

Weak B 1741

Chapter 1741: You Want to Say It Wasn't Intentional, Right?

"..."

Ming Han looked over at Min Rui, clearly unhappy.

"Second brother, you go ahead. Big brother and I will wait for you to come over."

Ming Wei spoke up for Min Rui, she definitely didn't want to hear their birth mother rambling nonsense.

"..."

With lips pressed tight, Ming Han stood still for a moment, then stepped toward the spot Feng Lu pointed out.

Feng Lu followed behind him.

"Go on, speak."

The two of them stood face-to-face, Ming Han and Feng Lu locking eyes, his face void of expression.

"Are you really so reluctant to see your mom?"

Feng Lu frowned: "I may not have raised you, but you're mine by birth, that's an indisputable fact. And today I came to see you, to bring you something. Can't you be a little happier?"

"I don't need anything from you, and seeing you doesn't make me happy."

Ming Han said bluntly, "Weren't you threatening me just now? Isn't that right, Lady Feng!"

"You're calling me Lady Feng?"

Hurt flooded Feng Lu's eyes: "I'm your mom, your biological mother!"

"So what?"

Ming Han's expression stayed indifferent: "Aside from giving birth to me, what else have you given me? A disgraceful lineage?"

Ming Han was testing Feng Lu.

Ever since his and Ming Wei's origins became unclear, he'd suspected he wasn't Dad's child. In fact, just the way he resembled Han Qian's father explained that he shared some connection with that man.

Not to mention his birth mother's current husband was Han Qian's father.

In short, there was an eighty percent chance he and Han Qian were half-siblings. Still, he'd never acknowledge some biological father or half-sister.

Now, since he had a chance to confirm his suspicion, he wouldn't let it slip.

But even after it was confirmed, nothing would change for him!

"Luo Minghan, what do you mean by 'a disgraceful lineage'?"

Feng Lu started to act, her eyes reddening: "Your biological dad and I just— couldn't help ourselves. Honestly, if there's fault, it was your adoptive father's. If he hadn't been obsessed with work, barely ever home, would I have met your biological father?"

His origins confirmed, Ming Han felt some pain, but reminded himself over and over, hadn't he mentally prepared for this?

Besides, his mom and dad treated him so well; he had no adoptive parents, just one set of parents—one named Luo Yanqing, one named Kang Li, and he was Luo Minghan. So, Luo Minghan, why should you feel hurt?

Stop being sentimental!

You have such wonderful parents, your classmates are jealous of you!

After comforting himself for a bit, Ming Han suppressed his emotions, eyes calm, speaking steadily: "Lady Feng, I feel ashamed to have a birth mother like you. But my brother, sister, and I are all yours by birth, so rest assured, when you're old and immobile, we'll support you as the law requires."

Feng Lu was dumbstruck at Ming Han's "I feel ashamed to have a mother like you." After a long moment, she said, "How can you say that about me? I am your own mother!"

Ming Han: "Lady Feng, blood ties mean nothing. At least to my brother, sister, and me—whether you, or the so-called biological father you mention, you're just our biological parents. We have no other relationship. Can I leave now?"

Feng Lu: "Luo Minghan, you're being utterly unfilial!"

Rolling his eyes, Ming Han said, "How am I unfilial? Lady Feng, wherever you go, just tell people how you gave birth to us siblings, then abandoned us. See what people think of you. You can also tell them about our attitude towards you, see if anyone agrees with you, thinks my brother, sister, and I are unfilial!"

"..."

Feng Lu stared at Ming Han for a while, remembering her goal, and breathed deeply, suppressing her temper: "Fine, you're still young. I won't bother about your disrespect."

She took out a property deed, a check, and the house keys, handing them to Ming Han: "This property deed and check are a gift from Mom to you. Keep them safe."

"I don't want them."

Ming Han answered resolutely: "I have a home. I'm not lacking a place to live. My parents can afford me; I don't need your money."

"Luo Minghan, this is a gift—something Mom is giving you. Whether you need it or not, you can keep it as your personal asset."

Feng Lu tried to persuade Ming Han: "Your adoptive parents have their own children—three, in fact. Later, when you get married, do you think they'll buy you a house, give you money?"

"Lady Feng, don't you think your thinking is a bit small?"

Ming Han didn't even glance at the property deed or check in Feng Lu's hand. He said: "My parents raised me and sent me through college. That's already fulfilling their duty as parents. From here on, when I start my own family, it's up to my own abilities. If I'm incapable, then I'd rather stay single forever than burden my parents!"

"Are you worried your adoptive mother will be mad?"

Feng Lu seemed not to get Ming Han's real meaning, interpreting it her own way: "You don't have to worry about that. Before coming to see you, I visited your adoptive mother at Shuimu University. She said no matter what gift I give you, as long as you want it, she won't object. Also, I asked for permission to see you siblings once a week; your adoptive mother said it's entirely up to you. Now, can't you accept Mom's gift?"

"Lady Feng, please stop referring to 'adoptive mother' and 'adoptive father'. My brother, sister, and I will only ever have one set of parents. Also, let me make this absolutely clear: I don't want your gift. And I don't want you to appear in front of me again. I'm pretty sure my brother and sister feel the same way. If you don't believe me, I'll call them over for you to ask."

Obviously, Ming Han's eyes now carried a trace of anger.

His mom was now a doctoral supervisor, so she didn't have to teach or guide as many students as before, but she was still busy with other things, and needed to take care of his younger siblings. She had no spare time to listen to an outsider complain and stir trouble. Yet this person in front of him had nothing better to do, came to his mom just to make trouble, ruining her mood—he genuinely found it hateful!

Feng Lu: "Why can't you just listen? Luo Yanqing and his wife are your adoptive parents. True, you call them Mom and Dad, but I and your biological father are your real parents. Now Mom's giving you a gift, why won't you take it? Forget the house, do you know how much is on this check? Luo Minghan, it's Fifty thousand yuan, not fifty cents or five yuan!"

Ming Han, impatient: "I said I don't need it!"

"Do you realize? If you don't take the money and house, they'll end up in Han Qian's hands. Do you really want to see what was rightfully yours all go to her?"

Chapter 1742: No Resentment

Feng Lu thought that by saying this, she could provoke Ming Han into accepting her "gift." But Ming Han's response was to turn around and walk straight toward the bus stop.

"Luo Minghan! Luo Minghan, stop right there!"

Shouting at Ming Han's back, Feng Lu's eyes widened in anger, but Ming Han didn't even pause.

The bus they needed pulled up just in time, and Ming Han followed Min Rui and Ming Wei onto it without sparing Feng Lu a glance.

Standing where she was, Feng Lu's face was dark, watching the bus drive away in frustration.

...

"Second Brother, what did she say to you?"

From boarding the bus all the way to getting off, Ming Han looked pissed. The three siblings were walking home now, so Ming Wei couldn't hold back anymore and asked.

Min Rui's gaze also landed on Ming Han, waiting for his stupid brother to speak.

"She went to see Mom today. Said she wants to meet us once a week. Also, she wanted to give me a house and a fifty-thousand-yuan check. I didn't take it."

Ming Han didn't hide anything, simply relaying what Feng Lu had said.

"So annoying! Where does she get the nerve to go talk to Mom and make demands? Second Brother, did she say how Mom responded?"

Ming Wei was furious that Feng Lu went to Kang Li. She felt the same as Ming Han—that Feng Lu had no right to go bother Kang Li and mess with their mother's mood.

"She did."

Ming Han said, "Mom told that woman, whether it's the gifts or the weekly meetings, it all depends on what we want."

Hearing this, Min Rui spoke up: "Mom just doesn't want us stuck in the middle, she's respecting our wishes too."

Of course, Mom probably has some reservations as well. She doesn't want to make decisions for them and risk being blamed someday.

But is that even possible?

The answer is: absolutely impossible. Because he knew that whatever decision Mom made, it would definitely be from their perspective, and always for their own good. He believed his brother and sister thought exactly the same as he did.

"Big Brother's right. Mom's respecting us by letting us make our own call."

Ming Wei chimed in, then asked Ming Han, "Second Brother, why didn't you take what she offered?"

"Then you tell me, why should I take her stuff?"

Ming Han glanced at Ming Wei, his expression unreadable.

"It's free, so why not take it? She's offering anyway, so you might as well grab it if she insists."

Ming Wei replied without a second thought. Hearing her, Ming Han said, "She gave birth to me—so didn't she have you and Big Brother too? She offered things to me, but I don't see her giving anything to you two. How could I accept it? We're all on the same side. I can't be a traitor."

"What traitor are you talking about?!"

Ming Wei rolled her eyes and said, "If she wants to give you something, just take it. Big Brother and I won't care."

She turned to Min Rui: "Big Brother, am I wrong?"

Min Rui gave a quiet "Mmh," and said, "Besides the fact that she gave birth to me, I don't want anything to do with her, not now or ever."

"So you mean... you won't take anything from her?"

Ming Wei asked.

"That's right."

Min Rui confirmed, his expression serious: "But I'm me, and you're you. If you want to accept it, go ahead, I won't object."

"Then I won't take anything from her either."

Ming Wei said, then let out a self-mocking laugh: "Guess I was being a bit full of myself. Maybe that woman never even wanted to give me anything. Otherwise, why only ask Second Brother to talk today?"

"Luo Mingwei, your mindset's already affected by that woman."

Ming Han's tone was a statement, not a question.

Ming Wei didn't reply.

Then Ming Han said, "I wrung the truth about my parentage out of her..."

Instantly, Ming Wei's eyes snapped to Ming Han: "Second Brother!"

She was clearly nervous, worried Ming Han couldn't handle the news about his parentage.

Min Rui: "She said you aren't Dad's kid?"

Ming Han nodded, "That's what she said."

"Second Brother, are you alright?"

Ming Wei's worry was written all over her face. Ming Han looked at her and shook his head: "I'm fine."

Then he asked Ming Wei: "You already knew, didn't you?"

Min Rui also turned his gaze on Ming Wei.

"..."

Ming Wei pressed her lips together, silent for a while. She finally nodded, then said: "The day Mom came back from abroad I knew. To be more precise, the second time that woman showed up in front of us, I learned the truth about our parentage from her."

She was speaking to Ming Han.

Ming Han: "Go on."

There was clearly more to this.

"She said Han Qian is our half-sister, told us to go live with the Han family. I wasn't having it and argued back, calling her crazy. So she started talking about how you look, and said if you and I didn't agree to her demands,

Chapter 1743: No Grudges

So she exposed our family secret in the compound... I couldn't think of any other way, so I negotiated with her. I said I could go live with her at the Han Family, but she couldn't run around the compound spreading rumors, and couldn't bring up our origins in front of you. She must've heard about your temper, so she grudgingly agreed to my terms."

As she said this, Vivi's eyes slowly filled with tears: "When Han Qian kept spreading things at school, I was honestly furious, and just couldn't help getting into a fight with her. The worst time, Min Rui, you know about that.

It was also then that Dad talked to me. He said he already knew you and I weren't his biological kids, but he said it didn't matter at all. He said as long as we called him Dad for one more day, we were his children. Unless the day came we didn't accept him anymore, and then he wouldn't force it."

Tears spilled from her eyes, and Vivi's voice had a hint of sobbing as she stopped at the roadside and looked at Min Rui and Ming Han: "Big brother, second brother, did you know? That day Dad walked through the entire eighth grade, and right in front of every class destroyed all those rumors. Do you know how I felt?"

I felt Dad was so tall, and I felt so safe... Clearly, Dad was the one who should've been hurt the most, yet he acted like nothing happened, giving all his love and kindness to us. After Dad talked to me, I really forced myself not to burst out crying."

She wiped the tears from her face. Vivi's damp eyes shone like stars at that moment: "Dad said whether we're related by blood isn't important. What matters is family, and that we're together."

Somehow, Ming Han's eyes had reddened too: "I'm Dad's kid, always will be!"

His gaze was determined and serious: "Today, I told that woman— I only have one set of parents in this life. One's Luo Yanqing, the other is Kang Li."

Vivi: "We've always only had one mom and dad."

Min Rui: "Actually, I began to suspect my own origins a long time ago. Because of that, I talked to Mom alone. Mom told me not to worry, said Dad wouldn't ever stop seeing me as his son because I wasn't his blood. Ever since then, I've come to terms with it. No matter what my story is, no matter if it gets exposed some day, no matter what others say, as long as Dad accepts me, then I'm Luo Mingrui. I'm truly his son!"

Ming Han: "Bro, do you think that Uncle Xiao is your biological father?"

"Yeah."

Min Rui nodded: "Sure, there are plenty of people in the world who look alike but have no relation. But I look like him, and every time I meet him, I get this indescribable feeling. I don't think that's just coincidence."

After you and Vivi had your own family drama, I got even more sure there must be some connection. But since no one ever brings up my origins, I'll just pretend I don't know, and there's really no point worrying about it. Life goes on as usual. That's what Mom wants to see, so of course I won't disappoint her."

"Looks like we're all pretty chill about this. Big brother, second brother, I'm really happy. No matter what anyone else says in the future, as long as we stay strong in our hearts, no one will ever be able to shake us."

Vivi beamed, kept walking toward home, and waved for Min Rui and Ming Han to hurry: "Big brother, second brother, hurry up! I'm starving!"

"With your tiny legs, are you sure you can keep up if big brother and I pick up the pace?"

With a couple quick steps, Ming Han and Min Rui had already caught up to Vivi.

"Big brother! Help me teach second brother a lesson, he's bullying your favorite little sister!"

Vivi caught up to Min Rui, looped her arm through his, and spoke sweetly.

Before Min Rui could say anything, Ming Han blurted out, "Ugh! Ugh!" twice, then said, "Luo Mingwei, you've got some thick skin. In big brother and my eyes, our favorite little sister is Xiao Guoguo. If you had any self-awareness, you'd step aside right now!"

"Why should I step aside? Xiao Guoguo is my favorite little sister too, and actually, she likes her big sister best out of everyone in the family. When we get home, I'm gonna complain to her and have her put you in your place!"

As Vivi spoke, she shot Ming Han a smug look.

"Xiao Guoguo's smart as can be, and she's the fairest of us all. She won't take your nonsense and scold me, her favorite second brother, instead."

He thought of their little sister, face drawn stern, hands on her hips, saying: "Second brother, you're bad! You're the brother, you can't bully your sister. You need to love and protect your sister, okay? Second brother!"

Every time, he just found her so impossibly cute.

"Well, let's just wait and see then."

Vivi huffed proudly.

Chapter 1744: No Resentment (Part 3)

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It was past nine in the evening. The elderly at home and Bun were all asleep. Ming Han called his brother Min Rui and sister Ming Wei to stand outside Kang Li's bedroom door.

"Knock knock knock!"

He curled his fingers and knocked, then called out, "Mom! Mom, are you asleep? If not, me, big brother, and Vivi want to talk to you."

"Not yet."

As Kang Li's voice sounded, she opened the door from inside: "Come in."

Her eyes and brows were smiling, her voice gentle: "Sit wherever you like."

"Okay."

The three of them responded to her.

"It's already a quarter past nine, what do you want to talk to me about instead of sleeping? Did you forget you have school tomorrow?"

Suspicion appeared in Kang Li's bright eyes as she smiled and asked.

Min Rui: "It was Luo Minghan who dragged me over here."

Ming Wei: "Mom, I was dragged over by my second brother to disturb you too."

Ming Han glared at them and said, "If you didn't want to come, could I have dragged you two here?"

"You might not be able to drag big brother, but I'm a girl. I don't have your strength."

Ming Wei retaliated.

Rolling his eyes at her, Ming Han said, "Why don't you just admit you wanted to come chat with Mom? Why blame me every time! Honestly, women and petty people are the hardest to deal with!"

As soon as Ming Han said that, they heard Ming Wei reply: "Second brother, Mom is also a woman. Are you saying Mom is hard to deal with?"

"How could that be?"

Ming Han instantly bristled: "Luo Ming Wei, I meant you! It has nothing to do with Mom. Besides, in my heart, Mom is a goddess, my idol, the mother I respect and love most—I only have endless admiration for Mom, I'd cling to her every day if I could, I've never thought she was hard to deal with!"

Seeing Ming Han so anxious he looked about ready to explode, Kang Li couldn't help but feel both helpless and amused. She said, "Alright now, look how anxious you've made your second brother. Stop teasing him."

"I did it on purpose!"

Ming Wei winked at Ming Han: "Scared, aren't you? If you're ever rude to me again, I'll either call in my dearest mom, or my favorite little Bun—either way, I'll have you beat!"

"Yeah, I'm scared of you."

A real man doesn't argue with women. He's a big-hearted grown-up and won't stoop to bicker with this little girl!

Kang Li smiled and shook her head: "Han Han."

"Hmm?"

Ming Han shifted his gaze from Ming Wei to Kang Li, just as Kang Li asked, "You dragged your brother and Vivi over here—what did you want to say to me?"

"I..."

Ming Han's lips moved, but for a long moment he didn't follow up.

Kang Li looked at Min Rui and Ming Wei: "Rui Rui, Vivi, which of you wants to talk?"

"I'll do it."

Min Rui spoke: "After school today, Ms. Feng showed up at our school gate. She pulled Luo Minghan aside to talk. Later, Luo Minghan told me and Vivi that Ms. Feng met with you today too. He also said Ms. Feng wanted to give him an apartment and a fifty-thousand yuan check, but Luo Minghan didn't accept them."

"So, that's what this is about!"

Kang Li smiled and said, "Ms. Feng did come to see me. Originally, I planned to talk to you all about it, but I didn't expect her to be in such a rush. She met me just earlier, and then went straight to you guys."

Seeing the three of them staring straight at her, Kang Li paused a moment, then continued: "She wants to see you once a week. Legally, she has the right to ask for this, so I can't really refuse,

but I can limit how often she sees you. Still, she is your birth mother, and wanting to see you is understandable. Whether you meet her every week or not—I personally think that's up to you, so I didn't say much more to her.

Before she left, she took out a property deed, a ring of keys, and a fifty-thousand yuan check for me to accept. I turned her down on the spot. Even if she said the check was for you and wanted me to hold it, my answer was still no. Like I said, whether to accept or not should be your decision—but I did throw a few sarcastic comments at Ms. Feng. Just don't get upset with your birth mother because of that."

The three of them shook their heads in unison: "We won't."

Kang Li smiled: "I know you're all good kids. To be honest, the reason I said those sarcastic things to Ms. Feng is because she was showing off in front of me, like she wanted to slap mine and your dad's faces."

Seeing the three of them look a little perplexed, Kang Li explained: "You're my children, your father's children. Are your dad and I so incapable that we can't raise our own kids or give you everything you want? Does she have to show up like that and act superior? It's just a little courtyard in an average location, about fifty square meters, and not even a proper traditional courtyard. What is there to show off about? Even if you add in her check—do you really think our family needs any of that?"

Chapter 1745: No Resentment (4)

Min Rui and the other two shook their heads.

"But since Mrs. Feng wants to show off, I have to make her spend a bit more. So I said, one house and fifty thousand are hard to split, didn't expect her to be so generous—she said she'd get two more houses and ten thousand, so the three of you can share: one house each and twenty thousand each. After hearing that, I didn't say anything more. If she wants to give, let her give; if you want it, take it; if you don't, just leave it. Anyway, our family doesn't care about those trifling leftovers."

At this point, Kang Li spoke with a sarcastic tone: "But after hearing what you just said, I got to know Mrs. Feng a bit differently—turns out she's quite a double-faced person. She clearly promised each of you one house and twenty thousand, yet she forgot her own words in the blink of an eye. That memory's gotta be on par with a goldfish. I really have nothing else to say."

Ming Wei widened her eyes: "So each of us gets one house and twenty thousand? Mom, are you hoping we take it?"

"Vivi, did Mom ever say you had to take it?"

Kang Li looked helpless: "I was just mocking Mrs. Feng for being stingy, not saying she's actually giving you three houses and sixty thousand. If you're reaching out to take it, that's up to you. Of course, if you

want to take it, Mom won't object. That's my attitude on Mrs. Feng's matter today—you can decide entirely on your own."

"I don't want her stuff, but Vivi says if it's there, might as well take it."

Ming Han frowned slightly: "Mom, why do you think Mrs. Feng says one thing and does another?"

Kang Li: "You mean the house and the check she gave you, but didn't mention your brother or Vivi?"

Ming Han made a sound, "Mm."

"Only she knows, but from what little I know of Mrs. Feng, she's always weighing the interests related to herself, that's all."

Kang Li grew serious as she spoke: "Listen up, our family doesn't lack the trifling stuff Mrs. Feng has in her hands. What you need to focus on right now is studying hard. When you graduate college, whatever you want to do, Mom will support you fully and give you all the help you need."

"Mom, are you worried we're shallow?"

Min Rui asked.

"No."

Kang Li shook her head and said, "I just want you to remember not to get too attached to money—at least for now, it's really unnecessary. In other words, Mom doesn't want you blinded by money, hopes you'll always keep a clear head, do what you think is right, what you should do, not fret and scramble just for a bit of cash."

"Mom, was I wrong or right to tell second brother it's silly not to take what's offered?"

Ming Wei asked.

Kang Li smiled and asked back: "What do you think?"

"I... I just think, since she wants to give, why shouldn't we take it? But on the way home, when I realized maybe that woman never intended to give anything to me or big brother, I felt kind of presumptuous."

After listening, Kang Li raised an eyebrow: "Feeling uncomfortable? Like Mrs. Feng doesn't value you?"

"Absolutely not!"

Ming Wei answered instantly, then said, "Mom, I really don't feel bad at all, and I absolutely don't need that woman to care. I have the best mom in the world, the best dad, and a happy family. I don't care at all what an outsider thinks of me."

"That's my thoughtful good girl."

Kang Li laughed, praising her beautiful daughter, then said to the three siblings: "Mrs. Feng is your biological mother—nobody can change that. If she gives you something later, Mom stands by what I said: you make your own decision."

Don't worry, even if you accept stuff from Mrs. Feng, Mom guarantees she won't be upset, and your dad won't either when he finds out. On the other hand, if you refuse, that's fine too. In the future, if Mrs. Feng needs you to support her, just fulfill your legal duty, your dad and I won't say anything. Got it?"

"Mm."

The three nodded.

Kang Li: "Don't give yourself any pressure about Mrs. Feng, there's no need."

The three nodded again.

"Mom, I... I..."

Ming Han stammered. Kang Li raised an eyebrow at him: "Something else? And not sure how to start?"

"I get it now. Me and Luo Mingwei, we both know. And big brother, he knows too."

Not able to say it directly, Ming Han didn't spell it out.

Kang Li: "Know what?" Although she was pretty sure what Ming Han meant.

Ming Han gathered his courage and finally said: "Me and Luo Mingwei—we're not Dad's kids. I confirmed it myself from that woman's mouth."

"Well, you know. Do you feel you need to care?"

Kang Li's expression was gentle, her eyes full of warmth.

Ming Han looked a little stunned: "Mom... you're not surprised, not upset?"

"What's there to be surprised about? All I know is you are the children of this family, you are me and Dad's kids, raised by us from babies to now—such wonderful young men and women. Nothing else matters."

Hearing Kang Li's words—that was definitely praise—Ming Han and Ming Wei both blushed, feeling embarrassed.

"Min Rui, you don't need to overthink. Your dad already knows everything. He originally wanted to find time to talk it out with you and Ming Han and Ming Wei, to prevent you overthinking and affecting your studies. But he's been too busy at work and delayed it. Anyway, Mom can speak for your dad: you, Ming Han, and Ming Wei, in your dad's heart, have always been his kids. He has no hang-ups about it, nor do I."

After Kang Li finished, she saw all three siblings had reddened eyes.

"Silly! All three of you are little sillyheads."

Getting up from her chair, Kang Li walked over to the three, rubbed each of their heads, then pulled them all into her hug. The three siblings hugged her waist back, and then they heard their mom say: "There's something more important than blood ties in this world—and that's family love!"

"Mm, got it!"

The three answered in unison.

Kang Li patted their backs lightly: "Alright, it's late, hurry up and get to your rooms and sleep. From tonight on, no one is allowed to dwell on pointless things. If I catch anyone still agonizing, don't blame

me for giving a political lesson, punishing you to stand in the corner, and writing a ten-thousand-word reflection, okay!"

Chapter 1746: Feeling Defeated

Min Rui and the others all shivered at once, pulling their hands back from Kang Li's waist.

Getting up, Ming Han slipped away like a greased eel: "Mom, I'm going back to my room to sleep."

Ming Wei did the same: "Mom, see you in the morning!"

Min Rui managed to keep his composure: "Mom, good night!"

But as soon as he spoke, he shot off like the wind, gone in a flash.

Staring at the now-empty doorway, Kang Li shook her head, fond but helpless.

After closing the door, she turned back to the bed. Once she was settled in, she recalled what the three had said and couldn't help feeling pity and lament for Feng Lu's short-sightedness and cold heart.

She clearly had three wonderful children. Even if their parentage had flaws, even if, years ago, she'd abandoned them and faked her death to chase so-called love, once she'd failed in that and remarried in

North City, if she'd had even a speck of motherly love for the kids, she wouldn't have so carelessly revealed their backgrounds, even if it was just to a select few. That kind of behavior was clearly wrong.

Of course, she doesn't have to be so absolute about things—she could have waited until all three kids were adults or graduated college, then communicated first with the kids or with Luo Yanqing before deciding what to do.

In other words, just try looking at the problem from the kids' perspective, actually consider their interests, and meanwhile, take the right attitude and properly apologize to Luo Yanqing.

As for whether Luo Yanqing would forgive her, that's another matter; but admitting fault is a must.

The reason?

No matter how you put it—carrying someone else's child and using her family's connections to get married in the first place already made her guilty, and on top of that, cheating on her husband again and getting pregnant by someone else—these actions were blatantly unfair to Luo Yanqing.

With no moral bottom line, repeatedly hurting others—in Kang Li's eyes, that was shameless, thick-skinned, and staggeringly stupid.

So many years have passed, surely society had taught her some lessons—how could she not repent or sincerely apologize to those she hurt?

If she had apologized, and truly cared about her three children, Kang Li believed that, given Luo Yanqing's character, he might in fact forgive Feng Lu.

Alright, truth is, in Luo Yanqing's mind, forgiveness or not doesn't matter much anyway—he's so obsessed with work that he barely gives a damn about being cuckolded.

Why do I say "barely"?

Kang Li knew perfectly well—the only reason was because someone was afraid she'd make fun of him.

Without her in the picture, with Luo Yanqing's focus on work, he'd have no time for all that emotional mess.

But Feng Lu was shameless, didn't think she was wrong, and was dumb as an ox, making trouble until her ex-husband wanted nothing to do with her.

Then look at her attitude toward the kids—never showing real affection, only thinking about her own gain. What hope does she have of the three recognizing her as their mother, or wanting to be close to her?

So, it's all Feng Lu's own fault.

Not to brag, but whether it's Min Rui, Ming Han, or Ming Wei, they're all pure-hearted people. If their birth mother Feng Lu had sincerely apologized and made up for it from the first time she appeared, worked to be a real mother who cared for her kids, there's no way the three of them would now treat her like a stranger.

In short, in the minds of the three, Feng Lu doesn't rank at all!

Having thought this far, Kang Li really wanted to say to Feng Lu, "A brain is a wonderful thing—hope you get one!"

...

Feng Lu was furious at Ming Han. She'd never imagined that giving Ming Han a small courtyard and a check for fifty thousand yuan would be rejected; and that the little brat, still refusing to acknowledge her, would look so determined, saying he only had one set of parents—Luo Yanqing and Kang Li.

He made it perfectly clear—he didn't just reject her, but also his real father.

Just thinking about it left Feng Lu stifled and angry; she skipped dinner and went straight to bed when she got home.

Meanwhile, Han Bin had a dinner engagement after work, and only got home around nine thirty, brought back by his driver.

"Sir, you're back?!"

The housekeeper saw Han Bin walk into the living room and hurried to greet him.

Han Bin grunted in acknowledgment.

"There's chicken soup simmering in the pot—would you like some? I can make you a bowl of noodles too."

Hearing this, Han Bin shook his head: "No need, I already ate out." After a pause, he asked, "Madam already asleep?"

"I'm not really sure."

The housekeeper replied, then added, "Madam came back this afternoon and went straight upstairs to lie down, didn't come down for dinner. I offered to bring her food, but she said she wasn't hungry."

Han Bin nodded that he understood, but before heading upstairs, he turned and told the housekeeper, "Tidy up the kitchen and then go to bed."

Chapter 1747: Shattered (Part 2)

The nanny responded when she heard the words.

Watching Han Bin's figure disappear around the corner on the second floor, the nanny turned and went back to the kitchen.

Twenty minutes later, Han Bin had taken a shower and, wearing a black silk robe, knocked on the door of Feng Lu's bedroom.

"What is it?"

She opened the door and looked at Han Bin, saw he wasn't speaking, and impatience colored her eyes: "If you need something, say it; if not, don't disturb my rest."

Han Bin sized her up for a moment and said, "Why didn't you eat dinner?"

"That's a weird question. I wasn't hungry, so I didn't eat—what other reason could there be?"

Feng Lu didn't hold back at all, her face blank: "Say what you came to say, otherwise I'm closing the door and going to sleep."

"Can you not be so prickly when you talk to me?"

Han Bin frowned, "I'm just concerned about you."

Feng Lu's lips curled in a mocking smile: "Concerned about me? I really don't buy that. If you care about me, it means you have a place for me in your heart. But if you do, why did you get tangled up with another woman?"

"Isn't it all in the past now? Do you really have to keep holding onto it?"

Han Bin pinched the bridge of his nose, visibly tired: "Besides, I've handed over the house and the check to you, if you keep making a fuss like this, isn't it a bit much? Anyway, it's common for men to have something going on outside—they're just playing along, no need to take it seriously."

"I won't let it go? You think I want this?"

Feng Lu's face was cold: "And your so-called playing along, that's awfully convenient for you. Is it just that one event making me act this way? No, what bothers me is your attitude, your attitude toward our marriage! The most important thing in marriage is loyalty—do you have it?"

"I know, in marriage, loyalty is key..."

Han Bin didn't get to finish before Feng Lu cut him off: "You know? And you still messed around outside? If you really knew, why did you get mixed up with your secretary again after supposedly cutting her off?"

"Lu Lu!"

Han Bin spoke more sharply: "I explained it to you, it was an accident."

"Accident? If you had any self-control, I don't believe your secretary would have ended up pregnant."

Feng Lu wasn't emotional at all, but she didn't let up one bit. Hearing her words, Han Bin instantly got pissed: "You want to talk loyalty in marriage—then ask yourself, are you even qualified to talk about that?"

Feng Lu froze for a moment, then got angry: "You..."

"Remember now?"

Han Bin's expression turned cold, "In your previous marriage, if you'd been loyal, could you have done what you did with me?"

"Bastard!"

Feng Lu lifted her hand to slap Han Bin, but he easily caught her wrist. He said, "I shouldn't have bothered tonight. Starve yourself if you want, I won't ask again."

Han Bin let go of her hand, turned, and walked toward the master bedroom.

He left decisively, and as soon as he entered the master bedroom, he closed the door behind him.

Seeing this, Feng Lu was furious and aggrieved.

Digging up old dirt?

What the hell is that?

If he hadn't tried to win her over, acted ambiguous with his words and gestures, would she have, in her loneliness and emptiness... fallen into a relationship with him that couldn't see the light of day?

Back when she got pregnant with Luo Mingrui, it was because she had a confused entanglement with Xiao Jin, then found out she was pregnant, and afterward, accidentally saw Luo Yanqing. Using her father's connections, she married him.

That way, her child had a proper father, and Luo Yanqing's features and temperament reminded her so much of the man she loved that looking at him gave her some comfort—so that's why she married Luo Yanqing.

After marriage, she never thought of cheating—she didn't want to be spat on—but then she happened to run into Han Bin, who crashed into her life. After some back-and-forth, their relationship got ambiguous, and things happened that shouldn't have happened.

But she remembered clearly—it wasn't her who wanted it, it was that bastard who seduced her. Now he was using what they'd done to attack her, accusing her of infidelity in her first marriage.

Where does he get the nerve?

Angry, Feng Lu walked to the master bedroom door, grabbed the handle, and pushed it open.

She stepped inside, closed the door behind her, and stared hard at Han Bin: "What did you mean by all that earlier? Why don't you think carefully—if you hadn't acted ambiguous with your words and behavior, would I have fallen for it?"

Han Bin was already lying in bed. When Feng Lu pushed the door open, he sat up, leaning against the headboard.

"If you didn't have any intention, nothing I said or did could have touched you."

Saying this, Han Bin suddenly felt like he and Feng Lu were acting like schoolkids, squabbling over something that happened years ago. He thought it was pointless, and couldn't help but say, "Feng Lu, if you think there's no point in us staying together, I'm ready to get divorced whenever you want."

Chapter 1748: Feeling Defeated (Part 3)

"Divorce?"

Feng Lu suddenly laughed, "You want to divorce me? Han Bin, are you sure you're not talking nonsense?"

"I'm just giving you a suggestion, so we don't have to live under the same roof. Every time you see me, you feel upset, and keep thinking about that thing between me and Su Yun."

Rather than muddling through, it's better to separate. Otherwise, when all affection between us is gone, seeing each other again, we might just see an enemy.

Of course, he's not that petty, but knowing himself, if there's really nothing left between them, he'd probably be nothing but cold to her.

"You can rest assured—I may feel uneasy about what you did, but it's not so bad that I have to divorce you."

As she quietly adjusted her breathing, Feng Lu calmed herself and said, "I plan to give Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei each an apartment, and also Fifty thousand yuan apiece. If you have no objections, get it ready for me. When I see the two kids, I'll give them."

Han Bin looked thoughtful, "Why are you suddenly thinking of giving them something? And it's an apartment plus Fifty thousand yuan for each. Don't you know how hard it is to make money?"

"Yeah, money doesn't come easy, but the moment you felt generous, you gave that woman outside an apartment and a Fifty thousand yuan check."

Feng Lu stabbed Han Bin right in the heart. At her words, Han Bin looked a bit uncomfortable. "It's different."

"What's different?"

Feng Lu said, "So in your heart, your own kids don't matter as much as some woman out there? And don't forget, more than ten years passed and you haven't spent a single day being a father to those two."

"You're not thinking of having me acknowledge them, are you?"

Han Bin frowned, "I told you, bringing the kids back wouldn't benefit you, me, or them. Besides, they're doing well in their current family. If you insist, they'll most likely hate you."

"I just want to compensate Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei, but you keep pestering with your assumptions. Is there any point?"

"So you really don't want me to take them back?"

"No."

"Alright, then I'll prepare another apartment and a Fifty thousand yuan check for you."

"You sure do keep your accounts clear."

"It's just a small courtyard, it's no use in your hands. As for that check you have, if I recall, it should be expired. So, once I get the apartment ready, I'll just give you a check for one hundred thousand yuan."

Ever since he started doing business, his finances were decent, and he made quite a lot in recent years. A hundred thousand yuan and two little courtyards? He can afford it!

When she heard Han Bin say her check had expired, Feng Lu's face changed imperceptibly.

Han Bin's eyelids dropped; he didn't notice.

"You've really never thought of acknowledging the kids?"

Feng Lu was testing Han Bin's attitude about Ming Han and Ming Wei.

Han Bin answered offhandedly, "Having Qianqian at home is enough."

Feng Lu: "The estate you worked so hard for, you're just going to let outsiders have it someday?"

Han Bin was stunned at first, then said, "What era is this? Why are you still so old-fashioned?"

But inwardly he thought, worst case, he'd find a live-in son-in-law for Han Qian someday.

"I'm old-fashioned, but you certainly don't care."

Feng Lu's eyes flashed with sarcasm. She knew perfectly well Han Bin only cared about his reputation, which is why he didn't want to acknowledge Ming Han and Ming Wei.

Han Bin: "..."

"Get some sleep."

With that, Feng Lu turned and left.

...

About a month later, Min Rui, Ming Han, and Ming Wei got out of school in the afternoon and saw Feng Lu at the school gate again.

Alright, this has to be mentioned—Feng Lu had told Kang Li she wanted to see Min Rui and the other two once a week. She also mentioned it to Ming Han. But in reality, after that first meeting, she never showed up again for weeks—until today.

In other words, in those weeks, Feng Lu never appeared in front of Min Rui and the siblings at all.

That so-called "getting closer" during class break? Just something Feng Lu imagined in her head.

"Luo Min Rui! Bring Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei over here!"

As soon as she saw the three, Feng Lu called out to Min Rui loudly, and when Min Rui looked over, she smiled and waved.

However, Min Rui only glanced at her before looking away, absolutely no intention of walking over.

Ming Han and Ming Wei were the same.

Seeing this, Feng Lu felt annoyed, so she took the initiative to walk over to them.

"Come on, let's go talk a bit with Mom."

Chapter 1749: Struck Down_4

Just as she stopped in front of Mingrui, Minghan, and Mingwei, Feng Lu put on what she thought was her gentlest smile. Who would've guessed, Mingwei shot her a cold look: "Ms. Feng, you're really annoying, you know that?"

The smile on Feng Lu's face froze instantly. After a while, she spoke: "How can you talk to your mother like that? Just this once. If it happens again, I'm going to get mad."

Mingrui and Minghan stayed silent.

Feng Lu: "Come on, let's go over there."

As she spoke, Feng Lu grabbed Mingwei's hand and walked toward the spot she'd pointed out.

"I'm not going."

Mingwei struggled, but couldn't break free.

Mingrui and Minghan glanced at each other, and reluctantly chose to follow.

They didn't want their classmates gossiping about them behind their backs.

"I'm here to give each of you something." Feng Lu pulled out a thick manila envelope and handed it to Mingrui: "This is for you, there's ten thousand yuan inside. Buy whatever you need."

"This is for you two."

She pulled out two more manila envelopes, each containing a property certificate and twenty thousand yuan.

That's right—this time, Feng Lu gave Minghan and Mingwei twenty thousand yuan each, along with a property. To be blunt, she kept the check for fifty thousand yuan that Han Bin gave her for herself.

"You each take your own keys as well."

Two sets of keys, one for Minghan, one for Mingwei.

But none of the three, Mingrui, Minghan, or Mingwei, reached out to take anything from Feng Lu's hands.

"I don't want it."

Mingrui said with no emotion.

"Are you upset Mom didn't get you a property? Luo Mingrui, whether it's the house or the money, they're from your Uncle Han. Sure, Mom has a job, but I don't have that kind of money, can't afford a house. Uncle Han knows you took care of Luo Minghan and Luo Mingwei since you were young, so he told me to give you—"

Mingrui frowned and cut Feng Lu off: "Can you not ramble on? If you could leave us behind back then, you shouldn't try to tie yourself to us now."

"Ms. Feng, if you don't want us to hate you, avoid us from now on and stop doing these self-righteous things."

Minghan, to put a stop to Feng Lu's plan of using money to buy their affection, said bluntly: "My family isn't short of money—and certainly not short of houses. Ms. Feng, you probably don't know, but the big mansion with a garden and lake at No. 1 Qingfeng Road is one of our properties. It has plenty of courtyards; any one of them is bigger than the house you're offering. If you don't believe me, go ask around Qingfeng Road and see who owns that mansion."

"No. 1 Qingfeng Road, the mansion with a garden and lake?"

Feng Lu muttered: "How is that possible?"

Mingwei: "If you don't believe it, go find out for yourself. We're heading back, Ms. Feng, do as you please."

With those words, Mingwei followed Mingrui and Minghan to the bus stop, not bothering with Feng Lu who remained stunned where she stood.

...

Feng Lu was shaken. She took a car to Qingfeng Road to find out more, and learned that the owner of the newly renovated No. 1 mansion was surnamed Kang. Digging further, she found out the owner's name was Kang Li, and she was so shaken she felt physically sick.

It wasn't hard at all to ask about the mansion at No. 1 Qingfeng Road. Just asking random people on the street, at least three or four out of ten knew the mansion used to be the ancestral home of the Yu family—famous in North City.

Nowadays, the Yu family is gone, but they had a nephew. That nephew has a daughter named Kang Li, and before the eldest Miss Yu died, she left word that if the state ever returned the ancestral mansion, it should go straight to her granddaughter, Kang Li.

Feng Lu knew what she'd heard was most likely the truth.

Because the state wouldn't just give away the Yu family's spacious ancestral mansion. They must have confirmed all the relevant info before handing it back.

Speaking of which, the restoration of the Yu family mansion was handled by Kang Li, who arranged for people to do it. After returning to China, Kang Li and Jiang Boya visited the mansion more than once.

Of course, they ran into some people, occasionally chatted, and inevitably got asked about their names and how they're related to the Yu family.

When Kang Li and Jiang Boya were asked, they couldn't say nothing, but they didn't tell everything either.

Simple family connections—it's harmless to mention them briefly.

"Impossible. How could this be possible? I don't believe it..."

From Qingfeng Road all the way home, Feng Lu kept muttering under her breath, so distracted she forgot the housekeeper had asked for leave at noon, saying her family was in trouble and she'd be gone for three days. So making all the meals fell to Feng Lu. But when she walked in, she just sat on the couch, completely forgetting about the housekeeper's leave, which meant Han Qian came home from school and didn't get dinner right away, making her quite unhappy.

"Auntie, if you don't want to cook for me, just tell my dad. Why are you starving me?"

Han Qian dropped her backpack, turned on the TV, sat on the single armchair, picked up an apple and took a bite, complaining about Feng Lu.

Snapping out of it, Feng Lu stood up, her face plastered with a fake smile: "You're the little princess of our house, how could I starve you? But have you forgotten I have a job too, I'm not here just to cook three meals for you every day."

"Auntie, don't you eat too?"

Han Qian was sarcastic, saying: "I know Auntie doesn't really like me, but we're family. Auntie's the elder, so you should be more tolerant of us younger ones. Auntie, am I right?"

"That's right. Auntie is an adult, she won't fuss over trivial things with our little princess."

Feng Lu headed to the kitchen, dropping the fake smile.

As she turned away, a touch of smugness flashed in Han Qian's eyes.

Eating her food, drinking her drinks, sleeping in her house—if she dares not treat her well, just wait for Dad to kick her out!

Han Qian muttered to herself, not knowing that Feng Lu in the kitchen was muttering too: Want me to cook for you? Fine, I'll cook—let's see if you can eat it without dying!

Ever since summer break, whenever Feng Lu cooked, she'd add something extra to certain dishes. To be precise, those dishes were Han Qian's favorites, so unknowingly, Han Qian had eaten plenty of doctored food made by Feng Lu.

If it weren't for studying at a rural school near North City, sharing most of the pastries with a roommate named Liu Fang that Feng Lu specially made and sent through Han Bin, right now Han Qian would definitely be showing some bad symptoms.

Like hair loss, or her body gradually weakening.

But those symptoms haven't shown up yet in Han Qian, and Feng Lu noticed, but she's not worried at all.

Living under the same roof, as long as she cooks, there's plenty of chances to mess with the food.

...

"Mom, let me help you."

Mingwei came in, washed her hands, and ran to the kitchen to assist Kang Li.

Chapter 1750: Why Are You Worrying About This?

"All that's left is to fry the dishes, you just sit and wait to eat."

Kang Li smiled, not letting Ming Wei help.

"Then I'll stay here and chat with Mom."

Ming Wei stood to the side, her beautiful eyes curved like crescent moons.

"Okay."

Kang Li replied with a smile.

"Mom, Lady Feng stopped us after school again this afternoon, but this time she was quite generous. She took out three kraft paper envelopes, one for me, Big Brother, and Second Brother. But the envelope for Big Brother probably didn't have the property deeds in it."

After Ming Wei finished speaking, Kang Li was taken aback for a moment, then said, "Looks like Lady Feng keeps a very clear account."

She paused briefly, then smiled, curling her lips: "You guys didn't take it, right?"

"Mm."

Ming Wei nodded and said, "We don't really care about Lady Feng's stuff anyway. Besides, if we took it today, who knows how much she'd bother us later!"

Kang Li's tone was doting: "That's right, we're not interested."

As the hours passed slowly, bursts of laughter drifted out of the kitchen; at the same time, dish after dish, each full of color, aroma, and flavor, was cooked by Kang Li.

Just after the National Day holiday, Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were planning to return to their hometown, saying they weren't used to staying in North City. But Kang Li had already taken the two elders and Captain Kang as well as Cai Xiufen to see all the famous sights in North City.

Of course, Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen had lived in North City for years and had visited those places more than once.

But as son and daughter-in-law, the two naturally needed to stay with Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang.

Sightseeing meant eating good food, too.

Considering Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were getting older, Kang Li picked places with food that was easy to chew and digest, making the two elders very happy.

They went out, ate well, and during it all, Kang Li remembered to take pictures of the two elders and her own parents. So, when it was time to go home, Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were holding a stack of photos, planning to show them off to the old folks in the village who weren't much younger than them.

Kang Li originally wanted to drive the four elders home herself, but Grandpa Kang and Captain Kang waved their hands insistently, saying no. Grandma Kang and Cai Xiufen did too—they didn't want to delay their precious granddaughter's (daughter's) work. Besides, there were still kids needing care at home.

Seeing Grandpa Kang and the others were so firm, Kang Li could only agree not to drive them herself—but she also refused to let them take the train back as they said.

Kang Li was known for never going back on her word, so eventually everyone agreed to let her arrange things.

She bought plane tickets and borrowed two bodyguards from Jiang Boya to help escort them. As the group boarded the plane, Kang Li watched the plane take off, then made a phone call to the provincial capital near her hometown.

She asked someone to send two cars to pick up Grandpa Kang's group from the provincial airport and please deliver them safely back to Aoli Village.

The bodyguards helped carry the luggage and stayed with them the whole way, until Grandpa Kang, Grandma Kang, Captain Kang, and Cai Xiufen were all home safe. Then the bodyguards took the car back to the provincial city and flew back by plane.

Once Jiang Boya knew Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen had returned home with Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang, she didn't wait for Kang Li to ask. She checked in with Jiang Hongfa and arranged for Aunt Fu and Ah Xiang to be with Kang Li, helping look after the kids.

And arranged for a chef, plus a bodyguard.

The chef, of course, was in charge of cooking. The bodyguard, according to Jiang Boya, was there to pick up and drop off the three Bun kids from kindergarten, so Kang Li would have more time to relax.

To this, Kang Li really didn't know what to say.

She did have a few things to do, but it wasn't so busy she didn't even have time to unwind.

But sometimes being busy means your dad thinks you're busy and you don't have time to rest. To Kang Li, this was a warm and happy kind of burden.

With Jiang Boya's arrangements, Kang Li now truly had a quiet, easy time. All the chores at home were handled by Aunt Fu, housework by Ah Xiang, cooking by the chef, and picking up and dropping off the three Bun kids was the bodyguard's job.

In short, neither the house nor the kids needed her to worry.

Still, Kang Li would sometimes cook for the family herself, just as a way to give the chef a little time off.

...

After dinner, Kang Li took the three Bun children for a walk in the yard to help them digest. In the kitchen, Min Rui, Ming Han, and Ming Wei were washing the dishes. Aunt Fu and Ah Xiang had originally wanted to help, but the three kids turned them down directly. Now the two sat in the yard, watching Kang Li and the three Bun kids, and chatted quietly.

"Aunt Fu, Miss truly has a gift for teaching children!"

"Mm."

"Miss never puts on airs when talking to us, and Min Rui, Young Master, and the others are just the same. If the Master wanted me to stay with Miss and work for her all my life, I'd be happy to."