

Weak B 1701

Chapter 1701: Kang Li's Teaching by Example (Part 2)

Captain Kang's face darkened slightly; he didn't approve of Cai Xiufen asking about the Merit Monument.

"Grandpa, Grandpa, what does it mean to show off?"

Tangyuan sat on Captain Kang's lap. He'd caught onto this phrase Grandpa used, and couldn't resist tilting his little head up to ask Captain Kang.

"..."

Captain Kang met Xiao Tangyuan's bright, curious eyes. His lips moved, but he stayed quiet for quite a while. It wasn't that he didn't know how to explain "show off"—he was pondering whether to explain it at all to little Tangyuan.

"Fifth Brother, 'show off' should mean 'boast'," Guoguo chimed in, her voice soft and babyish. Hearing her, Tangyuan tilted his head and thought about it, then said in his milky voice, "Since Mom did something good, I think everyone should know about it. Even if it's boasting, what's wrong with that!"

Guoguo: "But if that happens, people might say Mom isn't humble."

Tangyuan: "I heard Grandpa say once that being overly humble isn't always good. It can make people think you're fake or slick."

Bun interrupted: "You've got to strike a balance."

Listening to the three kiddos talk, Min Rui got restless. He looked at Kang Li: "Mom, Bun and Tangyuan and Guoguo don't sound like three little kids at all! They know so much!"

Kang Li chuckled softly: "Don't you find that familiar?"

"..."

Min Rui couldn't react for a while, not understanding what Kang Li meant.

Seems Kang Li noticed what he was thinking. She said, "When you were little, you'd stay silent most of the time, but whenever you spoke, you sounded so mature, like a little grown-up."

"I... I didn't! I was just a kid back then. Not as precocious as Bun and the others."

Min Rui's cheeks turned slightly red, clearly a bit embarrassed.

"Your mom's right, you really were like a little adult when you were young." Cai Xiufen laughed, "You rarely spoke, and when you did, it never sounded childish—always so sensible."

Praised by Cai Xiufen, Min Rui's cheeks grew even hotter. "It was tough for Mom to take care of my siblings. I didn't want her to worry about me too."

"Silly child!"

Kang Li felt a softness in her heart. She said gently, "You're all Mom's kids. I worry about all of your lives and studies, but I've never felt it was hard. Besides, it's a mother's duty—just like your Grandpa and Grandma, they still worry about me and your uncles, even now!"

"With so many kids in the family, counting Xiao En, there are seven of us. My dad's been busy with work all these years, barely any time for home. If it weren't for Grandma and Grandpa helping Mom out, she sure would've suffered. And I'm the eldest; it's only right I help lighten Mom's load."

At this, Min Rui glanced back at Captain Kang and his wife: "Grandpa, Grandma, thank you for all you've done for me, Luo Minghan, Luo Mingwei, plus Bun, Tangyuan, and Guoguo over the years!"

"You silly child, what are you saying thank you for?"

Cai Xiufen pretended to be upset. "You're all mine and Grandpa's grandchildren. Caring for you is what we should do! Besides, we just don't want your mom to work herself too hard—her health was never great when she was little."

Captain Kang: "Listen to Grandma. No need to thank us, we're just looking after our own kids. Don't need you little ones to thank us. What Grandpa hopes is, when your parents are older, you can take more care of them. No matter how busy you get, always make time to come home to see them."

Min Rui nodded hard: "I will."

"Grandpa, Grandpa, when I grow up, I'll stay by Mom and Dad's side. Whenever they miss me, I'll show up right away!" Tangyuan piped up, his babyish voice dead serious.

Guoguo: "Me too, I'll always always be with Mom and Dad!"

Bun: "I'll be a filial child just like Mom."

Hearing Bun and the other two, Kang Li's heart softened, and her bright eyes brimmed with laughter.

...

The car sped down the wide, smooth road. From the county to the village, Kang Li got there in just half the time it used to take.

Seeing their old house now turned into a three-story villa, admiring the neat, exquisite courtyard, and noticing the modern taps in the yard, Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen were both stunned.

They already knew the villa would be built, knew Kang Li designed both the villa and the whole courtyard, but actually seeing it finished, beautifully furnished, the yard tidy as can be—it still felt like a dream.

But Captain Kang quickly regained his composure and called Jiang Hongfa, Elder Xi, and Old Lady Xi into the house to sit.

"Big Brother, Grandpa and Grandma's villa is so big! It's as big as Great Grandpa's villa overseas, and it's so pretty too!"

Tangyuan toddled in on his short legs, looking all around, curiosity shining in his eyes. Every now and then he'd say something to Min Rui, who always responded.

"Grandma and Grandpa's yard is just like ours. There's a flower bed and veggie plot, and the shapes are super pretty!"

That was Guoguo.

"If Mom designed it, it's definitely gorgeous!"

Tangyuan glanced at Guoguo and asked, "Didn't you know Mom drew the plans?"

Without thinking, Guoguo replied, milky-voiced, "I knew."

Bun and Guoguo walked side by side. He didn't say anything, just quietly took in the courtyard's layout.

Because Old Lady Xi needed rest, Elder Xi and Old Lady Xi didn't stay too long at Captain Kang's villa. After twenty minutes or so, they went over to Jiang Hongfa's villa.

Jiang Hongfa came to Aoli Village this time for summer recuperation, bringing not just a health doctor, but two chefs and three bodyguards. Even Aunt Fu, Ah Xiang, and Ah Lan came along.

To look after Jiang Hongfa's daily needs.

And in a couple of days, the three kids' private tutors will arrive as well.

Chapter 1702: Admiration

Originally, everyone was supposed to leave together, but one of the personal trainers had something private to handle, so the trainers agreed to come over together two days later.

No need to say more, Jiang Boya naturally arranged for a driver to send them to Aoli Village.

With Aunt Fu and Ah Xiang, Ah Lan, and three bodyguards, they went ahead to Jiang Hongfa's villa. It quickly became lively inside, and Kang Li had already called Third Brother Kang's and Fourth Brother Kang's families in advance. Plus, the household appliances and daily necessities had been sent ahead, so whether it was Captain Kang's villa or Jiang Hongfa's villa, both were ready for people to move in with nothing more than their bags.

Sure enough, a caregiver pushed Old Lady Xi, Old Master Xi, Xi Jingyu, and Xi Chenyu over to Jiang Hongfa's villa, and as soon as they entered, Aunt Fu started bustling about with the room arrangements.

In no time at all, Old Lady Xi was lying comfortably on the big bed, the wind blowing in through the window carried the scent of flowers and grass, and the gentle rustle of the leaves outside soothed her. She felt relaxed all over.

"How do you feel?"

Old Master Xi asked as he sat by the bed.

"The breeze coming in from outside feels so good, and listening to the sound of the leaves makes me feel much more peaceful than in our house in North City."

Old Lady Xi spoke, smiling lightly, "You should lie down too."

"I'm feeling quite good right now."

Old Master Xi's tone was gentle. He said, "The wind is blowing down from the mountain, and what the mountain doesn't lack is flowers and grass, so it feels nice on the skin and even carries their scent."

This villa is some distance from the other village houses, surrounded tightly by black iron fencing, with pale climbing roses planted inside and outside the fences.

Right now it's the second blooming season for the climbing roses—delicate pink and white blossoms nestled among green leaves, elegant and charming yet undeniably romantic, looking almost ethereal.

The breeze carried the faint fragrance of the flowers, making everyone feel refreshed and delighted.

No need to wonder, those pink and white climbing roses were brought in from abroad by Jiang Boya. For someone wealthy like him, it's just a matter of making a phone call to get things done.

"My grandma's resting."

In the living room, Xi Jingyu saw Old Master Xi come out of the room and couldn't help but ask.

Old Master Xi nodded lightly, "She just fell asleep."

"Grandpa, is it true that the wide main road and the roads in this village were all built with Aunt Kang's money?"

Xi Jingyu had heard Old Master Xi talking about Kang Li doing good deeds for her hometown while they were in the car, and he'd been surprised all the way. Even now, just thinking about that wide, smooth main road built with Kang Li's funds made him feel like he was dreaming, utterly amazed.

"You don't believe it?"

Old Master Xi sat down on the sofa and looked at Xi Jingyu, "Your Sister Kang Li..."

He hadn't finished his sentence before Xi Jingyu cut in, "Grandpa!"

"What is it?"

Old Master Xi was puzzled.

Xi Jingyu scratched his head awkwardly before saying, "I know if we go by your and Grandpa Jiang's generations, Aunt Kang and I are the same generation, but... but I'm good friends with Luo Minghan. If I strictly use generational titles, wouldn't my good friend have to call me uncle? And besides, besides..."

After a while, with Xi Jingyu not finishing, Old Master Xi asked, "Besides what?"

"Grandpa! Just say whether you'd want an exceptionally talented granddaughter-in-law, okay?"

Xi Jingyu's cheeks were bright red, and he looked especially uneasy. Seeing this, Old Master Xi seemed to remember something and couldn't help but point at Xi Jingyu, grinning knowingly, "Look how flustered you are, it's just a title! I told you before—you kids don't have to follow mine and Grandpa Jiang's relationship, call them whatever is convenient for you. No need to be so concerned about me..."

Before Old Master Xi could finish, Xi Jingyu cut him off again, "Grandpa, it's not that I care how you call Aunt Kang—it's that when you call her 'your Sister Kang Li' in front of me, it makes me feel awkward and not used to it."

"Aren't you worried your dad'll be mad that you lowered his generation?"

Old Master Xi smiled and asked.

Xi Jingyu: "My dad and mom don't mind. Ask Xi Chenyu if you don't believe me."

His brother being brought up, Xi Chenyu looked up at Old Master Xi, nodded his little head, and said with a straight face, "My parents don't care."

"It's just a title, and this old man doesn't mind either."

Old Master Xi laughed and shook his head, thinking that his two grandsons were making a fuss over nothing. He then continued with Xi Jingyu's earlier question, "Aunt Kang not only funded the construction of that big road to the county and the roads here in the village, she also built a brand new primary school in the village..."

Chapter 1703: Admiration (Part 2)

He shared everything he'd heard from Jiang Hongfa, and seeing Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu, the two grandsons, staring wide-eyed, Old Master Xi asked, "Surprised, aren't you?"

"Yeah!"

Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu nodded in unison.

"No need to be shocked; you see, some people are just born different. Like your Aunt Kang—she's smart, always did well in school, and as she grew up, she had a real talent for business. So, during her years studying abroad,

she already started her own company, and now she has plenty of assets both in China and abroad, including in Fragrant City. Oh, and overseas, there's a place called Wall Street. Your Aunt Kang is really famous there—I heard it from your Grandpa Jiang. He said people on Wall Street call your Aunt Kang an investment genius."

Building roads, factories, schools, and integrated ecological recycling parks... And she's an investment genius on Wall Street! Xi Jingyu's expression shifted from shock to awe, his eyes shining as brightly as spotlights. He sighed, "Amazing! Aunt Kang is just perfect and incredible!"

Little Xi Chenyu was younger and might not understand as much as his brother, but he picked up from Old Master Xi's words that Little Sister Guoguo's mom was amazing. The kid's face was unusually serious, his gaze firm, secretly vowing that one day he'd become someone just like Aunt Kang!

"Your Aunt Kang's skills are one thing, but the most important part is her kind and generous heart."

Old Master Xi was deeply impressed by Kang Li, too. When he heard about Kang Li's deeds from Jiang Hongfa, he was truly astonished.

So young, she used her own abilities to create impressive wealth, but she never forgot to give back to the country that raised her, nor the villagers still struggling. She paid out of her own pocket to build roads for her hometown, constructed a new school for village kids, set up factories and ecological recycling parks, and led the villagers to prosperity together.

Young people like this are surely role models of the times. The more of them there are, the more the country can develop.

...

After breakfast the next morning, Min Rui and Kang Yilin gathered several kids and headed to Jiang Hongfa's villa. They called out Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu, and a large group of children exited through the back door of the villa and started up the mountain steps.

That's right, not far from the back door of Jiang Hongfa's villa, there's a long, winding stone stairway, which was paid for by Jiang Boya. It made it easier for villagers to go up the mountain, and for him and Old Master Jiang to go hiking while living in Aoli Village.

Worth mentioning, every certain distance along the winding stone steps, there's an octagonal pavilion.

These are for people to rest when going up and down the mountain.

"Aunt Kang is really awesome, you know?"

Xi Jingyu walked with Ming Han, lowering his voice to ask.

"Are you seriously asking me that?"

Ming Han shot Xi Jingyu a look, "My mom's always been awesome—I've known it since I was little."

Xi Jingyu: "That's not what I meant."

"Then what are you trying to say?"

Ming Han raised his brows, "Let me tell you something: my mom speaks a bunch of languages, plays piano beautifully, and is really good at erhu and accordion, too. Her artwork is like nothing most people can compare to."

"I mean... do you know that the cement roads in the village and that wide, smooth main road were all paid for by Aunt Kang? Plus, the new village school and that new factory we saw in town... Aunt Kang built those too..."

Xi Jingyu rattled off, and after listening, Ming Han was stunned for quite a while. He finally snapped out of it and said, "My mom never mentioned it at home."

"Aunt Kang is really low-key."

Xi Jingyu said admiringly, "Luo Minghan, after my grandpa told me about what Aunt Kang has done, I really, really look up to her—you know? People on Wall Street call Aunt Kang an 'investment genius', so you can imagine just how incredible her investment skills are!"

Ming Han cleared his throat and straightened up, saying proudly, "That's right! My mom can do anything—no matter how amazing she is, to me, it's not even surprising!"

"Look at you showing off—it's Aunt Kang who's awesome, not you."

Xi Jingyu shot Ming Han a sideways glance, then nudged him, whispering, "If your real mom showed up and asked you to go with her, would you leave, or would you stay with Aunt Kang instead?"

At those words, Ming Han's face instantly grew cold. He stopped and glared at Xi Jingyu: "What's that supposed to mean?"

"Don't be angry, don't be angry! It was just a joke, I was only messing around—no other meaning! If you don't want to answer, just pretend I never said anything."

Chapter 1704: Admiration (3)

Seeing that Ming Han was really angry, Xi Jingyu wished he could slap himself. He put on a grin and said, "Bro, I messed up, I shouldn't have brought that up. Just forgive me this time, alright?"

Ming Han snorted coldly and kept walking up the stone steps. His tone was displeased: "I don't really have a birth mother. Since I was a kid, it's always been my mom by my side—she took care of me, made sure I ate and drank, drove me to and from school, and when I got bullied,

it was my mom who took me to the house of the kid who bullied me, and argued with their parents—she never let me get bullied for nothing. I grew up because my mom taught me how to be a good person, taught me not to back down when faced with difficulties, taught me to stay optimistic and to never swallow anger.

She taught me to have the right values. And now, listen up: if you're my friend, don't ever mention "birth mother" in front of me again. In this life, I, Luo Minghan, have only one mother—and her name is Kang Li!

"Okay, okay, bro, I deserved a slap for what I just said."

Xi Jingyu lightly slapped his own mouth, then said, "Don't worry. From now on, I promise not to speak nonsense like that in front of you."

"Promises mean anything?"

Ming Han shot Xi Jingyu a sideways glance and said, "If it happens again, I'll just consider you not a friend anymore."

Xi Jingyu threw an arm around Ming Han's shoulders, grinning, "Bro, trust me, I really didn't mean anything by it."

"Still talking about it?"

Ming Han stared at him, eyes half-squinted.

Xi Jingyu shut his mouth, and at the same time shook his head like a rattling drum.

"We're climbing a mountain, could you not put your arm around my shoulders? Don't you know that's dangerous?"

Ming Han slapped Xi Jingyu's arm off his shoulder. Seeing a pavilion next to seven or eight stone steps ahead, he hurried over and sat down inside to rest.

Looking at the lush woods and the splashes of wildflowers, Ming Han's thoughts drifted off.

Birth mother?

If she gave birth but didn't raise him, what kind of "mother" is that?

Besides, he barely has any impression of that woman named Feng. Even though he's seen her once or twice after all these years, in his heart, she never left a mark.

All he knows is that at first glance, she doesn't look like a mother—especially not a good one.

She speaks with a pinched voice and looks at people like she's sizing up merchandise. Ha! Who does she think she is?

She acts all high and mighty in front of him, as if he cares about having her as his so-called birth mother?

North City.

"What the hell do you want?"

Han Bin walked out of the office and was about to open the car door when a hand stopped him. When he saw who it was, his face instantly turned cold. "Was what I gave you last time not enough? Besides, I really think it was CEO Yang who sent you to my hotel room. After all, you showed up at the dinner with Yang; it's not like I wanted anything from you—you get what I'm saying?"

"I obviously get it. But I've run into some trouble now, Han, you're pretty much an acquaintance, so helping me out shouldn't be a big deal, right?"

Xu Chunxia—that's right, the woman stopping Han Bin from getting in his car was Xu Chunxia.

Funny thing was, the other day, Xu Chunxia was taking the thousand yuan that Xu Wei gave her to deposit at the bank, and as she passed the entrance of a department store, she unexpectedly spotted a somewhat familiar face. Without thinking, she went up to say hello, and the person she greeted was none other than Han Bin.

Before she left Shenzhen for North City, Xu Chunxia had been a kept woman for a guy named Yang Xuanlang—CEO Yang. Yang took her to a dinner, where she met Han Bin, who came from North City for a business deal. The two didn't exchange a single word at the dinner—after all, everyone knew what Xu Chunxia's role was: she was just a prop Yang brought along.

But the next morning, she woke up in Han Bin's hotel room bed.

Because of this, Han Bin privately resented CEO Yang for being shady. He knew Yang probably meant well, giving him a chance to relax, but dropping her in his room without so much as a heads-up? Not to mention, he'd had a few drinks, so you can guess what happened that night.

He was still fuzzy in the morning, so he didn't think much of it. But he saw the woman beside him was panicking, tears pouring out like they cost nothing, so feeling guilty, he just wrote her a check for fifty thousand yuan.

He thought that would be the end of it. Who could tell him that she—who should've stayed in Shenzhen—showed up in North City, and kept blocking him, instantly asking for fifty thousand yuan.

No—calling it "borrowing", but in his eyes, it was clearly demanding. As in, borrowing with no intention to pay back.

Chapter 1705: Admiration_4

But why should he give it to her?

Han Bin's eyes were full of impatience. "Help you out? You know fifty thousand isn't a small sum. Besides, why would I help you? And what do you need fifty thousand for?"

"President Han, I did a little digging—you're a married man. Aren't you afraid I'll tell your wife that you're keeping a mistress outside, and about what's happened between you and me?"

Seeing Han Bin's gaze turn dangerous, Xu Chunxia was not afraid at all. She laughed, "I'm not scared of you. After all, this is a law-abiding society. And President Han, you're not only keeping a woman behind

your wife's back, that woman is now pregnant with your child. Looks like she'll give birth in four or five months. If your wife finds out, are you sure nothing will happen?"

At this point, Xu Chunxia's eyes took on a meaningful look. "Oh! President Han, here comes your pet canary. Is she worried about you, or what? Her belly's so big already, and she still comes to pick you up from work in a cab—you have to admit, it's touching!"

Following Xu Chunxia's gaze, Han Bin saw his former secretary, the woman he'd been keeping for more than half a year, Su Yun, coming toward him with her pregnant belly.

"Why are you here?"

Han Bin frowned deeply, clearly displeased.

"I... the baby and I missed you, so... so I came to pick you up from work. Are you unhappy about that?"

The one speaking was indeed Han Bin's former secretary, named Su Yun. She'd had to leave Han Bin's side after their affair in the office was discovered by Feng Lu. Well, to be precise, she was actually fired by Han Bin. But in the second month after Feng Lu was transferred to a grassroots hospital and locked up in Third Hospital as an excuse by Feng Wei, Han Bin and Su Yun became entangled again, purely by chance.

Han Bin hadn't forgotten what he'd promised Feng Wei, but Su Yun—the seemingly naive girl—used tricks on him, changing their relationship entirely. And just that one time, Su Yun got pregnant with his child.

No matter what he said, the other party wouldn't agree to go to the hospital. She didn't want money. She just wanted to have the baby, even without status or a name—she'd follow him no matter what.

With no other way, Han Bin could only keep her on the outside.

Still, he rarely visited her.

The last time Xu Chunxia bumped into them at the department store, it was because Su Yun insisted, crying and making a scene until he accompanied her to buy maternity clothes, claiming nothing fit now her belly had grown. To avoid a headache, he gave in.

And that's how this trouble started.

"Han Bin!"

Just as Han Bin was about to speak, a familiar woman's voice drifted into his ear.

For the past month or two, Feng Lu had behaved very well at the hospital. She wanted Feng Wei to approve her early release. Dr. Wu, after careful observation and documentation, reported Feng Lu's condition to Feng Wei: her mental state was now normal, her temperament mild, her manners courteous, and she read for two or three hours daily. Compared to before, she was a different person, fully capable of returning to normal life.

Trusting Dr. Wu, Feng Wei went to Third Hospital this afternoon to pick up Feng Lu. The plan was to take her straight to the little villa where she and Han Bin lived. But seeing it was nearly the end of the workday, Feng Lu begged Feng Wei to drop her off at Han Bin's company to surprise him.

Before leaving with Feng Wei, Feng Lu took a shower, dressed herself up beautifully, and looked vibrant and soft around the eyes. She didn't expect, before she could give Han Bin a surprise, Han Bin would give her such a "big surprise" first!

Two women—two vixens. One already pregnant. How wonderful. Just wonderful!

As soon as Feng Wei's car stopped, Feng Lu saw the scene before her: Han Bin and two women tangled together by the car. Her eyes were like a storm inside, but her face revealed nothing.

Once out of the car, the storm in her eyes vanished. She looked gentle, smiling as she walked to Han Bin. "What's going on? Han Bin, aren't you happy I've returned to Beicheng? Or is it you're not happy to see me? By the way, who are they?"

Looking at Su Yun and Xu Chunxia with an innocent face.

Retreating, Su Yun backed up step by step. The moment she saw Feng Lu, her face went pale. She just wanted to get away—afraid Feng Lu might go crazy, afraid her child wouldn't make it.

But at some point, Xu Chunxia was behind her, so after two steps, she could go no further.

Su Yun was flustered. Meeting Feng Lu's smiling gaze, she felt chills down her spine, blurting out: "I... I didn't mean it, don't even think about making me get rid of the baby. I really didn't mean it..."

Mumbling, suddenly Su Yun turned to run for the roadside. Seeing this, Xu Chunxia, standing right behind her, was pushed aside, and by instinct, pushed Su Yun back.

The next moment, Su Yun fell hard on the ground.

Thin clothes for summer.

And Su Yun fell suddenly and hard—there was blood straight away.

She held her belly, looking at Han Bin and crying, "My baby!"

"It's not my fault—she pushed me first!"

Xu Chunxia's heart was pounding, but her face stayed calm enough.

A bastard in her belly—gone just like that? Serves her right!

Han Bin ignored everything else, picked Su Yun up and put her in the backseat, drove off quickly, not even saying a word to Feng Lu.

"Lulu, you..."

Feng Wei stood behind Feng Lu, a little worried about her reaction.

"I'm fine."

Turning around, Feng Lu smiled at Feng Wei. "I believe Han Bin will give me a reasonable explanation."

The Feng Lu standing here was now Lady Niohulu Feng Lu.

Those who wronged her before—she'd make them pay. And those who crossed her now? She'd never let them go either.

Judging by their clothes, Xu Chunxia guessed Feng Lu and Feng Wei weren't ordinary people. She even suspected Feng Lu was Han Bin's wife.

Now, she had to disappear fast.

She'd just threatened Han Bin over his keeping a mistress, hoping to extort fifty thousand from him. But now that "the wife" knew about her man's dirty business, her leverage was gone. Besides, if this woman found out she'd been involved with her husband, she'd almost certainly come after her.

Unfortunately, before Xu Chunxia could slip away, she heard Feng Lu ask, "Comrade, who are you? What's your relationship with my husband?"

"No relationship. There's nothing between me and your husband. I was just passing by. I don't even know your husband."

Xu Chunxia hurried to explain.

But how could she know that Feng Lu saw through her at a glance? After all, Feng Lu had lived abroad like her, and the scent of a kindred spirit was all too familiar.

"Your name, and where do you live?"

Feng Lu's expression didn't change, her tone flat and calm.

"Jiang Lei, my name is Jiang Lei. I live at..."

Chapter 1706: Couldn't Escape

Chunxia instinctively didn't give her real name, but did state her actual address.

When she realized, her first thought was to move as soon as she got back.

Feng Lu: "You can leave now."

At those words, Chunxia wasted no time, immediately walking off into the distance.

"You suspect that woman is also involved with your brother-in-law..."

Feng Wei's fists were itching now; if Han Bin was here, he'd absolutely beat the crap out of him.

How did he promise him?

It's not even been a year, and he's already tangled up with two women—damned bastard!

"She's not decent. Han Bin probably isn't interested, but there's definitely something going on between them."

Feng Lu remained calm.

Feng Wei finally noticed his sister had changed, just like Doctor Wu said—calmer, quieter. Otherwise, based on her old temper, with what they saw when getting out of the car, Feng Lu definitely would've rushed up to tear at that pregnant woman.

But after all, Feng Lu was a woman and his own blood sister; now seeing her husband cheating right before her eyes, with two women, and one already pregnant—there's no way she's not hurting inside as his wife.

So with that in mind, Feng Wei looked at her tenderly and said, "Big brother's here. If you're upset, just let it out and cry. Don't bottle it up."

Feng Lu was startled for a second, then said, "Upset? Yeah, I'm a bit upset, but I didn't do anything wrong. As long as I let it go, it's not a big deal. Besides, he's not worth me being sad for anymore."

After a brief pause, Feng Lu said again, "Big brother, help me take my luggage home. I'll walk for a bit and grab a ride later."

Feng Wei was silent for a moment, then took several dozen yuan from his wallet: "Take some money with you."

He figured Feng Lu wanted to be alone for a while, so didn't object. But before starting the car, he leaned out the half-open window and reminded Feng Lu, "Remember to head home early."

"Got it."

Feng Lu nodded, watching Feng Wei's car drive away.

After about two or three minutes, she looked away and hailed a cab by the roadside.

Swallow it and bear it?

No way—that's impossible. She was going to deal with the vixen right now. As for the one sent to the hospital, she'd make sure that woman lost her reputation. A ruthless look flashed in Feng Lu's eyes as she stared out the car window, her expression so dark it was almost pitch-black.

...

Don't fear the worst, just the chance it happens—in case Feng Lu really showed up to cause trouble, Chunxia rushed to pack up her things as soon as she got back to her rental by taxi.

Since she rented a small room with monthly payments and little deposit, Chunxia packed her stuff in a hurry and left without a shred of attachment, dragging her suitcase out the door.

As she walked out of the courtyard and down the alley ahead, she spotted a familiar silhouette from far away—her heart tightened in panic, dragging her suitcase as she ducked into a small side alley.

She jogged ahead and finally hid inside the first courtyard along the alley, then cautiously poked her head out to wait for someone to appear at the crossing.

Chunxia had definitely seen from afar the familiar figure—Feng Lu.

No doubt about it, Feng Lu was here specifically looking for Chunxia.

Relying on her intuition and suspicions about Chunxia's identity, Feng Lu was certain Chunxia had a shady relationship with Han Bin. Since this reckless woman dared covet her man, she wasn't going to let her off!

"You coming out by yourself, or do you want me to drag you out?"

Chunxia never expected Feng Lu to find her hiding at this courtyard gate. She was flustered, her heart pounding wildly, not knowing what to do.

Actually, when Chunxia spotted Feng Lu from far away, Feng Lu spotted her too.

Right now, the only reason Feng Lu was standing at the first courtyard gate was to bluff Chunxia.

Because she wasn't sure Chunxia was actually hiding inside this house's courtyard gate, but if she was, the bluff might force her to show herself. If not, Feng Lu could just take a peek inside.

It was at least a bit more polite than barging straight in.

After all, she was looking for someone, not trying to trespass.

"I know you're inside. If you don't come out, I'll go in myself and get you."

Feng Lu's voice was level, no trace of anger. She said, "I'm here because I want to hear you tell me yourself: what's your relationship with my husband? If you cooperate, I can settle this nicely. Otherwise, don't blame me if you lose all your dignity."

No response came for a while, and Feng Lu's gaze grew darker. She said again, "You're not doing honest business, are you?"

Chapter 1707: Couldn't Escape (2)

As soon as she heard that, Xu Chunxia couldn't hold it in anymore. She dragged her two big suitcases out from the gate, face grim, met Feng Lu's gaze and said, "I kept my distance from you because I don't want to be tangled with trouble, but that's no reason for you to attack me."

"Did I say anything wrong? Then tell me where you work?"

Feng Lu folded her arms over her chest, not the least bit unhappy on her face.

"Where I work has nothing to do with you. If you keep saying I don't have a proper job, that just shows your heart is dirty—so you see everything as dirty."

Xu Chunxia braved her fear of Feng Lu and said, "I might as well tell you—I really don't have any kind of relationship with your husband, but you insist there's something between us, so all I can say is I once met him briefly at a dinner party. The reason I was with him today is because I found out a secret about him..."

Feng Lu: "A secret? What secret?"

"At the dinner party, your husband said he had a family, that things were going well with his wife. But before today, I just happened to run into him with a pregnant woman at the department store,

From how they acted, it didn't seem like they were married, so I went up to say hi, chatted a bit, found out the woman, the one pregnant and standing with your husband today,

She's actually a canary your husband keeps outside the house. And I, because I ran into some trouble and needed money lately, asked your husband for help. He refused, so

I went to his company today just to find him. I told him if he wouldn't help me, I'd tell you about his canary. Simple as that. Before we finished talking, you showed up. Now, what else do you want to know?"

There were both truths and lies mixed in—Xu Chunxia was clever for once.

"Are you sure you're not lying to me?"

Feng Lu wasn't fully convinced.

"Everything I said is true. If you don't believe me, ask your husband."

Xu Chunxia was sure Han Bin wouldn't deny what she said.

Having an affair was already enough to damage his marriage. If his wife found out he'd even had a fling in Shen City, it would only deepen the cracks.

Maybe even cause a divorce.

Xu Chunxia could see it—in the moment Feng Lu appeared, Han Bin's eyes were filled with nervousness, guilt, and a touch of unease.

Clearly, he cares about his marriage. How could he wreck the Great Wall for her?

"Then why did you hide as soon as you saw me?"

Feng Lu believed about seventy percent of Xu Chunxia's story.

"I told you, I just don't like trouble. You've got a powerful family—suddenly you find your husband has a woman outside, and it just so happened I was standing with him, who knows you wouldn't suspect I have something with your husband too? Thinking that, as soon as I got back to my rental, I hurried to pack and decided to avoid you. Because, if you want to crush me, it'd be as easy as squashing an ant."

Xu Chunxia kept her eyes down as she spoke. Hearing that, Feng Lu sneered coldly, "Well, at least you know your place. But I still don't like you!"

And with that, Feng Lu raised her hand and slapped Xu Chunxia across the face.

Getting slapped, Xu Chunxia was furious. She glared at Feng Lu: "You're just bullying me because you have power!"

"Smack!"

Another slap. Feng Lu said arrogantly, "That's right, I am bullying you. What can you do about it?"

She went up, grabbed Xu Chunxia's hair, and with a chilling voice said, "Dressed up all slutty like this, you think you're a decent woman?"

She patted Xu Chunxia's face, eyes full of disdain: "Trash like you shouldn't even show your face in public. Listen up—if you don't want to get slapped every time I see you, you'd better get the hell out of North City!"

"You... Who are you to drive me out of North City? North City doesn't belong to you!"

Poisonous bitch! What did she ever do to her?

She wants her out of North City—why not just drop dead?!

Xu Chunxia raged inside, cursing in her heart!

"Because I don't like you, and because you're trash. Are those two reasons enough?"

Feng Lu pulled her hand back, raised her chin, and said, "You've got two days. If you're not at the train station in two days, no matter where you hide, I'll find you. Then you can guess what's waiting for you."

Before Xu Chunxia could reply, Feng Lu leaned in and lowered her voice: "I'll sell you off. Maybe to some mountain village to bear kids, maybe overseas for someone's pleasure—I'll have to think about that."

With those words, Feng Lu turned and walked toward the alley, but her voice came back, "Don't think I'm bluffing!"

Chapter 1708: Failed to Dodge_3

Ever since she could remember, Xu Chunxia knew what money and power meant. Back in the production team, families with officials lived noticeably better than regular members, and walking through the village, they received the respect of everyone. Especially since Xu Chunxia had Kang Li as a playmate—her father was the Team Leader, her mother was the Women's Federation Director—and Xu Chunxia herself was always a little crooked in her thoughts, so she had secretly been jealous of Kang Li.

Maybe that's why, before Kang Li had her engagement broken off by the Zhou Family, Xu Chunxia was dead set on sabotaging her "good friend's" marriage, wanting to turn Zhou Weimin into her own lifelong support.

If we're talking about Xu Chunxia's understanding in the village, she clearly saw how important power was. Then later, when she went to G City, Shen City, and even abroad, her horizons broadened, and she understood even more what having money and power meant.

So, right now, she was scared—scared that Feng Lu might actually come after her.

What to do?

Where should she go now?

Xu Chunxia dragged her suitcase along, lost and bewildered.

Go back home... Should she go back to her hometown?

Now, she didn't have much cash on her, but still nearly two thousand yuan—back in her hometown, that was a pretty decent sum, enough for her to put on some face.

She glanced at her clothes and decided to return to her rental. She needed to buy some more low-key clothes and skirts. Otherwise, with what she was wearing now, walking into the village would definitely spark a lot of gossip.

After all, people in the countryside are conservative. Anyone who saw her with bare arms and legs, wearing a tight, low-cut mini dress, would definitely think badly of her.

...

Feng Lu went back to the home she shared with Han Bin—that little white villa. She waited and waited, and two days later, Han Bin finally came home.

"I thought you'd set up another home somewhere and had no intention of coming back."

Right now, it was just the two of them. Feng Lu was neither pleased nor angry, sitting on the sofa in the living room, watching Han Bin.

"You..."

Han Bin sat down on the sofa across from Feng Lu, looking a bit worn out.

He didn't say anything for a while, and Feng Lu wasn't in a hurry, just sat there quietly watching him.

Faced with a Feng Lu like this, Han Bin couldn't help but notice how much his wife had changed. Suddenly, he was uncertain what Feng Lu was thinking, what her attitude was about him having a woman outside.

He lowered his gaze, lips pressed tight. He knew avoiding things wasn't going to help, so he looked up at Feng Lu: "Like you saw, that kid she's carrying is mine. But I can tell you for certain that it wasn't on purpose. The second month after you went to work at the local hospital, I happened to run into her, almost fainting on the street,

so I helped her home out of kindness. Who could've guessed... Who could've guessed the water I drank was off. Anyway, I know I have a family, so I never planned to have anything else with her. But a month later,

she suddenly came to me, said she was pregnant with my kid. My first reaction was, impossible. Then I told her to get rid of it, but she said her doctor said she couldn't have an abortion, or she'd risk heavy bleeding.

She didn't want me to take responsibility... But because of what the doctor said, I had no choice but to let her keep the kid. I thought, when she gave birth, I'd take the child home and then cut ties for good... But today, something went wrong, she lost the baby,

and had massive bleeding. Thanks to the doctor's best efforts, her life was saved. Once she gets discharged, I'll give her a sum of money as compensation. Do you have anything else you want to ask?"

Before Feng Lu could speak, Han Bin's voice sounded again: "By the way, the day you ran out of the office, I fired her right after."

"She didn't want you to take responsibility, then why did she come to you after finding out she was pregnant? Isn't that pretty contradictory?"

Feng Lu wasn't crying or shouting, just quietly looking at Han Bin: "If she really didn't want you to be involved, she wouldn't show up in front of you again. That lump of flesh in her belly, she wanted to keep it for herself. If the doctor said no surgery, she could've had the baby without ever telling you."

At this, Feng Lu laughed: "Let's be honest, that woman wanted to play victim and savior at the same time. You met her almost fainting on the street, but it was obviously a setup. Someone as smart as you still fell for it, brought her into your home, drank whatever water she gave you without a second thought.

In my experience, you're supposed to be a smart guy. How did you get caught so easily? You knew she was up to something, and still, when you ran into her, didn't have the tiniest bit of caution. What does that say? Don't tell me you don't know."

Chapter 1709: Couldn't Dodge It (Part 4)

It all just boils down to attraction and male chauvinism at play.

Well, that woman really looks like a good actress, knows exactly how to win a man's sympathy, and thus capture his heart, tying him down.

She had to admit, in this regard, she was left in the dust.

"I didn't expect her to do that."

Han Bin actually despised women who tried to play tricks on him the most, but Su Yun had used such tricks to get pregnant with his child, and after the fact, he hadn't thought much of it. When she said to just pretend it never happened, he simply walked off.

To be honest, he underestimated just how scheming a woman could be.

"Alright, I get what you're saying. Let's do it your way."

She had no objections to the compensation, but since that vixen dared to make trouble for her, she might as well lose her reputation!

Han Bin froze: "... That's it? No yelling, no fighting, calm as can be, believing what he said, as if none of it had anything to do with her. Was this even the person he knew?

As for Feng Lu's reaction, Han Bin felt like he was dreaming, but little did he know, soon he would become a fake man.

And this, without a doubt, was Feng Lu's revenge as the person lying next to him in bed.

Working at the hospital pharmacy, getting whatever medication she wanted was no trouble at all for Feng Lu.

As for Feng Lu not even caring about her own happiness anymore, fine, right now, when it came to Han Bin, he just disgusted her. The last thing she wanted was to get any closer to him.

Even if she herself wasn't all that clean either, some people just like to hold double standards. Take Feng Lu—the fact that she wasn't clean is fine, but Han Bin absolutely couldn't be.

Besides, Feng Lu felt that her own "uncleanness" was before she married Han Bin, back when she was overseas, but Han Bin had become unclean after their marriage. If someone like that touched her, Feng Lu was afraid she'd lose control and throw up right on him.

What's more, Feng Lu wasn't about to let Han Bin have an illegitimate kid out there somewhere.

Once Han Bin was all looks and no function, and then if anything happened to Han Qian, everything in this house would be hers.

And of course, if necessary, she'd reveal the truth about Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei's parentage in front of everyone in the Han family. That way her child would inherit everything of Han Bin's as a matter of course, and afterwards she'd reclaim whatever the Luo siblings had inherited—then she could just coast through the rest of her life.

"I'm going back to the bedroom to lie down for a bit."

Leaving Han Bin alone in the living room, Feng Lu headed upstairs to the second floor.

Lying on the bed, she started thinking about how to change the way Minghan and Mingwei saw her.

How could she do that?

Feng Lu racked her brains, thinking hard.

Give gifts?

Take them out to play?

Go visit them whenever she had free time?

Only by spending enough time together could feelings grow. With this in mind, Feng Lu knew what to do: she would send gifts to the Luo siblings regularly, take them to the zoo, the amusement park, visit them at the compound.

She couldn't say anything the Luo siblings didn't like to hear, especially couldn't slander their stepmom. She wasn't dumb—she could see and feel just how much the Luo siblings depended on their stepmom.

...

In the blink of an eye, half a month had passed.

Ao Li Village.

No matter if it was Kang Yilin and the other cousins, or the six siblings Ming Rui, Ming Han and Mingwei, plus Xi Jingyu and Xi Chenyu, all the kids—big and small—had an amazing time. Even Jiang Hongfa and Grandpa Xi, the two old men, felt cheered up these past half month in Ao Li Village and thought coming here to escape the summer heat and recuperate was the best decision.

But it has to be said, when the older kids Ming Rui, Ming Han, and Mingwei, and little Xi Chenyu saw the three Tuanzi kids go into the mountains and easily knock down wild game with pebbles, their envy and shock nearly made their eyeballs fall out.

Among them, Ming Rui, Ming Han, and Mingwei were especially frustrated. They, too, had learned martial arts from their mom, Kang Li, since they were little, so why couldn't the stones they threw knock animals out cold?

The accuracy was fine, but the problem was lack of strength—when the wild animals were hit, all they did was squawk, and before the kids could get there, each animal either flew off or ran away.

"What the heck is going on?"

Watching the wild pheasant fly off, Ming Han glared in frustration, gripping the little stone in his hand and started grumbling.

"Second Brother, do you really want to know why?"

Tangyuan tugged at Ming Han's pant leg, looking up with a mischievous smile.

"Mm, your second brother really wants to know, or else I won't be able to sleep again tonight."

Ming Han looked down at little Tangyuan: "If you know, then tell me, Second Brother."

Ming Wei chuckled low from the side: "Second Brother, you're really this hung up about it?"

"Aren't you?"

Ming Han raised an eyebrow.

"I'm a bit frustrated, true, but as long as there's pheasant and rabbit to eat from what Tuanzi, Tangyuan, and Guoguo catch, I feel like nothing else matters."

Ming Wei had already figured it out. Holding Guoguo's hand in the woods, she carried a bamboo basket in the other, filled with a dozen or so wild eggs and lots of mushrooms and wood ear fungus.

"Second Brother, crouch down, I'll tell you."

Tangyuan waved Ming Han over, and he did. Then little Tangyuan said, "Second Brother, me, Fourth Brother, and our little sister were all born strong. Mom says it's probably genetic; she's naturally strong, so me, Fourth Brother, and our little sister inherited that from her. Now you know, but you have to keep it a secret, or else bad guys will come after us!"

Ming Rui: "You, Tuanzi, and Guoguo are all like Mom—naturally strong? And the reason I can't knock down wild animals with a single stone is because I just don't have enough strength when I throw?"

Tangyuan nodded his little head: "That's right."

Ming Rui, puzzled: "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Tangyuan: "Mom says me, Fourth Brother, and little sister are too young; we can't let people know we're so strong."

Ming Rui came to understand: "Oh, you just said, mom's afraid you'll be targeted by bad people and get into trouble."

Tangyuan nodded again: "Mm-hmm."

"You guys are amazing, inheriting Mom's super strength—Second Brother is so jealous!"

Ruffling Tangyuan's head, Ming Han said: "Second Brother will definitely keep your secret and tell no one."

"Tangyuan believes you, Second Brother."

Little Tangyuan's delicate, fair face bloomed into a huge smile.

Suddenly, Tuanzi called out, "Big Brother, come here, you guys!"

When Ming Rui and the others came over, they saw Tuanzi squatting in front of a plant bearing red berries.

"What's this?"

Xi Jingyu asked.

"Wild ginseng."

That was Guoguo's voice.

"Little Guoguo, how do you know?"

Xi Jingyu was full of curiosity, and Ming Rui, Ming Han, Mingwei, and Kang Yilin all looked at Guoguo.

Tangyuan: "I know too. Me, Fourth Brother, and little sister saw it in one of our great-grandpa's Chinese medical books—the book has a picture of wild ginseng that looks exactly like the one Fourth Brother found here."

Tuanzi: "Not just one plant—there are three,"

Pointing to the other two wild ginsengs, Tuanzi said: "Even though these two don't have red berries this year, they're even older than this one."

Chapter 1710: Refusal to Accept

"Our little Dumpling is amazing, she actually poked a whole nest of ginseng!"

Jiang Yilin said this because, following Dumpling's gaze, he looked about seven meters away and saw two more wild ginseng plants with red berries.

Dumpling: "Big brother, let's be careful and dig them up to take home."

Ming Rui: "Okay."

With so many people, they had strength in numbers. Everyone dug very carefully, but since Dumpling, the other three, and Xi Jingyu were too little, the bigger kids didn't let the four be involved.

But the four little ones watched from the side, their faces extraordinarily serious.

It took a little more than half an hour, and finally Ming Rui, Jiang Yilin, and the other older kids managed to dig up all five wild ginseng roots completely.

"Big brother, these two are huge!"

That was Tang Yuan's voice. He stared at two wild ginseng roots as thick as his wrist, his eyes shining like they were filled with dazzling stars.

"Fifth brother, these three are big too!"

Pointing at the other three wild ginsengs, Guoguo blinked her big grape-like eyes and said in a childish voice, "They're as thick as the carrot I ate raw yesterday. According to the description in Great Grandpa's medical book, these three wild ginsengs must be a hundred or two hundred years old."

"So then, the other two must be at least three hundred years old?"

Ming Han suddenly piped up.

He actually spent quite a bit of time in Great Grandpa's study reading, but he wasn't all that interested in medical books, especially those old ones. Now, compared with his younger siblings, honestly, as a big brother he felt like a total country bumpkin.

—Couldn't recognize wild ginseng, couldn't tell its age. He was basically hopeless.

"Should we keep searching, or head down the mountain and go home?"

Ming Rui and Jiang Yilin carefully put the five wild ginseng roots into their backpacks. Then, Ming Rui asked Dumpling and the other three.

Guoguo was the first to speak: "Big brother, let's catch two more rabbits!"

She meant she didn't want to go down the mountain just yet.

"Okay."

Ming Rui replied.

At this moment, Xi Jingyu leaned over to Ming Han and said, "Bro, I'm so jealous of you, having a little lucky star brother!"

"You're not secretly dissing little Yu, are you?"

As he spoke, Ming Han deliberately glanced at little Xi Chenyu.

Xi Jingyu immediately shook his head so fast it looked like a rattle: "How could I dare?! My little brother is the treasure of our family! If I ever dared diss him, Grandpa would whack me with his walking stick!"

Hearing that, Ming Han squinted at him and gave two words: "Serves you right."

"Bro, are you really going to sink our little boat of friendship like this?"

No doubt about it, Xi Jingyu learned this line from Ming Han.

"You and me are just plastic brothers, get it?"

Shooting Xi Jingyu a glare, Ming Han looked full of disdain.

Okay, he was totally joking around with his friend.

Xi Jingyu of course knew, so he played along with Ming Han, giving him a glare back: "Luckily you didn't say plastic sisters—otherwise I'd end up with gender confusion because of you!"

"..."

Ming Han was stunned for a second, then went, "yuck!"

"You..."

Xi Jingyu glared.

"What about me?"

Ming Han looked all innocent.

"Forget it, I'm magnanimous, I won't stoop to your level!"

Hmph, it was just something he said, not real gender confusion. As for someone going straight into a fake puking act, he just pretended not to see.

The group walked through the woods for another five or six minutes, when suddenly Guoguo squealed with delight: "Big brother, big brother, come quick, this lingzhi mushroom is huge!"

Before Ming Rui and the older kids could react, they heard little Tang Yuan giggle: "Wow! I found a giant lingzhi too!"

And at that moment Dumpling "whizzed" two small pebbles, knocking out two wild rabbits, one after the other.

Little Xi Chenyu went to help pick up the rabbits, but as he carried them back, he suddenly tripped on something.

Xi Jingyu rushed over in panic: "Xi Chenyu, are you okay?"

Shaking his head, little Xi Chenyu picked up what had tripped him, and Dumpling's childish voice called out: "It's fo-ti!"

That's right, Dumpling instantly recognized that the thing Xi Chenyu was holding, which looked just like a wooden person, was the fo-ti he'd seen in Great Grandpa's ancient medical book.

"Fo-ti?"

Xi Chenyu's eyes opened wide as he stared right at Dumpling.

As if understanding what he was thinking, Dumpling explained with her soft voice the uses and effects of fo-ti, as well as its growth habits and appearance.

Xi Jingyu: "What's up with today? First Dumpling finds a whole nest of wild ginseng, then Guoguo and Tang Yuan each discover huge lingzhi mushrooms, and now our Xi Chenyu picks up a rare treasure too. Why am I not this lucky?!"