulfilling your wish."

"What do you mean fulfilling my wish?"

Xiao Jin stopped, slowly turning his head towards the source of the voice to see the woman he once admired standing not far away, no wait, she was walking towards him now.

"It really is you, Big Brother Xiao!"

As she approached, Feng Lu displayed a gentle smile.

"Hello."

Xiao Jin's expression remained calm, revealing no peculiarities.

Regarding Feng Lu's "fake death," Xiao Jin had recently heard Mrs. Xiao speak of it when visiting his parents, and he found it incredible at the moment.

Fake death!

Using fake death to abandon husband and child, could it be for his brother Xiao Shen?

Xiao Jin thought this at the time.

But he did not look for answers from Xiao Shen.

"Can I chat with you?"

Feng Lu smiled, but after a long time of silence from Xiao Jin, she couldn't help saying, "Big Brother Xiao, have you grown distant from me?"

Gently shaking his head, Xiao Jin said, "I don't have the time right now."

Feng Lu: "Not even a few minutes?"

Xiao Jin: "My parents are waiting at home." His intuition told him this woman in front of him wanted to discuss something, but he didn't want to say a word to her about that matter.

Chapter 1505

Being acquainted with the Xi Family, having capable adoptive parents, and having the Song Family as a supportive god-relative behind them, that child will not need the Xiao Family's help even if they face any situation in the future.

Moreover, from a moral standpoint, since the Xiao Family chose not to recognize the child for the sake of their reputation, it's destined that they have no right to appear in the child's life.

Sighing deeply, Father Xiao felt deeply ashamed for his eldest grandson who was lost outside, but he couldn't let emotions rule him. Therefore, the only thing he could do was to ensure Feng Lu and the Xiao Family wouldn't cause trouble for that child.

As for the old folks in the Feng Family, he would find time to have a proper chat with them to make sure Feng Lu wouldn't make a fuss about the child's background.

To prevent a good child from being harmed and labeled as an illegitimate child by her.

"Dad is right." Xiao Jin chuckled bitterly: "Not to mention Comrade Luo is an outstanding scientific researcher, Comrade Kang Li alone is a nationally renowned athlete, a professor at Shuimu University, and also the goddaughter of our Song Family. If we talk about connections, our family might not be able to match that."

After a brief pause, Xiao Jin adjusted his emotions and said, "I'll handle the money issue."

Father Xiao: "It's twenty thousand, not two thousand. Even if you can produce it, how will you manage in the future?"

"I have savings."

Having worked for more than ten years, he had saved up some money.

"How will you explain it to Little Shen?"

Father Xiao's attitude was clear; he did not approve of Xiao Jin using his own money.

"Economically we are separate." To avoid Father Xiao's misunderstanding, Xiao Jin explained, "She proposed it before we got married."

"How do you manage household expenses and the children's education costs?" Father Xiao found it unbelievable and felt a little dissatisfied with Shen Yun, his eldest daughter-in-law. He just listened to Xiao Jin say, "She hardly comes home once a year, each time just for a few days. I cover this part of the living expenses..."

After waiting to hear more and with no response, Father Xiao asked, "Why didn't you continue?"

Xiao Jin pressed his lips and said, "As for the education costs for the children, we split it equally." In reality, there was no such thing as splitting. All the household expenses were covered by him, and Shen Yun just occasionally bought something for the house depending on her mood.

Regarding this, he had no meaningful objection, as supporting the family is traditionally the man's responsibility.

Moreover, two of the three children in the family were his blood. As a father, it was his duty and obligation to raise his own children, and he would not get twisted over this matter.

Of course, as a stepfather, he also had the responsibility and obligation to support Jian, but after graduating from elementary school, Jian was taken abroad by his biological father for studies.

In other words, he didn't spend much on his stepson Jian's education.

"Is your relationship with Little Shen so distant? Or is it that she hasn't invested her heart in your family at all?"

Father Xiao truly couldn't understand the dynamic between his eldest son and his wife.

Financial independence, splitting the children's education costs, what kind of situation is this?

"Dad, I'm not young anymore. I know what I'm doing. Besides, I believe there's nothing wrong with financial independence between spouses." Xiao Jin smiled and quietly looked at him. Mrs. Xiao was silent for a moment, then said, "Do whatever you want. If you really want to spend money, just give five thousand; the rest will come from the family."

Xiao Jin hesitated, "This... Isn't there only one son in the family? Wouldn't spending fifteen thousand at once to solve my problem make my brother Xiao Shen overthink it?"

Seemingly understanding what he was thinking, Father Xiao's face darkened, "You're overthinking it. The second child doesn't have as much burden as you do, and moreover, the second child also has an income."

"How about... How about I consider it as borrowing from the family, and when I have more on my hands, I will pay it back." Ever since transferring to work in North City, Xiao Jin's salary and benefits were good, but no matter how good, he could only make around eighty yuan a month. Even if he didn't eat or drink for a month, the most he could make in a year was a thousand yuan.

There were salary raises, but before the 1980s, each raise was at most ten yuan. Up until now, his monthly salary was about a hundred yuan.

After expenses, the annual income was clear as day.

Therefore, no matter how much savings he actually had, Xiao Jin knew that even if he didn't mention it, the old man could roughly estimate.

Understanding this, Xiao Jin naturally wouldn't be pretentious when Father Xiao offered assistance.

But he would keep his word and pay back the money borrowed from the family to avoid any future conflict between brothers.

Chapter 1506

"Whatever you want."

Father Xiao said irritably.

"Dad..." Xiao Jin's eyes were filled with guilt, "It's all my fault. I'm already such a grown-up, yet I still need you to help solve my troubles. I'm sorry."

"It's only natural for a father to help his son, no need for all this mushiness."

Father Xiao glared.

Xiao Jin's mouth twitched slightly: "...". He was admitting his mistake and apologizing, why was it considered mushy?

"Don't mention the child's matter in front of your mom, lest she gets all worked up and goes to acknowledge the child, causing trouble." Father Xiao reminded.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Jin nodded, "Mm."

Father Xiao: "Be careful in your compound over there, don't reveal any clues to the child. By age, that child should be about to take the college entrance exam, right?"

Xiao Jin nodded again: "Mm."

Father Xiao: "Since you know, you should be more cautious. We don't want to distract the child and affect their studies."

"I know my limits."

Previously he had doubts in his heart, but never once considered talking to that child or asking Comrade Luo or Comrade Kang anything. It was enough for him to see that child grow up healthy!

Returning to the Feng family, Feng Lu was very happy. She could instantly gain twenty thousand yuan, the speed of making money was too fast and exhilarating!

It's not that Feng Lu was short-sighted, but in these times, a family with ten thousand yuan would certainly attract envy, and besides, though she never lacked money from childhood, having ten to

twenty thousand yuan at once was something she had never experienced before. Even being married to Han Bin, even though Han Bin was a big boss and gave her a lot of pocket money every month, he wasn't generous enough to give out ten or twenty thousand yuan in one go.

At most, he'd give a thousand or eight hundred.

But on the other hand, it's still the early eighties, where annual income and consumption levels were very low. Having a thousand or eight hundred yuan in hand was indeed a significant amount.

"You seem to be in a good mood. Did you encounter something good on your trip out?"

Seeing Feng Lu return, Fang Su casually asked.

"Yes, I came across something good."

With an air of pride, Feng Lu glanced at Fang Su and then returned to her room.

"Luo Yanqing..."

Lying on the bed, Feng Lu crossed her legs and swung them back and forth. At this moment, she thought again of Luo Yanqing and couldn't help but muse to herself:

"Luo Yanqing, don't you care a lot about Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei? You'd rather wear a green hat to tell people they are your children. In that case, I'll fulfill your wish. However, after I get the money and bring Luo Minghan and them to my side, don't blame me, oh!"

Adopting an orphan requires neither the leisure nor the love she had. Besides, she had her own children, who were already in their teens and didn't require her to worry about their meals, and could still bring her benefits. Having such children around was certainly better.

...

Kang Li drove back to the compound with Min Rui and the three buns. Without much rest, she accompanied Cai Xiufen in the kitchen to cook, while in the living room, Min Rui was sitting on the sofa watching the three buns play, but his mind was actually elsewhere.

"Ruirui."

It was Captain Kang's voice.

"Hmm?" Snapping back, Min Rui looked at Captain Kang sitting beside him, "Grandpa, do you need me to do something?"

Hearing this, Captain Kang shook his head and said, "Did you encounter something outside?"

Without even thinking, Min Rui directly gave a negative answer. He didn't want Captain Kang to worry.

"You are still a child. Whatever you encounter that can't be resolved, you can speak up at home. Even if Grandpa and Grandma can't help, your mom will surely find a way."

Listening to Captain Kang's words, Min Rui felt warm in his heart. He smiled slightly and nodded gently:
"Mm."

"Big brother, big brother, Guoguo can help you too~"

As Guoguo's childish voice trailed off, Bun and Tangyuan followed with their little voices, both earnestly assuring their big brother Min Rui that they could help too.

The smile on Min Rui's lips widened, and his eyes were filled with laughter, "Thank you, when big brother needs help, I'll definitely tell you."

Dinner was sweet potato and corn porridge with large meat buns, alongside a plate of stir-fried potato shreds and home-style tofu. However, to supplement the nutrition for the three buns, Cai Xiufen also prepared a big bowl of steamed egg custard for them.

"Mom, the food you and Grandma cook is always so delicious. Why does it feel like something's missing when I cook?"

Fully fed and satisfied, Min Rui went to the kitchen to wash the dishes, with Ming Wei going over to help, while Ming Han was responsible for wiping the table clean and positioning the table and bamboo mat against the wall, then sitting on the sofa in the living room, lamenting to Kang Li about his culinary skills.

Chapter 1507

"To improve your cooking skills, try cooking a few more meals during the holidays, you definitely won't be disappointed." With a gentle smile in her eyes, Kang Li said, "Also, you need to consider cooking as a form of enjoyment and do it with love for your family, that's how you make delicious meals."

"..."

Kang Li was partly teasing Ming Han, but what she said was also true. Cook with love for your family and treat it as an enjoyment. Even if the final dish isn't perfect, the family will praise it endlessly. Enjoying the cooking process makes one truly happy spiritually and physically.

However, it took a while for Ming Han's brain to process, and after pondering, he asked Kang Li: "Cooking is a form of enjoyment?"

"Isn't it?"

Kang Li held back her laughter and raised an eyebrow.

Instinctively, Ming Han shook his head, "It's enjoyment, it's enjoyment, anything my mom says is right."

The three Buns looked on and giggled quietly from the side.

Ming Han asked Kang Li again: "Cooking with love for your family, will that definitely make delicious food?"

"Yes, indeed!"

Kang Li responded with a bright smile.

"Mom, are you sure you're not tricking me? Cooking has such subtleties?"

Ming Han feigned grief, but before Kang Li could respond, Tangyuan's childish voice piped up: "Second Brother, didn't you just say whatever Mom says is right? Why are you doubting her words now?"

"No, no."

Ming Han waved his hands repeatedly, "Your Second Brother just finds it a bit strange."

Tangyuan: "When I grow a bit older, I'll definitely make delicious food. Do you know why, Second Brother?" Looking at Ming Han, Tangyuan's eyes were full of seriousness.

Ming Han liked to play along, so he did: "I don't know, Second Brother is a dummy, can't figure it out."

"Second Brother, you're wrong. You're not a dummy. In Tangyuan's eyes and heart, my Second Brother is a big smarty!"

Tangyuan comforted his brother Ming Han, then continued in a milky voice: "Mom just mentioned that with lots of love for the family, you can make delicious food. And I, Luo Mingchen, love my family the most of all. When I grow a bit older, I'll cook with all my love for everyone, then, Second Brother, do you think my food won't be delicious?"

Without thinking, Ming Han blurted out: "It won't." The next moment, he realized he was caught in a three-and-a-half-year-old brother's trap.

Seeing him stunned, Tangyuan covered his mouth and laughed.

Guoguo did the same.

While Bun just chuckled slightly.

Kang Li, Captain Kang, and Cai Xiufen burst out laughing directly.

Coming to his senses, Ming Han stood up and hugged Tangyuan: "How could you be so smart?!" Cooking with love for family, in their home, even if the dishes have shortcomings, as family, no one would say it isn't good.

Alas! Such a simple truth, why didn't he realize it sooner?

Hugging Ming Han's neck, Tangyuan giggled: "Second Brother is the big smarty, I'm just a little smarty!"

Kang Li drove Ming Rui and the three little Buns back to the compound. She didn't rest much but accompanied Cai Xiufen in the kitchen to cook, while in the living room, Ming Rui sat on the sofa watching the three little Buns play, but his mind was elsewhere.

"Ruirui."

It was the voice of Captain Kang.

"Hmm?" Coming back to his senses, Ming Rui looked up at Captain Kang sitting next to him: "Does Grandpa have something you want me to do?"

Hearing this, Captain Kang shook his head, he said, "Did something happen to you outside?"

Ming Rui didn't even think before he directly gave a negative answer. He didn't want Captain Kang to worry.

"You're still a kid, no matter what problems you can't solve, you can talk about it at home. Grandpa and Grandma might not be able to help, but your mom definitely can think of something."

Hearing Captain Kang's words, warmth filled Ming Rui's heart. He curved his lips slightly and nodded, "Yes."

"Big Brother, Big Brother, Guoguo can help you too~"

As Guoguo's childish voice sounded, Bun and Tangyuan followed with their little voices, sitting up straight and earnestly expressing that they could also help Ming Rui, their big brother.

The curve in Ming Rui's mouth became more pronounced, and his eyes were filled with laughter: "Thank you, when Big Brother needs help, I'll definitely tell you."

Kang Li drove Ming Rui and the three little Buns back to the compound. She didn't rest much but accompanied Cai Xiufen in the kitchen to cook, while in the living room, Ming Rui sat on the sofa watching the three little Buns play, but his mind was elsewhere.

Chapter 1508

"Ruirui."

That's Captain Kang's voice.

"Hmm?" Ming Rui snapped back to reality and looked at Captain Kang sitting beside him. "Does Grandpa have something he wants me to do?"

Upon hearing this, Captain Kang shook his head and said, "Did you encounter something outside?"

Ming Rui didn't think twice and directly denied it, not wanting Captain Kang to worry.

"You're still a child, no matter what you're facing that you can't solve, you can talk about it at home. Grandpa and Grandma may not be able to help, but your mom will surely come up with a way."

Listening to Captain Kang's words, Ming Rui felt warm inside and smiled, nodding lightly. "Okay."

"Big brother, big brother, Guoguo can help you too~"

Following Guoguo's childish voice, Bun and Tangyuan chimed in with their little voices, both straightening up earnestly to express that they could also help their big brother Ming Rui.

The curve of Ming Rui's mouth became more pronounced, and his eyes were filled with laughter. "Thank you, one day when your big brother needs help, I'll definitely tell you."

Kang Li's words had a playful tone towards Ming Han, but she was clearly speaking the truth. Cooking with love for family, even if the final product was less than perfect, the family would be full of praise. For herself, enjoying the cooking process was certainly satisfying both mentally and physically.

However, Ming Han's mind took a moment to catch up, and he thought for a while before asking Kang Li, "Cooking is an enjoyment?"

"Isn't it?"

Kang Li raised her eyebrows, suppressing a smile.

Instinctively, Ming Han shook his head. "It's an enjoyment, an enjoyment. Whatever Mom says is right."

The three little ones looked on, giggling.

Ming Han asked Kang Li again, "Cooking with love for family, does that make the dishes delicious?"

"Yes!"

Kang Li responded with a sweet smile.

"Mom, you're sure you're not fooling me, right? Is there really such a trick to cooking?"

Ming Han felt deeply conflicted, and before Kang Li could respond, Tangyuan's childish voice chimed in, "Second brother, second brother, you just said everything Mom says is right, so why are you doubting Mom's words now?"

"No, no."

Ming Han waved his hand repeatedly. "Your second brother just finds it a bit strange."

Tangyuan said, "When I grow up a bit more, I will definitely cook delicious dishes. Second brother, do you know why?" Looking at Ming Han, Tangyuan was full of seriousness.

Ming Han loved to play around, so he played along with Tangyuan, saying, "No idea, second brother is a dummy who can't figure it out."

"Second brother, don't say that, you're not a dummy. In Tangyuan's eyes and heart, second brother is very smart, oh!"

Tangyuan comforted brother Ming Han, then said in his little child voice, "Mom just mentioned that cooking with lots of love for family results in delicious dishes, and I, Luo Mingchen, love my family the most! When I grow a bit more, I'll cook with all my love for everyone. So second brother, can you say my dishes won't taste good then?"

Without thinking, Ming Han blurted out, "No way." Then the next moment, he realized he had been set up by his three-and-a-half-year-old brother.

Seeing him stunned, Tangyuan covered his mouth, laughing.

Kang Li's words had a playful tone towards Ming Han, but she was clearly speaking the truth. Cooking with love for family, even if the final product was less than perfect, the family would be full of praise. For herself, enjoying the cooking process was certainly satisfying both mentally and physically.

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Seeing him stunned, Tangyuan covered his mouth, laughing.

"Dad, I'm no longer young and naïve. I know what I'm doing, besides, I think financial independence between spouses is fine." Xiao Jin smiled and quietly looked at him. Mrs. Xiao was silent for a moment and said, "Do whatever you want. If you really want to chip in money, five thousand will do, the rest should be covered by the family."

Xiao Jin hesitated, "This..." The family doesn't just have him as a son; coming up with fifteen thousand all at once would raise questions with his brother Xiao Shen if he knew?

As if seeing what he was thinking, Father Xiao's face sank, "You're overthinking. The second son doesn't have as much burden as you, and besides, the second son has his own income."

"Or maybe... consider it as me borrowing from the family. I'll pay it back when I have more in hand."
Ever since he transferred to work in North City, Xiao Jin's salary has been quite good, but no matter how good, it's just about eighty bucks a month. Even if he doesn't eat, drink, or spend for the whole month, the most he could save a year is a thousand.

Salary increments do happen, but before 1980, each raise was ten bucks at most, then up till now, his monthly salary has been around a hundred.

After expenditures, annual income is clear.

Therefore, Xiao Jin knows exactly how much savings he has. Even if he doesn't mention it, the old man could probably estimate it roughly.

Understanding this, Xiao Jin would definitely not be pretentious when Father Xiao offers help.

But he will follow through and repay the borrowed money from the family to avoid any future disputes with his brother.

"Suit yourself."

Father Xiao said with a bit of annoyance.

"Dad..." Xiao Jin's eyes were filled with guilt. "It's all my fault, such a grown man still having you solve my troubles, sorry."

"It's only natural for a father to help his son, don't be so sentimental."

Father Xiao glared.

Xiao Jin's mouth twitched: "... He was apologizing and admitting fault, how is that sentimental?

"Don't mention the child's matter in front of your mother, or else she'll get all worked up and try to acknowledge the child, causing trouble." Father Xiao advised.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Jin nodded and uttered "Okay."

Father Xiao continued, "Also, be careful in your compound over there, don't slip up in front of the child. According to age, the child should be preparing for the college entrance exams soon, right?"

Chapter 1509

"Mom, I'm not a chatterbox, nor am I pretending. I... I just feel stifled, and today I said a few more words in front of you." Min Rui's cheeks flushed slightly. He felt uncomfortable under Kang Li's teasing gaze. Seeing him turn his head to avoid her eyes, Kang Li couldn't help but laugh: "Alright, Mom is just teasing you!"

Sighing quietly, Kang Li gently patted the teenager's shoulder and softly reassured him: "Mom knows what you're talking about. Now, you just need to not think about it. Even if things turn out as you thought, there's nothing to be afraid of, understand?"

Min Rui's lips moved, but he remained silent for a while.

"Silly child, do you not trust your dad or me?"

Kang Li crossed her arms and quietly looked at the boy, raising an eyebrow.

"No, it's not that I don't trust you and Dad, but... but if things really are as I thought, I'm afraid I won't have the face to stay in this family."

As he spoke, Min Rui's eyes began to redden again.

Kang Li gave him a playful glare: "I think you've read yourself silly, or you don't consider yourself a child of this family. If that's the case, were those things you said to me before empty words?"

Before Min Rui could explain, Kang Li gave him another playful glare: "You said I was the only mom, and your dad was the only father, almost had me fooled!"

Min Rui exclaimed: "Mom! I didn't lie to you!"

"If you didn't lie, then why did you say that last part? Explain what you mean by saying you don't have the face to stay in this family. Isn't this family your home?"

Kang Li looked straight into the boy's eyes: "Look into my eyes when you're talking, no dodging."

Pressing his lips together, Min Rui was silent for a moment, then spoke: "It is my family, Mom, this is my home, I'm your and Dad's child!" His eyes were firm, his tone resolute, his expression very serious.

Ruffling his hair, Kang Li's lips curled into a gentle smile: "That's more like it!" Then she cleared her throat, pretending to be solemn: "Stand up!"

Min Rui immediately stood up.

Watching the boy's tall and upright back, Kang Li's clear and pleasant voice spilled from her lips again: "March forward," When the boy was near the door, her eyes smiled, "Turn left!" At this moment, Min Rui faced the door, but he turned to look at Kang Li: "Mom..."

"Oh dear, my good son, are you acting cute for Mom?" Kang Li's bright eyes were full of laughter: "Be good, go back to your room and rest, you still have school tomorrow!"

Min Rui's eyes were moist: "Mom..."

"I'm here, I'm here, Mom will always be by your side, watching you grow up, seeing your successes, witnessing you build harmonious marriages and happy families!"

Kang Li couldn't help but keep talking, so much so that when Min Rui heard her say "seeing your harmonious marriages and happy families," his face turned as red as a cooked shrimp. Hastily, he said: "Mom, good night!" Then hurriedly dashed out the door.

However, the boy kindly closed the door for Kang Li.

Hearing Kang Li's laughter from the room, Min Rui's pace quickened as he crossed the living room and went back to his own room.

"Big brother, were you whispering secrets with Mom?"

As soon as he entered the room, Min Rui heard Ming Han's voice, delivered in a matter-of-fact tone.

"Mm."

Min Rui nodded: "Not secrets, I was just chatting with Mom."

Min Rui gave an "oh" and then said: "Then why did you run back to the room like you were being chased by a dog, what's..." He didn't finish because Min Rui shot him a cold glare.

With a casual gesture of zipping his lips, Ming Han lay back on the bed.

Due to limited space in the compound, Bun, Tangyuan, Min Rui, and Ming Han slept in the same room. Even when Xiao En came over, he also stayed in Min Rui and Ming Han's room.

As for Guoguo, the little girl shared a room with her sister Ming Wei.

Outside the window, the moonlight spread cool and watery over the ground. Bun and Tangyuan were fast asleep. Taking advantage of the faint moonlight filtering through the curtains to glance at the two little ones, Ming Han whispered to Min Rui: "Brother."

"Speak."

Min Rui's voice was equally low.

"What did you and Mom talk about? Can you give your younger brother a hint?"

Driven by curiosity, Ming Han genuinely wanted to know Min Rui's little secrets.

"Sleep."

Folding his discarded clothes neatly, Min Rui lay down on the bed, grumpily giving his foolish brother two words.

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"Brother, do you think we can still play happily together?" Ming Han's voice carried a hint of resentment: "I really want to know, brother, my dear brother, can you just tell me?"

Ming Rui closed his eyes, then opened them again quickly, asking Ming Han: "What if the rumors that spread in school before were true? How would you react?"

"Huh?"

Ming Han and Ming Rui were both lying on the upper bunk. Hearing Ming Rui's words, Ming Han was stunned for a while before coming to his senses and saying: "If it's true, so what? I only know that Dad recognizes me as his son, that's good enough. Besides, the day Dad walked through every class in our eighth grade, saying that Luo Mingwei and I are his children, I've not heard a word of gossip at school since then.

Brother, I'm not afraid to tell you, even if I'm not Dad's biological child, I still only recognize Dad as my father. As for other men, no matter how far away, they should stay far away from me. I will never acknowledge them."

Whether it's the fact that Ming Han is already an eighth-grader or due to his clever mind, he had already vaguely guessed something when he first saw the childhood photo of Han Bin. However, he didn't admit having anything to do with Han Bin, and based on this, he naturally hadn't said anything to his brother Ming Rui or his sister Ming Wei.

Until this year in eighth grade, when rumors about his and Ming Wei's parentage spread, and he learned about Han Qian's mention of someone who closely resembled Han Bin being his illegitimate child, Ming Rui found it hard to believe. At the same time, he became quite clear about his and Ming Wei's origins.

Especially since their biological mother's current husband is Han Qian's father. Thinking a little bit about it, connecting what Han Qian had said with their mother's actions after "coming back to life," if there's no hidden truth about their sibling origins, Ming Han wouldn't believe it first.

But does this mean anything?

He only knows that he bears the surname Luo, he acknowledges it as his father's surname, and he recognizes only one father, whose name is Luo Yanqing. This point will never change, no matter when!

What he didn't expect was that Dad provided him and his sister with enough security. Clearly, their origins can be verified, yet their dad firmly stood behind them, being their strongest support, helping them slap those rumor-spreading classmates in the face.

At that moment, he was deeply touched. He didn't believe Dad had no doubts about his and his sister's origins, considering Dad was such a smart person and a researcher, with a mind that others couldn't compare to.

Thus, he inferred that the stern Dad actually knew something, but to protect him and his sister, he willingly donned a "green hat".

Thinking about this, Ming Han added, "Brother, Dad is great, Mom is also great. We will always be Dad and Mom's children, don't you think?"

Ming Rui responded without hesitation, "Yes!" Then he whispered, "We will always be Dad and Mom's children. Our surname is Luo, you're Luo Minghan, I'm Luo Mingrui. We're Dad and Mom's children."

"Brother, I came back from outside this afternoon... I noticed you seemed off, and also, as I entered the courtyard, I ran into Uncle Xiao. Honestly, the way you look now and Uncle Xiao..."

"Shut up."

"Alright, alright, I won't say anymore. I just want to tell you, you are my brother, my dear brother, we have the same Dad and Mom."

"Sleep."

After turning over, Ming Rui faced the wall.

Ming Han was lying on the opposite upper bunk, staring at the back of his brother Ming Rui's head and whispered softly, "That woman is very bad, she let Dad down, I will never acknowledge her in this lifetime!"

Upon hearing this, Ming Rui said nothing.

With a morally corrupt biological mother like this, Ming Rui felt it would be better to not have one.

It's not about shame, it's because that person was truly repugnant, used such a way to hurt the father he admired and loved. In his mind, this was unforgivable!

...

Feng Lu had stayed at the Feng family's house for the past couple of days without returning to the small villa she shared with Han Bin. She was waiting for Father Xiao to deliver compensation to her. Today was the agreed deadline, and as the sun set in the west with still no call from Father Xiao, Feng Lu was grinding her teeth in frustration. She decided to go to the Xiao Family once again to personally retrieve the compensation from Father Xiao.

Unexpectedly, just as she was stepping out of the living room, Father Xiao and Old Master Feng walked into the courtyard. Seeing this, Feng Lu greeted the two with a smile, though inwardly displeased with Father Xiao.

She believed Father Xiao had come to report something.

"Here, this is what you wanted."

Feng Lu remained stunned, staring at the manila envelope in Father Xiao's hand, unable to react for a long while.