

Weak B 491

Chapter 491: You're doing great, remember to keep working hard!

Luo Yanqing asked with a smile.

"So you're trying to make me uncomfortable, aren't you?"

Even though she knew the man couldn't see her, Kang Li still glared with her foxy eyes.

Unexpectedly, Milk Bun Ming Han tattled to his father: "Daddy, daddy, mommy is glaring, she's mad at you, please don't make mommy angry, okay?" Lying on his mother's lap, Milk Bun Ming Han leaned close to the microphone, his cute baby voice rising.

Beside them, Captain Kang and his wife, along with Kang Guoan and Kang Yiyang, all laughed out loud.

Now it was the turn of the person on the other side of the phone to feel uncomfortable. He cleared his throat and his fair and handsome face flushed as Director Song watched him.

Covering the microphone, Luo Yanqing glanced at Director Song indifferently: "Eavesdropping on someone's phone conversation is quite impolite. Perhaps you should step out?"

"This is my office, where do you suggest I go?"

Director Song's eyes widened with defiance: "I'm the boss here and I'm not going anywhere. You think you can still make that call?"

"Fine, I get it, you're the elder and you have the say," Luo Yanqing replied indifferently and resumed the conversation with Kang Li, "Are you mad at me?"

However, Kang Li didn't continue on that topic, instead she asked: "Are you feeling embarrassed?"

Luo Yanqing's ears turned so red they looked as if they could bleed: "No."

Kang Li: "I don't believe you."

Luo Yanqing: "Then there's nothing I can do, after all, I can't just grow wings and fly to your side right now." Upon hearing this, Kang Li laughed: "You're doing great like this. Remember, keep up the good work!"

Her Professor Luo was really getting better at talking. Just listen to that comment, not exactly sweet talk but better than that, so sweet to recall!

"Okay!"

In the face of Director Song's teasing gaze, Luo Yanqing naturally deduced what Kang Li meant. He felt the temperature on his face climbing, but still held the burning gaze of Director Song while trying to appear nonchalant: "Take care, and take mom and dad and Yiyang out for some shopping, maybe buy them a few clothes or something."

Kang Li's lips curled in a smile: "Okay, I got it."

Luo Yanqing: "Then that's it, say hello to mom and dad for me, goodbye."

Kang Li: "Wait, talk to the kids first." She waved Ruirui and Vivi over and gathered them with Milk Bun Ming Han. Kang Li passed the receiver to the three little ones, but, mischievously, Milk Bun Ming Han pressed the speakerphone button directly.

"Daddy, I'm Hanhan!"

"Daddy, I'm Vivi!"

"Daddy, I'm Ming Rui."

The excitement was evident in the voices of the three little ones, though Ming Rui was clearly more restrained.

Luo Yanqing: "Mhm, heard you. Make sure you study hard and listen to mommy at home, and be good to grandma and grandpa."

The three little ones: "Got it!"

Luo Yanqing: "Then goodbye."

Ming Rui and the twins: "Goodbye, daddy!"

In the research institute, Director Song's office.

"You, my boy, have really made me see you in a new light!"

Watching Luo Yanqing put the receiver back on the desk phone, Director Song teased: "Before, I couldn't even imagine you uttering those saccharine lovey-dovey words, let alone having extended conversations with someone. You were so stingy with words, but now, talking to Li Bao, you can't stop the sweet nothings. Kid, it seems you've really opened up!"

Luo Yanqing looked indifferent: "Is that so strange?"

Director Song: "What do you think?"

Luo Yanqing: "Xiao Li is my partner, I can say whatever I want to her. Do you, sir, have any objections?"

Chapter 492: Widowed, How Is This Possible?

Hearing this, Director Song sent a white-eyed glance, "You talk as if you're the only guy with a loved one. Do you think this old man is a lonely bachelor? What I meant was, you kid finally know how to talk sweet."

"Is it not perfectly normal to say a few intimate words to your own loved one?" Luo Yanqing raised an eyebrow, "Or are you saying, you, sir, have never spoken intimately to your godmother?"

Director Song snorted coldly, "Plenty. You're not in the same league."

Luo Yanqing: "Then why do you, sir, have objections to me?"

Director Song: "Don't you feel you've become very different from before?"

Luo Yanqing shook his head, "I haven't noticed. However, I understand what you mean, but I can also tell you, it's not that I was stingy with words before, stingy with saying one more word. It was because I didn't want to, and there was no need."

With that, Luo Yanqing turned to walk toward the office door and waved his hand casually, "I'm off, you should go back to the dorm to rest."

"You're not going to wait for this old man?"

Director Song picked up the keys from the office door, took a few quick steps, locked the door, and walked beside Luo Yanqing, only to hear the latter say, "I'm going to the lab, do you want to join?"

"Go back to the dorm to rest. Otherwise, I'm turning back to the office to call Li Bao right now."

His expression darkening, Director Song said, "You're already nearly ten years older than Li Bao. If you don't take care of your body, do you want Li Bao to become a widow early on?"

Stopping in his tracks, Luo Yanqing turned and looked directly at Director Song, "Become a widow, how could that happen?"

"Why couldn't it happen? You say to Li Bao you'll eat and rest on time, but in reality, once you get busy, you forget to go to the cafeteria for meals, sometimes even staying overnight in the lab. Tell me, with the way you're wrecking your body, how long can you accompany Li Bao in the future?"

Besides, the country needs to progress, technology needs to develop, but the country never wishes to see its hard-earned talents die young. Understand?"

Director Song with a stern face, "Work is never-ending, and family must be taken into consideration too. You can't work yourself to exhaustion, making Li Bao worry, and then leaving her alone in the end. How is that fair to anyone? Marrying you was indeed Li Bao's choice, but since she arrived in North City, what joys has she had with you?"

Luo Yanqing remained silent.

Director Song continued, "Yes, your income is high, and marrying you means Li Bao doesn't lack money. But do you know? She's earning on her own as well.

Other than looking after Ruirui and the other two kids at home, your godmother told me that Li Bao earns quite a bit just from writing each month, not to mention she's now a show host. She must get some salary at the end of each month, right?

Kid, if you don't take care of your body when you're young, by the time you want to, it might be too late!"

Patting Luo Yanqing's shoulder, Director Song advised earnestly, "Take good care of yourself and Li Bao, you've got a long road ahead of you!"

"...Back to the dorm."

Luo Yanqing's lips were tightly pressed, and after a long while, the corners of his mouth moved slightly, barely whispering those three words.

Director Song nodded with satisfaction, "That's more like it!"

The two left the office area and made their way toward the dormitory.

"Isn't it about time you took a proper vacation?"

"Aren't you always living right here at the department too, sir?"

"I'm different from you. Not only does your job wear out your mind, but it also takes a toll on your body."

"The research is at a critical stage; now is not a good time for a vacation."

Chapter 493: Opportunity

"Then don't overwork yourself, eat when it's time to eat, rest when it's time to rest. We need to look at the long term; we absolutely can't let the current work exhaust us into illness."

"I know."

He couldn't possibly let his wife become a widow at such a young age; they indeed had a long way to go, and he wanted to grow old with her hand in hand!

Thinking this, Luo Yanqing felt no more resentment towards going back to the dormitory to rest.

Time passed quickly. Having been in North City for about twenty days, Captain Kang found it hard to stay any longer and proposed going back to his hometown.

Of course, it was just him and his eldest grandson Kang Yiyang returning. Kang Yiyang, though reluctant to leave, also knew it was time to go back. After all, staying in North City forever wasn't a solution.

Moreover, while staying with his aunt, apart from helping her take the children to and from school, he couldn't help with much else. It embarrassed him to think that he was just another mouth for his aunt to feed.

However, since the day to head home was set for next Tuesday, the day after tomorrow, Kang Yiyang used this weekend to accompany his aunt to the TV station again. He went partly to watch his aunt record a program and partly to help her look after the children.

"There's something I want to ask your opinion on."

After the program finished, Wu Yue pulled Kang Li aside to talk. Kang Li was quite uncomfortable with this pulling and tugging, but she didn't say anything.

"Alright, let's talk here then."

The two moved to a corridor corner, and Kang Li looked at Wu Yue for a while before asking, "This isn't going to be some gossip again, is it?"

Wu Yue rolled her eyes: "Do I look like someone that idle?"

Kang Li: "That's for you to decide."

"You're really bad! I just like a bit of gossip, so what? Do you have a problem with that?" Wu Yue retorted, giving Kang Li a look that said "dare to object, and beware my eyes might attack you!"

Understanding her gesture, Kang Li couldn't help but laugh: "No way, no way, how could I possibly object to you, sister? Go on then, what is it you want to ask my opinion about?"

"Then listen carefully," Wu Yue said.

Not beating around the bush, she said directly: "I've noticed that our big nephew looks quite promising, so I was wondering if your boy has any particular talents?"

Kang Li gave her a look to continue, and Wu Yue went on: "Here's the thing: my uncle said their Cultural Work Troupe is planning to recruit new members, just for one day, which is tomorrow. They're open to any gender, aged between 16 to 20. I really think our big nephew has the right looks;

so I'm thinking of recommending this good prospect to my uncle. But, after all, it's not for me to decide, right?

You are the boy's real aunt, and also, we need to consider what the big nephew and his parents think. So, I'm letting you know first, and you should discuss it well with his parents and him when you get home,

Call me before dinner to tell me the results of your discussion. If the big nephew is interested, I'll pre-inform my uncle, and tomorrow morning, we can take the big nephew to the North City Cultural Work Troupe for the audition."

Leaning in closer to Kang Li's ear: "As long as our big nephew's talent is just passable, he'll definitely be accepted." The implication was that it was just a formality.

"Wait for my call then."

This was indeed an opportunity for Kang Yiyang, but with just over two years left until he could potentially enter university through college entrance exams, Kang Li hesitated a bit.

Chapter 494: Just Show Off!

However, faced with the opportunity kindly offered by her close friend, Kang Li naturally wouldn't outright refuse, and neither did she have the right to make decisions for Kang Yiyang.

Even though she was the younger aunt and elder to Kang Yiyang, the decisions that needed to be made still had to be made by Kang Yiyang himself.

Nevertheless, she would make things clear to the young man ahead of time.

"Then that's settled, ha!"

Wu Yue laughed and put her arm around Kang Li's shoulder, "Actually, if it were possible, I'd want to push you in front of my uncle directly!"

"Please don't! To be honest with you, I'm really lazy and just want to lay at home all day doing nothing."

Decisively waving her hand, Kang Li got up and left.

"Look how scared you are!"

Wu Yue followed, muttering, "I really don't get you, with such good personal qualities and being so smart, yet you just don't like to move. Speaking of which, don't you think this is too lacking in ambition?"

Kang Li: "Do you know what a 'salted fish' is?"

Wu Yue "heh"ed, saying, "Isn't that obvious?" She not only knew about salted fish but had eaten quite a few too!

"Me, I really, really want to be a salted fish, the kind that doesn't even have to turn over."

Hearing Kang Li say this, Wu Yue was dumbfounded: "Aren't you worried about stinking up the place yourself?"

"Do salted fish stink?"

Kang Li glanced at her.

Wu Yue: "...". She didn't utter a single word for a long while.

"Think about it, isn't the highest realm of life to live like a salted fish?"

Kang Li's tone was gentle and comfortable: "Without having to do anything all day, sleep when you want to sleep, do whatever you want, having full control of your time, not needing to do what others tell you to..."

Wu Yue interrupted: "Why do I feel like this salted fish life you're talking about is very much like the term 'laying rotten' you once mentioned to me?"

Before Kang Li could reply, Wu Yue continued: "And according to my understanding of you, doesn't your ideal salted fish life require a financial foundation? Like, having wealth and leisure, only then would such a 'salted fish life' be the ultimate realm of life? And isn't that the kind of salted fish life you want, right?"

"Big sis, you're so smart!"

Kang Li feigned a shocked look: "That's amazing, big sis truly is my confidante!"

"Get out of here! I'm not as fortunate as you, dreaming of a salted fish life. Me, if I don't go to work every day, let alone how to raise kids, we probably wouldn't even have rice to put in the pot."

With a curled lip, Wu Yue showed envy: "Not like you, where your loved one's salary alone is enough for the whole family's expenses, and I reckon there's even something left over every month..." She sighed heavily, feeling emotional: "Life is so difficult, especially when people can't compare to one another, otherwise, it's impossible to live this life!"

"You just love to joke!"

Kang Li chuckled, saying, "If you dare to repeat what you told me in front of your hubby, I'll consider you a hero! Without a day of work, there won't be rice in the pot, do you think your man is just for show?"

"Hehe! Just joking, but honestly, I do yearn for the salted fish life too. I hope someday my life can reach the standard of a salted fish!"

"Work hard, sister! The salted fish life that we long for won't be too far away!"

As Kang Li said this, she and Wu Yue exchanged glances, and involuntarily, laughter erupted from them both.

The courtyard.

When Kang Li got home, her mother had already prepared dinner. Seeing this, Kang Li gathered the family members and relayed the conversation she had with Wu Yue truthfully. After a moment of silence, she turned to her grandnephew and said, "I've heard some inside information from your uncle—do you want to hear it?"

Chapter 495 Concerns

Kang Yiyang nodded.

Kang Li, "Your uncle said that in no more than three years, you would be able to normally apply to university. Do you understand what I mean? If you were to join the North City Cultural Workgroup..."

Upon hearing this, Kang Yiyang's eyes lit up once more—yes, once more—because the moment before, when Kang Li mentioned that he could try out for the North City Cultural Workgroup, the youth's eyes had sparkled. And now, hearing his aunt mention university, how could the young man not be thrilled?

He almost didn't think twice, his mouth broke into a smile as he said, "Aunt, rather than continuing to toil in the fields at home, I'd much prefer to pass the test and join the Cultural Workgroup. I'll go back and study hard, striving to get into university!"

Upon hearing this, Kang Li didn't respond but simply smiled and asked Captain Kang and his wife, "Dad, Mom, do you have any objections?"

"If Yangyang really gets into that Cultural Workgroup, won't it affect his university entrance exams?" Cai Xiufen voiced her worry.

To be honest, compared to joining the Cultural Workgroup, Cai Xiufen hoped more that her eldest grandson could get into university and have a better future. In her understanding, joining the Cultural Workgroup meant daily singing, dancing, and performing—much like the old societal stage actors...

Alright, as the women's director of the team, Cai Xiufen naturally didn't think there was anything wrong with the acting profession, especially since their Old Kang's family was from a humble background, having a job was already very good—there was nothing for them to complain about.

But getting into university was honorable. After graduation, one could become a national officer, and life thereafter would surely be worry-free.

And being on stage every day, hopping around and performing—it might be fine when young, but what about when one grows old?

Before Kang Li could respond, Captain Kang asked again, "If he gets into that Cultural Workgroup, does that mean he'll be performing on stage later on?"

"Yes, he would perform on stage, and if performed well, he might even appear on television or in movies."

With a smile in her eyes, Kang Li replied to her parents, "As for whether it will affect his university exams, that will depend on how Yangyang manages his time in the future. If, and I say if, he can't properly schedule time for revision, it will inevitably affect his college entrance examination scores, otherwise, it shouldn't have much impact."

"Grandma, Grandpa, don't worry, as long as I have free time, I will definitely take out my textbooks and study well," Kang Yiyang assured Captain Kang and his wife earnestly.

However, Captain Kang wasn't looking at his grandson but continued to question his beloved daughter, "But what if Yangyang doesn't get into university? Can he continue working in the Cultural Workgroup? And, as Yangyang gets older, won't he be unable to perform onstage?"

"Grandpa! How can you say that? Though my grades might not be as good as my aunt's, they are not worse than my uncle's. I believe I can definitely get in!"

He intensely wished to get into university and would naturally strive to achieve good results!

"Dad, just for instance, even if Yangyang doesn't make it to university this time, he could still take the exam next year. However, this doesn't affect Yangyang's job in the Cultural Workgroup. If Yangyang doesn't want to continue trying for university, he could stay in the Cultural Workgroup, but only if he continuously improves in his performances rather than just getting by.

In that case, even when Yangyang is as old as you, or even has white hair, he could still shine on the stage. Dad, our country has quite a few old artists like Master Mei, who is a renowned Beijing Opera performer!"

Cai Xiufen, "I know this person; he's an opera singer, right?"

Chapter 496: Are You Trying to Goad Me?

Kang Li nodded, "To sing Beijing Opera, specifically the top female role in opera, and even found the Mei School, overall, this master is especially famous!"

"I've heard Master Mei sing quite well, according to what I've heard, whenever Master Mei performed, the theater was always packed!" Cai Xiufen exclaimed.

Captain Kang said, "Then let's do as Yangyang suggested. Let him go for the Cultural Work Troupe audition tomorrow. If he gets in, remember to study well when he has free time, and aim for good results in the college entrance exam."

As he spoke, Captain Kang added, "After I return to our hometown, I'll send over the textbooks used by you, your brother, and Yangyang during middle and high school."

"Dad, there's no need for all that trouble. I can look at the local recycling station some other day; I should be able to gather enough..." Kang Li was saying, when Captain Kang interrupted, "Why spend that money? We have your textbooks at home, your mother has kept them well. Once I get back, I'll have your older brother pack them and send them to the town post office. It won't be long before you receive them here."

Kang Li suddenly realized something, her eyes widening in disbelief as she looked at Captain Kang, "Dad... Dad, what did you just say? Send me the middle and high school textbooks too? Dad, you couldn't possibly be thinking of having me, my brother, and Yangyang take the college entrance exam together, could you?"

"Why not take it?"

Captain Kang looked puzzled.

Cai Xiufen said, "Exactly, Li Bao, how could you not take the college entrance exam? In our family, you have the best academic performance. Your mother and I are still hoping you can get into a prestigious university and bring honor to our village!"

"There's no need..."

Before coming to this world, she had been educated among elite family circles from a young age, learned plenty, and even studied abroad. Later, she took over the family conglomerate, exhausting both mind and body, and died unexpectedly at a young age.

In this lifetime, she truly didn't want to strive for anything.

Dwen Dwen suddenly came online, "Miss, your parents are really kind toward you, how could you disappoint them? Besides, Miss, the neighbor, Comrade Su, started reviewing the middle school textbooks since last winter..."

Kang Li asked, "You went over to the next door?"

Dwen Dwen replied, "I was just strolling around, but I did hear Comrade Su saying that she must get into the best university in North City.

Miss, I know that both you and Comrade Su are stepmothers to the children. If Comrade Su succeeds in entering a prestigious university through hard work, her children will definitely be thrilled and proud of their stepmother. You can imagine how much esteem that would bring them when going out. But you..."

"If you, Miss, either don't take the exam or don't perform as well as Comrade Su, do you think Ruirui and the others will be happy?

They might even be ridiculed by their peers, comparing you to Comrade Su. If something like that happens, think of how uncomfortable Ruirui and the others would feel? Miss, could you really bear that?

Moreover... Comrade Su's husband and brother-in-law work together in the same research institute, and he reports directly to her brother-in-law. If Comrade Su gets into a prestigious university and you either don't participate in the college entrance exam or perform poorly, do you think your brother-in-law could hold his head high in front of Comrade Su's husband?"

Kang Li said, "You're provoking me."

Dwen Dwen replied, "Absolutely not, I'm just mentioning possible scenarios to you, Miss~"

"Li Bao! What are you thinking?" Captain Kang frowned, "Since there's a chance to go to college, why wouldn't you want to try?"

Chapter 497 Promise

Cai Xiufen: "Your father and I have been looking forward to the day you'd go to college since you started elementary school. Li Bao, you can't let us down, understand?"

"Little aunt, if you don't take the college entrance exams, then me and little uncle won't either. That way, our family will miss out on three college students. If grandpa and grandma get upset because of us, you'll have to take the biggest responsibility!"

Kang Yiyang was obviously trying to scare his younger aunt, Kang Li, with his words.

"I was thinking..." Kang Li still wanted to struggle, she laughed and said, "In two or three years, Chenchen and Xiao Honghong will have just graduated high school and just finished high school, respectively. Counting those two, and adding little brother and Yangyang, our family would have..."

Captain Kang cut Kang Li off with a serious face, "They are them, you are you. Li Bao, tell me right now, do you want to go to college or not?"

"..." Kang Li felt a bitter taste in her mouth, watched steadily by her parents and eldest nephew, she kept silent for a long while, and finally relented, "Alright, I'll take the exams."

Kang Yiyang emphasized, "You can't just go through the motions. Little aunt, you have to perform to your true ability!"

Kang Li remained silent.

Captain Kang glared, "Didn't hear?"

Cai Xiufen, full of hope, said "Li Bao..."

"I know, I'll do my best!" Going to college was a piece of cake for her, but times had changed. Though she could manage other subjects easily, politics required a bit more attention, like memorizing quotations and so on.

Once Kang Li set her mind to do something, she would not merely try, she had to excel at it!

Besides, she had to make her parents proud!

This was the earnest hope of her elderly parents, and Kang Li felt her heart would ache if she disappointed them.

The reason?

Her parents had been truly good to her, even if it was for the sake of the body she occupied. But since she was their daughter, she naturally had to fulfill her filial duties and not let her parents' expectations go unmet!

Dwen Dwen: "Sister, you're awesome!"

Kang Li: "No need for flattery. If I promised to do something, I won't just do it half-heartedly." If Luo Yanqing and the three kiddos at home knew she got into college, well... they'd definitely feel very proud of her too, right?!

Alright, not just for herself, but for those who loved her and whom she loved, she decided to welcome the college entrance exam with the right attitude.

"That's more like it!"

Cai Xiufen became happy and couldn't help saying, "Remember to talk to your little brother about the college entrance exam."

Kang Li nodded: "I will."

At this moment, the four of them realized that the three kiddos at home had somehow fallen asleep on the couch. Seeing this, Team Leader and his wife carried the twins, and beckoned Yiyang to carry Min Rui to the children's room.

Kang Li was left sitting alone in the living room.

"I'm not made of paper!"

Feeling ignored, she wondered why everyone seemed to overlook her presence.

Dwen Dwen: "Sister, your parents and big nephew are just being protective of you, they're worried about you getting tired!"

Kang Li: "You seem very free?"

Dwen Dwen: "Not really, I'm off to play now, see you later, sister!" He disappeared swiftly.

Kang Li: "Hmph! Quick on his feet, isn't he!"

The next morning, bright and early, Kang Li and her eldest nephew took the twins to kindergarten and sent Min Rui to school. Afterward, the two of them took a bus to the North City Cultural Work Troupe, not wanting to keep Wu Yue waiting.

Sure enough, as soon as they got off the bus, they saw Wu Yue standing at the entrance of North City Cultural Work Troupe, smiling and waving at them.

"You're here really early, aren't you?!"

Chapter 498 I Didn't Say Anything Wrong

Walking closer with my nephew, Kang Li shook her head gently and said to Wu Yue.

"I was worried you got here early and missed me in your haste."

Wu Yue replied casually with a smile, "Let's go in, the exam is still almost an hour away."

Kang Li nodded, "Let's go."

At this moment, Wu Yue sized up Kang Yiyang from head to toe with a gaze full of admiration, she said, "Did you style Yangyang's hair and pick out his clothes for today?" Although it was a question, Wu Yue's demeanor and tone made it clear that she already knew the answer.

"When I got home last night, my auntie trimmed my hair and said this was called 'layered hair,'" Kang Yiyang responded shyly with a smile, speaking for his aunt to Wu Yue, "The clothes and shoes are what my auntie bought me a while back. Last night before bed, she picked out this outfit for me to wear to the exam today, saying it would make a good impression on the teacher."

Wu Yue laughed, "You're such a straightforward kid! But your auntie really does have an excellent taste. With that hairstyle and this outfit, you look like an incredibly handsome, sunny young man."

In fact, Kang Yiyang dressed quite simply.

He wore an army green jacket over a knit vest paired with a white shirt, navy blue pants, and a pair of white sneakers on his feet.

This outfit complemented Kang Yiyang's naturally handsome and sunny appearance, making him appear even more clean-cut and striking—clearly, someone else's child.

Seeing Kang Yiyang's cheeks turn slightly red, Kang Li glanced at Wu Yue and said lightly, "Alright, that's enough. You're going to make my nephew blush."

"If my nephew looks good and dresses sharply, why can't I praise him a little more?" Wu Yue snorted before adding, "I think, with our nephew's looks, he's not one bit inferior to movie actors."

Kang Li: "Quiet down, will you? My nephew is blushing because of you."

Wu Yue pouted, "I didn't say anything wrong." But ultimately, she refrained from saying more.

The three of them arrived at an office, or more precisely, Wu Yue led Kang Li and her nephew into the office. There, Wu Yue immediately introduced them to the middle-aged comrade in the room, "Uncle, this is the child I told you about, his name is Kang Yiyang. And this lady is my good friend Kang Li whom I mentioned before; she's Yiyang's aunt."

Kang Li: "Comrade, hello!"

Kang Yiyang followed behind Kang Li and politely greeted him.

"Hello to you too."

Wu Yue's uncle, named Lin Ping, fifty years old and the head of the Cultural Work Troupe, looked at Kang Li and her nephew with unconcealed admiration in his eyes, "Not bad."

Having known from his niece Wu Yue that Kang Li had no intention of applying for the Cultural Work Troupe, Lin Ping, the head of the troupe, felt a tad regretful but didn't ask further. Now, he fixed his gentle gaze on Kang Yiyang, "What talents do you have?"

Kang Yiyang: "I can play the flute, the erhu, and sing."

Lin Ping: "Why don't you play a tune for me now, can you?"

Kang Yiyang: "Sure." He had brought both the flute and the erhu with him since Kang Li, anticipating the possibility, had reminded him to bring them early that morning.

Without much thought, Kang Yiyang immediately played a piece titled "Unrestrained."

He played very proficiently, and of course, he was just as skilled on the erhu. After all, Yiyang had taken his lessons with Kang Li very seriously, practicing diligently morning, noon, and night. Whenever he played or drew the bow incorrectly, Kang Li would be right there to give guidance.

And with Kang Yiyang's solid foundation, learning these skills was not difficult at all.

Chapter 499 Can I be your friend?

"Great!"

As the piece ended, Lin Ping's face was full of smiles as he applauded vigorously.

Wu Yue did the same.

Lin Ping, "The young man plays quite well, but this piece is somewhat unfamiliar to me. I don't think I've ever heard it before."

Kang Yiyang, "It's something I recently learned from my aunt."

Kang Li explained, "Once, by chance, I heard someone playing it on the erhu by the lakeside in the park. I found the melody beautiful and moving, so I went home and learned it myself. Not long ago, my nephew heard it and liked it, so I taught him."

"I see, no wonder it sounded unfamiliar to me."

Lin Ping smiled and asked, "So, in the audition later, are you planning to play the erhu or the flute?"

Kang Yiyang, "The erhu, I guess, since I've spent more time learning it."

Lin Ping, "Alright, you've got a great appearance, and the piece you played just now was pretty good. As long as you perform normally during the audition, there's absolutely no problem with getting accepted."

Wu Yue, "Uncle, why don't you let Yiyang play the erhu for you to listen, and then you can give him some advice on whether it's better for him to play the erhu or the flute for the audition."

Glancing at the time on his wristwatch, Lin Ping nodded, "There's still some time before the audition, alright, let's listen to Comrade Xiao Kang play a piece." He paused for a moment before adding, "Just play the same piece you just performed with the flute."

Kang Yiyang, "Okay."

Kang Li handed the erhu to her elder nephew.

Sitting to one side, Kang Yiyang focused intently, and before long, the sound of the erhu filled the office.

Lin Ping nodded his head repeatedly, a smile in his eyes as if he had found a treasure.

Good looks, and talented in playing the flute and the erhu, as well as in singing, he could be trained as a future pillar of the stage!

Thinking this, Lin Ping became even more satisfied with Kang Yiyang.

As Kang Yiyang finished playing, the office door was pushed open from the outside, and at the same time, a crisp and pleasant female voice rang out, "Dad! Who's playing the erhu? It sounds so beautiful!"

"Dandan! Why didn't you knock before coming in?"

When Wu Yue saw that it was her younger cousin, Lin Dan, she glared at her, "Didn't you even consider that there might be guests inside?" Lin Dan stuck out her tongue at Wu Yue, then walked over and hooked her arm, smiling sheepishly, "I just wanted to see who was playing the erhu. In my eagerness, I forgot to knock."

Wu Yue looked annoyed, "And what about now? Can't you see there are guests?"

"Your sister is right," Lin Ping glanced at his daughter and said to Kang Li and her nephew, "I admit we've spoiled her too much, sorry for the awkwardness. By the way, I haven't introduced you yet. This is my younger daughter, Lin Dan, a dance performer with our troupe."

Kang Li smiled, indicating it was not a problem, then she turned to Lin Dan. She saw the other gazing at her with wide eyes full of awe and was about to speak when Lin Dan beat her to it, "Comrade, you're so beautiful! You're the prettiest girl I've ever seen—I really like you!"

Letting go of her cousin Wu Yue's arm, Lin Dan, in an overly familiar manner, sidled up to Kang Li. Having looked at Kang Li up close for a while, she asked with a giggle while clutching her arm, "Can I be friends with you? I really, really like you!"

"What are you doing? Are you trying to steal her away from me?" Wu Yue pulled Lin Dan away and positioned herself in front of Kang Li, "She's my good friend, my dear sister. You should call her Sister Kang Li!"

"But Comrade Kang Li obviously looks younger than me!"

Lin Dan pouted and glared at her cousin Wu Yue.

Wu Yue, "By age, my sister is indeed a year younger than you, but according to my family seniority..."

Chapter 500: A Bit Nervous

Lin Dan reminded, "Sister, we're of the same generation."

Wu Yue: "I don't care, you have to call me sister for my little sister. Otherwise, go stand over there." She knew better than anyone that her cousin liked good-looking guys even more than she did.

Well, to use Kang Li's words, they both had a thing for good looks!

"Sister, stop making it hard for me. I really can't bring myself to say it!" Lin Dan chuckled and moved her gaze to Kang Yiyang: "Hello."

In fact, the moment she entered the office, Lin Dan had noticed Kang Yiyang. At that moment, she just felt a brightness before her eyes, but because of the reserve that girls should maintain, she had not paid much attention.

Now, looking directly at him, Lin Dan truly understood what "love at first sight" meant.

Kang Yiyang politely responded, "Hello."

"If there's nothing else, get on with your work!"

It's said that no one knows a daughter better than her father, and as someone who had been through it all, Lin Ping could tell that his daughter, Lin Dan, appeared nonchalant but was actually a bit shy when her eyes fell on the young man. What didn't he understand?

So, to avoid his daughter becoming embarrassed in front of others, he couldn't help but subtly send the young man off.

"Oh!"

Lin Dan acknowledged, shifting her gaze back to Wu Yue and Kang Li: "Then I'll get going. If you've got something to discuss, take your time talking with my dad."

"Off you go, get busy!" Wu Yue waved her hands repeatedly as if shooing someone away, not wanting to see her cousin coming to her one day, seeking to pick the flower of youth.

Alright, 20 and 18 wasn't much of a difference, just two years. But it still sounded a bit awkward for a girl to be older than the boy.

Even if it was only by two years!

Not long after Lin Dan left, Wu Yue led Kang Li and Kang Yiyang away from their uncle Lin Ping and then the three went outside the examination room to register and get their numbers, so they could later enter the examination room and face the teachers' assessment.

"Nervous?"

After registering and receiving his number, Kang Li asked her nephew with a smile.

Kang Yiyang: "A little."

"Relax, it's really nothing. Just imagine you're playing at home for our family," Kang Li softly smiled, comforting her nephew's nerves, "Or think about something light and cheerful right now, and when they call your name, you probably won't be too nervous."

"Okay."

Kang Yiyang nodded.

Wu Yue lowered her voice and shared her little trick for dealing with nervousness with Kang Yiyang, "Just think everyone else is no match for me, be confident, and you definitely won't be nervous!"

Kang Yiyang was initially taken aback, then he smiled: "Alright."

About twenty minutes later, as the examination officially began, and Kang Yiyang received number 21. After the first 20 candidates had their turns, it was Yiyang's turn to enter the examination room. Kang Li and Wu Yue simultaneously offered encouragement, "Go for it!"

Firmly nodding, Kang Yiyang straightened his back, holding his number card, and pushed open the exam room door to walk in.

"Let's go home."

As time passed by the second, seeing Kang Yiyang coming out of the examination room, Kang Li asked nothing, simply smiling and waving, and when Kang Yiyang walked over, she said with a laugh.

Kang Yiyang: "Okay."

Wu Yue: "Together, it just so happens I'm also waiting for the bus."

"Heading to the office?" Kang Li asked Wu Yue.

Shaking her head, Wu Yue replied: "I took half a day off, I'm going home now, and later I'll go to the office for a regular shift."

The three of them left the North City Cultural Workgroup building and stopped at the bus stop sign. They didn't wait long before the bus that Kang Li and her nephew were going to take arrived.

"Well, we're off then, see you around."

Just before boarding the bus, Kang Li looked at Wu Yue with a smile: "Thanks!"