

Weak B 1591

Chapter 1591

"Are you seriously talking to me like this? I just mentioned your parents, and you're picking a fight with me, Kang Guoan. Do you hate me now and not want to continue this relationship?"

With tears in her eyes, Wang Pan also sat up on the bed with an aggrieved expression: "I love you so much, I don't believe you don't know that. Since you know, why can't you let me have my way a little, and instead insist on fighting with me on everything?"

Kang Guoan just looked at Wang Pan indifferently, without saying a word.

"I want you to speak, say something, why don't you speak, Kang Guoan, don't bully me too much!" Sniffing, Wang Pan's tears rolled down her cheeks, and at this moment, Kang Guoan finally spoke, "Is it interesting? Throwing your tantrums for no reason, Wang Pan, do you think behaving like this is interesting?"

Wang Pan's eyes widened: "Who are you calling a spoiled lady?"

"Isn't that what you think you are?" Kang Guoan's gaze remained calm and indifferent as he said, "You consider yourself a true North City person, think of yourself as a cadre's child, and think my family is just from a poor background,

so you look down on us with pride, don't treat my parents as elders with respect, and act coldly toward my brother, sister-in-law, and nephews. Tell me, are you sure you're not acting like a spoiled lady from the feudal era?"

"I am not! I'm not! Don't accuse me unjustly!"

Wang Pan would never admit that in front of the Kang family she had a strong sense of superiority, thinking that the Kang family were just ordinary rural people who could not compare to her or her family.

"Whether you are or not, you know it yourself."

Kang Guoan didn't want to argue, so he lay back on the bed, still turning his back to Wang Pan.

"Sob, sob..."

Wang Pan cried softly.

Yet, Kang Guoan didn't care.

As for their son, Duoduo, he slept in Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen's room that night.

"Kang Guoan, you bully people, even if I was wrong, I can change, can't I? Why are you ignoring me? And I was just asking what your parents and siblings said to you, is that so hard to answer?"

"It's not hard to answer. Listen carefully now, my parents didn't have something to say to us siblings, it was my sister who had something to tell my parents and us as siblings."

"..."

Wang Pan was choked by words.

Actually, Kang Li talked to the family about giving money to repair roads, build a primary school, and even set up a factory in the old home. The reason she didn't gather her sisters-in-law and nephews was that some sisters-in-law had returned to their rooms to rest early, so Elder sister-in-law Kang and the sisters-in-law didn't take part.

If Kang Li had called them together, it would have seemed too deliberate.

And with Wang Pan's temperament, she might have felt uncomfortable, thinking Kang Li was intentionally showing off.

"Then why didn't she call us sisters-in-law to listen?"

"You had all gone back to your rooms to rest, it's so cold at night, if Li Bao went to call you, not to mention what the elder sister-in-law might think, can you guarantee you wouldn't have thought too much?"

"..." Wang Pan remained silent, after a while, she said aggrievedly: "Then what did she talk about with you all?"

Kang Guoan was irritated, but he suppressed it and spoke indifferently: "Which 'she' are you referring to? If you mean my sister, please use her name."

Wang Pan: "Do you really have to be so petty?"

"It's not about being petty, it's about giving others the respect they deserve." Kang Guoan sighed and said, "Before and after the wedding, your personality has noticeably changed. Wang Pan, which one is the real you?"

This time, Kang Guoan turned to face Wang Pan, lying on his side, with a face showing no emotion, he said flatly: "In my memory, when you were with my sister, you appeared to be an open, pure, and respectful girl, but after the wedding, what I see is an arrogant lady who likes to throw little fits.

Honestly, I don't understand what you're so proud of. Considering your family situation, it's at most an ordinary cadre family, not a high-ranking one. Even then, shouldn't you be more prudent outside?"

Wang Pan's face burned with embarrassment.

"Moreover, I don't mind you throwing little fits at me, but you can't always sulk over nothing. After all, I'm just human, not a god, I get tired too, and I have troubles as well. How can I always accommodate you, put up with you, and tolerate everything you do?"

Chapter 1592

Kang Guoan's gaze was deep and unfathomable at this moment: "Actually, you were pretending before marriage, weren't you?"

"I... I wasn't pretending!"

Wang Pan felt guilty.

"If you were pretending, I think you did a great job. At least I didn't find that you were fake, and my sister probably didn't either."

After Kang Guoan finished speaking, he closed his eyes, trying to fall asleep.

"I told you I wasn't pretending."

When she first started college, she was thrilled, especially when she saw a classmate who looked like a fairy. She genuinely liked her and wanted to be friends, the best of friends.

So, she liked going in and out with this fairy-like classmate, liked listening to her talk.

After meeting her classmate's brother, she was attracted at first sight.

She pursued him actively and got what she wished for.

But after marriage, she found out that everyone in this family, young and old, liked Kang Li, liked her former college classmate and good friend, liked this fairy-like sister-in-law, and she couldn't help but feel jealous.

Gradually, she deliberately distanced herself from her, and then it developed to the point where just seeing her felt like an eyesore.

She knew this was wrong, but she couldn't control her jealousy, which might have something to do with being spoiled by her family since childhood.

Willful and a bit possessive.

She hoped everyone around her would pamper her, and even if they didn't, they shouldn't pamper others.

In a nutshell, like the saying goes, "Two tigers can't share one mountain."

Wang Pan understood her thoughts and knew they were selfish, which meant she was destined not to analyze herself in front of Kang Guoan.

"Kang Guoan."

"Kang Guoan, are you asleep?"

"Kang Guoan! Did you hear what I said?"

She spoke again and again, but Kang Guoan gave no reaction, not even a hint, and even made the gentle, subtle sound of deep sleep.

Wang Pan stared at him for a while, angrily lay back in bed.

She thought to herself: Kang Li! It's all your fault! You made it so that I couldn't even enjoy the New Year with Kang Guoan!

...

The next day.

Kang Li and Luo Yanqing returned to the main courtyard, leaving Min Rui with his cousins in the quadrangle.

By noon, Mo Yan and Feng Yi came over.

"You're leaving today?"

In the living room, Kang Li asked Feng Yi.

"Yeah, the journey takes a day and a night. I have to catch the train this afternoon." Feng Yi said, pausing before Fang Xu added, "Sis, I'll write to you when I can."

"Okay."

Kang Li smiled and nodded.

"Brother-in-law, please take good care of my sister and the kids, and also...don't overwork yourself, or my sister and the kids will surely be upset."

Shifting his gaze to Luo Yanqing, Feng Yi said it earnestly.

Hearing this, Luo Yanqing responded with an "Mm."

"Alright, you guys chat, I'll go make lunch."

Kang Li got up and, before Luo Yanqing and the others could react, she had already left the living room.

Coming to his senses, Feng Yi stood up directly and said to Luo Yanqing, "I'll go help my sister." Watching his figure disappear out the living room door, Luo Yanqing and Mo Yan began to chat idly.

Well, it was supposed to be small talk, but since both were naturally reserved, they exchanged only a few words before quietly sitting on the sofa watching TV.

Whether they were actually watching it, only the two of them knew.

In the kitchen.

"Sis, if you encounter any trouble after I leave, just call me. I'll find a way to return to North City as fast as I can to help you." Feng Yi said as he added some charcoal to the stove, then casually remarked to Kang Li.

Hearing this, Kang Li understood the hidden meaning in Feng Yi's words, and she smiled gently: "You focus on your training and your work. With your sister's skills, I can handle any problem with ease, no matter how big. Besides, I'm not alone here in North City, there's no need for you to travel all the way back just to help me with some minor issue."

Feng Yi looked serious: "I'm your brother!"

Kang Li chuckled and shook her head: "I never said you weren't."

With a slightly complicated expression, Feng Yi softly called out: "Sis..."

"Hm?"

Kang Li paused her chopping, with a puzzled look in her eyes: "If there's something you want to say, just say it."

"Over the past few days, I've thought more than once, sometimes fate is so wondrous. You saved Brother Mo and me by chance back then, and later, I shamelessly acknowledged you as my sister. Never thought, today we would turn out to be biological siblings."

"Yes, we are blood-related siblings, and this is fate."

"Sis... I'm really happy to have you as my sister. In this world, you're the only blood relation I have. In this lifetime, I will definitely be a good brother and never embarrass you."

Chapter 1593

"Silly boy, you've always been amazing."

Kang Li smiled and said, "Before you were an adult, you already knew how to support yourself. Then you decisively enlisted to protect the country, and later succeeded in getting into a prestigious command school through the college entrance exam. Now you've grown into an outstanding soldier, and watching your journey makes me very proud of you!"

"Sister, I'm not as amazing as you, and I can't even compare to you."

Feng Yi remembered his days living with the Feng family and said, "Since I could speak, I was very happy to have brothers and sisters at home,

but I didn't expect those so-called brothers and sisters... they didn't like me at all. That would've been fine, but they didn't treat me as a brother, constantly teasing me with words,

treating me like a servant, framing me, pushing me... Slowly, I became scared of being seen by them, scared to be with them, but under one roof, I had nowhere to hide, so I had to let them bully me.

And that woman saw it all and never intervened. Even when I looked at her for help, she'd pretend not to see. Being young, I couldn't resist, so I quietly endured. In the deep of night,

I'd think over and over, how wonderful it would be if I had my own brother and sister, so I wouldn't have to fear those who didn't like me."

"Then why didn't she ask us sisters-in-law to listen together?"

"You all went back to your rooms to rest; it's such a cold night, and late at that. If Li Bao were to call you, who knows what the eldest sister-in-law might think, and can you guarantee you wouldn't overthink it?"

"..." Wang Pan was silent for a while, then said aggrievedly, "Then what did she say to you?"

Kang Guoan was internally frustrated, but he held it in, speaking blandly: "Which 'she' are you referring to? If you mean my sister, please address her by her name."

Wang Pan: "Do you have to nitpick over every detail?"

"It's not about nitpicking, it's about giving others the respect they deserve." Kang Guoan sighed, "Your personality seemed different before and after marriage, Wang Pan, which one is the real you?"

At this point, Kang Guoan turned to face Wang Pan, his face showing no emotion, and said lightly, "In my memory, when you were with my sister, you seemed like an open-minded, genuinely respectful girl. But after marriage, the you I see is arrogant and capricious, like a spoiled young lady.

Honestly, I don't know what you're so proud of. With your family's situation, at most, you're from an ordinary cadre family; you can't call it a high-ranking household. Besides, even if you were from a distinguished family, wouldn't it make you more cautious in your behavior?"

Wang Pan blushed.

"Also, I don't mind you being capricious with me, but you can't throw a tantrum at every turn. After all, I'm human, not a god. I get tired too, I have troubles too, so how am I supposed to always accommodate you, indulge you, and tolerate everything you do?"

Kang Guoan's gaze was deep and unfathomable: "Was the pre-marriage you all an act?"

"I... I wasn't pretending!"

Wang Pan's heart was uneasy.

"If it was an act, I think you acted very well. At least, I didn't find it fake, and my sister probably didn't either."

After saying that, Kang Guoan closed his eyes, ready to sleep.

"I said I wasn't pretending."

Back then, when she just started college, she was very happy, especially when she saw a classmate who looked like a fairy. She sincerely liked her and wanted to be friends, best friends even.

So, she loved being with this fairy-like classmate, loved listening to her talk.

After meeting her brother, she was attracted at first sight.

She pursued actively and achieved her wish.

But after marriage, she discovered that everyone in this family, young and old, adored Kang Li, adored her former college classmate and good friend, adored this fairy-like sister-in-law, and she couldn't help but grow jealous.

Gradually, she intentionally distanced herself and then developed a feeling that just seeing her was irritating.

She knew it was wrong, but she couldn't control her jealousy, maybe because she was pampered by her family since childhood.

Spoiled and a bit bossy.

In another room, Second Brother Kang's Wife, He Hui, was slow to respond after listening to Kang Guosheng, she said, "Li Bao is really amazing! I admire her."

"I admire Li Bao just like you do; she has a big heart, and her path will surely go far." Kang Guosheng propped his hand under his head, saying, "Among the women I know, none is more amazing than Li Bao."

"Maybe your vision is narrow? In my opinion, Li Bao is one of the best in our country's women right now, even many of you men can't compete with her."

He Hui's smile was wide, "Li Bao brings honor to all of us women."

Kang Guoan laughed when he heard this: "Look how happy you are."

"Of course I'm happy; having such an amazing woman like Li Bao as my sister-in-law really delights me. Plus, you don't know how those women in the family yard envy me for having such a good sister-in-law."

Every time they receive a package from Li Bao, those who see it in the family compound can't hide their envy, and they often make sour remarks in front of her.

But so what?

Who told them they don't have a generous and capable sister-in-law?!

...

In the room where Third Brother Kang and his wife live.

"Li Bao handles things generously and will earn more in the future. When we expand our business, we should set aside some money to help those in need."

Okay, even though they said they were chatting, both were naturally reticent, and after a few words, they quietly sat on the sofa watching TV.

Whether they were truly watching, only they knew.

In the kitchen.

"Sister, if you encounter any trouble after I leave, call me, and I'll find a way to get back to North City as quickly as possible to help you." Feng Yi threw some charcoal into the stove, then casually said to Kang Li.

Upon hearing this, Kang Li understood the hidden meaning in Feng Yi's words and smiled softly, "Focus on your training and your work. With my abilities, no matter how big the problem is, I can handle it with

ease. Besides, I'm not alone in North City, no need for you to return from afar just to solve a little trouble for me."

Feng Yi looked serious: "I'm your brother!"

Kang Li laughed and shook her head, "I never said you weren't."

Feng Yi's expression was slightly complicated, and he softly called out, "Sister..."

"Hmm?"

Kang Li, who was chopping vegetables, paused, her eyes showing curiosity: "If there's something, just say it."

"These past few days, I've been thinking about how fate can be so miraculous. Years ago, when you accidentally saved Brother Mo and me, I clung to you and called you sister, and now, unexpectedly, we're actually blood siblings."

"Yes, we are blood siblings, and that's fate."

"Sister... I'm very happy to have you as my sister. In this world, you're the only blood relative I have, and in this lifetime, I'll definitely be a good brother and never embarrass you."

Chapter 1594

"School is about to start, and Yilin will be taking the college entrance exam in a few months. If he continues to stay in North City and play, he might not be able to focus when he returns to school."

This was Third Brother Kang's voice. He looked at Kang Li warmly and said, "If you have time over the summer vacation, take the kids and our parents back to the old home, and by then, you can stay in our family's new house."

"Alright."

Kang Li, knowing that they couldn't keep Third Brother Kang and Fourth Brother Kang's families from leaving, smiled and nodded after hearing Third Brother Kang's words.

It must be said that Third Brother Kang's eldest son, Kang Yifei, was admitted to college two years ago. However, the university Kang Yifei attends is in South City, which is similar in nature to the ones attended by Kang Yichen and Feng Yi, all being military command schools.

Due to training, Kang Yifei did not return during the winter vacation, and thus couldn't spend New Year's with the family.

"Auntie, I will try my best to get into a university in North City!"

Kang Yilin turned to Kang Li, speaking earnestly.

"Then make sure to review well in the remaining months!" Kang Li encouraged Kang Yilin. Then, she shifted her gaze to the eldest son of Fourth Brother Kang: "You must work hard too; next year's college entrance exam is waiting for you!"

Kang Yifan stood up straight: "I will, I definitely won't let you down, Auntie!" Saying this, he glanced at Kang Yilin, thought for a moment, and said, "Auntie, Brother Lin and Brother Hao have a bet to see who can become the top scorer in this year's college entrance exam."

As Kang Yifan spoke, everyone in the living room turned their attention to Kang Yilin.

As for not looking at Kang Yihao, it's not that they didn't want to, but because Kang Yihao, the second son of the second brother, wasn't there. The couple of the second brother had already returned to their home.

Kang Yihao was naturally required to go back with them. After all, since the exam is a few months away, the second brother and his wife are very strict with Kang Yihao's studies.

Because of this, everyone else in the Kang family locked their eyes on the second son of the third brother, Kang Yilin. Being watched so intently by everyone, Kang Yilin wished he could slap the back of his cousin Kang Yifan's head.

Is there a brother like this who gets his sibling into trouble?

Even if they are cousins, they are still blood-related brothers. Why did you have to speak carelessly, kid?

Indeed, he did make a bet with that kid Kang Yihao in front of the brothers to see who could achieve the top scorer status for Old Kang's family, but they had to keep it a secret from the adults until the exam results were out and reveal the bet after one of them won.

If neither of them won, not only they but the other cousins weren't to mention it in front of the elders.

Now, thanks to this brat Kang Yifan, the secret was exposed before the exams even took place.

Thinking of this made Kang Yilin's cheeks feel hot, but since the bet was out in the open, he had no reason to back down. Moreover, his grades had never slipped from the top of his class. If he worked even harder in these remaining months, he might just snag the title of top scorer in the college entrance exam.

Even if he can't be the provincial top scorer, becoming the city top scorer would be good enough, since he has consistently ranked first in the county-wide exams. He should secure the county's first place easily in the college entrance exam, barring any surprises.

"I did indeed bet with Kang Yihao to see who could earn the top scorer's title for Old Kang's family again. I will work hard!" Kang Yilin said earnestly and firmly, standing up straight and proud.

Even if it doesn't go as planned, at least he tried!

"Go for it! If you encounter difficult problems, ask your teachers, and you can also call Aunt over the weekend to prepare thoroughly for the college entrance exam. This way, even if you don't become a top scorer, at least you will have done your best because you've made the effort."

Kang Li smiled gently, her eyes soft: "But don't put too much pressure on yourself, alright?"

"Okay."

Kang Yilin nodded.

At this moment, Kang Yifan said, "Brother Lin, please don't blame me for speaking out. I revealed your bet with Brother Hao to boost your motivation to study, definitely not with ill intentions, I swear!"

Raising his right hand, Kang Yifan made a vow.

"No need." Kang Yilin gave a side glance at Kang Yihao and said, "I said I would work hard, and I will. With my grades at school, I just might be able to bring our family another top scorer, following Auntie!"

Kang Yifan felt like he was being looked down upon, so he solemnly said, "I can too!"

"Kid, don't boast."

Kang Yilin took a jab at Kang Yifan: "Although your grades at school are okay, your rankings fluctuate a lot, and as far as I know, your best rank was just fifth in your grade."

Chapter 1595

"Thirty years east of the river, thirty years west, Brother Lin, don't look down on people! Besides, what's wrong with being fifth in my grade? This just means I have a lot of room for improvement. Maybe I'll be that dark horse everyone talks about at next year's college entrance exam. And I have over a year until the exam, if I work hard, anything is possible!"

After hearing what Kang Yifan said, everyone in the house found it amusing. Of course, they weren't laughing at Kang Yifan for being too confident or boasting; they were laughing at him and Kang Yilin, the two cousins pecking at each other like roosters, a scene so childish it was almost unbearable to watch.

However, Kang Li clapped for Kang Yifan's words: "Our Yifan said it well. Next year, at the entrance exam, your little aunt will be waiting to see you become that dark horse breaking through!"

"..."

Kang Yifan was stunned. He knew that Kang Li's words were sincere, but he also felt like "lifting a stone only to drop it on his own foot."

Of course, he would work hard and never slack off in his studies again, but getting to be the top scorer—wasn't that a bit of a boast?

The little voice in his head was sobbing in a corner, biting a handkerchief, but after coming to his senses, Kang Yifan's expression remained calm. He said, "In the next year or so, I will hang my head from the beam, pierce my thigh if needed, and focus all my energy on studying!"

Since these words came from his mouth, even if it meant kneeling all the way, he would walk down this path tirelessly and achieve the best results in next year's entrance exam!

"Kang Yifan, since you're so ambitious, your mom and I will supervise you well."

Fourth Brother Kang said with a laugh.

"Supervise me? Not necessary, I promise to be self-disciplined." Saying this, Kang Yifan's gaze shifted to Kang Li: "Aunt, can you help me create a scientific study plan?"

Kang Yilin chimed in: "Aunt! I want one too!" Such a good opportunity, he naturally wouldn't let it pass.

"..."

Kang Yiyu was fifteen, Kang Yihang fourteen, and the younger brothers even younger, exchanged glances with each other. The next moment, they all surrounded Kang Li: "Aunt..."

They didn't say more, but their eyes revealed everything they wanted. Seeing this, Kang Li smiled: "Alright, alright, Aunt will draft a study plan for all of you. But before that, form a line and tell Aunt about your study situation in each subject."

Creating a study plan isn't random. For example, if any of these nephews had a subject they were weak in, it would require a targeted and individualized plan.

"Bro, is this what Mom referred to as 'involution?'" Ming Han asked Min Rui in a small voice. Hearing this, Min Rui softly replied "yes," then Ming Han said, "At this rate, our cousins are really amazing, each one is getting wrapped up in it!"

Min Rui: "Aren't you planning to join in?"

"Is that even a question?"

Ming Han glanced at Min Rui, lowering his voice: "Although I still have three to four years until my entrance exam, success belongs to those who are prepared. I don't want to be the one holding back our family—after all, both Dad and Mom were top scorers in their exams, and their scores were awe-inspiring. I must carry on their legacy by achieving excellent results in my entrance exam and becoming a leading figure among my peers!"

After a brief pause, Ming Han asked Min Rui: "Bro, what do you think? In just over a year, you'll be taking the entrance exam with Cousin Brother Fan."

"Yes, we are siblings, that's destiny."

"Sis... I'm really happy to have you as my sister. In this world, you're my only blood relative. In this lifetime, I'll make sure to be a good brother, never bringing you shame."

"Silly boy, you've always been amazing."

Kang Li smiled and said: "Before you were an adult, you knew how to be self-reliant. Then you decisively joined the army to defend the country, and later, you passed the entrance exam and were admitted to a prestigious command academy. Now you've grown into an outstanding soldier. Watching you all the way through, I am really proud of you!"

"Sis, I'm not as great as you, and I can't even compare to you."

With that, Feng Yi remembered the bits and pieces of life in the Feng family. He said, "Ever since I learned to speak, I was really happy to have brothers and sisters in the family,

but I never expected my so-called brothers and sisters didn't like me at all. Not only that, they never treated me as a brother. Whenever they saw me, they would tease me,

treat me like a servant, falsely accuse me, push me... Gradually, I became terrified of being seen by them, scared of being around them, but living under the same roof, I had nowhere to hide and just had to let them bully me.

And that woman never cared, even when I cast a longing, pleading gaze at her, she acted as if she didn't see. Being young, I couldn't resist, so I silently endured. In the quiet of the night,

time and again I thought, how wonderful it would be to have a brother or sister of my own, that way I wouldn't have to fear those brothers and sisters who disliked me..."

Seeing the pain overflowing in Feng Yi's eyes, and his whole being shrouded in a sorrowful emotion, Kang Li's clear and smiling voice rang out: "Alright, let's not bring up unhappy things anymore. Now, your dream has come true, you have a sister all your own now!"

Wiping the corners of his eyes casually, Feng Yi smiled and said: "Sis, how can there be a mother who doesn't like her own child? If she doesn't like them, then why give birth at all? Shouldn't giving birth mean you protect your own child?"

"What's so strange about that?"

Kang Li's expression was calm: "Some people don't want children out of love, and when the child doesn't meet their expectations, naturally they won't spend the energy to care for or protect them.

Having such a mother, if you don't know what she's like, that's one thing; once you do know, you should learn to keep a calm mindset, learn to see things lightly, otherwise it'll only make you uncomfortable, don't you agree?"

"...Sis, you're right."

After a moment of silence, Feng Yi responded, and then he asked, "Do you hate her?"

Kang Li knew what Feng Yi meant by "hate." She curved her lips: "Without love, where does hatred come from? Besides, in my heart, there was never such a person, so how could I possibly hate her?"

Xiao Yi, I'm not lying to you, in my heart, the person you're talking about is just a stranger. Therefore, whether she looks for me or not, whether she appears before me or not, it doesn't affect my emotions at all."

"Sis, I think your mentality is truly admirable, not easily swayed by anything, that's great."

After listening to Feng Yi, Kang Li smiled and said: "It's not absolute. There was a time I got so angry at your brother-in-law, I just wanted to give him a good beating, so I wouldn't be in such pain from being enraged by him."

"How did my brother-in-law make you angry?"

Feng Yi asked.

"Oh, he thought he had a terminal illness, didn't even tell me, and suggested divorce. I found out the truth, and naturally figured out why he wanted a divorce. Tell me, isn't that infuriating?"

He thought he was doing right by me, but was pushing me away during his illness his idea of doing good? Sure, in other people's eyes, they might think he's noble, think he loves me deeply,

so he doesn't want me to suffer after he's gone, doesn't want me to bear too much responsibility alone. But am I someone who's afraid of taking responsibility?"

"Of course not, Sis."

Feng Yi responded without hesitation, and then, he asked: "What happened afterwards?"

"Afterwards... your brother-in-law didn't end up being sick, but I was plenty furious. If he hadn't repeatedly apologized, admitted he was wrong and asked for forgiveness, I definitely wouldn't have let him off easily."

"Sis, after all, my brother-in-law only did it because he loves you."

Feng Yi laughed: "My brother-in-law treats you very well. In his eyes, it feels like there's no one else but you. No, to be more precise, in my brother-in-law's eyes, the whole world only has you."

"With such a sweet tongue, it seems my future sister-in-law will be lucky to often hear your love talk." With Kang Li's teasing, Feng Yi immediately blushed: "Sis, this isn't right."

Kang Li raised an eyebrow: "What's not right about it?"

"You've made your little brother embarrassed!"

With Feng Yi's words, Kang Li immediately burst into laughter: "I wasn't wrong, was I?"

...

After lunch, around two o'clock in the afternoon, Feng Yi bid farewell to Kang Li and Luo Yanqing, carrying two bulging military green travel bags, ready to head to the train station.

"Wouldn't it be faster if I drove you? Instead, you insisted on having Mo Yan bike you there. Coming and going, Mo Yan would surely be blown enough by the cold wind."

"Sis, it's not that I want Brother Mo to take me, it's that he insisted on it, believe me. Besides, we agreed on this a couple of days ago, I can't just go back on it, right?"

"Sister Kang Li, Big Brother Luo has to return to the institute today, you'll need to help pack things up. I'll take Feng Yi, no problem."

This was Mo Yan's voice.

"Alright, sorry for the trouble!"

Kang Li's eyes were filled with laughter as she said, "Have Xiao Yi bike you there; you're stronger and have plenty of strength."

Chapter 1597 Betting on the Top Scholar

"No problem, I'll bike with Brother Mo."

Feng Yi said this unusually briskly.

"Sister Kang Li, Big Brother Luo, see you."

Mo Yan gripped the handlebars and smiled at Kang Li and Luo Yanqing.

"Okay, be careful on the road."

Kang Li smiled and dipped her head lightly.

"Brother Mo, let me take you."

Putting his own travel bag onto the back seat of the bicycle, Feng Yi took the handlebars from Mo Yan, then turned his gaze to Kang Li and Luo Yanqing: "Sis, brother-in-law, I'm off. Once I get to the post I'll call home."

The two of them, Kang Li and Luo Yanqing, nodded.

Watching Feng Yi ride off with Mo Yan, the couple withdrew their gaze and turned back into the courtyard.

"You remember everything, right?"

"Mm."

"One bag has your change of clothes, the other has snacks. When you get to the institute, remember to take them out, sort them a bit, then put them away properly in the locker."

"Got it."

Close to four in the afternoon, the car coming to pick up Luo Yanqing pulled to a stop at the courtyard gate. After carefully finishing her instructions to Luo Yanqing, Kang Li went out to the gate with him.

"Go back inside, it's cold out here."

The travel bag in his hand was loaded into the car by the driver. Luo Yanqing looked at Kang Li, his eyes gentle and reluctant.

"I'm not cold."

"School's about to start, and in a few more months Yilin will be sitting the college entrance exam. If we keep letting him stay here in North City and play, I'm afraid once he goes back to school his heart won't be able to settle."

This was Third Brother Kang's voice. He looked at Kang Li with a mild expression: "If you've got time during summer break, bring the kids and our parents back to our hometown. By then, just stay in our new house."

"Alright."

Knowing she couldn't keep Third Brother Kang and Fourth Brother Kang's families from leaving, Kang Li listened to Third Brother Kang and nodded with a smile.

By the way, Third Brother Kang's eldest son, Kang Yifei, had already gotten into university two years ago. However, the university Kang Yifei attended is in South City, similar in nature to the schools Kang Yichen and Feng Yi go to—also military command universities.

Because he had to do intensive training, Kang Yifei didn't come home for winter break, so he couldn't spend the reunion New Year with the family.

"Little Aunt, I'll work hard so I can get into a university here in North City!"

Kang Yilin faced Kang Li, speaking with a very serious look.

"Then make good use of these last few months and revise properly!" Kang Li encouraged Kang Yilin, then shifted her gaze to Fourth Brother Kang's eldest son: "You've got to work hard too. Next year's college entrance exam is waiting for you!"

Kang Yifan straightened his back: "I will, I definitely won't let you down, Little Aunt!" As he spoke, he glanced at Kang Yilin, then said thoughtfully, "Little Aunt, my Brother Lin and Brother Hao made a bet to see who can get a top-scorer title in this year's college entrance exam."

As Kang Yifan's words fell, everyone in the living room turned their eyes to Kang Yilin.

As for not looking at Kang Yihao, it wasn't that they didn't want to—it was that the second son of the second branch wasn't even here, because Second Brother Kang and his wife had already gone back to their own home.

Naturally, Kang Yihao was required to go back with them. After all, there are only a few months left before the college entrance exam, and Second Brother Kang and his wife are very strict about overseeing Kang Yihao's studies.

Because of that, at this moment everyone else in the Kang Family had their gaze locked on the third branch's second son, Kang Yilin. With everyone staring at him without blinking, Kang Yilin wished he could immediately smack his younger cousin Kang Yifan on the back of the head.

What kind of little brother sets his brother up like this?

Even if they're just cousins, they're still blood-related brothers. That brat, why does he shoot his mouth off?

Yes, he and that kid Kang Yihao had made a bet in front of the brothers, to see who could earn Old Kang's Home a second college entrance exam top scorer. But that was supposed to be kept from the adults until the scores came out—whoever actually made top scorer would then reveal the bet.

If neither of them got it, then not just the two of them, but the other cousins were all forbidden to mention it in front of the elders.

And now look, the college entrance exam hasn't even happened and this brat Kang Yifan has already blown their cover.

Thinking of this, Kang Yilin felt his cheeks burning. But since the bet was already exposed, he had no reason to back down. Besides, his grades had never fallen off the throne of first place in the year. As long as he put in extra effort and pushed harder in these months before the exam, maybe he really could win that college entrance exam top-scorer title.

If he couldn't reach provincial top scorer, getting city top scorer would do as well. Anyway, in the county-wide joint exams he still firmly holds the first-place seat; barring accidents, he's sure to take first in the county in the college entrance exam.

"I did make a bet with Kang Yihao to see who can get Old Kang's Home another college entrance exam top scorer. I'll work hard!" Kang Yilin lifted his head and squared his shoulders, speaking seriously and firmly.

Chapter 1598

If things don't go as planned, at least he tried his best!

"Keep it up! If you encounter difficult problems, go ask the teacher. You can also call Auntie during the weekend to prepare well for the college entrance exam. Even if you don't become the top scorer, you'll at least be proud of yourself because you tried hard."

Kang Li smiled with tenderness in her eyes: "But don't put too much pressure on yourself, okay?"

"Got it."

Kang Yilin nodded.

At this moment, Kang Yifan said: "Brother Lin, please don't blame me for being nosy. I revealed the secret of your bet with Brother Hao to motivate you to study harder. I swear I meant no harm!"

Raising his right hand, Kang Yifan made a vow gesture.

"No need." Kang Yilin glanced at Kang Yihao and said, "I said I would work hard, so I definitely will. Considering my grades at school, maybe I can be our family's next top scorer after Auntie!"

Kang Yifan felt slighted and earnestly said, "I can do it too!"

"Kid, don't brag."

Kang Yilin deliberately teased Kang Yifan: "Although your grades are good, your ranking fluctuates up and down, and as far as I know, your best grade ranking seems to be fifth place."

"The river changes course every thirty years, Brother Lin, don't look down on people! Besides, what's wrong with being fifth in the grade? It shows I have a lot of room for improvement. Perhaps next year in the college entrance exam, I'll be the dark horse everyone talks about. Moreover, I have over a year until the exam, and with hard work, anything is possible!"

After hearing Kang Yifan's words, the other family members found it amusing. Of course, they weren't laughing at Kang Yifan's overconfidence or boastful words; they were amused by how Kang Yilin and Kang Yifan were like two roosters pecking at each other, comically immature.

However, Kang Li clapped for Kang Yifan: "Our Yifan spoke well. Auntie will be waiting for this dark horse to break through next year's college entrance exam!"

"..."

Kang Yifan was stunned. He knew Kang Li was sincere, but he also felt like he'd set a trap for himself.

Of course, he will work hard and won't slack off in studying, but actually becoming the top scorer—was that a bit exaggerating?

The little guy in his heart crouched in the corner with a handkerchief, sobbing, but once Kang Yifan snapped back, his facial expression was unchanged. He said, "During the next year and more, I'll hang my head and pierce my side with needles, dedicating my mind entirely to studying!"

Words came from his mouth, so even if he must crawl, he will persist, striving for the best results in next year's college entrance exam!

"Kang Yifan, since you're so motivated, your mom and I will keep a close watch on you."

Fourth Brother Kang said with a smile.

"Keeping an eye on me? No need, I guarantee self-discipline." Kang Yifan said as his gaze shifted to Kang Li: "Auntie, can you help me make a scientific study plan?"

Kang Yilin: "Auntie! Me too!" Such a good opportunity, he naturally wouldn't miss.

"..."

Kang Yiyu, fifteen, Kang Yihang, fourteen, along with the younger brothers looked at each other, and the next moment, all gathered around Kang Li: "Auntie..."

Though they didn't follow up with words, their eyes expressed everything clearly. Seeing the situation, Kang Li smiled: "Alright, alright, Auntie will make a study plan for each of you, but first, line up and tell Auntie about your situation in each subject."

A study plan is not made casually. For instance, if any of these nephews have a subject preference, a targeted plan should be drawn up.

"Bro, is this what Mom referred to as 'the competition syndrome'?" Ming Han quietly asked Min Rui. Hearing this, Min Rui gave a soft "Mm" and then heard Ming Han add, "Looks like our cousins are really impressive, each one competing fiercely!"

Min Rui: "You don't plan to join in?"

"Do I even need to say?"

Ming Han glanced at Min Rui, lowering his voice: "Even though I have three or four years until the college entrance exam, success belongs to those prepared. I don't want to hold our family back, especially since Mom and Dad were top scorers, with scores that inspire respect. I must carry on their legacy and achieve good results in the entrance exam, becoming the leader among my peers taking the exam the same year!"

After a brief pause, Ming Han asked Min Rui: "Bro, what are your thoughts? With just over a year to go, you'll be taking the entrance exam with Cousin Brother Fan,

Chapter 1599

After she finished speaking, the look Kang Li cast at Fang Su grew even colder, laced with mockery, and Fang Su was clearly provoked by that look. She glared angrily at Kang Li: "You... you're utterly unfilial! Even if I've made a thousand, ten thousand mistakes, I am still your biological mother!"

Kang Li sneered: "Biological mother? Lady Fang, so what if you're my birth mother? I already said, the moment you abandoned me, I returned this life to you. From that moment on till now, you and I are just strangers, I don't owe you a thing. Or should I say, you have no shame and insist on taking the credit that belongs to my parents and claiming it for yourself, wanting to just snatch the ready-made fruit?"

At those words, Fang Su's face darkened, and she stayed silent for a long time.

Unexpectedly, Kang Li shook her head at this point and said, "No, that's not all. You're not just trying to steal the fruit from my parents' hands. Your ultimate goal is to rekindle things with my dad, and to go a bit deeper, what you actually want is to become Mrs. Jiang!"

Fang Su: "... " That was indeed what she was thinking, but what was wrong with that?

"Looks like I hit the nail on the head."

Kang Li watched the changes in Fang Su's expression, let out a cold laugh, and said, "The moment you thought about rekindling things with my dad, why didn't you look in the mirror and have a good look at yourself?"

A haggard middle-aged woman, sallow skin, sagging flesh, your looks are already this bad, not to mention your level of education and refinement, whereas my dad is handsome and wealthy. Even though he's middle-aged,

his figure and stamina are no different from those of a man in his twenties or thirties, and he graduated from a top foreign university, so there's no need to even mention his cultural literacy.

Tell me, what do you have that can match my dad? And besides, you're currently a married woman. Even if your present husband has stepped down from his position, his status and standing don't just vanish overnight. Under these circumstances, do you really think he can tolerate you messing around with a man while you're still married?"

"How dare you!"

Fang Su was furious, feeling as if Kang Li had brutally ripped the skin off her face.

"How dare I? You dare to think it and act on it; what can't I say?" Kang Li's tone dripped with mockery: "Already at your age and still can't behave yourself. Do you know this? From the moment you kept going

to block my dad's way again and again, and now showing up in front of me, you've been asking for humiliation!"

Fang Su suddenly shot to her feet, took a few quick steps up to Kang Li, and raised her hand, wanting to slap her, but Kang Li caught her hand in midair.

"Lady Fang, don't you dare push your luck when I'm still giving you face!"

She flung Fang Su's hand away, and as she watched the other woman stumble back two steps, Kang Li said coldly, "Back then, you seduced my dad in order to become the young madam of the Jiang Family. You can't exactly say that was wrong of you—after all, you were ambitious and wanted a life of wealth, that's human nature. But after you found out that my grandfather and grandma both disapproved of my dad being with you,

instead of thinking of proper, legitimate ways to achieve your goal, you insisted on egging my dad on to elope with you... On this matter alone, if we really have to talk about right and wrong, my dad is certainly not blameless either.

Later, my dad was forcibly brought back to North City by the people my grandfather sent, and then forcibly sent abroad. You must have taken quite a blow. After giving birth, you refused to raise the child and abandoned her.

Whether it was out of desperation or for some other reason, that was your business, your decision. Even if outsiders might condemn you from a moral standpoint, given your situation at the time, I don't hate you; I only want to say that you and I simply had no fate to be mother and daughter.

Perhaps in order to survive, to have a home and some spiritual support, you chose to marry. In my view, there was nothing wrong with that version of you.

What I can't figure out is this: you haven't lived a bad life all these years, so why is it that the moment you saw my dad again, you suddenly became restless? Did you forget that you're a married woman, forget what kind of family the Feng family is?"

Fang Su's face was as dark as ink: "That's my business, none of yours!"

"I never intended to meddle. You're the one who came looking for me today." Kang Li said coolly, "There's a saying, 'A tree lives for its bark; a person lives for their face.' Lady Fang, after you and my dad have been apart for so many years, who exactly gave you the confidence

to think my dad would keep pining for you, preserving himself for you, waiting till he came back to the country to pick things up again with you? No, he didn't. After my dad returned, he never once thought about having anything more to do with you.

And if you really cared about the feelings you once had with my dad, you wouldn't have abandoned his child. Even more, after doing something like that, you wouldn't still try to pull a bait-and-switch, deceive my dad, and get the benefits you want."

Chapter 1600

"How... how did you know?"

Fang Su looked at Kang Li in disbelief.

"Do I need to say it?"

Kang Li said expressionlessly, "The fake daughter you acknowledged is named Xu Chunxia. She comes from the same village as me, she must have told you, but whether she did or not doesn't matter.

That year she was tricked into going abroad by a foreign man, and I happened to find her by the roadside and sent her back through the embassy staff.

Lady Fang, in your heart, there's only scheming and self-interest. Aren't you tired of scheming back and forth like this?"

Fang Su: "... " Was she really scheming? She just wanted to live a good life!

As if seeing through Fang Suxin's thoughts, Kang Li said, "There's no wrong in pursuing a higher quality of life, but Lady Fang, since you married into the Feng family until now, has your quality of life been low? If you say this, I'm afraid no one around you would believe it!

Living in such a big compound, being the mistress of the Feng family, not worrying about clothing or food, not worrying about money, if you still feel uncomfortable living like this, do you want to reach the heavens? Live the life of immortals!"

Fang Su's face turned red, her expression slightly distorted.

"To be honest, I look down on people like you, Lady Fang; vanity for power, selfish and heartless. Becoming the mistress of the Feng family can be said to be your greatest fortune in life; why not cherish it? Must you always strive for more? Be careful or you'll end up with nothing!"

"Are you cursing me? I am your mother, how dare you curse me? If I had known, I should have strangled you at birth!"

Glaring at Kang Li with gritted teeth, Fang Su looked as if she wanted to swallow Kang Li whole.

"Wrong, I'm not cursing you, nor do I need to. If you continue like this, you'll self-destruct, lose everything you have, and probably end up without anyone to bury you."

With this, Kang Li seemed to think of something and said, "Ah, I almost forgot. To please your stepchildren, you ignore your own flesh and blood, even asking your own child to take the blame for your stepchild. When your own child returned from the farm, you didn't show any concern, saw his limp and felt ashamed, and drove him out of the house.

Lady Fang, you are truly a good stepmother. You treasure your stepchildren and treat your own son as grass. If I were you, I'd cling to the Feng family and enjoy your stepchildren's filial piety. Otherwise, after raising them painstakingly, being kicked out would be too much of a loss, wouldn't it?!"

These words felt like a slap on Fang Su's face.

She hadn't expected that whether Jiang Boya or Feng Yi, they exposed her unsavory side to Kang Li, making her look like a clown, unable to stand tall before Kang Li.

Forcing herself to concentrate, Fang Su asked sternly, "Where's Feng Yi?"

"You're asking me? Sorry, I don't know. But even if I did, do you think I'd tell you?"

Kang Li sat on the sofa, completely ignoring Fang Su's face, which seemed to change colors like a palette, she said, "Lady Fang, you can leave now. Hmm... I said quite a lot today, if you don't want to end up with nothing, think about what I've said."

Fang Su's eyes widened with anger, "You brat, don't be too excessive!"

"Don't bother if you can't accept my words. My father wouldn't look at someone like you, and if you ruin your current marriage, be ready to eat scraps and live under a bridge!"

Kang Li's tone was light, which made Fang Su very hard to accept. Her mind shifted, she played the emotional card, "You are my daughter, don't you want to see me reconciling with your dad, don't you want us as a family?"

Upon hearing this, Kang Li rolled her eyes and said, "Don't waste your effort. To me, you're nothing but a stranger, besides my family is perfectly united, unlike you who likes to create chaos."

"Kang Li! Are you planning to tear apart all relations with me?"

Fang Su gritted her teeth, "Don't forget, your man's ex-wife is Feng, a Feng family daughter, my stepdaughter, she's still living well!"

"So what?"

Kang Li leaned back on the sofa, crossing her arms and raising her brows.

"With just one word from me, she could disrupt your family, leaving you empty-handed, losing everything!" Fang Su was trying to scare Kang Li with Feng Lu, but Kang Li laughed, "Okay, go ahead and bring whoever to my house to disrupt things, see if I'm afraid of her."