

Weak B 1621

Chapter 1621

"There's a saying, 'Beauty is in the bones, not in the skin.' Even though you're old now, Grandma and Grandpa, your bone structure shows how beautiful you both were when you were young, besides, I've seen my Big Uncle, my dad, and my Young Uncle when I was little, they all looked very handsome. Furthermore, both my big brothers and my cousins are all good-looking, showing just how good-looking you and Grandpa were back in the day!" Kang Li propped his chin with one hand and faced Grandma Kang: "Grandma, I actually want to say that the Kang family's genes are really strong, and I also want to say that you and Grandpa have such a great relationship that I envy!" "Genes?" Grandma Kang didn't understand. Kang Li explained it in plain language to Grandma Kang, while Grandpa Kang listened attentively beside them. When it comes to it, the two elderly ones are quite old, but they still have good eyesight and hearing, and even though they've lost a lot of teeth, their speech is still fairly clear. After listening to Kang Li, both Grandma and Grandpa Kang burst out laughing. Kang Li laughed along with them, the courtyard was filled with their laughter for a while. About twenty minutes passed. Kang Li noticed the fatigue showing in their expressions and said, "Grandma, Grandpa, why don't I help you back to the room to rest for a bit." "Your house is crowded, I'll just go back to your Big Uncle's place with your grandpa." Grandma Kang said, supporting Grandpa Kang as they stood up. Seeing this, Kang Li quickly supported Grandma Kang. ... At Big Uncle Kang's House. "Li Bao, what is this...?" Looking at the large bags and a large square box in the middle of the main room, Kang Guozhu's eyes were full of confusion: "Why don't you tell your brother, what is this big box you brought over?" "Brother Guozhu, don't you recognize the words on it?" Kang Li asked with a smile. "Yes, your brother can read a few words, but with something this big, I can't decide to keep it." A color television set! Before today, there were two televisions in their village, both black and white. One was bought by the brigade and placed in the brigade office for villagers to watch during the idle farming evenings, to give them an understanding of the outside world; the other was bought by his little cousin for the second uncle's family. But today, the little cousin brought a big color TV directly to his house, why is that? "What's so big about it?" Kang Li glanced at the other cousins and their wives, and finally, she looked back at Kang Guozhu: "This color TV is a gift for Grandpa and Grandma. With it, when they feel bored, they can watch TV shows and experience what the world is like now." Kang Guozhu confirmed: "Bought for our Grandpa and Grandma?" "Yes! It's not easy for me to come back from North City, so I can't always be filial to Grandpa and Grandma. Plus, my parents can't always take care of them since they're busy taking care of my child. Now that I have some financial abilities, I figured I would represent my parents and myself to buy a TV for Grandpa and Grandma to pass the time." Saying this, Kang Li pointed at a slightly larger package: "In there are the clothes I bought for Grandpa, Grandma, Big Uncle, and Big Aunt. The next bag has gifts for you cousins and your wives, and then this bag here," she moved her fingers to point at another package, "has gifts I bought for the nephews. The remaining package contains supplements and tobacco and alcohol." "Why did you bring so many things over?" Kang Guozhu frowned: "Your brother knows that you have money from doing business now, but money doesn't come easy for you, not to mention you have to fund the road construction here, build an elementary school, and run a factory..." Before Kang Guozhu could finish his sentence, Kang Li cut him off: "If I'm able to fund road construction, build an elementary school, and run a factory for my hometown, then where would I lack the money to buy presents for my family and to be filial to Grandpa and Grandma?" With a smile, Kang Li turned and

walked towards the door of the main room: "I'm leaving, there's no need for the brothers and sisters-in-law to see me off." When coming to Big Uncle Kang's house, there was no need for Kang Li to give orders. The two assistants and the bodyguards helped Kang Li bring over the big color TV and the large and small packages. "Li Bao, aren't you staying at home for a bit?" Kang Guozhu chased out of the main room: "You didn't even drink a cup of water before leaving. If Second Uncle and Second Aunt find out, what do I tell them?" "Don't worry, you know what kind of temper my dad and mom have." Kang Li waved and said with a smile: "I still need to go to Young Uncle's house, so I won't stay here to chat with you more." As the music ended, Kang Li took the assistants and bodyguards out of Big Uncle Kang's courtyard, and shortly they arrived at Young Uncle Kang's house.

Chapter 1622

"Li Bao, you..."

Third Aunt Kang was about to leave the courtyard when she saw Kang Li coming with some people. She paused and said, "I just came back from your house and fed the pigs. I was just about to go back to your place to chat with your mom and Big Aunt Kang. Didn't expect you to come over. Come in and have a seat."

She invited Kang Li to sit in the main room. Seeing Kang Li instructing two bodyguards in black to put down the things they were carrying, Third Aunt Kang looked moved. "Why bring gifts when you come? You've been busy studying and working outside all these years, and though you don't come home often, you always send things back for the holidays. Now that you're back in person, why go to such expense?"

"Auntie, it's just a little gesture from me. Please accept it," Kang Li smiled and said, "Since I can remember, I know everyone in our family cares for me a lot. And I remember clearly how much love you and Third Uncle have shown me!"

Third Aunt Kang laughed, "Silly girl, your uncle and I love you as we should, never expecting anything in return."

"I know."

"Alright, your mom's gone back to her room to rest." Cai Xiufen smiled and nodded. "You should get to sleep quickly, I'm leaving now." Saying so, she got up from the edge of the bed.

Kang Li responded with a slight "Hmm," watching Cai Xiufen exit the room. She snuggled back under the covers.

...

"Is Li Bao asleep?"

Cai Xiufen returned to the room she shared with Captain Kang. Before she could speak, she heard him ask, and she nodded, "Li Bao was already lying down when I went over."

"Didn't mention the color TV to Li Bao?"

As Cai Xiufen lay down on the bed, Captain Kang pulled the light cord, plunging the room into darkness, while casually asking her another question.

"What's there to ask?" Cai Xiufen rolled her eyes and said, "Li Bao is doing this to give us face. If you ask to return the money for the TV, wouldn't you worry she'd feel we're distancing ourselves from her, not treating her like our daughter anymore?"

Captain Kang felt wronged, "I just don't want Li Bao to spend so much. After all, she has many kids at home and is also funding road repairs, building a school, and setting up a factory here. There's so many financial burdens. If we can save her a little, we should."

"Li Bao bought that big color TV as an act of filial piety towards us, which shows it wasn't a big deal for her, so don't worry about it," Cai Xiufen said, pausing slightly before continuing, "Now that Li Bao's lineage has been revealed, if the family suddenly starts calculating everything, with Li Bao's intelligence, she's bound to overthink."

Captain Kang felt even more wronged, "How many times do you have to say it? I just want to help ease her burden, but you keep misinterpreting it, I just don't get what women think about all day."

Turning over, Captain Kang shifted from lying on his back to his side, turning away from Cai Xiufen, "Li Bao is someone we've raised since she was little, she's always been my real daughter, and no one can change that fact!"

As his speech went on, Captain Kang's tone noticeably intensified.

Cai Xiufen laughed, "Alright alright, I misunderstood you. But why is our Li Bao so fond of quietly doing big things? Back during Spring Festival, she surprised us greatly, and now she came back home and, without us knowing, bought a big color TV for her grandparents, and told Guozhu it's an act of filial piety from us to them. Honestly, when I heard Guozhu say that, I felt so proud!"

Hearing this, Captain Kang remained silent, but his thoughts mirrored Cai Xiufen's.

Listening to Kang Guozhu, especially with his brothers present, he too felt a sense of pride at that moment.

At Big Uncle Kang's house.

"The second couple raises kids better than we do." Lying on the bed, Big Uncle Kang hadn't fallen asleep yet. He casually remarked, and hearing this, Sun Fengzhu wasn't upset about it. After all, she's almost seventy now, an elderly woman, and there's little to fret about. But hearing her husband continuously sigh, Sun Fengzhu couldn't help but say, "You're right, the second couple does raise kids better than us, but there's another reason, do you want to know?"

No doubt, Sun Fengzhu was Big Aunt Kang's name.

Big Uncle Kang: "Say what you want to say."

"The second couple is just smarter than you, naturally, their kids have better quality." When Sun Fengzhu said this, Big Uncle Kang never thought that even in his old age, he'd feel this way.

After a brief silence, Big Uncle Kang spoke, "You're right, I was never as clever as the second or third brother from a young age."

"Alright, alright, I was just casually saying that, we're getting older now, what use is it to talk about that except to make ourselves feel bad? Besides, thanks to Li Bao's help with tutoring that year, we also had two college students in our family, and in the past few years, another one. This all comes back to Li Bao's credit. We should remember the good she's done."

Said Sun Fengzhu calmly, with Big Uncle Kang quietly listening beside her.

"You're silent, do I have it wrong?"

With his wife's question, Big Uncle Kang quickly responded, "You're right."

"Of course, I'm right, and today, Li Bao not only had someone bring us a big color TV but also bought gifts for the whole family, especially for us as the Big Uncle and Aunt, just like honoring our parents, each of us got a new set of clothes. I don't know what Third John's family thinks, but I feel both grateful and embarrassed."

"Then be good to Li Bao."

"When have I ever been bad to Li Bao? Now we all know Li Bao wasn't born to Third John and his wife, but to me, it doesn't matter, you know?"

"It doesn't matter. Li Bao has been a good child since she was young, and it doesn't matter who gave birth to her, she's charming just the same."

Big Uncle Kang spoke, with an undeniable hint of envy in his tone, "How come we didn't have the good fortune like the third couple, to have a daughter as good as Li Bao?"

"Maybe we just don't have that destiny," Sun Fengzhu sighed, "Come to think of it, the second couple has been pretty tight-lipped about Li Bao's background. If not for Li Bao's biological father finding her, I suspect with Third John's temperament, he wouldn't say a word about her background till their eyes were closed."

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

"No."

Without thinking, Sun Fengzhu answered, then added, "Go to sleep. No use envying the second couple for having such a good daughter."

At Young Uncle Kang's house.

"Li Bao really brings glory to the second brother and his wife," Young Uncle Kang smacked his lips and said, "It's not just that she's successful on her own, but she also thinks of helping the villagers build roads, a school for the local kids, leading the villagers to prosperity, and even bought a big color TV in their name to cheer up her grandparents. Why don't we have a daughter as clever and accomplished?"

"It's just not our fortune! But you have to admit, as her Uncle and Aunt, ever since Li Bao went to North City, all these years we've received no shortage of gifts from her. Just today, Li Bao got us both a fine set of new clothes, even with high-quality fabric and meticulous craftsmanship, I reckon it cost quite a sum."

"Earlier this year, Li Bao sent military woolen boots to me and Big Brother, and padded jackets to you and Big Sister-in-law. How long ago was that? And she's still buying us things, it's really something!"

Chapter 1623

"What you're saying makes sense, Mom. Your daughter has learned her lesson."

Kang Li nodded with a smile, showing she agreed with what Cai Xiufen said.

"By the way, what did Chunmei come looking for you about?" Cai Xiufen suddenly changed the topic, and before Kang Li could answer, she went on, "Don't tell me she's like your Aunt Cui, wanting to use your connections to get into the factory and work there?"

"That's more or less what she meant, but I didn't agree right away. After all, the factory has a certain hiring process. If I set a precedent here, it's hard to guarantee that the managers in the factory won't copy it later.

Besides, nothing works without rules. As long as Chunmei can meet the hiring requirements, I won't have to say a word and she'll be able to get into the factory and work just fine."

After listening to Kang Li, Cai Xiufen nodded. "That's how it should be. Otherwise, if you open this door today, when the factory recruits later, there definitely won't be any shortage of people from our family coming to us."

Who doesn't have a few difficult relatives?

Even if you don't among the close ones, what about the distant ones?

So her daughter was right: nothing works without rules, and some openings just can't be made.

"Don't worry, Mom. After the factory is built, we'll announce the relevant regulations, like factory rules, and also reward-and-penalty systems and so on. With these constraints, even if someone comes to our house wanting to go through the back door, it'll just be a waste of their time."

Kang Li's expression was calm, and Cai Xiufen felt reassured by her words.

It's right for relatives to help each other when something comes up, but that doesn't mean you have to help with every single thing.

And her daughter is putting up the money to start the factory in order to boost the local economy and help the villagers get rich together, not because she's got so much money she doesn't know where to spend it and wants to play the generous fool.

"As long as you've got it clear in your heart." Cai Xiufen said, then paused and asked, "You're really leaving early in the morning?"

"Yeah."

Kang Li nodded.

"Then I'll go pack up." Saying that, Cai Xiufen was about to head back to her room, but just as she lifted her leg, something suddenly occurred to her and she asked Kang Li, "Chunmei didn't ask about Chunxia?"

"She did." Kang Li said, "But I didn't say anything."

Hearing that, Cai Xiufen was momentarily stunned, then said, "It's fine if you didn't. Chunxia isn't a three-year-old child. Back when she showed up in North City, she herself never thought of contacting the family.

And you even reminded her not to go down the wrong path, but she wouldn't listen. Now we don't even know what's going on with her. If you'd told Chunmei about her today, she might start overthinking it and even blame us in her heart."

"You and I had the same thought." Kang Li's eyes smiled. "That's exactly what I thought when Chunmei asked me."

Cai Xiufen sighed. "You can know someone's face but not their heart. Even between blood siblings there's no avoiding some ugly stuff." With that, she turned and went back to her room.

Only Kang Li was left in the main room. She sat on the bamboo couch for a little while longer, then got up and walked toward the room she was staying in.

Since they were leaving early in the morning, she also had to pack her things.

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Late at night before bed, Kang Li pried open Jiang Boya's door.

"How come you're here at this hour?"

When the door opened and Jiang Boya saw Kang Li coming in, he asked with a casual smile.

"I came to see if you and Grandpa have finished packing."

Jiang Hongfa was sitting on the kang. Hearing Kang Li's voice, he called his precious granddaughter over to sit on the kang. Kang Li shook her head. "No, since we're leaving early tomorrow morning, I thought I'd come over before bed to see if you and my dad have everything packed up."

"There's not much to pack."

This was Jiang Boya's voice. He said, "Your grandpa and I just brought a few changes of clothes. Knowing we're leaving early tomorrow, after lunch I just casually packed everything up."

"That's good." Kang Li smiled, then asked, "How are things here?"

Jiang Boya: "Good. Everyone's very warm and simple."

Jiang Hongfa: "That villa drawing you made is very good. This afternoon your dad and I went to your eldest uncle's house to sit with your grandparents for a while. Your eldest cousin happened to be there, so we mentioned buying a plot of homestead land here in the village and building a villa according to the drawing you did."

Kang Li pretended to be upset. "And none of you told me."

"We wanted to give you a surprise." Jiang Boya raised his brows. "Happy? In the future, when you come back to the village, your grandpa and I can come with you like this time, and without troubling your parents, we can also spend more time with your relatives on this side."

"Dad, you and Grandpa really don't have to go this far for me."

Kang Li's expression softened. "Life in the countryside really isn't like in the city. It's fine if you come stay a day or two once in a while, but..." She hadn't finished when Jiang Boya raised his hand to stop her. "Your grandpa and I may be used to living comfortably, but that doesn't mean we can't endure hardship."

Chapter 1624

Life in the countryside is tough, but if you have money, what's there to be afraid of? You can always change things, can't you?

Kang Li said, "That's not what I meant, I'm just worried you won't be used to it."

"There's nothing to get used to or not. Just remember this: in your grandfather's and my heart, wherever you are is where we'll be." As Jiang Boya said this, on the heated brick bed, Jiang Hongfa heard it, saw Kang Li look over at him, and couldn't help nodding. He said, "In our family's three generations, it's just your dad, you, and this old man here. While I'm still alive, your grandfather just wants to watch you father and daughter happily walk the rest of your road."

The older a person gets, the lonelier they become; whenever they're alone, they can't help thinking about all sorts of things.

Having lived to this age, other than being with his son and granddaughter and enjoying the happiness of family, he had no other wishes.

Here, Kang Li was chatting idly with Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya; her expression was moved, the atmosphere around them warm with a faint hint of bitterness. Meanwhile, far away in G City, Xu Chunxia was being beaten by a wealthy madam.

"Vixen! You shameless vixen! How dare you seduce my man. You brazen thing, you've got hands and feet, why can't you do some honest work? Why do you only think about sitting back and enjoying the fruits of others' labor?"

Ding Dalan hated that her man kept a woman outside. Back then, if her own family hadn't put up the money to help him start his business, how would the Cheng family have what they had today? But that damned man, once he saw her getting old and losing her looks, went behind her back and kept another woman outside. If her younger sisters Erlan and Sanlan hadn't accidentally stumbled on it, she'd probably still be kept in the dark even now.

"Big Sis, you come hold her down, let me help you beat this vixen!" Ding Erlan and Ding Sanlan, one pinned down Xu Chunxia's legs, the other grabbed Xu Chunxia's hands. Both of them glared, eyes spitting fire, at the vixen pressed to the floor, unable to move, bawling as she begged for mercy.

"Okay."

Ding Dalan stood up and made room for her younger sister Ding Erlan. Seeing Ding Erlan's slaps raining left and right on the vixen's face, she couldn't describe how satisfying it felt.

Not long after, she called Ding Sanlan over to lay into Xu Chunxia's body.

To the side, a short, chubby middle-aged man stood against the wall. Not only was there bruising on his face, but the scratch marks on his neck were clearly visible. His expression was blank, as if he wasn't even seeing Xu Chunxia being savagely taken revenge on by his wife and two sisters-in-law.

"Brother Cheng! Brother Cheng, save me, save me!"

Xu Chunxia was crying so hard her voice was hoarse. The year she gave up her child and divorced, she took the money the Hu Family gave her and came to G City wanting to learn to do business like others. Who knew that when she got off the train she'd find all her money gone. She didn't need to think too hard to know she must have been pickpocketed on the train.

With her soul all but gone, she panicked, completely at a loss, tears streaming down her face without her realizing it. And it was on that day that she met the person she thought was her benefactor.

The man was about forty or fifty, average-looking, but gentle in manner. Learning she didn't have a cent on her, he took the initiative to offer her a job to get through the hard times.

But somehow, in less than half a month, she ended up having that kind of relationship with him, and then he kept her in a villa.

She didn't have to do anything, she just needed to be a gentle little woman whenever the man came by.

She enjoyed those days very much and felt truly happy.

She didn't have to worry about food or clothes, and had plenty of money to spend.

However, after only half a year, she was told to move out as soon as possible.

Seeing her good days gone, how could she accept it?

When she refused to leave, the man simply dragged her out of the villa in broad daylight, tossed her suitcase and a wad of cash beside her.

With no one she could turn to, she picked up the five thousand yuan thrown at her feet and checked into a hotel. It didn't take long before the money was almost gone. Afraid that once it was all spent she'd have nothing to eat, she had no choice but to think of a way to make a living.

But she had no diploma, and she didn't want to suffer or tire herself out. It was hard to find a job suitable for her in a short time. In the end, gritting her teeth, she chose to take a shortcut—relying on men.

Once she had that idea, sure enough, she managed to snare a real sucker.

Cheng Fuguo, an unremarkable, middle-aged, paunchy big boss who owned a garment factory. She thought she had him wrapped around her little finger, but it turned out he was tightfisted as hell. Not only did he not give her a big villa to live in, the pocket money he gave her each time never exceeded one thousand yuan.

He also ordered her to go out as little as possible.

She wasn't happy about it, but afraid of losing this free meal ticket, she did her best to go along. She never expected that just a short while ago, after she pestered this Cheng guy until he finally agreed to take her to the mall for a shopping spree, it would bring about today's disaster!

"That really isn't something I can decide with just one word." Kang Li's eyes were calm and steady, a faint smile at the corner of her mouth. "No matter what company it is, every department has its own person in charge; it's not like one person calls all the shots. But like an auntie such as you, who likes cleanliness, pays attention to hygiene, and is in good health, once our factory starts hiring, there's a big chance you'll get in without any problem."

Chapter 1625

There's no need to offend anyone here.

Based on this, Kang Li couldn't help but say a few nice words.

"Is that so? Not to brag, but in our village, your Auntie here is famous for being quick and tidy with work." At this moment, Cui the Loudspeaker was a living example of "calling you fat and you start breathing heavily."

"Oh my! Cui the Loudspeaker, what are you bragging about?"

Li Daniu walked over from a distance, looking Cui the Loudspeaker up and down and said, "Just look at your clothes; they haven't been washed for ten, maybe eight days, right?"

And look at your hands, pitch black, and your hair—though it's not as messy as a bird's nest, it's still quite the sight. With this look, if you enter Li Bao's factory, you'll not only embarrass yourself but also the factory. I suggest you don't join the fun!"

Cui the Loudspeaker looked upset: "Who are you saying hasn't washed their clothes for ten, maybe eight days? Li Daniu, you don't need to put me down to elevate yourself. Just look at you; how are you any different from me?"

"Putting you down to elevate myself? Cui the Loudspeaker, do you really think I need to? Let's stand together and ask Li Bao to say who's messy and who's slovenly."

Hearing Wang Chunhua's words, Kang Li didn't expect to get caught in the crossfire. Just as she opened her mouth to try to talk them down, Cai Xiufen came out of the courtyard. She looked at Cui the Loudspeaker and then at Wang Chunhua: "What are you doing? If you want to argue, don't do it in front of my Li Bao. People who don't know might think my daughter did something to you."

"Sister Xiufen, I'm not arguing with the Loudspeaker. We're just chatting."

Wang Chunhua pulled a smile onto her face.

"Yes, yes, yes. Wang Chunhua and I are just chatting; it has nothing to do with your Li Bao." She still wanted to work in the factory run by their daughter and didn't dare to offend them.

Cui the Loudspeaker and Wang Chunhua exchanged a smile with Cai Xiufen.

"I could hear everything you said at my courtyard gate while I was inside. Let me tell you, you should consider your age. When the factory starts hiring, do you really think you can compare to your daughters-in-law or those eighteen or nineteen-year-old girls?"

Cai Xiufen's words hit Cui the Loudspeaker and Wang Chunhua hard, and they looked at each other, unsure of how to respond.

"Alright, it's windy outside, you better head back home. My daughter and I won't see you off."

With that, Cai Xiufen beckoned Kang Li into the courtyard.

In the main room, Kang Li looked helpless: "Mom, your words were too blunt."

"Those old ladies have thick skin. If you don't explain things clearly, they might just think they can fly to the heavens!" Cai Xiufen didn't feel her words were harsh. She snorted coldly and continued: "Your Auntie Cui and Auntie Wang are only two or three years younger than me. Can you really hire such elderly people when your factory starts recruiting?"

"Mom's right; your daughter has learned her lesson."

Kang Li nodded with a smile, agreeing with Cai Xiufen.

"By the way, what did Chunmei come to see you about?" Cai Xiufen suddenly changed the topic, and before Kang Li could answer, she continued: "Could it be that she, like your Auntie Cui, wants to use your connections to get into the factory?"

"That was her intent, but I didn't agree directly. After all, there's a recruitment process at the factory. If I start making exceptions, who can say that others in management won't follow suit in the future?"

Moreover, without rules, everything falls apart. As long as Chunmei meets the hiring requirements, she can join the factory without me saying a word."

After listening to Kang Li, Cai Xiufen nodded: "That's how it should be. Otherwise, if you open this door today, once recruitment starts, there will undoubtedly be many people coming to our house seeking help."

Who doesn't have a few troublesome relatives?

Even if there are no close relatives, what about distant ones?

So, as her daughter said, without rules, there is no order. Some lines just can't be crossed.

"Don't worry, mom. After the factory is built, relevant regulations will be published, like factory rules and reward and punishment systems. With these constraints, even if someone comes to us hoping to use the backdoor, it'll be in vain."

Kang Li remained calm, but Cai Xiufen was reassured by her words.

Helping each other as relatives is what we should do, but that doesn't mean you have to help with everything.

And her daughter invested in the factory to boost the economy and help fellow villagers get wealthy, not because she has too much money and nowhere to spend it, like some kind of Santa Claus.

Chapter 1626

"As long as you have it in your heart." Cai Xiufen said, pausing before asking, "Are you sure you're leaving early tomorrow?"

"Yes."

Kang Li nodded.

"Then I'll go pack." Saying this, Cai Xiufen turned to head back to her room, but paused suddenly, as if something had occurred to her, and asked Kang Li, "Has Chunmei asked about Chunxia?"

"She asked." Kang Li said, "But I didn't say anything."

Upon hearing this, Cai Xiufen was initially stunned, then said, "If you didn't say anything, that's fine. Chunxia isn't a three-year-old child. Back when she appeared in North City, she didn't even think to contact the family,

and you reminded her not to go astray, but she didn't listen. Now we're not even sure what the situation is. If you mentioned her, Chunmei might overthink, or even hold a grudge against us."

"Mother and I thought the same." Kang Li smiled: "That's exactly what I had in mind when Chunmei asked me."

Cai Xiufen sighed, "You can know someone's face but not their heart; even between siblings, there can be discord." With that, Cai Xiufen stepped back into her room.

Kang Li was left alone in the hall, sitting for a bit longer on the bamboo bed before getting up and heading towards her own room.

Knowing she'd be leaving early tomorrow, she also needed to pack.

...

Late at night, before sleeping, Kang Li quietly opened Jiang Boya's room door.

"Why are you coming over at this hour?"

Opening the door, Jiang Boya saw Kang Li walk in and casually asked with a smile.

"I came to see if you and Grandpa have packed everything."

Jiang Hongfa was sitting on the kang and called his beloved granddaughter to sit with him when he heard Kang Li's voice. She shook her head: "No, I just thought since we're leaving early tomorrow, I'd come by before bed to see if you and my father are packed."

"There's not much to pack."

This was Jiang Boya's voice. He said, "Your grandfather and I just packed a few changes of clothes, knowing we'd leave early tomorrow. After lunch, I packed up quickly."

"That's good." Kang Li smiled and then asked, "Is everything okay here?"

Jiang Boya: "Yes, everyone is very warm and simple."

Jiang Hongfa: "The villa plan you drew is great. Your father and I went to your elder uncle's house this afternoon to keep your grandparents company for a while. Your eldest cousin was there, so we mentioned buying a plot in the village to build a villa according to your design."

Kang Li pretended to be unhappy: "You all didn't tell me."

"We wanted to surprise you." Jiang Boya raised an eyebrow, "Are you happy? In the future, when you return to the village, your grandfather and I can come back with you like this time, and we won't need to bother your parents while staying connected with the family."

"Dad, you and Grandpa really don't need to go to such lengths for me."

Kang Li was moved: "Rural living conditions aren't like the city. It's fine if you stay for a day or two, but..." Before she could finish, Jiang Boya raised his hand to stop her: "Even though we've lived a good life, it doesn't mean we can't handle hardship."

Rural living conditions are poor, but if you have money, can't you change them?

Kang Li: "That's not what I meant, I'm just worried you won't adapt."

"There's no such thing as not adapting; just remember, wherever you are, your grandfather and I will be there as well." Jiang Boya said, and on the kang, Jiang Hongfa heard this. Seeing Kang Li looking at him, he couldn't help but nod, "Our family has just you, your father, and me, this old man. In my lifetime, I just want to see you and your father, happily finishing the rest of your journey."

The older you get, the more lonely you feel, and whenever alone, you can't help but let your thoughts wander.

At his age now, there are no other dreams beyond enjoying the joy of family with his son and granddaughter.

Meanwhile, Kang Li chatted casually with Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya, her expression touched, while the surrounding atmosphere was mostly warm with a hint of sourness. But in the distant G City, Xu Chunxia was being beaten by a wealthy woman.

"Vixen! You shameless vixen, I'll teach you not to seduce my husband. How disgusting you are, you have hands and feet, why can't you do anything, why must you leech off others?"

Ding Dalan was extremely angry at her husband for keeping a mistress outside. Back in the day, it was her own family's money that helped him start his business, which became the property of the Cheng family. But the heartless man, seeing her age and peel, secretly kept another woman. If it weren't for her sisters Erlan and Sanlan accidentally discovering it, she would've still been kept in the dark.

"Eldest sister, hold her down, let me help you hit this vixen!" Ding Erlan and Ding Sanlan each restrained Xu Chunxia's legs and hands, both glaring with rage at the vixen pinned to the ground, unable to move, she was crying and begging for mercy.

"Very well."

Ding Dalan stepped aside for her sister Ding Erlan, watching Erlan slap the vixen left and right, she felt immense satisfaction.

Soon after, she called Sanlan to start on Xu Chunxia's body.

Nearby, against the wall stood a short, fat middle-aged man. His face was bruised; there were prominent scratch marks on his neck. His expression was wooden, as if he didn't see Xu Chunxia being harshly dealt by his wife and sisters-in-law.

"Brother Cheng! Brother Cheng, save me, please save me!"

Xu Chunxia cried until her voice was hoarse. The year she gave up her child and divorced with money from the Hu Family, she came to G City wanting to start a business. Unexpectedly, all her money vanished upon leaving the train; it was clear she'd been robbed on it.

In a panic, overwhelmed, tears unknowingly streaming, she met the person she thought was her benefactor that very day.

The person was in their forties or fifties, looked ordinary but was warm-hearted, knowing she was without money, offered her a job to help her through tough times.

Somehow, within half a month, she had that sort of relationship with him, and then she was kept in a villa.

She had nothing to worry about, she only needed to be a gentle woman when the man visited.

She enjoyed such a life, feeling quite happy.

All her needs were met, with plenty of money to spare.

But within just half a year, she was told to move out quickly.

Faced with losing that life, how could she agree?

When she refused to leave, the man had people throw her out of the villa, leaving her luggage and a stack of money by her side.

Alone, with no one to turn to, holding the five thousand yuan thrown at her feet, she checked into a hotel. Before long, she almost spent all the money, and worried about not having money to buy food, she had to find a way to make a living.

She had no degree and didn't want to suffer hardships, making it hard to find a fitting job. Finally, she bit the bullet and decided to take shortcuts—relying on men.

Chapter 1627

"Not last night."

"I know, yesterday was Saturday. You brought Bun and them back to the compound in the afternoon, so naturally, little brother didn't need to come to our house at night. I guess little brother probably heard unintentionally from oldest brother and sister-in-law that I went back to our hometown with our parents."

"Little brother indeed heard it from oldest brother. It was quite a coincidence. After work on Monday afternoon, little brother called oldest brother's shop, and they casually mentioned you. Then, oldest brother told little brother about you taking our parents back to the hometown."

After listening to what Luo Yanqing said, Kang Li let out an "Oh".

As time slowly passed, the two chatted intermittently. Unknowingly, Kang Li fell asleep. Listening to her even and soft breathing, Luo Yanqing slowly closed his eyes too.

This nap lasted until around three-thirty. After waking up, they went to say goodbye to Jiang Hongfa and Jiang Boya. Then, Jiang Boya's driver drove a car to help send the family back to the compound.

After all, the family, counting everyone, had ten people in total. Luo Yanqing driving Kang Li's car alone wouldn't fit them all.

What Kang Li didn't expect was, not long after the family stepped into the compound, the Wen's family next door erupted in the sound of women quarreling, and it seemed like they even started fighting.

"What's going on?"

Cai Xiufen sat on the living room sofa, her brows almost knitting into a knot. She said, "Can Comrade Wen's wife ever be quiet? Every few days there's a row in their house, living next to them means we're torturing our ears."

"I'll go to the yard and listen for a bit."

Before Kang Li could respond to Cai Xiufen, Ming Wei blinked and turned to walk out of the living room door.

Min Rui and Ming Han didn't join the commotion.

As for the three buns, they weren't curious at all about other people's arguments. They sat between Kang Li and Luo Yanqing. Bun and Guoguo sat obediently without moving, while Tangyuan wiggled his little short legs, holding his cartoon water bottle leisurely drinking water.

Ming Wei returned to the living room shortly after and said, "Auntie Su next door is arguing with her sister Su Qing..." Ming Wei didn't know how to continue, looking a bit unnatural. Seeing her expression, Kang Li spoke up, "Alright, you don't need to say more. Mom has good hearing, I heard clearly what's going on."

Ever since taking the body strengthening pill from Dwen Dwen's credit, Kang Li's five senses have been exceptionally sharp.

Ming Wei let out an "Oh" without saying more. She listened to Kang Li say, "Take your younger siblings to the room to read for a while." This wasn't just directed to Ming Wei, but also to Min Rui and Ming Han.

Upon hearing this, Min Rui nodded, gathered the three buns to his side, and then, with Ming Han and Ming Wei, took the three little ones back to the room.

"What did you hear?"

Once the six of them left, Cai Xiufen asked Kang Li.

"Su Qing is the older sister of Comrade Su Man next door. She accused her sister of messing around with her husband."

Kang Li answered concisely.

"..."

Cai Xiufen was stunned immediately, and her expression turned quite peculiar.

Captain Kang and Luo Yanqing were slightly surprised, but they quickly returned to normal.

"Messing around with her own brother-in-law, while being a married woman herself, this... this is just wild!" Cai Xiufen was shocked by Su Man's outrageous behavior, finding it unbelievable.

Kang Li smiled but refrained from commenting.

Next door at the Wen's house.

"What did I ever do to wrong you, for you to harm me again and again, Su Man, tell me!"

Su Qing pulled at Su Man's hair, her eyes bloodshot, her face full of resentment. She never imagined that her own sister, born from the same mother...

Would be fooling around with her husband, and if she hadn't accidentally found a double photo slip out of a book while tidying up Zhou Weimin's study today, who knows how much longer they'd have been able to keep it from her.

She didn't want to believe it, didn't want to believe it at all. But in the photo, her husband, Zhou Weimin, had his arm around her sister Su Man, sitting in a sea of flowers, smiling blissfully as if they were a married couple.

A photo like that, for any wife, would immediately feel their brain explode, unable to accept what they saw.

Enraged to the extreme, she surprisingly didn't explode at home but picked up the photo from the ground, grabbed her bag, and stormed out of the house.

She wanted to find Su Man to get a clear answer, why must she harm her elder sister like this... first robbing her of her rightful marriage, and now scheming for her marriage. Could it be that Su Man is inherently incapable of being well-behaved?

Or does she only bully her own family, harming her own kin?

Chapter 1628

Wen Yue stood with her sisters, Wen Yi and Wen Yu, at their room door, the three sisters coldly watching the two women fighting in the living room. At the door of another room, Wen Peng was stunned by every word Auntie Su Qing said, still in shock.

"Don't slander me! There's nothing between me and my brother-in-law! Besides, I'm not without a man, and what kind of man do I have compared to your husband? Why do you think you can shame me like that, thinking I..."

Su Qing's hair was a mess, her face and neck had several scratches, which were inflicted by Su Man. She vehemently denied Su Qing's accusations, desperately defending herself.

But Su Man had evidence, how could she listen to Su Qing's excuses.

Suddenly, she found some strength from somewhere and pinned Su Man against the wall, then began assaulting her. In no time, Su Man's face was swollen.

"I don't have evidence against you? Su Man, how could you be so shameless, so restless? Before you schemed against me, turning my engagement into yours, forcing me to go to the countryside. Now you're ruining my family,

scheming my marriage, Su Man, you're bullying people like this! Let's go; let's go outside in front of everyone in the courtyard and clear this up. I want everyone in this courtyard to know,

what kind of garbage you are, clearly having your own family but not content, secretly meeting your brother-in-law, ruining your sister's marriage. Let's go, you're coming outside with me now!"

Clenching her teeth, Su Qing grabbed Su Man's arm with one hand and her hair with the other, dragging her towards the living room door.

Su Man certainly didn't want to go and humiliate herself, but she hadn't done any hard labor and naturally was weaker than her sister Su Qing, who had worked in the countryside. So, regardless of her reluctance or attempts to resist, she was still pulled out of the living room by Su Qing, firmly advancing towards the courtyard gate.

"Su Qing! Are you crazy? For something I clearly haven't done, why must you pin it on me?" Su Man cried, eyes full of resentment: "Let go of me, did you hear? I said let go of me!"

Su Man struggled, to no avail, as she was still dragged forward by Su Qing.

To avoid the situation escalating and attracting the courtyard's spectators, Su Man had to look back at the living room door, calling for Wen Yue and the sisters to help her.

However, Wen Yue and her sisters Wen Yi and Wen Yu acted as if they hadn't heard anything, none of them answering or coming out.

"Wen Yue! Wen Yi! Wen Yu, did you hear me? Hurry out and help me pull your Auntie away, quick!"

Su Man shouted at the top of her lungs.

In the middle of the living room, Wen Yu glanced at her sisters Wen Yue and Wen Yi, her mouth moved as if she wanted to say something, but facing their expression, she couldn't utter a word.

At this point, Wen Peng's eyes were red, he walked up to the sisters, pleading: "Big Sister, Second Brother, Third Sister, please help my mother. If Auntie really drags my mom outside the courtyard gate, everyone in the courtyard will laugh at our family."

Wen Yi: "It's your mom they'll laugh at."

"Second Sister..." Wen Peng said tearfully: "I know my mother hasn't been good to you and Big Sister and Third Sister, but she's my mom, I'm begging you!"

Wen Yi said coldly: "Get this straight, your mom has been cheating on Dad and Auntie's husband, and now Auntie's confronting her at the door, why should we help her? Besides, your mom's been putting a hat on Dad, if he finds out, how will he feel? Have you thought about that?"

"But... But what Auntie said is just her side of the story, I don't believe my mom would..." Wen Yi interrupted Wen Peng before he could finish: "Hold on. Think about New Year's Eve, the day you told Dad that your mom kissed Auntie's husband in her store, do you remember that?"

"I..."

Wen Peng's face flushed with embarrassment, unable to speak further. Instead, he turned and rushed out of the living room, shouting at Su Qing: "Auntie! Auntie, I'm begging you, let my mom go, my mom has my dad, she would never do anything bad!"

"Your mom knows very well if she's done anything shameless!"

Su Qing had dragged Su Man to the courtyard gate, she turned to glance at Wen Peng, then opened the gate, hauling Su Man outside, and loudly shouted: "

Chapter 1629

"Everyone come and see, someone in your courtyard is a shameless slut. She's so desperate for a man that she's set her sights on her own brother-in-law. This filthy person ruined my engagement ten years ago and now, shamelessly, ruins my family. Everyone, come quickly and see just how vile this shameless woman truly is!"

It's over! It's all over now! Zhou Weimin was chasing after Su Qing; he didn't expect that no matter how fast he rushed, he would still be a step too late...

Here's how it happened: Not long after Su Qing hurriedly left home with the photo she picked up, Zhou Weimin returned from outside. Not seeing Su Qing at home, he casually asked his son, who told him that Su Qing was originally helping tidy up his study, then for some unknown reason, grabbed her bag and left the house. As soon as he finished listening, Zhou Weimin's heart gave a sudden "thump".

The result was Zhou Weimin hurried into the study, saw the cloth on the desk, then the books on the floor. His face turned pale as he quickly picked up the books, flipping through them fast but didn't see the photo that was supposed to be inside, and cold sweat instantly broke out across his forehead.

He hadn't forgotten how in the past one or two years, Su Qing had always been suspicious of him; although she never asked him anything outright, he knew his wife suspected him regarding his private matters... suspected he had another woman outside.

Perhaps worried that bringing it up would cause a rift between them, she only occasionally reminded him to come home early from work or to take the children out when he had weekends off.

And he guessed at Su Qing's hidden concerns yet didn't take it seriously, believing he hadn't left any obvious traces and thinking Su Qing was just overthinking without evidence to prove he had another woman outside.

Besides, he was just having some fun outside and was still responsible towards the family, never intending to divorce, so he hadn't really restrained himself much.

Moreover... moreover, he was the passive party. If not for his sister-in-law's advances, if his sister-in-law hadn't secretly sought him out... there would be no affair with her.

In short, the fault lay with his sister-in-law and had nothing to do with him.

And as for that photo, the one he casually tucked into his book was taken last March or April when he went to Kun City on a business trip in name, but actually went traveling with his sister-in-law.

He hadn't wanted the photo, but his sister-in-law insisted he keep one and demanded he place it in his wallet.

Of course, he couldn't do that, so he agreed verbally but just casually tucked the photo into a book he'd read, then placed that book in a hard-to-reach spot on the shelf when he got home.

Unexpectedly, things still took a turn for the worst!

At that moment, without much thought, he knew that Su Qing nine times out of ten had taken the photo to confront her sister, and the scene unfolding before him suggested that the situation was unlikely to pass over easily.

Zhou Weimin wasn't afraid of gossip. In his view, this was not like the past few years ago, and besides, he was a man, having been in business for nearly three years, no longer working in any governmental or business office where he feared being talked about by others. So after the initial panic, Zhou Weimin

instead steadied his mindset, ignored the onlookers, walked up to Su Qing, and asked expressionlessly, "What do you think you're doing?"

"What do I think I'm doing?"

Su Qing forcefully released Su Man's arm upon hearing Zhou Weimin's voice and immediately gave Zhou Weimin a slap across the face, sneering coldly, "You're my husband, my son's father, yet you're fooling around with my sister. You ask what I'm doing here?"

Her slap came so unexpectedly that Zhou Weimin took it head-on.

Came to his senses, Zhou Weimin suppressed his anger, his eyes darkened, and he whispered, "If you want to go crazy, do it at home, not here making a fool of yourself!"

"Am I making a fool of myself, or are you two shameless?"

Su Qing was going all out. She pulled out the photo of Zhou Weimin holding Su Man from her bag, raised it for the onlookers to see, "Everyone, look, the man and woman in this photo, one is my husband, the other is my biological sister. The two of them..."

Zhou Weimin interrupted, "Enough! It's just a photo with my sister-in-law, what's wrong with that?"

"You ask what's wrong with that? Then let me ask you, how many brothers-in-law would hold their sister-in-law by the waist for a photo? And this sister-in-law is a married woman. Are you willing to say there's nothing suspicious about this?"

Su Qing's words were sharp, catching a glimpse of Su Man trying to get up from the ground from the corner of her eye, she stepped on her hand to keep her down, then turned her fiery gaze back to Zhou Weimin: "You frequently claim to be busy with work, saying you can't come home at night, but are you really busy with work? Last March and April you said you were going on a business trip, tell me, did you really go on a business trip? Or did you run off to have fun with this bitch Su Man?"

Chapter 1630

"Qingqing, why don't you believe me? I've been working hard doing business to plan for our family, how can you think of me like that? Do you know that you're going to ruin my sister-in-law and her family this way?"

Zhou Weimin's eyes were filled with disappointment. He glanced at Su Man's hand, which was being stepped on by Su Qing, and, disregarding the people's talk, pulled Su Qing away, freeing Su Man's hand.

"Sister... you really misunderstood me; there's nothing between me and brother-in-law. Besides, there are plenty of people who look alike in this world. You can't just blame me because brother-in-law took a photo with another woman..."

With a face swollen like a pig's head, Su Man was crying so hard she couldn't make a sound.

"Do you think I'm blind?" Su Qing raised the photo again: "Everyone take a good look and help me identify whether the bastard and the bitch in this photo are my husband and my sister!"

Zhou Weimin's face was as black as the bottom of a pot.

Suddenly, Su Man knelt in front of Su Qing: "Sister! I'm begging you, please don't treat me like this. The woman in the photo is indeed not me. If you don't believe there are people who look alike, just look at the kid named Luo Mingrui next door and Teacher Shen's husband, Xiao Jin. They aren't father and son, but they look alike..."

"Building a road naturally requires a good road, and the standard for a good road is quality and width. Therefore, widening the road inevitably entails using a bit of others' farmland. When some people found out about this, they came out to make trouble. After negotiations, money was given as compensation."

Kang Li was talking about the section of road from the village entrance to the main road. However, she knew that when the main road needed to be widened, it would similarly require using some of others' farmland, and the solution would still be "money."

"You pay for it?"

"Yes."

"You built the road, and they hold no gratitude, only looking out for their own interests?"

Luo Yanqing frowned slightly.

"The fear is not of scarcity but of inequality. If a little farmland from every household was used, perhaps everyone would feel it's fair and have no objection. But the problem is that not all farmlands of the villagers are on that road, so the villagers whose farmlands are on that road naturally won't agree to have their farmlands taken for no reason."

Kang Li didn't mind, because she was the one who proactively offered to fund the road, no one demanded it of her, and besides, even if it's the state building roads for the villagers, if it requires using some of the villagers' farmland, compensation is needed.

After all, land is the lifeline of farmers; no matter how little is lost, farmers will feel the pain as they depend on the land to make a living.

Luo Yanqing said, "I understand what you're saying, but it's still a bit selfish." Saying this, he lay down beside Kang Li.

"It's understandable."

Kang Li smiled; in fact, she hadn't taken the matter to heart.

"I don't know what to say."

Pulling his wife into his arms, Luo Yanqing murmured softly.

"Then don't say anything." Kang Li laughed, rubbing her forehead against the man's beautifully contoured chin: "Are you going back to the office tomorrow morning?"

Luo Yanqing responded, "Yes," and said, "I want to spend more time with you."

"Then leave tomorrow morning. We'll return in the afternoon; I'll make some pastries you love for you to take in the morning."

"Okay."

"How have the children been behaving at home this week?"

"All is well. The sister-in-law comes to the courtyard every noon to cook for Luo Mingrui and the others..."

"Didn't Ruirui and the others go to the godmother's place for meals?"

"No. On Monday, when they came home for lunch, the sister-in-law had already cooked the meals. In the following days, since sister-in-law instructed them, Luo Mingrui and the others didn't trouble the godmother."

"Big thanks to sister-in-law."

"Yes. And the little brother spent evenings at our home keeping Luo Mingrui company."

"Ah? You mean the little brother stayed at our house every night this week?"

Su Qing had already dragged Su Man to the courtyard gate. She turned to glance at Wen Peng, then pulled open the door, dragging Su Man outside, and followed up with a loud shout:

"Everyone come and see, there's a shameless slut in your courtyard, desperate for men, even targeting her brother-in-law. Shameless! Ten years ago, she played tricks to ruin my engagement; ten years later, she shamelessly ruins my family. Everyone, hurry and see how sinister this shameless bitch really is!"

It's over! This is it! Zhou Weimin had chased after Su Qing. He hadn't expected that he would still be a step too late despite rushing...

It happened like this: not long after Su Qing hurriedly left home with the photo she picked up, Zhou Weimin returned from outside. Not seeing Su Qing at home, he casually asked his son, who told him she had been tidying up his study, but after something happened, she grabbed her bag and left. As soon as the son finished speaking, Zhou Weimin felt a "thump" in his heart.

The result was that Zhou Weimin rushed into the study, saw the rag on the desk, then the books on the floor. His face turned pale as he picked up the books, quickly flipping through them, and not seeing the photo inside, cold sweat covered his forehead.

He hadn't forgotten how in the past year or two, Su Qing had always been suspicious of him. Though she never directly asked him anything, he knew she suspected his private life and suspected he had a woman outside.

Perhaps she feared that asking directly would cause a rift between them, so at most, she would occasionally remind him to come home early after work or remind him to take the kids out to play on weekends.

And he actually had guessed Su Qing's hidden meaning but didn't take it seriously, thinking that since he hadn't left any obvious evidence, it was just Su Qing overthinking, especially since there was no evidence to prove he had a woman outside.

Moreover, he was merely playing around outside, still feeling responsible for his family, and never thought about divorce, so he never restrained himself much.

Furthermore... he was the passive party; if it weren't for his sister-in-law's initiative in seeking him privately... there wouldn't be the secret involvement between him and his sister-in-law.

"Qingqing, why don't you believe me? I've been working hard doing business to plan for our family, how can you think of me like that? Do you know that you're going to ruin my sister-in-law and her family this way?"

Zhou Weimin's eyes were filled with disappointment. He glanced at Su Man's hand, which was being stepped on by Su Qing, and, disregarding the people's talk, pulled Su Qing away, freeing Su Man's hand.

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