

Weak B 191

Chapter 191: I'm Here to Take You Home Kang Li thought about going to the courtyard gate to see if Luo Yanqing had returned, but just as he stepped out of the living room, he faintly heard a familiar female voice coming from the yard of the neighboring Wen Siyuan's house.

As Luo Yanqing approached the common wall between the two properties, he confirmed and was certain he had not misheard, and as he discerned what his young wife was saying, his expression instantly turned cold.

Without further consideration, he headed towards the gate.

"Alright, I'll go and have a talk with my sister-in-law..." Wen Siyuan, enduring the embarrassment, managed to maintain a polite and gentle smile as he revealed that Su Man had been gossiping idly at home. He then recounted how his daughter Wen Yue had overheard those idle words, quite unexpectedly causing a significant uproar over what had been merely a few passing remarks.

After listening, Kang Li finally turned his gaze towards Su Man, "Comrade Su, we have no grudge against each other, so why do you slander me behind my back? After all, since I arrived at this compound, we hardly exchanged words, right?"

"Comrade Kang, why must you be so serious? I was just idly chatting at home out of boredom, is there a need for you to come and confront me personally over this?"

Moreover, my daughter Wen Yue is still young; she's naive and spread those few words I mentioned, which isn't something I wanted to happen. But since it's already out there, isn't an apology sufficient?"

Su Man showed no remorse, with an air of someone unfazed even by boiling water, locking eyes with Kang Li.

“You were just idly discussing me at home? Comrade Su, then tell me, what gave you the impression that I dislike people coming to watch TV at my home? And what made you think I get annoyed when I see people come over to watch TV?”

Questioned by Kang Li repeatedly, Su Man was momentarily at a loss for words.

“Comrade Su, do you enjoy seeing me judged by others in the compound with prejudice?”

“Comrade Kang, don’t falsely accuse me, when have I ever said such a thing?”

“You didn’t say it outright, but you know what you think in your heart. Otherwise, why harbor malice toward me? We aren’t close, and we have no dealings with each other, so why target me like this?”

Just as Kang Li finished speaking, Wen Siyuan’s gaze suddenly fell on the courtyard gate, and he stepped down from the living room’s threshold to greet the visitor, “You’re here to pick up your sister-in-law, right? I’ve already explained the situation to her. It was my Xiao Su’s fault for carelessly talking nonsense at home, which led to Yueyue overhearing and spreading it...”

The person who had arrived at the Wen Family Courtyard was none other than Luo Yanqing. He seemed as if he hadn’t noticed Wen Siyuan, walking straight up to Kang Li’s side. Then with an exceptionally indifferent look in his Phoenix Eyes, he stared at Su Man for a moment and said without a trace of emotion, “I hope there won’t be a next time.”

Yet his demeanor almost caused Su Man to lose her balance and fall, and it tightened Wen Siyuan's chest even more, increasing his dissatisfaction with his wife, Su Man.

Paying no mind to whatever expressions the Wen couple had or what they were thinking, Luo Yanqing's indifferent Phoenix Eyes softened as he turned to Kang Li and said, "I've come to take you home."

Kang Li murmured a word of acknowledgment and walked alongside Luo Yanqing, talking quietly, as they left the Wen Family Courtyard.

"How did you know I was next door?"

"I happened to hear your voice while I was in the yard."

Blinking her fox-like eyes, Kang Li tilted her head and asked, "You're not mad at me, are you?"

Luo Yanqing: "... Why would he be angry with her? She hadn't done anything wrong.

To take a step back, even if she had made a mistake, it would be his fault for not understanding her enough, for not being there when she needed him, leading her to make a mistake.

Chapter 192: Reproach Anyway, his young wife was very good, kind-hearted, pragmatic, and not the kind of woman who liked to stir up trouble.

Wen's family.

After Kang Li and Luo Yanqing left, Wen Siyuan walked into the living room with a stern face, followed closely by Su Man.

"Don't you understand the situation?"

Suppressing his anger, Wen Siyuan stared intently at his wife Su Man, "I work in Comrade Luo's research group, and I see that Comrade Luo will soon launch a new research project. You, well enough, want to be at odds with Comrade Luo's lover. Do you want me to be kicked out of the group by Comrade Luo?"

"Work is work, private matters are private. He Luo Yanqing shouldn't do that!"

Su Man insisted she was not at fault, saying, "Besides, can you really blame me now? If you truly thought I was wrong, you should have stopped me from saying those words that day. Wen Siyuan, did you?"

Furthermore, I said what I said, but it was Yueyue who didn't listen well and let those words escape the house. That's why we ended up being approached by others today."

"You're blaming Yueyue? How old is she, how old are you? Does she know what can be said and what cannot?" Wen Siyuan disliked Su Man's shirking of responsibility, his brow tightly furrowed as he asked, "Do you have a grudge against Comrade Kang?"

Startled by his words, Su Man shook her head, "No."

Wen Siyuan, "Then why would you want to be at odds with Comrade Kang?"

Su Man's eyes reddened, "Is it wrong for me to merely dislike her?"

Wen Siyuan, "You're being ridiculous!" He hadn't expected that his seemingly reasonable wife also possessed such an unreasonable side.

"How am I being ridiculous? Ever since she entered our large courtyard complex, she first bought several big items for her home in one go and then almost every day she dresses up flamboyantly. I see nothing wrong in gossiping about her a bit, right? It's not like she would have less because of it."

Venting her displeasure, tears rolled down Su Man's cheeks as she thought this would make Wen Siyuan stop the argument.

Unexpectedly, Wen Siyuan suddenly laughed, but his smile was somehow cold, "When all is said and done, you're not really bothered by Comrade Kang. You're blaming me for not buying those big items for our home, for not earning enough to let you dress every day like Comrade Kang, right?"

Su Man, "You're wrongly accusing me!" Her voice wavered with a sob.

Wen Siyuan, “Wrongly accusing you? Su Man, I never wrongly accuse anyone! Let’s talk about you. I already clarified to you that the big items that Comrade Kang bought were bridal gifts from her family, given by her brother as a wedding present.

As for your saying that Comrade Kang dresses flamboyantly, that’s purely slander! During the time at home, although I haven’t seen Comrade Kang much, based on the few times I did see her,

her attire was quite simple. If there was anything special, it was because she is naturally attractive, thus anything she wears looks good. You shouldn’t say that Comrade Kang always dresses flamboyantly and malign her like that.

Su Man sniffled, quite annoyed, “Wen Siyuan, what do you mean? Are you saying she is prettier than I am?”

“The difference in looks between you and Comrade Kang, you know it yourself.” Wen Siyuan’s tone carried a hint of impatience, “Su Man, Comrade Luo also said he no longer wants to see or hear you targeting Comrade Kang. Similarly, I hope you remember today’s incident and stop pulling me back. It’s not good for you.”

Chapter 193: You Didn’t Slap the Face “Are you even a man?”

Su Man felt incredibly miserable. Despite being her own husband, why wouldn’t he take her side, protect her, and instead blamed her? “I’m carrying your son in my belly, do you really have to criticize me and make me unhappy?”

“Enough, I won’t argue with you. Just think about what I just said, targeting Comrade Kang, what good does it bring to our family. And remember, Comrade Kang is now the goddaughter of Director Song and Comrade Qi.”

Having said that, Wen Siyuan got up and walked toward the study, but after a few steps, he stopped and turned back, “Have a good talk with Yueyue, and let her not blurt out everything she hears.”

Su Man: “Can’t you speak to her yourself?” It wasn’t as if she had given birth to Yueyue, why should she exert extra effort?

Wen Siyuan: “Su Man Comrade, do you think it’s appropriate for me, a man, to discuss women’s gossip with a young daughter?” Without waiting for Su Man’s response, Wen Siyuan entered the study and casually shut the door behind him.

...

The night outside the window was tranquil, and Xiao Ming Rui and the twins lay in their own beds. When they heard the footsteps fade away outside, they each suddenly opened their eyes, crawled to the edge of the bed, and looked at each other.

Well, actually, only the twins were lying at the edge of the bed; older brother Ming Rui was still lying flat on his back.

“Brother! Brother, why did Feng Tao and Song Hui suddenly come over to our house to watch cartoons?”

This was Milk Bun Ming Han's voice as he looked up towards the upper bunk.

"I want to know too. A lot of people came over tonight to watch TV at our house, Sister Yingying and Sister Yinyin, and even Sister Lulu were here too."

Xiao Ming Wei blinked her eyes, her hands propping her cheeks as she adorably said, "I'm super happy today, big brother, second brother!"

Little lad Ming Rui didn't make a sound, but he felt it mostly had to do with Kang Li, the stepmother.

Xiao Ming Wei: "Sister Yingying and the others even said sorry to me."

Xiao Ming Han rolled his eyes at his sister: "They didn't say it just to you."

"Sleep." It was past nine already, and they still weren't sleeping, how energetic they were! Little lad Ming Rui muttered to himself and his siblings. "I still want to talk some more!" Xiao Ming Wei whined.

Xiao Ming Han: "I'm going to sleep! I am a good baby, I listen to mom, I need to sleep, and grow taller."

He certainly didn't need to emulate that stinky Ming Wei, staying up late, being a naughty child!

Master bedroom.

Kang Li lay on her back, discussing the events of the day with Luo Yanqing, and at the end, she pulled up the corners of her mouth and smiled, "I really can't comprehend why the women in this compound always have issues with me, is it just because I'm prettier than them?"

"..."

Luo Yanqing didn't know how to respond.

Kang Li: "You don't agree?"

Luo Yanqing: "Not exactly."

Kang Li: "That means you agree with what I said! That means, the women here are mostly jealous that I look better than them, so one by one, they look at me unfavorably, thinking about creating problems for me, thickening the plot. But they don't realize, I'm especially vengeful. Once I know about the things they target me for, I'll not only confront them, but I'll also literally slap their faces, letting them have nowhere to hide."

Luo Yanqing: "You haven't."

Kang Li: "I haven't what?" She turned over, facing the man as she lay on her side.

Noticing her movement, Luo Yanqing also turned over, lying on his side facing her, he said, "You haven't slapped any faces."

Upon hearing this, Kang Li paused, then laughed, "When I say 'slap their faces,' I don't mean literally slapping them. After all, I'm a civilized person, violence is too barbaric and would damage my image. Most importantly, it would also hurt my hand. However, when it's time to take action, I won't hesitate."

Chapter 194: I'm Usually Serious, But It Depends on Who I'm With Luo Yanqing, "Verbal attack?"

Kang Li, "You could say that, but 'attack' is too harsh a word, not quite fitting. I convince with reason and speak with facts, leaving them speechless! To put it simply, I prove them wrong in person and make them lose face."

"That's very good."

So what she meant by "slapping faces" was this. It seems he was indeed somewhat ignorant!

Kang Li, "You see? Ruirui and the others were so happy to see other kids come over to our house to watch TV."

Luo Yanqing, "Luo Mingrui didn't."

“That’s because you didn’t look closely. When Ruirui is happy, his eyes suddenly become very bright.”

Kang Li’s voice sounded light and soft as she looked into the man’s ink-stained eyes and suddenly asked with a hint of confusion, “Ruirui is young, yet he has a composure not typical for a child,

I feel that he likes talking even less than you, and his smiles are rare. Now that I think about it, since I’ve arrived at this house, I don’t think I’ve ever seen Ruirui smile. Who does that remind you of?”

Luo Yanqing, “Every child’s personality is different.”

Kang Li, “I know that.” She paused for a moment and then added, “Ruirui’s personality is somewhat like yours, yes, just like you—neither of you likes to talk much or to smile, both of you look like sulky gourds.”

“I’m not.”

How could he possibly be a sulky gourd? Lately, he had been talking a lot around her!

Kang Li raised an eyebrow, “Are you sure?”

Luo Yanqing, “Mm.”

Kang Li, "Alright, think what you will then."

Unexpectedly, Luo Yanqing fell silent for a moment, and then he said, "I'm not frivolous with smiles, but it depends on the person."

Kang Li, "... " Was she being flirted with? Blinking her fox-like eyes, Kang Li tried to discern something from the man's phoenix eyes, but unfortunately, she saw nothing.

After not hearing Kang Li speak for a while, Luo Yanqing asked, "What are you thinking about?"

Kang Li, "I'm tired, a bit distracted." Impliedly, she wasn't thinking about anything.

"Then go to sleep."

"Oh, good night."

"Good night."

Closing her fox-like eyes, Kang Li lay back down, and soon, sleep overwhelmed her.

Somewhere in the haze, she felt someone watching her, and then she felt something gently slide over her eyebrows and eyes. She wanted to open her eyes to see, but she was too tired to lift her eyelids.

At this moment, Luo Yanqing was very close to Kang Li. He was still lying on his side, propping his head with one hand, while the index finger of his other hand unconsciously touched Kang Li's brows and eyes, then gently traced them. He did not know how much time had passed, perhaps impulsively, Luo Yanqing bent down and pressed a kiss on Kang Li's forehead.

Coming to his senses, he felt his cheeks burning and his heart racing. He laid back down as quickly as he could, a faint smile curling the corners of his mouth as a hand covered his eyes: What am I doing?

For the second time, counting tonight, he had kissed her a second time!

But he did not regret it; in fact, he felt very pleased.

...

"By the way, Li Bao, I forgot to ask you yesterday, recently Ruirui and the others have been acting a bit off. Did something happen to the kids?"

Today, Mrs. Qi came with Song Xuan to learn the erhu. After Kang Li taught what needed to be taught, she advised the boy to practice on his own and told Xiao Ming Rui and the other two not to run around, then sat down with Mrs. Qi on a solid wood sofa to chat.

Upon hearing Mrs. Qi's question, she did not hide anything and told everything about what had happened these past few days, the visits to the Xue family and others, and how she confronted Wen's family directly.

Chapter 195: Unspeakable "How could Xiao Su do something like this? Doesn't she know that it's easy to start a rumor but hard to quash it? Besides, you have no grudges against her, why would she target you?"

Mrs. Qi's brows were deeply furrowed, full of displeasure toward Su Man.

Don't say that she's being overprotective. So what if she is?

To fabricate something out of nothing and to spread rumors to slander her goddaughter is simply preposterous!

Kang Li: "I don't know either." Shaking her head, Kang Li showed a look of bewilderment.

But she knew very well in her heart!

It was nothing more than the "antagonistic" elements hidden within the original novel's plot at play.

To put it bluntly, in the novel, eight out of ten female leads and the women pushing the plot forward are archenemies, antagonists.

Even though now, because of her arrival, some deviations had already occurred in the original plot.

Like how she and the three kids were living days filled with warmth and harmony, instead of the original Kang Li turning life upside down in the house after she arrived, providing endless entertainment for the people in the courtyard.

Without knowing it, she played a supporting role to the female lead, Su Man, making the other seem to shine like a beacon, the epitome of a good wife and mother.

Hence, there wasn't any need for the female lead, Su Man, to deliberately target her. The original Kang Li could turn herself into an unlikeable character with ease.

However, she had come, and unbeknownst to everyone, things had started to change.

Su Man certainly didn't know, let alone that this world was constructed based on a novel, nor did she know that everyone, including herself, was originally just a paper character.

But from the moment this world took shape and filled in all its loopholes, there was no longer such thing as paper characters.

Therefore, Kang Li would not use the plot from the novel she knew to feel superior to others, to think of herself as a deity in the heavens who could dictate other people's lives. She would just be herself, merely a part of this world, follow her heart, and live each day to its fullest.

Okay, to put it simply, she wouldn't actively start trouble or look for problems with others, but if someone insisted on being despicable and crossing her, then it would be inevitable for her to "retaliate."

After all, words like "timid" and "turtle retracting its head into its shell" never existed in her life's dictionary!

So, Su Man, the so-called female lead of the novel, if you don't take heed and live your life peacefully and on your own, but instead keep thinking about picking fights with me...

Ha! Just wait to be smacked in the face time and time again!

But at this moment, she obviously couldn't reveal the truth to Mrs. Qi, not because of mistrust, but simply because it couldn't be mentioned.

Just imagine, even though everyone is real and alive, if you insist on saying that we're all fictional characters from a novel, that we're all paper characters, the other person would definitely think you're delusional, or even think that you've been traumatized, that there's something wrong with your brain.

Not to mention telling her that Su Man is the main character of the world, and I, your goddaughter, am just a dispensable extra, one that serves to highlight the female lead's virtue, and that the ultimate ending is the death of the entire family, that would probably scare Mrs. Qi into fainting on the spot.

Thinking this, not a trace of anything unusual could be seen on Kang Li's exquisite face.

Mrs. Qi: "That's too much! No, I must seek justice for you!" Saying so, Mrs. Qi was about to get up when Kang Li hurriedly spoke to dissuade her: "No need, no need, godmother. Calm down, your goddaughter here is not a soft persimmon to be kneaded by others. Besides, I'm very vengeful, and if I'm wronged, I make sure to retaliate in the shortest time possible."

Hearing this, Mrs. Qi's anger didn't subside, and she said:

Chapter 196: Apology and Anxiety "You think that by going to someone's home and laying everything out, you've gotten your revenge? You should know, Xiao Su's behavior is an attack on your character, making it difficult for you to be around this courtyard!"

Kang Li's fox-like eyes curved into crescents as she nodded, "I know."

"Knowing that, why won't you let me go and demand an explanation for you?" Mrs. Qi glared at Kang Li, somewhat disappointed, but it was clear that her eyes held more distress and anger towards Su Man.

Kang Li consoled her, "Godmother, even if you went there yourself, you would only scold them a bit, what can you really do to them? Besides, when all is said and done, this whole affair started over idle gossip, and the other party has already apologized to me. Even if the apology wasn't heartfelt, they have openly admitted their fault, and if I continue to harp on it, it will seem like I am being unreasonably vindictive."

Mrs. Qi: "...and that's it?"

Kang Li: "Godmother, have you forgotten what I mentioned earlier?"

Mrs. Qi: "...” She couldn't quite remember what Kang Li was referring to.

Kang Li blinked her fox-like eyes playfully and said, "Before going to Comrade Wen's doorstep, didn't I tell you that I had visited Sister-in-law Fang's home first, followed by the Feng family, the Gu Family, and the Song Family, one by one?"

Before Kang Li could finish her sentence, Mrs. Qi suddenly laughed, "It's godmother who forgot! It's a good thing you're thorough, or else we might not have been able to handle Xiao Su."

Kang Li: "I didn't intend to control her, I simply clarified the situation to her face. As for what she did, whatever the courtyard turns it into is not my business."

Mrs. Qi: "Of course, it's not your business, she brought it on herself! Out of nothing, she slandered you, and now that the situation has turned around, whatever others say about her, she has to bear it."

Mrs. Qi sighed and her recently relaxed brows furrowed again, "Xiao Su's character is clearly flawed. She has been married to Comrade Wen Siyuan for less than a year and she's already using Yueyue and the other sisters as her pawns. In the long run, who knows what she might teach the children? Especially now that she's pregnant, in a few months when her own child is born..."

Mid-sentence, Mrs. Qi stopped talking, grasped Kang Li's hand, and looked apologetic and worried, "Li Bao, don't take it to heart, godmother wasn't including you at all in what she just said."

Kang Li smiled, "I know. You don't have to be so careful with me, godmother. I know you're speaking about the situation, not the person. Besides, it's very unlikely that I will have..."

Looking at the kids sitting in a row, listening to Song Xuan play the erhu, Kang Li suddenly fell silent, then after a while, she continued, "Even if I do, how I've treated Ruirui and the others before, I will do the same in the future."

Mrs. Qi patted the back of Kang Li's hand, "Godmother knew you were good from the first time she met you."

Kang Li smiled, "Ruirui, Hanhan, and Vivi are very good kids, I like them a lot."

...

One day, Loo Ping visited the Wen's family, and seeing that it was only her and Su Man in the living room with no third person around, she couldn't help but bring up the gossip she had heard about Su Man these past few days: "You might not be aware of this?"

Su Man: "... " What didn't she know?

Loo Ping: "It seems you truly don't know."

Su Man became more confused, "Sister Loo, can you just stop beating around the bush? If you have something to say, please be direct. I'm pregnant right now, and if you keep doing this..."

Chapter 197: Stoking the Fire "Alright, alright, what's the hurry?! I came over here to tell you, didn't I?"

Loo Ping waved her hand and lowered her voice, "Everyone's saying that you're creating problems out of nowhere, that you just can't get along with Comrade Xiao Kang, spreading rumors and slandering him, almost causing everyone to misunderstand his character."

Su Man's complexion changed dramatically, "What else?"

Loo Ping thought for a moment and then added, "They say you don't know how to teach kids, and you even used Yueyue and her sisters as pawns, inciting them to join other kids in ostracizing and isolating Professor Luo's children."

"That's... that's utterly absurd!"

Su Man was so angry that the corners of her mouth trembled, but the emotions she revealed were caught by Loo Ping, who directly asked, "Are you saying you didn't spread rumors and slander Comrade Xiao Kang?"

Who are you fooling? We're all neighbors here, who doesn't know whom? Besides, not just the immediate neighbors but even those living a bit further away have all been spreading how you've been making things up to target that member of Professor Luo's family.

The reason she came by now was simply to fan the flames, hoping to provoke this seemingly clever but actually brainless fool to cause a scene at the Luo family's home. Ideally, it would result in Professor Luo kicking Wen Siyuan out of his group in a fit of rage, potentially leaving a spot for her husband, Old Zhang, to fill.

As for why she harbored such thoughts, it was simple: in their work, her husband, Old Zhang, was good at the same things Wen Siyuan excelled at.

If that was the case, then Wen Siyuan wasn't irreplaceable under Professor Luo.

Don't blame her for harboring such a cunning plan; everyone looks out for themselves, after all. She wanted her husband to advance further in his career and not just be a minor researcher when it was time for him to retire.

"I... I just made a couple of offhand guesses at home, and I've already sincerely apologized to her. How can she... how can she be so unrelenting when she's in the right?!"

Su Man's eyes reddened, her expression a mixture of indignation and frustration.

"Xiao Su, I'm not criticizing you, but with children in the house, how can you just say anything that comes to mind? And, for your information, Comrade Xiao Kang went around to several households with children to get to the bottom of the truth,

clearly explaining that she never said she hated people coming over to her house to watch TV, and that she never expressed annoyance when people visited her. Speaking of which, I really admire Comrade

Xiao Kang; she always seems to be clearer-headed than the rest of us, never flustered when things happen...”

Loo Ping continued to stir the pot, only to be interrupted by Su Man, “Sister Loo, I’m feeling a little unwell and need to go lie down in my room.” This was a polite way of asking her to leave.

“Alright, then you should go back and rest. I’ll be on my way. And don’t be upset about this trivial stuff, it might affect the baby in your belly.”

Almost being pushed out the door, Loo Ping rolled her eyes indignantly, but she kept a smile on her face as she stood up, “Xiao Su, when you’re wrong, you’re wrong. The things being spread about you have nothing to do with Comrade Xiao Kang, they are...”

“Sister Loo! Take care, no need to see you out!”

Su Man raised her voice, clearly forcing a smile.

It was evident just how unwelcome Loo Ping was at that moment.

“We live right across from each other, there’s no need for any special send-offs, besides, as you know, I’m not one for formalities.”

Clearly, with these parting words, Loo Ping intended to leave Su Man feeling uncomfortable, implying that Su Man was uncultured and lacked manners.

“You heard all that, didn’t you?!”

Chapter 198 Contradiction After Loo Ping had left, Su Man’s eyes brimmed with tears as she pushed open the half-ajar study door with great grievance and burst into uncontrollable sobs upon seeing Wen Siyuan.

“What good would it do if I had heard? Do you really expect me to go find Comrade Xiao Kang to argue on your behalf?”

Wen Siyuan sat with his hands crossed over the desk, frowning at his wife.

“Why not? She’s unreasonable even when she’s in the right—that’s her fault. Why can’t I confront her?” Su Man asked amidst her weeping.

“Didn’t you say it yourself? They are in the right. Besides, from what I just overheard, Comrade Loo didn’t say it was Comrade Xiao Kang spreading rumors outside; it was those kids around our courtyard...”

Before Wen Siyuan could finish, Su Man interrupted him angrily, “Enough! If you don’t want to help me, then just say so, but don’t forget, when people gossip about me, it reflects poorly on you too.”

Closing his book, Wen Siyuan asked, “You’re right, but I don’t wish to care about that, considering we’re not in the right. What’s the harm in being talked about by others? Eventually, they’ll tire of it and find it

dull, but if you go and argue with Comrade Xiao Kang now, you'll only give people more reason to talk and make it seem like you're the one at fault, never reflecting on your actions but audaciously causing trouble for Comrade Xiao Kang. Do you think you could continue to live here peacefully in this courtyard after that?"

Su Man: "I see you just care about saving face!"

Wen Siyuan: "Say whatever you like."

Su Man: "You..." How could she have married such a man? He wouldn't argue on her behalf, nor comfort her. How was he treating her? Scolding her and now simply ignoring her—completely out of line!

"There's something you need to understand."

Wen Siyuan suddenly spoke up again, "In our institute, many are eager to join Comrade Luo's research team. Comrade Loo's spouse is one of them, and if you don't handle your relationship with Comrade Xiao Kang well, considering how much Comrade Luo cares for his spouse, I can't guarantee that you won't be moved out of the group under some pretext. And when my spot becomes available, it's very likely that Comrade Loo's spouse, Zhang Sheng, will fill it. Let me tell you something else—in terms of project research, Zhang Sheng specializes in the same area as I do."

"Are you suggesting... Sister Loo said those words to me on purpose?" Su Man stopped her tears; she wasn't foolish, especially when it came to their mutual interests, she was quite astute!

Realizing how close she had come to falling into Loo Ping's trap, Su Man couldn't help but clench her fists tightly.

“What do you think?”

Instead of answering, Wen Siyuan countered with a question.

“Do you have to talk to me in such an ambiguous tone?” Su Man glared at Wen Siyuan, saying irritably: “Since you heard everything, what are you planning to do about Wen Yue and her sisters?”

“You and I are husband and wife, and Yueyue and her sisters are naturally your daughters, too. I naturally hope you will guide them sincerely. Besides, if Yueyue and her sisters turn out well, it only benefits your reputation.” Wen Siyuan paused for a moment, then continued, “If you’re unsure how to do it, you might learn from Comrade Xiao Kang.”

Upon hearing this, Su Man’s just-subdued anger flared up again: “How do you want me to learn? Should I learn from your so-called Comrade Xiao Kang to buy new clothes for her three kids now and then, or should I be like her, stuffing milk candies or various snacks into their pockets or the little bags slung over their shoulders every time her kids go out to play?”

In fact, as Su Man said, Kang Li had taken the time to sew a small crossbody bag for each of her three little ones, cutting out cartoon versions of rabbits, tigers, and ducks from bright colored fabric and meticulously stitching them onto the bags.

Chapter 199: Not Afraid of Not Knowing the Goods, Fear of Comparison with Others The rabbit was what Milk Bun Ming Han wanted, he said he liked the lively and cute little white rabbits.

Xiao Ming Wei wanted it because she liked the “Counting Ducks” nursery rhyme Kang Li taught, and she used both coquettishness and cuteness to get her mom to sew two chubby little yellow ducks on her bag.

As for little Min Rui, he hesitated for quite a while before admitting that he liked big tigers.

So, each of the three little ones had their own favorite little backpacks. However, brother Min Rui was worried about getting his little bag dirty and was reluctant to take it outside.

The twins were still small, and neither cared that much; they loved to show off.

Once they left the house, they had to sling their little backpacks on and show them off to their mom, Kang Li naturally understood what the twins meant, and she always laughed happily at this.

She either filled them with milk candies and wrapped haw slices or stuffed them with fruit leather and raisins and other snacks.

Anyway, she would never let her little cubs go out with empty backpacks.

Wen Siyuan’s eyes flashed with a dark hue as he asked, “According to what you’re saying, is Comrade Kang bribing the kids with treats and buying them new clothes to win their hearts and get them to accept her as their mom?”

“Is it not so?”

Su Man defended herself righteously.

Wen Siyuan laughed angrily, “Of course not! Let’s not mention the trouble you and Yueyue caused; even before that, when Comrade Xiao Feng made unreasonable trouble and what she did to Comrade Luo’s three little ones, don’t tell me you don’t know how Comrade Xiao Kang dealt with it.”

Su Man’s eyes darted around, and she bit her lip without saying a word.

“Lost for words, huh?”

Wen Siyuan’s heart was bitter, as both were in their second marriage, yet why was it that his wife couldn’t compare to the one Comrade Luo married? Not to mention her appearance, just the love she had for the children... His wife was nowhere near as good. Not to mention she was shallow, envious, and jealous whenever she saw what others had, her emotions hard to control, showing her displeasure to the children at home.

He sighed quietly and continued, “Comrade Xiao Kang, knowing that her children had been wronged, directly took Ruirui and the siblings to Xiao Feng’s home. Not only did she make Xiao Feng and her son apologize to them,

she also sternly pointed out the issues with Xiao Feng’s parenting. In short, Comrade Xiao Kang is sincerely treating her children, not beating around the bush and making them truly accept her as their mom from the bottom of their hearts.”

“I can’t do that for now. If you despise me, divorce is the answer.”

She was pregnant, so she wasn’t worried about him suggesting a divorce.

Thinking this, Su Man turned away with a cold face.

“There is nothing to be afraid of when it comes to being unaware of the goods, but it’s dreadful when people compare.”

Wen Siyuan sighed deeply, his expression extremely complex.

Time flew quickly, and in the blink of an eye, Luo Yanqing’s holiday was just two days from being over.

That day, neither Director Song nor Mrs. Qi accompanied their eldest grandson to the Luo Family to learn the erhu. Well, actually, Director Song followed Song Xuan from a not-too-close but not-too-far distance, watching his grandson enter Kang Li’s yard.

By doing this, Director Song simply wanted to train his grandson. He and Mrs. Qi hoped to see their grandson able to live independently while they were still alive...

It wasn't that they were heartless; knowing full well of their grandson's special circumstances, they still had such high demands for him because life is hard, and one should rely on themselves rather than others.

Even though they were certain that Kang Li, their goddaughter, was of impeccable character and that after their time had passed, relying on the kinship of godparents, Kang Li, as their son's god-aunt, would surely not neglect their grandson,

Chapter 200: Changes They also wanted Song Xuan to be as independent as possible in his daily life.

This way, he wouldn't become a burden to others, and he could live a bit more comfortably.

By now, it was late August, and the temperature wasn't very high. Additionally, since today was cloudy with some wind, it was quite suitable for outdoor activities.

Therefore, Kang Li decided to hold today's Erhu teaching session in the courtyard. Of course, Xiao Ming Rui and the other two were methodically doing their things in the yard as well.

Like listening to music and playing checkers, for instance.

At this moment, the trio of Xiao Ming Rui were seated around a small dining table playing checkers. Beside them, Kang Li's voice was soft and slow as she explained the playing techniques of a new piece to Song Xuan and elaborated on the artistic conception of the piece in detail to the teenager.

"Okay, now Auntie will play it once. After you listen, try to play it according to the score. When you finish playing, Auntie will point out where you made mistakes."

“...Okay.”

Song Xuan, handsome with eyes and brows, was approaching sixteen, about 175 cm tall, with fair skin. Dressed in a white shirt and army green trousers today, wearing a pair of white sneakers, his sleeves rolled up halfway, and his shirt tucked into his trousers, his disheveled hair was shiny and black, making him look clean and tidy. Had it not been for those who knew him, his particularity was now hardly noticeable.

This was certainly not a casual remark—For now, the boy could not only slowly start speaking but also occasionally showed a smile in front of Director Song, Mrs. Qi, and Kang Li, who was both his aunt and teacher, and the three little ones.

His smile was very clean and pure. If Kang Li had to describe it, the boy’s smile was like a warm little puppy.

Furthermore, the boy’s gaze was no longer as dull as before. There was a sparkle in his eyes. Although not as lively as a normal child’s, whenever the boy smiled, his eyes seemed to instantly gather the most dazzling colors, bright and particularly captivating.

“Listen carefully, Auntie is going to start.” As Kang Li’s voice fell, the piece “Listening to the Pines” began to echo around the courtyard.

“Listening to the Pines” was an original composition by the folk artist Abing, a famous traditional Erhu piece.

The music expresses the sound of the pine waves and conveys a strong and unyielding character, firm confidence, and celebrates the Chinese people's noble character, the iron-strong will of struggle, and the heroic majesty to overpower enemies as it lauds the national hero Yue Fei's military prowess.

The entire piece was bold and vigorous, very forceful!

The reason for teaching the boy this piece—more precisely, the reason why Kang Li taught him traditional Erhu pieces—was simple. Should a suitable competition opportunity arise, the boy could definitely sign up and participate.

By performing on stage, with the music he played, he could tell everyone that even though he was different from normal people, he too was the brightest star in the night sky.

It wasn't Kang Li being arrogant. After spending some time teaching the boy to play the Erhu, she was now fully convinced of his exceptional talent in playing the Erhu.

Put another way, the boy was quite sensitive to music. The pieces he listened to were especially easy for him to pick up.

As time slowly passed, and as Kang Li finished the last note on her side, the next moment, without waiting for Kang Li to speak, the boy began playing the piece in front of him, focused on the score.

Although there were deficiencies, the overall performance was quite good.

“Not bad, but there are a few obvious mistakes...” After the piece was played, Kang Li, holding the score, pointed out the mistakes as the boy stood up and approached her. Her voice was gentle and tender, unconsciously touching people’s hearts.