

Weak B 291

Chapter 291 Luo Yanqing: Just Caring About You

“Comrade Luo seems perfectly fine to me!”

“What do you mean ‘perfectly fine’? Comrade Luo had a cough due to a cold, and once he starts coughing, he can’t stop. If he wasn’t worried about affecting the work of other team members, he would never have left the lab.”

“Say whatever you want.”

Su Man felt weary and lay down on the bed, “My belly is getting bigger by the day. If you don’t want anything to happen to your son, shouldn’t you hire someone to take care of the housework and also pick up and drop off Wen Yue at kindergarten?”

Upon hearing this, Wen Siyuan almost retorted with “Don’t you think you’re being overly dramatic?”

However, he didn’t voice that thought but instead said, “Yueyue’s mom gave birth to three daughters, and she always took care of the household and looked after the children herself.”

Su Man felt like someone had stepped on her tail and she gritted her teeth, articulating every word, “I am me, not your ex-wife. I don’t have her capabilities!”

“How about this, when you’re about to give birth, I’ll talk to my mom and ask her to take some time off work to come and look after you.”

Wen Siyuan made a concession.

Su Man: “No need!”

...

The Luo Family.

“The children have all told me,” Luo Yanqing said abruptly while lying in bed. Kang Li, confused, asked, “Told you what?”

Luo Yanqing: “That day, after you went to the station to bring me something and returned...”

“I thought you knew something else. It’s just that; actually, it was nothing. I was just a bit drained, but after sleeping for the night, I recovered,” Kang Li said casually, clearly not concerned about the incident.

“Drained? Why?”

As soon as Luo Yanqing asked this, Kang Li froze.

“Is it hard to say, or is it that you can’t say, especially to me?”

Luo Yanqing’s voice betrayed no emotion, but Kang Li knew that he was probably angry with her.

“I thought you knew.”

With a slight pout of her lips, Kang Li lay on her back, blinking her foxy eyes, and said softly, “That day I saved two kids, remember? We talked about it on the phone. At that moment, committed to saving lives, and seeing that one child was unconscious and the other couldn’t move well, I... carried the unconscious child to your research institute’s gate. Right, I should have mentioned this to you, hadn’t I?”

Luo Yanqing stayed silent.

Kang Li laughed sheepishly, “I was born with great strength, and since this is quite shocking, I never told my family about it. Before that day, I had never used this ability of mine. Unexpectedly... While carrying the child, I didn’t feel anything. But when I got back home, I realized I was nearly exhausted. I couldn’t even bring myself to move while sitting down.

Honestly, Luo Yanqing, my body’s reaction was excessively delayed. It took me nearly two hours from carrying the person for a mile to your research institute, and then to the hospital, and then back home, before I...”

Before she could finish, Luo Yanqing cut her off with his cool and indifferent voice, "Are you joking with your body? Are you very courageous? Also, I've told you, they are not children."

"Luo Yanqing, don't be so serious, and you know what I did. This means we did talk about it over the phone that day. How come you're bringing up the past just because you heard a few words from the kids today?" Before Luo Yanqing could respond, Kang Li continued, "Alright, alright, I'm fine, aren't I?"

She didn't want to talk about the past anymore.

Besides, now that she knew about this problem with her body, she would certainly not act recklessly in the future.

Chapter 292 This is Our Home

"I'll ask the Director to help hire someone to take care of cooking and picking up Luo Mingrui from kindergarten so that you can relax a bit and have more flexibility with your time."

Luo Yanqing could naturally tell that Kang Li did not want to bring up the past. His lips were tightly sealed, and after a long silence, he voiced his decision.

"No need," Kang Li refused, saying, "Godfather and Godmother are retired senior cadres, and they don't have domestic help at home. We shouldn't do anything out of the ordinary."

Luo Yanqing: "Godmother doesn't like having strangers at home."

Kang Li: "I feel the same, and I like quiet too. If there's an additional person at home, it would be so much less free for me to do anything with someone always hovering around!"

This wasn't entirely the truth, after all, before arriving in this world, her life had never lacked people to look after her.

Well, except for her own solitary living space.

However, here, for the time being, casually hiring people to work in the house didn't seem like a good idea.

Seeing that Luo Yanqing hadn't made a sound for a long while, Kang Li asked, "Why aren't you speaking?" But Luo Yanqing remained silent, giving Kang Li no choice but to say, "Actually, I'm concerned about the impression it would make. Also, I can assure you that there will absolutely not be another incident like the last one."

Finally, Luo Yanqing spoke, "When I first returned to the country and started at the research institute, the leaders had intended to arrange someone to look after my living needs, but I turned it down at the time. Later... because Luo Mingrui needed care, without a word from me, they hired someone for the house."

Kang Li: "Oh, I see. But you should know that those two people were not of good character, otherwise, you wouldn't have found me in your home."

Luo Yanqing: "...This is our home."

A hint of a smile crossed Kang Li's eyes; she curved her lips and said, "Oh."

"You... you could ask around at the old place to see if there's anyone who wants to come and keep you company, with board and lodging included. Each month..." Knowing what Luo Yanqing was about to say, Kang Li cut in immediately: "Listen to me, it's really not necessary. If you're truly worried, I can call my mom to see if she's willing to come and stay at our place for a while."

Luo Yanqing: "She can stay long-term." There's a spare room at home, and he had no objections to how long his mother-in-law wished to stay.

"Alright, I'll let my mom know that you, her son-in-law, have invited her to stay in North City for an extended period."

Kang Li's words were tinged with laughter. Upon hearing her, Luo Yanqing felt his cheeks heat up.

"Let's sleep, you're still ill and need to rest more."

"Mmm."

"Good night."

Luo Yanqing: "...Good night."

The next day.

Kang Li took Xiao Mingrui to kindergarten and didn't let Luo Yanqing accompany her. In the afternoon, when she picked up the kids and went back home, she again didn't ask Luo Yanqing to come along.

In her words, since he had come home to recuperate, he should stay at home and rest properly, lest the cough, which was not a serious ailment, became prolonged from neglect.

On the third day after Luo Yanqing returned home, which was today, he completely stopped coughing. However, to be safe, Kang Li accompanied him to the hospital near the compound for a thorough checkup at noon.

After being examined by the doctor, it was confirmed that he was cured, and Luo Yanqing didn't stay home any longer than necessary. After having lunch, he called the institute.

"This is me, Luo Yanqing... Yes, I can resume work this afternoon. Okay, I'll wait at home, goodbye."

After finishing the call with Director Song, Luo Yanqing replaced the receiver on the phone and looked towards Kang Li: "A car will come to pick me up around 1:30 p.m."

“Got it. I’ve already packed your things; just grab and go when the car arrives.”

Chapter 293: There is something I want your help with

Even though she felt a bit reluctant, Kang Li knew the man in front of her was returning to his unit to work on important matters and wouldn’t cling too much in their conversation.

Time passed quickly. She heard the sound of a car approaching from outside the courtyard, then the gate being knocked on. Luo Yanqing picked up his bag, “I’m leaving.”

Kang Li nodded, “Mm.”

The two walked out of the living room, and as they were about to reach the courtyard gate, Kang Li stopped, “Luo Yanqing.”

“Hmm?”

Luo Yanqing paused, looking towards Kang Li with puzzlement written in his dark, ink-like phoenix eyes.

With lively eyes and brows, Kang Li tiptoed and kissed the man on one side of his cheek. Then, pointing to her own right cheek and wearing a playful smile, she said nothing, only blinking her clear, fox-like eyes mischievously as she tilted her head to look at him.

Snapping out of his daze, Luo Yanqing's ears turned red, the blush spreading down to his neck and across his handsome face.

"What goes around comes around."

Seeing the man not moving, Kang Li pointed at her right cheek again.

Bearing the discomfort, Luo Yanqing bent down and lightly pressed a kiss on his beautiful wife's face. He said, "Take care of yourself. Call me if you need anything."

Kang Li's bright fox-like eyes curved like a crescent moon, "Got it. You also need to take good care of yourself. Don't fall ill again."

Watching Luo Yanqing's jeep drive away, Kang Li turned back and headed home.

"Mom, is dad not at home because he went back to work at his unit?"

Xiao Ming Rui had been picked up that afternoon. Not seeing their father, Milk Bun Ming Han couldn't help but ask their mother.

Kang Li confirmed, "Mm."

Xiao Ming Wei said, "Dad only stayed home for three days this time." Finger counting, Xiao Ming Wei did the math again, clearly a bit disappointed.

"Correct, it was three days. But this time he came home to recover, and now that he's better, he naturally has to return to work. Otherwise, no one will be able to do his job, and a lot of things will be delayed."

Listening to what Kang Li said, the twins nodded their little heads, "Hanhan (Vivi) understands! Dad is busy with important things, not that he doesn't want to stay with us."

...

The weather turned colder, and like everyone else, Kang Li stored plenty of cabbage, radishes, and hundreds of coal briquettes along with enough coal for heating at home.

"Li Bao, it's done."

Since it was the weekend, Guoan had come to see Kang Li, originally to ask his sister for help with a troublesome matter, but happened to arrive while Kang Li was installing a heating stove. Without a second thought, he took on the task.

After more than an hour's work, the big-bellied heating stove in the middle of the living room "started working," and the heat pipes leading to the kids' rooms and the master bedroom gradually warmed up.

To prevent any gas leakage, Guoan wrapped thick tape around each joint of the heat pipes, checking them over several times carefully. Flashing a big white-toothed grin, he told Kang Li that the job was all done.

The twin twins clapped their hands seal-style, exclaiming, "Wow! Little Uncle is so capable!"

"You've put in hard work, young man, sit down and have some water."

Kang Li handed Guoan a porcelain jug of malt extract, "With this heating stove, we four won't have to fear the cold."

"There are children at home; it's necessary to have a heating stove. Otherwise, it's too cold indoors, and the children can easily get sick," Guoan replied as he took the jug and drank, "Actually, I came here today because I need your help with something."

"Then let's go to the study."

Kang Li spoke and looked at Min Rui, "Ruirui, play in the living room with your brother and sister. Remember not to touch the heating stove; it could burn you."

Chapter 294 But Is This Really Okay?

Xiao Ming Rui nodded.

Twin with mixed sex: “Mom, we know!”

Kang Li smiled and entered her study with Kang Guoan.

“...That’s the situation, Li Bao, you really have to help your little brother, I’m almost annoyed to death. You don’t know, she hangs around me all the time, it has affected my normal work, and it has brought me quite a lot of idle gossip.”

“But, is this really okay?”

After hearing what Kang Guoan asked her to help with, Kang Li’s brows furrowed slightly, showing a bit of difficulty: “Little brother, do you really not like that Comrade Yang Zijuan at all?”

Yang Zijuan is the daughter of a minor leader at North City Petrochemical, good-looking but with a terrible personality; she must have whoever she fancies, no matter what.

Not to mention the other things, just when it comes to dating, it’s said she changes her partner almost every half-year.

Now, Yang Zijuan is eighteen, and since she was sixteen, she has been dating male comrades. The relationships never lasted more than six months before she would break up and soon target another good-looking male comrade.

In any case, she's spoiled and arrogant, relying a bit on her family background and entirely unconcerned about changing partners every half year, and even less worried about what others say.

Ever since Kang Guoan started working at North City Petrochemical, after one chance encounter, Yang Zijuan had her eyes on him. Last month, right after Yang Zijuan broke up with her partner, she immediately started pursuing Kang Guoan.

"Would you not joke about this with your little brother? She's reckless in her actions, not knowing how to be reserved at all, and she doesn't take relationships seriously. How could I like a girl like that?"

Kang Guoan, recalling how Yang Zijuan buzzed around him like a fly, was extremely annoyed. He said, "Do you know? In our department, some people secretly spread rumors that I was the third party destroying Yang Zijuan and her previous partner's relationship. How unfair is that?"

I was inexplicably entangled, inexplicably harassed; I am the victim, yet now I'm labeled as the home-wrecker in someone else's relationship. I'm almost nauseated!"

"Hearing you talk like this, that Comrade Yang Zijuan really doesn't seem so great. But how did you think about having me pretend to be your partner? Aren't you worried that others will find out about our relationship?"

Pretending to be her own brother's girlfriend to block unwanted romances, this wasn't really a big deal, but knowing her little brother, Kang Guoan, as she did – only slightly better than a simpleton – how could he think of such a method?

“Our department is more than twenty stops away from your compound, and you still need to switch buses in between. After the matter is resolved, it will be very hard for anyone to encounter you.

As for how I thought of asking you for this favor, frankly, I was so annoyed by that Yang Zijuan that I directly told her I had a partner. But Yang Zijuan didn’t believe it and still appeared in front of me every day, saying that as long as I’m not married, she has the right to pursue me.”

Saying this, Kang Guoan almost pleaded: “Li Bao, you really have to help your little brother, otherwise, I’m afraid that my colleagues might all start seeing me through a tinted lens.”

Kang Li laughed: “Didn’t you tell her that our family is from the countryside, didn’t mention that our home is in the Great Northwest?”

Kang Guoan: “Why should I bother telling her all that?! I don’t like her, I don’t want to date her, I just want her to stop pestering me, so I can have some peace.”

“Little brother, haven’t you found any female comrade attractive at work after nearly four months?”

Kang Li’s eyes smiled mischievously, her expression as curious as could be.

“I just want to work well. Li Bao, I remember telling you, I won’t consider personal marriage issues for the next two or three years.”

Chapter 295 What Exactly Do You Want Me to Do?

Kang Guoan had indeed said that before, and Kang Li blinked her bright, fox-like eyes, finally nodding her head, "Okay, I agree to help you out, little brother, but if it affects your relationships in the future, don't blame me!"

"If that day really comes, I'll just explain to her that you're my sister. If she doesn't believe me, I'll bring her to meet you."

Kang Guoan said this and felt a great sense of relief, "Once Yang Zijuan sees you, she will certainly back off."

Kang Li raised her eyebrows, "Are you so sure about that, little brother?"

Kang Guoan, "My sister looks like a fairy girl and has such a pleasant temperament, Yang Zijuan would only feel inferior in front of you."

"Little brother, that might not be the case. Some people always think too highly of themselves, and with their family background as a cushion, like Comrade Yang Zijuan, she might become furious when she sees me, regarding me as a thorn in her side, wishing she could just get rid of me."

Kang Li's gaze was clear and bright, her tone seemed serious, but in reality, she was just joking.

"If she dares to touch a single hair on your head, I'll punch her right then and there, no, with me around, she won't even think of touching you!"

He wouldn't let such a superficial and self-centered woman touch Li Bao, his sister, even if it meant risking his job.

Kang Li laughed, "What exactly do you need me to do?"

Kang Guoan, "When you have time, come by my company one day. When Yang Zijuan shows up, I'll introduce you as my significant other."

Kang Li, "I have time every day. How about this, I'll do it tomorrow, after I drop off Ruirui and the others at kindergarten. I'll go home to tidy up a bit and get to the office before your lunch break ends, little brother, does that sound good?"

"That works, let's do that."

If he had any way, he wouldn't ask his sister for such a favor.

Kang Guoan returned to the office in the late afternoon.

The next day at noon.

Kang Li arrived at the gates of North City Petrochemical at the time agreed upon with Kang Guoan.

“Young comrade, are you looking for someone?”

The gatekeeper couldn't help but come out and ask after noticing Kang Li glancing inside the gate every now and then.

“Grandpa, I...”

Kang Li was about to respond when Kang Guoan came into view from afar, waving at her, “Li Bao, over here!” Seeing this, Kang Li said to the gatekeeper, “Grandpa, the person I'm looking for is here.”

“So you were looking for Comrade Xiao Kang. If you had told me earlier, you could have come inside my gatehouse to get out of the wind.” It was snowing heavily and the bitter wind was biting, truly very cold.

Kang Li smiled, “Thank you, grandpa. I actually haven't been waiting here for long.” As Kang Li finished her sentence, Kang Guoan approached, “Come on, I'll take you in.” He greeted the gatekeeper and, with a smile on his face, walked shoulder to shoulder with Kang Li, quickly moving away.

Watching their retreating figures, the gatekeeper shook his head, returned to the gatehouse, and muttered to himself, “Looks like Director Yang's daughter is going to be heartbroken!”

“Kang Guoan, who is she?”

Yang Zijuan worked in the publicity department and had planned to find Kang Guoan for lunch, but she was surprised to see Kang Guoan heading straight to the company gate as soon as he left the office. Unable to help herself, she followed him.

After spotting Kang Guoan meeting a female comrade at the gate, Yang Zijuan's face suddenly turned sour, especially upon seeing Kang Guoan smiling and chatting easily with the girl by his side. The jealousy in her heart spiraled out of control. No longer hiding behind the roadside trees, she emerged and blocked Kang Guoan's path, her face cold as she questioned Kang Li's identity.

Chapter 296 Lack of Confidence

"Li Bao, this is the Comrade Yang Zijuan I mentioned to you," Kang Guoan retracted the smile from his face the moment he saw Yang Zijuan. He introduced her to Kang Li first and then addressed Yang Zijuan, "Comrade Yang Zijuan, this is my partner. To prevent any misunderstanding from my partner, please refrain from making strange gestures in my presence in the future."

"Hello."

Kang Li reached out to Yang Zijuan, but the other party just glared at her, showing no intention of greeting her back.

"Brother Little Wu, I'm feeling a bit cold. Let's sit in your dorm for a while."

The residential area of North City Petrochemical was situated to the east, and the office area to the west. Although some distance separated them, it was not too far; walking there would take at most fifteen minutes one way.

Yang Zijuan: "Are you really Kang Guoan's partner?"

"Comrade, your question is peculiar. I don't think I need to answer you."

Her brother had already made it crystal clear, hadn't he? Was it necessary to confirm it with her again?

Yang Zijuan: "I like Kang Guoan!"

Kang Li: "I know." She is good-looking, but that pampered expression on her face makes it apparent she's been spoiled rotten by her family.

That was forgivable; after all, it was her family's prerogative to dote on her, and outsiders had no right to interfere. What made her uncomfortable was the other's contemptuous and haughty demeanor.

As if the person standing before her was a mere ant whose life and death she could control at will.

Ha! With such character, she wanted to be with her brother, to become her Fifth Sister-in-law? She might as well go wash up and go to bed!

"Break up with Kang Guoan, and I will give you money."

Yang Zijuan's tone was imperious, as if Kang Guoan was her possession, exuding arrogance at that moment.

"Comrade, take a good look, do I look like a beggar?" This day, Kang Li wore a beige knee-length woolen coat, a pure white woolen sweater underneath, black leggings paired with a matching knee-length woolen skirt, and black ankle boots on her feet.

Her simple attire nonetheless highlighted Kang Li's slender figure and the unique charm that naturally emanated from her bones...

At this moment, Yang Zijuan sized up Kang Li from head to toe with great detail, her expression instantly stupefied.

Because irrespective of her clothes, the appearance of the girl standing before her was much more beautiful than her own self-proclaimed beauty.

Her skin was fair, like cream, her facial features were as if painted, so exquisite that Yang Zijuan couldn't find a single flaw. Looking at this face, the jealousy surging in her heart deflated like a punctured ball, all of a sudden disappearing.

Not that she didn't want to feel jealous, but she lacked the confidence to do so.

Yang Zijuan couldn't understand why she didn't have this feeling when she first saw her; instead, she felt a burning jealousy, wishing to pry the girl away from Kang Guoan's side immediately.

That's right, Kang Guoan. Before, all her thoughts were on Kang Guoan; she only wanted to drive away the girl by his side and hadn't paid attention to her looks.

Having realized this, Yang Zijuan couldn't help but feel wronged.

Was it because he had such a beautiful partner... that's why Kang Guoan refused to date her?

"I..."

Yang Zijuan's lips quivered, struggling to find the right words to continue.

A woolen coat, a beige knee-length one like this, was not only expensive but also only available at the Friendship Store.

She thought her own red mid-length woolen coat was very beautiful and impressive, but compared to this woman before her, she now felt like a plain country girl.

Not fashionable at all!

“Kang Guoan, is she really your partner?”

Chapter 297: What, are you feeling sympathetic?

Pointing at Kang Li, Yang Zijuan sought confirmation from Kang Guoan. She really liked Guoan’s appearance; in all her life, he was the most handsome man she had ever seen.

He was the one she truly wanted to date, the one she wanted to marry!

Kang Guoan nodded without hesitation.

“ ... ”

Yang Zijuan couldn’t accept it. Even though she already knew the answer and knew she didn’t have the confidence, she still couldn’t let it go. She turned her gaze back to Kang Li, “As long as you two aren’t married, I still have hope!”

With that, she fought the discomfort in her heart and moved her gaze back to Kang Guoan, “I...I know my reputation isn’t great, but I can change for you, Guoan, can’t you believe me? I really like you and want to date you. I promise, in my heart, you’re different from those I’ve dated before...”

Kang Guoan frowned, “Comrade Yang Zijuan, you don’t need to tell me these things. I remember clearly telling you more than once that I’m not interested in you. Please trouble yourself not to come near me anymore. Now, my partner is standing right beside you. If you have any self-respect, you should leave immediately and stop showing up in front of me.”

Can she not understand what people say to her?

Taking two steps back, Yang Zijuan didn't want to appear too defeated. She stood firm, staring intently at Kang Guoan, "Aren't you worried I could get you fired? Or do you not believe I have that power?"

Kang Guoan's expression remained calm, "Do whatever you want." With that, he called out to Kang Li, "Li Bao, let's go."

"Okay."

Kang Li nodded and continued to walk alongside Kang Guoan.

Watching the two of them walk away, Yang Zijuan couldn't hold back any longer, letting tears stream down her face.

"That female comrade seems to have some real feelings for you."

After walking a distance, Kang Li glanced at Kang Guoan's handsome profile and spoke softly, "Her personality isn't that great, and she's somewhat domineering, but from a different perspective, I think she's actually a rather naive girl. Also, even though she has had quite a few boyfriends, it was probably nothing more than holding hands..."

“What are you trying to do? You wouldn’t be trying to get your little brother here to take back what he’s said, would you?”

Kang Guoan gave Kang Li, his little sister, a strange look.

“Are you really sure you have no feelings for that female comrade?”

Kang Li was caught off guard by Kang Guoan’s look and couldn’t help but cough awkwardly twice before laughing uncomfortably and carefully observing the changes in his expression.

“If I had the slightest bit of interest, do you think I would’ve specifically asked for your help?” Kang Guoan said, shaking his head helplessly. He asked, “What, are you feeling pity for her?”

Kang Li: “How could that be?! Love is a matter between two people, what difference does an outsider’s pity make? I just feel that Comrade Yang might have put a little heart into her feelings for you and think she’s just been spoiled too much by her family, leading her to be rather self-centered and somewhat naively overbearing, that’s all.”

“Alright, whatever other people are like, it’s none of our business. Let’s not talk about her anymore.”

That ‘her’ undoubtedly referred to Yang Zijuan.

Kang Li “Oh”ed in response.

Kang Guoan: “The food in our workplace canteen is pretty good. In a bit, your big brother will take you to try it out and also shut those gossipers up.”

Upon hearing this, Kang Li couldn’t help but tease, laughing, “I never thought my big brother held grudges.”

Kang Guoan flicked Kang Li’s forehead with his finger, “This isn’t about holding a grudge or not, it’s about the reputation of your big brother here.”

Chapter 298: Just Like Him

Kang Li feigned pain, raising her hand to rub the sore spot: “I’ve just done a favor for my little brother, and now he repays kindness with grudges. Is there no more sibling love?”

“It’s just your cheekiness!” Glancing sideways at Kang Li, Kang Guoan shook his head with a laugh, “I can overlook my own reputation, but it depends on what it’s about, Li Bao. Do you understand?”

Kang Li nodded: “Got it, got it, little brother doesn’t want to be labeled as a male homewrecker.”

Kang Guoan: “Male homewrecker?”

Kang Li: "The third party that disrupts someone else's relationship."

Kang Guoan: "That description is quite fitting."

Kang Li smiled and did not continue the conversation.

The two entered the residential area and stayed in Kang Guoan's dormitory for roughly two to three minutes before heading to the staff canteen.

Without need for words, everyone they encountered on the way, who saw Kang Li and Kang Guoan walking together, cast their gazes at them.

After all, Yang Zijuan was far too famous at North City Petrochemical, and the news of Kang Guoan being entangled with her spread unusually fast. Moreover, with Kang Guoan's looks that could be described as "the flower of North City Petrochemical," he always had a fair number of admirers.

Especially the unmarried female comrades, who for the chance to catch an extra glimpse of Kang Guoan, were not above engineering encounters of one kind or another.

But compared to Yang Zijuan, those women were somewhat more reserved.

At most, they would gaze at Kang Guoan and not approach him to strike up a conversation, nor would they cling to him, clearly revealing their feelings.

The Yang Family lived inside the residential area's family compound, and when they suddenly saw their own daughter (granddaughter, sister) with red and swollen eyes walking through the door, they almost instantly surrounded her.

"Juanjuan, what happened to you?"

The first to speak was Grandma Yang, who doted on her precious granddaughter the most. Seeing the young girl pouting and starting to cry "whoosh whoosh" when she heard the question, her heart couldn't help but tighten with worry.

"Grandma is asking you a question, you should respond!"

Seeing his sister not answering, Yang Dawei, Yang Zijuan's older brother, became both anxious and worried, urging her to speak.

"He has someone else, Kang Guoan really does have someone else, woo woo..."

Yang Zijuan cried out loud, clearly heartbroken and distressed.

The Yang Family looked at each other, unsure what to say.

After a while, Yang Dawei said: "Since the person already has someone, you should give up that thought. There are plenty of good-looking boys out there; we're not worried about finding someone better-looking than Kang Guoan."

"Juanjuan, your brother is right. It's just a boy who happens to be a little handsome. Grandma thinks, with your looks and our family's background, finding a boy you like won't be difficult. Now, stop crying, we don't need to be upset over a Kang Guoan."

Grandma Yang said gently, comforting her granddaughter while wiping away her tears.

"But what if I just like Kang Guoan? I'm serious this time, I want to be with Kang Guoan, be in a proper relationship with him, I want to marry him!" Yang Zijuan couldn't stop her tears as she looked at Father Yang with pleading eyes, "Dad, can you help me, please?"

Father Yang was puzzled: "How can I help you with your relationship matters among young people?"

Yang Zijuan: "Dad can use his job to force Kang Guoan to break up with his partner, and then ask him to date me."

"Leaving aside whether I can even do that, what if the young comrade doesn't compromise? What will you do then?" His daughter really was spoiled by their entire family; she was too blunt with her words, as if she thought North City Petrochemical was owned by them or something?

Chapter 299: Righteous and Confident

Father Yang's eyebrows were tightly furrowed.

"If he doesn't agree...if Kang Guoan really doesn't agree, then...then fire him! Since he has offended me, I can't allow him to stay at North City Petrochemical anymore!"

Yang Zijuan said indignantly.

Mother Yang spoke up at this point, "Juanjuan, your father, and I, and our whole family dote on you. We can't bear to see you suffer even a little, but regarding Comrade Kang Guoan, you were wrong from the beginning."

"How was I wrong? Are you even my mother?"

Yang Zijuan's eyes widened, "He caught my eye, that's his fortune. I'm bold enough to pursue my own love, what's wrong with that?"

Grandma Yang said, "Da Wei's mom, my granddaughter is right in what she's saying. It's indeed the boy's good fortune that she took a liking to him, and Juanjuan bravely pursuing him shows that our family's child is open and straightforward in matters of the heart, without any concealment."

At her mother-in-law's words, Mother Yang was at a loss for words: "But the boy has someone."

"He has someone but isn't married yet, so I still have a chance!"

Realizing her grandma was on her side, Yang Zijuan stopped crying and said with righteous indignation, "As long as Kang Guoan isn't married, I'll pursue him every day. I can't give up on him, I can't..."

However, she suddenly burst into tears again, "Grandma... but I'm not as pretty as Kang Guoan's partner, and... and it seems Kang Guoan's partner's family is better off than ours, her clothes look expensive... With such a partner, Kang Guoan... Kang Guoan might look down on me even more!"

Grandma Yang said, "You have your father!" Looking towards her son, Grandma Yang said, "Yang Guoping, give your granddaughter a word of advice."

"Mom, Juanjuan is making a scene, why are you meddling too?!"

Father Yang, with a headache, earnestly said, "Firstly, I don't have the power to just fire anyone, and secondly, that young Comrade Kang Guoan... he was directly assigned to the department from above. Moreover, ever since he joined, he has been performing excellently. Such an outstanding employee is under the leadership's watch. Do you think I can just fire him like that?"

"Which employee is Dad thinking of firing?"

A young male voice came from outside the door, belonging to Yang Zijuan's second brother, Yang Xiaowei.

Father Yang shook his head and sighed as he sat down on the sofa, "It's your sister making a fuss."

“Mom, this is the braised pork I got from the cafeteria, to add a dish to our lunch table.”

Handing the lunch box to Mother Yang, Yang Xiaowei glanced at his elder brother Yang Dawei, then at his grandma Grandma Yang, and then he said, “Grandma, Big Brother, I know you both want to protect Juanjuan in everything. I do too, but some things we really need to be reasonable...”

“You lecture me enough on normal days, are you going to lecture Grandma and Big Brother today too?”

Yang Zijuan asked through tears, challenging Yang Xiaowei.

“I don’t want Grandma and Big Brother to continue being muddled about your matter,” Yang Xiaowei cast his gaze towards his sister. “I just came back from the cafeteria, do you know who I saw?”

“I don’t want to listen!”

Yang Zijuan covered her ears.

Yang Xiaowei said, “You might not want to listen, but I have to say it. Kang Guoan made it clear he already has someone when he rejected you, but you pretended not to know and kept pestering him. Now, his partner...”

Despite saying she didn't want to hear, the words still seeped into her ears. Yang Zijuan couldn't accept it anymore and cried out, "Are you trying to drive me to death, second brother?"

"I am trying to wake you up with a harsh wake-up call, so you won't continue such foolishness," Yang Xiaowei looked at her with a mixture of frustration and concern:

Chapter 300: No Need to Wrong Oneself

"Relying on your family's doting nature and our modest family background, ever since you graduated from middle school, you started dating, and you change partners every six months. Do you know what everyone is saying behind your back? And how they're poking fun at our family's spine? Brother and I should be of the age to consider marriage, but neither of us has a partner right now."

"...Is that even my fault?"

Yang Zijuan felt guilty.

"Not your fault? Let's not even mention your so-called 'good' reputation. Just tell me, which female comrade would take a fancy to Brother or me, get close to us, and you, without saying a word, go run to her and warn her not to even think about the toad wanting to eat swan meat,"

"Once or twice you doing this, fine, but three or four times you continued to do so. Do you think any female comrades would still want to come near Brother or me, willing to enter our family's door?"

“Yang Zijuan, wake up. Our father is just one of several directors at his workplace, and our mother is merely a head nurse at the hospital. With our family’s status, what is there for you to be so proud and look down on others? Toying with feelings, acting so high and mighty, and interfering with Brother’s and my matters time and again, I’ve had enough of you!”

Grandma Yang: “Juanjuan, is what your second brother said true?” This year her grandsons Da Wei was 23 and Xiaowei 21, both good-looking men, yet they didn’t have partners and no one had come to their door to propose a match. Could the root of the problem really lie with her granddaughter?

“I... I was doing it for Brother’s and your own good. All those girls were so ugly, none of them deserved to be with Brother or you. That’s why I approached them to tell them not to embarrass themselves, it’s better they don’t pursue Brother and you, and especially not to think about entering our family.”

If Yang Xiaowei knew the word “double standard,” he would definitely have used it to describe his sister Yang Zijuan.

“Juanjuan, you’ve disappointed me so much!”

Mother Yang sighed deeply and took the lunch box her son Yang Xiaowei gave her to the kitchen.

Father Yang’s brows were tightly furrowed, and his expression was icy: “You will not meddle in who your Brother or second brother dates from now on.”

“Juanjuan, you’re too wilful!”

Leaving behind those words, Grandma Yang turned and went back to her room.

...

“Little brother, who was that comrade we ran into when we left the canteen? I feel like he was looking at you a bit strangely!”

After Kang Guoan took her to the workers’ canteen for a meal and they returned to his dormitory, they were idling, and Kang Li couldn’t help but ask.

“That was Yang Zijuan’s second brother. He just graduated from Worker-Peasant-Soldier University this year and works in the technical department,”

Kang Guoan replied without emotion.

Kang Li was curious, “Do you know each other?”

Kang Guoan: “We’ve interacted through work, and there’s also the fact that Yang Zijuan keeps sticking around me, so it’s not strange that her brother knows who I am.”

Putting away the smile on her face, Kang Li softly called out to Kang Guoan: “Little brother...”

Kang Guoan: "Hmm?"

"Are you happy with your work here?" Kang Li asked.

"...Of course, I'm happy. I really like my job!"

After a moment's hesitation, Kang Guoan cracked a smile.

Kang Li: "If you're so fed up with that Yang Zijuan, after today, if she keeps pestering you, you don't have to be polite with her! You don't need to worry about her threats, I believe no one would dare to fire you as long as you haven't made any mistake in your work!"

"Silly girl!"

A warmth surged in Kang Guoan's heart, and he said, "Even if I did get fired, I wouldn't be afraid, I can always go back to our hometown and earn work points. If they expect me to sell out my feelings and marriage just to stay working at North City Petrochemical, sorry, I can't do that!"

Kang Li: "You just focus on being at ease, unless you no longer wish to work here, no one who might want to use their power to fire you for personal reasons will succeed in doing so!"