

Weak B 1541

Chapter 1541

Xuanxuan wanted to follow, but Luo Sichun picked her daughter up and whispered, "Little Sister Guoguo is unhappy now and needs your Aunt Kang to comfort her, so don't follow and cause trouble."

"I... I can comfort Little Sister Guoguo, I can tell her jokes to make her happy!" Her mom didn't understand her at all and insisted on stopping her from getting close to Little Sister Guoguo, it was really hard for her!

Jhiang Xuanyuan was a bit downcast, but when she saw Fang Su standing still without leaving, she couldn't help but glare at her and angrily said, "Grandma Fang, why did you take off Little Sister Guoguo's mask? Are you really a bad grandma who likes to bully us kids?"

"Xuanxuan!"

Luo Sichun covered her daughter's mouth, greeted Wang Yuqin, ignored Fang Su, and then carried her daughter home.

She had already decided to call Kang Li in the evening to apologize and explain what had happened.

Otherwise, it would be hard to guarantee that Kang Li wouldn't harbor any resentment.

After all, she brought the kids to celebrate her daughter's birthday, and then something happened. In the end, the little girl was frightened, and she couldn't shirk the responsibility.

"Auntie Fang, can you tell me what really happened today? Why did you have to take off a child's mask? And who was that Jiang Boya you mentioned? I haven't heard of him."

Wang Yuqin looked at Fang Su, confusion written in her eyes.

"How is this possible? How could it be?"

Fang Su seemed not to hear Wang Yuqin's words. She whispered in a daze, "No, impossible, she can't be that child... Jiang Boya, I must find Jiang Boya, I'll go find him now..."

She took off towards the Xi Family. Wang Yuqin stood there, thinking Fang Su seemed a bit out of her mind. She pondered for a moment and then walked towards the Feng family.

"Alright, I understand, thank you."

Wang Yuqin went to the Feng family, disclosed what happened with Fang Su to Old Master Feng, and then quickly returned to her own home.

"Xiao Li, push me to the Xi Family."

Old Master Feng sat in his wheelchair and instructed the caregiver beside him.

"Okay."

Xiao Li responded, put a hat on Old Master Feng, picked up a scarf to wrap him well, and then pushed him out of the living room.

The Xi Family.

"Jiang Boya! She isn't that child, is she? Jiang Boya, please tell me!"

With the sudden appearance of Fang Su, Jiang Hongfa, Jiang Boya, and Kang Li's mother were all trapped at the gate of the Xi Family courtyard.

"Auntie Fang, what are you doing?"

Xu Dan was displeased: "Our guests are trying to go home, please make way."

"Jiang Boya..."

Fang Su ignored Xu Dan, her eyes reddened, staring straight at Jiang Boya: "She isn't that child, right?" The "she" undoubtedly referred to Kang Li.

Old Master Xi only felt that Fang Su was shameless and undignified.

Even if she had a past relationship with Jiang Boya, times have changed and Fang Su married someone else years ago, living her life. Why bring up the past?

Does she not care about the face and feelings of her current husband at all?

Moreover, as for Kang Li, Fang Su abandoned her right after she was born. Where does she have the face now to confirm Kang Li's identity in front of Jiang Boya?

Okay, Elder Xi heard about Kang Li's background from Jiang Hongfa, as they hadn't seen each other for years and naturally chatted about past events.

Undoubtedly, Jiang Hongfa mentioned in casual conversation that Kang Li was the child Jiang Boya had before he went abroad and the result of his brief relationship with Fang Su. Later, it was found out she was abandoned by Fang Su right after birth but was luckily taken home by kind adoptive parents who raised her as their daughter.

Therefore, Elder Xi might not know all about Fang Su's past, but just from what Jiang Hongfa described, he didn't have a single good impression of Fang Su.

"Where's her face?"

Elder Xi frowned: "I think I heard Xiao Feng's voice." Needless to say, Elder Xi was referring to Old Master Feng.

Firstly, Elder Xi was older than Old Master Feng, and secondly, Elder Xi held a higher status than Old Master Feng.

Referring to him as Xiao Feng was normal.

"Uncle Feng must have heard something and came to our place, and it was thanks to Uncle Feng speaking up, otherwise Brother Boya would have had a hard time getting away."

There was no emotion in Xi Guobang's voice, and now, Xu Dan said: "Lili is not like her at all, in my opinion, she's not fit to be Lili's mother."

After a short pause, Xu Dan continued: "Years ago, I heard a lot of gossip about her in the courtyard. At that time, I didn't have a good impression of her and thought she wasn't fit to be a mother. Unexpectedly, today she opened my eyes, her face is as thick as a city wall."

Seeing how seriously everyone in the family was listening, Xu Dan coughed twice and told the story of how Feng Yi was driven out of the house by Fang Su's urging, and finally, she sneered:

"Being a stepmother is hard, but she treats her own son like grass, and practically worships the children of her husband's previous marriage.

If I were that child, I wouldn't come back after leaving that house, even if I had to eat bread and water outside, I wouldn't return to such a heartless home."

Xi Chenyu gave a word to Xi Jingyu, and Xi Chenyu looked at his second brother with raised eyebrows.

"You... you brat, you've gone too far!"

Xi Jingyu gritted his teeth in anger.

"Childish!"

Xi Chenyu flung these two words at his foolish second brother.

"Brat, how am I childish? At school, I'm very aloof!" Lifting his chin, Xi Jingyu wore a proud expression: "Walking in our school, no one doesn't praise me for being steady and introverted, full of cool style."

Unexpectedly, Xi Chenyu continued to fling the same two words at him: "Childish!"

"Fine, I'm childish, I'm stupid, but are you as clever as Guoguo? Are you as smart as Bun and Tangyuan?"
Come on, let's hurt each other!

Xi Jingyu's eyes gleamed with a touch of pride.

Elder Xi and Xi Guobang both watched both brothers Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu bickering with amusement and helplessness.

Such a scene was rare in the house, and seeing it, the three found it quite entertaining, so no one said to stop them.

"I may not be as clever as Little Sister Guoguo or my two younger brothers Bun and Tangyuan, but I will try my best to become excellent enough, not getting jealous of their intelligence or being disingenuous!"

Listening to what Xi Chenyu said, especially the latter part, Xi Jingyu felt personally attacked.

Jealous?

Being disingenuous?

The brat was saying he was jealous of Luo Minghan and acting disingenuous, that... that was too much! Xi Jingyu took a deep breath, clenched his fist, and shook it in front of Xi Chenyu's eyes, speaking word by word, "Brat, listen to me clearly, when I said 'deep into enemy territory,' it was just a metaphor, and finding out his little secrets was only a figure of speech. I am not the kind of person who employs unfair means to compete with classmates in academics. Also, you need to understand, I truly want to be friends with Luo Minghan, and it's not some pretentious act! I'm not jealous of Luo Minghan being smarter than me, got it?"

Xi Chenyu heard that and answered with a nonchalant "oh."

Xi Jingyu's eyes widened.

Is that it?

Chapter 1542: Authentic and True

Seeing Jiang Boya start the car to leave, Fang Su rushed forward trying to grab the car door handle.

At this moment, Old Master Feng was pushed over by the caregiver Xiao Li. His face darkened, and he shouted angrily, "Enough! If you want to go crazy, do it at home. Stop embarrassing yourself here!"

Hearing Old Master Feng's voice, Fang Su seemed to be frozen in place as if struck by a spell.

"Uncle Feng."

Xi Guobang greeted Old Master Feng.

Out of courtesy, Xu Dan also called out to Old Master Feng, and even the two younger ones, Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu, greeted him out of politeness. Then, Xi Guobang said, "Uncle Feng, why not come to my place for a visit?"

"Some other time."

Old Master Feng said, signaling caregiver Xiao Li to push him back home. As they left, he didn't forget to urge Fang Su, "Standing there motionless, do you feel it's not disgraceful enough?"

His cold and angry voice brought Fang Su back to her senses. Thinking about what she said and did just moments before, her face turned pale. Without waiting for Old Master Feng to urge her again, she lowered her head and briskly walked in the direction of the Feng family.

In the Xi family living room.

"What happened?"

Old Master Xi was still recovering and hadn't gone out to see off Jiang Hongfa and his group. Seeing Xi Guobang and his wife walk into the living room, he couldn't help but ask.

Although there was some distance from the gate to the living room, Old Master Xi's hearing was still decent, and he vaguely heard a woman's crazy voice.

"Uncle Jiang and Brother Boya were blocked at our gate by that person."

Through Xi Guobang's simple sentence, Old Master Xi understood the situation clearly: Fang Su didn't believe what she heard before, so she came to the Xi family to seek confirmation from Jiang Boya.

Speaking of which, Jiang Boya, Kang Li, and Bun returned to the Xi family together. Seeing their unpleasant expressions, Jiang Hongfa casually asked what had happened. Thinking there was no need to hide it, Jiang Boya recounted the incident with Fang Su.

After hearing it, Jiang Hongfa's expression naturally wasn't good.

Old Master Xi only felt that Fang Su was a woman of thick skin and lacking propriety.

Even if she had a relationship with Jiang Boya years ago, things have long since passed, and Fang Su has been married to someone else for years. She clearly has her own life, so why bring up old matters?

Doesn't she care at all about her current husband's dignity and feelings?

Not to mention, regarding her daughter Kang Li, Fang Su abandoned her right after birth. So where does she get the face to confirm Kang Li's identity in front of Jiang Boya now?

Well, about Kang Li's background, Old Master Xi had heard from Jiang Hongfa. After all, as old friends who hadn't met in years, their meeting was bound to involve discussing the happenings of the past years.

Without a doubt, during casual conversation, Jiang Hongfa mentioned that Kang Li was a child from Jiang Boya's past relationship with Fang Su before being taken abroad and that he later found out Kang Li was abandoned by Fang Su at birth, only to be picked up by kind adoptive parents who raised her as their own beloved daughter.

Therefore, even though Old Master Xi didn't know all the details of Fang Su's past actions, just from what he heard from Jiang Hongfa, he couldn't have a good impression of Fang Su at all.

"What about her face?"

Old Master Xi frowned, "I think I heard Xiao Feng's voice." No need to elaborate, Old Master Xi was referring to Old Master Feng when he mentioned Xiao Feng.

For one, Old Master Xi was older than Old Master Feng, and his status was higher than Old Master Feng's.

Calling him Xiao Feng was normal.

"Uncle Feng must have heard from someone and rushed over to our place. Thankfully, Uncle Feng spoke up and reproached her. Otherwise, Brother Boya would have had a hard time getting away."

The tone of Xi Guobang's voice revealed no emotion. At this point, Xu Dan said, "Lili is nothing like her. In my opinion, someone like her doesn't deserve to have given birth to Lili."

Pausing for a moment, Xu Dan continued, "Years ago, I heard a lot of gossip about her in the compound. I didn't have a good impression of her back then, felt she was unfit to be a mother. And today, she opened my eyes even more; her skin is as thick as a city wall."

Seeing the family listening intently, Xu Dan cleared her throat twice and recounted how Feng Yi was driven out of the house by Fang Su, finally sneering:

"Being a stepmother is difficult, but as a stepmother, she treats her biological son like dirt while pouring her heart and soul into the children born to her husband from a previous marriage, as if she wants to elevate them.

If I were that child, I would never return after leaving that house, no matter how rough life might be outside, even eating chaff and swallowing vegetables, I wouldn't go back to such an unfeeling home."

Chapter 1543: Authentically Local 2

"Mom, didn't they go out looking for someone?"

Xi Jingyu asked.

"They only searched for a day, just to put on a show for everyone in the courtyard!" Xu Dan thought of the gossip surrounding Fang Su, a hint of disgust reflected in her eyes. She said, "She's probably trying to get benefits from Uncle Jiang's family, maybe even hoping to become Mrs. Jiang, that's why she caused such a big ruckus today."

Xi Guobang: "Don't talk nonsense."

Xu Dan: "Am I talking nonsense? It's not hard to see from her actions today. Besides, people like her are never content with mediocrity. Now that Uncle Feng has stepped down, she's lost her former glory, can she really stay at the Feng family in peace? Especially since Big Brother Jiang not only looks young, but the key is he has money. She'll be looking to make trouble for Big Brother Kang and Lili in the future for sure!"

"She can try to make trouble, but it'll depend on whether Big Brother Jiang and Comrade Kang rise to the occasion." Xi Guobang said, and asked Elder Xi, "Dad, what do you think?"

"A woman who doesn't know what's what, what kind of waves can she stir up?!"

Elder Xi said calmly, "Not to mention your Uncle Jiang's capabilities, even your Brother Boya is no ordinary person, otherwise, he wouldn't have built up a massive Jiang Corporation abroad, and achieved impressive results in just a few years domestically. Facing such a capable person,

if anyone dares to make reckless trouble, the one who suffers will definitely be herself! Besides, don't underestimate Lili for her delicate and gentle appearance, as a university professor with a scholarly air, she's actually quite formidable too!"

Xi Jingyu, full of curiosity: "Grandpa, keep talking, how is Aunt Kang so formidable?"

"Grown-up matters, kids should ask less."

Xi Guobang swatted the back of his son's head: "Go to your room to study. You've started middle school, always coming in second on exams, how promising!"

"Dad! You shouldn't hit people's faces, and not expose their shortcomings, you'll lose me as your son like this!"

Covering his chest, Xi Jingyu felt defeated by his own dad. He wore a sorrowful expression: "I really work hard at studying, but Ming Han is simply a phenomenon, always topping me in exams, I'm already quite troubled, and now you're saying this, Dad, I feel life is so hard!"

Xi Guobang raised his brow: "The kid that came to visit with Aunt Kang today is your grade's top student?"

"Yes, it's him, his name is Luo Minghan. He doesn't seem particularly studious daily, but always scores first in exams. Today I've already become friends with him, planning to infiltrate the enemy camp, understand him closely, see if he has any study secrets. Once I grasp his secrets, ha! Watch me take the grade top spot!"

Xi Jingyu spoke with more and more excitement, only to notice his less than six-year-old brother giving him a look as if he were an idiot. Instantly, Xi Jingyu stared: "Xi Chenyu! What did your look mean just now?"

"Dumb!"

Xi Chenyu simply uttered a word as he looked at his second brother.

"You... little brat, you're being excessive!"

Xi Jingyu gritted his teeth in anger.

"Childish!"

Xi Chenyu offered two more words to his foolish brother.

"Little brat, how am I childish? At school, I am very cool!" With a raised chin, Xi Jingyu maintained a proud demeanor: "Walking around our school, there's no one who doesn't praise me for being stable and reserved, with a full-on cool vibe."

Unexpectedly, Xi Chenyu continued to give him the same two words: "Childish!"

"Alright, I'm childish, I'm dumb, you're very smart, but are you as smart as Little Sister Guoguo? Or smarter than Bun and Tangyuan?" Come on, let's harm each other!

Xi Jingyu's eyes hinted at a touch of smugness.

Elder Xi and the couple Xi Guobang watched the brothers Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu spar with amusement and helplessness.

Such scenes were rarely seen at home; having witnessed it, the three found it utterly entertaining, none thought to intervene.

"I'm not as smart as little sister Guoguo and brothers Bun and Tangyuan, but I will make myself better, not get jealous of smart siblings like Bun and Tangyuan, or little sister Guoguo, and not act petty!"

Upon hearing what Xi Chenyu said, especially the latter part, Xi Jingyu felt subtly insinuated.

Jealous?

Acting petty?

Did the little brat imply he's jealous of Luo Minghan, and is acting petty? This... this was too much! Xi Jingyu took a deep breath, clenched his fist and shook it before Xi Chenyu's eyes, declaring, word by word: "Little brat you listen up clearly, when I said 'infiltrate the enemy camp,' it's just a metaphor, and investigating the enemy's little secrets,

Chapter 1544: Authentic

It's just an analogy, I'm not a petty person using improper methods to compete with classmates academically. Also, listen carefully, I'm genuinely friends with Ming Han, not fake! I'm not jealous of Ming Han being smarter than me, got it?"

Xi Chenyu heard this, and casually said, "Oh."

Xi Jingyu's eyes widened.

Is that all?

He said so much, yet the little rascal in front of him just responded with an "Oh," is there any greater way to bully someone?

"Grandpa! Dad! Mom! Are you just going to keep watching? Xi Chenyu is bullying me, the second brother!"

Xi Jingyu pulled a long face, portraying himself as incredibly wronged and pitiable.

Eye roll, Xi Guobang and Elder Xi gave Xi Jingyu two words: "Grow up!"

Xu Dan couldn't help but laugh out loud: "Xi Jingyu, you brag about being calm and reserved, full of cool vibe, but I think you are just our family's little treasure, haha..."

If Ming Han heard Xu Dan's comment, he would surely pat Xi Jingyu's shoulder and say, "We're truly good friends and brothers," both being the family's little treasures.

"Mom~"

Xi Jingyu's face was hot.

"Oh my, already starting to act coquettish!" Xu Dan laughed again and said to Xi Chenyu, "Little Yu, just indulge your second brother from now on, otherwise mom would think she gave birth to a second sister!"

Hearing this, Xi Jingyu felt embarrassed, snorted and said, "Mom, you just tease me. Look at how happy grandpa and dad are; I'm going upstairs to read. Laugh as you want!"

Before heading up the stairs, Xi Jingyu glanced at his brother: "Xi Chenyu, remember, I'm your second brother, not the second sister mom talks about!"

"..."

Xi Chenyu met Xi Jingyu's gaze, eyes once again looking like he's staring at an idiot. Seeing this, Xi Jingyu was so angry he felt chill. He took a deep breath to avoid losing his temper, preventing further torment from his genius brother!

After calming down, he tossed his head and swaggered upstairs, back full of pride, "thud, thud, thud" up to the second floor.

Feng family.

Since Old Master Feng couldn't move his leg, both his study and bedroom were moved to the ground floor. He was in the study, with a dark face, staring at Fang Su for a long time before speaking: "Go on, what's going on?"

Fang Su's nerves tightened the moment she stepped into the study, not daring to meet Old Master Feng's gaze.

"Look at me and speak."

Old Master Feng's voice was calm yet authoritative, forcing Fang Su to shift her gaze toward him.

"What do you want me to say?"

Fang Su feigned ignorance.

"I called you back; do you think I know nothing?" Old Master Feng suppressed his anger, giving Fang Su a chance to clarify things on her own.

But Fang Su didn't appreciate it: "Since you know, is there still a need to ask me, or are you trying to humiliate me?"

"Are you done with me?"

Old Master Feng's expression turned, "You think because my leg can't move and I've stepped down from my position, you're not the glamorous Madam Feng anymore, and you're looking to ditch me to be with Mr. Jiang, maybe even rekindle old feelings and become the glamorous Mrs. Jiang, right?"

Having her thoughts exposed made Fang Su's face hard to maintain, but she remained silent, which to Old Master Feng was her conceding to everything he said.

Holding back his anger, Old Master Feng tried to keep his tone calm, saying: "You are thinking well, but do you think Mr. Jiang will give you this chance? Or do you really believe I know nothing about your past?"

"You... what do you mean by that?"

Fang Su's eyes widened, body tense, staring straight at Old Master Feng, worried he knew her past.

Because if he did, it would prove he indeed knows she lied years ago.

"I saved you by the river; that was an accident, but what you told me... was a mix of truth and lies. However, since I decided to marry you, I naturally wouldn't mind these things.

Even later when you suddenly adopted a daughter and concocted that story for me, I didn't care much. Over these years, I have tolerated you enough, yet you don't give me any face, trampling my dignity in our compound. Do you think I'm already dead?"

Chapter 1545: Down-to-Earth

For Fang Su, it's absolutely false to say Old Master Feng didn't have genuine feelings, after all, they had shared a bed for years. Even if he still missed his late wife, it wouldn't be possible not to develop some feelings for Fang Su, especially since she was young, beautiful, and tried to please him wholeheartedly, being kind to the children his previous wife left behind. This undoubtedly touched Old Master Feng.

Similarly, Old Master Feng believed that after years together, the woman by his side, Fang Su, should have had genuine feelings for him too. But today, what he had heard and seen forced him to doubt his assumptions.

This woman, his wife of many years, actually wanted to abandon him and be with another man.

And that man was her lover before she met him, the first man in her life. Honestly, he was both angry and jealous.

His anger stemmed from Fang Su being too indiscreet, not caring about his reputation, tangling with her former lover at the entrance of the Xi Family courtyard. The worst part was that the man didn't want anything to do with her, even pushing her away, yet she persistently tried to hold him, wanting him to look at her.

His jealousy wasn't that simple envy between young couples. It was more that he felt he had misplaced his feelings for this woman, and as a man, his dignity had been brutally trampled on by her.

No matter how angry or jealous he felt, he couldn't simply sever ties and let her go, fulfilling her "devotion."

The reason?

For now, he couldn't afford to lose face!

--- Once their marriage fell apart, it would prove to everyone in the courtyard that he'd been cuckolded.

Even if the cuckoldry wasn't fully confirmed yet, he couldn't control what others said. People might already be gossiping about the couple.

Thinking about this, Old Master Feng couldn't help but feel suffocated inside.

He didn't know why, but constantly, the Feng family had been providing the courtyard with gossip for years.

With eyes half-closed, he thought and thought until clarity suddenly hit him like a bolt from the blue.

Feng Lu and Fang Su, one his daughter, the other his wife. These two women... it was because of them that the Feng family became the center of gossip, causing him to lose face repeatedly, until today, his reputation was completely ruined.

"I... I didn't do it, stop making baseless accusations!" Fang Su defended herself: "Today... today my mind just got muddled. That's all. I didn't think properly; my head was spinning, and I lost my composure."

She wanted to leave the old man behind, wanted to rekindle her romance with Jiang Boya, wanted to become Mrs. Jiang. But how could she not see that Jiang Boya no longer felt the same way about her as he did years ago?

Given this, what use was there in her pondering more?

Jiang Boya wouldn't want her!

Besides, although the old man in front of her had stepped down from his position, he cared about his face. Even if she asked for a divorce, considering his own reputation, would he agree?

Fang Su's mood at the moment was not much better than Old Master Feng's. However... thinking of Kang Li, the child who had crawled out of her belly, and realizing that Jiang Boya recognized Kang Li as his daughter, she felt there might still be a chance to reconnect with Jiang Boya.

Secretly plotting in her mind, Fang Su's mood unknowingly improved, which clearly reflected in her change of expression.

Old Master Feng had eyes. He noticed the change in Fang Su and could imagine just how disappointed he felt.

"Don't dream. Given Mr. Jiang's status, even if you prepared yourself, he wouldn't be interested in you. Besides, as for a divorce with me, that's impossible unless you're dead. But even then, you'll still be considered part of the Feng family."

Without needing further thought, Old Master Feng's words were purely intended to discourage Fang Su, said deliberately that way.

Fang Su felt as if a pail of cold water was suddenly thrown on her, drenched to the bone; she looked uncomfortable: "Did you have to put it so harshly?"

"I was harsh? Xiao Fang, I'm just making you see reality!"

Old Master Feng was at peace now that his mind was clear, and he said calmly: "I've only seen Mr. Jiang once, but standing before him, anyone would see you as two generations apart.

Moreover, you abandoned his child back then; are you sure Mr. Jiang wouldn't mind? Also, you casually recognized a daughter, trying to gain benefits from her presence; what ultimately happened? Have you forgotten?"

At this point, Old Master Feng sighed deeply and continued: "Xiao Fang, one shouldn't be too greedy. When you abandoned that child back then, it was destined that you and Mr. Jiang would never reconcile again.

Moreover, you later tried to deceive him by substituting one for another. Unless Mr. Jiang were a saint who wouldn't care about your past deeds, otherwise, I advise you not to embarrass yourself like that."

"You're despicable!"

Fang Su's face turned sullen: "You secretly investigated me back then, and knowing I lied to you, why did you marry me? Despicable, you're truly despicable!"

"I believe what you say, but when one wants to get married, they must submit a report. During this period, what you've done and your background would be reviewed by dedicated personnel. If it weren't for me erasing your dubious deeds, do you think you could marry me having abandoned your own child?"

Facing Fang Su's accusation, Old Master Feng remained calm.

His status back then wasn't low. He could certainly marry a clean and respectable young lady without difficulty, even if he'd been married once before, even if he was somewhat old, with four children. None of these were considered disadvantages for him.

Unexpectedly, the twist came with Fang Su. He had unexpectedly rescued her by the riverbank and honestly, he was initially attracted by her looks. Then, noticing her growing fondness for him, it wasn't long before they officially entered into a romantic relationship, eventually becoming husband and wife.

Looking back now, it seems he was indeed "blinded by lust" at that time.

"Enough, stop bringing up old issues here." Fang Su, at a loss, showed impatience: "Since you know who my daughter is, I have no reason not to recognize her. I don't want you interfering in this matter."

Old Master Feng: "I can stay out of it, but if you disgrace the Feng family, don't blame me for being heartless towards you! Also, I feel I must advise you one more time—although that child is biologically yours, there's no mother-daughter bond between you two. If you don't want a hard time dealing with her, your best behavior is recommended when facing her."

Fang Su: "Her life was given by me!"

Old Master Feng: "When you abandoned her, she had already returned that life to you!"

"But she's well and alive now."

Isn't there no such thing as an unworthy parent? Back then, she may have abandoned that short-lived unprofitable child, but since that child hadn't died, isn't it impossible not to recognize her as a mother today?

"I've said all I needed to. If you wish to bring trouble upon yourself, feel free to."

Shameless!

Old Master Feng almost wanted to blind his own eyes for having brought such a woman home. Simultaneously, he thought of Feng Yi, and suddenly his heart was filled with guilt.

Chapter 1546

The Feng family.

"I really didn't expect that at your age you'd actually pick up eavesdropping. If I'd been discussing work with someone, do you have any idea what kind of mistake you'd have made?"

As soon as Fang Su stepped into the living room, Old Master Feng's accusing voice came at her head-on. Her expression shifted slightly; she lifted her eyes to meet his oppressive gaze and said, "Old Feng, aren't you laying it on a bit too thick?"

I only happened to overhear your conversation with Little Wei—how does that count as eavesdropping? And I didn't even do anything today, I just went to Third Hospital wanting to see Lu Lu,

but for some reason Little Wei stopped me from seeing her. Now you tell me: what exactly is so wrong with me going to see Lu Lu?"

Sitting down on the sofa, Fang Su casually tossed her bag beside her, face full of displeasure. "You and Little Wei are hiding something from me, aren't you? And it has to do with Lu Lu. But I really can't figure it out. I'm part of this family, and you could even say I practically raised Lu Lu with my own hands. Just what kind of matter is it that you two, father and son, have to keep it from me?"

"We have our reasons for not telling you. You just need to remember this: you're not to interfere in anything related to Lu Lu. And as for Third Hospital, you'd best stop going there as well."

At this moment Old Master Feng's thinking was exactly the same as Feng Wei's: they didn't want Feng Lu to be influenced by Fang Su any further.

"You..."

Hearing Old Master Feng's words, Fang Su was so angry her teeth were grinding, yet she didn't know what to say. Deep down she understood very clearly that Feng Wei had gotten at least one thing right: she was merely their stepmother, not their biological mother. Some things, no matter how well-intentioned she might be, she had no standing to get involved in.

Besides... besides, she'd gone to Third Hospital to visit Feng Lu with her own agenda, not purely out of concern.

Old Master Feng had no idea what Fang Su was thinking. He wheeled himself toward the study, clearly not wanting to stay in the same space with her.

As soon as Old Master Feng left, Fang Su's face instantly darkened.

Given how things stood, it would be very hard for her to see Feng Lu in the short term. Even if she made several more trips to Third Hospital, it would probably be for nothing.

After all, Feng Wei had connections at Third Hospital, and with a direct family member like him instructing the hospital, she, as a stepmother, would inevitably be excluded from the list of family allowed to visit Feng Lu.

With this in mind, Fang Su decided she should first try to meet with Jiang Boya and Kang Li.

Unexpectedly, over the following week, she appeared twice outside the Jiang family old house; not only did she fail to see Jiang Boya, she didn't even get one step past the gate of the Jiang family old house.

The reason Fang Su managed to find the Jiang family old house was that she'd heard in recent years many people had gradually received assets returned by the state. On that basis, she figured the Jiang Family might also be among those whose assets were returned. If that were the case, the odds of Jiang Boya living in the Jiang family old house would be quite high.

Who knew the reality would turn out exactly as she'd thought; this delighted Fang Su. No one understood better than she did just how vast the grounds of the Jiang family old house were. Especially when she saw that the Jiang family old house had clearly been refurbished, in that moment Fang Su couldn't help but recall what it had been like living there as a girl.

Though she'd been born a maid, her parents—one was the master's trusted confidant and the household's butler, the other served in the madam's courtyard as the Housekeeper Madam—could be described as the madam's trusted people.

Because of this, even as a maid she had a certain amount of standing in the household. Whether it was the young male servants or the maids and matrons, whenever they saw her they would address her as "Maid Sumei."

All in all, Fang Su felt that her days at the Jiang Residence had been better than those of young ladies from ordinary merchant families.

Yet now, after so many years, she couldn't even step through the gate of the Jiang family old house.

In a foul mood, Fang Su thought of her father, Fang Huai.

Since the masters had returned to the country, the servants who waited on them would certainly have come back with them. But to Fang Su's disappointment, when she finally managed to catch someone coming out of the Jiang family old house and went up to ask, the answer she got was that there was no butler surnamed Fang in the residence.

Fang Su thought that was impossible and tried to ask a few more questions, but the person simply ignored her and went off to mind his own business.

And so, from Fang Su's point of view, the two times she'd shown up at the gate of the Jiang family old house had all been for nothing.

Yet for Fang Su to just give up on meeting Jiang Boya—that was something she simply couldn't do.

"Jiang Boya! Jiang Boya..."

Several days after her second appearance at the gate of the Jiang family old house, Fang Su showed up once again. She saw a black sedan slowly driving out from the Jiang family old house, and without thinking further, she hurried forward, trying to stop the car.

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She appeared so abruptly, blocking the car, forcing the driver to stop.

Seeing this, Fang Su hurried to the rear car door, she tapped the window, repeatedly calling Jiang Boya.

The car window slowly went down, and when Fang Su saw clearly who was sitting inside, her face instantly turned pale.

"Have you forgotten what you've done before?"

This was Jiang Hongfa's voice. Indeed, inside the car wasn't Jiang Boya, but Jiang Hongfa. His face showed no expression, his eyes calm, without a hint of emotion, yet it gave a sense of an all-knowing pressure.

"Master... Master..."

Fang Su uncontrollably called out "Master." She dared not look into Jiang Hongfa's eyes, wanting to flee quickly, but her legs wouldn't listen, leaving her standing there frozen.

"If you have any shame, don't appear before my son and granddaughter." Jiang Hongfa's expression remained unchanged, as he withdrew his gaze from Fang Su and instructed the driver, "Drive."

The driver responded, got out of the car, and asked Fang Su to step away from the vehicle. Hearing this, Fang Su backed up two steps.

Getting back to the driver's seat, the driver closed the door, started the car, and in the blink of an eye, drove away under Fang Su's dazed gaze.

Time passed without knowing how long, and Fang Su found herself hazily boarding the bus, and then hazily arriving outside the research institute courtyard gate.

Unable to meet Jiang Boya, she could only think of trying to approach Kang Li, hoping to contact Jiang Boya through him.

"Hello, who are you looking for?"

Hearing the phone ring, Kang Li picked up the receiver, and shortly after, she said, "I don't know. Yes, I don't know the woman you mentioned... I have only one mom, there's no such thing as a biological mother or foster mother, uh, that's it, goodbye."

Hanging up the phone, Kang Li naturally told Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen without hiding, "A lunatic called me, claiming she's my biological mother and wants to meet me."

"Is she really your biological mother?"

Cai Xiufen asked Kang Li.

"Mom, you heard, I only have you as my mom. There's no such thing as a biological mom or foster mom."

Kang Li repeated to her mother what she said to the guard at the courtyard gate, and then she revealed the matters between Fang Su and Jiang Boya, as well as the Feng family's affairs, which unconsciously left Cai Xiufen and Captain Kang stunned.

Regaining her senses, Cai Xiufen confirmed, "Is Feng Yi's mom the woman who gave birth to you?"

Kang Li replied with a "Hm."

Cai Xiufen looked astonished, "How can there be such a coincidence?!"

"Quite unbelievable, right?" Kang Li said breezily, with a smile, "I also find it very unbelievable. I casually acknowledged a younger brother, and his mom turns out to be the woman who gave birth to me, and this woman is also the stepmother of Ruirui's biological mom. This isn't just a coincidence, it's utterly absurd in my view."

Captain Kang asked, "Are you sure you don't want to meet her?"

"Dad, what would I see her for?" An unrelated woman, does she need to be seen? Moreover, she knows what she's here for, and since she knows, there's even less reason to meet.

Kang Li curled her lips, with sarcasm in her voice, "She wants to meet me just to get close to my dad through me. But she knows she's a married woman, and still wants to have something with my dad. Dad, to speak bluntly, such a woman is disgraceful."

"If Li Bao says not to meet, then don't meet. Although that woman gave birth to our Li Bao, she abandoned her. Though it happened years ago, what she did back then was heinous, and I don't want our Li Bao to have any connection with her!"

If it weren't for Cai Xiu having a baby in the health clinic at that time, and just happened to use the bathroom, who knows if her precious daughter Li Bao would be dead or alive!

Thinking of the sight when she first found Kang Li, Cai Xiufen couldn't help but feel heartache.

Casually wrapped, discarded in the garbage can at the corner of the toilet wall, scrawny and small, crying weaker than a newborn kitten. Once Cai Xiufen held her, Li Bao gripped the front of her clothing with her tiny hands, making her eyes turn sour.

Later, when she brought her home and carefully nurtured her for a long time, her precious Li Bao seemed to recover and only then seemed like a normal baby, able to eat and drink.

Yet still, she was as weak as a little chick.

In any case, the suffering her Li Bao endured before was all caused by that woman. Now that Li Bao doesn't recognize that woman, in her opinion, that's just right!

"Then don't bother with her."

Captain Kang firmly stood in line with his wife and daughter. Moreover, a woman who could ruthlessly abandon her own child, after so many years, what face does she have to come before the child she once abandoned?

"This will definitely work out."

Kang Li nodded with a smile, then changed the subject: "The New Year is approaching, my third and fourth brother's families will probably set off for North City in four or five days. I'll take Ruirui and the others to the courtyard house to clean it again, so my third brother's family can move in as soon as they arrive."

"Your sister-in-law is diligent; she cleans every room every two or three days, no need for you to trouble yourself."

Kang Li originally planned to go back to the hometown with her parents for the New Year, but Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen decided against it because Luo Yanqing couldn't go back, and considering Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya were in North City. After all, they only had one daughter, Kang Li, and couldn't divide her in half — one part going with them to the hometown, the other staying in North City. It's simply impossible.

Moreover, the grandchildren hadn't been to North City, so it was a good opportunity for them to come and celebrate the New Year, allowing the whole family to have a lively reunion in North City.

"The hotpot restaurant is busy lately, I'm afraid my sister-in-law won't have time to tidy up. I'll go to the courtyard house to check, and clean as needed, so my sister-in-law doesn't have to worry about both the restaurant and the house."

Hearing Kang Li's words, Captain Kang spoke up, "Then we'll all go over there, and your mother and I might as well stay there."

"I have no objection."

Kang Li nodded with a smile, not having any disagreement with Captain Kang's suggestion.

Feng Wei's words were akin to tearing off Fang Su's cover of modesty. Her face changed repeatedly, unbelieving, she said, "Are you saying that Lu Lu ended up like this because of me?"

Without directly answering Fang Su, Feng Wei said, "If I remember correctly, Auntie Fang once told Lu Lu that there's nothing wrong with liking a boy. If you like him, you should actively pursue him. She even said something like pursuing a boy is like a curtain of gauze. With your encouragement, Lu Lu chased Xiao Shen obsessively like she was bewitched. Without this, would she have caused the series of events that followed?"

"You're just deflecting your anger!"

Fang Su accused Feng Wei.

Pursuing a boy like a curtain of gauze, what's wrong with that?

If you like a boy, you should pursue him actively; is that wrong?

As for Feng Lu not being able to control herself and sticking to Xiao Shen like glue, that's because she's not very bright in the head, why put the blame on her?

"Say whatever you want."

Feng Wei returned to his usual calm: "I called home before coming here, my dad is waiting for you at home, Auntie Fang."

"That's too much!"

Fang Su grabbed her bag tightly, seething with anger, and after a moment she turned and left Wu Hao's office.

Feng Wei watched her walk away, and when Wu Hao returned to the office, he said, "She'll probably come back. I'll say one thing: don't let her meet Lu Lu."

Wu Hao pondered, "But she is your stepmother."

"Do you really need to point that out?" Feng Wei glanced at Wu Hao, "Lu Lu is too influenced by her. Until Lu Lu figures everything out, I must prevent them from meeting."

Wu Hao was silent for a moment, then nodded, "Fine, I'll do as you say, and I'll make sure your stepmother can't get in contact with your sister."

"Thank you!"

Feng Wei sincerely thanked him.

"What kind of relationship do we have, saying thank you is too formal." Wu Hao shook his head, then said, "From my observations, I think your sister is a bit obsessive. It's not easy for her to figure things out."

"Let's leave it at that for now."

Why complicate life when it can be simple?

Feng Wei really couldn't understand why Feng Lu kept stirring things up again and again.

He also couldn't understand this woman, Fang Su.

At her age, she was still acting like a young girl, her heart restless, what's the point of telling people around her she's still young?

It's just absurd!

Besides... besides, she went to the Third Hospital to see Feng Lu with her own agenda, not purely out of concern.

Old Master Feng didn't know what Fang Su was thinking. At that moment, he wheeled himself to his study, clearly not wanting to stay with Fang Su.

As Old Master Feng left, Fang Su's face instantly turned gloomy.

Given the current situation, it would be very hard for her to meet Feng Lu anytime soon. Even if she went to the Third Hospital a few times, it would likely be in vain.

After all, Feng Wei had connections at the Third Hospital, and as he had instructed the hospital being a direct family member, she, as a stepmother, would inevitably be kept out of the family visitation list for Feng Lu.

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With this in mind, Fang Su decided to try to meet Jiang Boya and Kang Li by herself first.

Unexpectedly, in the following week, she appeared outside the Jiang family old house twice, but not to mention seeing Jiang Boya, she didn't even step into the main gate of the Jiang family old house.

Speaking of which, the reason Fang Su found the Jiang family old house was that she heard that in recent years, many people had received returned assets from the state one after another. Based on this, she thought that the Jiang family might also be on the list, in which case, Jiang Boya's chances of living in the Jiang family old house should be high.

Who knew the truth was indeed as she imagined, which made Fang Su overjoyed. No one knew better than her how large the Jiang family old house was, especially seeing that it had clearly been renovated. At that moment, Fang Su couldn't help but recall the scenes of her living in the Jiang family old house during her youth.

Though she was born a maid, her parents were both trusted confidants in the residence; her father was the steward, and her mother was the housekeeper madam, considered a confidant of the lady of the house.

Because of this, even though she was a maid, she had some prestige in the residence. Regardless of whether they were the young servants or maidservants, they would call her "Maid Sumei" when they saw her.

In short, Fang Su felt that her days in the Jiang Residence were better than those of ladies in ordinary merchant families.

However, many years later, she couldn't even step into the gate of the Jiang family old house.

Feeling very downcast, Fang Su thought of her father, Fang Huai.

Since the masters had returned to the country, the servants who served them would surely follow. However, the disappointing thing for Fang Su was that when she finally waited for someone to come out from the Jiang family old house and inquired, she received the response that there was no steward named Fang there.

Fang Su found it impossible and wanted to ask a few more questions, but the person simply ignored her and went on with their business.

In this way, appearing twice in front of the Jiang family old house gate was undoubtedly in vain for Fang Su.

However, for Fang Su to give up trying to meet Jiang Boya was very difficult.

"Jiang Boya! Jiang Boya..."

Several days after the second appearance at the Jiang family old house gate, Fang Su appeared once again. She saw a black sedan slowly driving out of the Jiang family old house. Without much thought, she hurriedly ran forward, intending to stop the car.

She appeared too abruptly, blocking the car, forcing the driver to stop.

Seeing this, Fang Su quickly walked to the rear car door, tapping on the window, repeatedly calling out Jiang Boya's name.

The window slowly rolled down, and when Fang Su saw clearly who was inside, her face instantly turned ashen.

"Have you forgotten what you did before?"

This was the voice of Jiang Hongfa. That's right, sitting in the car was not Jiang Boya, but Jiang Hongfa. There was no trace of anger or joy on his face; his gaze was calm without any emotional fluctuations, yet gave off an oppressive feeling of having seen through everything.

"Mas... Master..."

Fang Su uncontrollably called out the title "Master," not daring to meet Jiang Hongfa's eyes. She wanted to flee quickly, but her legs wouldn't cooperate, so she could only stand frozen in place.

"If you have any shame, do not appear in front of my son and granddaughter." Jiang Hongfa's expression remained unchanged. He withdrew his gaze from Fang Su and instructed the driver, "Drive."

The driver responded, got out of the car, and asked Fang Su to step away from the car. Hearing this, Fang Su took two steps back.

Sitting back in the driver's seat, the driver shut the car door, started the vehicle, and drove off while Fang Su stood there in a daze.

Time passed unknowingly, and Fang Su, in a befuddled state, got on the bus and found herself outside the research institute courtyard.

Unable to meet Jiang Boya, she could only try to approach Kang Li, thinking she might be able to contact Jiang Boya through him.

"Hello, who are you looking for?"

Hearing the landline phone ring, Kang Li picked up the handset. After a while, she said, "I don't know; no, I don't know the woman you're talking about... I have only one mother, there's no birth mother or adoptive mother. Okay, that's it, goodbye."

After hanging up the phone, Kang Li naturally said to both Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen without hiding anything, "A crazy woman called me, claiming she's my birth mother and wants to meet me."

"Is she really your birth mother?"

Cai Xiufen asked Kang Li.

"Mom, you heard it, I have only you as my mom, there's no such thing as a birth mother or adoptive mother."

Kang Li reiterated what she had said to the yard gate security officer in front of Cai Xiufen, then she talked about the situation between Fang Su and Jiang Boya, as well as issues related to the Feng family, leaving both Cai Xiufen and Captain Kang momentarily stunned.

Recovering, Cai Xiufen confirmed, "Feng Yi's mother is the woman who gave birth to you?"

Kang Li responded with a "yes."

Cai Xiufen was full of surprise, "How could it be such a coincidence?!"

"Pretty incredible, right?" Kang Li said nonchalantly with a smile. "I also find it quite unbelievable. I randomly recognized a brother, and it turns out his mother is the woman who gave birth to me. And this woman is also the stepmother of Ruirui's biological mother. It's not just a coincidence in my view; it's rather melodramatic."

Captain Kang asked, "Are you sure you don't want to meet her?"

"Dad, why should I meet her?" To meet an unrelated woman, does she need to? Besides, she wasn't unaware of the woman's purpose in seeking her out. Since she knew, there was even less reason to meet.

Kang Li curved her lips, her tone tinged with sarcasm, "Her intention in meeting me is nothing more than to use me as a link to connect with my dad. Yet, she knows she is a married woman and still wants entanglements with my dad. Dad, to put it bluntly, such a woman is disgraceful."

"If Li Bao says not to meet, then don't. Though the woman gave birth to our Li Bao, she abandoned Li Bao. Although it's been many years, what she did back then was cruel, and I don't want our Li Bao to have any ties with her at all!"

If it wasn't for me being at the health clinic giving birth and casually going to the toilet, who knows whether my precious daughter Li Bao would be dead or alive!

Thinking of the appearance of picking up Kang Li for the first time, Cai Xiufen couldn't help but feel a wave of heartache.

Carelessly wrapped up and tossed in the garbage bin at the corner of the toilet wall, tiny and frail, crying weaker than a newborn kitten. The moment she was held in Cai Xiufen's arms, she clung on tightly to the shirt on her chest, causing Cai Xiufen's eyes to well up.

Later, after bringing her home and nurturing her carefully for a good while, her Li Bao finally seemed to regain strength, like a normal baby who could eat and drink.

"Let's consider this matter resolved."

Kang Li smiled and nodded, then changed the topic, "The closer it gets to the New Year, my third brother and fourth brother's family should probably embark on their journey to North City in four or five days. I'll take Ruirui and the others over to the courtyard house to tidy up, so that when my third brother and his family arrive, they can move in directly."

"Your sister-in-law is quite diligent. Every two or three days, she will clean every room; there's no need for you to worry about it."

"The hotpot restaurant is busy these days. I'm afraid my sister-in-law won't have the time to clean. I'll go over to the courtyard house to see if there's anything in need of tidying, so she won't have to juggle between managing the hotpot restaurant and sprucing up the home."

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"This is impossible! Absolutely impossible, I don't believe it!"

With five minutes left before the afternoon shift, Zhou Yaqing was stopped at the laboratory door by two comrades from the security department. She was told that she was no longer a researcher at the institute, which she refused to believe, shaking her head and attempting to push past the two security comrades to enter the laboratory:

"Get out of the way, let me through. My surname is Zhou, I work in this lab. If you stop me from going in, do you believe I won't call Academician Luo to stand up for me?"

Upon hearing her words, one of the security comrades said with a stern face, "Comrade Zhou, we're not trying to block you, it's just that your job has been reassigned. We're simply doing our job, and we ask you not to cause a scene here and disrupt everyone's work!"

"You're lying to me! I've been working here without issues, so why would my job suddenly be reassigned?"

This can't be real. Zhou Yaqing's eyes reddened, and she shouted at the closed laboratory door, "Academician Luo! Academician Luo, come out. They won't let me in. Academician Luo, come out quickly, I'm Zhou Yaqing. Academician Luo, come out and tell them to let me in!"

However, there was no response from within the laboratory.

Zhou Yaqing was undeterred and continued to shout at the laboratory door, "Luo Yanqing! I'm Zhou Yaqing, tell me why the institute suddenly reassigned my job. Luo Yanqing, come out!"

"Comrade Zhou, if you continue to make a scene, we'll have to ask you to visit the security department!" The speaking comrade from before maintained a grim expression and stared at Zhou Yaqing, "We need you to leave here immediately!"

"Why should I leave? This is my workplace. I must go in today!" Zhou Yaqing shouted, using all her strength to storm into the laboratory. Seeing the two security comrades block her, she threatened, "If you dare touch me, I'll accuse you of harassment!"

At this moment, Director Song walked over, "Comrade Zhou Yaqing, what are you doing?"

"...Director!"

Hearing Director Song's voice, Zhou Yaqing almost instantly softened her unreasonable behavior. Tears welled up in her eyes as she turned to look at Director Song, "These two comrades say my job has been reassigned. Director, can you tell me what's going on? Since working here, I've never made any mistakes or applied to transfer jobs. Why am I suddenly being told I can't work here anymore?"

"Come with me to the office." Director Song didn't answer directly but said lightly, then turned to leave.

Seeing this, Zhou Yaqing stood bewildered for a moment, then glanced at the tightly closed laboratory door before following Director Song.

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"Your job reassignment is an arrangement made by the higher-ups."

Upon entering the office, Director Song waited for Zhou Yaqing to appear and then spoke.

"Why?"

Zhou Yaqing's eyes were filled with tears.

"Perhaps the new position is more suitable for Comrade Zhou Yaqing." Director Song's response was quite perfunctory.

"No! That's not true, Director, you're lying to me!"

Getting into this organization was a choice made by her family after careful consideration. Her grandma had repeatedly asked her uncle to help, and it was hard enough to get her in.

How could there be a better-suited position elsewhere now?

Zhou Yaqing didn't believe Director Song's words. She recalled recent events in her life, wondering if she had offended someone and was therefore sabotaged out of her current job.

But after thinking over and over, except for the lunch argument today in the cafeteria with that old woman Shen Yun, she hadn't done anything out of line recently.

Could it be... could it be that old woman Shen Yun playing dirty with her?

Her thoughts spun to this point, and Zhou Yaqing asked Director Song, "Director, is my job reassignment related to Teacher Shen?"

"Comrade Zhou Yaqing, I said your job reassignment was a decision made by the higher-ups, please do not speculate wildly."

Director Song's face was stern, "The procedures are all complete, you'd better take your documents and report to the HR department of your new unit by tomorrow noon."

"I don't want to report to the new unit!" Zhou Yaqing's emotions became agitated again, "I'm going to call my family right now!"

"Go ahead."

Director Song didn't stop Zhou Yaqing from using the landline.