

Weak B 371

Chapter 371: Fool! I've Accepted Your Affection!

Fang repressed the low chuckle in her throat, her expression turning serious.

Slowly, her clear, bright, fox-like eyes filled with gentleness, revealing a shy demeanor.

“Luo Yanqing...”

Mouthing softly, what should she say, someone had sent her an incredibly subtle free verse poem in six different languages: French, German, Russian... At the end of each rendition, it emphatically stated, “I like you!”

Kang Li suspected the man knew more than just six languages. She thought he was just too coy! If he wanted to express his feelings, why test her intelligence?

Yes, she had displayed her linguistic talents in front of him, but only her fluent English; she had never spoken any other language.

Was he not afraid she wouldn't understand?

Well, someone had thought about that.

Because the sixth language was English. Hmm, as Kang Li's eyes moved to the last piece of paper, a big smile appeared on her beautiful face, "You even knew to write it in our own language for me. Okay, I get it, you like me!"

Just one "I like you," was it so hard for you to say? Indeed, with your innocent, adorable, reticent nature, saying "I like you" to my face probably feels more challenging than breaking through a tough project in the lab.

"Fool! I accept your affection!"

The beautiful fox eyes quietly focused on the letters in her hand, a smile lingering on Kang Li's lips: "I like you too! This letter is the best New Year's gift I've received, and I will treasure it."

Honestly, judging from the free verse poem he wrote, it really didn't seem like it was from someone with a science and technology background.

And Kang Li was sure this poem was written by him, not copied from some book, because the choice and arrangement of words bore the concise style of Professor Luo.

Furthermore, instinct told her that the free verse poem in her hands was definitely, absolutely written by him...

Around nine thirty, Kang Li, carrying gifts and preparing to head out with her three kids.

She was going to visit Grandma Yu's home, especially since on New Year's Eve, Grandma Yu had insisted on the invitation before she left and emphasized that she would be waiting at home for her visit.

Since she had promised, she naturally couldn't break her word.

Kang Li decided, once they were out of the courtyard, to hail a taxi to Grandma Yu's home.

Speaking of which, last night before bed, Kang Li had asked Luo Yanqing about taxis, learning in big cities like North City and Haicheng, taxis did exist but were not abundant.

Not many, roughly around 200 in number.

The reasons?

One was regulatory issues, another was the habit of frugality and not wanting to spend too much, and then there was the concern about setting a bad example.

But Kang Li couldn't worry about that today, as she wasn't going out alone but was taking the three kids with her. Riding a bus would truly be inconvenient.

Not to mention she was carrying gifts, and just thinking about managing the three kids on a bus or even walking on the street felt troublesome.

Kang Li didn't want to take any risks, so taking a taxi today was essential.

However, what Kang Li didn't expect was that as she was leading the three kids out of the living room, someone knocked on the courtyard door.

"Who is it?"

Calling the three little ones to follow, she quickly walked a few steps, and carrying the gifts, she opened the courtyard door to see a middle-aged man with a simple, smiling face who said, "Hello comrade, you are Comrade Kang Li, right?"

Chapter 372: Not Afraid of Being Laughed at for Being Superficial

Kang Li nodded, "Yes, I am."

The middle-aged comrade said, "My name is Geng Lin, I am a taxi driver. A comrade named Luo Yanqing called our company early this morning..."

Upon hearing this, Kang Li understood what the taxi driver meant. Her husband, Professor Luo, had called without her knowledge before leaving early this morning to hire two taxis for the entire day to make it convenient for her to take the three kids to visit Grandma Yu.

Ignoring the curious glances from those around her, Kang Li, with the help of Comrade Geng, the taxi driver, put the gifts in the car and then carried the three kids into the vehicle before she got in herself.

After giving Grandma Yu's address, Kang Li moved Milk Bun Ming Han to her other side to make it easier for her to reach out with both hands and hold all three kids securely, to prevent them from getting hurt by inertia if the driver had to brake suddenly.

In fact, Kang Li was being a bit overcautious.

These days, there were very few vehicles on the roads, and pedestrians generally abided by traffic rules, so incidents like sudden braking were unlikely to happen.

However, it was always better to be safe than sorry.

"Mom, where is Aunt Kang going? She even called a taxi for transportation?"

Xue Ying and her sister Xue Yin, along with their brothers Xue Chong and Xue Ming, followed their mother Fang Ju out of the yard. They were preparing to visit relatives when, just as they stepped out of the yard, they saw Kang Li putting little Min Rui and the three kids into the taxi and getting in herself. Curious, Xue Ying couldn't help but ask her mother.

"Are you silly? Ruirui and the others are still so young. Isn't it obvious that your Aunt Kang is going out to visit relatives? Do you think she could manage to take Ruirui and his siblings on the bus by herself?"

Fang Ju glanced at her daughter Yingying and then asked her eldest son Xue Chong, "Is the yard gate locked?"

Xue Chong nodded.

Fang Ju said, "Then let's go."

The four siblings Xue Chong, Xue Ming, Xue Ying, and Xue Yin all responded with "Mm" and followed behind their mother Fang Ju, each with a big smile on their faces, excited to visit their maternal grandparents.

As they passed by the gate of Researcher Zhang Sheng's home, Fang Ju was called out to by Zhang Sheng's spouse, Loo Ping: "Fang Ju, did you see that? Comrade Kang actually called a taxi to take the kids out."

Upon hearing this, Fang Ju replied with a smile, "Teacher Loo, as you've also mentioned, Comrade Kang is going out with three kids. If she didn't call a car, she probably wouldn't even dare to leave our courtyard, right?"

Loo Ping was stunned.

Fang Ju continued, "Ruirui and the others are so young. Do you think it's safe for them to take the bus, Teacher Loo?"

Loo Ping gave a forced smile, "It's pretty unsafe."

Fang Ju said, "It's not just pretty unsafe; it's very unsafe! Comrade Kang only has two hands after all. She's clearly going to visit relatives, and with gift items in her hands, how could she look after three children on the street? The practical situation is obvious; she needed to call a taxi!"

Feeling like her face had been slapped resoundingly, Loo Ping weakly laughed, "You're right, you can't let the children suffer an accident on the road just because of visiting relatives."

"Glad that you understand, Teacher Loo," said Fang Ju, nodding indifferently. "I won't keep you; I have to take the kids to my mother's house. I wonder how busy the buses are today." Without waiting for Loo Ping to respond, Fang Ju beckoned to her sons and daughters to follow, and they gradually walked further away.

"Some people are too thin-skinned to worry about being laughed at."

Su Man was standing at her own yard gate, basking in the sun, and overheard the conversation between Loo Ping and Fang Ju very clearly.

Chapter 373: Don't Believe It

Seeing Fang Ju leading Xue Chong and the four siblings away, she spat toward the direction of Loo Ping's courtyard gate, her eyes full of disdain.

"Who are you saying has shallow eyesight?"

The doors of the two houses faced each other, and the distance wasn't far, so Loo Ping saw and heard what Su Man had said, instantly glaring angrily.

"Whoever responds, that's who I'm talking about!"

Su Man "heh" scoffed, sneering, "If you had extra money, you could also call a taxi to pick you up at your door to visit relatives. Why stand there jealous of others taking a taxi?"

Loo Ping, "Whether I am jealous or not, what does it have to do with you? If you're capable, call a taxi to take you to visit your relatives too!" Little bitch, she had only stirred things up a bit before, was it necessary to hold a grudge till now, looking at her like she wasn't even a person?

"Just you wait, I will show you whether or not I can afford to call a taxi to visit relatives." Tomorrow her mom was hosting guests, and she definitely needed to call a taxi to take her there; otherwise, if something happened to her on the way, it would be too late for regrets.

As for whether she would bring Wen Yue and the Third Sister along, Su Man hadn't thought about it.

"Mom, is Grandma Yu's house far?"

In the taxi, Milk Bun Ming Han looked up at his mom and asked in his child's voice.

Kang Li: "It's not very far."

Milk Bun Ming Han asked again, "Mom, when we go home, will we take this 'car car' too?"

Kang Li: "Yes, we will take this same car on our way home." She shifted her gaze to the taxi driver, "Comrade Geng, you can drop us off and don't need to wait outside. You can go on with other fares, and just come back to pick us up around three o'clock in the afternoon."

The taxi driver: "But Comrade Luo Yanqing mentioned on the phone that it was paid for the day, and before I set out, Comrade Luo Yanqing had someone come to our office and pay the fee."

Kang Li: "It's fine, just do as I said."

The taxi driver: "In that case, I will report your situation back to the office, and they will refund you later."

Kang Li: "No need really, but if your office has your own regulations, then follow your office's regulations."

The taxi driver smiled and nodded, "Okay." During the Spring Festival, their office performed the best; having the ability to serve more passengers not only made the management happy but also the taxi drivers, since good performance could mean bonuses for the month.

At the research institute, Luo Yanqing was immersed in his work, unaware of the arrangement between Kang Li and the taxi driver; even if he knew, he would probably still listen to his wife one hundred percent.

His sole purpose of paying for the taxi for the whole day was just to make it convenient for his wife and son to travel to Grandma Yu's house and back to the compound.

As for other matters, Luo Yanqing hadn't considered them and wouldn't spend time thinking about them further.

Director's office.

"Can you tell me why?"

Shen Yun's lips were slightly pursed as she faced Director Song's gaze, "I would like to know the reason?"

"Wasn't I clear enough?"

Director Song felt bewildered as he looked at Shen Yun incredulously, "After completing your entry formalities, you immediately requested to join Comrade Luo Yanqing's project team, but I clearly told you that Comrade Luo Yanqing's project team is not short of people. Joining now would only cause inconvenience to Comrade Luo Yanqing and other members of his team."

Shen Yun didn't believe Director Song's words, a flicker of doubt crossed her eyes, but she still asked, "You wouldn't be denying me because I admire Comrade Luo Yanqing, thus not letting me join his project team, would you?"

Chapter 374 Warning

"Do you admire Comrade Luo Yanqing?"

Director Song showed a look of surprise, "When did this happen?"

Shen Yun, "Didn't Comrade Qi tell you?"

Director Song shook his head.

Shen Yun fell silent, then after a long pause, she spoke again, "If that's the case, I will follow the arrangement of the department and join Professor Wang's project team." As her words fell, Shen Yun turned to leave.

"Little Shen, wait a moment."

Director Song called her back.

Shen Yun turned to face Director Song again, "Director, do you have another matter?"

Director Song, "Comrade Shen Yun, regardless of how you feel about my son-in-law Yanqing, you must know he is a married man. I do not want to hear any rumors in the department that might harm the relationship between my son-in-law and my daughter. Do you understand?"

Shen Yun pursed her lips and did not speak for a long time.

Director Song's expression grew stern, "I spoke to you just now as a father, but if you cannot control your personal feelings and cause trouble for Comrade Luo Yanqing and the project team you are involved in, I will report your behavior to the higher authorities and let them decide your fate."

Shen Yun, "Are you belittling me, Director?"

Director Song remained stern, "Whether I am belittling you will depend on what you do in the future. Alright, you may go now!" He waved his hand, signaling Shen Yun could leave.

Shen Yun gave a bitter smile, "Rest assured, Director, I know how to prioritize and differentiate between professional and personal." With that, Shen Yun turned and left.

However, Director Song was not reassured by Shen Yun's words and remained uneasy.

She had stayed abroad for three more years post her study period, claiming she was continuing her studies at her own expense. Now, nearly four years after that period had ended, despite the domestic situation, she returned and directly proposed joining the institute he headed.

It turned out... she was targeting his son-in-law!

Thinking so, Director Song's fondness for Shen Yun diminished greatly in an instant, with only a hint remaining solely for her value as a scientific talent.

But if this person harbored ulterior motives, even with her strong personal capabilities, he would find a way to transfer her.

In any case, no one was allowed to disrupt his daughter Li Bao's marriage!

"Li Bao, you're here," Old Lady Yu exclaimed, ever so pleased. She had been preparing in the kitchen, continuously sending Old Man Xiao to the front of the yard to see if Kang Li's family had arrived.

At that moment, seeing Kang Li arrive with Xiao Ming Rui, Old Lady Yu was very happy.

Kang Li, "I said today I'd come over to pay respects to you and Grandpa Xiao for the New Year. Naturally, I wouldn't forget the date."

"Very good, come in, let's sit inside where it's warm."

Old Lady Yu, smiling brightly, led Kang Li's mother and the others toward the main house.

Old Man Xiao placed the gifts Kang Li had brought on a table near the wall and said to Old Lady Yu, "You chat with Li Bao, I'll go to the kitchen to cook."

Old Lady Yu, "Alright, go ahead. I've prepared everything; you just need to cook." Saying so, after seeing Old Man Xiao leave the main house, Old Lady Yu told Kang Li, "Your Grandpa Xiao learned his cooking skills years ago when he was working with a master chef at a restaurant. Let him show off his cooking today for you all."

The Yu family had once owned two large restaurants in North City, and in his youth, Old Man Xiao had truly learned from a master chef in a Yu family restaurant for several years—partly as arranged by the benefactor family and partly from personal interest, as he had fancied the young Miss of the family and wanted to have a chance to cook for her.

Chapter 375 Reluctant

I never expected that this idea would actually come true.

However, regarding the two big restaurants of the Yu Family, both are now adorned with government signs and called state-owned restaurants.

Kang Li, "Okay, I'm looking forward to eating the dishes made by Grandpa Xiao, but can Grandpa Xiao handle the kitchen by himself?"

Old Lady Yu, "Don't worry, everything is well-prepared. Your Grandpa Xiao is truly just stir-frying and then serving the dishes."

Kang Li smiled, "Then I'll help Grandpa Xiao with serving the dishes later."

Old Lady Yu, "Good."

Just as Old Lady Yu said, Old Man Xiao's cooking skills were truly extraordinary. To be fair, they could definitely compare with the master chef of the state-owned restaurant.

Whether it was the color of the dishes, the presentation, or the taste, Kang Li's evaluation was top-notch!

Although, to be honest, the flavor was slightly different from hers, it was nonetheless delicious beyond words.

After 2:30 in the afternoon, Kang Li proposed to take her leave because Master Geng, the taxi driver, had already driven to the entrance of the Wen Family Courtyard. To avoid delaying him from picking up other passengers, and seeing that Xiao Ming Rui was obviously lethargic, apparently in need of a nap, Kang Li had no choice but to get up and say goodbye to the two from the Yu Family.

"Li Bao, Grandma Yu will have someone install a telephone at home. Then Grandma Yu will call your home's number and tell you our number," said Old Lady Yu as she walked Kang Li and her mother to the

courtyard entrance, holding Kang Li's hand. Hearing this, Kang Li nodded and responded with a smile, "Okay." She then heard Old Lady Yu say, "With a telephone, we can talk more often."

Kang Li nodded, "Yes, that's right."

Old Lady Yu, "Take good care of yourself. You're too thin, and you look frail. Don't overwork yourself, understand?"

Kang Li, "I take good care of my health, so rest assured, Grandma Yu. But you and Grandpa Xiao should take good care of yourselves, too. I will often bring the children to visit you."

"If it's inconvenient for you to come over, we two old folks will visit you."

Gently patting the back of Kang Li's hand, Old Lady Yu, despite looking reluctant, said, "Get in the car, the driver is waiting."

"Goodbye." Kang Li waved, and after she and Xiao Ming Rui got into the car, she looked out of the car window at the two elderly people and waved again, "Goodbye Grandma Yu! Goodbye Grandpa Xiao!"

Old Lady Yu and Old Man Xiao waved back, "Goodbye."

"The child has left." Watching the taxi drive away, Old Man Xiao said, "Let's go inside."

Old Lady Yu casually wiped the corner of her eyes, “I know, I know, I’m going in now. You always treat me like a three-year-old, afraid I’ll catch a cold from the wind.”

Old Man Xiao reminded her, “You know your health, if you want to see Li Bao more often, you need to take better care of yourself.”

“I don’t need you to tell me that; I’ll try to live another twenty or thirty years,” Old Lady Yu exaggeratedly declared.

Yet deep down, she knew that in one’s life, fortune and misfortune, life and death, can hinge on a single moment—nothing is certain.

But she still hoped to live for many more years, otherwise, she wouldn’t be able to rest easy...

Back at home, as soon as Xiao Ming Rui and the kids hit the bed, they closed their eyes and fell into a deep sleep.

To prevent the children from catching a cold after waking up in their coats, Kang Li took off their thick cotton outerwear one by one, so that the kids could sleep more comfortably.

...

The next day, which was the fourth day of the new year, after lunch around twelve o'clock, Kang Li and Xiao Ming Rui were cleaning up the kitchen when they suddenly heard a child's heart-wrenching cries coming from the neighboring Wen family courtyard.

Chapter 376 Kang Li Rebukes

"Wuu wuu... Aunt Kang! Aunt Kang, please come to our house quickly, save my sister! Wuu wuu... Aunt Kang! Help!"

It was the crying of Wen Yi from the neighbors' house.

Kang Li's expression changed, she quickly dropped the rag in her hand, and without further thought, first hurried into her own living room to give Xiao Ming Rui a quick instruction, then rushed out towards the Wen family next door.

By the time Kang Li entered the Wen Family Courtyard, Teacher Loo from the house opposite the Wen's and people who were passing by the Wen's gate, as well as another neighbor of the Wen's, had all come over.

"Yueyue, your hand has been scalded by boiling water!"

"Wen Yi, where's your mom?"

"How come there's no adult at home?"

“Yueyue, did you scald yourself while cooking, right?”

...

Without saying much, Kang Li, as soon as she saw the burn on Wen Yue’s left hand, immediately started emergency treatment, rolling up the sleeve of Wen Yue’s cotton-padded jacket at the wrist and taking the little girl to the tap to repeatedly rinse the scalded area with running water.

Seeing that the little girl had tears in her eyes yet did not let them fall, not crying out even once, touched Kang Li’s heart and brought forth her disgust towards Su Man.

If one has become a stepmother, shouldn’t she fulfill her responsibilities and take good care of the young children?

“Mommy went to visit relatives, mommy wouldn’t take Little Fish, wouldn’t take my oldest sister and second sister!”

This was Wen Yu’s voice, the little girl was sniffing and hiccuping with sobs, telling everyone that her mother was not at home.

Some people, seeing they couldn’t be of much help and that the burns on the back of Wen Yue’s hand and the outside of the wrist didn’t seem very serious, turned and went back to their own homes.

However, Loo Ping stayed put, constantly criticizing Su Man.

“Aunt Kang, you don’t know, Xiao Su, to compete with you, to prove herself, took a taxi from their courtyard gate to her parents’ house to visit relatives at around ten in the morning. At that time, I didn’t see Wen Yue and her sisters and found it strange. Little did I expect that Xiao Su would go this far, going alone to her parents’ house to enjoy herself, completely neglecting the three kids left at home.”

“I think she must be blinded by her own selfishness to be so unconcerned about anything else.”

“In my opinion, we must call Comrade Wen, lest Xiao Su never learns and keeps neglecting the three children at home.”

Each sentence was said by Loo Ping, and Kang Li had not interrupted at all.

“Xiao Loo, Xiao Wen must be busy at the station, and if you rashly call there, what’s the point? Could it be that you want him to come back and divorce Xiao Su? Don’t forget, Xiao Su is carrying Xiao Wen’s baby!”

The person speaking was Xu Mei, the female owner of another house next to the Wen’s.

She looked to be in her forties, rather plump, and from her appearance, she seemed like someone easy to get along with.

However, since Kang Li was not familiar with her, she naturally didn't think to strike up a conversation.

"Sister Xu, look at what you're saying. Whether Teacher Wen and Xiao Su divorce or not has nothing to do with me. I just can't stand seeing Xiao Su mistreat Yueyue and her sisters. Besides, sister-in-law, have you ever thought that if Xiao Su is like this to the three girls even before her child is born, what if she has a son later on..."

Kang Li noticed Wen Yue's face was becoming increasingly wrong and with a trace of hatred in her eyes, and she swiftly interrupted Loo Ping in a cold voice, "Teacher Loo, you should know which words are appropriate to say and which are not, shouldn't you, as a teacher?"

Loo Ping was taken aback. When she saw Wen Yue's expression, her heart skipped a beat, and she quickly thought of making amends, for fear that if Wen Yue remembered her words and acted against Su Man, wouldn't she be responsible for serious consequences?

Chapter 377 The Hindsight

But she opened her mouth and eventually only said to Wen Yue, "Yueyue, what Auntie said just now was nonsense..."

Facing Wen Yue's unwavering gaze, Loo Ping couldn't muster the words to continue.

At that moment, Aunt Kang spoke up, "Let's go, to Auntie's house. I'll apply some burn cream for you." Saying this, Kang Li took Wen Yue's unscathed hand and turned to the now-silent Wen Yi and Wen Yu, "Do you want to go to Auntie's house too?"

Wen Yi and Wen Yu nodded their little heads.

“Then come with Auntie.”

Kang Li smiled and beckoned the sisters to follow her.

Outside the Wen Family Courtyard, watching Kang Li lead Wen Yue and her two sisters into her own yard, the middle-aged woman called Sister-in-law Xu by Loo Ping, who was none other than Xu Mei, couldn't help but say to Loo Ping, “We're all neighbors here. Can't you watch what you say, especially since you're an elementary school teacher? If Xiao Su finds out what you said inside her family's courtyard, and in front of Wen Yue and her sisters no less, do you believe she won't let you have it?”

“Sister, I...”

Loo Ping's face was a picture of embarrassment as she fumbled for words.

Xu Mei said, “Especially the things you shouldn't have said in front of Wen Yue and her sisters. What's the point of me saying this now? You'd better just take care of yourself!” With that, she turned and headed toward her own courtyard gate.

As she watched the other enter the gate, Loo Ping's face immediately turned sour, “If she truly cared, why didn't she warn me before I spoke? Instead, she criticizes me only afterward!”

The Luo Family.

Kang Li brought the three Wen sisters home and not only treated Wen Yue's burned hand with disinfectant but also applied burn ointment. After all this, the tears in Wen Yue's eyes finally began to fall.

"Does it hurt a lot, the injury on your hand?"

The back of the little girl's hand and the area near the wrist did have some burns, but they were only superficially reddened skin. Before she even brought the girls home, she had administered timely treatment, and now she had done even more with disinfection and burn ointment. It shouldn't have hurt so much that the girl would cry nonstop like rain pouring from the sky, her tears falling like heavy beads.

Confusion tinged Aunt Kang's fox-like eyes, mixed with concern, "Would you like Aunt Kang to blow on it for you?"

"It doesn't hurt... Aunt Kang, my hand doesn't hurt..." Wen Yue sobbed as she shook her head, glancing at her little sisters Wen Yi and Wen Yu who were sitting in a row on the couch watching TV, sniffed, and said to Kang Li, "I just feel that Ming Rui, Hanhan, and Vivi are luckier than me and my sisters Wen Yi and Wen Yu!"

Kang Li patted the little girl's head and said with a smile, "You and your two sisters are very lucky too."

“No, we’re not lucky.”

Large tears fell from Wen Yue’s eyes as she shook her head, “My mom and dad are divorced, she married some other uncle and has a new family, she doesn’t want me and my sister anymore... And my dad, he married that woman...”

Before Wen Yue could continue, Aunt Kang, with a voice that was both clear and soothing, interrupted the girl, “Wen Yue, you are a smart girl. You should think about happy things every day. Although Auntie doesn’t know why your mom and dad got divorced, Auntie believes that they both surely love you and your sister. It’s just that the adult world is complex, and if there are things you can’t understand right now, don’t think about them. When you grow up, you will understand all those things you didn’t understand before.”

“But I don’t have any happy things. Ever since my mom left, I’ve been unhappy every day. I miss my mom, but I know it will be hard for me to see her again.”

Chapter 378: Then... Is She Not Wrong?

As Wen Yue spoke, she seemed to be completely engulfed by an atmosphere of sadness. Seeing this, Kang Li sighed softly and said, “How could you not have any happy memories? Think about your teachers, think about your classmates, think about your little sister. Aren’t they very caring when they’re with you on a daily basis? And think about your dad, think about those relatives who love you. How do they cherish and care for you?”

“Wen Yue, a little child shouldn’t think of things as too complicated. When your dad married Comrade Su and brought her home, in the end, it was also to have someone take care of you three sisters. Otherwise, when your dad gets busy with work at the office for months on end, if something happened to you and your sisters at home without anyone to look after you, he would definitely feel very upset and blame himself.”

After a short pause, Kang Li continued, "As for you saying it'll be hard to see your mom again, that won't be the case."

"Why not? My dad said my mom is no longer in North City."

Wen Yue asked with a sob in her voice.

Kang Li smiled, "Once you grow up, no matter where your mom is, if you spend some time searching, you'll definitely find her. Besides, your mom must also be worried about you three sisters. Maybe one day she'll come back to see you."

Wen Yue stopped the tears in her eyes, "Really?"

Kang Li: "Wen Yue is so adorable, how could Aunt Kang possibly lie to you? So from today on, you should listen to the adults at home, be happy every day, eat well, grow up diligently, and by the time you become a big girl, you'll find that what you're worrying about right now doesn't really matter."

"But I don't like that bad woman in my house!"

Wen Yue pouted, "She's not nice to me and my sisters Wen Yi and Wen Yu at all. During winter vacation, she made me cook by myself, or else I, Little Yi, and Little Fish would all go hungry... Today she went out and only left a message for me to watch the door with Little Yi and Little Fish, without saying anything else."

Touching the little girl's head again, Kang Li said with a smile, "Children should respect their elders, and besides, Comrade Su is now your dad's wife, your new mom for the three sisters. If you keep calling Comrade Su a bad woman in public, would she be happy if she heard that? Let's put it this way, if someone always tells others that you are a naughty child behind your back, how would you feel when you find out?"

Wen Yue: "Angry, and I'd ignore that person who speaks ill of me!"

Kang Li: "Exactly, anyone would feel angry and ignore someone who talks badly about them. Now, think about it, why would Comrade Su ask you to cook for yourself, or else you and your sister would go hungry?"

"I often say the food she cooks doesn't taste good, and I've even thrown chopsticks in front of her, clamoring that I wouldn't eat her cooking again, and I wouldn't let Little Yi and Little Fish eat it either."

As Wen Yue spoke, she slowly lowered her head.

Kang Li: "Now you understand, right? It was your fault first, that's why Comrade Su got upset and said those harsh words about cooking for yourself. A good child knows to admit their mistakes—this is how adults come to like you."

Wen Yue looked up at Kang Li again: "Then... does she not have any faults?"

Kang Li was taken aback at first, then replied, "Everyone can make mistakes. Let's not go too far back; just today, leaving the three sisters at home alone, that was not right on her part."

Biting her lip in silence for a while, Wen Yue asked with an innocent voice, "Aunt Kang, why are you nice to Ruirui and the others?"

Kang Li: "Because Ruirui and the others are my children, naturally I should be good to them."

Chapter 379: Xiao Ming Rui's Trio: Making a Fuss over Nothing!

Wen Yue: "But they aren't born from you, Aunt Kang. We all know that Ruirui and the others have their own mom."

"After I married Ruirui's dad, Ruirui and the others naturally became my kids too."

The little girl wasn't very big, but her mind was filled with quite a lot of stuff.

Even Kang Li found herself somewhat envious.

"If the new mom my dad brought home was like Aunt Kang, I would definitely like the new mom! Aunt Kang, I'm really envious that Ruirui and the others have such a great new mom like you!"

Aunt Kang looked like a fairy girl, and she spoke gently, truly caring for the children. She could feel it, unlike the woman at her own house, who always seemed insincere to her.

“You don’t need to be envious. From now on, if you have any thoughts, just speak up confidently to Comrade Su. Don’t get upset on your own, and avoid saying unpleasant things that could anger Comrade Su. I believe that Comrade Su will be good to you three sisters.”

Kang Li said this, and although Wen Yue was quietly listening, the clever little girl did not entirely agree. In her mind, the woman at her house would never sincerely be kind to her and her two sisters.

However, the little girl still nodded: “I’ll remember what Aunt Kang said!” Standing up, the little girl bowed earnestly to Kang Li: “Thank you, Aunt Kang! If it wasn’t for you treating the cut on my hand, I would definitely be in so much pain right now!”

“It’s alright, what’s there to thank me for?!” Pinching the little girl’s nose affectionately, Kang Li spoke warmly: “Go watch some TV with your brother and sisters; I’ll make some noodles for you three sisters.”

Wen Yue wanted to say it wasn’t necessary, but just then her stomach coincidentally let out a “gurgle,” a clear sign of hunger.

Her face flushed with embarrassment, Wen Yue shyly lowered her head, still stubbornly said: “Aunt Kang, I’m really not hungry!”

Kang Li smiled and shook her head. She didn’t say a word and went straight to the kitchen.

...

“Aunt Kang, the food you make is so delicious!”

It was just a simple meal of poached eggs in clear soup with noodles, but with Kang Li’s excellent cooking skills, even the simplest dish became unbelievably tasty.

Moreover, it was only the third day of the new year, and she couldn’t just casually cook up some noodles with a poached egg thrown in for the three little girls.

“The eggs, meat, and noodles are all delicious, Little Fish loves it, so fragrant!”

Seeing big sister empty her bowl of soup, Little Fish, aka Wen Yu, followed suit without missing a beat, spooning the soup into her mouth one sip at a time.

Before serving the noodles, Kang Li not only fried three poached eggs but also sliced some ham and briefly fried it in the pan. Then, she cooked the noodles and poured the clear soup into a bowl.

What’s worth mentioning is that before adding the clear soup to the bowl, Kang Li put in some dried shrimps, seaweed, green onion, along with a little soy sauce, vinegar, sesame oil, and a proper amount of salt and chicken essence.

Okay, the chicken essence was undoubtedly from the System Mall.

The fragrant poached egg clear soup with noodles was served, and Wen Yue and her two sisters couldn't help but salivate, mesmerized by the poached eggs and ham slices in the bowls, their eyes shining like bright, twinkling stars.

Now the three sisters had cleaned their bowls completely, leaving not a drop of soup, one after another happily complimenting Aunt Kang with flattery.

Little Min Rui and the other two were still seated in a row on the sofa watching TV, but they pricked up their ears, listening to Wen Yue and her sisters singing their mom's praises, and thought to themselves: They're making a big deal over nothing!

Chapter 380: Unease

Mom was theirs, and they knew early on how delicious the food she cooked was!

Around one-thirty, Wen Yue packed up the burn ointment Kang Li had given her and took her two younger sisters back to their own home.

After sending the three little girls to the courtyard gate, Kang Li returned to the living room and looked at Xiao Ming Rui and the three children. "Ruirui, isn't it time for you to go back to your room for a nap?"

Xiao Ming Rui nodded.

The twin with mixed-sex also nodded their little heads. “Okay.” They slid off the sofa and followed behind their brother Min Rui, obediently heading to the bedroom.

Turning off the TV, Kang Li tidied up the living room, then went to the trio’s bedroom.

“Mommy, tell us a story.”

Milk Bun Ming Han lay on his bed, and when he saw his mom enter, he immediately raised his milky voice, requesting a bedtime story.

“Okay.”

After placing the three little ones’ cotton coats neatly, Kang Li sat on the chair and started to tell the story of the idiom “Drawing a boat to seek a sword.”

Time dripped away, and only the clear, gentle, and beautiful voice of Kang Li flowed in the room.

Somewhere along the way, the three children closed their eyes, and Kang Li’s story reached its end.

She stood up, tucked the blankets properly over the three of them, and quietly left the room.

Next door at Wen's family, Su Man took a taxi from her maternal home and arrived to find the house eerily quiet. Her heart tightened, and she forced down her anxiety, step by step, walking towards Sister Wen Yue's room.

The door was ajar, and she gently pushed it open.

"So well-behaved!"

Seeing the three Wen sisters lying on the bed taking a nap, Su Man was surprised and couldn't help but mutter, "How come you three are not this well-behaved when I am home? Today I go back to my mother's house, and you all climb into bed to take a nap on your own."

But as Su Man's gaze fell on the left hand that Wen Yue exposed outside the blanket, her pupils suddenly shrank: It was a burn from hot water!

The skin was red, with a few water blisters the size of mung beans...

Su Man saw this, her feet staggered momentarily, and she immediately turned to the kitchen.

Sure enough, the kitchen floor was wet, the kettle was set aside, the stove was off, and a few cabbage leaves along with a green onion lay on the chopping block, and the bundle of noodles she had gotten out before she left was still in its place.

Had they not eaten lunch yet?!

Her eyes flickered slightly, Su Man's lips were tightly pressed as she came out of the kitchen and looked in the direction of the two neighboring houses.

Wen Yue that wretched girl must have burnt her hand with hot water, probably scaring the little ones into crying out loud, which would inevitably attract outsiders to the house.

Just as she was thinking this, Su Man heard a knock on the courtyard door.

"Come in."

Looking towards the courtyard entrance, Su Man frowned slightly, not knowing who would visit at this time.

With a "creak", the courtyard door was pushed open, and Mrs. Qi walked in.

Su Man looked puzzled. "Comrade Qi... do you need something from me?"

"Yes."

Mrs. Qi nodded.

“Let’s sit in the living room.” Su Man led the way, and Mrs. Qi followed her, and they entered the living room.

Speaking of which, all the women comrades in this courtyard were overseen by Mrs. Qi, or in other words, Mrs. Qi was sort of the “Women’s Federation Director” of the courtyard. Anyone in the families could approach Mrs. Qi for help with conflicts or unfair treatment of women and children.

And as for the incident that occurred at Wen’s family this noon, somehow it reached Mrs. Qi’s ears, and it had upset Mrs. Qi so much that she had lost her appetite for lunch.

She felt that Su Man was really excessive; with her husband busy contributing to the state at his work unit, Su Man, as the lady,