

Weak B 501

Chapter 501: Passed the Exam

"Is that necessary?"

Wu Yue rolled her eyes.

"Of course."

Kang Li, smiling with fox-like eyes, left Wu Yue with those words and followed Kang Yiyang onto the bus.

"Really! What's with the thanks among friends?!"

Watching the bus carrying Kang Li and the other disappear, Wu Yue muttered to herself and shook her head.

Mid-afternoon.

Hearing the ring of the landline, Kang Li casually picked up the handset: "Hello, may I ask who's calling?"
Upon learning that it was Commander Lin from the Cultural Work Troupe, Kang Li was slightly surprised:
"Commander Lin, go ahead, I'm listening!"

After hearing what was said, Kang Li smiled and replied, "Alright, I will talk to my nephew about it... Thank you, I will take him to the studio for the audition, okay, I will call you with the results... Wait a moment, let me get a pen and paper..."

Fetching a notebook and a ballpoint pen from the drawer of the coffee table, Kang Li's voice rose again: "Go ahead, okay, I've written it down... goodbye."

After ending the call, Kang Li heard her mother ask, "Was that a call from the film studio?"

"No, it was Commander Lin from the North City Cultural Workgroup. He said that our Yangyang got accepted. They will announce the list over there tomorrow."

Kang Li's face brightened with a smile, her voice brimming with laughter: "Also, a film director from the studio just happened to visit the Cultural Workgroup this afternoon to choose a suitable male actor; coincidentally, this director saw our Yangyang at the audition and felt that Yangyang's age, appearance, and ability to play the erhu perfectly fit the requirements..."

She relayed what Commander Lin had said on the phone, finally Kang Li exclaimed, "I never expected our Yangyang to be so lucky!"

Cai Xiufen looked incredulous: "Let me get this straight, you're saying that some film director has taken a liking to Yangyang and wants him to do a movie?!"

Kang Li: "It's not set yet, he needs to audition first. If the director approves after the audition, then our Yangyang can go straight to filming the movie."

Captain Kang asked, "Is it the kind of movie you watch on the big screen?"

Kang Li: "Yes, that kind."

Cai Xiufen: "Old man, I think you should stay here tomorrow. If Yangyang really catches the director's eye, we definitely need someone to accompany him to the shoot. Otherwise, if anything happens to Yangyang out there, and there's no one to look after him, what will we do?"

"I've never been exposed to the big scene, what can I do by staying by Yangyang's side?" Captain Kang shook his head and said, "If someone really needs to accompany him, it might have to be Li Bao staying with him for a couple of days. Then, I can help Li Bao pick up and drop off Ruirui and the others at school."

Upon hearing this, Kang Li knew her dad was mostly not going back home tomorrow; pleased, she said, "If the director really approves him, then we'll do as dad said."

"Mommy, mommy, I'm back from kindergarten!"

It was the twins' voice.

"Mommy knows."

Watching the twins rush towards her the moment they entered the living room, Kang Li opened her arms and, the next moment, the twins ran straight into her embrace.

Kang Yiyang followed the little ones into the living room: "Those little legs sure are quick!"

Laughing, the twins chimed in unison, "It's because big cousin is too slow!"

"Okay, you two quiet down now, mommy has something to tell your big cousin." After ruffling the twins' heads, Kang Li's eyes twinkled with laughter: "Not only have you been accepted by the North City Cultural Workgroup, but also you have been noticed by a director from the film studio. They want you to come for an audition tomorrow, and if it works out, you could be going straight into filming the movie."

Chapter 502: Happy

The surprise came so suddenly that Kang Yiyang stood in the middle of the living room, stunned for a while, before breaking into a smile, "Little aunt, is this really true?"

Kang Li nodded with a smile, "Mhm."

"Grandpa! Grandma! Did you hear that? I've been admitted to the North City Cultural Workgroup, and the director even took notice of me and asked me to audition!" Kang Yiyang was still a boy at heart, and the good news made him so happy he didn't know where to put his hands and feet.

"Silly boy! Can't you be a little more composed?" Kang Li laughed, "You're eighteen now, an adult. You need to learn to be steady and calm in the face of things. Otherwise, people will think you're a big dummy."

Captain Kang and his wife laughed out loud.

Kang Yiyang's smile faded, grievance filling his voice, "Little aunt, I'm not a dummy, let alone a big dummy, I'm sharp!"

Before Kang Li could reply, Milk Bun Ming Han chimed in, "Mom, is big cousin going to be a movie actor?"

"That's not certain yet, but your big cousin went to audition for the North City Cultural Workgroup this noon, and just now the Team Leader of the workgroup called our house to say your big cousin was accepted. Aren't you happy?"

Kang Li watched the twins with a smile beaming in her eyes.

"Happy!" The twins spoke up together with their cute baby voices, followed by seal-like applause, "Big cousin is awesome!"

"Just so-so."

At this juncture, Kang Yiyang became modest.

"Give a call to our hometown, let the family share the joy. Also, make a call to your little uncle. Everyone must know about this happy event today," Kang Li said.

Upon hearing this, both Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen agreed.

"Then I'll call home right now, and regarding little uncle, I'll call him when he's about to get off work." If his parents knew that he had been admitted to the North City Cultural Workgroup and it was a formal position, they would surely be thrilled!

Captain Kang said, "At this time, your parents are still working in the fields and haven't come home yet. They won't be able to answer your call."

Cai Xiufen said, "Then let Yangyang call after he gets off work."

Kang Yiyang smiled and complied, "OK, I'll listen to grandma."

As it neared the end of work hours, Kang Li called her brother Kang Guoan. Once the other end answered and she recognized her brother's voice, Kang Li began, "Little brother, it's me. I'm calling you first to tell you some good news, and also to ask if everything's alright with you."

Kang Guoan replied, "Everything's fine! The leaders talked to me, said the Yang Family people were all transferred to a city in the south. Tell mom and dad not to worry about that crazy woman coming to my work to bother me anymore."

"Alright, I've got it. I'll tell mom and dad," Kang Li said cheerfully, "The good news I have is that Yiyang went to audition for the North City Cultural Workgroup today at noon, and just a little while ago I received a call from the Cultural Work Troupe saying Yiyang was accepted. And it's a formal position! Plus, a movie director has taken a liking to Yiyang and wants him to come for an audition tomorrow!"

"Yiyang is really amazing, tell that kid I said congratulations!"

Kang Guoan was truly happy for his grandnephew.

"He's right beside me, I'll tell him right now." Kang Li held the receiver, turning to Kang Yiyang, "Your little uncle is congratulating you!"

Kang Yiyang casually said thanks.

"Little brother, you must have just gotten off work, right?" asked Kang Li.

"Yeah, I'm just tidying up my desk, getting ready to go back to the dorm to grab my lunch box and head to the canteen for food."

"Then hurry on, and remember to call me if there's anything."

Chapter 503: Bringing Good News

"Okay."

"Goodbye!"

"Goodbye!"

After ending the call, Kang Li pressed the hang-up button and immediately dialed the main office of her hometown. Then, she handed the phone to her nephew. "Here, I've dialed the number for you."

Aoli Village.

Before even entering their home after work, Big Brother Kang and his wife heard the village's loudspeaker. They instantly knew the call had to be from North City without second guessing.

"I'll go answer it, you go home and start cooking dinner." As he said this, Big Brother Kang passed the farming tools he was carrying on his shoulder to his wife and turned to head quickly toward the office.

Office.

"Hello!"

As soon as the desk phone rang, Big Brother Kang picked it up.

Kang Yiyang: "Dad, it's me, I'm Yangyang!"

"Your dad isn't deaf!"

Big Brother Kang rolled his eyes and said in a loud, coarse voice. "Is it about you and your grandpa coming back? Have you fixed the date yet? If so, just tell me, and I'll come pick you up at our county town station then."

"Dad, I'm afraid I can't come back this year, and as for Grandpa, I don't know when he can return home..." Kang Yiyang hadn't finished speaking when Big Brother Kang cut him off loudly. "What? Neither you nor your grandpa are coming back? Is that really okay? Your aunt's food ration is fixed; what will you eat if you stay there too long?"

Had it already been nearly a month? Was his old man getting too attached to not want to come back? Planning to stay in North City to keep Li Bao company?

And that kid of his, why did he say he couldn't even come back for the New Year?

Big Brother Kang's mind was full of question marks.

"Dad, I got into the North City Cultural Workgroup! It's a formal position, and I'll get a wage every month. I called today to tell you, Mom, and everyone else at home about this.

Also, Grandpa was planning to leave for home tomorrow, but this afternoon my aunty got a call. Some director wants me for a movie, so aunty will take me to an audition tomorrow. If it goes well, sooner or later, you and Mom can watch the movie I'm in!"

Kang Yiyang went on and on, leaving Big Brother Kang stunned, finding his voice after a long pause: "Yangyang, what are you saying? Say it again for Dad, what did you pass? What movie are you going to shoot?"

"Dad, I said I got into North City Cultural Workgroup..."

Repeating what he had said before, Kang Yiyang asked, "Dad, can you hear clearly now? Grandpa might not be back soon because if the director picks me, aunty will have to accompany me to shoot the movie, and he will need to help aunty with taking Ruirui and the others to and from school. Let Uncle Three know too. Anyway, when Grandpa decides to come back, he will definitely call in advance."

Big Brother Kang understood this time, really understood, and his face lit up with joy. "How come my boy is so capable? You're more talented than your dad, good boy, making your parents proud. Anything else? If not, I'm going back to hurry up and share this great news with your mom. She'll be thrilled!"

"How are you and Mom doing health-wise? And how about Uncle Three and everyone else?"

"We're all doing well here. How have Grandpa, Grandma, and your aunty been lately?"

"Grandpa, Grandma, and my aunty are all fine too, yeah, and I'm good as well! Ruirui and them are very understanding... Ah? My uncle? Haven't seen him; aunty said my uncle has been very busy at work since the festival, hardly taking any breaks. Yeah, I know, don't worry, I'll take good care of Grandpa and Grandma..."

Chapter 504: Why Are You Asking So Many Questions?

The father and son spoke on the phone for almost four to five minutes before hanging up together.

Big Brother Kang walked back home as if he had wheels of wind and fire under his feet. As soon as he saw Third Brother Kang, he said cheerfully, "Third brother, your nephew has got a job in North City, and he got it all by himself. He said the place is called the Cultural Work Troupe."

"..."

Third Brother Kang was stunned and before he could respond, Big Brother Kang had already whirled away like a gust of wind.

"His mom! His mom!" Stepping into the kitchen and seeing Third Sister-in-law Kang there, Big Brother Kang's smile faded a bit. After greeting Third Sister-in-law Kang, he told Elder Sister-in-law Kang and Third Sister-in-law Kang, "Yangyang has got a job in North City, he just passed the exam today, and the unit is called the Cultural Work Troupe. Oh, and Yangyang also said he might get to act in movies!"

Elder Sister-in-law Kang, holding a rice spoon, dropped it with a "clang" upon hearing the news. She slowly turned her gaze towards Big Brother Kang as if in slow motion and asked, "I didn't quite catch that, could you repeat it? What happened to Yangyang?"

It wasn't that she hadn't heard clearly; she feared she was hallucinating and wanted to confirm it once more.

"Yangyang passed the exam for the Cultural Work Troupe. It's a formal position, and he'll get a salary every month, including rationed grain!"

Big Brother Kang repeated clearly.

"Third sister-in-law! Did you hear that? Yangyang has got a job in North City!"

Snapping back to reality, Elder Sister-in-law Kang excitedly grabbed Third Sister-in-law Kang's hand, "It's Yangyang who passed it himself. He'll be like his little uncle, eating rationed grain in North City!"

Third Sister-in-law Kang was naturally happy for her nephew, "I heard it, I heard it, it's a huge celebration, congratulations to you, big brother and sister-in-law. Our Yangyang is truly capable!"

The few kids playing in the yard jumped for joy when they heard Big Brother Kang's good news, thinking that their big brother, just like their little uncle, had secured a job in North City, and would surely send them delicious snacks.

After all, the little uncle had followed their little aunt's example and sent them things before. There was no reason for big brother to have a job and not send them snacks and little toys.

The very next day, almost everyone in Aoli Village knew about the good news from the Team Leader's house.

Indeed, after lunch, with some time left before the afternoon work, the gossip-loving women gathered in small groups to talk about the good fortune that had come out of the Team Leader's house.

"How does that Yangyang manage to be so talented? Heading off to North City, he even found a way to apply for something like the Cultural Work Troupe, and he actually got in!"

"I don't believe for a second that Yangyang found that opportunity all by himself."

"It must have something to do with Li Bao!"

"Eight to one, it was Li Bao who helped."

"So what if it was, so what if it wasn't? Either way, that kid Yangyang is now eating rationed grain!"

"What's there to envy? If your own kid went to North City, he'd definitely be able to pass the Cultural Work Troupe exam and start eating rationed grain and earning a salary."

These words were spoken by Xu Chunxia's mother.

At first listen, it seemed like a casually spoken sentence, but upon closer inspection, it was full of sour grapes.

Li Daniu: "Keep being sour, Xu's family!"

"How am I being sour? Is it that your kid, given the chance, would be too dumb to pass?" Mrs. Xu asked, staring at Li Daniu.

"Why bring up my kid when we're talking about the Team Leader's family affairs?"

Li Daniu was not pleased. She said, "Who in our village doesn't know that you're looking for a second husband for your Chunxia? But even though you've been looking, you haven't found anyone yet. Maybe you're being too picky?"

Wang Chunhua: "What's there to be picky about? Xu's family, your Chunxia's reputation is what it is. It'd be good enough if you could just marry her off quickly and not end up stuck with her at home."

Mrs. Xu: "Tsk! Your daughter is the one who's going to end up stuck at home!" Filled with frustration, Mrs. Xu lost interest in further idle chatter and headed home.

North City.

Wu Yue, with a heavy sigh, looked at her cousin Lin Dan, "Why are you asking so many questions?"

Chapter 505: Panic

"Sis, just talk to me! I just want to understand Comrade Kang Yiyang a bit better, that's all."

Lin Dan had been thinking about Kang Yiyang intermittently these past couple of days, but just couldn't spot him among the newcomers of the Cultural Work Troupe. She asked her dad and was told that after finishing the registration procedures, he had gone off to shoot a film. Hearing this news, Lin Dan was both surprised and disappointed, to be honest.

She was amazed that Kang Yiyang was so lucky to have just joined the Cultural Work Troupe and be noticed by a movie director, who invited him to the set for an audition, and lo and behold, he landed the role of the second male lead in the film as a newcomer.

If word of this got around the Cultural Work Troupe, who knows how many people would be green with envy.

As for why she felt disappointed... there was no need to say more; it was just because such a handsome man had joined the troupe, and she hadn't had the chance to see him earlier.

The more she thought about him, the more her heart itched as if it had been scratched by a cat's paw, and the more she wanted to know about him. Therefore, after much hesitation, Lin Dan finally decided to ride her bike to her cousin Wu Yue's place after work, hoping to learn more about Kang Yiyang from her cousin.

After all, it was only natural that her cousin knew a bit about Kang Yiyang since she was good friends with his aunt.

Wu Yue with a bitter gourd face, "Dan Dan, how would I know if you asked me?"

"I'm not asking for much. I just want to know if he has a partner, where his family lives, who are in his family, and whether he is currently staying at his aunt's place. Just these few questions, not much at all. Sis, please tell me, I'm begging you!"

The two cousins sat in the bedroom, chatting privately; otherwise, if Lin Dan, behaving in such a coquettish manner, were seen by the men and children of the household, Wu Yue herself would feel embarrassed for her cousin.

"From what you're asking, I can only tell you Yangyang is indeed staying at his aunt's house right now; anything beyond that, I really know nothing about."

As Wu Yue spoke, she spread her hands to show her helplessness.

Lin Dan: "Sis..."

Wu Yue: "No matter how many times you call me, it's no use if I don't know anything. Don't make it hard for me, okay?" After speaking, Wu Yue sighed deeply, her expression becoming serious, "To be honest, are you actually falling for Yangyang?"

"Sis, do you believe in love at first sight?"

Lin Dan did not reply directly but asked this instead.

"Love at first sight often stems from superficial attraction. Dan Dan, you're not that shallow, are you?"

Wu Yue looked directly into Lin Dan's eyes, turning solemn immediately, "I know that Yangyang is good-looking, and let me tell you this, everyone in Kang Li's family is quite attractive. Previously, I heard Kang Li talking about an unpleasant incident that her younger brother encountered..."

As Wu Yue didn't continue, Lin Dan couldn't help but prompt her, "Why did you stop?"

Wu Yue raised her eyebrows, "Do you really want to hear more?"

Lin Dan nodded, "Mhm."

Wu Yue: "Well, then I'll tell you. Kang Li mentioned that not long after her brother started working at his unit, a female colleague took a fancy to him at first sight and, despite his clear indication of disinterest, kept trying to get close to him over and over again, which led to a rather unseemly situation.

From what Kang Li said about this incident, I can see that the men in Kang Li's family don't like girls who are too forward, especially those who fall in 'love at first sight.' Now, are you sure you still want to inquire about Yangyang and even think about making the first move to approach the guy?"

"I..."

Lin Dan didn't know what to say, and she couldn't even remember how she got home.

Meanwhile, Kang Li felt that Wu Yue was looking at her strangely when she was recording the program over the weekend. When she asked if there was something Wu Yue wanted to say, the answer was no.

Seeing no point in probing, Kang Li didn't take Wu Yue's strange looks to heart.

That day, Kang Li took her mother out for a shopping trip and also went to pick up Old Lady Yu.

What a coincidence, they bumped into Feng Yi's mother, Fang Su, at the department store.

Kang Li didn't show any peculiar emotions, but she noticed that Fang Su's expression clearly changed upon seeing her... no, more precisely, upon seeing Grandma Yu.

Confused, Kang Li couldn't come up with an explanation.

Outside the department store.

Fang Su was extremely flustered. She had rushed out of the department store, and at that moment, all desire to continue shopping had left her. She just wanted to hurry home, to get as far away as possible from the department store.

Chapter 506: Looking for Trouble

Why did we suddenly encounter each other?

Did that person recognize her mother?

Entering the house, Fang Su acted as if she saw no one in the living room and headed straight for the staircase.

"Dad, you saw that, right? Aunt Fang is ignoring us, or does she think we're dead?"

Feng Xiao had always liked to hassle his stepmother, Fang Su. Seeing her enter the living room, acting as if she hadn't seen him and Old Master Feng, he felt uncomfortable and couldn't help but say something to his father in a strange tone.

Hearing this, Old Master Feng shifted his gaze from the newspaper in his hands. He looked toward the staircase and saw his wife, Fang Su, stop her ascent, looking bewildered as she turned to look at him.

"What's wrong?"

Fang Su hadn't heard what Feng Xiao said, but she knew he must have said something. Displeased, she maintained a perplexed expression and turned her gaze to Old Master Feng.

"You're back so soon?"

As far as Old Master Feng knew, his young wife usually couldn't return from shopping in less than three or four hours. Yet today, from the time she left to now, it was barely an hour and a half, which seemed odd.

Feigning weakness, Fang Su said, "I suddenly felt unwell, so I didn't continue shopping."

"Do you need to go to the hospital?" Old Master Feng asked, concern in his eyes.

Feng Xiao glanced sideways at his stepmother, Fang Su, and sneered, "You were fine when you left, and now suddenly you're unwell. Aunt Fang, aren't you just making up some drama again?"

"Xiao!" Old Master Feng's face darkened, "Speak to your Aunt Fang properly!"

"Am I not speaking properly?" Feng Xiao wasn't intimidated by Old Master Feng. Instead, he shrugged his shoulders, swayed his crossed legs and spoke even more disrespectfully, "She was so spirited when she left. Just look, only a little while later, she first pretends not to see us and now says she's unwell. Dad, only you would believe what she says."

If he wasn't mistaken, this woman had likely encountered something outside. Her slightly pale complexion and clearly uneasy expression indicated it was no small matter.

But, what exactly had she encountered?

With a slight frown, Feng Xiao looked at Fang Su, his eyes thoughtful.

"There's no need to go to the hospital, I just need to lie down in my room for a while," Fang Su said, without even glancing at Feng Xiao, to avoid getting upset. A pitiable smile appeared on her pale face. She then shifted her gaze from Old Master Feng and continued upstairs.

"Dad, I'm sure she encountered something outside, otherwise, with her love for shopping, she definitely wouldn't have come running back while in the middle of it."

Feng Xiao was clearly trying to influence Old Master Feng, yet Fang Su acted as if she hadn't heard a thing, continuing upstairs without even pausing. Soon, she disappeared around the corner of the staircase on the second floor.

"You, can't you hold your tongue sometimes?" Old Master Feng glared, "I know you've disliked your Aunt Fang since you were little, but regardless, your Aunt Fang is my wife, your elder, and she's worked hard to raise your two brothers, you, and your sister...."

Impatient, Feng Xiao interrupted Old Master Feng, "The same old lecture, how have I disrespected her? If she didn't constantly cause drama, would I talk to her like that?"

Speaking of that, Feng Xiao suddenly thought of Feng Yi. He snorted coldly, continuing, "Feng Yi has been away from home for a year now. Have you ever asked her if she has gone to see her own son? Not to mention whether she has visited him in the last two or three months, even half a year ago, did you see her go to visit him?"

Chapter 507: Afraid of Being Recognized

"..."

Old Master Feng remained silent for a long while.

Whether his wife had visited Feng Yi that child... he didn't know, but since they had both visited their son once during the Spring Festival, the entire year had passed, and she seemed to have never mentioned that boy by his side.

Did she really intend to neglect her son and let him live outside indefinitely?

"Cold-hearted, cold-lunged, I can't stand her. Dad, if you don't want me to be restless at home all day, don't tell me in front of me to respect her, I don't like to hear it!"

Second floor master bedroom.

Fang Su kept pacing back and forth in the bedroom, anxious that Old Lady Yu might recognize her at the department store incident.

No, to Fang Su, Old Lady Yu was not just any old lady, but her former mistress, more accurately, the master of their house, the lawful wife of the master of the family.

As a child, although she never served the lady directly, her mother had been a servant in the lady's yard, prized by the lady for her meticulous work.

And her father, he worked alongside the master...

She couldn't think about it any longer, because whenever she thought of the past, Fang Su was struck with a headache and filled with hatred.

Yes, she had fallen for the only young master of the mansion, but was it just her affair? The young master and she had developed feelings for each other, secretly pledged their troth, and he even took her to elope.

Why did everyone blame her, saying it was her fault, saying she seduced the young master...

Even her own father wouldn't listen to his daughter's explanation, allowing the concubine at his side to stir up trouble and exaggerate, making her out to be disgraceful.

Since everyone wronged her, why shouldn't she have nodded in agreement when the young master proposed eloping?

But she never imagined that the beautiful days wouldn't last long, the young master who had sworn oaths of love to her had gone out to buy her favorite desserts and never returned.

After several days without seeing anyone, she had no choice but to secretly send someone to inquire outside the mansion gates in North City.

Only to find out... the news was that the Lord had taken his favorite concubine from the back yard, along with the young master, abroad.

His father was also taken abroad by the old master.

And he only took the concubine and the children born to her, following the old lord's pattern, leaving his legitimate wife behind in the country, far away overseas.

Her mother, abandoned by her father, was not as strong as the lady; she nearly cried her eyes out, and her two brothers took her back to their hometown to live, as the new society did not allow the existence of maids and servants as remnants of the old society.

Thus, her mother and two brothers left the main family and returned to the countryside.

Knowing this news, honestly, she felt both hate and pain, hating the two men's heartlessness, one her father and the other the young master, hating them for abandoning her.

The pain was undoubtedly caused by being abandoned!

Heart-wrenching, unbearable pain!

Fortunately... fortunately, she had met Feng Lin, the man she was now with, otherwise, she would have already become a pile of bones. Knowing that he was a man of status, tall and handsome, even though he was over a decade older than her, even though he was a widower with four children at home, she firmly accepted his proposal, marrying into his family as a stepmother.

To avoid being looked down upon, she concocted a pitiable and touching backstory, severed her own ties with her family, and also changed her name to Fang Su. In short, in front of Feng Lin, she used a half-true, half-false identity and did everything possible to avoid encountering those familiar faces from the past.

Years passed, and nothing happened to her; she couldn't help but wonder if she was overthinking... when she was in the main house, she was treated no differently from the young ladies in the boudoir, pampered by her parents, rarely leaving the mansion gates. How many people outside would recognize her?

Chapter 508: How Could She Be So Heartless?

As for the master's family, with the lord going abroad, the servants had dispersed long ago—some returned to their hometowns to live, others left North City to stay with relatives or friends. In any case, very few remained in North City to make a living. Besides, North City was so vast, it was entirely possible to go a lifetime without encountering someone.

Thinking this way, in recent years she had come to terms with it and no longer lived cautiously. But today... today she had unexpectedly encountered the lady... If the lady had recognized her and thus found her residence, her past might no longer be concealable.

At the department store, upon seeing Fang Su, Old Lady Yu showed no particular reaction initially; after all, it had been many years, and compared to her appearance as a young girl, Fang Su's looks had changed somewhat.

Unexpectedly, the expression on Fang Su's face as she stared at Old Lady Yu for quite a while and then turned to walk straight out of the department store was bound to attract Old Lady Yu's attention.

"Grandma Yu, do you know that Comrade Fang?"

Seeing that Old Lady Yu seemed significantly preoccupied after Fang Su left, Kang Li couldn't help but ask.

Upon hearing this, Old Lady Yu asked, "That lady's surname is Fang?"

Kang Li nodded and voiced an "Mhm," saying, "Yes, her surname is Fang, named Fang Su. I know her through my godparents.

However, Comrade Fang's character isn't very commendable."

Grasping Kang Li's hand, Old Lady Yu looked anxious and concerned, "You know her? Did she say anything to you?"

Kang Li nodded, then shook her head. She said, "I'm not close to Comrade Fang, and I've never really spoken to her."

Old Lady Yu said, "That's good."

Kang Li was confused. What did she mean by that's good? After pondering, Kang Li couldn't fathom Old Lady Yu's intention and heard the old lady ask her, "What did you mean when you said Comrade Fang's character isn't very good?"

Cai Xiufang didn't interject and walked alongside, listening intently.

"Comrade Fang's husband is a widower with four children, and after marrying him, they had a son together. However, for her husband's approval, Comrade Fang devoted herself wholeheartedly to the four stepchildren while neglecting and allowing them to bully her own biological son,

last year, when it was clear that a stepson and someone had fought, causing injury, Comrade Fang, to protect her stepson, personally testified that it was her own biological son who had hurt the person, watching as the police took her son away from home,

eventually sending him to a farm for reformation for half a year. When her biological son returned home after his reformatory term, Comrade Fang was unreasonable, asking him why he hadn't died outside and even kicking him out of the house. It has been a year since then, and she hasn't shown any signs of compensating her biological son."

Having heard what Kang Li said, Cai Xiufang looked particularly shocked, "Kang Li, you can't be serious about Comrade Fang being so unreasonable, can you?"

Kang Li replied, "Mother, what I said is true. And I know Comrade Fang's son."

"How old is Comrade Fang's son?"

Old Lady Yu asked.

Kang Li responded, "He should be seventeen this year, two years younger than me."

Cai Xiufang asked, "How did you come to know the kid?"

Upon hearing this, Kang Li shared the story of how she had once saved Feng Yi.

"How could she be so cruel? Her own son has a problem with his leg, and instead of caring and making sure he's taken to the hospital for proper examination and treatment, she just kicks him out of the house. This person's moral character really isn't very good."

Old Lady Yu's expression was somber as she stated:

Chapter 509: Is It the Same Person?

"I just recalled, and I feel like the Comrade Fang you mentioned sounds familiar, but the person in my memory isn't called Fang Su; her name was Fang Sumei."

"Fang Sumei?"

Kang Li, curious, "Only differs by one character, perhaps they are the same person. Grandma Yu, what did that Fang Sumei you know do?"

"She was once a maid in my house. Her mother was my dowry maid, and her father was a servant in my husband's family. Two years after I married, my husband helped his capable aide to propose to my head maid, and thus those two became a couple. They had two sons and a daughter, with the daughter being the youngest..."

At this point, Old Lady Yu didn't continue. Cai Xiufang asked, "What happened later? Is that family still in North City now?"

"Sumei's father went abroad with his concubine and the children she bore him, following my husband. Sumei and their mother, I heard, went back to their rural hometown to live."

Could the Comrade Fang referred to by Boya be Sumei?

If so... when she eloped with Boya back then, was there—Old Lady Yu couldn't help but turn her gaze to Kang Li's face.

"Grandma Yu, is there something dirty on my face?"

Being intently watched by Old Lady Yu, Kang Li touched her face, her eyes filled with confusion.

Old Lady Yu shook her head and said, "Grandma Yu just thinks our Boya is especially good-looking."

Kang Li, feeling a bit embarrassed but smiling, glanced at her old mother and then said to Old Lady Yu, "This is thanks to my parents who can produce good offspring. Grandma Yu, have you seen my younger brother? Don't you find him very handsome as well?"

"Hmm, both you siblings are indeed good-looking," Old Lady Yu responded with a chuckle.

Kang Li, "My other brothers are also particularly handsome! It's just my dad and my mom, even though they're older now, they still..."

"Boya, what nonsense are you spouting?"

Cai Xiufang cut off Kang Li, her cheeks flushed. Although she was pleased by her beloved daughter's praises, it made her uncomfortable being praised like this in front of someone else.

After all, they were of old age, with plenty of loose skin on their faces—how could they still talk about looking good?

"I'm not talking nonsense. Mom, you're naturally beautiful, even now in your old age, you're a good-looking old lady, and my dad too, he's a handsome old man!"

Kang Li said cheerfully, and then she looked at Old Lady Yu and added, "Grandma Yu, you're also a good-looking old lady, and you give off such an elegant vibe. I'm sure when you were young, you were both gentle and gracefully refined, a true lady!"

"Your words are so sweet!"

Old Lady Yu smiled and said to Cai Xiufang, "Boya's actually not wrong, even though you've aged, one can still see that you were a beautiful young lady back in your youth!"

"Aunt, don't you start teasing me along with Boya, this girl!"

Cai Xiufang laughed a bit sheepishly. The three of them had browsed the department store for nearly two hours, carrying large and small packages, and finally ended their shopping for the day.

They escorted Old Lady Yu home the same way they came, and afterwards, Kang Li and her mother returned to the compound.

"The Comrade Fang you mentioned before, she drove her own son out of the house, was he ever brought back?"

Sitting on the couch at home, Kang Li poured water for herself and her mother. She took a sip and said, "I heard they looked for him for a day, later they found out from others where the son was and did meet him once. After that, there was no more contact."

Cai Xiufang said, "That mother's really heartless!"

Chapter 510: No Impression

"It's not that she's heartless; it's that the woman has no heart at all."

Kang Li said, pausing briefly before changing the subject, "Yangyang's movie should be able to wrap before the end of the year."

Cai Xiufang said, "I'm just worried about whether he can take care of himself out there."

"He's a big boy now, and I was with him for several days beforehand. When I came back home, I still reminded him of many things to be aware of. If, despite all that, he can't take care of himself, then let him learn the hard way. After all, a setback is a lesson learned. It's only through experiences that one learns how to better take care of oneself."

During filming, Kang Li had been by Kang Yiyang's side like a little assistant for about a week. Seeing that there wasn't much to do, Kang Yiyang, without waiting for Kang Li to suggest going home, actively encouraged his little aunt to go home and rest, sparing her the hardship of accompanying him on the set.

The war movie Kang Yiyang was filming began with his character, the second male lead, as a sixteen or seventeen-year-old boy from a well-to-do family, attending junior high school.

Unexpectedly, the enemy breached the city walls, causing a tragedy that left only Kang Yiyang's character alive amongst his family. In deep pain and anger, the boy resolutely enlisted in the army, beginning a new Chapter in his life. To sum it up, Kang Yiyang's character, the second male lead in the entire film, is a growing soldier who, in the final five minutes of the film, sacrifices himself in a most tragic manner to cover for his comrades amidst the smoke of battle.

The character's design was quite remarkable, and both his personality and story arc within the film were fully fleshed out.

If Kang Yiyang performed well, he could achieve excellent results with this film. Cai Xiufang asked, "Yangyang wouldn't really get hurt, would he?"

"Don't worry, I guarantee your grandson will come back in one piece. Plus, there are many crew members on set. If the actors encounter any difficulties, the staff will help them out. And if they truly can't manage, they will contact us, the family."

Estimating that the kindergarten would soon be letting out, Kang Li got up, "I'll go pick up the child from kindergarten. If you're feeling tired, you should go lie down in your room."

"I'll just sit in the living room for a bit."

Lying in bed during the daytime seemed improper; she wasn't accustomed to that.

Speaking of which, Kang Yiyang had been praised numerous times by the director on set; he had said Kang Yiyang seemed to have been born for acting, brimming with charisma. Although his acting was green, it was full of vitality.

With a bit of guidance, he could quickly immerse himself into the character. With more practice in his acting skills, he was bound to have a bright future!

Time flew quickly, and before they knew it, there was less than half a month left until the New Year.

One day, on the set.

"Kang Yiyang?"

With his face smeared with blood and dirt, looking utterly disheveled, Kang Yiyang had just finished filming his final scene of sacrifice. He was about to leave the set and clean up his makeup when he heard a woman's voice behind him.

He stopped in his tracks and turned to look toward the source of the voice.

"It really is you! I was worried I'd mistaken someone else for you."

Lin Dan approached Kang Yiyang, her eyes sparkling with a bright smile.

"Comrade, you are...?"

Did he know this lady?

Why didn't he remember her?

Kang Yiyang looked at her with puzzled eyes. Seeing his confusion, Lin Dan couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed, but she didn't let it show on her face.

"Don't you remember me?"

Lin Dan blinked and stopped about three steps away from him.

"I don't recall."

Kang Yiyang's demeanor remained natural as he met her gaze.

Lin Dan hinted: