

Weak B 1731

Chapter 1731: Stirring Up Trouble (2)

Kang Li opened the car door, got back into the passenger seat, and told her what he had seen up ahead.

Kang Li nodded to show she understood, then asked, "Are the traffic cops done handling it?"

"Pretty much, it should be cleared any minute now."

As Min Rui finished speaking, Jiang Hongfa's car started moving forward.

Kang Li saw it and started the car to follow.

More than ten minutes later, as they passed a residential complex gate, Kang Li happened to spot a somewhat familiar figure.

Min Rui saw them too.

"Mom, what's she doing there?"

A group of middle-aged women stood at the gate, loudly cursing, with someone holding a banner that read, "Bitch Su Yun, may you die a miserable death!"

"No idea."

Kang Li shook her head, but she guessed that the group of women causing trouble at the complex more than likely had something to do with Feng Lu.

That's right, the person Kang Li and Min Rui both saw was indeed Feng Lu.

"Did she hire those people to make a scene?"

Though Feng Lu wasn't standing with the group, as Kang Li drove past, she and Min Rui saw Feng Lu's cold expression and gaze clearly.

"Doesn't matter whether she did or not—it has nothing to do with us."

Kang Li looked calm: "You're taking the college entrance exam next year. This year, don't let your mind stray, just focus on your studies."

"Mm."

Min Rui nodded, refusing to let himself think about his birth mother, Feng Lu, any longer.

A few minutes after Kang Li's car passed the complex gate, a middle-aged woman got into a heated argument with the group of women.

"Are you leaving or not? If you don't leave, I'm going to the police station to report you!"

"Go ahead! If your daughter's a bitch, you as the mother can't be much better. Otherwise, how could you raise such a shameless girl who goes around wrecking other people's families?"

"Everyone come and see! There's a girl called Su Yun in your neighborhood. Not only did she break up someone else's family, she even got pregnant by a married man. Too bad the kid was a bastard and was killed by her shameless mother before it was born!"

"Hey, come take a look, everyone—this flyer not only lists all the filthy things that whore Su Yun did, it even has her photo! I promise you'll be shocked!"

The women were busy—some handing out flyers with Su Yun's photo, some explaining their contents to passers-by, and two especially combative women arguing with the middle-aged woman.

One look and you could tell those two were from the countryside. The insults they hurled were unbelievably vicious.

Feng Lu stood on the roadside not far off, her face revealing no expression, her eyes locked on the middle-aged woman.

"I'm begging you! My daughter's not like you say. She's a good kid. There's no way she'd get involved with a married man, let alone get pregnant. She left for another city for work five months ago—she hasn't even been in North City!"

The middle-aged woman was Su Yun's mother. Though she said all this, she felt utterly lost inside, because she had seen the flyer smearing her daughter Su Yun, and it so clearly showed her daughter's photo.

But the thing was, five months ago, her daughter had told her she was going to work in a southern city. The day she left, she herself saw her daughter off at the train station, watched her scan her ticket and get on the train with her own eyes.

Now, how was she supposed to explain all this?

Su Yun's mother felt both angry and powerless. She was an educated woman, with no idea how to argue, especially not with these loud, unrefined women. Besides, most of the people standing around to watch were neighbors from the complex, and many of them knew her family. It went without saying how her family's reputation would be from now on.

"Don't believe me, huh? Then come with us! You'll see for yourself where your precious daughter is now!"

"Come on, why are you just standing there? Feeling guilty?"

"Your daughter does shameful things and you, her mother, just keep denying it. Isn't this what they mean when they say 'like mother, like daughter'?"

"Pah! You look educated, but how the hell did you raise such a shameless daughter?"

"If the beam is crooked, the rafter's bent. Maybe you're another homewrecker yourself!"

...

The two women arguing with Su Yun's mother were frighteningly good at sparring; they barely gave her any chance to talk back.

When Su Yun's mother realized she couldn't win, her head buzzed with dizziness.

Her body swayed and she seemed about to collapse, when a middle-aged man hurried out of the complex and quickly caught her.

"Haven't you made enough noise?"

The man looked cultured, but his eyes were cold as he stared at the two loud women: "You accuse my daughter of wrecking someone's family—so tell me, just who are you and in what capacity are you here to accuse us?"

"What's it to you who we are? Your daughter's shameless and destroys families—how is that right? Besides, if you two don't believe us, come with us! Let's see with our own eyes what kind of person your daughter is!"

Without a doubt, the man was Su Yun's father. His face was dark, rage simmering inside.

"Lead the way!"

He ground his teeth and spat out the words.

"Sisters, let's go!"

The main instigator among the women waved her hand, and instantly the other women crowded forward, shoving Su Yun's parents toward the bus stop. Just then, a young woman's voice rang out: "Dad! Mom! What are you..."

Chapter 1732: Stirring Up Trouble (Part 3)

"Yunyun!"

Seeing her daughter walking toward her, Kang Li's mother burst into tears as soon as she opened her mouth: "Tell me where you've been these past few months?"

Breaking free from Kang Li's father's support, Kang Li's mother rushed two steps forward to stand in front of Kang Li: "Answer me, where have you been these months, and what did you do?"

Grabbing her daughter's arm, Kang Li's mother's emotions were clearly very agitated.

Considering she had to take the bus, the banners had already been taken away by the aunties, so Kang Li had no idea that the aunties surrounding her parents were here to make trouble, and that it had something to do with her.

"I... I told you and Dad, why are you asking again now? Mom, after so many months, I just felt I couldn't get used to the south, so I quit my job..."

Kang Li hadn't finished speaking before her mother cut her off: "Did you destroy someone else's family? You didn't go work in a southern city, you stayed right here in North City, didn't you?"

Things had already gotten to this point, and Kang Li's mother couldn't believe her daughter still wouldn't admit the truth, lying to her face.

Hearing her mother's words, Kang Li's heart dropped, her face went pale, filled with guilt in her eyes, unsure what to do.

"Girl! Why don't you just be a decent person, why'd you go decide to be a homewrecker? You knew that man was married, and you still kept hooking up with him, girl, how are you so shameless? Playing tricks to get pregnant with his child, showing up downstairs at his company with your belly in broad daylight..."

Seeing the aunties chattering nonstop nearby, Kang Li suddenly covered her ears: "Stop it!"

What am I going to do?

What should I do?

How did it end up like this?

Didn't his wife not come after her? And it's been almost two months since things happened, so why is it blowing up right now?

Kang Li couldn't believe what she saw and heard, her eyes full of tears, staring at the aunties surrounding her and her parents, feeling the strange looks from everyone around. Suddenly, her gaze locked onto someone in the crowd.

The next moment, she squeezed out of the crowd, hurried toward that person. But before she got close, she saw the other person withdraw their mocking look and get into a black car parked on the road. In seconds, the car drove off right in front of her.

Feng Lu wanted Kang Li and her family to lose face in front of everyone around them. As for actually getting close to Kang Li's family, honestly, Feng Lu had no such intention.

An auntie noticed Feng Lu leaving by car and quickly signaled the other aunties. In no time, it was as if they'd reached some kind of tacit agreement, not saying another word to Kang Li's parents or to Kang Li, and left as a group.

They had been paid by a young woman to come here, and their mission was to ruin "Kang Li's" reputation. Now that the goal was met, just as the young woman had said beforehand, it was time to leave.

"Do you believe it?"

"What about you?"

"Things are obvious as can be, and you guys still doubt it's true?"

"I never thought Xiaoli would do something like wrecking someone's family. Who knows how Old Kang and his wife raised their kids."

"I kept wondering why she isn't married even though she's not that young anymore, turns out she had her eye on a married man. She's totally disgraced the Kang family!"

"Yunsan has been asking acquaintances non-stop these past two years to introduce matches for her daughter Kang Li, but Kang Li didn't like any of them. I used to think she just had high standards, but now I finally get it, she wasn't picky, she likes married men—that's it. If she were my daughter, see how I'd deal with her!"

Yunsan is Kang Li's mother's name.

"Old Kang and his wife really are in trouble now. Such a nice girl, why couldn't she fall for someone better, but instead she liked a married man, got pregnant with his kid, then lost it. After this, she'll have a hard time finding anyone willing to marry her!"

"Well, come on, if she can't find someone good, she could still get someone a bit worse. After all, she's got a pretty face!"

...

All kinds of criticism filled the air nonstop. Kang Li's father acted as though he hadn't heard anything; he didn't look at Kang Li either. He held Kang Li's mother, who was wiping her tears, and walked her into the apartment complex.

But just as they stepped into the house, Kang Li followed right in behind them.

A sharp slap rang out!

As Kang Li closed the door and walked into the center of the living room, Kang Li's mother slapped her with no warning. Her tearful eyes were filled with pain and fury. Ignoring Kang Li's shocked stare, she slapped her again.

"Mom!"

Kang Li came back to herself, crying out for her mother.

"Don't call me Mom!"

Kang Li's mother was beside herself: "From childhood, how did I teach you, and how did your father teach you? Why would you do something so shameless? Now, you didn't just lose face for yourself, you've ruined it for me and your dad. How can we ever hold our heads up again?"

"I... I didn't want it, but... but you can't control feelings..."

Kang Li's tears flowed endlessly.

"If you can't control your feelings, does that mean you can just do whatever you want? Destroy someone's family? Even—get pregnant with his child? Don't you know what shame is?"

Kang Li's mother and father both cared deeply about keeping up appearances. The couple rarely lost their temper at home or raised their voices. Kang Li and her brother were always the kind of kids other parents in the apartment complex envied. Honestly, that made Kang Li's parents extremely proud.

Chapter 1733: Stirring Up Trouble_4

But the couple never expected that Su Yun, their daughter they were so proud of, after graduating college, didn't say a word, gave up the job assigned by the state, and chose to work at a privately-owned foreign trade company. In the end, she didn't last long there, said the job wasn't suitable, and quit cleanly, staying home and never going out.

Because of this, the two of them were quite troubled, and tried endlessly to persuade their daughter, but Su Yun wouldn't listen to a single word.

Who would've thought, several months after quitting her job, one day Su Yun suddenly said she wanted to go work in a southern city, claiming a classmate had introduced her to a job there.

As parents, Father Su and Mother Su naturally weren't at ease, but Su Yun sounded very convincing, and even had the classmate who recommended her call them personally. The person not only told Father Su and Mother Su about the good work environment and promising development at the company, but also explained how high the monthly salary and year-end bonus were, and what kinds of benefits they offered.

In short, Su Yun's job in the south sounded like a bright future.

Father Su and Mother Su were persuaded, and even though they still worried about their daughter working in a southern city, they didn't want to become stumbling blocks in her career.

Just like that, the couple was fooled by the daughter they adored for so many years.

The whole thing about going to work in the south? It was just a cover!

Looking back on everything five months ago, Father Su's expression was cold and grim as he sat on the sofa, not even glancing at Su Yun.

Mother Su meanwhile was hitting Su Yun, crying and scolding her at the same time, her emotions completely out of control.

"Say something! What are your father and I supposed to do now? How's your sister-in-law supposed to think of our family's upbringing? How's your brother going to hold his head up in front of his wife?"

Listening to Mother Su's accusations, Su Yun sobbed uncontrollably, letting Mother Su hit her.

"How did I end up with such a shameless daughter... Before you graduated, you were always so good. Tell me, how did you become like this? You knew he was married—why did you still fall for him?"

"Mom, I told you, I couldn't stop myself from thinking about him, I... I wasn't being shameless, I just wanted to be with him!"

"And what happened?"

"I found out I was pregnant, and worried you'd scold me if you knew, so... so I used the job in the south as an excuse..."

"You already had a baby inside you when you left home?!"

"Yeah."

"Did it never occur to you that his wife would find out?"

"I... I didn't think about it. I stayed in the apartment he arranged for me, just thinking I'd deal with everything once I had the baby. But I never expected I'd lose the child, never expected to run into his wife that day... Mom, I really wasn't trying to cause trouble for you and Dad. If you look at the timing, it's been almost two months since his wife discovered me and since I lost the baby. His wife has been quiet the whole time..."

"You already interfered in their marriage. Even if that man's wife has a good temper, is she just going to let you run wild?"

"Sob... I know I was wrong..."

"What's the use in realizing it now? The baby was lost because of his wife, wasn't it?"

"No, it was another woman who pushed me. I fell to the ground, then the baby was gone."

Mother Su's eyes were full of disappointment. She sat down next to Father Su, crying as she said: "Old Su, I don't even know what to say. You figure it out! That kind of man—with no sense of responsibility! What does your daughter even see in him? Sneaking behind his wife's back, seeing more than one woman on the side—in my eyes, he's trash. What does your daughter even like about him?!"

Throwing herself into Father Su's arms, Mother Su broke down in tears.

Father Su wrapped his arm around her shoulders, lightly patting her, eyes shifting to Su Yun: "What are you planning to do?"

"I don't know. He... he broke things off with me..."

Su Yun had no clue what to do about her situation now.

Father Su was silent. After a long moment he said: "Just stay home and don't go out for now. In a little while, I'll ask some people I know from out of town to find you a job."

"Dad, you and Mom think I've disgraced you, you don't want me as your daughter anymore, is that it?"

"Do you think if you stay at home, you'll be able to withstand all the gossip?"

"..."

"Mom and I only had you and your brother. We've never favored either of you. We always thought you'd be like your brother, graduate college and follow the state's assignment into a government unit or enterprise,

then find someone you truly connect with and get married. Who could've guessed, after graduation you didn't discuss anything with us, refused the state assignment, and insisted on working for a private company. From then on, your path went off track,

so stubborn you don't listen to a single kind word, and now you've made such a mess, making us lose all face. But no matter what, you're still our child. As your parents, can we really just abandon you?

But keeping you at home isn't right, not because your mother and I care what you did, but because we don't want you to be pointed at and judged. Do you understand?"

Chapter 1734: Are You Comparable to Me?

"I don't want to leave you and Mom!"

Big tears rolled down from Su Yun's eyes.

"Think it over carefully."

Father Su didn't want to say more. He helped Mother Su back to their bedroom.

Only Su Yun remained in the living room. She stood there for a long time, unmoving, confusion filling her heart and eyes.

"Why didn't you ask Yun Yun which man it was?"

In the master bedroom, Mother Su asked Father Su.

"What good would it do to ask? Did you see that pamphlet? The details are all clear. Yun Yun was the one who actively pursued him. After getting fired, a few months later, she engineered a fake encounter, and even deliberately pretended to faint in front of him. Later..."

"Enough, don't say any more. I already know what happened after that."

Mother Su hadn't finished reading the pamphlet, but she saw enough: Su Yun used the married man to get herself sent home, slipped something into his drink while pouring water for him, and then...

Mother Su stopped thinking about it. Right now, she was reflecting on herself, wondering where she had gone wrong to raise a daughter like Su Yun.

Father Su: "What's done is done. No matter how angry we get, it won't help. All we can do now is wait for things to blow over, then send Yun Yun to work in another city. Otherwise, even if she isn't driven to the edge by gossip, it won't be long before she breaks down mentally."

Mother Su: "So what about us? What are we supposed to do? And Xiao Dong, what about him?"

"...Ignore it, stop thinking about it. Things will pass."

Father Su didn't sound confident. He knew all too well, times might be more open now, but not so open that relationships between men and women can be reckless. Whoever has a daughter with such scandalous behavior will have people gossiping about them for a long time.

And even if time passes and everyone forgets, just seeing their family again will remind people of everything that happened.

In short, if they really want to stop being talked about, their whole family would have to move out of the staff compound, to a new place where no one knows them.

Otherwise, it's like changing the soup but not the medicine—sooner or later it'll stir up trouble all over again.

But moving isn't easy.

Not only is housing tight in the city, but with their jobs, transfer isn't something you can just do; to get transferred to another city with the same level of work, you'd need some pretty strong connections—it's just impossible otherwise.

Besides... Besides, he's more than satisfied with his current job and planned to stay until retirement. He didn't want to move at all, especially not because of his daughter's messy relationship, just to save face.

"Do you think this is something we can simply ignore and it'll go away?"

Mother Su's eyes filled with pain: "Whenever people see us, maybe they won't say anything to our face, but who knows what they're saying behind our backs—mocking us for raising a shameless daughter who ruins other people's families!

We're close to retirement, and Xiao Dong is just starting his career. Who knows if his bosses might question his character because Yun Yun is his sister—and then they won't even consider him for promotion."

Xiao Dong, full name Su Dong, is Su Yun's brother.

"So what do you want to do?"

Father Su frowned: "Do you want me, you, and our son all to transfer jobs? Move the whole family?"

Mother Su shook her head without even thinking: "That's not what I meant."

"Since we don't want to transfer jobs or move, we'll just have to bear it, pretend nothing ever happened."

It's only a few words from people—it's not like it'll take a pound of flesh. Just endure... endure and it'll pass eventually.

Father Su tried to persuade himself, even though he knew deep down it was just self-deception, but he had no other way. It's the only comfort he could offer himself.

Anyway, times are changing; maybe after a few years... He cut off the thought, realizing it was wishful thinking.

After all, if people could have sexual relationships as they pleased, where would society's boundaries be?

Would people even have morals anymore?

And once a person loses their moral principles, what difference is there between them and uncivilized animals?

"Take it one step at a time!"

Mother Su wiped her eyes and said, "I... I need to take a few days off. Otherwise, I truly don't know how I could face people."

"You..."

Father Su sighed deeply: "Alright."

In truth, he thought, no matter how many days she takes off, it's just fooling themselves!

In the living room, Su Yun stood there, frozen for about seven or eight minutes. Finally, she moved her feet and, dazed, returned to her own bedroom.

But a moment later, she came out again with a blank face, went to the master bedroom door and said, "Dad, Mom, I'm going out for a while."

"Where are you going?"

Mother Su hurriedly opened the bedroom door, only to find that Su Yun's figure had already disappeared outside the house. Furious, she rushed after her and called, "Su Yun, get back here!"

But Su Yun acted as if she hadn't heard, running straight downstairs.

She ignored the strange looks from others, running out of the compound. She saw a pamphlet with her photo on it in the green belt by the roadside, bent down to pick it up, stuffed it into her pocket, and then headed quickly toward the bus stop.

...

"I told you, from now on, there's nothing between us anymore!"

Han Bin was at the company dealing with paperwork, when a phone call forced him to set his work aside and go down to a café at the building's entrance. Now, he sat across from Su Yun. Each had a cup of coffee in front of them, but Han Bin had no intention of tasting his. His brows were tightly knit, his face cold and stern, showing just how bad his mood was.

Chapter 1735: Are You Even Comparable to Me? (Part 2)

Biting her lip, Su Yun felt miserable and aggrieved inside, but she forced herself not to let the tears in her eyes spill out. Instead, she pulled out the flyer with her photo printed on it from her pocket and slid it over to Han Bin. "Take a look at this first."

"What exactly is going on?"

Han Bin didn't even glance at the flyer, impatience flickering in his eyes. "I told you before—I hate being manipulated more than anything, especially when it comes to man-woman stuff!"

As a man, being schemed against by a woman with such low tricks—this was a humiliation in his life!

"I'm not trying to bother you anymore. Just look at the flyer, okay?"

Su Yun sniffled, her voice tinged with tears.

Hearing this, Han Bin finally shifted his gaze to the flyer. When he saw Su Yun's photo printed on it, he was visibly taken aback, then he looked closely at the content.

Lips pressed tightly together, he sat in silence for a while, showing no particular emotion on his face. He asked, "What are you trying to say?"

"I need an explanation."

Su Yun's eyes were full of grievance. "I already promised not to bother you anymore—so why does your wife have to deal with me like this? Do you know what happened? Today I went home... at the entrance to the family housing compound, a bunch of old ladies surrounded my parents. The things they said about me were horrible, and my parents got dragged into it and cursed too. Now everyone in the compound knows what I did. How are we supposed to keep living there? How am I supposed to let my parents and my brother hold their heads up in front of others?"

"You need to figure out—is this really my problem?"

Han Bin spoke in a low voice: "The day I fired you, you and I had nothing left to do with each other. Then you came back to me again—are you sure it wasn't on purpose? Pretending to faint, I said I'd take you to the hospital,

but you insisted on being sent home, and then you took the opportunity to drug me. Su Yun, you were always a smart, cheerful girl in my mind, but I never thought you'd use your smarts in the wrong way. Now, you're showing me this flyer—what are you trying to say? What do you want me to do?"

"Your wife hurt me and my family. Don't you think you at least owe me an apology?"

Tears dropped from Su Yun's eyes.

Looking at the handprint on her face, Han Bin lightly tapped the table with his finger and asked, "Did you see her in person? Or is this mark on your face left by my wife?"

"I did see your wife, but as soon as she saw me, she drove away... I admit I did what I did because I liked you, because I wanted to be with you—but haven't I already paid the price? Why does your wife have to ruin my reputation?"

"You have to ask her yourself."

Why? Han Bin could easily guess why Feng Lu did it—but would he say that now?

No, and there's no need!

"You and your wife are just too much! No one bullies people like you two!"

Su Yun accused.

"If you hadn't schemed against me, none of this would've happened afterward."

Han Bin didn't give Su Yun any face at all. He said, "I'm busy. If you have nothing else, I won't stay." He stood up, ready to leave.

"You... you really don't like me at all?"

Su Yun stood up at the same time, looking straight into Han Bin's eyes. "Before I was fired, you had feelings for me—I saw it, I could feel it. Besides, we..."

"Don't say any more. I'll tell you—I was just temporarily out of my mind back then."

He knew this wasn't entirely true. Back when Su Yun first joined his company, and he recognized her as the girl he'd saved on the street, Han Bin had felt some fondness for her.

Precisely because of that, at a time when he and Feng Lu were having trouble over their daughter Han Qian needing to transfer schools, and he was unhappy, Su Yun showed him she liked him—and before he knew it, things between them became ambiguous.

"You're lying! I could clearly feel you liked me. And... and you were happy with me too. Why won't you admit it now?"

"Say whatever you want. All you need to know is, there's nothing between us now. Don't contact me again, or I'll take back that apartment and the check I gave you."

"Didn't you see what's written on the flyer? Your wife wants me to return the apartment and the check voluntarily. If I don't, she'll go straight to court and have them take it back for her."

"..."

Han Bin hadn't expected Feng Lu to go this far. After a long silence, he called the waiter to pay the bill, then turned and walked straight out of the café.

Watching his back disappear beyond the café doors, Su Yun covered her mouth and let the tears roll down her face.

...

Late at night before bed, Han Bin knocked on the guest room door.

"Let's talk."

Looking at Feng Lu, he said in a low voice.

"Come in."

Feng Lu moved aside. When Han Bin entered, she casually closed the door and walked over to sit on the bed.

Han Bin sat in a nearby chair.

"Why do you want to sleep in separate rooms?"

"I've gotten used to it."

Feng Lu certainly wouldn't admit she found him dirty.

"We're husband and wife."

She'd been working at the local clinic less than a year, and once she came back, her first move was to sleep in separate rooms. Now she told him she was simply used to sleeping alone—was he supposed to believe that?

"I never said we weren't."

Feng Lu replied.

Her emotions weren't visible, nor did she sound dissatisfied. For a moment, Han Bin couldn't do anything about her. After a brief silence, he asked, "Was that flyer your doing?"

Chapter 1736: Are You Even Comparable to Me? (3)

"She came to you to complain."

Feng Lu spoke in a flat, matter-of-fact tone.

They both knew exactly what she meant.

"I've told you the reason, and I've already cut her off... To be precise, after you fired her, there was nothing between us anymore..."

"Enough, you don't need to explain. I get what you mean. I also know exactly what I am doing."

Feng Lu interrupted Han Bin. She said, "Someone meddled in my marriage, tried to wreck my family—shouldn't I speak out for myself? To put it another way, if she hadn't done those things, hadn't inserted herself into my marriage, hadn't tried to ruin my family, would I go out of my way to make trouble for her?"

Han Bin, look at me. I'm a person, and a woman at that. I have real feelings. I did what I did to defend my marriage, to protect my family, and I don't feel the least bit that I went too far with her."

"..."

Han Bin was undoubtedly choked by this, and after a moment, he moved his lips and said, "That apartment is only about fifty square meters, and the fifty thousand yuan I gave her—that's my compensation. Could you please just not try to get those things back?"

"Why should I?"

Feng Lu looked coldly at Han Bin. "Compensation? Compensation for what? Was it you who got hurt? Han Bin, you need to get something straight. You yourself told me you were tricked by her, and that's why she has your child in her belly.

And besides, the apartment and the money you gave her—those are community property, belonging to both of us. What right do you have to use what belongs to both of us to compensate some woman who set you up? Or do you actually like her and want to divorce me? If that's the case, what you've done counts as marital infidelity—and you'll leave with nothing."

Her tone was calm. Feng Lu couldn't have played her "Empress Niohulu" role any better.

"..."

Han Bin was struck dumb again. He knew perfectly well Feng Lu was right. Even though Su Yun schemed to get pregnant with his child, even before that, she had been his secretary, and what they'd done in the office had been caught by Feng Lu in person. And after what Feng Lu pulled today, God knows if she didn't also have someone secretly photograph him—photos of him and Su Yun meeting up, for example.

If she's got evidence in hand and takes him to court for infidelity, there's no way he comes out on top.

Besides... These past couple of weeks, for whatever reason, he hasn't felt the least bit of a man's urge in the mornings. In fact, lately he has this nagging feeling he'll never be a normal man again...

He doesn't know if it's all just in his head. But he really isn't able to anymore. He wants to go see a doctor, but a man's pride keeps him from taking that step.

Maybe wait a bit longer!

Maybe it's just because work's been so intense lately.

Pushing those thoughts aside, Han Bin changed the topic: "When school starts up, I'll transfer Qian Qian back to school in the North City."

Feng Lu: "Do whatever you want."

"I'll just transfer her to the middle school near our place. Yeah, it's an ordinary school, but it's definitely better quality than any school in the countryside."

While he spoke, Han Bin watched Feng Lu's expression, but he was disappointed. The woman sitting across from him—his wife—had really changed. Her personality was so different now, not at all like she'd been before going to work at the county hospital.

"Don't worry, I have no objections."

She couldn't be happier for that stubborn girl to come back to the city for school—only then could her plans move ahead more smoothly.

"Lu Lu..."

Han Bin called out to Feng Lu, disappointment written all over his face. "You've changed. You've become someone I barely recognize. Can you tell me why? Or could you go back to how you were before?"

"What, am I so bad now?"

Feng Lu met Han Bin's eyes. "I don't bicker with you over every little thing anymore, I don't yell at you. I thought you'd be really happy with the way I am now."

"Lu Lu, I know what happened with Su Yun hurt you, but the minute you ran out of my office, I knew I was wrong. Can't you just forgive me?"

"I don't even hate you. What's there to forgive?"

She hadn't acknowledged Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei as part of the Han family. When she finally got pregnant again, his daughter hurt her—she lost the baby, lost her uterus, and in the end, nobody bothered to care how she felt. All anyone told her was not to speak about the twins, and not to blame Han Qian for that little brat's mistake. Later on, she even caught her husband—this man right in front of her—fooling around in his office with his secretary. Was she just born to suffer, to be hurt like this?

She deserved to get thrown by her own brother into the Third Hospital, and locked away for nearly a year...

Feng Lu was filled with resentment. She resented Han Bin and Han Qian both, resented Father Han and Mother Han even more!

If getting pregnant with Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei all those years ago was an accident, she could only say there was something very intentional about that "accident."

This very man standing in front of her had been the one to make the first move, laying a gentle trap for her so she did something immoral in her marriage to Luo Yanqing, which led to Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei.

She was afraid of the pain of abortion, even more afraid of an accident that might take her life, so she could only set Luo Yanqing up and let him take the blame.

At the time, she did reach out to this man, but couldn't find him, and she couldn't go to the Han family and expose their relationship. So she called the station again and again, insisting that Luo Yanqing come home and rest.

To be honest, if she still had a conscience, whatever was left clearly could never make up to Luo Yanqing.

From marriage until she faked her own death, Feng Lu knew she'd never once seen herself as Luo Yanqing's wife, never tried to care for him, not even once inquired about his wellbeing. Instead, she let him play the fool again and again, enjoyed his money as his "wife," and didn't even really care for her own kids—especially Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei, who she tossed aside the moment they were born in order to chase her own happiness.

Chapter 1737: Are You Even Comparable to Me?

None of the three children are genetically related to Luo Yanqing, but this man is still raising them... Not wanting to think further, Feng Lu said to Han Bin, "I'm going to rest." The implication: you should leave now.

But Han Bin didn't budge. He said, "Lulu, just let things go with Su Yun! No matter what, she's lost the baby in her belly, and she's not married yet. After what happened today, her reputation is ruined. Her days ahead won't be easy. Just let her have the house and the money. Otherwise, if anything happens to her, it won't do you any good."

Feng Lu: "Something happens to her?"

Han Bin: "You're forcing her to return the house and the money. If she can't take it and does something desperate, it's entirely possible."

"I'm forcing her? How am I forcing her? The house and the check were given by you—they never belonged to her. I'm only asking for what belongs to us as a couple. If she doesn't want to give it back and chooses to end her own life, that's her problem. What's it got to do with me?"

Feng Lu refused to relent. She stood up. "Now please leave. I need to rest and don't want to waste any more words with you."

"Think it over."

Standing up, Han Bin left the guest room.

Expressionless, Feng Lu closed the door and muttered to herself, "There's nothing for me to reconsider."

...

Perhaps worried Feng Lu would bring the neighborhood ladies to cause trouble at the entrance to her family compound again, or maybe just to finally cut off any lingering attachment to Han Bin, Su Yun ultimately returned the house Han Bin had transferred to her name, along with the fifty-thousand yuan check.

She handed them directly to Han Bin, saying nothing at all.

Han Bin felt a complicated mix of emotions. He informed Feng Lu of what had happened, giving her the keys to the house and the check.

Taking back the couple's joint assets from Su Yun, seeing her own name on the deed, Feng Lu showed no special emotion on her face. In daily life with Han Bin, she continued to act distant and lukewarm.

This Thursday, the second week after the new semester started, Feng Lu showed up at Shuimu University to talk with Jiang Li about something.

It's worth mentioning that Jiang Li is now a doctoral advisor. Compared with teaching undergraduate classes before, her workload has lightened considerably, though it's less obvious.

"You looking for me about something?"

Ever since returning from her hometown to North City, Jiang Li had moved into a courtyard house near Shuimu University with Captain Jiang, Cai Xiufen, Grandpa Jiang, Grandma Jiang, and the children, both young and old.

No doubt, this courtyard house was given by Jiang Boya. It's quite big, with many rooms, and it truly was ready to move into directly.

Okay, before she headed back to North City, Jiang Li had contacted Jiang Boya, asking this "bargain father" to get someone to clean out the courtyard house and air out all the bedding, so they could move in without having to lift a finger.

But although Jiang Li had no classes today and was at home at Shuimu University, she didn't expect Feng Lu to find her here, much less to come specifically to see her.

"I want to see Luo Mingrui and the others once a week in the future."

Feng Lu stated her purpose.

"Technically, it's only fair for you to want to see the kids. But you know as well as I do, Rui Rui is about to take the college entrance exams, and Han Han and Wei Wei are preparing for the high school entrance exams. I don't want bad influences to affect their studies. Do you understand what I mean?"

Jiang Li looked calmly at Feng Lu and said, "Besides, they're already old enough to have their own opinions. Now that you want to see them once a week, I'll have to ask for their thoughts, too."

Feng Lu didn't respond directly, but asked, "So you know already?"

"I'm not sure what you mean, Ms. Feng."

Jiang Li pretended not to understand what Feng Lu was referring to.

"Luo Mingrui and the others aren't Luo Yanqing's children. I believe Luo Yanqing must have told you. After all, the way he treats you and the way he once treated me are completely different."

Feng Lu's tone grew a bit sour as she spoke.

"Is there any comparison between you and me?"

Jiang Li's eyebrows arched slightly. She said, "You knew better than anyone why you married Luo Yanqing. Besides, in your marriage with Luo Yanqing, did you ever actually treat him as your husband?"

Feng Lu was left speechless.

"Ms. Feng, you only ever saw Luo Yanqing as a stand-in. You never cared about him, which is why you could let him raise your and someone else's children with a clear conscience, and you could carry on with other men behind his back with no burden at all,

but as for me, from the moment I got our marriage certificate, I knew very clearly I was his wife, the one to spend my life with him. I cherished him in my heart, and he could feel that, so naturally he put me in his heart too. So when you say he treats you and me differently, well, there's really no room for comparison. Don't you think I'm right, Ms. Feng?"

Chapter 1738: You Want to Say It Wasn't Intentional, Right?

Feng Lu flushed red upon hearing this, embarrassed to her ears. After a moment, she said, "I was young back then, and it wasn't really intentional. You should know, when people are young, anyone can make mistakes. As for me... It just so happened that my mistake was in romantic matters. Now after all these years, I already know what I did was wrong. Also, I believe with Luo Yanqing's character, he wouldn't keep holding on to that slip."

"Lady Feng, you're being a bit too full of yourself!"

Kang Li's bright, clear eyes were penetrating. She stared directly into Feng Lu's gaze, as if able to see through to the depths of her heart. With such a look upon her, Feng Lu felt a tightening inside, then she heard Kang Li say:

"There's something you might not know. Let me tell you now: A few years ago, you met my partner at a famous university in Hu City. When you greeted him, he had no idea who you even were.

It's clear that you never mattered to him at all. Since that's the case, why would he ever care what you did?"

"You think I'd believe what you're saying?"

Feng Lu felt her face growing hotter. She understood Kang Li's meaning; it was telling her that she never cared about Luo Yanqing, never saw him as her husband, and Luo Yanqing thought the same—she wasn't his wife in his heart, so obviously he never cared about her either.

Although this sounded reasonable—after all, feelings go both ways. If she didn't invest herself, what right did she have to expect him to invest?

But the thought still made her deeply uncomfortable.

Thinking thus, Feng Lu couldn't help arguing back, raising the issue of Luo Yanqing raising Min Rui and her siblings: "If Luo Yanqing really didn't care about me, how could he willingly raise Luo Mingrui and the others?"

At that, Kang Li laughed: "Does my partner need a reason to raise his own children?"

Feng Lu: "Luo Mingrui and the others aren't his!"

"My partner believes they are, so they are. Before he knew about Ruirui and the others' background, he raised them as his own children; and after learning the truth, do you think he cares much about so-called blood ties?"

The three kids grew up beside him, started calling him Dad as soon as they could talk. Setting aside the bonds of blood, my partner values family, values all those years of affection built living together with the children."

After a slight pause, Kang Li ignored the change in Feng Lu's expression, continuing: "Ruirui and the others, too—after finding out the truth about their background, their feelings for my partner haven't changed at all."

Feng Lu was momentarily stunned by Kang Li's words, then her eyes grew wide: "Luo Mingrui and the others all know?"

"That's all thanks to you."

Kang Li's tone carried a hint of sarcasm: "Clearly you, as their mother, made mistakes, gave the kids a background others look down on, yet you have no sense of guilt whatsoever. You don't know how to be a mother, a mother who actually considers her children, and you just had to expose their background, causing one wave of trouble after another."

"I..."

For once, a trace of shame showed on Feng Lu's face.

"You want to say you didn't mean to, right?"

Kang Li scoffed lightly, saying, "You married Luo Yanqing and made him a father by surprise, then had an affair within your marriage, making him a father by surprise again. You say it wasn't intentional. Now I bring up you revealing Ruirui and the others' background, and you also want to insist it wasn't intentional. Lady Feng, you really are very selfish—will you admit that?"

"People look out for themselves, or heaven and earth will destroy them. Haven't you heard that saying?"

Feng Lu's expression returned to normal: "I did treat Luo Yanqing as a substitute, it's true I never cared about him, never saw myself as his wife. But he could've chosen not to marry me, yet the fact is he did, so whatever I've done, he naturally has to put up with it.

As for you claiming I exposed Luo Mingrui and the others' background, that's really unjust. I never made it public that they weren't Luo Yanqing's kids, I just mentioned it to a few members of the Han Family and the Xiao Family.

But my original intention was for their own good. Who could've guessed that my stepdaughter Han Qian, after noticing Luo Minghan looked like her father, would start suspecting Luo Minghan was the child of me and my current husband. Then she kept bringing up the background of Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei at school, which ended up negatively affecting them and their siblings."

"For their own good? In what way good?"

Kang Li fixed her gaze on Feng Lu: "Don't use any more lofty excuses—you were entirely acting for your own interests."

Chapter 1739: You Want to Say It Wasn't Intentional, Right? (Part 2)

"That's too absolute."

Feng Lu disagreed; she said, "Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei are the children of me and my current husband. Once they're acknowledged by the Han Family, my husband's estate will be inherited by my kids."

"Lady Feng, I just want to ask, does your husband, and even the Han Family, actually acknowledge Hanhan and Vivi?"

When Kang Li said this, she saw Feng Lu getting frustrated and resentful. Of course, those feelings weren't directed at Kang Li, but at Han Bin and the Han Family.

Feng Lu stayed silent for a while, so Kang Li said, "Alright, I already understand why you came to see me today. When Ruirui and the others come home from school, I'll mention this to them."

But Feng Lu didn't respond. She took three items out of her bag and placed them on the coffee table in front of Kang Li.

Kang Li glanced at the property certificate, a set of keys, and a Fifty thousand yuan check lying on the coffee table. Then she looked at Feng Lu with a raised eyebrow: "What does this mean?"

Feng Lu: "Just take it."

"Lady Feng, if you're giving this to Ruirui and the others, then please hand it to them yourself."

Kang Li didn't beat around the bush. She said directly: "But how are the three kids supposed to divide one house and Fifty thousand yuan? Do you want them to start resenting each other?"

Alright, Kang Li was definitely mocking Feng Lu here.

Whether she wanted to compensate Min Rui and the siblings or show off, in Kang Li's eyes, it all seemed a bit stingy.

Feng Lu's hidden intentions got exposed, and she was a bit embarrassed, forcing a laugh: "It's my fault, I didn't think it through enough. How about this—you help hold onto this for Luo Mingrui and the others for now. Next time, I'll prepare two more sets of property and ten thousand yuan for you. That way, Luo Mingrui and his siblings each get one house and twenty thousand yuan."

She did want to compensate her three little wolf cubs, but she also wanted Kang Li to know she wasn't short on money. And she wanted Ming Rui and his siblings to know that their biological mom cared about them. Otherwise, she wouldn't be so generous.

But she didn't expect Kang Li to mock her for being stingy. Honestly, it made her lose face.

"Sorry, but I'll say it again—if you want to compensate the three kids, do it yourself. Whether they accept it is their own business; I won't comment."

Blood ties can't be severed. As the birth mother, Feng Lu wants to make amends to Min Rui and the others, and that's her own business.

Kang Li definitely wouldn't say anything to Min Rui and the three.

Likewise, whether Min Rui and the siblings accept their birth mother's compensation depends on their own wishes. Although she treats them as her own, she can't make this decision for them.

Seeing that Kang Li truly had no intention of keeping the three items, Feng Lu hesitated for a moment and ended up putting them back in her bag, saying, "Fine. I'll hand them to Luo Mingrui and the others in person another day."

But as soon as she said that, she realized: "The house and money won't include Luo Mingrui. I'll give Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei each one house and Thirty thousand yuan."

Kang Li: "Isn't Ruirui your child?"

Feng Lu: "He is, but the house and money belong to my current husband, who is the biological father of Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei."

"Aren't you and your husband a unit? Lady Feng, if you treat the three kids differently, do you think Hanhan and Vivi will even want what you give them?"

Kang Li was doing this on purpose, just to make Feng Lu uncomfortable.

Feng Lu: "..."

She was silent for a while, then said, "Thanks for the reminder. I know what to do now."

She figured giving Luo Mingrui one house and twenty thousand yuan wouldn't bother Han Bin.

And besides, she had nothing to worry about when it came to Han Bin.

He'd done her wrong; what right did he have to interfere?

Besides, if she didn't use the money at home, would she let Han Bin spend it on some other woman?

Kang Li watched Feng Lu's expression shift and scoffed inwardly. Whatever her net worth was, the properties she held in her hand were way better than the single little flat Feng Lu was showing off.

Yes, the house Feng Lu offered was just a small single-story home. More accurately, it was a small house with a yard.

It wasn't like a classic courtyard house, just a simple little yard with a two-bedroom, one-living-room single-story building. The location was average. It used to be the place Han Bin let Su Yun live while she was pregnant. Later, Su Yun lost the baby, so as compensation, Han Bin transferred the house directly to Su Yun's name.

But because of Feng Lu, Su Yun had to give the house back to Han Bin. To ease his marital tensions, Han Bin then gave the returned house and that check from Su Yun to Feng Lu.

Chapter 1740: You Want to Say You Didn't Mean It, Right? (3)

As expected, Feng Lu felt uneasy holding it, but worried that if she didn't, Han Bin might give it to the next woman he says goodbye to, or it might end up back with Su Yun. So she accepted it, but then had an idea: she'd give the house and the check as gifts to Ming Han and Ming Wei. That way, she could strengthen her bond with the brother and sister.

To be clear, Feng Lu never considered her son, Min Rui. But Kang Li, out of pure mischief, thought of him for her—hence the earlier pointed sarcasm and deliberate discomfort she caused Feng Lu, that self-righteous woman.

"By the way, if you really care about Ruirui and his siblings, I sincerely hope you stop bringing up their family background. Don't mention it in any situation."

As Feng Lu got up, Kang Li watched her coolly and said this.

Feng Lu's expression changed ever so slightly at those words. She said, "They're my children. I would never harm them."

She planned to first bond with the twins. After a few years, when they graduated college, if their relationship with her became close, maybe they would both want to come back to her and ask to change their surname to "Han" without her even having to bring it up.

Kang Li didn't see Feng Lu off, but at least she showed basic courtesy. She stood at the living room door, watching Feng Lu's figure disappear beyond the gate.

...

Leaving Shuimu University, Feng Lu didn't head straight home. Instead, she went to the school where Min Rui, Ming Han, and Ming Wei studied.

She waited there, hoping to catch Min Rui and the other two after school, planning to give the house deed and check to Ming Han. This was a decision she made on her way to their school.

Put simply, Feng Lu felt she almost got duped by Kang Li, but was grateful she snapped out of it in time and didn't fall for Kang Li's tricks.

Three kids—Luo Mingrui was her firstborn. Honestly, he wasn't what she wanted, so his past, present, and future have nothing to do with her. Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei weren't what she wanted either,

but their father is Han Bin. If Han Bin ever loses his mind and wants a son to inherit the family business, Luo Minghan joining the Han family would be a foregone conclusion.

After all, Han Bin couldn't really be called a man anymore. He can forget about ever having another son in this lifetime.

As for Luo Mingwei, well, she's just a girl and can't inherit the family business. Feng Lu would use her to pull Ming Han closer and, in the future, just marry her off to someone random.

After some self-analysis, Feng Lu made her decision—not to listen to Kang Li, not to give Min Rui and Ming Wei the house and money, just hand the deed and check directly to Ming Han.

"Luo Minghan!"

The school bell rang. Feng Lu stared at the school gate, and when she saw Ming Han and Ming Wei following Min Rui out, she smiled and called out.

"..."

Hearing her voice, Ming Han paused, then said to Min Rui and Ming Wei, "Bro, Vivi, look over there."

He lifted his chin to signal Min Rui and Ming Wei to look that way.

"What's she want?"

The moment she spotted Feng Lu, Ming Wei frowned involuntarily.

"You decide for yourself."

This was Min Rui's voice. He meant Ming Han could choose for himself whether to go to Feng Lu.

"Let's go home. The family is waiting for us!"

Ming Han pulled his gaze from Feng Lu, and beckoned Min Rui and Ming Wei toward the bus stop.

Quite a few students were waiting for the bus. The three siblings chatted together, and none of them looked back at Feng Lu—their birth mother.

This irritated Feng Lu no end. She stomped over in high heels. "Luo Minghan, didn't you hear me call out to you?"

"I heard."

Ming Han turned to look at the woman standing beside him—the woman he was biologically related to. He asked, "What do you want?"

His expression was calm, which only made Feng Lu feel more uneasy.

"Come with me over there. I need to talk to you."

Pointing to where she'd been standing earlier, Feng Lu urged, "Come on, it's just a few words. Hurry up."

"Can't you say it here?"

Ming Han didn't move.

"Too many people here."

Feng Lu seemed to notice Ming Han's reluctance, and her expression soured. "You stay here, and don't blame me for telling your classmates things I shouldn't."

The words were out, and Feng Lu regretted it. She was trying to get closer to Luo Minghan—how did she end up saying that?

"What shouldn't you say?"

Ming Han's face darkened. "Are you planning to tell them I'm not my dad's kid?"

"Luo Minghan, Vivi and I will wait for you here."

Noticing some students glancing their way, Min Rui quietly said to Ming Han, obviously suggesting he go talk to Feng Lu. It would just be a few minutes—not worth making a scene here.