

Weak B 401

Chapter 401: No Need to Worry

Kang Li: "Thank you, but I don't need your kindness."

"You really are stubborn," Su Man said with a curl of her lip. "Raising another's child, out of ten, eight won't grow close. Since you don't listen to me, then I wish that all the children you raise turn out well."

"Since Comrade Su has such a bias towards her stepdaughter, why do you still pick up and drop off every day? And with your most treasured son at that, aren't you worried that such a small child might catch a cold from the wind on the way?"

Kang Li glanced at the little one Su Man held in her arms and made a bland remark.

"Do you think I want to pick them up and drop them off? It's just that the two little ones are still in kindergarten. Just wait until they've both started elementary school; you'll see if I'll still be doing this."

Wouldn't she cherish her own son? But what choice did she have? With Wen Yi and Wen Yu, one in kindergarten and the other in preschool, both still young, if she didn't pick them up and drop them off, what if something happened to them on the way? Wouldn't Wen Siyuan eat her alive?

Kang Li: "Comrade Su is indeed a sensible person."

They entered the courtyard, then each went through their own gate. Throughout the way, their conversation was noncommittal.

"Ruirui is reading a book!"

Walking into the children's bedroom, Kang Li saw Xiao Ming Rui holding a Chinese textbook, murmuring the words. She couldn't help but say, "You need more rest. It's not late to read after resting. Now, listen to Mommy, close the book, close your eyes, and get some more sleep. After Mommy makes breakfast, I'll come and wake you."

Xiao Ming Rui was an obedient baby. Upon hearing her, he said, "Okay," and casually placed the book beside his pillow.

The breakfast was millet porridge paired with steamed buns, along with a dish of stir-fried zucchini.

After waking Xiao Ming Rui, Kang Li helped the little guy wash up, and then brought him back to the living room.

"Eat up. After you've finished, take a couple of walks around the yard to digest, then lie down in bed again."

"...Okay," Xiao Ming Rui nodded. But after eating two steamed buns, he couldn't help but say, "Mommy, I want to go to school." He didn't want to fall behind in his studies.

The word "mommy" from the child was extremely willing. In fact, as early as last New Year's Eve, Xiao Ming Rui had wanted to call her "mommy," but he might have been too shy or unaccustomed to do so and had not said it.

This delay lasted until now, and Xiao Ming Rui finally started to naturally call Kang Li "mommy."

To say Kang Li wasn't moved would be a lie. After all, it took over a year of hard nurturing to let the child voluntarily call her "mommy." Anyone would be filled with emotion and simultaneously feel relief and happiness.

But Kang Li didn't show any unusual emotion on her face. She smiled and said, "Are you worried about falling behind in your studies?"

Xiao Ming Rui nodded: "Yeah."

Kang Li: "Then you don't need to worry. At home, we have your class's schedule. After you've rested, Mommy will follow up on the lessons from yesterday and catch you up on the new material."

As she said this, Kang Li suddenly remembered something. She quickly said, "You eat first. Mommy will make a phone call to your class teacher." Look at her memory, she almost forgot to ask the teacher for leave on behalf of the child.

"Hello, is this Teacher Li?"

"Yes, that's me. May I ask who this is? What do you need?"

"Teacher Li, I'm Luo Ming Rui's mom. My Min Rui had a fever last night..."

"Okay, I've got it. Let the child rest well at home. When he comes back to school, I will help him catch up on the missed work."

"Thank you, Teacher Li!"

Chapter 402 Asking for Help

"No need to be polite, your child's health is important. Let's leave it at that, goodbye."

"Goodbye, Teacher Li."

After hanging up the phone, Kang Li returned to the dining table and said with a smile, "Mom has already asked for your leave, now you just listen to mom, understand?"

Xiao Ming Rui nodded with a "mm-hmm."

Kang Li: "Let's eat."

Xiao Ming Rui: "Okay, mom eat too."

After finishing the meal, Xiao Ming Rui took a couple of walks in the courtyard, drank his cough syrup, and had half a pot of warm water from the enamel tank before he went back to his room to lie down.

He actually felt quite listless.

After tidying up the kitchen, Kang Li went to check on Xiao Ming Rui and softly stepped out of the room upon seeing the little guy already fast asleep under a thin blanket.

After lunch, Xiao Ming Rui felt revitalized and conveyed to Kang Li that he could skip his nap, implying that he wanted to study.

Kang Li clearly understood what the child meant; she smiled, nodded, and stated that they would start catching up on today's lessons in ten minutes.

It took nearly five to six minutes to wash the dishes and clean the kitchen before Kang Li returned to the living room.

By then, Xiao Ming Rui had already brought his schoolbag to the side and taken out his Chinese language book, math book, writing notebook, arithmetic notebook, and pencil case.

"Our Ruirui is all prepared, huh? Okay, let's start our lessons now."

Taking the math book, she had the child show where they stopped yesterday, then reviewed yesterday's material with him before starting on new content.

Her voice was gentle and soft, explaining concepts clearer to Xiao Ming Rui than even his school teachers, so unconsciously, Kang Li ended up teaching two more lessons' worth of content.

"Oops! Did mom speak a little too much?"

"I understood it all."

"Really?"

"Mm-hmm."

Kang Li gave a thumbs-up: "Our Ruirui is truly brilliant, covering three lessons in one go, smart!"

Xiao Ming Rui shyly smiled, "It's because mom teaches well."

Kang Li: "I think it's because our Ruirui is smart! Alright, it's break time now. You play for a while, and then mom will teach you Chinese."

Unexpectedly, Xiao Ming Rui shook his head: "I'll do my homework."

Kang Li asked, "Don't you want to play?"

Xiao Ming Rui replied, "Mm-hmm."

Kang Li asked again, "Why?"

Xiao Ming Rui: "Not interested."

Kang Li smiled helplessly: "But children usually love to play, Ruirui. Don't push yourself too hard; you should know that studying also requires a balance of work and rest."

Xiao Ming Rui pursed his lips and remained silent for a moment.

"Alright, if you really don't feel like playing, that's okay. But at school, you need to move around during breaks, or else you'll become a bookworm, and that wouldn't be good."

Kang Li cautioned the child.

Xiao Ming Rui nodded: "Okay."

About ten minutes later, Kang Li picked up the Chinese language textbook and, following Xiao Ming Rui's indications on what his teacher had taught yesterday, she first reviewed and then explained the new material.

As time ticked away, after Kang Li had finished teaching all the subjects on today's lesson plan, she checked the time and realized it was almost time for kindergarten to end.

"You stay home and do your homework; mom will pick up your brother and sister."

"Mm-hmm."

"Oh, and there's boiled water in the enamel tank, remember to drink some later."

"Okay."

After giving instructions to the child, Kang Li did a bit more tidying and then left the house.

"Kang Li!"

It was Wu Yue's voice.

"What is it?"

With no one else behind Wu Yue, Kang Li fell in step behind her, listening as Wu Yue said, "I need a favor, and you can't refuse. You must help me with this, otherwise, it would mean you don't consider me a friend."

Chapter 403: Stop, I Know What You Want to Say

Kang Li found it somewhat amusing, "You're so overbearing without even making it clear what kind of help you need from me—it's like a tyrant forcing his bow!"

Hearing this, Wu Yue giggled merrily and said, "What are you even talking about! How did I become the tyrant forcing his bow? What I wanted to tell you is that our TV station is planning to start a children's program, and it just so happens that I'm the producer of this show. Recently, as we've been unable to find a suitable host on short notice, my colleagues and I are nearly worried to death. So I'm hoping you could do me a favor and help out; what do you say?"

"Absolutely not, this is totally out of the question. You know that I haven't had any professional training, let alone any experience, and then there's also the fact that I have three children to take care of. I really can't help with what you're asking."

Kang Li gestured a refusal with her hands repeatedly.

Wu Yue said, "Kang Li, as a friend, you can't say no!"

Kang Li smiled helplessly, "I really can't, you should look for someone else. Or go directly to the broadcasting and hosting schools to see, maybe you will find someone suitable there."

"Ah Kang Li, finding a suitable host really isn't easy, and the reason I thought of you is twofold: firstly, you have enough charisma to make children like you the moment they see you, and secondly, you speak gently and softly and are so pretty. If you were to host our children's show,

I believe our program would definitely be a huge hit. Besides, you tell stories to your three kids at home every day. If you became the host of our show, it would be just like telling stories to a few more children, not much effort for you at all."

Seeing that Kang Li kept silent, Wu Yue pressed on, "You'll get full monthly salary, with benefits included, and you only need to work one day a week, which means recording the show once every weekend, airing on the second Saturday night of the week, not interfering with your childcare at all. Moreover, when you go to record the show, you can totally bring your three little ones along, let them join the other kids we invite as young audience members."

Kang Li remained silent.

Wu Yue bit her lip and added, "There's transportation to pick you up and drop you off, what do you say?"

Kang Li said, "I need to think about it more."

Dwen Dwen logged in hurriedly, "Miss, Miss, what are you still considering? This is a great opportunity! Once you really become the host of the children's show, we'll surely get lots and lots of happiness points. Then you'll be able to exchange them for the body strengthening pill and..."

Kang Li interrupted, "Didn't I tell you that I just want to be a salted fish?"

Dwen Dwen urged, "Miss, does being a salted fish mean you can't have aspirations? Besides, Miss, you shouldn't have forgotten what I told you before—if you don't have the body strengthening pill..."

Kang Li cut him off, "Enough, I know what you're going to say; it's just you telling me I don't have many good years left."

Dwen Dwen continued, "It's good that Miss knows, I'm not trying to scare you. According to your health index, if not for external aids, it would be very difficult to live past thirty years old!"

Kang Li replied, "You're noisy."

Dwen Dwen persisted, "Miss, think about your husband, think about your three kids. If they lost you, what would become of them? Miss, would you really be willing to hand over such a great husband to another woman, willing to have your three smart and sensible kids call someone else 'Mom'? And do you want to see another woman spending your husband's earnings? Don't forget potentially hitting and scolding your three little ones?"

"Have you decided yet?"

Wu Yue urged.

Kang Li replied, "I'm afraid I wouldn't do well."

Chapter 404: Can We Tone It Down a Bit?

Recording the show once a week didn't really affect her current daily life.

"Don't be so modest, if I say you can do it, then you can!"

Wu Yue grinned from ear to ear: "We agreed, right? This weekend I'll arrange for a car to pick up the four of you from your house. Oh, and my Ran Ran is also a fan. She's heard quite a few of the stories you've told Vivi."

Kang Li smiled but didn't respond, instead asking, "What's the name of the show?"

"Before you spoke up, we hadn't settled on a name for the show, but as soon as you asked, a name popped into my head." Wu Yue could hardly contain her happiness.

Seeing this, the corners of Kang Li's mouth involuntarily twitched, and at the same time, her lovely eyebrows couldn't help but jump as she said, "Looks like I've inadvertently become your muse."

Wu Yue laughed even more joyously: "You hit the nail on the head! Haha..."

"Can we tone it down a bit?"

Noticing the parents around them looking over, Kang Li felt her cheeks grow warm and wished she could immediately distance herself from Wu Yue, to let those people know that she didn't know the woman who was laughing uncontrollably.

But since they were friends, she ultimately didn't do that, though she still couldn't help but remind the other.

Aware of the odd looks from the parents around her, Wu Yue felt so embarrassed she wished she could dig a hole in the ground with her toes and crawl in.

Why did she laugh like that?

It was so unbecoming and embarrassing!

"Why didn't you warn me earlier?"

Wu Yue looked at Kang Li full of resentment.

"I warned you the moment you started laughing like that, okay, big sis?!"

Kang Li gave her an elegant eye roll and then said, "You seem quite intelligent, but it seems I was mistaken. You, my friend, are nothing more than a silly girl who doesn't sweat the small stuff."

"Beauty, who are you calling a silly girl?"

Wrapping an arm around Kang Li's shoulder, Wu Yue pulled her a little closer: "I'm definitely not silly, I am just..."

"Why stop talking, hmm?"

Kang Li raised an eyebrow, leisurely gazing at her.

"Unconcerned with trivialities, that's right, just like that. You're absolutely correct, I'm a bit careless, but I'm not silly in the least, and don't you start calling your big sis a silly girl again! As for all that intelligence, let me tell you the truth, it's all an act for me, but in front of you, I can't keep up the pretense, can I?"

"Big sis? You really want to be my big sis, Comrade Wu Yue?"

Kang Li's lovely fox-like eyes half-closed, she regarded Wu Yue quietly.

"Is that not okay? I'm a whole eight years older than you. Shouldn't it be natural for you to call me big sis?"

If she could have such a Fairy Girl as a little sister, she'd wake up laughing from her dreams!

The corners of Kang Li's mouth curved up in a smile, her tone light and unhurried: "I consider you a friend, yet you want to be my big sis. Tell me, Comrade Wu Yue, do you think you're more composed or more calm in the face of trouble than I am?"

"My dear little sister, my beloved little sister, do I have to be more composed or calmer in trouble than you to be your big sis?" Wu Yue deliberately pulled a mournful face: "Can't we just be sisters based on age? It's true I'm not very composed, and I do get a bit agitated in certain situations, but I believe that having you as my little sister from now on, I will strictly demand more from myself, striving to be a good older sister you can rely on. How about that, agreed?"

She just wanted such a beautiful Fairy Girl as a little sister, no one should stand in her way!

"Not okay! Though, when you can act the part of a big sis, I don't mind being your little sister then."

Chapter 405: Teasing Each Other

Kang Li smiled and decided not to tease the friend before her any longer.

Yes, in Kang Li's heart, she had long regarded Wu Yue as a friend.

Wu Yue seemed a bit disappointed, "I'm so sad, I'm so upset."

"Keep showing off, and watch me change my mind!"

Flippantly, Kang Li threw out a line, and almost instantly, Wu Yue packed away the myriad of expressions on her face, saying, "No, please don't, you've already promised to host our program, and if you go back on your word, I swear I'll eat and sleep at your house!"

"What if I don't leave the door open?"

With a soft laugh, Kang Li said, "The walls of my house are especially high, it would be very difficult for you to climb over them."

Wu Yue dismissed this, "No matter how high your walls are, couldn't I simply use a ladder?"

"True, how could I forget that a ladder could help you scale the wall? It seems that when I get home later, I'll have to strew some broken glass along the top of the wall, and scatter large and small nails within a yard of the base. That way, even if you get over the wall with a ladder, where will you put your feet next?"

As she spoke, a hint of smugness gleamed in Kang Li's fox-like eyes.

"You think this will stop me? Just you wait, I'll always find a way to get into your house!"

Wu Yue wore a smile, her demeanor completely relaxed.

The two of them bantered back and forth as they moved forward with the queue.

"We have an agreement, starting this weekend, you and your little ones wait at home for the car I arrange to pick you all up."

After greeting the teacher, Kang Li picked up the Twin with mixed sex from kindergarten, only to be called back by Wu Yue for a thorough reminder.

"I won't forget."

Since she had promised, she would naturally give it a try, and if it didn't work out, well, there was nothing she could do about it.

After all, some people might be attractive but not suitable for the camera.

However, if everything went fine, she wouldn't mind doing this favor.

After all, filming only once a week wouldn't have any special impact on her daily life, and there were no safety issues for the three kiddos.

Besides these points, what Dwen Dwen said... was actually the primary reason.

Kang Li thought to herself that she had already developed affection for the relatives in this life, for Luo Yanqing and the three kiddos. If her life truly didn't extend past thirty, regardless of how her family and Luo Yanqing would cope, she herself would be the first to suffocate with gloom.

Alright, she would already be dead by then, so feeling gloomy would be pointless.

But given the chance to survive, who would want to close their eyes, kick their legs up, and lie down in the cold earth?

Moreover, once dead, that's it. Kang Li didn't believe she'd be lucky enough to wake up in someone else's body again, much less return to her original world, to her family's side.

In her past life, she toiled for the family clan, for the corporation... died at her desk, and when she reopened her eyes, knowing she had a new life, she only wanted to laze around. But that didn't mean she held any grievances against her family from her previous life. On the contrary, she deeply cared about her parents, cared about the little brother she had brought up with her own hands...

If there was a chance for her to go back now, Kang Li wouldn't hesitate to return to her own body, to the side of her dearest dad, mom, and brother.

As for the relatives in this life, perhaps she seemed a bit indifferent, but after all, she was not the true youngest daughter of the Kang Family, not the pampered Li Bao. Perhaps if she left, the real Li Bao might return to her own body!

It just felt a bit unfair to Professor Luo, unfair to the three kiddos...

"What are you thinking about?"

Seeing Kang Li lost in thought, Wu Yue couldn't help but ask.

"Ah?"

Chapter 406 Intimate

Pulled back into reality, Kang Li shook her head, "I wasn't thinking about anything. Let's do as you said, I'll wait at home over the weekend." As she spoke, Kang Li suddenly thought of something and asked, "Doesn't your station take weekends off?"

Wu Yue: "We are human, not machines, of course the station takes weekends off. However, our team has just taken over the children's program, and to make the show a hit from the start, everyone is putting a lot of effort into planning and all the preparation before recording."

"I see, I thought you chose to record on weekends to accommodate my schedule." If that were the case, Kang Li felt she would probably become the target of resentment for everyone in the program team.

However, whether she would be resented or not, Kang Li didn't care at all.

She was just helping out, it wasn't like she had to have that job.

As for happiness points, if she wanted to, there were plenty of ways to get them.

After parting with Wu Yue, Kang Li took the twin with mixed sex back to the compound.

On the way, she reflected on what she had been daydreaming about before and couldn't help but smile bitterly to herself.

It was an utter impossibility, and yet she had indulged in so much wishful thinking that she even imagined returning to her original world, to her real family, and then wondered how her family here and Professor Luo, the elderly man, would cope...

What a fool!

She almost became a complete fool!

As tears threatened to spill from her eyes, Kang Li lifted her head, forcing them back, and repeatedly told herself: You're fine, Kang Li; you have to be fine. Although... although you will never see your dad and mom again in this lifetime, never hear Kang Yi calling you 'sister',

But you are Kang Li, the child your parents are most confident in, the sister Kang Yi admires the most, the Director Kang in the business world who instills fear with a single word!

Weakness doesn't suit you; you've always been strong since you were little. No matter where you are or what circumstances you're in, you can live life well and live it the way you want!

Yet even as she told herself this, Kang Li still felt an emotional surge at that moment.

Actually, ever since she arrived in this world, she had always been thinking about her family in her original life, but to avoid feeling sad, she forced herself not to think about them, so as to gradually adapt to her current life.

"Mommy, your eyes are red. Have you been crying?"

Milk Bun Ming Han seemed to sense something and lifted his little head to see his mother's eyes looking like those of a bunny. He couldn't help but raise his soft, childlike voice, asking with concern.

"No."

Kang Li shook her head, quickly adjusted her emotions, and said, "Mommy got some sand in her eyes, that's all."

Milk Bun Ming Han: "Then let Hanhan blow on it for Mommy!"

Xiao Ming Wei: "I want to blow on it for Mommy too."

"Alright."

With both little ones gazing up at her expectantly, Kang Li felt her heart warm and helplessly squatted down, allowing the two of them to help her blow the "sand" from her eyes.

After a moment, Milk Bun Ming Han asked, "Is Mommy feeling better now?"

Kang Li nodded, "Yes, Mommy feels much better now. Thank you Hanhan! And thank you, Vivi."

"Mommy mommy, I haven't blown on it yet, don't thank me so soon!" Baby-voiced, Xiao Ming Wei gently blew on her mother's eyes, then asked, "Mommy, do you feel a lot better now?"

"Indeed, Mommy feels much more comfortable now. Thank you, Vivi!"

Gathering one child in each arm, Kang Li held them against herself and tightened her embrace slightly, feigning a sigh, "To have such understanding little treasures as my own, I am truly blessed!"

Chapter 407: Do you like to seek attention in front of me so much?

The twins both blushed shyly.

Seeing their rosy cheeks and noticing their gazes were slightly evasive, Kang Li knew they were probably feeling bashful and couldn't help but laugh, "Mommy didn't say anything wrong, oh. Whether it's brother, our Hanhan, or Vivi, you are all sensible and good children. With you by Mommy's side, Mommy is truly very happy!"

Milk Bun Ming Han: "Having Mommy with us, along with sister and brother, makes us very happy too!"

Xiao Ming Wei: "Second brother, did you forget about Dad?"

Milk Bun Ming Han widened his eyes: "I didn't forget. With Mommy and us at home waiting for Dad to come back from his holiday, Dad must be very happy too!"

“Our Hanhan is so good with words, how wonderful!”

Praising the child, Kang Li continued walking toward the courtyard with the two of them.

“Comrade Kang!”

As they were about to reach the entrance of the courtyard, a female voice called out from behind Kang Li.

It sounded unfamiliar yet slightly recognizable. Who could it be?

Stopping her stride, Kang Li turned to look toward the source of the voice and saw Shen Yun walking over with her son Jian.

“Comrade Shen has stopped me, may I ask for what reason?”

With an indifferent expression, Kang Li watched as the other party approached.

Shen Yun’s eyes were inscrutable, her gaze fixed on Kang Li’s eyes as she said, “Professor Luo treats you really well. But, do you know all the people in his family?”

“How is that related to Comrade Shen?”

Totally absurd!

Kang Li had no desire to engage in extended conversation with her. She took the twins into the courtyard, completely ignoring whatever expression Shen Yun showed.

“Comrade Kang, you left in such a hurry. Could it be that Professor Luo hasn’t told you anything?”

With a faint smile tugging at the corner of her mouth, Shen Yun caught up with Kang Li and her children. She said, “Professor Luo has a mother, but this mother remarried quite early on...”

“Comrade Shen!”

Kang Li halted and decided not to save Shen Yun’s face, her eyes coldly fierce: “Do you enjoy seeking attention in front of me that much? If I were you, I’d spend as much time as possible on my research, making more contributions to the country, instead of acting like you do now, always eager to get involved in others’ affairs. Comrade Shen, although you seem to enjoy embarrassing yourself, I don’t want to keep you company. Do you understand?”

The project team that Shen Yun was a part of had been stuck on a problem for most of the year. Hence, Professor Wang, with the approval of the institute’s leadership, decided to let the staff take turns going on leave to clear their minds and make progress in their work.

As one of the members of the first group on leave, Shen Yun had been at home for the past week. Initially, she wanted to visit Kang Li's home more often to annoy her, but remembering that Kang Li was not bothered by her antics, and even turned the tables to leave her without face, Shen Yun suppressed her urge to irritate Kang Li.

But today, by sheer coincidence, she came across Kang Li; naturally, she wouldn't miss this opportunity.

Unexpectedly, Kang Li didn't play by the usual rules and promptly spoke her mind, making it difficult for Shen Yun to maintain her self-perceived image of cultured grace.

"Are you teaching me how to live and behave? What gives you the right? Just because you're a mere high school student, where do you get the confidence to point fingers at me?"

Her face turned cold, Shen Yun looked at Kang Li with contempt: "You'd better understand that to me, you're nothing but a literate illiterate!"

"I'm not your parent; I've got no time to teach you how to behave properly. I'm just telling you not to come my way again, or else, if I see you, be ready to lose face each time."

Chapter 408: Who Is So Kind?

Sneering, Kang Li led her mixed-sex twins straight home.

Shen Yun's lips tightened, her eyes blazing with fire. Feeling her cheeks burn with embarrassment as people looked her way, she felt exceedingly uncomfortable!

She knew that what Kang Li had just said was intended for her and that at least some of it was overheard by passersby on the street. As such, Shen Yun felt even more mortified, as if Kang Li had utterly trampled her dignity underfoot.

Self-inflicted embarrassment? To call her actions self-inflicted embarrassment, to say she didn't know how to contribute to the country... A woman illiterate—what could she know?

Just wait, she would soon be able to vent the malice in her heart!

Shen Yun suppressed her rage, a flicker of scheming flashing in her eyes.

...

In the countryside of Langcheng Township.

"Mom, this letter was mailed from North City. Why haven't I heard you mention we have relatives there?"

Meng Xingping took the letter from the mailman, signed his name on the small receipt book, glanced at the mailing address on the envelope, and then ran toward his home.

This person was none other than one of Luo Yanqing's half-brothers, the third son born to Wang Guilan and her second husband.

"What? A letter from North City!"

Lazy to the core with no interest in earning extra work points in the fields, Wang Guilan was taking a nap on the kang during the day. She shot up immediately upon hearing the clamorous voice of her third son, shouting out the window, "Bring me that letter, fast!"

Her family had no relatives in North City, but if someone from there had sent a letter, could it be... could it be that her eldest son, the one she gave birth to first... suddenly remembered her, his birth mother, and after finding her address, decided to contact her?

The deadbeat! It looks like she didn't give birth to him in vain; he does have some conscience, not abandoning his mother and brothers!

Wiping her eyes in a pretense of emotion, Wang Guilan saw her third son enter the room and reached out her hand, putting on a stern face, "Hand it over quickly, give your mother the letter!"

Meng Xingping: "Mom, you can't read many words. Even if I give you the letter, will you understand it?"

"Your mother may not understand it, but you think you do? Look at you acting all capable!"

Wang Guilan glared at her son and said, "You lazybones. Just because you've got a bit of diarrhea, you're nesting at home instead of working. I'm telling you, if you continue to be this lazy, don't expect me to find a matchmaker for you in the future!"

"Mom, my belt is hardly holding up. How can I go work like this?"

Meng Xingping placed the letter on the edge of the kang and, with his legs tightly squeezed together in a very awkward posture, hurriedly rushed off to the outhouse.

Wang Guilan scoffed, "Lazy people are full of piss and shit!"

Reaching from the edge of the kang to bring the letter before her eyes, Wang Guilan glanced at the mailing address. Seeing it was vague, she didn't look closely at it.

She tore open the envelope and unfolded the letter inside, finding only a few brief sentences. Guessing and pondering, Wang Guilan furrowed her brows.

Who could be so kindhearted?

And how did they know she was looking for that no-account son?

Unable to figure it out, Wang Guilan simply decided not to think too hard about it. As long as she could find that deadbeat son, she didn't care which kind person took the trouble to send her this good news in a letter.

All right, even if the address in the letter is fake, then... she'd consider herself tricked, having made a wasted trip!

But if it's true, wouldn't she be in for endless blessings in the future?!

Thinking of this possibility, Wang Guilan was so overjoyed she felt like sprouting wings right that instant and flying straight to North City!

"Mom, let me read the letter for you!"

Coming out of the outhouse, Meng Xingping entered the room with a smile and immediately offered.

Chapter 409: Scheming

"Get lost, get lost, get lost! Can't you wash your hands before you show up in front of me? You're filthy enough to die, but just don't disgust me!"

Wang Guilan pinched her nose and waved her hands repeatedly. She had lived in the countryside for a decade or two, but as a former city dweller, she was extremely particular about hygiene. Unfortunately, the sons she had given birth to were one dirtier than the other. Not only did they not help her tidy up the house, but they also didn't care much about personal hygiene, which was really driving her crazy!

To say nothing of which girl would fancy her sons, even she, knowing that her potential match was such a mess, would definitely turn around and walk away.

Meng Xingping chuckled foolishly and scratched the back of his head, "Mom, I'm not dirty!"

"Are you going to get out and wash your hands or not?"

Grabbing the greasy stone pillow next to her, Wang Guilan gritted her teeth, her triangular eyes glaring like brass bells, ready to "explode your dog head with this pillow if you dare not go out and wash your hands."

"Fine, I'm going, I'm going to wash my hands now, okay?"

Knowing his mother had a bad temper and always meant what she said, unlike other families who treated their sons like ancestors, Meng Xingping knew if he dillydallied any longer, he might really get hit by the stone pillow.

The very thought was too scary, so Meng Xingping turned and ran toward the yard.

"Mom, I've washed my hands. Do you want to see how clean they are?"

A few minutes later, Meng Xingping returned to his mother's room, grinned, and waved his damp hands in front of her.

"Get your paws away from me!"

Wang Guilan scolded irritably, "Are there no towels in the house, or what? Don't you know to wipe your hands after washing?"

"Mom, don't be mad, I'll shake them dry."

Saying this, Meng Xingping vigorously shook his hands until he got all the water off.

"How did I end up with such a filthy creature like you?" Wang Guilan gnashed her teeth, "Now listen to me; I don't know who sent this letter to us, but the content tells us that there's news of your elder brother..."

Meng Xingping was utterly confused and interrupted, "Elder brother? Mom, isn't my elder brother working in the fields? Why would someone need to send a letter from North City to tell us that?"

"Did I forget to give you a brain when I gave birth to you?" Was this fool really her son? Wang Guilan glared at her son for a while before continuing, "Listen well, the elder brother I'm talking about now is the first son I gave birth to."

Meng Xingping suddenly understood, nodding and saying, "Oh, I got it. Mom is talking about the Luo Family's elder brother, not my elder brother Meng Xingwang."

"Enough with your foolishness, trying to act smart in front of your mother. All the rice you've eaten over the years is a complete waste." Wang Guilan looked at her son disdainfully and then said, "I've made up my mind. We'll set out for North City tomorrow..."

Before Wang Guilan could finish her sentence, Meng Xingping eagerly interrupted, "Mom, you'll definitely bring me and second brother, right? You know, in our family, if we're talking about being smart, it's only me and second brother who can show it off!"

"I do need to bring you two brothers, but remember this: don't act like you've never seen the world the moment we reach my eldest son's house, or they'll definitely think we came to sponge off them."

Wang Guilan warned her foolish son in advance.

"But we're indeed going there to sponge off them!" Meng Xingping was puzzled, "Or is mom just going to see Luo Family's elder brother and then bring me and second brother back?"

Chapter 410: This Son Is Just a Disaster

"Even if we're just sponging off someone, we can't make it too obvious!" City folks look down on country people the most. Although she was going to her own son's home to sponge off of him, those neighbors had nothing better to do than gossip about her!

Therefore, in order to wring more out of that deadbeat son, she had to make a big show of it.

So that no one could criticize her.

“So, according to what you’re saying, Mother, what should we do when we get there?”

Meng Xingping didn’t think sponging off his own brother was something to be ashamed of, but he always listened to his mother. Hence, whatever his mother said, he would do without hesitation.

“First off, we need to show real affection. It would be best if we burst into tears at the sight of my son and his wife and kids, blubbing about how much we’ve missed them. We must keep saying it, but we mustn’t complain, don’t say anything about how we can’t make ends meet at home, or how you and your second brother—and the other brothers below you—can’t find wives!”

Wang Guilan mulled over her plan as she instructed her son.

“Mother, I understand. When the time comes, I’ll definitely cry with genuine feeling, saying how much I’ve missed my eldest brother, how much you’ve missed him over the years, how you, even though you married my father, never forgot about my eldest brother and always looked for him. And now that we’ve finally got news, you didn’t sleep all night, just hoping to see elder brother as soon as possible...”

Meng Xingping rambled on, and Wang Guilan listened with great satisfaction. She slapped her thigh and laughed, “Yes, just cry and howl like that. Make sure to remember what you just said to me, because when you see your Luo Family elder brother, you must cry and howl exactly like that for your mother!”

How touching it would be! She simply didn't believe that, with such a humble display from them, that good-for-nothing son wouldn't become soft-hearted. And what nasty things could his neighbors say about them in such a state?

She was just an old woman whose eyesight was nearly gone, who had finally found her son and now only wanted to visit him—what ill intentions could she possibly have?

Wang Guilan's eyes were full of schemes. She said, "And make sure to have a good talk with your second brother, so he doesn't slip up with his stupidity. And remember, you must talk about how your mother's eyes are nearly blind from crying all these years looking for that boy!"

Meng Xingping: "But Mother, your eyes are fine!"

"Unless I'm made out to be pitiful, that good-for-nothing son won't care about us. Wang Guilan hadn't forgotten the terrible things she'd done in the past. If the good-for-nothing son held a grudge, they might not just be denied sponging off of her, but it was also possible they would be chased away with a stick.

"And don't you forget, when we're in front of Luo Family elder brother, don't call him that good-for-nothing anymore."

If we're already sponging off someone at their front door, being disrespectful won't endear us to anyone, let alone get favors from them.

In fact, if not for the dire poverty that drilled a resounding ding-dong in their house, making it difficult for all the brothers below the eldest to find wives, he wouldn't have bothered looking in the direction of a half-brother.

After all, such matters are really nothing to be proud of!

Besides, his mother had truly done some dishonorable things in her early years. Don't ask how he knew about it. To put it bluntly, in this family... apart from the Sixth Child who's still young and knows nothing, including him, the other brothers all know how their mother cruelly treated the son she had with her first husband upon remarrying their father.

A man died, a widow didn't care for her son, took all the family money, hurriedly found herself a new man, and left for a whole twenty years... not once bothering about the child she abandoned,