

## Weak B 1551

### Chapter 1551 (Part 2)

Time ticked by, second by second.

With tears in her voice, Zhou Yaqing called home and poured out the whole story of her reassignment; she didn't know what her family said to her, but her emotions gradually calmed down.

After hanging up, she didn't speak to Director Song, just quietly sat down on the sofa to wait for her family to call back.

After about seven or eight minutes, the landline rang. Before Director Song could reach for the receiver, Zhou Yaqing stood up like a gust of wind and grabbed it first.

The call was indeed from the Zhou Family, but unfortunately it didn't bring good news to Zhou Yaqing. Before the person on the other end finished speaking, she burst into tears: "Grandma, go to Great-Uncle, as long as Great-Uncle says one word, my job placement will definitely be transferred back, Grandma... what? Great-Uncle says he can't help me... no, I don't believe it, Grandma, please beg Great-Uncle again..."

"Xiao Qing, Grandma did beg, but it's no use. Will you just listen, all right?"

Old Lady Zhou's heart ached when she heard her granddaughter crying, but she was truly powerless, and could only go on painstakingly persuading her: "Working at the institute is too hard. From the start,

Grandma never agreed with you going to be some researcher, it was your parents insisting that job was good. Now your job placement has been moved, and Grandma thinks that's not necessarily a bad thing."

With a sob in her voice, Zhou Yaqing asked, "Grandma, you really don't plan to ask Great-Uncle again for me?"

"It's not that I won't help; it's that your Great-Uncle refused to do this favor. Xiao Qing, you know this, Grandma and your Great-Uncle aren't from the same mother. All these years, if our family hadn't rarely troubled your Great-Uncle,

back when your parents wanted to shove you into the institute, having Grandma go beg your Great-Uncle in person, your Great-Uncle might not have agreed to that favor. Now your job placement's been moved, there must be reasons on your own side. I said a lot of good things about you on the phone to your Great-Uncle, asking him to help one last time, but his attitude was very clear—he said he couldn't help..."

Before Old Lady Zhou could finish on the other end of the line, the call was slammed down by Zhou Yaqing with a "bang".

"Director, for the sake of the fact that I'm about to leave our institute, can you tell me whether it was because of the fight I had with Teacher Shen at lunch that my job placement ended up being transferred?"

Zhou Yaqing overturned her previous suspicion. She didn't think Shen Yun, or even the Shen family, had that much pull, enough to get her job moved through higher-level leadership.

And the fact that she was being reassigned was already set in stone; most likely, it had something to do with the institute itself.

"Comrade Zhou Yaqing, I think you should understand that regarding what you're asking, I have the right to refuse to answer, and I have no obligation to answer you."

Director Song's face was as dark as water, all business.

"Got it. Even if you don't say it, I'm very clear now—my job placement being transferred is definitely related to what happened at noon."

Dig a little deeper, it was related to her little thoughts.

Luo Yanqing, a top talent at the institute, the youngest Academician, and, on top of that, good-looking, with a particularly compelling personal charisma.

Just one look—after entering the institute, entering Luo Yanqing's project team—just one look and she fell deeply in love with him. Even after knowing he had a family, she still didn't give up those hidden thoughts, and under the pretext of work, she made plenty of excuses to get close to him.

He must have been pretty annoyed with her, otherwise he wouldn't have ignored her outside of work matters.

In this moment, Zhou Yaqing really regretted getting into that fight with Shen Yun at lunch today.

Honestly, she didn't even need to think about it to know the impact was terrible.

And the institute most likely took advantage of this incident to transfer her out, so she wouldn't keep pestering Luo Yanqing.

Once she'd figured out the crux of the whole thing, Zhou Yaqing simply let the jar smash once and for all. She looked at Director Song: "Academician Luo is your godson-in-law, Director. This time I'm being transferred, and there's no way your personal bias isn't involved. As for what that bias is,

you know very well, Director Song. But I might as well tell you, even if I get reassigned, my feelings for Luo Yanqing aren't going to change. And I believe that utmost sincerity can split stone. Just you wait—one day, Luo Yanqing will no longer be your godson-in-law."

"..."

Director Song was stunned by how shameless she was. After a long silence, he spoke: "Having confidence is a good thing. I hope your dream comes true."

He really had never seen a girl this shameless... Well, actually, Shen Yun's level of shamelessness wasn't far behind this girl's. However, ever since Shen Yun remarried, at least on the surface she hadn't done anything outrageous in the institute.

Of course, what happened in the cafeteria during lunch was an unexpected incident.

But he could see clearly that Yanqing wasn't affected at all.

As for the request to be transferred away from Zhou Yaqing, it was probably to find some peace and quiet.

"You..."

Zhou Yaqing was choked by what Director Song said, and after a long time, she asked, "Aren't you worried about your goddaughter?"

"Comrade Zhou Yaqing, I didn't expect you to know my family members so well. Since that's the case, what do you think I should worry about? Is it that you're better looking than my goddaughter, or smarter, or does my godson-in-law pay more attention to you?"

With a calm gaze, Director Song said softly, "A word of advice, don't think too highly of yourself, or society will tell you that you're actually nothing!"

Upon hearing this, Zhou Yaqing's face turned livid: "Director Song, you've gone too far!"

"You can leave now."

Director Song didn't want to say more, and he retracted his gaze from Zhou Yaqing, busying himself with his own matters.

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Returning angrily to her dorm room, Zhou Yaqing packed her things and kicked the door on her way out to vent her dissatisfaction.

She didn't report directly to her new unit after leaving the research institute, but instead went straight home.

"Didn't go to report at the new unit?"

At the Zhou Family's house, only Old Lady Zhou was there at the moment. Upon seeing Zhou Yaqing enter the living room with her luggage, she blurted out the question.

"I don't want to talk right now."

Zhou Yanqing tossed her luggage in the living room and then sprawled on the sofa, completely without any regard for appearance.

"Child, why are you so hot-tempered?" Old Lady Zhou was a bit upset: "I've already told you over the phone, it's not that Grandma doesn't want to help you, it's just that I asked your granduncle and he doesn't want to speak up for you. Seeing you like this now, are you blaming this old lady?"

Under his gaze, Director Song couldn't help but cough lightly and chuckle, "Alright, alright, don't be mad. It's not your fault, it's those young women's superficiality."

They say beauty is a curse, and in his view, so is male charm.

Otherwise, why were all the young women in the office so fixated on him?

Especially those two who just had a fight, what were they thinking, not focusing on work and instead eyeing a married man?

"I'll talk to Xiao Li about it later."

Luo Yanqing casually said this to Director Song, and upon hearing it, Director Song froze for a moment and then looked nervous: "What are you going to tell Li Bao? Kid, I was just joking with you, don't go snitching on me to Li Bao, or I won't let you off!"

"Not only will I tell Xiao Li, but I'll also tell my daughter that you're unjust, casually blaming me." At the dining table, only Luo Yanqing and Director Song were seated, and he calmly looked at Director Song as he softly let the words slip from his lips.

Director Song immediately pulled a face: "Kid, don't be like this. Haven't you heard about forgiving others when possible?"

"Nope." Luo Yanqing blatantly lied, as if he didn't see Director Song's anxious look, and smiled: "I only know about 'June Flying Snow'."

"Yanqing, it's my fault, please don't be upset, okay? You see, the new year is approaching, why let today's small issue affect Li Bao and our little Guoguo's mood? Besides, how could you bear to discuss adult matters in front of Xiao Guoguo?"

Director Song gazed straight at Luo Yanqing, pleading: "You're a good child, don't hold it against your godfather, alright?"

"About what I said..."

Intentionally dragging out his words, Luo Yanqing leisurely looked at Director Song, and upon hearing this, Director Song immediately promised: "Don't worry, starting this afternoon, Researcher Zhou will not appear in front of you again."

After all, she's not some key talent, having been here less than half a year, with no ambition, only thinking about romance; the institute doesn't need such "talent"!

...

Director Song kept his word. Once he returned to the office from the cafeteria, he immediately made a call to the higher-ups.

"The situation is exactly as I described. If Researcher Zhou doesn't leave..."

"I understand. You need to reassure Comrade Luo Yanqing, and I'll handle it immediately on my end."

"It's best to resolve this before work resumes in the afternoon, otherwise..."

"If you keep nagging, don't blame me if the matter isn't resolved in time."

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"Alright, alright, I won't say anything more."

After the call ended, Director Song breathed a sigh of relief, knowing that Zhou Yaqing would not stay at the institute no matter what. Thinking of this, Director Song picked up the tea mug on his desk, lifted the lid, and took a sip.

When Zhou Yaqing was parachuted into the institute, he didn't have a good impression of her, especially when he was notified to arrange her into Luo Yanqing's project research group. At that moment, the microphone in his hand almost got slammed onto the desk.

They aren't an ordinary unit. If someone with real talents parachuted in, it wouldn't matter. The problem is, Researcher Zhou's abilities are indeed quite mediocre among the young researchers at the institute.

If she worked diligently at her position, he wouldn't mind keeping her in the institute. But Researcher Zhou just had to create trouble, unknowingly ruining her own prospects.

Well, then don't blame the institute for wanting to exclude her!

"Why should I leave? This is my workplace, and I am definitely going in today!" Zhou Yaqing said with all her might, attempting to break into the lab. Seeing two security personnel reaching out to stop her, she couldn't help but threaten, "If you dare touch me, I'll accuse you of harassment!"

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

"... Director!"

Upon hearing Director Song's voice, Zhou Yaqing almost instantly retracted her unreasonable demeanor. Tears welled up in her eyes as she turned to look at Director Song: "These two comrades said my job relationship has been transferred. Director, can you tell me what's going on? Since I started working here, I haven't made any mistakes or applied for transferring my job relationship. Why am I suddenly told I can't continue working here?"

"Come with me to the office." Director Song didn't answer but casually said a phrase, then turned and walked away.

Seeing this, Zhou Yaqing stood there momentarily bewildered, glanced at the tightly closed laboratory door, and then started to follow Director Song.

...

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

As Zhou Yaqing appeared after entering the office, Director Song immediately spoke.

"Why?"

Zhou Yaqing's eyes were blurred by tears.

"Perhaps the new job position suits Comrade Zhou Yaqing better." Director Song's answer was very formal.

"No, it's not like that. Director, you're lying to me!"

Entering this unit was the result of her family's thorough consideration to make the best job choice for her, and it was her grandma who repeatedly begged her uncle to help squeeze her in.

Now, how could there be another job position more suitable for her?

Zhou Yaqing didn't believe Director Song's words. She reflected on the recent happenings in her life, wondering if she had offended someone, causing them to sabotage her, leading to losing her current job.

But thinking it over, except for the quarrel with the old woman Shen Yun at lunch today at the cafeteria, she hadn't done anything else out of line recently.

Could it be... Could it be that the old woman Shen Yun is playing dirty tricks on her?

As her thoughts swirled to this, Zhou Yaqing asked Director Song: "Director, is my job relationship transfer related to Teacher Shen?"

"Comrade Zhou Yaqing, I have said your job relationship transfer is an arrangement made by the higher-ups. Please do not fabricate assumptions here."

Director Song had a stern face: "All procedures have been completed. You are to bring your documents directly to the HR department of the new unit for reporting. The deadline is by noon tomorrow."

"Xiao Qing, grandma has pleaded, but it was of no use. Can you be obedient?"

Old Lady Zhou felt very distressed hearing her granddaughter's cries, but she was truly powerless, and couldn't help but continue advising Zhou Yaqing earnestly: "The job at the research institute is too tough. From the very beginning, grandma didn't approve of you becoming a researcher, but it was your parents who insisted that the job is good. Now that your job relationship has been transferred, grandma feels there's nothing wrong with it."

Zhou Yaqing asked through tears, "Grandma, you truly don't intend to ask uncle for help again?"

"It's not that I don't want to help, it's that your uncle refuses to help with this favor. Xiao Qing, you know, grandma and your uncle aren't blood-related siblings. If we hadn't rarely troubled your uncle over these years,

previously when your parents wanted to get you into the research institute, requesting grandma to beg your uncle, your uncle might not have helped with that favor. Now that your job relationship has been transferred, there must be a reason within yourself. I've said a lot of good words to your uncle over the phone, asking him to help once more, but your uncle's attitude was clear, saying he can't help..."

Before Old Lady Zhou on the other end could finish speaking, the phone was hung up abruptly with a "bang" by Zhou Yaqing.

"Director, since I'm about to leave our institute, can you tell me, is the transfer of my job relationship due to the incident where I fought with Teacher Shen during lunch?"

Zhou Yaqing overturned her previous assumptions, believing that Shen Yun and even the Shen family weren't capable enough to influence the higher-ups to transfer her job relationship.

Moreover, her transfer is definite, most likely having a connection with the institute itself.

"Comrade Zhou Yaqing, I think you should understand that regarding your inquiry, I have the right to refuse to respond and no obligation to answer you."

Director Song's face was stern, showing a business-like attitude.

"I understand now, even if you don't say, I'm quite clear at this moment—the transfer of my job relationship must be related to the incident during lunch."

In a deeper sense, it's related to her own little intentions.

Luo Yanqing, the institute's top talent, the youngest Academician, with outstanding appearance and particularly charismatic.

In just one glance, upon entering the research institute, participating in Luo Yanqing's project team, she fell deeply in love with him with just one look. Even knowing he has a family, she hasn't given up on harboring secret intentions, and thus she often interacts with him through work.

She must be quite bothersome to him, otherwise, he wouldn't ignore her in matters beyond work.

At this moment, Zhou Yaqing regretted fighting with Shen Yun at lunch today.

Honestly, without much thought, she knew the negative impact it had.

And the institute likely took this incident to transfer her, to avoid her persistently pestering Luo Yanqing.

Realizing the crux of the whole situation, Zhou Yaqing simply decided to let it all go, facing Director Song: "Academician Luo is your goddaughter's husband, Director Song. This time I was transferred, your personal interest surely played a part. As for what this personal interest is,

Director Song, you know very well. But I may as well tell you, even if I've been transferred, my affection for Luo Yanqing will not change, and I believe sincerity breaks through barriers. Just you wait, someday, Luo Yanqing will no longer be your goddaughter's husband."

She didn't immediately report to the new unit after leaving the institute but went straight home instead.

"You didn't report to the new unit?"

At the moment, only Old Lady Zhou was home, and seeing Zhou Yaqing coming into the living room with her luggage, she asked outright.

"I don't want to talk right now."

Zhou Yanqing threw her luggage in the living room, then slumped onto the sofa without any image.

"Child, why do you have such a big temper?" Old Lady Zhou was a bit displeased: "I told you over the phone, it's not that grandma didn't try to help, it's that grandma asked your uncle without success, it's your uncle who doesn't want to do this favor now, looking at your current demeanor, are you blaming me, this old lady?"

#### Chapter 1554

Xi Jingyu suddenly piped up: "It must be Zhou Yaqing having a crush on Uncle Luo, then Uncle Luo got annoyed and kicked her out of the research institute in a fit of anger."

"You really talk too much."

Old Master Xi glared at Xi Jingyu.

You brat! Although not entirely correct, you're pretty close.

Sighing inwardly, Old Master Xi deeply regretted his momentary softness earlier, when he helped the Zhou Family by arranging for Zhou Yaqing to work at the institute.

"Grandpa, you're making me suspect that I hit the nail on the head!"

Xi Jingyu folded his arms, rubbing his chin as he observed Old Master Xi's facial expressions. Seeing his grandpa's extremely unnatural expression, Xi Jingyu's eyes widened in anger and he said, "Zhou Yaqing wouldn't happen to have skin as thick as the city wall, would she? With her Pigsy looks, she's not even fit to carry Aunt Kang's shoes, yet she dares to long for Uncle Xiao? Who gave her the courage?!"

Hearing this, Old Master Xi glared at his grandson, not with good grace: "Can't you speak properly? Regardless, Xiao Qing is your cousin sister."

"I don't have such a shameless cousin sister."

Xi Jingyu scoffed, his face full of disdain, "She doesn't even know her own worth, yet she dreams of unattainable men. Also, I seriously doubt the upbringing of that aunt's family. How could they raise a girl like Zhou Yaqing who disregards her own and her family's reputation, intending to interfere with other people's marriages?"

"Grandpa, I don't like my Cousin Sister Zhou."

Despite being young, Xi Chenyu understood most of what his second brother Xi Jingyu said. So, he immediately made his stance clear in front of Old Master Xi.

In simpler terms, he supports what his second brother Xi Jingyu said.

"..."

Old Master Xi's lips moved a bit, and after a moment, he said, "Your Cousin Sister Xiao Qing could be momentarily enchanted. Grandpa believes she will recognize her mistakes and change. Even though you feel dislike towards her,

Grandpa won't force you to befriend her. However, the Zhou Family is still considered relatives, besides, your great aunt is still alive. Please do it for Grandpa, and don't cause embarrassment for Cousin Sister Xiao Qing visibly."

Xi Jingyu pressed his lips without saying a word.

The little Xi Chenyu similarly remained silent.

"What, you're not listening to what Grandpa says anymore?" Old Master Xi was full of helplessness, but he pretended to be annoyed on his face: "Forget it, I'm old, my words have no weight anymore. You go do what you need to do, let this old man be alone for a while."

Waving his hand, Old Master Xi withdrew his gaze from Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu.

"...I won't talk to her."

After a long silence, Xi Chenyu finally uttered with a stern face.

Xi Jingyu: "Alright, I'll refrain from speaking harsh words in front of Zhou Yaqing, out of respect for my Grandpa."

"Hmm."

Old Master Xi nodded. He knew this was the biggest compromise his two grandsons could make. If he wasn't satisfied, these two might just turn around and leave.

Reason?

His descendants, in terms of temperament, somewhat resemble him—stubborn!

Yes, in his younger days, he was often described as having a stubborn streak, difficult to pull back once it flared up.

The Zhou Family's residential compound is not far from the Xi Family's courtyard, more specifically, taking a bus for six stops from the Zhou Family's residential compound will get you there.

Thus, Zhou Yaqing's time to the Xi Family is very short. Consequently, upon receiving a phone call from the guard at the courtyard gate saying Zhou Yaqing was coming to visit, Old Master Xi's facial expression subtly changed.

Ending the call, before Old Master Xi could say anything, Xi Jingyu frowned and said: "Zhou Yaqing is here." His tone was declarative.

Old Master Xi neither nodded nor shook his head.

Xi Jingyu: "At this time, could she be hoping to ask Grandpa for help in transferring her back to her original job?"

"Rest assured, no matter what your Cousin Sister Xiao Qing says at our house, Grandpa will not agree to it."

In regards to the work and future of his own children and grandchildren, he has never intervened. Contrarily, compromising his principles for a relative's youngster—reaching his age, it was his first time doing something against his principles; he undoubtedly regretted it afterward. But he also told himself it was a one-time thing.

So today, regardless of what that girl says and how she pleads, he will not lend a hand again.

Thinking this, Old Master Xi said: "Are you planning to continue sitting here..."

Xi Chenyu interrupted before Old Master Xi could finish: "I want to see what she wants to say coming to our house this time."

## Chapter 1555

...

"Uncle!"

Before even entering the living room, Zhou Yaqing's tearful voice could be heard: "Uncle! Uncle..."  
Seeing Old Master Xi, tears streamed down Zhou Yaqing's face in big drops. She hurried forward, crying, "Uncle, please help me. I want to continue working at the institute. Xiao Qing is begging you, Uncle!"

Kneeling beside Old Master Xi's leg, Zhou Yaqing grabbed his hand and looked up at him: "Uncle, I really love being a researcher. I know there have been shortcomings in my work,

but that was just at the beginning, Uncle... I promise I won't be careless anymore, I will put my heart into my work. Please help me, help me one last time, let me return to work at the institute, okay?"

"Talk while sitting."

Old Master Xi withdrew his hand and gestured to the sofa opposite, showing no emotion on his face.

"Uncle..."

Zhou Yaqing hesitated for a moment, then complied. She got up and sat properly on the sofa, thinking that Old Master Xi might have softened and that there was a great possibility of him helping her return to the institute. Unexpectedly, Zhou Yaqing soon realized she was mistaken when she heard Old Master Xi say, "I can't help you with what you're asking."

"Uncle!" Zhou Yaqing was shocked, even forgetting to let her tears fall for a moment. After she came to her senses, the tears gathered in her eyes surged out again. She opened her mouth and said tearfully, "No... Uncle, you can help me. As long as you say one word, I can return to the institute, Uncle..."

Old Master Xi's expression remained unchanged: "Your job transfer was arranged by your superiors. As for why your work relationship was transferred, not only do I know about the faults you just mentioned, I've heard other things too."

Ignoring Zhou Yaqing's changing expression, Old Master Xi paused before continuing: "In my view, your work relationship being transferred is beneficial for both you and your original unit. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been transferred; you would have received a dismissal notice directly. Do you understand what I mean?"

Old Master Xi's words were tactful enough; he was giving Zhou Yaqing face, not wanting her to feel embarrassed in front of her two cousins Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu. However, Zhou Yaqing was not appreciative; she detected the implied meaning in Old Master Xi's words but didn't think she was wrong in matters of love.

"Uncle, is it wrong to like someone?"

Tears flowed down her cheeks as Zhou Yaqing said with great grievance: "When I first arrived at the institute, at the first glance of that man named Luo, I... immediately liked him. I thought this was my love.

Just wanted to get closer to the man named Luo, so I would talk to him in my spare time, but during work hours, I did not bother him, Uncle, I know the limits..."

Old Master Xi frowned, his face growing stern, not speaking for a while.

"You found your love, but did you know he has a wife and child?" Xi Jingyu spoke up, looking at Zhou Yaqing with a mocking tone, "Or do you really enjoy being the 'other woman'? But even if you like that, you have to see whether the man is willing. Don't you think?"

"Jingyu!"

Old Master Xi called out to Xi Jingyu, signaling his grandson to give Zhou Yaqing some face.

"Grandpa, did I say anything wrong?"

Xi Jingyu had an innocent look on his face.

"..."

Old Master Xi was at a loss for words.

"Jingyu, how can you say that about me? I found my love, should you not be happy for me? As for you saying he has a wife and child, that's not an issue... I've inquired, his wife was introduced by a leader,

and it wasn't a free love, they surely couldn't reach emotional resonance. And I just want to rescue the person I love from a loveless marriage. When he's with me, he'll know what love is, and will definitely be happy and grateful to me!"

"You..."

Xi Jingyu was almost amused by Zhou Yaqing, wondering how could someone hold such shameless views with such high-sounding reasons?

Thinking she became the savior of someone else's love, who does she think she is?

It was absurd, shameless!

"Uncle Luo really likes Aunt Kang."

Xi Chenyu, with a stern face, looked at Zhou Yaqing coldly: "You're really unattractive, Uncle Luo will not fancy you."

"You... You're so rude! I am your cousin, instead of supporting me in pursuing my love, here you mock me, ridicule me, don't you think you're too much?"

Chapter 1556

This is so annoying! I'd rather not have a cousin than have one who acts like this.

Our grandson wasn't wrong, yet the little girl from the Zhou Family dared to criticize him in front of Old Master Xi, making him impatient with Zhou Yaqing. He said, "You should go back."

"Grand uncle! Are you really not going to help me?" Zhou Yaqing sat still, sniffing and putting on a pitiable face: "You are my grandma's elder brother, my own grand uncle. You can't not help me."

Xi Jingyu interjected: "My great-aunt and my grandfather aren't biological siblings. She was born to my great-grandmother. Last time my grandfather helped you, that was to give face to my great-aunt and to your Zhou Family. This time you've caused trouble at work, being transferred, and still expect my grandfather to help once more. Do you really think my grandfather owes you something?"

Xi Chenyu: "We don't owe you anything."

Zhou Yaqing: "... Two dead kids, aren't they considering her family? What kind of nonsense are they talking!

"Xiao Qing."

Old Master Xi observed Zhou Yaqing's facial changes, shook his head internally, and slowly said: "There's nothing wrong with liking someone, but the premise is that the person you like is single. Check if they have a fiancée. Now, the person you like has a family, and even though you know this, you still chose to like them, which is wrong. It's inappropriate."

"Grand uncle, but his wife was introduced by his superior, there's no love between them!"

Zhou Yaqing didn't take in Old Master Xi's words, and upon hearing her words, Old Master Xi remained unbothered, asking: "How do you know there's no love between the couple?"

As far as I know, Comrade Luo values and likes his wife greatly, and likewise, his wife respects and likes her husband. They now have six children under their care, living a warm and harmonious life that many envy.

Alright, that's all I'm going to say. It's up to you to listen or not. In short, I can't help with this matter. It's late now; you should head back to avoid worrying your family."

Saying this, Old Master Xi got up: "I'm a bit tired, going to lie down in my room for a while. Jingyu, see your Cousin Sister Zhou out later." With these words, Old Master Xi left the living room.

"Grand uncle..."

Zhou Yaqing called after Old Master Xi, hoping he'd stop, but received no response.

"Please go ahead."

Xi Jingyu stood up and made a gesture for Zhou Yaqing to leave.

Xi Jingyu placed his hands on Xi Chenyu's shoulders, turned him around to face him, bent down to meet his talented younger brother eye to eye, and quietly said: "Grandfather got angry because of a call from our great-aunt. I happened to be in the living room and heard grandfather shout, 'Xi Furong, you better wake up,'

Later, grandfather made a call mentioning a name 'Luo Yanqing'. Kiddo, do you think this Luo Yanqing could be my friend's dad? But, how did our great-aunt get involved with my friend's dad?"

After hearing Xi Jingyu's words, Xi Chenyu decided to go downstairs to ask Old Master Xi what happened, to prevent Little Sister Guoguo's father from being taken advantage of by their great-aunt.

"Eh? Weren't you going to your room, why are you heading downstairs now?"

Upon seeing Xi Chenyu go downstairs, Xi Jingyu followed him, pretending to be curious.

"Can you just shut your mouth, second brother?"

Xi Chenyu gave Xi Jingyu a disdainful look.

Nonetheless, Xi Jingyu didn't mind. He laughed, saying: "Are you trying to find out something from grandfather and then report to Aunt Kang?"

Upon hearing this, Old Master Xi gave Xi Jingyu a displeased look: "Can't you speak properly? Xiao Qing is still your cousin, no matter what."

"I don't have a shameless cousin like her."

Xi Jingyu scoffed, saying dismissively: "She doesn't even consider whether she's worthy and yet dreams about a man out of her league. I seriously doubt the upbringing at great-aunt's house, to have raised Zhou Yaqing who doesn't care about her own or her family's face, and intends to interfere with someone else's marriage."

"Grandfather, I don't like Cousin Sister Zhou."

Despite his young age, Xi Chenyu understood most of what his second brother Xi Jingyu said, and he immediately expressed his stance in front of Old Master Xi.

To put it simply, he supported what his second brother Xi Jingyu said.

## Chapter 1557

"..."

Old Master Xi's mouth twitched slightly, and after a moment, he said, "Your cousin Xiao Qing might have just been temporarily blinded by emotions. Grandpa believes she will realize her mistakes and change, but you all dislike her,

Grandpa won't force you to befriend her, but the Zhou Family and ours are relatives, and your great-grandmother is still alive. You should at least consider Grandpa's feelings and not embarrass your cousin Xiao Qing openly."

Xi Jingyu pursed his lips and remained silent.

The young Xi Chenyu also stayed silent.

"What's this, you're not listening to Grandpa anymore?" Old Master Xi felt helpless, but feigned displeasure on his face: "Forget it, I'm old and my words no longer hold weight. You go ahead and do what you need to do, leave this old man alone for a while."

Waving his hand, Old Master Xi withdrew his gaze from Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu.

"... I won't talk to her."

After a long silence, the young Xi Chenyu finally spoke with a stern face.

Xi Jingyu: "Alright, for Grandpa's sake, I won't say anything unpleasant in front of Zhou Yaqing."

"Uncle!"

Before entering the living room, Zhou Yaqing's tearful voice was already heard: "Uncle! Uncle..." Seeing Old Master Xi, Zhou Yaqing's tears fell in large drops as she hurried forward, crying, "Uncle, please help me, I want to continue working at the institute. Xiao Qing is begging you, Uncle!"

She knelt beside Old Master Xi's legs, grabbed his hand, and looked up at him: "Uncle, I really love my job as a researcher. I know I have not done well in some aspects at work,

but that was just at the beginning. Uncle... I promise I won't be careless anymore and will work diligently. Please help me one last time and let me return to the institute, okay?"

"Speak while seated."

Old Master Xi withdrew his hand and pointed to the sofa opposite him, his face revealing no emotion.

"Uncle..."

Zhou Yaqing was stunned for a moment, then complied, rising to sit properly on the sofa, thinking Old Master Xi was softening and might likely help her return to the institute. Unfortunately, Zhou Yaqing soon realized she was mistaken, only to hear Old Master Xi say, "I can't help you with what you are asking."

"Uncle!" Zhou Yaqing was shocked, even forgetting to let her tears flow for a moment, then coming to her senses, tears welled up again as she mouthed, sobbing, "No... Uncle you can help me. Just one word from you, and I can return to the institute, Uncle..."

Old Master Xi's expression remained unchanged: "The decision to transfer your work responsibilities was made by your superiors. I don't just know about the mistake you mentioned; I've heard other things too."

Without regard for Zhou Yaqing's changing expression, Old Master Xi paused for a moment before continuing: "In my view, being transferred from your work responsibilities is beneficial for both you and your original unit. Otherwise, you wouldn't be transferred but might directly receive a dismissal notice, understand what I mean?"

Old Master Xi's words were sufficiently tactful, leaving Zhou Yaqing some dignity, as he didn't want her embarrassed in front of her two cousins, Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu. However, Zhou Yaqing did not accept his kindness; she understood the hidden message in Old Master Xi's words but didn't think she was wrong in matters of love.

"Uncle, is it wrong to love someone?"

Tears dripped down her cheeks, and Zhou Yaqing spoke aggrievedly: "Upon first arriving at the institute, just one glance at that Luo by surname, and... and I fell in love. I think this is my love,

I just wanted to get closer to Luo, so I would talk to him more outside working hours. But during work hours, I never bothered him, Uncle, I know where to draw the line..."

Old Master Xi frowned deeply, his face darkened, remaining silent for a long while.

"You've found your love, but do you know that he has a wife and children?" Xi Jingyu spoke up then, looking at Zhou Yaqing with a mocking tone: "Or, do you enjoy being a mistress? But even if you do, don't you think it depends on whether he's willing? Don't you agree?"

"Jingyu!"

Old Master Xi called Xi Jingyu, signaling for his grandson to show some face to Zhou Yaqing.

"Grandpa, did I say something wrong?"

Xi Jingyu looked innocent.

"..."

Old Master Xi was momentarily speechless.

"Cousin Jingyu, how can you say that about me? I've found my love, aren't you happy for me? As for you saying he has a wife and children, that's not really an issue... I've looked into it, his wife was introduced by the leadership,

it's not a love marriage. They must find it hard to resonate spiritually, whereas I only wish to save the person I like from a loveless marriage, and once he's with me, he'll realize what love truly is and surely be delighted and grateful!"

"You..."

Xi Jingyu was about to be amused by Zhou Yaqing's statements, thinking how one's worldview can lead them to justify shamelessness so grandly.

Considering herself a savior of someone else's love, who did she think she was?

Too absurd, too shameless!

"Uncle Luo really likes Aunt Kang."

Xi Chenyu stated with a stern face, casting a cold glance at Zhou Yaqing: "You're ugly, Uncle Luo would never notice you."

"You... you are so rude! I'm your cousin, yet you don't support my pursuit of love, instead you mock and ridicule me here. Don't you think you're being excessive?"

Disgusting! She would rather have no cousins than ones who sided against her.

Xi Jingyu chimed in: "Great-grandmother and my Grandpa aren't actual siblings; she was born from my great-great-grandmother. Before, my Grandpa helped you once, already out of consideration for Great-grandmother and the Zhou Family. Now you've caused trouble at work and been transferred, yet you expect my Grandpa to help again? Just where in your mind does it say that my Grandpa and our family owe you?"

Xi Chenyu: "We don't owe you."

Zhou Yaqing: "... These two little brats, don't they consider her family? What nonsense are they spouting!

"Xiao Qing."

Old Master Xi observed Zhou Yaqing's shifting expression, shook his head inwardly, and spoke at a measured pace: "Loving someone isn't wrong, but it should be someone who is single and doesn't have

a fiancée. You know the man you love has a family, yet you still pursue him. That's wrong; it's inappropriate."

"Uncle, but his wife was introduced by leadership, there's no love between them!"

Zhou Yaqing hadn't taken Old Master Xi's words seriously but hearing her repeat this, he didn't get angry, he asked instead: "How do you know there's no love between that couple?"

From what I know, Comrade Luo values and loves his wife greatly. Similarly, she respects and loves her husband. They have six children now, and their family life is warm and harmonious, making others envious.

Alright, that's all I'll say. If you take it to heart, it'll be good; if not, so be it. In short, I can't help you. The hour is getting late, you should return to avoid worrying your family."

As Old Master Xi spoke, he stood up: "I'm feeling a bit tired, I'll go lie down in the room for a while. Jingyu, please escort your cousin Xiao Qing later." Leaving these words behind, Old Master Xi exited the living room.

Chapter 1558

...

It was already New Year's Eve.

Around ten o'clock in the afternoon, Kang Li received a call from the Jiang family old house. It was Jiang Boya.

"Lili! Lili, did you hear what Dad was saying?"

Jiang Boya had been talking on the phone for about three or four minutes without hearing a response from Kang Li, so he raised his voice. It was at this moment that Kang Li finally replied, "Dad, I heard everything, but... didn't we agree half a month ago that on New Year's Eve I'd first have a reunion dinner with the kids at my parents' place, then I'd bring the kids to the old house to join you and Grandfather..."

Kang Li's words were cut off by Jiang Boya: "It's not that Dad didn't think it over; it's just that your parents have plenty of people around them for New Year's Eve, while Dad and your Grandfather only have you all, our close family. Lili, how about scratching the previous plan, and why not bring the kids over now, is that okay?"

"Dad..."

Kang Li's bright eyes were filled with helplessness, even her voice was, as she said, "Dad, don't be emotional, okay? My parents indeed have many children and grandchildren, and there will indeed be a lot of people there for dinner tonight,

but I am me, and no one can represent me. If I don't go, my parents will definitely be heartbroken. Besides, the New Year's Eve dinner is also called a reunion dinner. If my parents lack me by their side, can you still call it a family reunion?"

For a moment, there was no sound from the other end of the phone, so Kang Li couldn't help but softly call, "Dad! Dad, are you listening to me? I know, you've been exhausted with New Year's preparations lately, so now you're dozing off, right? Oh dear, Dad, if you're dozing, then doze, I promise not to laugh at you. Can you hear, am I not laughing?"

Jiang Boya held back but couldn't help it, he let out a chuckle. With a tone filled with indulgence and helplessness, he said, "Alright, alright, let's stick with what we originally planned."

"So you're not upset?" Kang Li asked with a smile.

"Upset? Am I?"

Jiang Boya wouldn't admit it; he just wanted his darling daughter to come to the old house earlier to celebrate New Year's Eve and have a reunion dinner with him.

"No, no, my Dad has a heart as big as the prime minister's, not like us girls who love to sulk!" Kang Li spoke in a tone like coaxing a child, and how could Jiang Boya not hear it on the other end of the phone?

He shook his head with a smile, "Remember to bring the kids over early, Dad and your Grandfather will wait for you to arrive before having dinner. Also, don't drive too fast on your way here, and make sure you pay attention to safety!"

"Dad, isn't what you're saying a bit contradictory? Think back, you want me to get to the old house early, yet you also want me to drive slow. Isn't that hard to do?!"

Kang Li pretended to be troubled, and it wasn't difficult to hear it in her voice. Naturally, Jiang Boya could hear it too, and he laughed loudly, "Alright, it's Dad who can't speak well, but Dad still hopes you can arrive at the old house early while driving safely."

"Got it!"

This time Kang Li agreed cheerfully, she said, "I'll try to get the kids to the old house by ten o'clock."

Jiang Boya: "Then it's settled!"

Kang Li promised, "Don't worry, I definitely won't renege!"

...

"Mom, whose call was it?"

Ming Han walked in from outside the living room, just in time to see Kang Li hang up the phone, and couldn't help but ask.

"Your grandpa called, asking what time we're heading to the old house tonight." As she spoke, Kang Li stood up, "Where's your brother and the others?"

"They're by the yard gate watching Bun and Tangyuan and Guoguo play with other kids, Luo Mingwei is also there." Hearing Ming Han's words, Kang Li opened her mouth as if to say something, just then, Ming Wei's voice came from the yard, "Mom! Dad is back!"

Kang Li was momentarily stunned, then her beautiful eyebrows slightly arched as she saw Ming Wei run into the living room. Before Kang Li could speak, Ming Han said, "Is Dad on holiday now?"

"Yes, yes, yes! Dad is on holiday, for a full five days!" Ming Wei's face was full of smiles, nodding happily. Upon hearing this, Ming Han was also clearly happy, but he said, "Look how happy you are."

"Mom, Mom! Dad is back!"

This was Guoguo's voice.

"Xiao Li..."

Luo Yanqing walked into the living room holding Guoguo.

Min Rui followed closely, holding Bun and Tangyuan.

"You're back."

Kang Li stood in the center of the living room, her bright eyes locked on the man's exceptionally handsome face: "I was just about to take the kids to my parents', now that you're back, we'll head out together."

Chapter 1559

"Alright."

Luo Yanqing's Phoenix Eyes were filled with tenderness. He nodded slightly, a faint curve on his lips: "Let's buy something for Mom and Dad first, then head over. How does that sound?"

Kang Li smiled: "Everything's ready. Do you want to take a shower and change clothes?"

"No need." Luo Yanqing shook his head and said, "I already showered and changed at the office before coming back."

Kang Li: "Do you want to rest for a bit?"

Luo Yanqing: "No need."

"Is that so, then shall we head out now?" Kang Li raised her eyebrows: "No problem, right?"

"No problem."

Since the moment Luo Yanqing walked through the door and saw Kang Li, his eyes never left her, looking as gentle as possible, with a constant faint smile on his lips.

"Dad, you're so focused on talking to Mom, did you forget you're still holding Guoguo and that your sister and brothers are here too?"

Guoguo's soft voice suddenly interrupted, pulling her parents out of their exclusive gaze in each other's eyes. She blinked her big black grape-like eyes, tilted her head to look at Luo Yanqing, then at Kang Li, and said, "Mom, why does it feel like Guoguo and my sister and brothers are just extra?"

"I have the same feeling."

Tangyuan chimed in with his sweet voice.

Bun pursed his lips slightly, looked at his big brother Min Rui, second brother Ming Han, and sister Ming Wei, and seeing them all nod in agreement with what sister Guoguo said, he couldn't help but nod his little head as well.

Kang Li: "..."

Luo Yanqing: "..."

The two of them were stunned for a moment, Luo Yanqing's handsome face slightly red, but Kang Li remained calm. She cleared her throat and addressed the six at home: "How could that be? You're all treasures to Mom and Dad, not one of you is extra." Then she paused for a moment, pretending to be serious: "If I hear any of you calling yourselves extra again, don't blame me for pulling out the family rules!"

Before the six siblings could react, Kang Li gently added with a laugh: "You're all good kids, and Mom and Dad love you very much. Surely you know that, don't you?"

Led by Min Rui, the six siblings nodded in unison.

"Since you know that, how could you be extra?" Kang Li said, noticing the joy and indulgence in Luo Yanqing's dark eyes. She felt her cheeks heat up, trying not to show any difference to the presence of their children. She continued to the six: "Now go back to your rooms and freshen up a bit, we'll be heading to Grandma and Grandpa's soon."

"Okay!"

Guoguo replied, patting Luo Yanqing's hand to signal him to put her down.

Bun and Tangyuan responded similarly, tagging along behind their older siblings with small steps toward their rooms.

"Why do I feel like we got tricked by Mom?"

Ming Han scratched his head and said to his brother Min Rui.

Min Rui: "Just get rid of the feeling."

Ming Wei: "That's right, second brother, just stop feeling it. We really got tricked by Mom! While Mom and Dad were talking, it was obvious that their eyes only had each other, as if everything else in the world was shut out, including us six siblings. It's not just me imagining it; that's the feeling Mom and Dad give me!"

So just because of two sentences from Mom, their belief in being "extra" was easily dispelled. Sigh! It seems that experience really does come with age!

Trying to outsmart Mom was completely futile for them as children.

The three little ones didn't say anything, but they looked very much like little adults at the moment, faces serious, seemingly pondering what their older siblings were talking about.

After the six siblings' figures disappeared into their rooms, Kang Li turned her gaze back to Luo Yanqing, who was also looking at her. Their eyes met, and Kang Li let out a chuckle.

Luo Yanqing gave a low laugh at the same time.

"What are you laughing at?"

Stifling her laughter, Kang Li glared.

"Then what about you? What are you laughing at?"

Luo Yanqing raised an eyebrow, countering with a smile.

"I asked you first."

Kang Li feigned annoyance.

"A wife sings and a husband follows. You laughed, so naturally, I laughed with you." Luo Yanqing stepped forward, taking Kang Li's hand: "It's been years since we spent New Year's together."

Kang Li made an affirming sound.

Luo Yanqing: "From now on, every year we will spend it together."

Kang Li: "Okay."

As Kang Li responded, Luo Yanqing wrapped a long arm around her, pulling her into his embrace.

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"What are you doing?" Kang Li lowered her voice, "The kids will come out soon and see us."

"It's okay."

Luo Yanqing tightened his embrace, "I wish we could stay like this forever." He held her close, listening to her heartbeat, feeling the peacefulness of time.

"Alright, help me carry the things I prepared for mom and dad into the car; we should get ready to leave!" Kang Li lightly patted the man's back and stepped out of his embrace, "Do you need my help?"

Looking at the gift boxes on the coffee table, Luo Yanqing shook his head, "I can do it."

"Dad, there's something I want to ask you." Before Luo Yanqing picked up the gift boxes, Ming Han walked out of the room. Behind him, Min Rui followed suit. The brothers faced Luo Yanqing, and Ming Han said, "Mom, listen to what I'm asking Dad."

Ming Wei and Guoguo were staying in Ming Rui and Ming Han's room, not letting Bun, Tangyuan, and Guoguo go to the living room.

After all, the conversation in the living room wasn't appropriate for children.

"What do you want to ask?"

Luo Yanqing looked puzzled.

"Dad, I planned to ask you in a couple of days, but I couldn't hold back any longer, so... I thought I'd clear it up with you now." Ming Han looked serious, fixing his gaze on Luo Yanqing.

"Go ahead and ask."

Sitting on the sofa with Kang Li, Luo Yanqing remained indifferent as he locked his gaze on Ming Han.

"Zhou Yaqing, Dad, you know her, right?"

"Hmm."

"She likes you, you know that, right?"

"Alright, I understand what this is about now. You don't need to ask further, I'll clear it up with your mom right away."

"This deep affection is much better than indifference. And Uncle's student cherished his late wife deeply, which shows she was a woman worth such devotion. In that case, perhaps Uncle's student doesn't feel his current life is bad at all."

Clearly, Kang Li was advising Old Lady Li to let go a bit. After all, when it comes to feelings, whether it's familial or romantic, only the person involved really knows their stance. Interference from others is frankly not very suitable.

"You've got a point. It's me who's overthinking!"

Old Lady Li laughed, suddenly enlightened. She said, "He's already in his thirties and knows what kind of life he wants to live. Even if somebody can't stand his monk-like existence and wants to interfere, the most suitable and qualified people are his parents."

"As his mentor, why wouldn't I be suitable or qualified?" Kang Li smiled, "I said what I did because I believe your student isn't some clueless youngster. He surely knows whether his current life is what he wants. That's why I advised you not to worry too much, to avoid stressing yourself."

"Oh, you! I know you're saying this for my own good, no need to explain anything specially." Holding Kang Li's hand, Old Lady Li gently patted the back of her hand and said warmly, "Uncle Loh considered my health and originally didn't plan to let me return to teaching. But I've been restless, and with the school currently short on teachers, I convinced Uncle Loh to accept the school leader's offer."

Kang Li spoke with concern, "During those years in our village, you and Uncle Loh endured a lot. Now that you're back in Hu City, you must care for your health daily, so that when Xiao En grows up, he can honor you both."

"We've been taking care of ourselves since we returned!"

Old Lady Li responded with a smile.

"That's great." Kang Li beamed, shifting the topic to Xiao Loh En, "Xiao En has returned home with you and Uncle Loh, has he gotten used to everything now?"

"He seems to have adapted, but he's still somewhat introverted and sensible. At home, he never cries or makes trouble. When we take him out to play with kids his age in the community, he just stands by and watches, not actively speaking."

Talking about her great-grandchild, Old Lady Li's eyes couldn't hide a hint of worry, "Children should be lively and mischievous. Crying over things that upset them is normal. But since coming home, Xiao En has never done that."

Old Lady Li asked, "Have you ever thought about having one yourself?"

"I've been unhealthy since childhood and have seen doctors at major hospitals who said it's difficult for me to conceive." Kang Li maintained her smile. Upon hearing this, Old Lady Li asked, "So Little Luo has no thoughts on the matter?"

Kang Li shook her head, "He does want another child, but my condition is what it is. So we agreed to let things happen naturally. If it happens, great; if not, we won't force it. After all, we already have Ruirui and the other three, we're not lacking sons or daughters."