

Weak B 551

Chapter 551: Being Followed

Upon hearing this, Xiao Jin fell silent, not quite grasping Kang Li's attitude towards life.

"You're in Class 2, aren't you?"

Xiao Ming Wei suddenly asked the little girl, Xiao Tong.

"Mhmm."

Xiao Tong nodded her head.

Xiao Ming Wei: "My second brother and I are in Class 1. You can come play with us after class."

Xiao Tong: "Mhmm."

Xiao Ming Wei batted her big, grape-like eyes, "You don't talk much, do you?"

Xiao Tong shyly lowered her head.

“I’m Luo Mingwei, my eldest brother is Luo Mingrui, and my second brother is Luo Minghan. Tongtong, from now on, we’re friends!”

Xiao Ming Wei, not the least bit shy, turned to look at the little girl sitting on the rear seat of the bicycle and babbled on.

Seeing the little girl nod, she happily looked up at her mother, “Mom, mom, I made a new friend today!”

“Our Vivi is truly amazing!”

Kang Li smiled and praised the adorable little girl.

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“Mommy, goodbye!”

At the kindergarten gate, the twin with mixed sex waved their little hands at their mother and were led into the kindergarten by their teacher.

“Daddy, goodbye!”

Xiao Tong waved her little hands at her father.

Jian said nothing.

The siblings were also taken into the kindergarten by their teacher.

Noticing Xiao Jin's gaze, Kang Li pointed across the street and said, "I'm off to take my eldest son to the elementary school opposite. Bye."

"Goodbye."

Xiao Jin responded warmly.

It was the peak time for going to work, and there was an unusually large number of cyclists on both sides of the road.

However, as Kang Li took Min Rui's hand and stepped on to the crosswalk, Xiao Jin mounted his bike and headed for the TV station. He had only gone a few meters when he suddenly stopped and turned his head to look across the street, more precisely, at Kang Li and her child.

If we were to be more exact, Xiao Jin's gaze was actually fixed on Min Rui.

Why did that child look so familiar to him?

Xiao Jin furrowed his brows and thought for quite a while, but he couldn't figure it out.

He continued to bike on, but Min Rui's little face kept coming back to him, more and more familiar, yet he couldn't place where this feeling of familiarity came from.

Min Rui, Luo Mingrui... What a nice-sounding name.

"Mom, I'm going in."

Upon reaching the entrance to the elementary school, Kang Li let go of her eldest son's hand, her eyes smiling as she watched her son wave to her and enter the school with his backpack slung over his shoulder.

Walking back to the compound, Kang Li suddenly stopped, turned around, and looked behind her, but she didn't notice anything out of the ordinary.

Yet, as she began to walk again, that sensation of being followed emerged.

Over the next two days, as Kang Li picked up and dropped off Min Rui at school, she felt as if someone was tailing her, but she just couldn't determine who it was.

"Did you encounter something?"

Cai Xiufen could clearly sense that her precious daughter was off these past few days and went to the master bedroom to ask Kang Li before sleeping that night.

Seeing the concern in her eyes, Kang Li pondered for a moment and said, "On the way to and from dropping off Ruirui at school, I feel like someone is following me, but whenever I look back, I find nothing unusual."

Cai Xiufen: "Maybe you just haven't rested well recently?"

Kang Li shook her head: "I haven't had any trouble sleeping at night. And my intuition is never wrong; there must be someone tailing me, I just don't know their intentions."

Cai Xiufen asked, "What do you want to do?"

"I don't know," Kang Li shook her head and then said, "But I will be more cautious on the way to and from dropping off and picking up Ruirui from school." Whoever is following her, it's either targeted at her, or it's aimed at her three children.

As long as she remained vigilant, she should be safe.

"Just to be safe," Cai Xiufen said, "starting tomorrow, I'll accompany you to pick up and drop off the children at school." Whether it was her precious daughter or grandchildren, she didn't want to see them in any mishap.

"No need."

Kang Li didn't want her elderly mother to be burdened.

"That's settled then. With both of us picking up and dropping off Ruirui and the others, the roads will be safer." She had done a lot of heavy lifting at home and was quite strong; if they really encountered a bad person, she could help her precious daughter.

Her lips pursed slightly, and after a moment, Kang Li said, "But I don't want mother to get tired."

"What's there to be tired about? It's just a bit of a walk. I could go back and forth seventeen or eighteen times a day and not have a single issue."

Waving her hand, Cai Xiufen's expression was very casual.

Mother, why are you so good to me?

Clasping her mother's arm, Kang Li rubbed her head against it.

"What nonsense are you talking about?!" Tapping her beloved daughter's forehead, Cai Xiufen looked at her with full eyes of affection, "I have only one daughter. Do I need a reason to be good to you?"

Kang Li: "I just feel that mother, father, and everyone in our family are too good to me!"

"Aren't you good to your mother and your father? To your elder brother and the others?"

Cai Xiufen tapped her beloved daughter's forehead again and shook her head with a smile.

"It's still not enough. Wait till I have a lot of money; I will treat mother, father, and our family members even better! I want you all to live in a big villa and enjoy every day."

Cai Xiufen smiled warmly, "Alright, mother is waiting!" However, her smile quickly faded as she asked, "Haven't you thought about who could be tailing you?"

"Mother thinks it might be someone we know?"

Kang Li sat up straight, her fox-like eyes both clear and bright.

"There's a fifty percent chance!" If not an acquaintance, who else would inexplicably follow her daughter? And whether it was an acquaintance or a stranger, what were their intentions?

Cai Xiufen furrowed her brow in thought.

"But if it's someone we know, why would they be following me?" Kang Li frowned deeply and shared her own suspicion, "Mother, let's not talk about who is following me for now. I think... this person is either after me or after Ruirui and the others."

"I overheard the old ladies in the courtyard saying that recently, a kidnapper blocked a seventeen or eighteen-year-old girl on the street, started scolding her right away, then two more people appeared, who were with the kidnapper, blaming the girl for not supposed to run out of the house for two days after arguing with her family, and despite the girl's resistance, they tried to take her away. Fortunately, the girl was quick to notice a police officer coming out from a nearby building, screamed for help, and managed to avoid being taken away by the kidnapper and his accomplice right on the street."

"Kidnapper's tricks are indeed numerous."

Pretending to be relatives and forcibly taking away young girls on the street, and snatching children from their parents, are things Kang Li hadn't experienced in this world but had heard of.

It was no different from what her mother was saying now.

Cai Xiufen looked serious, "You are strong, if you ever encounter such situations outside, remember to resist, and not let anyone take you away forcefully. Also, find some time to talk to Ruirui and the others, so they won't trust others easily and get kidnapped by the kidnapper when we are not aware."

"Mother, don't worry, wherever I am, I won't suffer losses, and I certainly won't be foolishly taken away by anyone."

Chapter 553: Don't Want to be Entangled

"As for Ruirui and the others, I've always taught them about safety awareness, and I've even told them how to deal with kidnappers if they ever fell into their hands."

"Children are curious and playful, and it's inevitable they'll run around. Therefore, to ensure Min Rui's safety, Kang Li not only seriously discussed various safety knowledge with them but also used storytelling to let the kids know how to distinguish between good and bad people and understand how to save themselves."

Cai Xiufen, "That's good." Then, Cai Xiufen changed the subject, "I went to godmother's house this afternoon, and during our chat, I heard your godmother mention something about Yanqing's family. Why haven't you told me about it?"

Kang Li, "They're just outsiders."

"Did Yanqing's mother really take all the family's money when she remarried years ago?"

“Yes.”

“How could she do that?!”

“Selfish, of course! My father-in-law sacrificed, and fearing her future life would be hard, she abandoned her son, took all the family money, and immediately found another man to start a new life with.”

“So, you haven’t seen Yanqing since then?”

“Yes. It’s been twenty-one or twenty-two years. She never showed up but suddenly emerged last year to get some wives for the sons from her second marriage.”

“Is this her trying to leech off Yanqing?”

“Very likely, yes. But, I directly thrashed them,” Kang Li said, a cold glint flashing in her eyes, “I have no respect for that woman at all.”

“You shouldn’t say that in front of Yanqing. No matter what, that’s still Yanqing’s mother. If he hears what you just said, it’s hard to guarantee he won’t feel resentful.”

Cai Xiufen advised.

“I’m not stupid.”

Couples should be honest with each other, but not everything is suitable for sharing.

Just like she believes her mother-in-law in name is a blood-sucking leech and shamelessly tactless, she can’t let Luo Yanqing hear this.

Even if Luo Yanqing doesn’t feel much for his biological mother, who knows if, hearing those words, he would suddenly misjudge and think she’s being malicious, belittling his mother.

After all, that’s his biological mother. Even if he harbors resentment over past events, Luo Yanqing might still have feelings for his mother.

Having feelings, naturally, he would care. If she were too loose-lipped, might it not cause a rift between her and Luo Yanqing? That’s really hard to predict.

Cai Xiufen, “Haven’t you thought about supporting him a bit?”

Upon hearing this, Kang Li shook her head, “No. I don’t want to get entangled.” There are some people, if you start being kind to them, they may cling to you for a lifetime.

“You’re worried that if they got a taste of kindness, they would start coming to you and Yanqing asking for handouts.”

Not a question, Cai Xiufen’s statement had a declarative tone.

“Yes.”

Kang Li nodded, then said, “My mother-in-law remarried and had six sons, the eldest around twenty and the youngest around ten. After her original children were married off, there was no one left,

and my mother-in-law herself was lazy, which affected her sons, who also weren’t diligent. They scraped by to bring a daughter-in-law into the family for the eldest son. Following that, the second and third were of age for marriage, but they didn’t have money for a dowry, so they thought of Luo Yanqing...”

Calmly, Kang Li relayed the details about that mother-in-law, Wang Guilan, eventually laughing coldly, “If she hadn’t been so ruthless back then, if she had occasionally visited Luo Yanqing after remarrying,

Chapter 554: Wait a Little Longer

Nowadays, whether it’s Luo Yanqing or me as a daughter-in-law, at least there’s some respect for her, intending to lend a hand when her days are tough, and that’s not impossible.

But that woman seems to have forgotten over these twenty-one or two years that she had a son in her first marriage, and when life became hard to bear, she instead remembered Luo Yanqing, thinking that Luo Yanqing should support her current entire family. Where in the world does such good fortune come?

Cai Xiufen: "Six lads, they're all laborers, and as long as they're diligent and work hard, they won't get less grain by the end of the year, and they'll collect a good sum of money."

Kang Li: "Yeah, so many sons, and not the small ones, just a few older ones, if they can honestly work, life won't be too bad, not to the point where they can't even afford to marry a wife."

"In our village, getting married now requires a dowry of at least thirty or forty yuan less, or sixty or seventy on the higher side, rarely over a hundred; anyway, I've never heard of it in our village. According to our standards, if your mother-in-law and her sons were diligent, it wouldn't be a problem to bring one bride into the house that year, let alone two."

In their village, families with many laborers and more work points receive two or three hundred yuan in hand by the end of the year. Even those who earn less still get at least thirty or forty yuan.

Of course, for those lazy-bones families, it's considered lucky not to have to repay the Brigade!

After listening to her mother, a smile suddenly flooded Kang Li's bright, fox-like eyes: "Mother, my husband didn't give our family a small dowry."

Cai Xiufen was startled for a moment, then lightly patted her beloved daughter's arm, saying, "Yanqing did give a lot, but your mother didn't keep a single penny for the house."

"I know, I know, you and dad are the best, giving all the money to me, your precious daughter." Kang Li's eyes curved like crescents, and her smile was as beautiful as the blossoming of spring flowers.

At that moment, Cai Xiufen stood up: "It's getting late, go back to your room and sleep." With that, she walked toward the guest room.

Kang Li: "Mother, good night!"

Cai Xiufen waved her hand: "Go to sleep early."

Liaocheng.

Stone Bridge Commune, Ma Wang Brigade.

After having lunch, Meng Xingsheng didn't take a nap but found an excuse to leave the house.

He arrived at the small grove where he usually met Cui Shuicao as promised.

"Brother Xingsheng."

Seeing Meng Xingsheng appear before her eyes, Cui Shuicao called out shyly.

Well, to say she was shy would be more accurately described as artificial.

"Have you been waiting long?"

Meng Xingsheng approached Cui Shuicao, his eyes filled with light.

"I've just arrived not too long ago."

Perhaps feeling uncomfortable under Meng Xingsheng's gaze, Cui Shuicao's cheeks reddened, and she leaned against the tree trunk behind her with her head bowed as she said, "My distant cousin came to my house yesterday, asking... asking when the two preys you talked about could be obtained, also saying that the buyer has been quite urgent recently..."

A struggle flashed through Meng Xingsheng's eyes: "Wait a bit longer."

"...Brother Xingsheng, you won't blame me for the idea I gave you, right? Actually... actually, I didn't want you to do that either, but I really don't want to marry someone else,

If you can't produce two hundred yuan for the dowry, my mother definitely won't let me marry into your house. Also, my cousin has been involved in that kind of business for several years now, he says he always finds better buyers for the preys he gets, claiming they're performing acts of charity..."

A blockhead! She had gone to such lengths, yet he was still hesitant. If it weren't for the fact that this blockhead had a good relative in North City, facilitating access to preys of finer quality, with her looks and figure, would she even consider him?

Chapter 555: I'm not jealous of your son-in-law.

Cui Shuicao was feeling uneasy inside. She bit her lip lightly and raised her head to look at Meng Xingsheng, "A good-looking prey could be worth at least two to three hundred, my uncle said. He would take fifty as a middleman fee, and the rest would all go to Brother Xingsheng."

"Right, Brother Xingsheng, my uncle relies on this business. In less than two years, he built five brick and tile houses for our family, and life gets better day by day. We have full meals with meat at every meal and new clothes to wear every year!"

Cui Shuicao didn't believe it. After she said it like that, there was no way Meng Xingsheng could still be unmoved.

"Shuicao, don't push me. I said I would marry you within this year, and I will make it happen."

Meng Xingsheng had felt both conflicted and entangled lately. He truly wanted to bring a wife home, to be with Cui Shuicao for life, but he found it difficult to quiet his conscience to do that kind of thing.

He wasn't foolish. He knew it was not a good thing, and that if he did it and went unnoticed, it would be fine, but if... if the matter were exposed, his life would probably be ruined.

So, since he came back from North City recently, he had been hesitant, unable to make up his mind to do as Cui Shuicao had suggested.

"Brother Xingsheng, I'm not rushing you." Cui Shuicao looked pitifully tearful, with tears swirling in her eyes: "I am just afraid of being married off to another man by my mother. I'm afraid of missing out on you. If it comes to that, I'll just go jump in the river!"

"Shuicao, you..."

Meng Xingsheng wanted to reach out and hold Cui Shuicao to comfort her, but he withdrew his hand as he raised it, feeling that since they were not engaged, let alone married, it wouldn't be appropriate to hold each other.

"I'm okay."

Wiping away her tears, Cui Shuicao shook her head and said, "Then, Brother Xingsheng, you think about it some more. I'm heading back." As her voice fell, she quickly walked towards the edge of the forest.

North City.

"Mom, can't you just relax for a while?"

Today was a clear sky with a gentle breeze. Kang Li sat back in her wicker rocking chair, closing the book in her hand and looking at her mother sitting opposite her, quickly knitting a sweater and said, "Since you came to North City last year, up until now, you've knit two sets of sweaters and pants each for Ruirui!"

Cai Xiufen didn't stop her hands and casually replied, "This is for Yanqing."

"Yanqing is not without sweaters to wear."

She had knit one for him before, and moreover, she bought two woolen sweaters for him through Dwen Dwen from the System Mall; the man didn't lack sweaters to wear at all!

Hearing the hint of jealousy in her beloved daughter's tone, Cai Xiufen shook her head with some amusement: "Didn't I bring you the sweater I knit when I came last year?"

Not only did she bring them, but she also brought two sweaters and a pair of knitted pants.

One sweater was white, another light purple, and as for the knitted pants, they were bright red.

Cai Xiufen knew her cherished daughter didn't like dark-colored sweaters, so she deliberately purchased light-colored yarn, and since Kang Li went to North City, whenever she had free time, she would knit sweaters for her most beloved daughter.

When she came to North City last year, of course, she didn't forget to bring the finished sweaters and pants.

Kang Li: "I'm not jealous of your son-in-law."

Cai Xiufen: "Just keep fooling yourself."

"Mom..."

"What do you want to say?"

"Yanqing really isn't lacking clothes to wear, you don't have to go to the trouble of knitting him a sweater."

"Idle hands are the devil's work; since I've knitted for you and Ruirui, not making one for Yanqing wouldn't be right."

"I don't see anything wrong with that. I just don't want you to tire yourself out. I've told you this many times, yet you forget every time as soon as you hear it."

"I'm full of energy. Besides, how tiring could knitting a sweater be?" Glancing at her daughter, Cai Xiufen smiled and said:

Chapter 556: Just Be Cheeky

"Men also need to be cared for. You should take better care of Yanqing from now on. He works hard every day, all for you and the children at home,"

Kang Li: "Am I not good enough to him already?"

"Since that visit to the office before the New Year, several months have passed, and I haven't seen you go again."

"Going too often is not good; it would affect his work."

"Is that what you call going often?"

"From your words, are you pushing me to visit your son-in-law?"

"As long as you understand."

"Alright, I'll go in a couple of days, and I'll say it was you, the mother-in-law, who sent me, and I'll bring your care to your son-in-law along the way."

"You're just being cheeky."

"Not at all, your daughter is the best behaved!"

Kang Li smiled mischievously, her voice soft and coquettish, clearly cajoling her mother.

"I think you are becoming cheekier by the day, not even as sensible and well-behaved as Ruirui and the others," Cai Xiufen said, her tone filled with obvious indulgence.

Kang Li feigned unhappiness: "Mom, am I still not your most beloved daughter?"

"Just keep pretending," Cai Xiufen laughed helplessly, then added, "Stay over for one night when you go."

The topic changed rather swiftly.

Kang Li was taken aback and said, "The bed in Luo Yanqing's dorm is fine for one person, but it's a bit cramped for two." She implied that she didn't want to stay the night.

"You both are slim, how cramped can it be?" Cai Xiufen paused her motion and looked at Kang Li, "It's not good for a couple to be apart for long periods. You and Yanqing barely get to see each other as it is. If you're not going to stay the night after traveling all that way, why bother going at all?"

"...Alright, alright, I'll listen to you."

She agreed verbally, but Kang Li's cheeks involuntarily flushed.

Cai Xiufen: "Then go the day after tomorrow."

"Why does it have to be the day after tomorrow?"

Kang Li was puzzled.

Cai Xiufen: "The day after tomorrow is Saturday."

"I know it's Saturday... I see now, Ruirui and the others have only a half-day of school on Saturdays." She would pick up the three kids at noon, bring them home, then head to the institute in the afternoon. She could come back on Sunday, and it wouldn't affect taking the kids to and from school on Monday.

Ever since the day Cai Xiufen said she wanted to pick up and drop off Ruirui and the other two together, regardless of the weather, she had always accompanied Kang Li's mother and the four of them, ensuring her precious daughter and adopted grandchildren were safe on their way there and back.

"Alright, if you're tired, go back to your room and lie down. I'll knit a few more stitches, and then we'll go pick up Hanhan and the others."

Cai Xiufen said and resumed her handiwork.

"I'll just take a nap right here; Mom, remember to call me." She took off her wristwatch and placed it on the small table beside her, making it easier for her mother to see the time. Then, Kang Li closed her eyes, simply leaning on the wicker rocking chair, ready to take a nap.

"If you're going to sleep here, go back to your room and bring something to cover yourself with. Otherwise, you might catch a cold when you wake up," Cai Xiufen muttered. Hearing this, Kang Li didn't argue and got up to head to the bedroom.

In May, the weather is warm, and if the sun is out, it can even feel hot, but sleeping directly outdoors, one might indeed catch cold upon waking.

When Kang Li returned to the courtyard, she settled back into the recliner, covered herself, and Cai Xiufen said, "The elder specialist Yanqing found for you is really very effective. After a few months of recuperation, your complexion looks much better than before you started taking the medicine."

Kang Li: "Luo Yanqing said that Elder Zhang is a master of traditional Chinese medicine." She could naturally feel the subtle changes in her body. For instance, walking every day had become much easier, and her chronically pale complexion looked visibly healthier.

Chapter 557: Do You Know Kang Li?

This change might not mean much for a healthy person, but for someone like Kang Li, who was chronically ill, it definitely qualified as great news.

A gentle breeze blew, and the delicate fragrance of flowers lingered at the tip of her nose. Unknowingly, Kang Li drifted into dreamland.

...

Since Ruirui had duty at school that afternoon, he returned to the yard later than usual.

"Comrade Kang, have you just picked up Ruirui?"

Xiao Jin, getting off work and riding his bike to the entrance of the yard, saw Kang Li walking over with Ruirui by her hand and immediately greeted her with a smile.

"Ruirui had duty today, so he got out of school later than usual."

Kang Li smiled back and said softly.

"Uncle Xiao, hello."

Without needing Kang Li's reminder, Min Rui politely greeted Xiao Jin.

"Hello, Ruirui."

Seeing that Min Rui was walking on his left, Xiao Jin, with a kind expression, casually tousled Min Rui's hair.

Actually, Xiao Jin was somewhat puzzled by the fact that every time he saw Min Rui, he felt an inexplicable fondness for the child, as if the boy really grew on him.

After walking a distance alongside Kang Li and her mother, Xiao Jin, ready to turn his bike down another path, said farewell to the duo, "Comrade Kang, Ruirui, goodbye."

"Goodbye, Uncle Xiao."

Min Rui waved his little hand.

Three or four minutes later, Xiao Jin arrived home. As soon as he entered the yard, he saw Shen Yun and couldn't help but ask, "Are you on a holiday?"

"Resting at home for a couple of days."

Shen Yun nodded and replied.

Xiao Jin parked his bike, and the two of them entered the living room.

In the kitchen, Aunt Li, the hired nanny, was cooking.

This was the distant relative's wife whom Mrs. Shen had helped find when Shen Yun moved into the yard, coming from her hometown to take care of Shen Yun and her child.

"Daddy, can I go play at Vivi's house?"

Outside the window, the moon shone like silver. Xiao Jin was sitting beside his daughter's bed, as usual, lulling her, Tongtong, to sleep when he heard the little girl speak to him. He smiled and said, "Yes, but Aunt Li must take you and your brother over. You can't just run off on your own."

"Jian... Jian doesn't like playing with other kids."

The little girl lay in bed looking up at her father, her bright, innocent eyes full of curiosity, "Daddy, do you know why Jian doesn't like playing with other kids?"

"He likes quiet, I suppose."

From the first time he met his stepson, Xiao Jin's initial impression was that the boy was unusually fair-skinned and delicate, like a porcelain doll. As time went by and he interacted with him more, he felt that his stepson was a bit too quiet.

It wasn't that he had any psychological disorders; he simply didn't like speaking or interacting with others much.

But to Xiao Jin, this didn't seem good.

After all, children should be lively by nature and mingle with peers their age. That way, they grow up healthily and happily.

However, as a stepfather, if he tried to step in and instruct his stepson, it was inevitably awkward.

Moreover, the boy wasn't close to him, which made it even harder for him to say anything.

Xiao Tong: "I see. So when I go to play at Vivi's house, should I bring Jian along?"

Xiao Jin chuckled, "As the older sister, you should naturally take your brother with you when you go out. Otherwise, he would be lonely staying home by himself."

"Alright, I'll take Jian with me when I go to Vivi's house." Saying so, the little girl yawned, "I'm going to sleep now, good night, Daddy!"

"Good night."

After tucking his daughter in, Xiao Jin stood up and returned to the master bedroom.

"Comrade Kang Li seems young, yet she already has three children." Noticing that Shen Yun was still awake, Xiao Jin casually remarked as he got into bed.

Shen Yun paused at his words, then looked at Xiao Jin thoughtfully, "Do you know Kang Li?"

Chapter 558: Aren't We Both on Our Second Marriage?

Xiao Jin "hmm"ed, saying, "Comrade Kang Li is the host of one of our TV station's children's programs, highly capable at her job, and her shows are much loved by kids and their parents alike."

"Hasn't she always been idle at home? How did she end up working at your TV station, and even as a program host?" Shen Yun's brow furrowed slightly as she stared steadfastly at Xiao Jin, "She didn't get the job through connections, did she?"

Xiao Jin shook his head: "I'm not sure about that. By the time I transferred to work at the TV station, Comrade Kang Li was already somewhat famous there. However, no matter how Kang Li joined the TV station, with her qualifications, it would have been the station's loss not to hire her."

"Is her capability really that strong?"

Shen Yun's tone carried a hint of sourness.

But Xiao Jin didn't pick up on that; he said, "Comrade Kang Li speaks Mandarin extremely well, and she has a particularly good voice quality. She's also very good-looking. You probably haven't seen the show she hosts, but if you had, you'd realize that her language skills are also very strong."

"Is that so? It seems I should find the time to watch this show you're talking about." Shen Yun's gaze dropped back to the book in her hands, her voice revealing no emotion, "Professor Luo's child isn't borne by Comrade Kang."

Xiao Jin: "Comrade Kang Li's spouse is in a second marriage?" Having lived in the compound for quite some time, Xiao Jin naturally had heard of Professor Luo's reputation.

Shen Yun: "Aren't we both in second marriages as well?!"

Xiao Jin looked surprised, obviously caught off guard by Shen Yun's words.

"Professor Luo's situation is similar to yours. His first wife died in childbirth while delivering their second child. To have someone care for his three children, he married Comrade Kang."

"So that's how it is." Xiao Jin thought of something, his expression changing subtly.

Shen Yun had no interest in reading anymore; she casually placed the book on the nightstand and turned off the bedside lamp, then lay on the bed with her back to Xiao Jin.

"By the way, I want to talk to you about Jian."

Xiao Jin also lay down and turned off the bedside lamp before he heard Shen Yun ask, "What about Jian?"

"Haven't you noticed? Jian is too quiet on a daily basis. Unless someone talks to him first, he absolutely won't initiate conversation. And he likes to sit alone and daydream a lot. I think this isn't good for his personality development in the long run."

"He naturally doesn't talk much..."

Shen Yun said this, but she knew better than anyone that her son Jian's quietness mainly stemmed from the constant fights she and Austin had before she returned to the country, back when Jian was little, barely six months old, which may have adversely affected the child.

However, as much as she knew this, what could she do about it?

When it came to her son, she couldn't say she liked him, nor could she say she disliked him.

The reason?

He wasn't what she had wanted, not something she had anticipated with joy and expectation.

He was the outcome of her mistaken marriage with Austin, not a crystal of love.

Maybe for that reason, her attention to her son was limited to ensuring he wasn't hungry or cold. Beyond that... there seemed to be none.

"While you're at home, I think you should spend more time with Jian."

Xiao Jin gave his suggestion.

Shen Yun didn't respond for a long while.

"Children need parental love, especially when they're young."

"...You're his father, you're home every day, and you can talk more with him."

"Of course, I will interact more with the child, but you're the mother. You play a very important role in the child's growth. I hope you can take my words to heart and spend more time with Jian."

"I understand."

Shen Yun replied verbally, what she truly thought within, only she knew.

Chapter 559: Don't Even Think About It!

Before she knew it, Saturday had arrived.

After lunch, Kang Li left the compound and headed to the institute. She arrived half an hour before two o'clock.

"Guess who I am."

She took out the keys herself, opened the door to Luo Yanqing's dormitory, saw the man sitting at his desk writing something, closed the dormitory door behind her, put the travel bag she was carrying on the ground against the wall, then tiptoed up to Luo Yanqing from behind and covered his eyes with her hands, deliberately lowering her voice.

"Can't you guess, little brother?"

After waiting for Luo Yanqing to react for a long time, Kang Li, being playful, changed her voice again and asked him.

Putting down the pen in his hand, Luo Yanqing hooked his lips into a smile, "It's Mrs. Luo, I'm not wrong, am I?"

Suppressing her laughter, Kang Li released her hands and walked around to face him, "Yep! Little brother guessed it right, well done!" She kissed him on his handsome face and her fox-like eyes curved into crescents, "This is your reward!"

Luo Yanqing moved the books and calculations papers on the table to one side and then lifted Kang Li onto the table to sit properly. He looked up at her, into her smiling fox-like eyes, and his gaze was tender, "Your visit is quite sudden."

Kang Li tilted her head and asked, "Are you surprised?"

"Yes."

Luo Yanqing nodded.

Kang Li asked, "Did you miss me?"

Luo Yanqing answered, "Yes."

"We haven't seen each other for several months, and during that time you didn't even make a single call home. If you say you missed me, I might not believe it."

"I've been really busy lately. I thought after another month or so, when everyone in the group has a long vacation, I'd spend quality time with you. That's why I didn't call."

"Is it because the project you are currently busy with is about to yield results?"

"Yes."

"I guess in this institute, it's your team that yields results the fastest."

"It depends on the difficulty of the project. If it's tough, it might take years to yield any results."

"Your point makes sense, but if a project takes several years without any outcome, the research funding would gradually decrease, wouldn't it?"

"It would decrease, but it's not absolute."

It depends on the type of research project.

If the research is of significance and the direction of the research is correct, funding generally wouldn't reduce or stall. Conversely, the situation would naturally not be optimistic.

Without much thinking, Kang Li understood Luo Yanqing's point and laughed, "When I get rich, I'll provide substantial funding for your research."

"Thank you, Mrs. Luo!"

Luo Yanqing said with a smile.

"No need for thanks. My only wish is that you take good care of your hair."

Hearing Kang Li's words, Luo Yanqing's expression paused, then he said, "Are you worried about me losing my hair?"

"Not worried; I'm afraid you'll become bald at such a young age."

"I have plenty of hair."

"That's not much related to going bald."

"Okay, I'll be mindful."

"Let me tell you, overusing your brain, highly concentrating mentally, and not resting enough...it's very easy to start losing hair and go grey. If you don't want to step out with me and have people think we're from two different generations, just keep pushing yourself unchecked."

To be blunt, if something happens to you, don't blame me for remarrying with Ruirui's inheritance and having Ruirui call another man 'Dad.'"

Just as Kang Li finished her sentence, Luo Yanqing pulled her onto his lap and kissed her deeply.

After a long while, Luo Yanqing said hoarsely, "Don't even think about it!" He would never give her a chance to marry some other man!

"You...that was rather intense!"

Kang Li adjusted her breathing and lightly touched her lips with her index finger, "It must be broken skin now. Luo Yanqing, you wouldn't happen to be a dog, would you?"

Chapter 560 I'm Not Even Angry

"I'm sorry, Xiao Li, I was wrong!"

Almost instantly, Luo Yanqing transformed into a pitiful little wife, looking at Kang Li with aggrieved eyes.

Seeing this, Kang Li's beautiful fox eyes widened: "... What kind of trick is this? He was clearly the aloof type, plus a hidden domineering CEO trait; how has he switched from being aloof to being cute, and even exuding a white lotus scent?

"Xiao Li..."

After a long moment without hearing Kang Li talk, Luo Yanqing pursed his lips, his voice becoming even softer, "Won't you stop being mad at me? I just care about you too much!"

"Am I mad?"

Rolling her eyes at the man, Kang Li, with an air of coquettish defiance, raised an eyebrow and asked, "Where did you learn this?"

Luo Yanqing: "... Confused.

"Who did you learn this soft and cutesy act with the scent of a white lotus from? Come clean and it'll be easier on you, or resist and it'll be harder!" Kang Li held back a laugh as she scrutinized the changing expressions on his face. "Don't think about bluffing your way through."

"Soft and cute white lotus?"

Luo Yanqing looked innocent: "Xiao Li, are you saying I'm cutesy or a white lotus?"

Kang Li: "You don't agree?"

"Then you should first explain to me what 'cutesy' and 'white lotus' are!" How had his little wife connected him with being cutesy and a white lotus? Luo Yanqing couldn't figure out the reasoning behind it.

"Listen well..." After clarifying the terms "cutesy" and "white lotus," Kang Li asked, "Do you agree with what I said earlier?"

Luo Yanqing shook his head: "I think 'cutesy' should describe Luo Mingrui and others; it has nothing to do with me. As for the white lotus, it's equally unrelated to me."

"Professor Luo sure knows how to argue his case. It seems your glibness has really improved!"

Kang Li's eyes were playful as she reached up and playfully slapped his handsome face twice.

Luo Yanqing, looking indulgently at her, let her mess with his face. When Kang Li withdrew her hand and cleared her throat, pretending to be innocent, his smile in his Phoenix Eyes, and he grinned, "Happy now?"

"I'm not mad."

Kang Li casually said, "But if you bite me again, be careful I might bite back, you know, I can be quite fierce!"

Hearing this, Luo Yanqing hugged Kang Li tightly, burying his head in the nape of her neck, and chuckled lowly.

Kang Li pinched his ear, reminding him, "Isn't it almost time for you to go to work?"

Suppressing his laughter, Luo Yanqing responded, "No hurry."

"I'm staying over tonight, does Professor Luo have any objections?" Shifting to a more comfortable position on his lap, Kang Li looked up to meet his glowing gaze.

Luo Yanqing answered without a second thought, "I would be honored." His gaze was focused, filled with affection. As he looked intently at her, Kang Li couldn't help but blush and, stretching her arms around his neck, she kissed his lips.

Although Luo Yanqing quickly turned from passive to active, their kiss was not like the previous stormy ones but rather like a gentle drizzle nourishing everything, filled with tender affection.

After a long while, they reluctantly parted.

Kang Li stood up, casually straightening her clothes. She then heard Luo Yanqing say, "I'm off to work." His voice was husky but very gentle.

"Mmm."

Nodding, Kang Li responded.

Seeing Luo Yanqing to the dormitory door, she watched as his tall, straight figure gradually walked away before she finally took her gaze back.

...

He Wei and the rest of the workgroup members were all too happy; they hadn't expected their leader to let them off from working overtime that afternoon. It seemed as unlikely as the sun rising from the west.

