

Weak B 381

Chapter 381 Crafty Arguments

Well aware that Wen Yue and her two sisters were still young, she neglectfully went back to her maternal home to visit relatives, leaving the children at home to fend for themselves and to somehow prepare their own lunch.

What was she trying to accomplish?

“Do you realize that your actions today dragged Xiao Wen down, that they dragged down our country’s development?”

The moment Mrs. Qi sat down, she erupted in anger.

Su Man: “...Comrade Qi, what exactly do you mean by that? How did I drag my stepson Wen Siyuan down? And how did I drag down the country’s development?” Still somewhat confused, Su Man clearly hadn’t connected Mrs. Qi’s visit with the incident of Wen Yue scalding her hand with hot water.

“Are you genuinely clueless or are you just pretending to be?”

Mrs. Qi spoke solemnly: “Your three children, with the eldest not even seven and the youngest not yet four, you went off to visit your relatives and left them all alone at home. What were you thinking? I heard you took a taxi to your maternal home, so why didn’t you take Wen Yue and the others with you?”

Su Man understood then, and was overcome with embarrassment, but she still defended herself: "Even though it's the New Year, everyone's having a tough time, and if I were to bring along three extra mouths to feed to my family's home, would they be pleased about it? Comrade Qi, I honestly had no other choice but not to take Yueyue and her sisters with me."

"Yet because you didn't take Wen Yue and the others with you, we nearly had a serious accident. Surely, you must know about it by now?"

Mrs. Qi looked eyes with Su Man: "You expect a child not even seven years old to cook for herself. Did it never cross your mind that she could get scalded by boiling water or something else could happen?"

"I did teach Yueyue how to cook, plus I left the vegetables and noodles within easy reach for them, and I specifically warned them to be careful not to get scalded. I..."

Su Man didn't think she was in the wrong, and her words still made excuses for her actions.

When Mrs. Qi heard this, she looked disappointed: "When you first came to our courtyard, I was really happy for Xiao Wen. I thought that marrying such a good comrade like you was his great fortune, and indeed, you seemed to care a lot about the three children from his previous marriage. People around our courtyard often praised you behind your back.

But you... how suddenly have you changed? You've become impatient, started squabbling over trivial matters with children just a few years old, and now you've gone as far as completely neglecting them. How are you expecting Xiao Wen to focus on his work at the unit, how can he contribute to the country's development without peace of mind?"

With Mrs. Qi's reprimand, Su Man felt wronged, her eyes brimming with tears: "Comrade Qi, you say I suddenly changed, no, it wasn't all of a sudden, it was Wen Yue who truly broke my heart, making me unwilling to keep on trying to be as kind-hearted as I was to her and her sisters in the beginning.

To end up like this, do you think I wanted this? I didn't want this at all, but Wen Yue kept defying me time and again, ruining my reputation outside, calling me a bad woman at every turn. If I had no temper, wouldn't it seem like I don't have any self-respect? Besides, I am an elder, it is disrespectful for a young person to treat me like that, and if I kept on pampering them after such treatment, that would be too cheap!"

Actually, Wen Yue hadn't fallen asleep. At that moment, she was crouching by the door, listening to the conversation between Mrs. Qi and Su Man in the living room.

"There's an old saying that people are born with a heart of flesh. When Siyuan and I got engaged, I knew I was becoming a stepmother right from the start. So, I truly accepted Yueyue and her sisters from the bottom of my heart, and I promised Siyuan that I would treat them just like my own children..."

Chapter 382: Actually, It's Not That Complicated

Su Man was performing a sorrowful act, because she didn't want and surely couldn't bear the blame for Wen Yue's scolding today.

Why?

She feared that once Wen Siyuan found out, he might, in a fit of anger, propose divorce.

After all, she had taken a taxi alone to visit her relatives, leaving the three Wen sisters at home, which indeed was an improper thing to do. If Wen Siyuan seized on this to reason with her, she would truly struggle to defend herself.

“Auntie Su, I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have angered you, I know it was wrong, please don’t be sad anymore, I promise I won’t lose my temper again.”

Wen Yue walked out of the room and now stood in front of Mrs. Qi and Su Man, tears welling up in her eyes as she spoke in a tender voice, “It wasn’t your fault I scalded my hand with hot water today, Auntie Su, it was my own carelessness, you don’t have to blame yourself.”

Her timid gaze shifted to Mrs. Qi, “Granny Qi, please don’t blame Auntie Su, it’s all my fault. Auntie Su only started making me learn to cook by myself during the winter holiday, and that’s why she didn’t take me, Little Yi, and Little Fish out today. I’ve thought it over now and I won’t throw tantrums at Auntie Su anymore...”

Tears rolled down her cheeks as Wen Yue choked up, “Granny Qi, could you talk to Auntie Su and ask her not to be mad at me anymore? Little Yi, Little Fish, and I will listen to her from now on, we won’t be picky eaters, we’ll eat our meals properly.”

“...” Mrs. Qi didn’t speak up for a long time, quietly watching Wen Yue, feeling that the child’s action was not merely an apology to her stepmother but also showing Su Man that she was wise to her.

Honestly, Mrs. Qi’s feelings were quite complicated at that moment; she could hardly believe that a child of six or seven could be so thoughtful.

Yet, this might not necessarily be a bad thing.

Since Su Man was selfish and now had her own child, if the young girl in front of her wasn't a bit cunning, Su Man might revert to her original attitude after today, treating the three girls kindly only in the short term. But as time went on, there was no guarantee she wouldn't return to her old ways, or even worsen her treatment of the three stepdaughters.

This was not Mrs. Qi overthinking; the future was unpredictable.

And as for people's hearts, they are hidden behind flesh. In a remarried or blended family, it is usually the case that parents will favour their own biological children over stepchildren when it comes to allocating family resources.

Of course, someone like Fang Su was an exception, and there were others who acted similarly as mothers and fathers.

There are indeed those who can treat everyone equally, but they are likely in the minority.

These were Mrs. Qi's thoughts because, in her view, even within families with both biological and stepchildren – from second marriages or blended households – it is hard to avoid bias, let alone within families where all the children are sired by the same parents. Even then, parents tend to show favoritism towards their preferred children.

In short, in a family, to treat everyone absolutely equally is challenging.

All the more so in a family like Wen's.

That's why Mrs. Qi didn't dislike Wen Yue, the thoughtful young girl; she even thought the girl knew how to protect herself, which was wise.

Well then, speaking of which, Wen Yue's current act actually did not match exactly with what Mrs. Qi had in mind.

The young girl, at only the tender age of six or seven, could hardly think of all the ins and outs. She had merely pondered Kang Li's words and decided to temporarily bow to her stepmother, Su Man. Later on, when she was grown up, she would go to find her birth mother.

Along with her sisters, they would find their birth mother and would no longer have to put up with their stepmother.

"Yueyue, you..."

Chapter 383 Are You Stupid?

After the shock, Su Man's eyes filled with complexity. Soon they brimmed with hot tears. She beckoned Wen Yue over and, holding the girl's uninjured hand, asked with a trembling voice, "Can Auntie believe what you just said?"

Wen Yue nodded, "Auntie Su, you can rest assured, I spoke the truth."

Feeling moved, Su Man said, "Good child, these past days... these past days Auntie has also done wrong. I shouldn't have let you cook by yourself, and I shouldn't have left you and Wen Yi alone at home today. Tell Auntie, does your hand still hurt?"

Looking at Wen Yue's left hand, Su Man's eyes were full of distress.

"It doesn't hurt anymore, Auntie Su, don't worry. It will be fine in a couple of days."

Wen Yue was very obedient at the moment.

Mrs. Qi, sitting to the side, suddenly felt a bit like a clown, but the thought was fleeting.

"You and your daughter have opened up to each other; it seems my trip here wasn't in vain." Standing up, Lady Su looked at Su Man, "Xiao Su, you are pregnant now, you need to be even more calm and peaceful on a daily basis, otherwise, it's not good for you or the baby in your womb." Mrs. Qi clearly had a deeper meaning with her words.

Su Man paused momentarily then nodded, slowly getting up and saying, "Comrade Qi, rest assured, I know. I will treat Wen Yue and her sisters with patience."

After seeing Mrs. Qi out, Su Man heard Wen Yue say, "Auntie Su, I'm going back to my room for a nap. If you're tired, you should lie down for a while too."

Smiling, Su Man nodded, "Alright." Her eyes were full of relief.

Yet, as soon as Wen Yue left, the smile disappeared from her face, and her gaze grew enigmatic.

Apologizing to her, no longer going to throw tantrums?

With a slight smile, Su Man walked towards the master bedroom, skeptical about what Wen Yue had said.

If the girl could say such things, she was willing to go along with it and see if Wen Yue could actually do it.

Otherwise, she shouldn't blame Su Man for dealing with the three sisters... in her own way!

Sitting on the bed, Su Man's eyes flashed, and she couldn't help but wonder if what Wen Yue said was prompted by someone, or more directly, if it had something to do with the Kang next door?

She hadn't forgotten that Wen Yue and Wen Yi, those two little brats, were quite fond of Kang Li, the Vixen!

If Kang Li knew what Su Man was thinking at this moment, she would definitely laugh it off: One should never argue with a mad dog!

“Hello, Feng Yi, what’s up?”

Just as she wanted to nap like a salted fish on the bed, the phone in the living room rang. Kang Li got up, went to the living room, picked up the receiver, and heard Feng Yi’s voice. After listening attentively to his words, she spoke again, “Why not accept it? No matter what, he’s still your dad. Since he’s sorted everything out, you and Mo Yan should just take it. Hm? You don’t want to... are you crazy?”

Jobs are hard to find, and your dad has finally done something good for you as his son. Why miss out on this opportunity? Those are two permanent job positions, and they’re at the mechanical plant at that. Isn’t getting a permanent employee’s salary appealing to you? Or do you have a special fondness for temporary work? Besides, one of the positions is for Mo Yan. What gives you the right to refuse on Mo Yan’s behalf?”

“It’s Mo Yan, Sister Kang Li.”

Taking the phone from Feng Yi, Mo Yan said, “I said the same thing to Feng Yi, but he just can’t wrap his head around it, insisting he doesn’t care about those job positions...”

Listening to Mo Yan repeat the situation over the phone, Kang Li said, “You tell Feng Yi, it’s my word that the job must be taken. As for whether he wants to return home, that’s entirely up to him.”

Chapter 384: Uninvited

“Right, Feng Yi didn’t go to work today? Oh, I see, well then, you two hurry to the factory to handle the procedures. Feng Yi is becoming a regular worker, and you are reporting directly... Yes, in your work, you must be conscientious, and don’t forget to flip through your old textbooks when you have free time. Okay, that’s it, goodbye!”

Knowing what Mrs. Qi had done for Feng Yi, Old Master Feng truly felt ashamed. Therefore, with a phone call this noon, he turned Feng Yi’s temporary job into a regular position and secured a regular spot for Mo Yan as well, as a way of thanking Mo Yan for taking Feng Yi in.

Originally, Feng Yi was at work when he got the notice from the factory office. Emotion overtook him instantly, and he used the excuse of feeling unwell to return to Mo Yan’s house, where he lay in bed motionless.

In the end, it was Mo Yan who coaxed out the reason. Right now, she was dragging Feng Yi out to call Kang Li. On one hand, she wanted to seek advice from Kang Li; on the other, she hoped to persuade Feng Yi through Kang Li not to push away the job he had due to the resentment in his heart.

As for pride, sometimes there’s no need to consider it at all.

Especially when dealing with one’s own father, a father who owed much to himself, what’s the use of talking about pride?

In short, there’s a saying, if someone offers you a favor, just accept it wholeheartedly. Whether or not to acknowledge the sentiment can be considered later!

After ending the call, Kang Li returned to bed to resume being her “salted fish” ...

As the fifteenth of the first lunar month passed, April arrived in the blink of an eye.

That afternoon, Kang Li sat in the wicker rocking chair in the yard, enjoying the warm sunshine with her eyes closed, inhaling the faint jasmine fragrance carried by the fresh breeze.

“Knock knock knock!”

“Come in.”

Hearing someone knocking at the courtyard door, Kang Li slowly opened her fox eyes, picking up the red-colored novel rested on her abdomen, borrowed from Mrs. Qi. Well, ‘borrowed’ is a term used loosely here; it’s more like Mrs. Qi saw Kang Li’s interest in the book and outright gave it to her.

She casually closed the book and placed it on the side table, sitting up straight and looking towards the courtyard door, only to see a face, unfamiliar yet somewhat recognizable, come into view.

After a brief search of her memory, Kang Li recognized who the visitor was.

“Your family’s courtyard is quite uniquely arranged.”

“Just average.”

Kang Li curved her lips into a slight smile, responding softly to the other party.

“You remember me, right?”

The visitor, acting quite familiar, approached Kang Li and seated herself in the small armchair beside her.

“I once had the pleasure of meeting you at my godparents’ home. May I ask what brings Comrade Shen to see me?”

Yes, the visitor was indeed Shen Yun.

This person had just officially started working at the research institute a week ago and took advantage of the weekend to move into the family compound with her son and the young nanny hired by her family.

The reason Shen Yun came over to see Kang Li today was that she had felt unwell for the past couple of days, had taken sick leave to rest at home, but with her son at kindergarten and only the young nanny at home, she didn’t know why, but she found herself wandering outside until she reached the door of Kang Li’s home.

“Nothing important, just that I’ve been home sick these past couple of days, and it’s been boring alone. So I came over for a walk and to chat with you,” Shen Yun said, maintaining an appropriate smile on her face.

Kang Li raised an eyebrow: “Comrade Shen doesn’t seem to stand on ceremony.” Having seen people who make themselves at home, she hadn’t seen anyone as forward as this. They could hardly be considered acquaintances, having met just once, and yet here was Shen Yun, paying a direct visit today.

Wasn’t this a bit too abrupt?

Shen Yun felt momentarily embarrassed, but she quickly adjusted her facial expression and said with a smile, “Not to mention that I and Comrade Luo Yanqing are now colleagues in the same institute, but even when I was abroad...”

Chapter 385: Kang Li’s Sarcasm

“I’m officially Senior Brother Yanqing’s junior sister, though it might have been a bit presumptuous for me to come over today, I believe Mrs. Yanqing won’t find me too abrupt, right?”

Kang Li: “...Of course not.” Yeah right!

“Mrs. Yanqing is as beautiful as she is kind, no wonder Senior Brother Luo decided to marry you as his other half.”

In Shen Yun's eyes, there seemed to be a smile, but it didn't reach the bottom of her eyes as she said, "During our time studying abroad, there were particularly many girls who liked Senior Brother Luo, each one of them striking beauties. They always found a way to 'bump into' Senior Brother Luo and even asked me to pass love letters to him. Did you know? Every day, he received a stack of love letters this thick."

She gestured with her fingers, a smile in her voice as she continued, "Among them, a stunning beauty named Alice practically wrote love letters daily to express her affection, but Senior Brother didn't even glance at Alice. Over time, Alice was really hurt by his attitude. One day, she suddenly appeared in front of him, wanting to hug him without saying a word, but luckily I happened to pass by then and immediately stepped forward to block this Western peach..."

Kang Li curved the corners of her mouth into a smile, fully appearing to listen, wondering what else this person could say in front of her.

After rattling on for quite a while, seeing no change in Kang Li's expression, Shen Yun couldn't help but feel stifled. She changed the subject, asking, "As Mrs. Yanqing, to become his other half, your education must be not low, right?"

"Compared to you and your beloved Senior Brother, I barely managed to finish high school." Another boast about her life abroad, deliberately mentioning her husband Professor Luo. Hmm! Is she trying to make her jealous?

And now flaunting educational qualifications, is this an attempt to trample on her because she feels she isn't worthy of her husband, Professor Luo?

Kang Li shook her head internally, finding it amusing.

“No way? Mrs. Yanqing seems so intelligent, how could you possibly only have a high school diploma? Mrs. Yanqing, don’t tell me you were too playful with your studies, resulting in only finishing high school without getting into university, is that it?”

Shen Yun’s expression was one of surprise.

“I’m sorry to say, I’ve had health issues from a young age. I finished high school at 17, married your mentioned Senior Brother Luo at 18, and I’m only 19 now. Facing you, shouldn’t I be calling you Big Sister Shen?”

Is getting into university so hard? It’s just that there’s no college entrance examination now.

Moreover, compared to her current education level, she indeed falls short, but that doesn’t mean she can’t achieve a higher education. And about age, this woman must be at least twenty-six or twenty-seven, can she even compete with her?

Can age be reversed to be the same as hers?

Kang Li silently snickered to herself.

Shen Yun felt that the day was no longer conducive for conversation. She had said so much, not a hint of jealousy shown, rather it seemed like she was listening to a storyteller. Now, to add insult to injury, an ironic mention of her age and even suggesting calling her Big Sister Shen. Was this woman being overly troublesome?

“Big Sister Shen, frankly speaking, my husband mentioned the other day that he doesn’t know you. You really don’t need to call me Mrs. Yanqing, as both my husband and I aren’t fond of forming unwarranted connections. If he learns you’ve been coming to my house repeatedly calling me Mrs. Yanqing, who knows, maybe he would be upset when he takes a break and comes home!”

Picking up a book from the small table beside her, Kang Li casually flipped through it, casually asking as if making small talk, “The other day I saw Ms. Shen’s son and was instantly struck by how adorable the mixed-race baby was. It seems Ms. Shen’s spouse must be a foreigner. Now that Ms. Shen has returned to the country with her child to contribute to national development, did your spouse also concur to come to our country?”

Chapter 386 Are You Saying I’m Humiliating Myself?

Shen Yun retracted the smile from her face and said indifferently, “I returned to the country after my divorce.”

Kang Li put on a surprised expression, “Big Sister Shen, why did you get a divorce? Was it because your husband didn’t treat you well?”

“Comrade Kang, can you stop calling me Big Sister Shen? Abroad, referring to a young girl like that is very impolite.” Shen Yun felt both a headache and a deep irritation upon hearing the words “Big Sister Shen” from Kang Li’s mouth.

Kang Li’s eyes widened like a fox’s, “Comrade Shen, we are both married women, aren’t we? Hardly young girls anymore, right?! Besides, here we are in China, and you are several years older than me. When I call you Big Sister Shen, it signifies...”

Before Kang Li could finish, Shen Yun frowned and interrupted directly, "Is Comrade Kang doing this on purpose?"

Kang Li looked confused, "I don't understand what you mean, Comrade Shen."

Shen Yun said, "Comrade Kang, why pretend to be confused when you know exactly what's going on? I simply came to chat with you, but instead, you mock and ridicule me. Is this how Comrade Kang treats her guests?"

"Pretend to be confused? Comrade Shen, you really are being quite baffling. Why would I pretend to be confused in front of you? Also, which of my words has mocked or ridiculed you?"

Kang Li saw that the other party maintained a solemn face and naturally retracted her smile, speaking calmly, "Actually, isn't it you, Comrade Shen, who's pretending to be confused? I saw very clearly the way you looked at my husband that day. You like my husband, but it's obviously unrequited love. As for that, I have nothing to say,

since who you like is your right, and others have no right to interfere. But if you're thinking of harbouring any ill intentions towards me, I advise you to cease and desist sooner rather than later, lest you lose your hard-earned status as a returnee from overseas!"

Standing up abruptly, Shen Yun's face changed repeatedly, feeling incredibly embarrassed at that moment, "You..."

Kang Li wasn't used to being looked down upon; she also stood up, met the other's gaze, and curved her lips into a smile, "What about me? Comrade Shen, you need to understand that today you came to me of your own accord, spouting all sorts of nonsense, hoping to use your returnee status to trample on me, but it wasn't I who provoked you first! Moreover, my principle has always been: respect those who respect me, and return to others the treatment they give me!"

Shen Yun said, "Are you saying that I'm humiliating myself?"

Kang Li didn't respond, took the book in her hand, and walked towards the living room, "Please don't let the door hit you on your way out." She's quite self-aware, so why come and make a fool of herself?

Watching Kang Li's slender swaying figure, Shen Yun stood still and did not leave immediately, her lips pressed tightly together, her expression tense, her eyes revealing an unmistakable irritation and embarrassment.

Driven out?

Was she being driven out of someone else's home?

For the first time in her life, as proud as she was, she had encountered someone so rude to her?

Her hands hanging by her sides slowly clenched into fists, Shen Yun turned around, a glint of dark light flashing through her eyes, and finally went back to her own place.

The next day.

The research institute's cafeteria.

"Professor Luo, may I sit here?"

Shen Yun, having gotten her meal, walked straight to the table where Luo Yanqing was sitting. She glanced at the two male comrades sharing the table with Luo Yanqing but didn't bother to ask for their opinions, and directly made her way to Luo Yanqing's side. She broke into what she thought was her most beautiful smile and asked this man she had secretly admired for years if he would allow her to share the table with him.

Unexpectedly, Luo Yanqing continued eating his lunch as usual, without even a glance in her direction.

And Shen Yun had thick enough skin, as she had already taken a seat at an empty chair of her own accord, yet still pretended to be modest and asked Luo Yanqing that question.

Chapter 387: Comrade, please have some self-respect!

"I don't really feel like eating chicken legs lately, Professor Luo, here, you can have this one!"

Picking up the braised chicken leg from her own lunchbox, Shen Yun very familiarly attempted to place it into Luo Yanqing's lunchbox.

“Comrade, please have some self-respect!”

Luo Yanqing picked up his lunchbox to avoid Shen Yun’s chopsticks and stood up to take a seat at another dining table.

Shen Yun’s face turned as red as a liver, she felt both embarrassed and uncomfortable at that moment, especially when she caught a glance from the two male comrades sitting opposite her, who appeared to look over nonchalantly; she wished she could immediately find a crack to crawl into.

“That’s just how Professor Luo is, Teacher Shen will get used to it.”

That was Wen Siyuan’s voice, he was one of the two male comrades at the table.

At the moment, his smile was gentle, kindly offering Shen Yun a way out of the awkward situation.

“Then I’ll give this chicken leg to Teacher Wen.”

Forcing herself to adjust her mood, Shen Yun acted as if nothing had happened and attempted to place the chicken leg, which was still held in mid-air, into Wen Siyuan’s lunchbox. Unexpectedly, Wen Siyuan shook his head, “Teacher Shen, you eat it. I’m already full.” He smiled and stood up, “Enjoy your meal, I’ll be taking my leave first.”

“Teacher Wen, wait for me!”

The male comrade who was sitting next to Wen Siyuan quickly picked up his empty lunchbox and followed briskly, "Why didn't you take the chicken leg from Teacher Shen? It's meat, after all, having an extra one would be a delight." He gently nudged Wen Siyuan's arm as he spoke in a lowered voice.

"I'm not familiar with Teacher Shen, and furthermore, I don't want to be misunderstood." If Professor Luo didn't look favorably upon her, did it mean he should? It was just a chicken leg, after all. If he wanted another, it wasn't like he couldn't afford it.

The male comrade speaking to Wen Siyuan was named He Wei, thirty years old, also working on the same project team as Luo Yanqing.

"Misunderstood? What do you mean by that?"

He Wei was puzzled.

Wen Siyuan gave the other man a sidelong glance, "Come on, Teacher He, you're a married man with a family. Don't tell me you don't understand what I'm talking about. Besides, didn't you see how Professor Luo avoided Teacher Shen?"

"Ah wow, so you're afraid your little wife at home will get jealous!" He Wei had a somewhat impulsive personality, but once he got into work, that impulsiveness was immediately replaced by steadiness and meticulousness.

He joked with Wen Siyuan and then asked, "Teacher Shen seems to be quite familiar with Professor Luo, but Professor Luo seems to not recognize Teacher Shen at all. Do you know what's up with that?"

Wen Siyuan: "Can we not be so gossipy?"

He Wei: "Can't we take a break for our brains?"

"I'm not saying we can't, but if you're curious about the gossip on Professor Luo, why don't you ask Professor Luo himself?" Having said that, Wen Siyuan stood by the sink, seriously washing his lunchbox, clearly not interested in continuing the conversation with He Wei.

"Would I dare? With Professor Luo's commanding presence and his stern demeanor, if I were to utter one bit of nonsense in front of him, I might very well be kicked out of our project team the next day."

He Wei spoke with a bit of fear.

"Well listen up, I don't know the answer to your question, but apparently, Teacher Shen is also a returnee from overseas."

With those words, Wen Siyuan walked, holding his cleaned lunchbox, towards the dormitory area.

He Wei quickly rinsed his own lunchbox and hurried to catch up, "Does that mean Teacher Shen could have possibly studied in the same school abroad as Professor Luo?"

Wen Siyuan: "Not sure."

He Wei: "Have you noticed?"

Wen Siyuan was puzzled: "...". Noticed what? He only heard He Wei say in a low voice, "Teacher Shen's attitude towards Professor Luo seems to be quite special."

Chapter 388: Looking Down

"...Don't talk nonsense!" Wen Siyuan's face darkened, "Professor Luo has a partner, don't you know that? Besides, Professor Luo's partner is very outstanding. You must not spread rumors in the institute, or else, just think about the consequences yourself!"

He Wei stood stunned.

Everyone lived in the same family quarters, so how could he possibly not know that Professor Luo had a partner? He had just been commenting on Teacher Shen's attitude toward Professor Luo and hadn't mentioned anything about Comrade Kang being good or bad, had he?

Moreover, Professor Luo's partner was the goddaughter of the institute director's couple; he didn't want to lose his job at the institute by making such a low-level mistake.

Shen Yun prodded at her food with her chopsticks, lacking any appetite. Noticing Luo Yanqing about to head to the sink with his lunch box, she hastily called out, “I was home sick yesterday. I chatted with your sister-in-law in the afternoon. Don’t you want to know what I told her?”

As if not seeing the curious glances of the colleagues still eating their meals looking her way, Shen Yun looked directly into Luo Yanqing’s eyes with a gentle smile. Without waiting for Luo Yanqing to speak, she added, “There’s more than an hour before work this afternoon. Why doesn’t Professor Luo invite me to sit in your dorm?”

Luo Yanqing, “Comrade, do I know you?” His voice was crisp and deep, marked with obvious indifference and displeasure.

Wearing a black mid-length woolen coat over a white shirt and ash-grey wool sweater, at the moment, he hadn’t fastened his coat, his figure tall and straight. With one hand holding an empty lunch box and the other casually tucked into his pocket, the gaze he fixed on Shen Yun was aloof and cold. If one paid close attention, they could discern a hint of disgust from it.

“Luo Yanqing, you...”

He loathed her. Beyond the aloofness and coldness, he... had come to loathe her.

Shen Yun quivered, a trace of hurt uncontrollably emerging in her gaze.

Yet, Luo Yanqing completely ignored it and turned towards the sink.

His figure looked exceptionally aloof and proud. Yet it was this very man who had haunted Shen Yun's dreams during her years abroad, leading her to dissolve her own good marriage.

She found it even harder now to let go of her feelings.

But to use unprincipled means... to win someone's heart was something she couldn't do, feeling it would tarnish the purest affection in her heart.

Shen Yun pressed her lips together, gathered her thoughts, and decided to go to Luo Yanqing's dormitory with a legitimate excuse of seeking guidance on a problem she had encountered in her work.

"Knock, knock, knock!"

Standing outside Luo Yanqing's dormitory, Shen Yun tapped lightly with her knuckles.

There was no response from inside.

Shen Yun continued to knock softly, "Knock, knock, knock!"

Still no response.

Her lips pursed tighter, Shen Yun did not give up and tapped her fingers lightly again, “Knock, knock, knock!”

The result was the same.

The door before her remained closed, but the neighboring room’s door opened.

“Is it Teacher Shen? Are you looking for Professor Luo for something?”

Wen Siyuan had been about to lie down for a bit to rest up for the afternoon’s work when he heard the persistent knocking next door. His eyebrows slightly furrowed, he had no choice but to get out of bed to see who was so insistent on knocking on Luo Yanqing’s dormitory door.

Taken aback for a moment, Shen Yun returned to her usual demeanor, “...Yes, I faced a difficult issue at work during lunch and came over to seek Professor Luo’s help.”

Wen Siyuan, “That’s really unfortunate, Professor Luo left just before you came.” A woman with overseas education and quite the delicate beauty. Why would she set her heart on a married man?

Frankly, Wen Siyuan was somewhat contemptuous of Shen Yun’s behavior.

Chapter 389 I’m worried about you.....

Doesn't know self-love, throwing herself at someone, losing her dignity!

Shen Yun had no idea what Wen Siyuan thought of her, she furrowed her brows slightly and asked, "Then do you know where he went?"

"I'm not sure."

Wen Siyuan shook his head.

"If that's the case, I won't bother you here any longer."

With that said, without waiting for Wen Siyuan to respond, Shen Yun had already walked away.

What she didn't know was that the person she was looking for was sitting in the Director's office at that moment, dialing his little wife's number.

"Hello, who's it you're looking for?"

In the compound, after having lunch and cleaning up the kitchen, Kang Li was about to laze around when the landline phone suddenly rang. Picking up the handset, her clear and pleasant voice spilled from her lips.

Luo Yanqing: "It's me."

Kang Li was stunned: "...". He finally thought to call her! Let's see, how many days had it been since the third day of the New Year.

Hmph! Almost two months!

Not hearing his little wife's voice over the phone for a long while, Luo Yanqing couldn't help but say into the phone, "Xiao Li, are you there? It's Luo Yanqing."

Kang Li haughtily "hmphed" and said, "You finally know to call me, huh!"

Luo Yanqing: "...". Remaining silent for too long, so she was angry at him! Luo Yanqing shook his head with some amusement and his lips curved up, "Work has been really busy, I didn't have time, don't be mad."

"So you're not busy today, huh?"

Kang Li's tone was still full of haughty pride.

"I'm not busy right now." Luo Yanqing's tone involuntarily softened: "Xiao Li, are you doing okay at home?"

"Hmm, I'm fine, Ruirui and the others are in good health, eating well, so you just focus on your work." Kang Li didn't continue to act up; after all, it was true that the man was busy with work, and considering he wasn't much of a talker, the fact that he suddenly thought to call her showed that she was on his mind. Since she understood that, naturally, she wouldn't endlessly sulk.

Luo Yanqing: "I'm glad you're okay."

Hearing that, Kang Li's pretty brows knitted slightly: "It sounds like you're implying something, come on, tell me, what made you suddenly think to call home?"

Before Luo Yanqing could say anything, Kang Li seemed to think of something in an instant and asked, "Is it because Big Sister Shen said something to you in front of you?"

Luo Yanqing: "Big Sister Shen?"

Kang Li: "Yes, that comrade Shen Yun who wants to cozy up to you. Wasn't she at home sick yesterday? I've no idea what got into her, but she actually came to our place to chat with me."

"What did she talk about with you?"

Luo Yanqing frowned; he didn't want his little wife to be irritated by some irrelevant person spouting nonsense.

Kang Li: "She said you were her senior, told me to call her senior sister-in-law, and asked about my education level, but anyway, I didn't let her put me at a disadvantage at all. Right, although I didn't make too much of a fuss with comrade Shen Yun, it wasn't far off, so you better not misunderstand me because of the couple of things she might've said to you!"

"I wouldn't." Luo Yanqing answered very straightforwardly, he said: "She saw me in the cafeteria at noon, mentioned that she had looked for you for a chat yesterday, and I was worried about you... so I thought of giving you a call."

Kang Li felt a warmth in her heart: "I'm fine."

Luo Yanqing: "Xiao Li..."

Kang Li: "Hmm?"

Luo Yanqing pursed his lips, his voice gently: "I have no recollection of your so-called Big Sister Shen, I've never spoken to her voluntarily at the office either."

Kang Li's voice carried a smile: "Silly! I know what kind of person you are, you don't need to explain to me, I trust you, do you hear that? Luo Yanqing!"

“Hmm.”

Chapter 390: Surprise

A fair face exuded an elegant smile that was enchanting no matter how one looked at it. However, in the vast office, there was only Luo Yanqing. His ink-black eyes showed a soft hue, and his lips curled into a fetching arc, “Take good care of yourself. I’m swamped with work and for quite a while I won’t be able to take any holidays. But if there’s anything you can’t handle, just call the office and I will find a way to rush home.”

Kang Li: “Got it. How have you been recently? Are you eating on time? Are you having milk powder before bed?”

Luo Yanqing: “I’m doing well. I’ve been following your advice, eating on time, and having milk powder before going to bed.” Having someone caring about him felt really good!

“Is there anything else?” Kang Li asked.

Luo Yanqing subconsciously shook his head, but then he remembered that his little wife couldn’t see him, so he said, “Nothing else. What about you?”

Kang Li: “Nothing much here either!”

Luo Yanqing: “Then that’s it...”

Kang Li: "Luo Yanqing?"

Just as he was about to hang up, he heard his little wife's voice again from the phone, Luo Yanqing quickly responded: "I'm here."

"Sending you a kiss, mua!" Kang Li made a "smack" sound into the phone, then she asked, "Did you hear it?"

Luo Yanqing's heart rate sped up, his handsome face turned notably red, and his ears felt like they could bleed, he tried to calm his emotions, saying, "I heard it."

Kang Li: "Then listen carefully now: je t..." Using the six languages Luo Yanqing had written in that love letter, Kang Li briskly repeated "I like you" six times.

At that moment, Luo Yanqing felt his heart racing unusually fast, his eyes filled with surprise: "Xiao Li, you..."

Kang Li seemed to know what the man was about to say, her clear voice rolled off her lips: "I've been studying at home lately. I've been reading books, consulting the dictionary, and learning from Mrs. Qi. You better not complain that I messed up your bookshelf when you come back home on a holiday, otherwise, don't expect me to pay you any attention!"

It was just six foreign languages; she hadn't really consulted any dictionary or asked Mrs. Qi for help, but she had to say so at that moment to prevent the man from suspecting her multilingual skills.

As for whether he would ask Mrs. Qi, Kang Li was not worried at all.

Given Luo Yanqing's character, it's simply not possible.

Speaking of which, Mrs. Qi was a genuine college student before the liberation and had not only worked in old revolutionary bases but also been involved in underground work in major cities like North City and Haicheng.

During a casual chat, Kang Li found out that Mrs. Qi was particularly proficient in Russian and English.

Luo Yanqing: "Don't worry, I won't. Just take whichever book you want to read from the shelf." Listen, this was a completely different attitude from when they first met and discovered the books had been tampered with.

"You do talk nicely," Kang Li chuckled: "If there's nothing else, then let's hang up."

Luo Yanqing: "Alright, goodbye."

Kang Li: "Goodbye."

After ending the call, Kang Li's eyes twinkled with mirth as she settled back into her rattan rocker and resumed her lazy lounging.

Life went on as usual for Kang Li, and just like that, time fast-forwarded to nearly three months later.

That day, Kang Li sent Xiao Ming Rui and the other two to the Song Family.

"Mrs. Qi, I'm entrusting Ruirui and the others to your care. I'll try to come back soon."

"Rest assured, no need to rush back."