

Weak B 1571

Chapter 1571 (Part 2)

Also, my parents are our elders. If you have any issues with them, feel free to discuss them with my brother. I believe he will provide you with answers. But if you continue to show disrespect and put on a cold face in front of my parents, don't blame me for being rude to you."

At this point, Kang Li paused for a moment and then continued, "Let me help you recall how you and my brother got together. Initially, you were interested in my brother, writing to him every now and then, and repeatedly seeking him out. Eventually, my brother was moved by you and confirmed a romantic relationship with you.

After graduation, you and my brother got married, indicating that you chose him, not that he begged or forced you to marry him.

Therefore, I hope you stop acting like a spoiled princess in front of my brother or our family!

Marriage is not only between two individuals; it concerns two families. As a sister, I naturally hope my brother's marriage is happy and that the Kang Family remains harmonious,

but for a marriage to last, both parties must equally contribute, be open and honest with each other, and treat each other's families as their own. Otherwise, even the sweetest marriage will eventually fall apart."

Wang Pan: "Are you lecturing me?"

"I'm just reasoning with you, but if you take it that way, so be it." Kang Li's expression was calm, her clear and composed eyes gave Wang Pan a deep look, then she turned and left.

Watching her back, Wang Pan's expression was complicated, her lips pressed tightly together.

Jealous?

Why would she be jealous of her sister-in-law?

Moreover, this sister-in-law was her college classmate and even her good friend.

Wang Pan couldn't figure it out. She just knew she was genuinely jealous of Kang Li.

As long as she saw her, she couldn't help but be jealous.

It's not that Wang Pan didn't cry or make a fuss about it, but she couldn't control it.

"Mom, why are you and Dad looking at me like that?"

When Kang Li entered Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen's room, she saw her parents looking at her with hesitation, and she couldn't help but feel puzzled.

"Your Fifth Sister-in-law gave you a hard time."

Cai Xiufen spoke up, not inquiring but stating the obvious.

Upon hearing this, Kang Li shifted her gaze to Yan Rou, noticing that Yan Rou avoided her eyes, deliberately whispering something to Lin Dan. There was nothing to be confused about, so she smiled and said to Cai Xiufen, "No, my Fifth Sister-in-law is just not feeling well, her mood is naturally a bit off, she's not purposely giving me a hard time."

"...as long as that's the case."

Cai Xiufen knew her beloved daughter didn't want to dwell on this matter and ruin the family's New Year's Eve mood, so she didn't press further. She said, "Your Fifth Sister-in-law is from the city and was pampered by her family, a little temper is normal. Don't hold it against her too much."

"Okay, I won't." Kang Li nodded with a smile.

"Grandma, my aunt was perfectly fine, she didn't say anything harsh."

This was Yan Rou's voice: "I just couldn't stand seeing my aunt being bullied, so I couldn't help but argue with Fifth Aunt a bit."

"Who isn't from the city or pampered by their family?" Lin Dan's expression was a bit displeased: "Aunt was clearly out of concern, yet it gets misunderstood. Grandma, if I were in the kitchen just now, I would have retorted to Fifth Aunt just like Rou Rou did."

Cai Xiufen shook her head with a forgiving expression: "You all are family, living in harmony is key. Don't let things get petty."

"Some people just don't want to live peacefully, they have to stir up trouble with their own family," Lin Dan snorted lightly: "Their family is really something, picking on my aunt. Next time, I'll definitely argue with her, no matter her seniority."

Yan Rou agreed with Lin Dan's words: "Exactly, if there's a next time, I'll retort just like today."

"Alright, there's no need for you to stick up for me over such a small matter, I really haven't taken it to heart. Besides, do you want to make it difficult for your uncle?"

Kang Li raised her brows, looking at Lin Dan and Yan Rou.

Upon hearing this, Lin Dan and Yan Rou fell silent.

"Mom, you and Dad shouldn't dwell on it either, I really don't mind. Also, if Fifth Sister-in-law likes to put on a cold face at home, just pretend you didn't see it, let her be. Otherwise, it'll just ruin your mood."

Hearing this, Cai Xiufen said, "Your mom isn't one to overthink things." The life is for Lao Wu and his wife to live. As long as they have no issues, she has no time to interfere.

Chapter 1572

Captain Kang didn't speak, but from his expression, it was clear he shared Cai Xiufen's thoughts.

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As it neared 7 PM, the three large tables of appetizing reunion meals were laid out.

Each table was fully occupied.

"Dad, Mom, I toast you both. Thank you for taking care of Xiao Li and the kids all these years!" Luo Yanqing couldn't drink alcohol but insisted on toasting Captain Kang and his wife with white liquor.

In his view, using tea as a substitute for liquor showed a lack of sincerity.

"It seems Li Bao hasn't offended you, and the reason you can't get along with Li Bao is due to jealousy."

As Kang Guoan spoke, he noticed Wang Pan's emotions noticeably changed. He paused for a moment and continued, "In your family, you were spoiled by your parents and brothers; you were their treasure. After marrying me,

you found that my sister was not only spoiled by my parents and us brothers but also by sisters-in-law and nephews. You were jealous, so you made trouble out of nothing, saying Li Bao's concern was her hoping you'll get sick,

and even claimed she was cursing you. Wang Pan... do you remember you and my sister were not just classmates but friends? If it weren't for you and my sister being together back then, do you think I would have noticed you?"

"You... don't tell me you married me because you liked your sister?" Facing Kang Guoan's emotionless gaze, Wang Pan stared at him: "Kang Guoan, speak up, why aren't you saying something?"

Lips tightly pursed, Kang Guoan fell silent. After a moment, he said expressionlessly, "Without my sister, I wouldn't have noticed you. As we got together, I thought you were a bright and cheerful girl,

a bit spoiled but very genuine. But what you said to me today makes me doubt that my initial perception might have been mistaken."

Footsteps approached, and Kang Guoan looked over to see Kang Li drawing near.

"Brother, maybe sister-in-law misunderstood me somehow, I'll come to talk to her."

Facing Kang Guoan, Kang Li smiled, then turned her gaze to Wang Pan: "Fifth Sister-in-law, I truly didn't mean anything else before, so please don't overthink. Besides, if I have offended you in any way, you can speak up. If it was indeed my fault, I apologize; otherwise, let's clear the air."

Wang Pan kept her head down, ignoring Kang Li completely.

Seeing this, Kang Guoan suppressed his displeasure and said to Kang Li, "Alright, Li Bao, your Fifth Sister-in-law is currently in her menstrual period, and her body is indeed not feeling well."

Hearing this, Kang Li responded with an "Oh" to show acknowledgment, then said, "How about I make Fifth Sister-in-law a cup of ginger sugar water?" Without waiting for Kang Guoan's response, Kang Li turned and left.

"Did you hear?" Kang Guoan rubbed his forehead and said, "Li Bao is always considerate. She never makes trouble for no reason and never clashes with her family. Think it over!"

Wang Pan couldn't listen to Kang Guoan's words, she sobbed, "Are you saying I'm the one making trouble?"

"Isn't it?"

Looking up, Kang Guoan's gaze was calm and reserved, he stared at Wang Pan: "You must understand that in our family, you are not the only daughter-in-law who will give birth to a son, and my mother took care of you and the child for a whole month during your postpartum, but how did you treat my mother?"

You thought of my mother as a countryside person, and everytime it was mealtime during your postpartum period, you kept reminding her to wash her hands, to pay attention to personal hygiene. Since you were in postpartum, my mom never argued with you and didn't allow me to mention anything in front of you.

But do you know that your words and actions are an insult to my mother?

Yes, our family indeed comes from the countryside, my mother is a typical rural woman, but in what way does she ever behave dirty?"

Seeing Wang Pan's clearly guilty expression, all the pent-up anger in Kang Guoan suddenly surged: "Since you look down on rural folks so much, why did you want to be with me in the first place?"

Wang Pan, remember, I am a country boy, my parents are farmers. If you despise my parents, it's equivalent to despising me.

If you feel wronged marrying me, I'm ready for you to talk about divorce at any time.

Moreover, as a city dweller and a North City person, do you dare to declare that three generations up in your family are not from a peasant background?"

After a brief pause, Kang Guoan amplified his tone: "Honestly, I don't understand where you get the nerve to look down on others, but comparing your family with mine now, do you think your family can compare with mine?"

Chapter 1573

Wang Pan's cheeks flushed red. She lowered her head, biting her lip, unable to say a word.

Well, it's not that she can't speak, but rather she's too embarrassed to say anything.

However, Kang Guoan didn't stop there. He continued coldly, "My parents are capable people in our village. They've raised us children. You tell me, which one of us has no prospects?"

Realizing that Kang Guoan was genuinely angry, Wang Pan mumbled, "I was wrong, okay?! Do you really need to say so much?"

"I'm saying too much? If you didn't pick on my sister, would I be here arguing with you?" Kang Guoan's voice was clear and cold, "What I'm telling you today isn't just for the sake of it. You'd better listen, otherwise, our days together definitely won't last long!"

With that, Kang Guoan turned and headed toward the guest room. Seeing Kang Li holding an enamel mug coming his way, he said, "No need to put up with your fifth sister-in-law. If she speaks rudely in front of you, feel free to talk back to her."

"Brother..."

Kang Li felt a bit at a loss for words.

"Listen to your brother."

Taking the enamel mug from Kang Li's hands, Kang Guoan looked at Wang Pan, "Li Bao made you some brown sugar water. If you're not coming to get it, do you expect me to feed it to you?"

Regarding this wife, he couldn't say he was too disappointed, but after just a year of marriage, he started to feel somewhat displeased.

Things were fine when they were dating, but once they got married, all sorts of flaws were exposed.

Being simple-minded is one thing, but can't she stop equating ignorance with simplicity? Throwing inexplicable little tantrums, needing to be coaxed every time—after a while, doesn't she feel any shame?

Kang Guoan sighed inwardly, thinking to himself more than once: It's entirely my fault for not seeing her true character when we first started dating.

I thought she was simple and kind, a good-natured girl to get along with. Who knew that marriage would reveal everything.

"I'm not thirsty."

Seeing the enamel mug in Kang Guoan's hand, noticing its chipped edge, Wang Pan felt a bit repulsed and declined with an excuse.

After staring at her for a moment, Kang Guoan withdrew his gaze and told Kang Li, "I'll drink this brown sugar water."

"Be careful, it's hot."

Kang Li smiled. Seeing Kang Guoan nod and then carry the enamel mug into the guest room, she turned her gaze to Wang Pan, "So, what's your issue with me?"

She never tolerated unreasonable behavior, even if the person in front of her was her sister-in-law.

"What do you want me to say?"

Wang Pan met Kang Li's gaze, her expression full of defiance.

"You don't know?" Kang Li quietly observed Wang Pan, but it was precisely this calm and peaceful gaze that made Wang Pan feel exposed.

With a curl of her lips, Kang Li said, "Didn't know you were picking on me?"

Wang Pan's face burned, and she averted her eyes from Kang Li's gaze.

"I was just showing concern, yet you had to think the wrong way. Wang Pan, if you feel I'm beneath you, then just stop having anything to do with me.

Also, my parents are elders. If you have issues with them, feel free to talk to my brother. I believe my brother will address them, but if you show disrespect to my parents and give them the cold shoulder, don't blame me for being impolite."

At this point, Kang Li was silent for a while before continuing, "Now let me remind you how you and my brother got together. Initially, you showed interest in my brother, frequently writing letters to him and seeking him out. Eventually, my brother was moved by you and confirmed a relationship.

After graduation, you and my brother got married, indicating you had decided on him. It wasn't my brother who begged or forced you into marriage.

So, I don't wish for you to act superior in front of my brother or my family!

Marriage is not only about two individuals but also between two families. As a sister, I naturally hope for my brother's marriage to be happy and for our Kang Family to remain harmonious,

but for a marriage to last, both parties need to contribute equally, be honest with each other, and treat each other's family as their own. Otherwise, no matter how sweet the marriage starts, it will end in separation."

Wang Pan: "Are you lecturing me?"

"I'm just reasoning with you, but you can take it however you like." Kang Li maintained a calm expression, her clear and cool eyes giving Wang Pan a final look before turning to leave.

Watching her retreating figure, Wang Pan's expression was complex, her lips tightly pressed together.

Jealous?

Why should she be jealous of her sister-in-law?

Moreover, this sister-in-law was her university classmate and was once her good friend.

Wang Pan couldn't understand it; she only knew she genuinely felt jealous of Kang Li.

Whenever she saw her, she couldn't help but feel jealous.

Wang Pan wasn't passive or dramatic about it, but she couldn't control it.

"Mom, why are you and Dad looking at me like that?"

Entering Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen's room, Kang Li immediately noticed her parents wanting to say something but hesitating, which made her curious.

"Your Fifth Sister-in-law troubled you."

Cai Xiufen spoke, not inquiring but stating a fact.

Upon hearing this, Kang Li shifted her gaze to Yan Rou, who deliberately avoided her eyes, murmuring with Lin Dan. Understanding dawned, she smiled at Cai Xiufen and said, "Nothing happened. My Fifth Sister-in-law was just going through her time, so it's understandable she's in a bad mood. It's not about picking on me."

"...That's good then."

Cai Xiufen knew her beloved daughter didn't want to dwell on it to keep the New Year's Eve mood happy for the family, so she didn't probe further, adding, "Your Sister-in-law is a city girl, raised pampered by her family. It's normal for her to have a little temper. Don't hold it against her."

"Okay, I won't hold it against her."

Kang Li smiled and nodded.

"Grandma, my aunt didn't say a single harsh word."

This was Yan Rou's voice. She continued, "I just couldn't stand seeing my aunt being bullied, so I couldn't resist arguing with Fifth Aunt."

"Who isn't from the city, raised in a pampered environment?" Lin Dan's face darkened, "My aunt's concern was misinterpreted, right Granny? Just now, had I been in the kitchen, I'd have argued with Fifth Aunt just like Rourou."

Cai Xiufen shook her head, her expression tolerant, "You all, as family, must live harmoniously. Only then can the days go well, no room for discord."

"Some just don't wish to live peacefully, creating discord within their family." Lin Dan hummed softly, saying, "She's always been like this, finding trouble even with my aunt. Next time, I certainly will set things straight, regardless of her elder status."

Yan Rou agreed with Lin Dan, "Yes, next time, I'll do what I did today."

"Alright, you don't need to stand up for me. It's such a trivial matter; I haven't even thought about it. Besides, do you want to make things difficult for your uncle?"

Kang Li raised an eyebrow at Lin Dan and Yan Rou.

Upon hearing this, Lin Dan and Yan Rou fell silent.

"Mom, Dad, don't let this bother you either. It really was nothing. Also, if Fifth Sister-in-law wants to show a cold face at home, just pretend you don't see it, let her behave however she likes, so you don't ruin your mood."

Hearing Kang Li's words, Cai Xiufen said, "Your mom isn't that pessimistic." The days are for Lao Wu and his wife to live; as long as they have no issues, she doesn't bother interfering.

Captain Kang remained silent, but his expression showed he agreed with Cai Xiufen.

...

Approaching seven in the evening, three large tables of delicious reunion dinners were laid out.

Chapter 1574

Kang Li was a bit worried about Kang Guoan.

Being at the in-laws' place, if the family sides with their own and not with reason, after hearing Wang Pan's "complaints," they might say something to Kang Guoan.

"If things really get awkward, we won't be of much help either." Luo Yanqing spoke calmly, "Didn't you ask what caused it?"

"I did ask, but I don't think it's the way she described it."

Kang Li's lips pressed tightly, and her brow nearly knotted.

"What did she say?"

Luo Yanqing asked.

"She literally said, 'Why does everyone at home revolve around you? Just you are the treasure, are others just weeds?'" After hearing what Kang Li said, Luo Yanqing asked, "Is that all?"

"She didn't say anything else."

After pondering for a moment, Kang Li spoke, "I find it odd. What does 'everyone at home revolves around me' mean? And the phrase 'I'm a treasure, the people at home are weeds', what does she really mean by that, I can't figure it out."

I even asked her to clarify, but she didn't say more. Help me think, where does her resentment toward me come from?"

Luo Yanqing: "Maybe you're overthinking it."

Kang Li: "What do you mean by that?"

"You know the reason why Wen Siyuan's wife always gives you a hard time." Luo Yanqing reminded.

"What? You mean... she's jealous of me, so she vents her dissatisfaction on me."

Kang Li was surprised. Hearing Luo Yanqing's acknowledgment, she said, "But what's there for her to be jealous of? I'm little brother's sister, her sister-in-law, and her college classmate. What do I have that she can't bear jealousy over, that she would act that way in front of other sisters-in-law and nieces-in-law?"

Expressing doubt, but before Luo Yanqing could speak, Kang Li seemed to have thought of something. Her eyes suddenly widened: "Could the reason be simply because she said everyone at home revolves around me, and I'm a treasure while everyone else is a weed?"

Luo Yanqing: "Most likely, yes."

"That simple? If that's the case, then I definitely overthought it. But why would she have such deep resentment?"

How do people revolve around her at home, how is she a treasure and others weeds? Okay, even if Wang Pan said it so, why is she upset about it?

Thinking about this, Kang Li said: "Luo Yanqing, do my family members really revolve around me?"

Luo Yanqing replied: "Your parents are good to you, and you are good to them."

"So am I their treasure?"

The bedside lamp was still on, and using its light, Kang Li fixedly looked into Luo Yanqing's dark eyes.

"Your parents call you Li Bao, and in my eyes and heart, you're my precious treasure."

After hearing this from Luo Yanqing, Kang Li's cheeks immediately became very warm.

"I'm just myself, not your precious treasure." Her tone was proud, and Kang Li avoided Luo Yanqing's gaze. She asked, "Do I treat my family like weeds?"

"Of course not."

Luo Yanqing's lips curved into a slight smile: "Don't overthink."

"Okay, I won't overthink."

After a moment's silence, Kang Li said: "Luo Yanqing, even if what my Fifth Sister-in-law said was true, what does it have to do with her? It's my parents who choose to revolve around me, so what is she jealous about?"

Besides, she herself once told me that as long as she's home, her parents and brothers all revolve around her, pampering her like a little princess. How is she any different from me with my parents and brothers around?"

"Her mind isn't right. She thinks being surrounded by family and treated as a treasure is fine for herself, but not for anyone else. When she sees you being pampered by your parents and big brother from childhood, she finds it unpleasant and inevitably feels discontent toward you."

"Your analysis might be a bit unreliable, but my intuition tells me this is exactly how Wang Pan thinks."

She's crazy!

Yes, her surname is Kang, not Wang, so what's wrong with being spoiled by her own family?

Luo Yanqing: "Alright, you know what kind of person she is, just have less contact with her going forward."

Kang Li: "Of course I won't interact much with her, but my little brother has such an unreasonable wife by his side, his days probably aren't very happy."

"Since they're already married, they need to be more tolerant. If he can't endure it, he can choose to divorce."

Days are made to be lived, but if a couple's views are severely mismatched, in his opinion, there's no need to continue compromising.

...

The next day was the first day of the lunar year, and after Kang Li and her family got up early to pay respects to Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya, they also accompanied the two for breakfast. Afterwards, Kang Li and Luo Yanqing bid farewell to Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya.

Chapter 1575

"Grandpa, Dad, we're leaving now."

"Be careful on the road."

Jiang Boya reminded.

"Got it."

Kang Li replied.

"Don't forget to come over early on the third day of the month." Seeing Kang Li holding Guoguo, ready to get in the car, Jiang Boya reminded her again. Hearing this, Kang Li smiled a bit helplessly. She turned to look at Jiang Boya, this convenient father: "I won't forget, our whole family will be there early on the morning of the third day."

Jiang Boya nodded in satisfaction.

He watched the car drive out of the gate before withdrawing his gaze.

"Dad, let's go back to the living room."

"Okay."

Jiang Hongfa nodded, supported by Jiang Boya as they returned to the living room.

"Do you have something to say to me?"

Sitting on the sofa, Jiang Boya was closely watched by Jiang Hongfa, which made him feel, for a moment, as if he had done something wrong. However, Jiang Boya managed his emotions well, so his handsome face showed no unusual expression.

"Yesterday, she came again; although you didn't go out to meet her, she keeps coming here frequently, and that's not good." The 'she' Jiang Hongfa referred to was Fang Su, who had come to find Jiang Boya.

"... .."

With his eyelids lowered, Jiang Boya remained silent.

"Also, if you don't inform Lili about her repeatedly coming here, she might find it hard to deal with and will inevitably go to see Lili. If that happens, Lili might unexpectedly run into her and suffer a loss."

Jiang Hongfa was very displeased with Fang Su. Previously, he thought her repeated visits would make her give up any inappropriate ideas, but to his surprise, she appeared again yesterday, on New Year's Eve, in the middle of the afternoon.

Utterly annoying.

"Later, when we go pay a New Year visit to Uncle Xi, I'll have a talk with her current husband."

Thinking she could cling to him? Dream on!

A fierce glint flashed in Jiang Boya's eyes, then his gaze returned to normal. He said to Jiang Hongfa: "With her husband's intervention, hopefully, her shameless behavior will be curbed. As for not telling Lili about her coming here, I thought it's New Year and there's no need to upset Lili over such a trivial matter."

Jiang Hongfa: "It'd be best to tell Lili, to prevent her from being caught off guard when she's found."

"... Alright, I'll talk to her when she comes over on the third day."

Jiang Boya nodded. Then Jiang Hongfa said, with an expression of bitter disappointment: "Back then, I was adamant against you being with Sumei, but you insisted on being with her, even going so far as to elope. How could you be so stubborn at that time?"

"Dad, can you stop bringing up the past?" Jiang Boya said, feeling embarrassed: "I was young and inexperienced at that time, being misled was not my intention."

Jiang Hongfa glared: "Then why didn't you listen to advice?"

"Dad... was that advice? Every time you saw me, you scolded me, left and right saying 'no,' disagreeing with everything, and I was rebellious, so naturally, I resisted. If you had talked to me properly, I wouldn't have opposed you."

"Fine, maybe my approach wasn't right, but what about your mother? Didn't your mother talk to you reasonably?"

"My mother spoke following your instructions... "

"What's wrong with that?"

"You kept emphasizing the importance of family status alignment, but I resent this so-called alignment, especially considering the days my mother spent with you, it made me unwilling to marry a woman of matched status according to your arrangements."

"What's wrong with the days I spent with your mother?"

Jiang Hongfa glared.

Jiang Boya: "You lived together like mere acquaintances, polite and formal, unable to see any hint of love between you. How could I accept a status-matched marriage like yours?"

With a serious expression, Jiang Boya locked eyes with Jiang Hongfa and continued: "Of course, I'm not saying there's anything wrong with status-aligned marriages but at the very least, both parties should interact, and if they find each other suitable after understanding each other,

then a status-matched marriage would naturally be a good union. Likewise, even if the families aren't status-matched but the two individuals are fond of each other,

and the lower-status family has good character and behavior, a marriage between such families would also be a good union. Dad, what do you think?"

"..."

Jiang Hongfa remained silent; he knew Jiang Boya made a valid point.

Not necessarily a bad match just because it's between high and low status.

The key is to look at character and family conduct.

Chapter 1576

However, children raised in low households inevitably have some gaps in knowledge compared to those raised in high households.

But then again, the children of high households aren't necessarily all good either.

"But I was indeed blind back then, not seeing that woman's true nature, and being deceived like a fool. But your involvement is partly why."

"What does it have to do with me?"

"Dad, would you say you misjudged people? If you'd seen through Steward Fang's true colors earlier, would I have gotten into trouble abroad that year?"

"I..."

"Alright, Dad, I'm not blaming you. I just feel that both of us have misjudged people before, so please don't bring up my elopement with that woman to taunt me in the future."

If time could turn back, Jiang Boya wouldn't have eloped, but quickly he shook his head secretly: if he hadn't eloped, where would his precious daughter have come from?

Thinking about this, Jiang Boya couldn't help feeling a bit conflicted.

The implication of Luo Yanqing's words was that she was just an outsider, and there was no need to worry about it.

"It does have something to do with me; she was venting her dissatisfaction at me this afternoon!" Kang Li said softly, "If it weren't for the big picture and considering my brother's feelings, I would've made her doubt her life."

She misjudged and allowed the other party to cling to her at the start of their freshman year, going in and out together.

Otherwise, her brother's relationship probably wouldn't have anything to do with Wang Pan.

Luo Yanqing's expression was cold: "Were you bullied?"

"It wasn't really bullying; my good intentions were misunderstood."

Kang Li recounted the friction in the kitchen with Wang Pan that afternoon, then said, "I saw her smile was forced, so I thought maybe she wasn't feeling well. But just a word of concern was taken as me wishing she would get sick, and she even said I was cursing her."

"There's no need to pay too much attention to people who aren't thinking straight."

Luo Yanqing gently comforted his wife.

"I wasn't planning to argue, but the issue is she later cried Golden Beans in front of my brother, making it seem like I bullied her. Do you believe she'll be at odds with my brother this Spring Festival?"

Kang Li was a bit worried about Kang Guoan.

If at her in-laws' home, if the family sides with her without reason and listens to Wang Pan's "complaints," who knows what they'll say to Kang Guoan.

"If they really argue, we can't do much to help," Luo Yanqing said calmly. "Didn't you ask for the reason?"

"I did ask, but I don't think it's as she portrayed it."

Kang Li's lips tightened, her brows almost knotting.

"What did she say?"

Luo Yanqing asked.

"Her exact words were, 'Why does the whole family revolve around you? Are you the treasure, and everyone else just weeds?' After hearing what Kang Li said, Luo Yanqing asked, "That's all?"

"She didn't say anything else."

Kang Li thought for a moment, then said, "I just find it strange, what does it mean that the whole family revolves around me? And what does 'I'm the treasure, and the others in the family are weeds' mean? I can't figure it out.

Also, I asked her to clarify, but she wouldn't say more. Can you help me figure out where her resentment towards me comes from?"

Luo Yanqing: "Maybe you're overthinking it."

Kang Li: "What do you mean?"

"You know the reason why Wen Siyuan's wife always has issues with you."

Luo Yanqing reminded her.

"Huh? You mean... she's venting her frustration at me out of jealousy."

Kang Li was surprised. After hearing Luo Yanqing's "hmm," she said, "But what is she jealous of about me? I'm my brother's sister, her sister-in-law, and her college classmate. What could she be so jealous of that she would act like that in front of the sisters-in-law and nieces-in-law?"

Expressing her doubts, but before Luo Yanqing could respond, Kang Li suddenly seemed to realize something, her beautiful eyes widened: "Could it be that what she meant by why the whole family revolves around me, and I'm a treasure while the rest of the family are weeds, is the root cause?"

Luo Yanqing: "Most likely."

"It's that shallow? If that's true, then I really overthought it. But why would she hold such a strong grudge?"

Why would the family revolve around her, and how could she be the treasure while others are weeds? Okay, to take a step back, even if it's as Wang Pan said, why would she be so angry?

Thinking about this, Kang Li said, "Luo Yanqing, does my family revolve around me?"

Luo Yanqing replied, "Your dad and mom treat you well, and you also treat them well."

"Am I a treasure?"

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Chapter 1577

The bedside lamp on one side of the bed was still on; by its light, Kang Li stared steadily into Luo Yanqing's dark eyes.

"Your parents all call you Li Bao, but in my eyes and in my heart, you're my precious baby."

Hearing this, Kang Li's cheeks instantly burned hot.

"I'm just me, I am not some precious baby of yours." With a tsundere edge in her tone, Kang Li avoided Luo Yanqing's gaze and asked, "Do I treat my family like they're grass or something?"

"Of course not."

Luo Yanqing's lips curved into a faint arc. "Don't overthink it."

"Fine, I won't overthink it."

Kang Li was silent for a moment, then said, "Luo Yanqing, even if everything that Fifth Sister-in-law said is true, what does any of it have to do with her? My family dotes on me, circles around me, treats me like a treasure—that's my parents' choice. What is she jealous about?"

Besides, she herself told me that as long as she's at home, her parents and her brothers all surround her, fussing over her and pampering her like a little princess. How is she any different from me, who grew up surrounded by my parents and brothers?"

"She's not right in the head. She feels it's perfectly normal for her own family to circle around her and treat her like a treasure, but it's not okay when it's someone else. Seeing your parents and older brother pamper you from childhood to now makes her uncomfortable, so she inevitably harbors resentment toward you."

"Your analysis is a bit off, but my gut tells me that's exactly what Wang Pan is thinking."

She's got a screw loose!

Yes, her surname is Kang, not Wang. What's wrong with being doted on by her own family?

Luo Yanqing said, "All right, now that you know what kind of person she is, just cut down on contact with her in the future."

Kang Li said, "I naturally won't interact much with her from now on, but with such an unreasonable wife by his side, my brother's days probably aren't very pleasant."

"Since they're already married, they should try to be more tolerant of each other. If he really can't stand it, your brother can choose to get a divorce."

Life is something you live out day by day, but if a couple's values are fundamentally incompatible, in his view, there's no need to keep forcing it.

...

The next day was the first day of the lunar year. After Kang Li's family got up early to wish Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya a happy New Year, they stayed to have breakfast with the two of them, and then Kang Li and Luo Yanqing said their goodbyes to Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya.

"Grandpa, Dad, we're heading out."

"Be careful on the road."

Jiang Boya reminded them.

"Got it."

Kang Li replied.

"Don't forget to come over early in the morning on the third day." Seeing Kang Li holding Guoguo and about to get into the car, Jiang Boya reminded her again. Hearing this, Kang Li smiled a bit helplessly, turned her head to look at this "discount" father of hers, and said, "I won't forget. Our whole family will come early on the morning of the third day."

Jiang Boya nodded in satisfaction.

He watched the car drive out through the gates before finally pulling his gaze back.

"Dad, let's go sit in the living room."

"Mm."

Jiang Hongfa nodded, and with Jiang Boya supporting him, went back to the living room.

"You have something to say to me?"

Sitting down on the sofa, Jiang Boya found himself being stared at unblinkingly by Jiang Hongfa, which for a moment gave him the feeling he'd done something wrong. But Jiang Boya had good control over his emotions, so nothing showed on his handsome face.

"She came looking for you again yesterday. Even though you didn't go out to see her, her turning up at the door every few days like this still has a bad impact." The "she" in Jiang Hongfa's mouth was undoubtedly Fang Su; what he was referring to was Fang Su showing up at their door to look for Jiang Boya.

"..."

With his eyelids lowered, Jiang Boya stayed silent.

"And, since you haven't told Lili about her repeatedly coming to the house, if Fang Su feels it's hard to start with you, she'll definitely go looking for Lili. That way, if Lili suddenly runs into her, there's no guarantee she won't suffer a loss."

Jiang Hongfa had a strong aversion to Fang Su. The last few times she'd come by, he thought that after repeatedly hitting a wall she would give up her improper thoughts. Who knew that even on New Year's Eve, she'd show up again in the mid-afternoon.

It was downright maddening.

"When we go pay a New Year visit to Uncle Xi, I'll sit down and talk with her current husband."

Dreaming if she thinks she can cling to him!

A sharp glint flashed in Jiang Boya's eyes, then his gaze returned to normal. He looked at Jiang Hongfa and said, "With her husband keeping her in line, I imagine she'll stop her shameless behavior. As for why I didn't tell Lili about that woman coming to our door, I just felt that it's the New Year; there was no need to affect Lili's mood over something so trivial."

Jiang Hongfa said, "It's still best to tell Lili, so she doesn't get caught off guard when that woman comes looking for her."

"...All right, I'll tell her when she comes over on the third day."

Jiang Boya nodded, only to see Jiang Hongfa giving him a "hate to iron that won't become steel" look as he said, "Back then I said no matter what, I wouldn't agree to you being with that girl Sumei, but you were dead set on her, like you'd swallowed a steel beam, and even let yourself be talked into eloping. Tell me, how were you so stubborn back then?"

"Dad, can you stop dragging up the past?" Jiang Boya felt his face heat and said, "I was young and clueless then; getting duped wasn't something I wanted either."

Jiang Hongfa glared. "Then why didn't you listen to advice?"

"Dad... you call that advice? The moment you saw me, you started scolding, saying 'you're not allowed' on the left and 'I don't agree' on the right. I was right in the middle of my rebellious phase, so of course I couldn't listen. All I could think was, the more you forbid me from doing something, the more I wanted to do it. If you'd sat down and talked to me properly back then, I don't believe I would've gone against you."

"Fine, let's say my approach was wrong. But what about your mother? Didn't your mother talk things through with you properly?"

"My mom was just following your instructions..."

"Was she wrong?"

"You kept stressing how important 'being well-matched in social status' was, but I hated that so-called 'being well-matched,' especially when I thought about the days my mother spent with you. That made me even less willing to follow your arrangement and marry some socially compatible woman."

"What was so wrong with the life your mother and I had?"

Jiang Hongfa glared.

Jiang Boya said, "You treated each other with polite respect, so polite you were like two very familiar strangers living together. I couldn't see a trace of affection between you. Given that, how could I accept a 'well-matched' marriage like yours?"

His expression serious, Jiang Boya met Jiang Hongfa's eyes and continued, "Of course, I'm not saying that a socially compatible marriage is inherently wrong. But at the very least, the man and woman should have some contact, and if after getting to know each other they feel they're suitable,

then that kind of 'well-matched' marriage would naturally be a good match. Similarly, even if the two families aren't well-matched, as long as the two people involved are mutually fond of each other,

and the family from the lower-status side has good character and upbringing, then a match between those two families, in my view, is also a fine marriage. Dad, what do you think?"

"..."

Jiang Hongfa said nothing; he knew what Jiang Boya was saying made sense.

A high-status family marrying into a low-status one didn't automatically mean it wasn't a good match.

The main thing was character and family values.

That said, the children raised in low-status families generally did have some gap in horizons compared to children raised in high-status families.

Then again, children from high-status families weren't necessarily all good either.

"But I really was blind back then, not seeing that woman's true nature and letting myself be duped like an idiot. Still, you bear some responsibility for that too."

"What does that have to do with me?"

"Dad, aren't you the one who's bad at judging people? If you'd seen through Steward Fang's true colors earlier, would I have gotten into that accident abroad that year?"

"I..."

Chapter 1578

"Oh! Naughty Rourou, you beat me to it!"

Lin Dan pretended to be unhappy, but the next moment she was smiling, offering her New Year blessings to Kang Li.

...

After lunch, Mo Yan offered his farewell to Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen, then bid goodbye to Big Brother Kang and the others. Finally, he looked at Kang Li: "Sister Kang Li, we're leaving now, Feng Yi and I."

"Alright." Kang Li nodded and smiled, "I'll see you off."

"Sis, no need."

Feng Yi declined, saying, "It's very cold outside, no need to catch a chill." As Feng Yi finished speaking, Mo Yan also declined Kang Li's offer to see them off.

Although the snow had stopped at midnight and today was bright and sunny, quite a bit of snow had melted on the ground, especially on the roads, where not a trace of snow remained except for the melted residues.

But the thaw is even colder than the snowfall.

Moreover, the wind today was particularly strong, cutting across one's face like a knife.

Because of this, Mo Yan and Feng Yi didn't want Kang Li to catch a chill while seeing them off.

"Let's go."

Kang Li didn't listen to them and stepped out of the reception room.

Seeing this, Mo Yan and Feng Yi could only follow.

"Uncle Mo, Uncle Feng, Guoguo will see you off too."

With a childish voice, Guoguo said as she tried to chase after Mo Yan and Feng Yi with her short legs.

"It's cold outside."

The two of them stopped, turned, and smiled at Guoguo. Mo Yan said, "Be good, stay home with your siblings, Uncle Mo will come to see you when he has time."

"Uncle Feng will also visit you."

Feng Yi said with a warm smile.

"I'm dressed very warmly." Guoguo puffed out her cheeks and tilted her head, looking a bit unhappy.

"Good girl."

Bending down, Mo Yan gently stroked Guoguo's head, then nodded to Captain Kang and the others, as if bidding farewell once more, and went out of the reception room with Feng Yi.

Kang Guoan, Kang Yiyang, and Kang Yichen walked behind them.

Whether as friends or as hosts, they felt it was necessary to see off Mo Yan and Feng Yi.

"You..."

Seeing Kang Guoan and the others, along with Luo Yanqing and Big Brother Kang also coming out of the reception room, Mo Yan and Feng Yi felt a bit guilty and wanted to persuade them back. But before Mo Yan could say anything, Big Brother Kang waved his hand: "Little Mo, no need to say more, let's go."

Kang Yiyang helped Mo Yan with his bicycle. When they reached the courtyard gate, Mo Yan took control of the bike from Kang Yiyang's hands, his lips curving into a slight smile: "Big Brother Kang, you guys go back in, Feng Yi and I are leaving."

"Okay."

Big Brother Kang smiled and nodded.

"Ride slowly on the road."

Kang Li reminded Mo Yan.

"Okay."

Mo Yan replied.

"Bye, sis, brother-in-law."

Feng Yi waved his hand.

Kang Li: "Goodbye."

Luo Yanqing responded with a simple "Hmm," as a reply to Feng Yi.

Watching Mo Yan ride away with Feng Yi until they gradually disappeared, Kang Li withdrew her gaze and, along with Luo Yanqing, followed Big Brother Kang and the others back through the courtyard gate.

"Big Brother."

Almost reaching the center of the courtyard, Kang Li called out to Kang Guoan.

"..."

Stopping in his tracks, Kang Guoan looked at Kang Li.

The others did as well.

Kang Li smiled slightly: "I want to say a few words to Big Brother." Upon hearing this, the others continued walking until they were all inside the reception room. Kang Li pointed to a spot a bit away from the reception room and said to Kang Guoan, "Let's talk there."

Kang Guoan didn't know what Kang Li wanted to say to him, but he walked to the spot she had indicated.

"Big Brother, are you alright?"

Standing opposite Kang Guoan, Kang Li casually asked him.

Meeting her gaze, Kang Guoan smiled: "What could be wrong with me?"

"You're not fooling me, your current state of mind shows you definitely didn't rest well last night." Kang Li said, pursing her lips in silence for a moment, then asked Kang Guoan, "Is this related to Fifth Sister-in-law? Or more accurately, is it related to me?"

Kang Guoan shook his head: "It's got nothing to do with you, don't overthink."

"Big Brother, I'm sorry, if I hadn't spoken out of turn in the kitchen yesterday afternoon, Fifth Sister-in-law wouldn't have gotten angry."

Kang Li's bright eyes were filled with apologies: "We were supposed to have a lively family reunion for New Year, but because of me... Big Brother, although I am your sister, sometimes,

don't just consider my feelings or always protect me, at the expense of understanding those around you. Moreover, Fifth Sister-in-law is your wife; you should be more caring and considerate of her daily, or else she'll hold a grudge in her heart, which will affect your marriage."

"..."

Kang Guoan remained silent, his eyes downward. After a while, he said faintly, "When it comes to unreasonable trouble, I can be tolerant once or twice, but no more than that."

"Big Brother." Kang Li thought it over and decided to tell Kang Guoan why Wang Pan was upset with her. Knowing the cause, as her husband, Kang Guoan can talk to her, and Wang Pan should be able to resolve her issues with me.

Chapter 1579

Kang Li's expression became especially serious as her thoughts wandered to this point. She looked directly into Kang Guoan's eyes and said, "Brother, I thought about what happened yesterday afternoon. I think Fifth Sister-in-law said those two sentences because everyone in our family spoils me too much..."

Kang Guoan interrupted Kang Li, his expression solemn, "Those two sentences?"

"Huh? Didn't Fifth Sister-in-law tell you?"

Kang Li blinked her eyes and said, "It's... it's 'Why does everyone in the family have to revolve around you? Are you the treasure, and everyone else just weeds?'."

Brother, Fifth Sister-in-law and I were both spoiled by our families growing up. Maybe she couldn't stand our family spoiling me too much, so she said those two sentences in anger. You and Fifth Sister-in-law are husband and wife,

you should let Fifth Sister-in-law know that you cherish her, care for her, love her. Also, don't be too good to me in the future, um, if you can keep some distance from me, Fifth Sister-in-law would probably feel more comfortable."

Seeing Kang Guoan's cold expression, Kang Li hurriedly added, "Brother, if I were Fifth Sister-in-law, I would also feel uncomfortable. Let's put it this way, if Luo Yanqing had a younger sister,

and if he and his family spoiled her, I definitely would have thoughts about it, to be honest, I'd be jealous. So, the two sentences that Fifth Sister-in-law said to me in the kitchen yesterday afternoon were indeed out of jealousy. As long as you coax her a bit, the little conflicts between you two as a couple will definitely disappear."

As Kang Li's voice fell, Kang Guoan squeezed out a sentence between his teeth, "She's thinking crazy thoughts!"

"Brother!" Kang Li widened her eyes, "Aren't you being a bit vulgar?"

Kang Guoan's lips tightened as he stared for a long time, then he said, "You're my sister, you're the daughter of our parents, you're the sister to Big brother, Second brother, Third brother, and Fourth brother, and sister-in-law to the sisters-in-law,

you're the little aunt to Kang Yiyang's children, you are the treasure of the whole family. We all want to spoil you, protect you, treat you like a treasure, because you are worth it. What's it to her? Why would she be jealous?"

"..."

Kang Li was moved, yet also felt complicated at the same time. She pursed her lips and said, "Brother, your anger makes me regret what I just said... I'm not complaining to you, I want you to reach out to Fifth Sister-in-law,

I hope our whole family can be harmonious. But you're so angry after hearing what I said, why is that? Brother, let me put it this way, Fifth Sister-in-law loves you, cares about you, and because of this love and care, she doesn't want you to pay too much attention to me, your sister. Do you understand now?"

Kang Guoan said nothing.

"Brother, if you want parents and the rest of the family to worry about you and Fifth Sister-in-law, if you want me to feel guilty and blame myself, then go ahead and be angry. Well, I've said enough, it's up to you what to do with Fifth Sister-in-law."

As Kang Li turned to leave, Kang Guoan asked in a low voice, "Aren't you feeling aggrieved?"

"What's there for me to feel aggrieved about?"

Turning her head, meeting Kang Guoan's gaze, Kang Li's clear and bright eyes were filled with laughter, "The whole family spoils me, protects me, treats me so well, from childhood till now, who hasn't been envious or jealous of me? Since I've received so much love from the family, feeling aggrieved by some words from others seems rather petty."

Kang Guoan: "..."

Kang Li: "It's cold outside, Brother, go inside and sit." After finishing, Kang Li stepped away.

Over half an hour later, Kang Guoan stood in front of Cai Xiufen.

"Mom, I'm going to pick up Wang Pan and the child to come home."

"Don't come back today, stay with your wife at her family's home for a couple more days." Cai Xiufen said, "Treasuring is based on tolerance, and you're a man, accommodating your wife more is no harm."

Kang Guoan replied, "Hmm."

After looking at her younger son for a while, Cai Xiufen waved her hand, "Go on."

"Then I'm leaving."

As he said this, Kang Guoan walked out the door.

Now in the room were just Cai Xiufen and Kang Li's mother. After Kang Guoan left, Cai Xiufen asked Kang Li, "Your brother seems much better now."

"Better than when I saw him this morning."

Kang Li said smilingly.

"Your Fifth Brother may seem gentle, but among your brothers... he's the coldest. If Fifth Sister-in-law keeps acting up for a long time, your brother definitely won't keep indulging."

At the main gate.

"You can leave, our family head and teacher have no time to see you."

The steward said expressionlessly, dismissing Second House's people.

"We can wait."

Jiang Bowen smiled modestly, standing still.

Chapter 1580

"As you wish."

The butler said, turning around to enter the door, and with a "creak," the door shut tightly.

"Dad, does Granduncle not want to see us?"

"Uncle, is it because of something involving my dad that Granduncle still won't forgive our family?"

Speaking were Jiang Bowen's younger daughter and Jiang Boxun's eldest son.

"Big Brother, I think we should head back."

This was Jiang Pingting's voice.

Jiang Boxuan stood by, gazing at the tightly closed door, pondering over something.

"Let's wait a little longer."

Jiang Bowen said to his daughter and nephew, his younger sister.

After returning from abroad, his sister paid to purchase a two-entry siheyuan in North City.

Although not large, and incomparable to the courtyard in the old house, it was sufficient for their family.

Having returned to the country several years ago, he and his third brother worked at his sister's trading company, and given he had some experience managing a company, business was getting better year by year.

With profits, they weren't just spending without earning; their family's lifestyle wasn't bad, though it couldn't compare to before the bankruptcy abroad.

Nonetheless, the family was quite content.

Recently, he heard the owner of Jiang family old house had returned, and upon inquiry, learned his elder uncle moved into the old house to retire. He hoped to visit during the Spring Festival to mend the relationship between the two sides.

After all, relying on a big tree provides shelter. If they could gain favor from the main family, their second family's small company wouldn't fear lack of orders, and their days would become increasingly prosperous.

However, given the current situation, he realized he was overly optimistic.

Elder uncle and their cousin... clearly didn't want to see anyone from their second family.

The truth was indeed like that, Jiang Boya really didn't want to meet Jiang Bowen or anyone from the second family.

Even though the two sides had already separated a long time ago, and abroad, the main family has always taken care of the second family, in the end? The second family didn't show gratitude, disregarded family ties, and in pursuit of the main family's assets, they repeatedly struck hard and even caused a death. With this incident ongoing, there was no chance of reconciliation between the main and second house.

Over twenty minutes passed, and the tightly closed door remained shut. Jiang Bowen grimaced slightly and, with a bitter smile, said to Jiang Pingting and Jiang Boxuan, "Let's go back; it seems indeed elder uncle doesn't want to see us."

"It's our family's fault, not elder uncle's."

Jiang Pingting, a gentle woman, said as she held her young niece's hand and called the two nephews to follow, walking with Jiang Bowen towards the car parked nearby.

"Third brother!"

Seeing Jiang Boxuan persistently lagging behind, Jiang Bowen halted and called out.

"Coming."

Jiang Boxuan responded, stepping quickly to catch up.

"Big Brother, during the Spring Festival, let's come over a few more times. Maybe elder uncle's heart will soften, and he'll welcome us back."

Listening to Jiang Boxuan's words, Jiang Bowen shook his head, "Elder uncle won't change his mind so easily, moreover... moreover, back then what we second family did almost cost Jiang Boya his life. Even if someday elder uncle forgives us, Jiang Boya would not."

"But Brother Boya ultimately survived, and now he has a daughter and grandchildren. As they say, surviving a disaster brings future blessings for Brother Boya."

"Ah! Bad Rourou, you got ahead of me!"

Lin Dan pretended to be upset but quickly smiled, offering Kang Li her New Year wishes.

...

After lunch, Mo Yan bid farewell to Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen, also saying goodbye to Big Brother Kang and others, finally focusing his eyes on Kang Li: "Sister Kang Li, we'll be going now, Feng Yi and I."

"Alright." Kang Li nodded, smiling, "I'll see you off."

"Sis, no need."

Feng Yi refused, saying, "It's very cold outside; don't go out and freeze." After Feng Yi's words, Mo Yan also declined Kang Li's offer to see them off.

Although the snow stopped at midnight last night and today was sunny, much of the snow on the ground had melted, especially on the road, where snow and water were invisible.

Melting snow is colder than falling snow.

Besides, today's wind is particularly strong, like knives cutting one's face.

Given this, Mo Yan and Feng Yi hoped Kang Li wouldn't catch cold seeing them off.

"Let's go."

However, Kang Li ignored their words and stepped out of the reception room.

Seeing this, Mo Yan and Feng Yi had no choice but to follow.

"Uncle Mo, Uncle Feng, Guoguo will see you off too."

Guoguo said in a childish voice and began toddling after Mo Yan and Feng Yi.