

Weak B 321

Chapter 321 Lonely Old Lady

Without any hesitation, she took out a tablet of medicine and placed it into the old woman's mouth, watching as she swallowed it.

When the elderly woman's body had recovered, she held onto Kang Li's hand and did not let go for a long time.

She said her surname was Yu, and the name carved on the tombstone was her younger brother's.

She also said she had a younger brother and a sister, but now among the three siblings, she was the only one still alive.

The old woman talked a lot about herself and her siblings and asked for Kang Li's name, expressing her desire to properly repay Kang Li for saving her life.

Of course, Kang Li responded that it was not necessary.

However, the old lady seemed rather stubborn, insisting on knowing where Kang Li lived; otherwise, she would just keep looking at her like a child, silent and with a look of grievance.

Having no choice, Kang Li could only give her the address.

But who could tell her why Grandma Yu would come to find her on New Year's Eve, and especially at this time?

Hadn't the old woman considered that Kang Li's family would be worried?

"Grandma Yu!"

As she walked out of the courtyard, Kang Li looked in the direction Dwen Dwen had indicated and saw Old Lady Yu leaning against a tree trunk about a meter away from the courtyard wall, clutching her chest with one hand and holding a bamboo basket with the other, appearing to be in poor condition.

Quickly approaching, Kang Li hurried to support her, "Grandma Yu, you..." Upon seeing Kang Li, Old Lady Yu's spirits lifted significantly, and even her slightly cloudy eyes brightened considerably. She handed the bamboo basket she was carrying on her arm to Kang Li, "Child, this is for you."

"Grandma Yu, did you come all this way just to bring me something?" While it was a question, Kang Li was already sure of the answer. Besides, if Old Lady Yu had not come to deliver something, why would she have traveled all the way to their research institute's courtyard?

Even if there were buses to take, considering the home address Old Lady Yu had previously shared, coming to their courtyard would take at least thirty minutes.

“Your body isn’t well, and going out alone at this time, your family will definitely be worried. How about this, why don’t you come and sit at my place first, then I can call your family, and I’ll wait with you...”

Gently patting Kang Li’s hand, Old Lady Yu looked tenderly at her and shook her head lightly, “Don’t worry, I’m fine.”

“But going out alone like this, your family will surely be worried, especially since today is New Year’s Eve.”

Carrying the bamboo basket for Old Lady Yu, the concern in Kang Li’s eyes was unmistakable.

“I forgot to mention, although I am married, my husband left me many years ago with other family members. Since then, in my home, besides me, an old widow, there remains only my faithful servant, who I have had by my side since before my marriage. Wait, it’s a new society now; we can’t still be using ‘servant’ to define someone’s identity.”

Pausing for a moment, Old Lady Yu continued, “Child, I informed Old Xiao before I left. He knows I was coming to bring you something. Don’t worry about it.”

Old Xiao, as referred to by Old Lady Yu, was originally her servant, who had fallen in love with the young lady of the house since his youth. However, knowing his humble status, he had always kept to his place, harboring his feelings deep inside.

After the young lady married and went with her family to serve in her husband’s household, he never married, just quietly staying by the young lady’s side, even after the liberation without ever leaving his master.

However, there were some changes in his status—recognized as a distant relative of Miss Yu, also known as Old Lady Yu,

Chapter 322: Will You Really Not Cause Any Trouble?

He helped guard her home and, incidentally, accompanied the woman he had secretly loved his whole life.

In fact, when Old Lady Yu left the house today, although Old Man Xiao did not voice any objection, he secretly followed her from a distance to ensure the safety of the woman he had protected all his life.

On the bus, Old Man Xiao got on right after Old Lady Yu did, blending in with the other passengers so carefully that she did not notice he was following her all the way.

It was exactly then, or more precisely, before Kang Li emerged from the courtyard, that Old Man Xiao, watching from afar, nearly stepped out from behind a utility pole dozens of meters away when he sensed something off about Old Lady Yu.

And the moment Kang Li appeared, basking in the dim glow of the streetlight by the road, Old Man Xiao's expression involuntarily slipped into a daze upon seeing her.

"That so? Then may I invite you to spend this New Year's Eve at my place? If you have a phone at home, I could also call Grandpa Xiao over, Grandma Yu, what do you say?"

“Child, wouldn’t that be inappropriate? Including today, we’ve only met twice. How could I rashly disturb your home, and on New Year’s Eve at that...”

Old Lady Yu said this, but in her heart, she actually wanted to see Kang Li’s home. Yet, for a stranger like her to visit a young girl’s home on New Year’s Eve was truly against convention.

“Grandma Yu, have you forgotten what you just said? You mentioned that this is a new society now, and sometimes it’s okay not to follow old customs strictly, without inviting any criticism.

Besides, there are only a few of us at home; my partner is busy at work and probably won’t make it back for the family dinner. If you could go to my place, to spend this New Year’s Eve with me, my three little ones,

and my younger brother, I believe my partner would be delighted to find out. After all, since he can’t come himself, having another person at home to accompany me would undoubtedly make things much livelier.”

Old Lady Yu was visibly tempted, “Wouldn’t I be troubling you?”

Kang Li firmly shook her head, “Not at all. Please be at ease and come to my house with me!”

“Well then, I will disturb you for a while at your home,” Old Lady Yu nodded.

Just as Kang Li was about to assist her toward the courtyard entrance, she glanced back unintentionally and saw an elderly man standing under a streetlight, looking in her and Old Lady Yu's direction. She felt a stir in her heart, paused, and called out to the man, "Grandpa Xiao! You're Grandpa Xiao, aren't you?"

Hearing Kang Li's voice, Old Man Xiao froze for a moment, then turned to leave, but at that instant, Old Lady Yu followed Kang Li's gaze and, feeling a pang in her heart, said to Old Man Xiao not far away, "Since you've followed me this far, why not just come over!"

This Old Man Xiao, he was of such an age and still was overprotective, treating her like a child!

"I... I didn't mean to follow you, I... I just couldn't stop worrying..."

Old Man Xiao always listened to Old Lady Yu. As soon as she spoke up, his departing footsteps halted immediately, and he turned and walked straight over.

"Hello, Grandpa Xiao, my name is Kang Li."

After a simple introduction, Kang Li said to Old Man Xiao, "Come on, join Grandma Yu and go to my place for the New Year's Eve."

Old Man Xiao did not respond right away; he looked at Old Lady Yu.

"Listen to the child. Let's go sit for a while and get acquainted with the place."

Chapter 323: The marriage was agreed upon by myself.

Old Lady Yu spoke up, and Old Man Xiao never failed to respond.

Under the dim light of the street lamp, Kang Li now clearly saw what kind of person Old Man Xiao was.

He stood about 178 centimeters tall, and despite his advanced years, he was sprightly and upright when he walked, giving the impression of a straightened back, and from his current facial features, it was not hard to deduce that this old man must have been quite a handsome young chap in his youth.

All right, even now, with evident signs of age on his face, “handsome old man” would be an apt description.

“Grandma Yu, Grandpa Xiao, my home is just ahead; we’ll be there shortly.”

Walking into the courtyard, Kang Li said this to the two elders with a smile, then added, “My hometown is over in the Northwest, and back home, I have my parents and five older brothers. I’m the youngest...”

The reason Kang Li mentioned the Kang Family’s situation to the old couple was to give an advance introduction of her little brother, Kang Guoan.

Old Lady Yu suddenly asked, “Your family loves you very much, don’t they?”

With a smile, Kang Li nodded: "From my father to my nephews, in the entire Kang Family, I'm the only girl. You could say that ever since I was young, the whole family has doted on me like a treasure. I'm not afraid to be laughed at by you and Grandpa Xiao, but even now, my family still calls me by my childhood nickname; whenever they see me, they shout 'Li Bao,' and every time I hear it, I feel a bit embarrassed."

"If your parents love you so much, why would they let you marry so far away, and to a man who has been married once before?"

This was Old Man Xiao's voice; before Kang Li could respond, he continued, "Don't get me wrong, little girl; this old man just thinks that you're such a good young lady, so cherished by your family, that even if they were to find you a match, they should have found someone with comparable conditions, temperament, and looks, in your own area..."

Old Man Xiao didn't know how to finish his sentence, when unexpectedly, Old Lady Yu took over, "Good child, your Grandpa Xiao means no harm; he just thinks it's hard to be a stepmother, and wonders why your family, who loves you so dearly, would allow a young girl who just got married to become a stepmother to three little grandchildren."

"It was my own decision to get married."

Kang Li smiled, showing no negative emotions regarding what the elders had said. She said, "Ever since I was born, I haven't been in good health. To get me medical treatment, my parents have spared no effort in taking me to various places for years. When I got a bit older, it seemed my health improved somewhat,

but doctors at the big city hospitals told my parents that getting married would be okay for me, but having children of my own... that would be very difficult. That's why..."

After roughly outlining her marriage with Luo Yanqing, Kang Li spoke with happiness in her voice, "I'm very satisfied with my husband, and the three little ones at home are great too. They're bright and sensible, and they're not a bit of trouble for me to look after."

Old Lady Yu sighed deeply, "A parent's love for their child leads them to make careful plans for their future. Your parents truly have put thought into your well-being!"

Kang Li "hmmmed" in agreement and laughed, "My family has always spoiled me, afraid to even let me fall or be dissolved in their mouths—they've never let me suffer the slightest grievance since I was young. Even my little brother Guoan, who is the same age as me — according to my mother, my little brother was born just a quarter of an hour before me —

but for more than a decade, he has always looked after me. Now he works in North City, and as long as he is free on the weekends, he never fails to take the long bus ride to come see me despite the weather. And then there are my nephews, some of whom are still 'Little Beans,' and they are always thinking of ways to protect their little aunt."

Chapter 324: Fortunately, Nothing Unexpected Happened

Old Man Xiao: "Your family gets along very well, something that's rare to see in many families."

"I think so too. Perhaps it's because the Kang family has always had a good family tradition. Growing up, I've never seen anyone in my family raise their voice."

Old Lady Yu: "Li Bao is a fortunate little girl." She said this to Old Man Xiao.

Old Man Xiao nodded and hummed in agreement.

Old Lady Yu, with a smile on her face, suddenly asked Kang Li, "Has your little brother arrived?"

Kang Li shook her head: "Not yet."

Old Lady Yu: "Did you come out to meet your little brother and then accidentally run into this old lady?"

Kang Li imperceptibly paused, then nodded: "Yes. Besides, Grandma Yu, since you came to find me, why didn't you tell the duty officer at our courtyard gate so they could phone my family? I could have come out earlier to meet you."

"I was seen by you before I had the chance."

Old Lady Yu replied with a smile.

Actually, she had been at the area for almost half an hour before meeting Kang Li, but feeling suddenly that her visit was quite abrupt, she hesitated and did not immediately go to the courtyard gate to ask the duty officer to call Kang Li.

Dwen Dwen: “Sister, the old lady is tricking you; she has been wandering on the pedestrian path outside the courtyard for at least half an hour.”

Kang Li: “Then why didn’t you tell me sooner?”

Dwen Dwen: “Sorry! I saw you were busy preparing ingredients for the New Year’s Eve dinner in the kitchen, and I just forgot to tell you.”

Kang Li: “Fortunately, the old lady didn’t have an accident, otherwise, could I be at peace with my conscience?”

An elderly person with a heart condition, having come from far away with a basket full of various cakes to see her, and she being completely unaware, staying at home—if something truly had happened to the elderly lady without her knowledge, Kang Li was certain that she would have borne a heavy mental burden.

After all, isn’t there a saying: ‘I do not kill Boren, but Boren dies because of me’?

With these thoughts, Kang Li assisted Old Lady Yu, with Old Man Xiao accompanying them, into the courtyard.

“Mommy, mommy! Has Little Uncle arrived?”

The milky voice of Milk Bun Ming Han came from the living room entrance.

“Second Brother, you can’t go outside; if you catch a cold, it will be really uncomfortable!”

Xiao Ming Wei tugged at her brother Ming Han’s shirt from behind, her large eyes round as black grapes.

“I didn’t say I was going outside, I just want to stand here and look into the courtyard through the cotton curtain!”

Inside the house, Kang Li didn’t have the little imps wear cotton jackets, but layered them in warm underwear topped with sweaters, allowing the three tots to move freely indoors.

“Little Uncle hasn’t arrived yet!” After ushering the two elderly into the living room, Kang Li smiled and asked the three tots, “Do you know who this is?”

“Grandma Yu!”

The twin with mixed sex blinked their bright, shiny eyes and answered in unison.

Min Rui directly greeted Grandma Yu and then turned to Old Man Xiao, greeting him with “Grandpa.”

Kang Li: "This is Grandpa Xiao, a family member of Grandma Yu."

Twin with mixed sex: "Hello, Grandpa Xiao!"

"Mommy, mommy, Vivi, Big Brother, and Second Brother call Grandma Yu and Grandpa Xiao as 'Grandma Yu Grandpa Xiao' like you, is that wrong?"

Xiao Ming Wei tilted her head to look at her mother, her big eyes full of confusion.

After listening to the little girl, Kang Li found it quite a mouthful; she blinked her fox-like eyes, about to respond, when unexpectedly, Old Lady Yu spoke first:

Chapter 325: Same Trick Again

"It's just a title, however you choose to call Grandma Yu and this old man, it's all okay."

These words were clearly directed at the three kids.

Xiao Ming Wei said, "How about... how about Vivi and big brother and second brother call Grandma Yu and Grandpa Xiao as great grandma and great grandpa?"

Old Lady Yu's face was alight with a smile, "Good."

Old Man Xiao also nodded his head.

Milk Bun Ming Han rubbed his little tummy and asked Kang Li, “Mommy, can we eat once Little Uncle arrives?” The child was adorable and soft, and upon hearing this, Kang Li smiled as she stroked the little one’s hair, “Your Little Uncle should be here very soon. You and your brother and sister chat with Grandma Yu and Grandpa Xiao, and mommy will start serving the dishes.”

By midafternoon, Kang Li had already prepared the dumplings, stewed the chicken... She had dealt with all the ingredients needed, now only cooking was left.

The Little Uncle mentioned by Milk Bun Ming Han was currently sitting on a bus, glancing at the watch on his wrist from time to time.

If anyone were to pay close attention, they wouldn’t find it difficult to detect a hint of annoyance in his ink-dyed eyes.

As soon as he finished work at the office, he went back to his dormitory to pack a little, then took the gifts he’d previously bought for his niece Li Bao and nephews Xiao Ming Rui and his siblings, ready to head over to his sister’s place for Chinese New Year’s Eve.

But before he could leave the residential area, he was stopped by Yang Zijuan...

More than an hour earlier.

North City Petrochemical.

“Don’t look at me like that. I came specifically to find you, to invite you to my house for Chinese New Year’s Eve. How about that, I’m nice to you, aren’t I?”

That day, Yang Zijuan was dressed up exquisitely, standing in front of Kang Guoan as she made her proposal.

“Comrade Yang Zijuan, what’s the point of this?”

With an indifferent expression, Kang Guoan’s cold eyes fixated on Yang Zijuan, “I thought you would have understood that there’s absolutely no possibility between us after you met my partner the other day. In fact, you really didn’t appear before me for some time, and I thought you were a comrade who knew how to respect yourself. But here you are again, repeating the same old tricks. What exactly do you want?”

“I don’t want anything special; I’m just inviting you to my house for Chinese New Year’s Eve.”

She knew the person in front of her had a partner, and she had seen her with her own eyes, and she knew very well that she was not as attractive as his partner, and probably also less well-off than that annoying woman. But she just couldn’t give up.

What was she supposed to do then?

Kang Guoan was emanating a chill all over.

At this moment, he was wearing a mid-length, camel-colored wool coat that Kang Li had bought him, wrapped in a khaki cashmere scarf on his neck, giving off a vibe that was both elegant and gentle, and yet warm as well.

Of course, one had to ignore the low pressure he was deliberately radiating.

“Comrade Yang Zijuan, do you not have any self-respect at all?”

Kang Guoan’s voice was as cold as his demeanor.

“I do have self-respect, of course I do. But I knew you were from the Northwest, and I was afraid you would be lonely spending New Year’s Eve by yourself in the dormitory, so...”

Before Yang Zijuan could finish her sentence, Kang Guoan interrupted, “Comrade Yang Zijuan, did you not see that I am carrying things in my hand?”

“You... you are going to your partner’s house...”

Yang Zijuan felt a pang in her heart but persisted in voicing her guess.

“Yes, I am going to my partner’s house. This was the plan we made when we last met. So, please don’t waste my time here.”

With those words, Kang Guoan stepped forward, preparing to walk past Yang Zijuan.

“Kang Guoan!”

Yang Zijuan’s voice carried a crying tone, “I like you, I believe I like you more than your partner does, why can’t you consider being with me?”

Chapter 326: Luo Yanqing is Back

“I’ve never had any intentions towards you, so how can we talk about consideration?” With that final statement, Kang Guoan didn’t hesitate for a second, lengthening his stride and passing Yang Zijuan to continue on his way.

Unexpectedly, Kang Guoan had only taken less than ten steps when someone suddenly clung to his waist from behind.

“I like you, Kang Guoan, I know you’re taken, but I just can’t let go of you. What do you want me to do?”

Yang Zijuan said between sobs.

Irritation and anger filled Kang Guoan's eyes as he decisively pried Yang Zijuan's hands away, his gaze sharp as he looked at her and coldly said, "Comrade Yang Zijuan, I will tell you one last time, please have some self-respect!"

Some distance away, many workers looked towards the two of them.

"This is just too shameless! Comrade Kang Guoan obviously has a partner, and he's made it clear more than once that he's not interested in her, so why does she keep clinging to him?"

"Before, some people misunderstood Comrade Kang Guoan as the third party between Yang Zijuan and someone else, but look at what happened, each and every one of them was slapped in the face by Comrade Kang Guoan's partner."

"Do you think Yang Zijuan will give up?"

"Who knows?"

"This is such an embarrassment for all of us women!"

"Indeed, it's as if she can't get married or something, insisting on clinging to Comrade Kang Guoan!"

"I saw Comrade Kang Guoan's partner the other day; she really is pretty, like a fairy descended to earth."

"I saw her too. Not only is Comrade Kang Guoan's partner beautiful, but she also has a very elegant demeanor."

"Why don't you mention how well-dressed she is too?"

"I didn't say it, but you just did!"

...

Kang Guoan had walked far away and naturally didn't know what the onlooking workers were talking about, while Yang Zijuan did hear a few sentences but completely disregarded them, walking home in a daze.

Time trickled by, and on the bus, Kang Guoan checked the time on his watch again and then stood up, carrying a small travel bag, and moved towards the rear door.

It was already past seven-thirty; Li Bao must be getting anxious, right?

Thinking this, Kang Guoan got off the bus as soon as it came to a stop and quickened his pace.

“Young man?”

At the entrance of the compound, a jeep slowed to a halt beside Kang Guoan, followed by a rear door on one side swinging open. Luo Yanqing got out, making sure he wasn’t mistaken, he couldn’t help but call out again, “Young man.”

Luo Yanqing paused, then turned to another person in the back seat and said, “Director, I’ll just walk in.” After saying this, Luo Yanqing closed the car door, watched the jeep drive into the compound, and then said to Kang Guoan, “Let’s go.”

Kang Guoan nodded and uttered a sound of acknowledgment.

As they walked side by side, Kang Guoan said, “Li Bao was still worrying that you might be too busy to come back.”

“There was indeed some work I couldn’t get away from,” replied Luo Yanqing. He continued, “But everyone in the office hasn’t had any rest in the past few months, so taking advantage of the upcoming New Year, the department has given everyone a two-day leave.”

Two months ago, Luo Yanqing took a three-day leave to go home for medical treatment, but other staff members at the office had been working up until today.

It wasn't that the office didn't give time off. Instead, the researchers from each project team were all workaholics, unable to set aside their work.

And now he was able to come back because the leadership in the office had mandatorily given all staff a two-day leave, so everyone could go home to spend New Year's with their families and unwind a bit.

Kang Guoan said, "Seeing you come back suddenly, Ruirui and the others will definitely be very happy."

Luo Yanqing didn't reply but said, "I'm busy with work and rarely come home during the year, which must be tough on Xiao Li."

"To marry you means Li Bao was prepared in her heart, so you don't need to feel sorry," said Kang Guoan.

Chapter 327 Introduction

Li Bao's family had three little rascals accompanying him daily, which made, in his view, life quite comfortable.

Luo Yanqing said, "It was indeed Xiao Li who was wronged." After a pause, he changed the subject, "Is your work going smoothly?"

Upon hearing this, Kang Guoan nodded, "Not bad."

Luo Yanqing asked, "Does your unit have any holidays?"

Kang Guoan shook his head, "No." Tomorrow, before dawn, he would have to get up and catch the earliest bus back to his unit from here, or else he would probably not make it to his post on time.

...

"Grandma Yu, please go sit in the living room, I've prepared everything here. It won't take long to fry, stir-fry, and deep-fry, and soon a table will be full."

As Kang Li spoke, she carried two cold dishes and ushered Grandma Yu to the living room.

"Seeing you busying yourself alone is hard, I just wanted to help you."

Grandma Yu, also carrying two cold dishes, walked beside Kang Li as they both exited the kitchen.

"All the ingredients were prepared by me in advance, now I just need to stir-fry a few dishes, it's not hard at all." After placing the cold dishes on the big round table in the center of the living room, Kang Li didn't let the old lady return to the kitchen, but went back and forth alone to place another cold dish on the table.

Overall, there were five cold dishes planned by Kang Li for tonight.

And the hot dishes included stewed chicken, steamed fish, shrimp and tofu steamed eggs, crispy fried lotus root boxes...

A total of 12 dishes.

When Luo Yanqing and Kang Guoan walked into the courtyard, the delicious stewed chicken had just been served by Kang Li. Seeing Luo Yanqing, a mischievous smile lit up Kang Li's eyes, "I thought you wouldn't be able to make it." Then, she turned her gaze to Kang Guoan, "Little brother, you've come a bit late!"

Kang Guoan smiled affectionately and said with a laugh, "It's little brother's fault. How about this; I'll be punished by helping you in the kitchen."

Before Kang Li could respond, Luo Yanqing's clear and deep voice rang out, "I'll help Xiao Li, and little brother can just wait in the living room."

"Yes, little brother, with Luo Yanqing helping me, you can rest well in the living room."

As she spoke, Kang Li winked at Kang Guoan, the meaning quite clear: "Don't be a third wheel!"

“...” This girl, how did he become a third wheel? Wasn’t he just worried she was overburdened and wanted to lend a hand? Understanding the message his younger sister was conveying, Kang Guoan chuckled and shook his head, “Then I’ll listen to the two of you.”

Kang Li said, “Come on, let’s go to the living room. I’ll introduce you to two elders.”

Luo Yanqing and Kang Guoan looked at each other.

Elders?

Two of them?!

Who could it be?

Luo Yanqing felt it couldn’t be Director Song and his wife, since it was New Year’s Eve and they’d have a reunion dinner. Since Director Song came back with him, it was unlikely he would spend New Year’s Eve away from his own home and come here instead.

“Little brother, Luo Yanqing, these are the two I told you about, Grandma Yu and Grandpa Xiao.”

After introducing Old Lady Yu and Old Man Xiao to them, Kang Li introduced Luo Yanqing to them, “Grandma Yu, Grandpa Xiao, this is my husband, his name is Luo Yanqing; you can call him Little Luo or Yanqing,” her eyes then shifted to Kang Guoan, and Kang Li continued, “This one, as I mentioned to you

before, is my little brother; his name is Kang Guoan, and regarding how to address him, it's up to you two, haha."

"Hello Grandma Yu, hello Grandpa Xiao!"

Kang Guoan greeted the two elders.

Luo Yanqing, as always, had an indifferent look, his lips slightly parting, "Hello to you both."

"Grandma Yu, don't mind it. My husband has always been like this; he doesn't have any issues with you two."

Chapter 328 Could it be that I'm overthinking it?

Luo Yanqing's tone was so blunt that, coupled with his naturally indifferent and distant demeanor, Kang Li felt it necessary to explain to Old Lady Yu and Old Man Xiao, to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings.

Old Lady Yu and Old Man Xiao shook their heads, not taking Luo Yanqing's attitude to heart. After all, they had shown up uninvited, and it was their first meeting with the host; if they weren't welcomed, they acknowledged that it would be their own fault.

Moreover, having heard the young girl's explanation, it seemed that this young man named Luo Yanqing was just naturally like that.

“Alright, Kang brother, keep Old Lady Yu and Grandpa Xiao company, I’m going to be busy in the kitchen with Luo Yanqing.”

After addressing Kang Guoan, Kang Li headed for the kitchen.

Luo Yanqing set down his travel bag and was about to follow when the twins toddled over with a “pitter-patter,” each hugging one of their daddy’s long legs, and looking up, they asked, “Daddy, daddy, Hanhan (Vivi) missed you, did you miss Hanhan (Vivi)?”

“...Mmm.”

With a slight nod, Luo Yanqing, imitating what Kang Li often did with the little cubs, raised his hand and gently touched the twins’ heads: “Go play.”

“Okay.”

The twins responded.

They let go of their father’s long legs and turned their attention to Kang Guoan, with Milk Bun being the first to rush forward: “Little Uncle, little uncle, Hanhan missed you so much!”

Kang Guoan and Old Lady Yu settled onto the sofa, and he caught Milk Bun as they lunged into his arms: “Little Uncle missed you too.” While speaking, he freed one hand, unzipped the travel bag at his feet, and took out the gifts he had bought for the three little ones. He waved Min Rui and Vivi over and handed out gifts to each of the cubs.

Min Rui’s eyes sparkling: “Thank you, Little Uncle!”

“Brother, brother, let’s go play over there.”

Milk Bun Ming Han, holding their own gift, called their brother Ming Han and pointed where they should go.

“Wait for Vivi!”

Xiao Ming Wei, holding the doll Little Uncle had bought for her, chased after her big brother and second brother.

Seeing the cubs squatting on the ground playing with their toys, Kang Guoan shifted his gaze and began to casually chat with Old Lady Yu and Old Man Xiao. At first, he was a bit reserved, but after exchanging a few words, he completely relaxed.

In the kitchen.

Kang Li: "Following the usual practice of previous years, aren't you all unable to come back?"

Luo Yanqing: "After working continuously for several months, the leaders at the office thought since it was the Spring Festival, they'd give everyone two days off."

One busy at the stove, the other occasionally passing spices and plates, the two worked together in perfect harmony and made a good-looking pair.

Kang Li: "So, that means you have to return to the office on the second day of the lunar year."

"Mmm." Luo Yanqing nodded, then added, "I'll leave in the afternoon of the second day."

Hearing this, Kang Li smiled, a sly twinkle in her fox-like eyes, she asked, "Does this mean you want to spend more time with the kids?"

Luo Yanqing: "...To spend more time with all of you." What he really wanted to say was to spend more time with you.

"I get it, you just can't bear to leave me, can you?" Kang Li was deliberately teasing, her eyes playful as she glanced at the man.

Luo Yanqing's fair and handsome face showed a hint of unease. He fell silent for a long while, his lips twitching, but ultimately, he didn't make a sound.

Kang Li raised an eyebrow: "Could it be that I'm flattering myself?"

Luo Yanqing pursed his lips: "No."

Kang Li laughed: "So our Professor Luo really can't bear to leave me, what should I do? I feel so happy!"

Hearing her say this, Luo Yanqing grew even more uncomfortable, and at the same time, his cheeks grew warm,

Chapter 329: What Do You Think of Little Luo?

Unable to help it, she turned her head away, clenched a fist to cover her lips and let out two soft coughs, to disguise her current unusual mood.

"Such thin skin."

Laughing as she spoke, Kang Li called out to Luo Yanqing to bring the dishes she had stir-fried to the table, one by one.

...

In the living room.

Kang Li looked at the full table of abundant reunion dinner in front of her and said to Old Lady Yu, Old Man Xiao, Luo Yanqing, Kang Guoan, and the three children, “This chicken represents ‘luck’; well, it means auspicious luck,” she pointed at the stewed chicken, her beautiful fox-like eyes brimming with laughter, “Eating chicken during the New Year symbolizes ‘good fortune,’ wishing for great luck and prosperity!”

Then, Kang Li pointed to the steamed fish, “Fish is a homophone for ‘surplus’ in ‘may there be surplus every year,’ symbolizing abundance every year,” and as she said this, Kang Li started to introduce her own shrimp dish, “The dialect in Guangcheng calls shrimp ‘ha,’ implying laughter after eating, ‘haha.’ With this dish, I hope everyone present can be happy, healthy, and content in the new year!”

Following that, Kang Li proceeded to introduce each dish: shrimp with tofu and steamed eggs, crispy lotus root sandwich, hawthorn spareribs, dried bamboo shoots with roast duck, pickled pepper beef, little stir-fry over the lotus pond...

As Kang Li’s words came to an end, Milk Bun Ming Han rested his chin in his hands and gazed at the table full of delicious food, exclaiming in his childish voice, “Mommy is amazing! The food smells so good!”

Xiao Ming Wei copied him, “Mommy is super amazing! Vivi loves Mommy so much!”

Old Lady Yu praised, “It looks very appetizing, and after listening to your introduction, the whole table of dishes seems even more appealing. Your culinary skills are definitely beyond reproach, Li Bao!”

Old Man Xiao nodded with a smile in agreement.

“Grandma Yu, my sister indeed has great culinary skills. I bet even the state-owned restaurant chefs can’t match my sister’s level.”

Having his own sister praised for her cooking made Kang Guoan feel proud from the bottom of his heart.

Speaking of which, a portion of the ingredients used for this table full of delicious food was bought by Kang Li at a vegetable supply point, while some were purchased with points from the Mall through Dwen Dwen.

For example, shrimp, beef, and a few seasonings that weren’t available in this era.

“Daddy, Daddy, Mommy worked hard!”

Out of nowhere, Milk Bun Ming Han blurted out another line.

Hearing this, Luo Yanqing nodded his head and responded with a “Hmm.”

Xiao Ming Wei said, “Mommy, you should eat more!” Mommy worked hard making the food, so be sure to eat lots!

Kang Li smiled, "Okay, Mommy will eat more, and our Vivi has to eat a lot too!"

"Okay!"

Xiao Ming Wei replied eagerly.

About an hour later, the lively and festive New Year's Eve dinner came to an end.

"Li Bao, we're going to leave now, don't forget what we agreed upon!"

"Rest assured, I promise I won't forget," Kang Li replied.

After the New Year's Eve dinner, no matter how much Kang Li tried to persuade them, Old Lady Yu insisted on going home. Seeing that she couldn't convince her otherwise, Kang Li had to give up.

To avoid the two elderly people having to wait too long for the bus, Luo Yanqing went to Director Song's house to bring the jeep and decided to take Old Lady Yu and the others home.

After all, it was safer that way.

Kang Guoan didn't wait for Kang Li to say anything and took the initiative to suggest accompanying Luo Yanqing to send Old Lady Yu and Old Man Xiao home.

"Drive slowly on the way and be safe!"

As Luo Yanqing started the car, Kang Li walked over to the driver's side and gave her gentle reminder.

"Hmm."

Responding, Luo Yanqing said, "It's cold outside, go back inside the house!"

Kang Li nodded lightly and then took two steps back.

Standing still, she watched as the car drove away before stepping through the gates into the courtyard.

The round trip took about forty minutes.

After Luo Yanqing drove away from Old Lady Yu's house doorstep, Old Lady Yu asked Old Man Xiao, "What do you think of Little Luo?"

Chapter 330: You're a bit unambitious

After thinking, Old Man Xiao walked alongside Old Lady Yu into the courtyard, where he said, "Indeed, he's not much of a talker, and he's a bit cold by nature."

Old Lady Yu asked, "What else?"

Old Man Xiao replied, "He has his own plans."

Old Lady Yu glared, "I've been asking you for a long time, and that's all you have to say?!"

Caught off guard for a moment, Old Man Xiao sighed and said, "I know what you want to ask, but I really don't know how to say it. You've also seen it, that Comrade Luo always has the same expression, as if he doesn't care much about anything. I really can't determine his feelings towards Li Bao. However, it is certain that Li Bao is in his eyes!"

"You don't need to tell me that."

Giving Old Man Xiao an eye roll, Old Lady Yu looked somewhat wistful, "They are all good kids, it's just that I don't know..."

"I think it's very likely. If you want to be sure, we could find someone to help us..."

Before Old Man Xiao could finish his sentence, Old Lady Yu waved her hand, “You don’t need to say more, I have an idea. Go back to your room and rest.”

“You should also rest early.”

As he spoke, Old Man Xiao stood in the center of the courtyard, watching Old Lady Yu enter her own room.

The compound.

“Do you have doubts in your heart?”

The night was quiet. Kang Li lay on her back on the bed and casually uttered a sentence.

Luo Yanqing replied, “You mean...”

Kang Li asked, “Don’t you want to know how I came to know Grandma Yu and Grandpa Xiao?”

“Then tell me about it.”

He really couldn't figure out how she got to know the two elders.

"Martyrs' Cemetery, I did take Ruirui and the others to the cemetery to pay respects to my father-in-law..." Kang Li didn't beat around the bush, her voice soft and calm as she recounted the visit to the Martyrs' Cemetery. At the end, she said, "In the future, when you're too busy to find the time, I'll take the kids to visit their grandfather."

Luo Yanqing said, "Thank you!"

Kang Li retorted, "Being polite with me again?! As a daughter-in-law, it's only proper for me to pay respects to my father-in-law, and as grandchildren, it is equally appropriate for Ruirui and the others to pay respects to their grandfather. You really don't have to thank me."

Luo Yanqing replied, "Fine." After a moment of silence, he said, "Those two elders look at you and little brother in a strange way, did you notice?"

Kang Li furrowed her brows slightly, "Indeed, it was a bit strange. Though I did help Grandma Yu, I forgot about it afterward and didn't take it to heart. Who knew she would actually come to our compound today? If I hadn't gone to the front gate to see if little brother had arrived, Old Lady Yu might have had an accident."

Luo Yanqing asked, "Could it be that they are your relatives?"

Kang Li replied, "I don't know, I've never heard my parents mention we have relatives in North City."

Luo Yanqing remarked, "The two elders live in an independent courtyard house."

"Judging by their clothes, their living conditions are not hard to discern." Kang Li said, pausing for a moment before adding, "Our current living environment can also be considered a courtyard house, well, to be precise, a three-sided courtyard. But I think it's quite nice. However, if you want to live in a courtyard house, I'll look around and buy one for us."

Luo Yanqing responded, "I don't have any requirements for living conditions." He mostly stayed in the station year-round, and having a dormitory to live in was already very good.

"That's a bit lack of ambition on your part," Kang Li said with a hint of laughter, "Enjoying life is a wonderful thing. I want to live in a luxurious villa with beautiful surroundings, have a car to drive when I go out, not only a mountaintop villa but also have a seaside villa..."