

Weak B 1611

Chapter 1611

Kang Li waved his hand: "No, no, you heard it yourself just now. Tangyuan's imitation skills are too strong. I don't want to raise a silly son."

"Hanhan wasn't raised by you?"

Cai Xiufen raised her eyebrows with amusement.

"Grandma, what are you and my mom talking about? I think I heard you mention 'silly,' are you talking about me?" Ming Han's voice came from outside the living room door.

Kang Li looked amusedly at the slender figure with handsome features: "Do you think you're silly yourself?"

"Mom~" Ming Han drew out his tone, pretending to be aggrieved: "Your son is vibrant, with clear and upright eyes, a super handsome young man. How can he be associated with 'silly'?"

Kang Li couldn't help but laugh out loud: "Dad, Mom, Hanhan being so playful is not something I taught him. He naturally has silly attributes, hahaha..."

"I'm going to get angry, Mom, are you sure you're not mocking me?"

Ming Han saw that he single-handedly made his mom and grandma laugh heartily, and couldn't help but stomp his feet, putting on a shy and aggrieved look like a little wife.

Seeing this, Kang Li restrained her laughter, coughed twice, and said seriously and solemnly: "Alright, stand straight and don't make any weird gestures."

After a brief pause, she continued: "Just like you said, you're a vibrant, upright-eyed young man. If you act shy like a little girl outside, it's quite an eyesore. If I see it, I'll smack you."

Unbeknownst to everyone, Tangyuan stood at the master bedroom door with a medicine box. He saw all that happened in the living room and heard every word Ming Han said. Now, he blinked his shiny black eyes and said to Ming Han: "Second Brother, you were just so girly!"

Upon hearing this, not only did Ming Han's eyes widen, but even Kang Li's eyes widened beautifully.

Both focused their gaze on Tangyuan, and Ming Han asked with a stern face: "Luo Mingchen, where did you learn to say that?"

"I heard Mom say it!"

Tangyuan blinked his shiny black eyes: "What's up? Second Brother, did I say something wrong?"

Without waiting for Ming Han to speak, Kang Li half-squinted her beautiful eyes and asked Tangyuan:
"Luo Mingchen, when did I say that?"

"Just now, Mom said Second Brother was shy like a little girl, so I summarized and concluded, thinking Second Brother behaved so girly earlier, wasn't I right?"

Tangyuan looked innocent, his big eyes were wide open, making him look especially cute.

Kang Li: "... " Son, you're so skilled, you've learned how to summarize and conclude, mom has nothing to say!

" ... "

Ming Han was also speechless, deeply aware that his brother's brain was extraordinary, not something a normal smart person like him could handle.

"Tangyuan ah!"

Kang Li walked to her young son, rubbed his head, cleared her throat, and said: "Don't say those words again in the future."

"Why?"

Tangyuan raised his little head, his shiny black eyes full of confusion.

Kang Li: "Not nice words."

"Mom, actually I also think they're not nice words," Tangyuan said in a childish voice, shifting his gaze to Ming Han, his face serious: "Second Brother, you're a mighty man, you shouldn't act all shy and pansy anymore. Otherwise, when you go out, everyone will say you're girly!"

Ming Han's face burned: "Oh, I get it, Second Brother."

"Second Brother, I'm very serious, we are boys, different from sisters. We need to be like Dad and Big Brother, be a stand-up man, absolutely not turn into delicate and weak girls!"

Guoguo was led into the living room by Bun, the little girl heard Tangyuan's words and instantly glared: "Fifth Brother, who says girls must be delicate and weak? I'm very strong. If you don't believe, we can fight now!"

Pulling out her little hand from Bun's palm, Guoguo walked "dada" to stand a few steps away from Tangyuan, with hands on her hips: "Do you want to fight? If not, take back what you just said!"

"A good man doesn't fight with women."

Tangyuan snorted, keeping a stern tone: "Compared to boys, girls are naturally more delicate, but you and Sister know martial arts, so you're just stronger than other girls. Besides, I wasn't saying bad things about you just now, do you really need to fight me?"

"Are you sure you weren't saying bad things about me?"

Chapter 1612

Guoguo doesn't believe it.

"Whoever talks bad about you is a puppy."

Tangyuan's gaze is open and honest.

"Since that's the case, I misunderstood you, Fifth Brother, and I apologize right now. I'm sorry!" Guoguo earnestly admits the mistake without any embarrassment.

Tangyuan waves his little hand: "It's just a small matter, I won't hold it against you." Then, Tangyuan looks at Kang Li: "Mom, you once explained what 'dorky' means, I remember it, but I'm not a dork, you can't use that word to describe your lovable and handsome little son, mom, did you hear me?"

"I heard, I heard, it's mom's fault, I shouldn't set a bad example for you all."

It's all because she couldn't keep her mouth shut. To cheer up her parents, she couldn't help but make up nonsense songs, leading Xiao Tangyuan to follow along and the second son to act silly. In short, it's all because of her being too casual as a mom.

Tangyuan, acting like a little adult, nods: "Knowing and correcting mistakes makes a good child, mom you should stop singing that modified version of 'Little Cabbage.' Grandpa and Grandma love you, singing like that will make them sad!"

"Alright, alright, Mom promises you, I'll never sing that version of 'Little Cabbage' again."

Kang Li, with a serious face, makes a promise.

"Mom doesn't need to be so serious."

Tangyuan grins and says, "I've brought the medicine box, Mom, I'll fetch the fever medicine for you now." His gaze shifts to Ming Han: "Second brother, second brother, quickly get mom a cup of hot water, mom is sick with a fever, and she needs to drink water and take fever medicine."

"Xiao Tangyuan, mom isn't sick, you can touch mom's forehead if you don't believe me."

Kneeling down, Kang Li holds Tangyuan's little hand and places it on her forehead: "Can you feel it?"

"The temperature is just right."

Tangyuan nods his little head: "Since mom is not sick, then why before..." Before Tangyuan can finish, Kang Li quickly changes the topic to avoid her other children laughing at her: "Alright, mom will go put the medicine box back in its place." She picks up the medicine box and breezes into the master bedroom.

"Big brother, second brother, is mom embarrassed?"

Tangyuan looks towards the master bedroom door, asking Min Rui and Ming Han in a baby voice.

"If you want to know, you can ask mom later."

Ming Han suggests.

"Can't ask." Tangyuan shakes his head, adorably saying: "Girls care about face, if I ask, mom will feel uncomfortable."

Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen sit on the sofa, amused by Kang Li and Ming Han's antics, their smiles haven't faded.

...

A week passes in the blink of an eye.

During this week, apart from teaching students and taking care of the three buns, Kang Li goes out for major shopping trips, because when returning to her hometown, she has to bring some things back.

Besides, Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang are still alive, as well as Big Uncle Kang's family and Young Uncle Kang's family. These are all considered relatives of Captain Kang's side.

And Kang Li, being Captain Kang's precious daughter, naturally, Captain Kang's relatives are also Kang Li's relatives.

As a daughter, Kang Li surely has to help her parents fulfill their duties, ensuring people can't find any faults.

For instance, respecting the elders, as well as harmonious brotherhood. These relationships can't simply be maintained by just words.

On Saturday, the sky barely brightens.

The compound.

At the gate of Kang Li's home, there are two black sedans and two black vans parked.

One of the black vans is occupied by several bodyguards dressed in black, the other by two assistants going to the hometown with Kang Li, along with Jiang Boya's private secretary and lawyer Wang Fei, and also carrying many of the items Kang Li purchased.

At the moment, four strong and tall bodyguards in black are standing in a row in front of their van. These individuals are skilled veterans from the military, not only sharp-minded but also quite capable!

"Ruirui, did you remember what mom said?"

Kang Li, along with Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen, Jiang Hongfa, Jiang Boya, and others, walks out of the courtyard, focusing her gaze on Min Rui to check on her eldest son.

"Yes. I'll take care of Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei, go to and from school with them, have lunch at dry grandma's house..."

To reassure Kang Li, Min Rui repeats her instructions thoroughly. After he finishes speaking, Kang Li smiles and nods in satisfaction: "If your big aunt isn't busy, she'll come over to take care of you all for a few days. I've already discussed this with your big aunt."

"Mom, just go ahead and focus on your work, we're not little kids anymore, we can take care of ourselves."

Chapter 1613

That was Ming Han's voice.

Ming Wei nodded beside him. "Mom, you go ahead and be busy, I promise I'll listen to Big Brother."

"Alright, I won't nag," Kang Li smiled. "Go back in, pack your textbooks and hurry to school, you still have classes today!"

She paused, then seemed to think of something. "Move fast, the car can just drop you off at the school gate."

"Got it!"

Ming Han answered and bolted back into the yard.

Min Rui and Ming Wei weren't slow either.

"The three of you must be good and listen to Daddy. Mom will be back in a few days." Kang Li turned her gaze to the three little Buns and gently reminded them, "Dad has to teach your big brother and big sister and still take care of you, that's very tiring. You have to be considerate of Dad. When you get back from kindergarten, do your homework by yourselves. Don't make Dad worry."

"Mom, we're very good!"

Guoguo couldn't help speaking up. "Me and Fourth Brother and Fifth Brother usually do our homework by ourselves. We brush our teeth and wash our faces by ourselves, and we eat and get dressed all by ourselves too. We never make you worry much, Mom!"

"Alright, alright, you're all awesome!"

Giving little Guoguo a thumbs-up, Kang Li saw Min Rui, Ming Han, and Ming Wei come out. She called the three of them into the car, then said to Luo Yanqing, "I'm off then."

Luo Yanqing inclined his head slightly.

Kang Li said, "When you go to school, drive my car. The keys are on the coffee table."

"Okay."

Luo Yanqing responded.

Kang Li said, "When you pick up and drop off the Buns, remember to use the leashes. When you drive them, don't forget to buckle the seat belts on their car seats."

"Mm."

Luo Yanqing nodded.

"Then I'm going."

Kang Li got into the car. Through the window she waved at Luo Yanqing, and outside the window, Luo Yanqing also waved at her.

One car after another drove off, and Guoguo said in a milky voice, "Daddy, Mom and Grandma and Grandpa, and Grandpa, Great-grandpa, they all left."

"Mm."

Luo Yanqing answered softly, and then heard Guoguo ask, "Then do me and Fourth Brother and Fifth Brother still have to go to kindergarten today?"

"You can't leave early for no reason."

As he spoke, Luo Yanqing called the three little Buns into the yard.

Right now, whether for students going to school or workers going to work, there was no such thing as a weekend off yet.

...

The four cars drove all the way out of North City. Because she had things to discuss with Jiang Boya, Kang Li was sharing a car with her cheap grandfather and cheap father.

"Very good, we'll go with this plan." Jiang Boya finished reading the detailed road construction proposal in his hand and agreed with Kang Li's suggestion. He said, "Even though asphalt roads are more expensive to build, since we're paying to have the road built, we should build a good one. Besides, it's more comfortable for vehicles to drive on asphalt."

But the road inside the village and the section from the village entrance to the main road will be made of concrete. Also, your dad already said we'll use the best materials to build the road, otherwise when it gets hot, the road surface will soften easily and turn sticky."

Kang Li smiled. "That's what I was thinking too. I compared the cost and practicality before drafting that plan."

"You did a great job with this plan. Sometimes I can't help thinking that your head was born for business. Compared to you, I often feel like I fall way short."

"Am I really as impressive as you say?"

"Your grandfather thinks so too. If you don't believe me, ask him."

"Lili has always been smarter than you. Is there even a need to ask?"

Jiang Hongfa cut in directly.

Jiang Boya looked aggrieved. He said, "Dad, can you leave me a little dignity in front of Lili? Is that so hard?"

Jiang Hongfa said, "We're family. Why be so particular?"

"Fine, I can't out-argue you. I admit defeat."

Jiang Boya raised both hands.

"Look how old you are and still this childish. I can't bear to watch." Jiang Hongfa snorted coldly and turned his head to look out the car window.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Kang Li heard this and glanced at Jiang Boya, teasing, "Dad, Grandpa's disliking you again."

"Ever since I got you, this precious granddaughter, I've been living under your grandpa's dislike every day, like I'm soaking in bitter water."

Jiang Boya put on a pitiful act.

Who knew, as soon as Jiang Hongfa heard that, he turned his head and sent two words his way: "Have some."

Kang Li had just stopped laughing when she couldn't help bursting out again.

Jiang Boya tugged lightly at Jiang Hongfa's clothes and said miserably, "Dad, just have a little pity on me and leave me a bit of face in front of Lili, okay?"

"What did you say?" Jiang Hongfa pretended not to catch what Jiang Boya said. He thought for a moment and then spoke. "I'm getting old; my hearing's not so good anymore."

Chapter 1614

"All right, I get it, you did that on purpose."

Jiang Boya was utterly helpless. Looking dejected, he shifted his gaze to Kang Li: "Lili, can you please stop laughing at your dad?"

"I'm not, I'm not laughing."

She cut off her laughter at once, but in no time at all, Kang Li was practically bursting trying to hold it in.

Seeing the laughter spilling from her eyes and the corners of her lips curling up, Jiang Boya sighed: "Go ahead and laugh, don't hold it in. If you make yourself sick from holding it, the one who'll feel heartache is still your dad, me."

At that, Kang Li "pfft"ed and burst out laughing. She said, "Dad, I'm not laughing at you, okay? I just think you and Grandpa have such a loving father-son relationship, you two are really close. I'm happy for you!"

Cai Xiufen gave her darling daughter a mock-glare: "Yanqing's busy with work, you need to be more understanding. If I find out you're bullying that honest man again, just wait and see how your dad and I teach you a lesson."

"Mom... your bias has gone off the charts!"

Kang Li deliberately pulled a bitter-melon face and started singing the "Little Cabbage" she'd casually rewritten.

"You little rascal!"

Cai Xiufen only listened to two lines before she was laughing herself silly.

Captain Kang didn't laugh, but he did shake his head in helpless resignation.

"Mom, what song are you singing? It sounds pretty nice!" Tangyuan suddenly toddled into the living room on his short legs. He looked at Kang Li, his eyes sparkling, then opened his mouth and started singing along to her rewritten "Little Cabbage."

"Stop, stop! I was just messing around, don't you dare learn that!"

Kang Li scrambled up and clapped a hand over Tangyuan's mouth.

"Mmm mmm..." Tangyuan pried her hand off, tilted his head up and asked, "Mom, why can't I learn it? It's obviously really nice!"

Without thinking, Kang Li just started making things up: "That's something Mom just randomly cobbled together. The lyrics sound super tragic and miserable, but you're a happy kid, you've got Mom and Dad and Grandma and Grandpa, and tons of people who love you. Do you think it's appropriate for you to sing that kind of song?"

"But Mom also has lots and lots of people who love her, so why can Mom sing it?"

Tangyuan tilted his head, his big dark eyes full of confusion.

Kang Li: "I'm singing to help your Grandma and Grandpa kill time."

"Mom, you've worked hard, go sit back down. Now I'll sing to help you and Grandma and Grandpa kill time." With that, Tangyuan drew a big breath and belted out, "Little cabbage, turning yellow in the field; Dad doesn't dote on me, Mom doesn't love me; went out to flee famine, the dog came chasing me..."

"Luo Mingchen!"

Under the complicated looks from her parents, Kang Li's cheeks flamed scarlet. Seeing Tangyuan getting more and more into it, she raised her voice and called him by his full name.

It worked perfectly; Tangyuan's singing cut off in an instant.

"Mom, are you very hot?" Blinking his eyes, Tangyuan looked at Kang Li's flushed face and said in a milky voice, "But it isn't even spring yet, and summer's even farther away. Mom, you must have a fever, right?"

He took off running for the master bedroom.

"Mom, sit down and rest, I'll go get you some fever medicine."

He knew exactly where Mom kept the medicine box.

Kang Li froze for a second, then sat back down on the sofa. She glanced at Captain Kang, then at Cai Xiufen, and pressed a hand to her forehead: "Dad, Mom, I was wrong, I won't be a little brat anymore!"

See? She'd almost led the kid astray.

Cai Xiufen laughed out loud: "It's fine, you can keep fooling around and keep being a brat. Your dad and I are enjoying the show."

Tangyuan lifted his little head, his shiny black eyes full of confusion.

Kang Li: "It wasn't something nice."

"Mom, actually I also think it wasn't something nice," Tangyuan said in his milky voice. Then he shifted his gaze to Ming Han, put on a serious little face, and said earnestly, "Second Brother, you're a mighty man, you can't keep acting all shy and squirmy like that. Otherwise, when you go out everyone will say you're so girly!"

Ming Han's face burned: "Oh... your Second Brother gets it."

"Second Brother, I'm being very serious here. We're boys, we're not the same as sisters. We have to be like Dad and Big Brother and be real men who hold up the sky, we absolutely can't turn into weak, delicate girls!"

Guoguo was led into the living room by Bun. The little girl heard Tangyuan's words and instantly widened her eyes: "Fifth Brother, who says girls are all weak and delicate? I'm super tough! If you don't buy it, we can fight right now!"

She slipped her little hand out of Bun's, "da-da-da"ed forward and stopped two or three steps away from Tangyuan. Hands on her hips, she demanded, "We fighting or not? If not, then take back what you just said!"

"A real man doesn't hit girls."

Tangyuan snorted, then said stiffly, "Compared to boys, girls really are more delicate by nature. It's just that you and Sis both know martial arts, so you're tougher than other girls. Besides, I wasn't bad-mouthing you just now, did you really need to pick a fight with me?"

"You sure you weren't bad-mouthing me?"

Guoguo didn't buy it.

"Whoever bad-mouths you is a little dog."

Tangyuan's gaze was perfectly frank.

"Since that's the case, then I wronged you. Fifth Brother, I'll apologize to you right now, I'm sorry!"
Guoguo admitted her mistake sincerely, not the least bit embarrassed.

Tangyuan waved his little hand: "It's just a small thing, I won't hold it against you." Then he looked at Kang Li: "Mom, you once told us what 'dork' means, I remember, but I'm not a dork. You can't use that word to describe your cute, handsome little son. Mom, did you hear me?"

"Yes, yes, it's my fault, I shouldn't have set a bad example for you guys."

It was all her big mouth. Just to make her parents laugh, she couldn't resist making things up and singing nonsense, which led to little Tangyuan learning it, then triggered Second Brother to clown around. In short, it all came down to this mom being way too casual.

Tangyuan nodded like a little grown-up: "Knowing your mistakes and correcting them makes you a good kid. Mom, don't ever sing that Little Cabbage again. Grandma and Grandpa love you very much, if you sing like that you'll make them sad!"

"Okay, okay, Mom promises you—never again with that rewritten Little Cabbage."

"Big Brother, Second Brother, is Mom shy?"

Tangyuan glanced toward the master bedroom door and asked Min Rui and Ming Han in his milky voice.

"If you want to know, you can ask Mom later."

Ming Han offered a suggestion.

"Can't ask." Tangyuan shook his head and said cutely, "Girls all care about their image. If I ask, Mom will feel awkward."

Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen sat on the sofa, the younger ones—Kang Li and Ming Han—had them both laughing nonstop. You could say the smiles never left their faces.

...

A week flew by.

Over that week, aside from teaching her students and looking after Bun and the other two, Kang Li went out on big shopping trips to the mall, because you have to bring things home when you go back to the hometown.

Plus, Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were both still alive, and there were Big Uncle Kang's family and Young Uncle Kang's family—those all counted as relatives on Captain Kang's side.

And Kang Li was Captain Kang's doting darling daughter, so naturally Captain Kang's relatives were also Kang Li's relatives.

As a daughter, Kang Li had to help her parents handle everything that needed handling, so no one could find fault.

Like showing respect to the elders, and being friendly with your brothers—those kinds of relationships can't just be maintained with a few words.

Chapter 1615

Kang Guozhu walked beside Kang Li, taking advantage of the moment when Kang Li spoke to him, he lowered his voice and casually asked, "How is it?" Hearing this, Kang Li paused at first, then smiled and nodded, "It's good." However, she quickly asked Kang Guozhu quietly, "Was it your idea, Brother Guozhu?"

"The town leaders arranged it," Kang Guozhu replied, and quickly added, "But I think it's a great idea."

"Actually, I prefer to keep things low-key."

Kang Li smiled, hearing someone talk to her, she couldn't help but turn her gaze toward them and responded politely.

The group did not go to the team office but went directly into the courtyard gate of Kang Li's home.

"Father, Mother, Li Bao, you are back?!"

Knowing that Kang Li and Captain Kang were coming home today, the Third Brother Kang and his wife and Fourth Brother Kang and his wife had returned to Aoli Village yesterday, cleaning the inside and outside of the house thoroughly. When they saw Kang Li and the group entering the courtyard gate, they hurried forward to greet them.

Kang Li responded with a simple "Mm."

Captain Kang nodded.

Introduced by Kang Li and Kang Guozhu, the Third Brother Kang and Fourth Brother Kang and their spouses greeted Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya, as well as the provincial, city, county, and town leaders.

The notable point is that the county leaders were familiar faces to the Kang Family, being the original Commune Director Wu who had arranged the match between Kang Li and Luo Yanqing.

The group entered the main room and took their seats. After some pleasantries, they moved onto the main topic, and Kang Li openly presented her plans to the leaders.

Finally, Jiang Boya also shared some of his thoughts.

Their objectives met, the provincial, city, county, and town leaders were very satisfied. They intended to invite Jiang Hongfa, Jiang Boya, and Kang Li to dine at a county town restaurant, but Kang Li politely declined.

Of course, Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya also refused.

The reason being their trip focused on personal matters, not specifically for investment inspections, so they did not want to waste time on a banquet.

The leaders understood Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya's intentions from their words, naturally they would not take more time affecting Jiang Hongfa and the Kang Family's interaction.

Seeing the leaders to the courtyard gate, Captain Kang noticed County Magistrate Wu giving him a signal, without much thought, he and County Magistrate Wu walked aside, just to hear County Magistrate Wu say, "Older Brother Kang, you raised a wonderful daughter!"

County Magistrate Wu, formerly Director Wu, had risen in ranks over the years, joining the county leadership team three years ago.

"You flatter us, it's all due to my child's own efforts; as a farmer, I didn't do much," Captain Kang responded with a smile.

"You are humble!" County Magistrate Wu smiled warmly, he paused, quietly asked, "Mr. Jiang Boya said once he finishes with matters here, he will inspect a few enterprises in our city to decide whether to inject funds, what do you think are the chances Mr. Jiang Boya will invest?"

"I couldn't say," Captain Kang shook his head, he looked serious, "Though our family and Mr. Jiang are close due to Li Bao, Mr. Jiang is a big decision-maker, whatever decision he makes, how can others predict?"

"Alright, I understand." County Magistrate Wu's face showed no surprise, he shook Captain Kang's hand, then said, "Being able to raise a good daughter like Kang Li, we all know it's thanks to you and Cai Xiufen. Here, I thank you two on behalf of the county's elders and folks!"

Captain Kang's expression showed no surprise or flattery; his smile remained modest and sincere, "I still say it, Li Bao's accomplishments today are all her own doing,

and her willingness to fund road construction for the folks, to build a new school in the village, to start factories to bring prosperity to the villagers, as she said, it's called giving back to society. After all, without the country providing stable life, without the country's education, she wouldn't be where she is today."

"Older Brother Kang, you are still as eloquent as before!" Principal Wu smiled sincerely, he released Captain Kang's hand, "Remember to find me when you're in the county town, then, we will go to my home and have a good drink."

Captain Kang: "If I have time, I will."

"Alright then, see you next time."

After parting with Captain Kang, County Magistrate Wu walked towards the jeep not far away.

Once the leaders all left by car, Kang Guozhu moved closer to Kang Li to inquire about various things, as for Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya, due to the bumpy ride, both had been taken by Fourth Brother Kang to a prepared room for rest.

Chapter 1616

In the main room, only Kang Li, Kang Guozhu, Captain Kang, and their family members like Big Uncle Kang and Young Uncle Kang were left.

"Li Bao..."

Kang Guozhu suddenly called Kang Li very softly.

"Hmm?"

Kang Li looked at her, her beautiful eyes tinged with confusion.

"You call Old Mr. Jiang grandfather, and Mr. Jiang father, this..." He didn't finish the sentence, but Kang Guozhu believed that Kang Li surely knew what he meant.

In fact, Kang Li did understand his unspoken meaning. She looked up at Captain Kang: "Dad..." seeking his opinion.

Big Uncle Kang, Young Uncle Kang, and the others in the Kang family all simultaneously looked towards Captain Kang.

"It's exactly what you're thinking." Captain Kang said calmly. After a slight pause, he continued, "But whether now or in the future, Li Bao is still the little girl of Old Kang's home, the little daughter of her mother and me, the treasure of our family."

Kang Li's cheeks turned red: "Dad, I'm going to get goosebumps!" She never expected to hear such cheesy words from her dad one day.

"Second Uncle, you're right, Li Bao will always be our Old Kang's treasure, my precious little cousin!" Kang Guozhu grinned.

Big Uncle Kang found his eldest son's smile too harsh on the eyes and couldn't help but glare at Kang Guozhu: "With a smile as bad as that, you'll scare my old man's precious little niece."

"That's right, Guozhu, if you scare Li Bao, even though I'm getting on in years, I can still chase you down for a beating, no problem."

Third Uncle Kang and Big Uncle Kang were already considered old men in the village, unlike Captain Kang. Although he was a few years older than Young Uncle Kang, he hadn't been toiling under the sun in recent years due to being in the North City.

With Kang Li's subtle care in every aspect of life, combined with often gathering with the old fellows at the courtyard, watching chess, and playing occasionally, he not only maintained a fit physique but also a great spirit.

Even the white hair on his head was less than Third Uncle Kang's!

"Dad, Young Uncle, don't tease like that about someone. How am I scaring Li Bao with my ugly smile?" Kang Guozhu grumbled in a deep voice: "I'm her big cousin; I can't get enough of her, why would I want to scare her?!"

"You're fifty-two or three already, don't you know how many wrinkles are on your face? That smile looks like elm bark crumpled together. How can Li Bao not be scared?"

Big Uncle Kang, though in his early seventies, still looked quite robust, and spoke with a powerful voice.

"Big Uncle, my Brother Guozhu is fine, his smile is so amiable, it hasn't changed a bit from when I was a child."

Kang Li spoke up to prevent her big cousin, Kang Guozhu, from having an identity crisis from Big Uncle Kang's comments.

"Listen, really listen, our Li Bao is so considerate, to the point of saying such self-effacing things just to save your face."

Hearing Big Uncle Kang's words, Kang Li found it funny yet helpless, and she looked at Kang Guozhu giving him a "I tried my best" look.

The main room was lively, as was the kitchen.

Third Sister-in-law Kang, Fourth Sister-in-law Kang, and a few daughters-in-law from Big Uncle Kang's and Young Uncle's families were busy choosing vegetables, washing them, cutting meat, and braising chicken... having casual chats and laughter occasionally.

As for Cai Xiufen, she was dragged into a room for a chat by two sisters-in-law, Big Uncle's wife and Young Uncle's wife. Despite being apart for a long time, their relationship hadn't become distant.

At around noon, just after twelve, when the students got out of school, the children from Big Uncle's and Young Uncle's houses studying in the village school immediately ran joyfully to their Second Grandpa's house, Kang Li's home, to see their little cousin.

It should be noted that most of the children under Third Brother Kang and Fourth Brother Kang were attending school in the county, except for Third Brother Kang's eldest son, Kang Yifei, who was studying in the provincial capital, so they hadn't come back to the village today.

Kang Li was surrounded by children, hearing the non-stop chattering near her ears, responding to this one and that one, and her smile never left her face. That lasted so long that her facial muscles almost felt frozen from smiling.

Only when Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were brought over from Big Uncle Kang's house by Captain Kang and the three brothers, including Big Uncle and Young Uncle, did Kang Li finally break free from the children's circle.

In Aoli Village, Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were considered long-lived elders.

Chapter 1617

One is eighty-eight this year, the other eighty-five. They need someone to support them when they walk, but their bodies are still fairly healthy, their spirits are fine too. Judging from their current health, as long as there are no accidents—like a fall or bumping into something—they can easily live for several more years.

Knowing the two old longevity stars have only a few teeth left, they need extra attention when it comes to food, so naturally, the lunch prepared for them was specially made by Third sister-in-law Kang.

"Grandpa, Grandma, have you eaten well?"

After lunch, Kang Li asked Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang with a smiling face. The two old longevity stars both nodded happily. Seeing this, Kang Li said, "Then I'll sit and chat with you for a bit, and send you to rest later."

Grandma Kang agreed repeatedly.

The sun in the yard was very warm. Kang Li sat with the two old longevity stars, basking in the sun while telling funny stories about Bun, Tangyuan, and Guoguo, and from time to time she talked about Min Rui, Ming Han, and Ming Wei's studies.

And then whatever Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang asked, Kang Li answered. She didn't brush them off, nor did she show the slightest impatience.

"Your grandson-in-law's work is busy, you have to be more understanding of him. You all have to live well out there!"

Holding Kang Li's hand, Grandma Kang patted it lightly: "Your grandpa and I have never once had a big fight in this lifetime. When I first married your grandpa, my temper really wasn't that good, but your grandpa always tolerated me, never lost his temper at me. Later on, my bad temper slowly changed."

Kang Li asked with a smile, "Why?" In fact, she was asking even though she already half knew the answer.

"Didn't want your grandpa to have it so hard."

Grandma Kang seemed to sink into memories of the past, her expression a bit joyful as she said, "Your grandpa had to support the family, he worked very hard. But even so,

your grandpa wouldn't let me do heavy or tiring work. If I still didn't know what's what, and kept throwing tantrums in front of him, that would be rather ungrateful."

"You old woman, what are you telling Li Bao all that for?"

Grandpa Kang glanced at Grandma Kang, then looked at Kang Li with loving eyes: "Your grandma is a good woman. When she was young, her temper was a bit big, but she was quick with her hands and feet, and always saw what needed doing.

Ever since she stepped through the Kang Family's door, she was busy with the household, and also went down to the fields with me to work. After your eldest uncle, your dad, and your younger uncle were born, your grandma never had a moment's rest,

still just as busy running around as when she first entered the Kang Family. When your great-grandpa and great-grandma got old and couldn't move, she fed them meals and water, took care of them with all her heart, and never uttered a single word of complaint."

"I'm not as good as you say."

Grandma Kang glared at Grandpa Kang: "Besides, taking care of the old and the young, that's my duty. And your parents treated me very well too. Who in our village didn't envy me? They all said your parents treated me like their own daughter!"

"They doted on you because you're good."

Grandpa Kang muttered under his breath.

In Grandpa Kang's generation, his parents had only one child—him.

After Grandpa Kang married Grandma Kang, in just seven years, she had three children—and all three were big healthy boys.

His father and mother couldn't have been more delighted.

Back to the point, what Grandpa Kang said was true. After Grandma Kang entered the Kang Family, Kang Li's great-grandparents really did treat this daughter-in-law very well.

Suddenly, someone shouted out loud.

The next moment, everyone turned to look at the four cars driving in from afar. At the same time, drums and gongs were beating, yangge dancers twisting and turning—the scene was very lively.

"Li Bao, that sounds like gongs and drums, and it seems to be coming from our village's direction."

Listening to the faint sound of gongs and drums in her ears, Cai Xiufen couldn't help saying this to Kang Li.

"Most likely your Brother Guozhu stirred it up."

Captain Kang frowned: "What's he making all that fuss for?"

"It probably wasn't Brother Guozhu's idea." Kang Li spoke up for her older cousin Kang Guozhu. She looked toward the village entrance through the car window. Although it wasn't very clear, she could plainly see there were a lot of people, and she also saw two small cars parked out by the fields.

Having a rough idea in mind, Kang Li said, "Either it's a decision made by the town leaders, or it's something required by the county."

Cai Xiufen asked Kang Li, "Is this to welcome you?"

"It should be to welcome my dad and my grandpa. After all, they count as foreign investors. Of course, I might be counted in too, since your daughter here is going to put up money to do real things for the folks back home!"

As Kang Li spoke, she playfully blinked.

Seeing this, Cai Xiufen scolded with a smile, "Look how pleased with yourself you are!"

"I'm naturally good-looking." With both hands propping up her chin, Kang Li blinked her beautiful eyes at Cai Xiufen again: "Mom, take a good look, isn't your daughter even prettier than a Fairy Girl?"

Chapter 1618

Cai Xiufen laughed out loud, "Yes, yes, you're the most beautiful, much prettier than the fairy."

"I love hearing mom talk the most!"

Kang Li smiled radiantly and blew a kiss to Cai Xiufen.

"You're so cheeky, we're almost at the village entrance. If folks see you like this, who knows how they'll laugh at you!" Cai Xiufen shook her head, her eyes full of indulgence and helplessness.

"Just you wait, Mom. When I get off the car, I won't mess up."

Sitting upright, Kang Li cleared her throat and said seriously, "I am honored to witness today's lively scene."

Captain Kang: "All right, the car is about to stop."

"Roger that!"

When the car stopped, Kang Li didn't even have to open the car door herself. The bodyguards from the car in front had already gotten out and quickly opened the car door for her, followed by the rear door.

Kang Li got out of the car and saw her cousin Kang Guozhu leading several leaders over with smiles. Seeing this, Kang Li proactively greeted Kang Guozhu and then politely shook hands with several leaders who greeted her.

Needless to say, Kang Li didn't forget to shake hands with Kang Guozhu.

Because at this moment, Kang Guozhu represented the village, the village officials, and not as a private individual.

After the bodyguards opened the car door, Jiang Boya and Jiang Hongfa got out one after the other. At this point, Kang Li led the leaders to them and introduced both sides to each other.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, the group entered the village.

"Li Bao, what do you think of today's welcome ceremony?"

Walking beside Kang Li, Kang Guozhu lowered his voice and casually asked while she talked to him. Hearing this, Kang Li was stunned for a moment, then smiled and nodded: "Quite good." However, she then softly asked Kang Guozhu, "Was this your idea, Brother Guozhu?"

"The arrangements of the town's leaders," Kang Guozhu responded, quickly adding, "But I think it's a great idea."

"Actually, I prefer things to be a bit low-key."

Kang Li smiled. Hearing someone speak to her, she turned her gaze to the person and responded politely.

The group didn't head to the team office but went straight into Kang Li's home courtyard.

"Dad, Mom, Li Bao, you're back?!"

Knowing that Kang Li and Captain Kang's elders were coming home today, Third Brother Kang and Fourth Brother Kang's families returned to Aoli Village yesterday to clean both inside and outside the house thoroughly. Seeing the group walk into the yard, they quickly stepped forward to greet them.

Kang Li responded with an "Mm."

The elder couple of Captain Kang nodded.

Introduced by Kang Li and Kang Guozhu, Third Brother Kang and Fourth Brother Kang's families respectively greeted Jiang Hongfa, Jiang Boya, as well as the provincial, municipal, county, and town leaders.

It's worth mentioning that the county leader was still an acquaintance of the Kang family, the former Director Wu of the Commune, who had once mediated for Kang Li and Luo Yanqing.

The group entered the main hall and sat down. After some small talk, they moved to the main topic, and Kang Li didn't hold back, laying out her plans in front of the leaders.

In the end, Jiang Boya also shared a few of his thoughts.

Having achieved what they wanted, the provincial, municipal, county, and town leaders were very satisfied. They planned to invite Jiang Hongfa, Jiang Boya, and Kang Li to dine at a restaurant in the county, but Kang Li politely declined.

Of course, Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya also declined outright.

Because the focus of their trip was on personal matters, not specifically to conduct investment inspections, they didn't want to waste time on business dinners.

The leaders understood the intentions from Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya's words and naturally didn't want to take up their time, affecting Jiang Hongfa's interactions with the Kang family.

After sending the leaders to the gate, Captain Kang saw County Magistrate Wu giving him a look. Without thinking much, he walked over to Wu and heard him say, "Older Brother Kang, you have raised a wonderful daughter!"

County Magistrate Wu was the same Director Wu from back then, who had climbed higher in position over the years, joining the county's leadership team three years ago.

"You're too kind. It's all because the child worked hard herself. I'm just a farmer and did nothing much," Captain Kang replied with a smile.

"You're humble!" County Magistrate Wu smiled warmly. After a moment of silence, he asked in a low voice, "Mr. Jiang Boya mentioned that after dealing with matters here, he would visit a few companies in our city to consider whether to inject funds. What do you think are the chances of Mr. Jiang Boya investing?"

"I couldn't say for sure," Captain Kang shook his head, looking serious, "Though our family and Mr. Jiang are close because of Li Bao, Mr. Jiang is a man of great deeds. Whatever decision he makes, how can others possibly fathom it?"

"Alright, I understand." County Magistrate Wu didn't seem surprised. He shook Captain Kang's hand and then said, "Being able to raise such a great daughter like Kang Li, we all know that it's due to you and Cai Xiufen's efforts. On behalf of the fathers and elders of our county, thank you both!"

Captain Kang's expression showed no sign of being flattered; his smile remained modest and sincere: "I still say the same thing. Li Bao's success today is entirely due to her own efforts.

And she's willing to invest in building roads for the local folks, to build a new elementary school in the village, and to establish factories to help villagers get wealthy together. In her words, it's about giving back to society. After all, without the stability provided by the state, without the education from the country, she wouldn't be where she is today."

"Older Brother Kang, you're as eloquent as ever!" Principal Wu smiled sincerely as he released Captain Kang's hand: "When you come to the county town, remember to find me. Then, let's go to my brother's place and have a good drink together."

Captain Kang: "If there's time, I'll surely go."

"Then it's settled. See you later."

Parting ways with Captain Kang, County Magistrate Wu headed for the jeep not far away.

After the leaders drove off, Kang Guozhu came over to Kang Li, asking her all sorts of questions. As for Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya, since they were a bit tired from the journey, Fourth Brother Kang had already taken them to the rooms prepared for their rest.

The main hall now only had Kang Li, Kang Guozhu, Captain Kang, Big Uncle Kang, Young Uncle Kang, and other family members.

"Li Bao..."

Kang Guozhu suddenly called Kang Li very softly.

"Mm?"

Kang Li looked at him, her beautiful eyes filled with confusion.

"You refer to that Old Mr. Jiang as grandfather, and you call Mr. Jiang father, this..." He didn't finish the sentence, but Kang Guozhu was sure Kang Li understood his meaning well.

Indeed, Kang Li understood his unspoken words. She raised her eyes to Captain Kang: "Dad..." This was to seek Captain Kang's opinion.

Big Uncle Kang, Young Uncle Kang, Kang Guozhu, and other members of the Kang family all unanimously turned their gaze to Captain Kang.

"It's exactly as you think," Captain Kang said calmly, pausing for a moment before continuing, "But regardless of now or in the future, Li Bao will always be the little girl of the old Kang's family, the darling of me and her mother, and the precious jewel of our family."

Kang Li's cheeks reddened: "Dad, I'm getting goosebumps already!" She never thought she'd hear such mushy words from her father one day.

"Second Uncle, you're right, Li Bao will always be the precious jewel of the old Kang's family, my dear little cousin!" Kang Guozhu grinned widely.

Big Uncle Kang found his son's grin quite an eyesore and couldn't help but give Kang Guozhu a stern look: "With such an ugly smile, don't scare my old man's precious little niece."

"That's right, Guozhu, if you scare Li Bao, even if I'm old, chasing you down won't be an issue," Third Uncle teased.

Chapter 1619

"Alright, you go rest in your room too." Cai Xiufen nodded with a smile, "Then you quickly get some sleep, I'm leaving now." With that, she got down from the edge of the kang.

Kang Li murmured an acknowledgment, watching Cai Xiufen leave the room, and then she lay back under the covers.

...

"Is Li Bao asleep?"

Cai Xiufen returned to the room she shared with Captain Kang, and even before she could speak, Captain Kang asked her, and she nodded, "When I went over, Li Bao was already lying down."

"Did you mention anything about the color TV to Li Bao?"

Seeing Cai Xiufen lie down on the kang, Captain Kang pulled the lamp cord, plunging the room into darkness as he casually asked Cai Xiufen another question.

"What's there to ask?" Cai Xiufen rolled her eyes in the dark and said, "Li Bao bought that TV to save face for us. If you want me to fork out the money for the TV, aren't you worried that our daughter will have a grudge against us? That she'll feel we're treating her like an outsider, not as our own daughter?"

Captain Kang felt wronged, "I just don't want Li Bao to spend so much. After all, she has many kids at home and also has to pitch in to build roads, schools, and factories on our side. There are so many expenses. If we can save her some money, we should."

"Li Bao was able to show filial piety by buying that big color TV for us, which just shows it wasn't a big deal for her. Don't worry about it unnecessarily." Cai Xiufen said, pausing momentarily before continuing, "Now that Li Bao's true story has been revealed, if we suddenly start keeping track of everything, with our daughter's cleverness, she'd definitely overthink it."

Captain Kang felt even more wronged, "How many times do I have to say it? I'm just trying to lighten our daughter's burden a bit, but you keep twisting my words. I really can't understand what you women think about all day."

Turning over, Captain Kang went from lying on his back to lying on his side, facing away from Cai Xiufen, "Li Bao is our daughter whom we raised from childhood. This fact can't be changed by anyone!"

As he spoke, Captain Kang's tone noticeably intensified.

Cai Xiufen chuckled, "Alright, alright, I misunderstood you. But why does our Li Bao like to quietly do such big things? During New Year's she gave us quite a surprise, and now she returns home and, without us knowing, buys a big color TV for our parents. Told Guozhu it was our way of honoring them. To tell the truth, when Guozhu mentioned it, I felt so proud!"

Hearing these words, Captain Kang remained silent, but in his heart, he felt the same as Cai Xiufen.

When he heard Kang Guozhu's words, especially with the brothers all present, he also felt a sense of pride in that moment.

Big Uncle Kang's House.

"The second brother and his wife know how to raise kids better than we do." Lying on the kang, Big Uncle Kang hadn't yet fallen asleep and casually remarked. In response, Sun Fengzhu didn't feel any dissatisfaction. After all, she was nearly seventy, an old woman by now, what could she not let go of? But hearing her husband sigh repeatedly, Sun Fengzhu couldn't help but say, "You're right, the second

brother and his wife indeed raise kids better than we do, but there are other reasons too. Do you want to know?"

Undoubtedly, Sun Fengzhu was Big Aunt Kang's name.

Big Uncle Kang said, "If you want to say something, just say it."

"Second brother's brain is sharper than yours, so naturally, their offspring are of higher quality." Hearing this, Big Uncle Kang didn't think he'd still feel disheartened in his old age.

There was a moment of silence before Big Uncle Kang spoke, "You're right, ever since I was young, I was never as quick as the second brother or the third brother."

"Alright, alright, I was just saying it offhand. At our age, talking about this won't do anything but make us uncomfortable. Besides, back then with Li Bao's help in tutoring, our family did produce two college students, and in these past few years, there's been another one. Ultimately, this is all thanks to Li Bao, and we should remember the good she's done."

Sun Fengzhu said calmly, while Big Uncle Kang listened in silence beside her.

"You're staying quiet because you think I'm wrong, don't you?"

Asked this by his old wife, Big Uncle Kang hurriedly responded, "You are right."

"I wasn't wrong at all. Plus, today, Li Bao not only had a big color TV delivered to our house but also bought presents for our whole family, especially for us, the big uncle and aunt, as if she was honoring her parents, giving us each a new set of clothes. I don't know what the third brother's family thinks, but as for me, I feel both gratified and a little guilty."

"Then just be good to Li Bao."

"When have I ever not been good to Li Bao? Now we know Li Bao wasn't born to the third brother and his wife, but in my view, it doesn't really matter, right?"

Chapter 1620

"It's nothing. Li Bao has been a well-behaved child since she was little. It doesn't matter much whether she was born to the third brother and his wife; she is naturally likable."

Big Uncle Kang spoke, with an involuntary hint of envy in his tone: "Why wasn't our luck like the third brother and his wife back then, to find such a good daughter like Li Bao?"

"We could only say we weren't destined for it." Sun Fengzhu sighed: "Speaking of which, the second brother and his wife certainly have tight lips. They kept Li Bao's background a secret so well that if it weren't for her biological father finding her, I bet with the third brother and his wife's temperament, they wouldn't have told Li Bao about her origins until their eyes closed for good."

Big Uncle Kang: "If it were you, would you say it?"

"No."

Without a thought, Sun Fengzhu answered, and then she said: "Let's sleep. All our envy towards the second brother and his wife for raising a good daughter is in vain."

Young Uncle Kang's home.

"Li Bao has really brought honor to our second brother and sister-in-law." Young Uncle Kang smacked his lips, saying: "It's not just about her own success; she's thinking of helping the villagers build roads, constructing a primary school for the village kids, leading fellow villagers to prosperity, and even bought a big color TV in the name of the second brother and sister-in-law to entertain our parents. How come we didn't have such a diligent and successful daughter?"

"Just not lucky! But you have to admit, as her uncle and aunt, ever since Li Bao went to North City, we've received quite a few gifts from her over the years. Just like today, Li Bao again got us a set of new clothes, not only of good quality but also finely crafted. It must have cost quite a bit."

"Earlier this year, Li Bao sent me and big brother a pair of military boots, sent you and sister-in-law a cotton-padded jacket. How long has it been, and she's spending money on us again? Really!"

"Saying one thing but meaning another."

"How am I saying one thing but meaning another?"

"You're saying that, but inside, you're happy!"

"You caught me, I am indeed very happy. To think in this life, I enjoyed the blessings of a niece!" Young Uncle Kang beamed: "When Li Bao returns to North City, remember to give her some of the mountain goods we've picked."

"You don't need to tell me, I got it!"

Aunt Kang said while yawning, then closed her eyes: "It's late, let's sleep."

Young Uncle Kang responded, and then the room fell silent.

...

For three consecutive days, Kang Li was very busy. Once she got everything sorted and chose the factory location, she decided to set off back to North City early the next morning.

And now, it was around four in the afternoon. Kang Li and Kang Guozhu were sitting in the office of the brigade headquarters, talking about planting and breeding matters.

"An integrated ecological recycling park for planting and breeding? According to your plan, it might cost a lot of money." Kang Guozhu frowned deeply: "And aren't you worried about losing everything?"

"Brother Guozhu, there's a risk in everything we do, but since I chose to do it, I'm not worried about its risks, especially since I have confidence."

Kang Li said, looking relaxed. She smiled and said: "Don't worry, I've assessed the risks. As long as you do as I say, I guarantee that in no more than five years, our village and nearby villages will change dramatically."

"Does Second Uncle know about this? And Mr. Jiang, does he know?"

Kang Guozhu still attempted to persuade Kang Li to abandon the integrated planting and breeding ecological recycling park plan.

"Of course, my father and my dad both support me, and since it's what I want to do, they have no reason not to support it."

With a smile on her lips, Kang Li reassured Kang Guozhu: "Brother Guozhu, I never fight a battle I'm not confident in. Once this ecological park is built, I will bring in professionals to work in it, not just some small-scale, unplanned operations."

After a long silence, Kang Guozhu nodded: "Alright, I'll help you with the contracting matter. If there are any issues, I'll communicate with Assistant Xing."

Assistant Xing was the male assistant Kang Li brought along this time, who is very capable.

Kang Li's eyes curved with a smile like a crescent moon. Before Grandma Kang could react, she added: "Right now, though my beloved grandma and grandpa are getting on in years, my grandma is still a beauty, and my grandpa is also a very handsome old man. Looking at you two now, I can imagine how beautiful and eye-catching you both were in your youth."

"..."

Both Grandma Kang and Grandpa Kang were momentarily stunned by Kang Li's words. After a moment, Grandma Kang burst into laughter: "You little girl, could it be that you know what your grandpa and I looked like when we were young?"