

Weak B 601

Chapter 601: Insufficient Fate

Third sister-in-law Kang asked with a curious expression.

"Currently, there are two girls who are interested in our Yangyang, one is a movie actress, and the other is Yangyang's colleague from the Cultural Work Troupe. Both girls are quite pretty."

"These girls have decent jobs, so why doesn't Yangyang like them?"

Elder sister-in-law Kang wished she could immediately travel to North City and pry open her son's head to see what was inside.

"Maybe it's just not enough fate!"

Kang Li spoke slowly, "Elder sister-in-law, don't start overthinking because of what I said just now and scold Yangyang when he calls back."

"That brat must be clueless. If I don't scold him a bit, when will I ever get to meet my daughter-in-law?!"

Kang Li: "Young people in the city pursue love freely, seeking emotional compatibility, and now, since Yangyang officially gets his ration from the public grain, he naturally wants to find a girl he truly connects with. Moreover, with Yangyang's qualifications, he really isn't worried about finding someone he likes."

Hearing this, Elder sister-in-law Kang sighed deeply, "The brat is far away, and my worrying is useless. From now on, you being his younger aunt need to keep a closer eye on him. If that brat meets a suitable girl someday, you must call me and your Big Brother to tell us right away."

"Of course, I must."

Kang Li nodded with a smile.

"Dinner's ready, bring it to the table. Mom sent a message, saying she'll be back later and told us to start eating first."

Big Brother Kang appeared at the kitchen door: "Everything's set up in the dining hall; I'll bring the dishes over right now." He entered the kitchen and walked out holding a dish.

At that moment, Third sister-in-law Kang brought out a big porcelain basin of rice from a pot, saying, "I'll serve the rice." Normally, their big family would not afford to eat such pure white rice, let alone slaughter chickens casually—and two at a time no less.

She needed to eat a bit more today, to nourish the baby in her belly.

With many people at home today, Big Brother Kang and Third Brother Kang had set up two dining tables in the living room, doubling all the dishes prepared.

"Brother Ming Rui, look, this is chicken stew with potatoes, this is stir-fried beans with bacon, this is wood ear mushrooms stir-fried with eggs, this is cold cucumber salad, this is tomatoes mixed with sugar..."

Kang Yiyu introduced each dish to Ming Rui as he pointed at them on the table.

"Brother Ming Rui, the chicken stew with potatoes is delicious!"

Kang Yihang said, drooling.

"Hmm."

Ming Rui nodded in agreement.

...

"I kept a separate portion of each dish for Mom; let's go sit in the living room and eat," Kang Li said as he covered the dishes reserved for their mother and called Elder sister-in-law Kang and Third sister-in-law Kang out of the kitchen.

"Mommy, Mommy, sit here."

As soon as Milk Bun Ming Han saw his mother, he patted the bamboo seat next to him and called out sweetly for her to sit by him.

"Okay."

Kang Li replied with a smile.

"Elder sister-in-law, Third sister-in-law, you sit here."

Milk Bun Ming Han then pointed to two other seats and spoke to the two elder sisters-in-law Kang.

The two elder sisters-in-law Kang had gentle expressions and their eyes brimmed with mirth as they sat on the bamboo seats Milk Bun Ming Han pointed to.

Both dining tables were packed full, and Captain Kang picked up his chopsticks and said, "Let's eat." He knew with many people at home, dishes like chicken stew with potatoes and stir-fried beans with bacon were served in neither too large nor too small porcelain basins.

Luo Yanqing didn't pick up his chopsticks; he looked towards Captain Kang: "Dad, should we wait for Mom?"

"Your elder sister-in-law kept a separate portion for your mom; let's eat. When your mom comes back, it might still be a while."

Chapter 602: Don't Know How to Drink

Captain Kang spoke and gestured for Luo Yanqing to pick up the chopsticks.

However, Luo Yanqing opened the bottle of baijiu in front of him and filled the cups in front of Captain Kang, Big Brother Kang, and Third Brother Kang to the brim. He said, "This is baijiu. I've heard it tastes very good. Dad, Big Brother, and Third Brother, please have a taste."

"Brother-in-law doesn't drink?"

Seeing that Luo Yanqing hadn't poured for himself, Big Brother Kang couldn't help but ask.

"I... don't really drink much."

Luo Yanqing explained.

"Drinking a little is fine," Big Brother Kang picked up the bottle Luo Yanqing had just set down and poured a small amount into his brother-in-law's cup. Seeing this, Luo Yanqing didn't refuse and raised his own cup, "Dad, Big Brother, Third Brother, cheers to you!"

With those words, he drank it all in one gulp..

Upon seeing this, Big Brother Kang smiled at Captain Kang and said, "Dad, it seems brother-in-law truly can't drink." Hearing this, Captain Kang glared at his eldest son, then turned his gaze to Luo Yanqing, "Drinking baijiu in one gulp can easily go to your head."

Perhaps because he had just drunk, or perhaps because his method of drinking was wrong, but at any rate, Luo Yanqing's fair and handsome face blushed at this moment. He nodded, "I'll remember what you said, Dad."

The lively meal ended without seeing their mother return, so Kang Li couldn't help but call Kang Yichen over, "Go check at the Zhou Family what has detained grandma."

"Alright."

Kang Yichen agreed without a second thought and nodded.

"Remember to tell grandma to come back for the meal."

Kang Li instructed.

Kang Yichen responded again with an "Alright."

Zhou Family.

"Grandma, if you're done, come back home for the meal,"

Upon seeing his grandmother at the Zhou Family's main house, Yichen went up to her and said, and then pulled on her arm to head out, "Everyone at home is waiting for you, Grandma."

"Alright, alright, I'll come back with you right away," Cai Xiufen responded verbally but her gaze fell on Mrs. Zhou, "Auntie, a guest should not be neglected. Don't worry about why Comrade He and Educated Youth Su and her mother are arguing; you should first attend to preparing lunch for the other daughters-in-law at home. We can't let guests go hungry."

"It's being prepared, it's being prepared."

Mrs. Zhou forced a smile and dealt with Cai Xiufen.

"Then I won't stay any longer."

Before Mrs. Zhou could say anything, Cai Xiufen had already left, being pulled by the arm by Kang Yichen.

Watching Cai Xiufen's retreating figure, Mrs. Zhou's expression changed again and again. She felt that her family had lost great face today, being made a spectacle in front of the villagers, especially by Cai Xiufen, this almost in-law and woman director, and at the same time, she was very dissatisfied with Mother Su.

Coming all the way from North City, she expected a visit to see her daughter-in-law, Su Qing, and her little grandchild, yet the mother and daughter started arguing almost immediately after meeting, not minding the setting and arguing loudly in the courtyard.

This brought the neighbors gathering outside her house to look into the matter.

Mrs. Zhou could guess without much thought that the villagers would likely start spreading various gossips about her family again.

"Bring out the money, and I will take Taotao back to North City right now."

Mother Su was sitting in Su Qing's room, her face grim as she stared directly at her eldest daughter, "During the Spring Festival, seeing how thin you had become, your father and I were very heartbroken,

so when you were leaving, I packed quite a few things for you and even gave you fifty yuan, but instead, you immediately deceived us. You said you were seriously ill and needed surgery, that your in-laws couldn't afford the surgery fees..."

Before Mother Su could continue, Su Qing interrupted: "What's the point of bringing up these matters over and over? Yes, I deceived you and Dad,

Chapter 603: Am I someone you picked up?

"But if life here was easy, would I deceive you into sending me money? Anyway, did you think I'd willingly curse my own body and your grandson's health? Besides... besides, if it weren't for your favoritism, would I even be here?"

With a clear slap mark on her left cheek and swollen red eyes from severe crying, Su Qing fearlessly faced Mother Su's anger and said without much emotion:

"It was my own marriage matter, my match with Comrade Wen. Unexpectedly, Su Man stole it from me. What did you say about me back then? You said I was the one who didn't want to marry Comrade Wen... Was it me who didn't want to? I was just a bit emotional, and you didn't make Comrade Wen's personal situation clear to me, allowing Su Man to take advantage and claim my match as her own, forcing me to go to the countryside. Have you ever stood up for the injustice I suffered?"

Su Qing hadn't expected Mother Su to come to the Northwest, much less that she came not to visit her but to doubt her, to check if she was deceiving the family for money.

And upon meeting... Seeing that she and her child were well, she immediately slapped her, demanding her to hand over the money sent from home, without any consideration for the circumstances, without leaving her any dignity, just like a shrewish villager, berating her as heartless, a white-eyed wolf, black-hearted.

She didn't consider how those curses would make Su Qing feel!

She didn't care about her feelings at all!

Holding back the tears welling up in her eyes, Su Qing said word by word, "I'm not good with words, can't say things that please you. I've never been liked by you as much as Su Man since we were young, but no matter what, I'm also your daughter, born to you. Why can't I receive your love?"

My brother and Su Tao are boys, and you and my dad spoil them. I can bear that, but why should Su Man, just because she can make you happy, make me suffer in everything?"

Mother Su was hit by a barrage of questions from Su Qing, her heart complicated. She didn't want to admit her lack of fairness in dealing with her two daughters, didn't want to admit that she indeed favored her younger daughter in the past. Still, she countered with, "Every one of the ten fingers is a different length. Your sister is younger than you; I dote on her a bit more, what's wrong with that?"

"What did I do wrong to deserve your unfair treatment?"

Su Qing asked, choking up.

"How have I wronged you? Haven't I provided you with food, clothes, and schooling?"

"Su Man is only a year younger than I, and I wasn't as physically developed as her, so we've always worn the same size clothes, which was fine. But every time you bought us clothes, it was Su Man who got to

choose first, and I was left with whatever she didn't want. When we had snacks at home, setting aside my brother and Su Tao for now,

you would let Su Man help herself whenever she wanted, but when it came to me, you'd say, 'Snacks are bad for your health' and wouldn't even let me touch one. The thing is, how many snacks have I eaten? None—I've hardly had any snacks. I just often saw my brother, Su Tao, and Su Man eating snacks..."

Mother Su interrupted, "Enough, these are trivial old issues. Why bring them up now? Hurry up and give me the money; Taotao and I still have to catch the train."

"I must be a child you picked up, right?" Su Qing blurted out unexpectedly, which made Mother Su so angry she clenched her teeth: "Ungrateful, the lot of you. Is it possible I owed you something in a past life, for you to hurt me with such curse-like words?"

Su Qing's emotions were not swayed by Mother Su's words: "If I'm not picked up, why do you treat me differently?"

Chapter 604: What disease did you actually get?

"Doesn't every family act the same way?"

Maintaining balance is not easy, especially in these days when every household has many children. She had to work and take care of the children, and even if she had four hands, she couldn't attend to each child perfectly.

What error had she committed?

"I don't care how other families do it, I just care that despite being your daughter, why must you treat us differently?" Su Qing stared fixedly at Mother Su. After a long while, seeing Mother Su did not speak, she stood up and took a folded handkerchief from the cabinet.

Sitting back in front of Mother Su, she slowly unfolded it and presented the money inside to Mother Su, "This is all that's left, take it if you want, but from today onwards, just pretend you never had me as a daughter."

As she spoke, Su Qing suddenly coughed violently, and blood slowly began trickling from the corners of her mouth.

"Elder sister!" Su Tao was playing with his young nephew nearby and noticed the blood at the corner of Su Qing's mouth. His heart tightened, and he asked anxiously, "Elder sister, what's wrong with you?"

Mother Su froze. She watched as Su Qing wiped away the bright streaks of blood with her handkerchief as usual, and shook her head at Su Tao, saying, "I'm fine."

"You're coughing up blood and you say you're fine? Elder sister, you... you haven't lied to mom and dad, right? You are really sick, aren't you?"

Holding his young nephew, Su Tao stepped closer to Su Qing and pressed her with three consecutive questions.

"Don't worry, it's nothing serious. It's just a little blood in my cough. The doctor said that as long as I take my medicine properly, I'll get better." Su Qing was indeed sick, but the illness did not require surgery, so asking her parents for money wasn't a complete deception.

Su Tao shifted his gaze towards Mother Su, "Mom, do you still think my elder sister is deceiving you?"

Without responding to her son's words, Mother Su came back to reality and asked Su Qing, "What exactly is your illness?"

"I've had a cold for a long time, which made my bronchial tubes uncomfortable. I cough up a bit of blood when I cough. It's nothing serious. Here, take this money. If you want to return to North City, you and Su Tao can leave now to avoid missing the train if it gets too late."

Putting the money in Mother Su's hand, Su Qing took a couple of sips of water from the cool pot on the cabinet and put the porcelain jar back in its place.

Mother Su said, "Longlong's illness..."

"My son is very healthy."

Taking her son from Su Tao's arms, Su Qing said, "You've seen what kind of person my mother-in-law is. Even if I wanted to invite you and Su Tao for a meal..."

"Pack up, and I'll go with you and Su Tao to the county hospital for a checkup." Mother Su put the money in her bag, picked up her grandson Longlong without waiting for Su Qing to reply, signaled Su Tao to wait in the living room, and then said to Su Qing, "Coughing up blood is not a trivial matter. Go to the hospital for a checkup. If the doctor says the same thing as you just told me, I won't hassle you here."

It was uncomfortable for her to be questioned by her own child, but... but this was still her child. Could she just watch her coughing up blood and then turn around to go back to North City with her younger son?

"I've been to the county hospital for a checkup, and it really isn't anything serious. Rest assured and take Su Tao back."

Su Qing stood still, clearly reluctant to go to the hospital.

"Can you stop treating your own body like it's a joke?" Mother Su said earnestly, "Whether you resent or hate me, right now, you must come with me to the hospital. Leave the child with your mother-in-law."

"The doctor from the county hospital did say that, and indeed, my bronchial discomfort is caused by a cold. A few more days of medicine should do the trick."

Mother Su said, "Are you trying to scare me to death?"

"It's not a serious illness."

Chapter 605: 605: Why are you doing this?

Su Qing spoke in a neutral tone.

“We’ll take a car to the city hospital, and if the results there are the same as those at the county hospital, you can take a car back. Taotao and I will take the train back to North City from the city.” Mother Su, after all, was a mother. Even though both of her daughters had painfully lashed out at her with harsh words, and both were full of complaints, she still couldn’t neglect her daughter’s health.

Carrying a child for the painful ten months of pregnancy and giving birth with excruciating pain, if something really went wrong because of her negligence this time, Mother Su didn’t dare to think about how she would get through the rest of her life.

She acknowledged her favoritism, but she had never wanted her daughter to die.

“...I don’t have money.”

After a long silence, Su Qing responded.

“Just come with me, I’ll cover the medical expenses.” Mother Su blurted out. Hearing this, Su Qing quietly looked at her mother, her eyes filled with complexity, “Why would you do that?”

“Am I not your mother? Can I just watch you die?”

Mother Su bit her lip, wishing she could slap Su Qing twice to make her realize that her mother, though biased, wasn't so heartless as to watch her daughter die of illness at a young age.

"Fine, I'll go with you."

She had been coughing up blood for a while now. It was infrequent, but paying more attention couldn't hurt.

"Mom, I need to step out this afternoon. Please look after Longlong until I return." After tidying up a bit, Su Qing and Mother Su left the house. She took her son from her brother Su Tao and handed him directly to Mrs. Zhou.

Mrs. Zhou frowned, "Where are you going?"

Su Qing, "To the hospital for a check-up, and I'll also be dropping off my mom and brother." She didn't specify which hospital.

"Be back early, I don't have time to entertain a child all afternoon."

She liked her little grandson, but that didn't mean she was willing to be tied down by him all afternoon, unable to do anything.

“Understood.”

Su Qing nodded.

Once they had left the village, Mother Su asked, “Is the woman who criticized your mother-in-law the female cadre from this village?”

Su Qing, “Yes. She’s the Women’s Director.”

“She doesn’t look like a rural woman at all,” said Mother Su. “She looks quite capable.”

It wasn’t that Mother Su looked down on rural people; it was that all the rural people she had ever met were uncultured. But that Women’s Director from the Zhou Family, not only was she well-dressed, but the way she spoke indicated she had good sense.

Such a rural woman, in her eyes, was very unusual!

At Captain Kang’s house.

After dinner, Cai Xiufen called her daughter to her room, sat cross-legged on the kang, and asked Kang Li, “Why haven’t I seen Yanqing?” At her words, Kang Li laughed and said, “He’s drunk, lying down in my room.”

“Didn’t your eldest and third brothers force him to drink?”

Before Kang Li could reply, Cai Xiufen’s face soured, “Yanqing looks like he can’t handle his liquor. Why didn’t you stop your brothers? And your father, what was he doing at the time, not scolding your eldest and third brothers even once?”

“Mom, if my eldest and third brothers were here right now, they would definitely be crying and claiming their innocence to you.”

Kang Li’s face, serene and beautiful, carried a faint smile as she said, “My brothers didn’t force your good son-in-law to drink. It’s just that Luo Yanqing isn’t very good at drinking, and he got a bit off after toasting half a cup to my father and brothers. So after dinner, I let him lie down in a room for a while.”

“You really... Do you not know whether Yanqing can drink or not, or whether he should?”

Chapter 606: 606 More Real Than Pearls

Doting Darling Daughter,

Cai Xiufen said, “As a wife, you have to understand more about your own man’s matters; otherwise, if something happens to him, what will you do?”

Kang Li: "Yes, yes, yes, Mother, you are right to admonish me. It's my fault for not caring enough about Luo Yanqing. I promise you now that from this moment forward, I will pay more attention to whatever concerns Luo Yanqing. I'll also take the time to ask about his preferences and will not let something like today happen again."

To be honest, it was indeed Kang Li's negligence. Two years ago during New Year's Eve dinner, Luo Yanqing had toasted Old Man Xiao, using tea instead of alcohol. Kang Li certainly remembered this detail now, but regretfully, she really hadn't thought of it at lunchtime today.

"Your tongue is quite glib."

Once again displaying her doting gaze, Cai Xiufen said, "Are that Comrade Su and Educated Youth Su from next door really sisters?"

Kang Li: "Truer than pearls."

"Speak properly," Cai Xiufen said helplessly, then continued, "Such pitiful sisters they are, to have encountered such a mother."

"What kind? Mother, do tell, what exactly happened to the Zhou Family?" Curiosity piqued, Kang Li's foxy eyes sparkled brightly.

Cai Xiufen sighed, "Educated Youth Su's mother made a special trip to our village this time. As soon as she saw Educated Youth Su and her daughter doing well, she opened her mouth and accused Educated Youth Su of being black-hearted and faking illness to cheat the family out of money. Without waiting for Educated Youth Su to explain, she slapped her right across the face."

“Educated Youth Su is faking illness?”

Blinking her beautiful foxy eyes, Kang Li asked.

For the sake of swindling some money from home, would Su Qing—originally the main character Su Man’s sister—be foolish enough to joke about her and her son’s health?

“I don’t think it’s likely. She doesn’t look well, and as for Educated Youth Su’s son, I didn’t see anything amiss. However, even if Educated Youth Su was faking illness to swindle some money from her family, her mother shouldn’t have traveled all this way to demand the money back, especially in front of the Zhou Family, slapping her own daughter in the process.”

As parents, if your child cheats you out of some money, it’s appropriate to say a few words and lay out the reasoning clearly. Is it really necessary to publicly humiliate your daughter by calling her heartless, a white-eyed wolf, black-hearted, and on top of that, slap her and demand she return the money that was sent over?

Thinking this way, Cai Xiufen deeply disagreed with Mother Su’s actions from the bottom of her heart.

“Every family has its own difficult scripture to chant, and perhaps the Su Family’s financial situation is tight, which is why Educated Youth Su’s mother couldn’t accept her daughter faking illness to cheat money from the family.”

It's unfair to speculate and comment on other families' situations when they, as outsiders, don't know the specifics.

"Don't you think there's something wrong with Educated Youth Su's mother not leaving face for her own daughter in front of strangers, scolding, beating, and demanding the return of the money that was sent from home?"

"The approach is somewhat improper."

"Good that you know."

Cai Xiufen's eyes held a relieved look, and she said, "As parents, everyone hopes their children will have good and smooth lives. Educated Youth Su's mother really values money too much."

"Mother, what you said isn't entirely correct. There are countless parents in this world, and just as there are those who love their children and wish them well, there are also those who are not good. Take, for example, some families in our village that favor sons over daughters. You know that these parents do not regard their daughters as humans, so how could they consider their daughters' wellbeing?"

"I'm talking about the majority of parents in the world."

"Don't be angry, don't be angry,"

Chapter 607 Not Surprising

"I didn't want to argue with Mom, I just told some truths." Kang Li, who had been leaning lazily against the cabinet, saw his mother glaring at him and hurried forward, wearing a flattering look as he helped soothe his mother's indignation.

Cai Xiufen, "It's always you causing mischief!" Seeing her precious daughter scrambling to the bed platform in a few strides, waving her hand to soothe her, Cai Xiufen couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"If you laugh, that's good. Mom, you don't know, I'm not afraid of anything in this life, only that you might get upset." Kang Li said earnestly. Upon hearing this, Cai Xiufen tapped her daughter's forehead, "It's just your sweet talk."

"It's the truth."

Kang Li, feigning grievance, "Mom, don't you believe me?"

Cai Xiufen, smiling, shook her head, "Keep causing mischief."

Kang Li laughed, then a moment later, she changed the subject, "I'm thinking of going up the mountain when it cools off in the afternoon."

Cai Xiufen, "You think you can leave?"

Kang Li, "I'll sneak out with Luo Yanqing."

Cai Xiufen, "Tell me, what do you want to do on the mountain?"

Kang Li, "Just stroll around."

Cai Xiufen, "You can wander around the village as much as you like, but don't even think about going up the mountain." Although they hadn't heard of any big creatures inhabiting their mountain, it wasn't worth the risk if her beloved daughter and son-in-law encountered something unexpected, then what?

To prevent that risk, Cai Xiufen naturally would not agree to let Kang Li wander around the mountain.

"Really not allowed to go?"

Kang Li acted pitifully.

"Think about what you are doing now, and what you are planning to do, can you assure me that you won't encounter any danger taking Yanqing up the mountain?"

One was involved in scientific research, the other soon to travel abroad for a competition; their safety was more important than anything.

Pursing her lips, after a long pause, Kang Li drooped, "Alright then, I won't go. I'll just stay at home."

At that moment, Cai Xiufen suddenly thought of something. She said, "On the way back from the Zhou family's house, I heard your Aunt Erhua say that Xu Chunxia still hasn't found a husband's family yet. If she comes to our house and wants something from you, don't let her fool you."

Upon hearing this, Kang Li didn't respond and instead muttered, "I think she is the same age as me."

Cai Xiufen nodded, "Yes, the same age."

Kang Li, "Twenty is not old, finding a household shouldn't be difficult, right?"

"It's different in the countryside compared to the city. Here, most families with daughters arrange engagements by sixteen or seventeen and marriage by eighteen. The scandal previously caused by Chunxia severely damaged her reputation, and her mother is so set on finding a well-off family, hoping to get a bigger dowry,

with all these twists, everyone in the surrounding villages knows Chunxia's situation and her parent's intentions, thus no one comes to propose anymore. I think if her parents keep delaying, they might end up selling her outright."

Kang Li frowned slightly, "It's a new society now, human trafficking is illegal, aren't her parents worried about getting arrested by the police?"

Cai Xiufen, "Officially, they are marrying off a daughter, which has nothing to do with human trafficking. Besides, this kind of thing is not at all unusual in our countryside."

"I understand what you mean, Mom." Kang Li's face remained expressionless as she said, "No matter what happens to Xu Chunxia, it has nothing to do with our family. I won't interfere in her affairs, nor do I have any reason to, especially since we are no longer friends."

"That's good."

The reason Cai Xiufen brought up Xu Chunxia's situation was merely out of concern that Kang Li, usually soft-hearted, might be swayed by a few words into helping somehow.

"I came from my uncle's house this afternoon,

Chapter 608: Are You Playing the Victim in Front of Me?

"I saw Xu Chunxia and her two sisters passing by with slap marks on their faces; both Chunxia and her younger sister had them."

"That's not surprising."

"Does Aunt Xu often hit Chunxia and her sisters?"

"She does when she's in a bad mood."

"Mom, I'm so lucky to be your and dad's daughter." These words were what Kang Li said on behalf of the original owner of the body and also her own heartfelt sentiment.

Cai Xiufen's eyes were filled with affection; understanding what her precious daughter meant, she couldn't help but laugh and say, "Having a daughter means everything is complete; you are the child your father and I longed for." After having one lousy boy after another, finally having such a daughter, the couple would have taken her everywhere with them if they could, naturally doting on and cherishing her while expecting the boys to also spoil, cherish, and protect their sister.

Toward evening.

Kang Li hadn't expected that the very afternoon her mother mentioned Xu Chunxia, she herself would run into her.

"Kang Li, I... I want to talk to you for a moment, is it convenient?"

"Are we that close?"

"Can you not be like this, please? Kang Li, I know I did some wrong things in the past, but I truly never intended to harm you."

Xu Chunxia had mustered the courage to stop Kang Li; she and her sisters Chunmei and Chunxiang had sat in their dilapidated thatched cottage all afternoon. Just as they were preparing to head home, she unexpectedly saw Kang Li walking side by side with Luo Yanqing on the village path. Without much hesitation, she had her sisters go ahead home while she decided to take Chunmei's advice and seek out a way forward for herself from Kang Li.

Her thoughts were clear in her mind, and thus without delay, there stood Xu Chunxia, two steps away from Kang Li, enduring the embarrassment, begging Kang Li to speak up for her.

"Have you forgotten, or is it my memory that's poor?" Kang Li replied with a calm demeanor, her tone betraying no emotion, "You knew the Zhou Family had forcefully cancelled the engagement at my house, yet you helped Zhou Weimin deceive me into going to the creek at the foot of the mountain, causing me to almost lose my life that day. Can you honestly say you did right by me in that incident?"

Almost lost? If it weren't for her arrival, the original owner of this body would now be nothing but a pile of bones.

Extremely restrained, Xu Chunxia said, "It was Zhou Weimin who asked me for help, saying he wanted to see you. I knew nothing of what happened afterward. Kang Li, besides... besides, that day you fell because you weren't walking steadily, and then..."

"Enough!" Interrupting Xu Chunxia, Kang Li said, "If you hadn't tricked me out, could I have run to the creek at the foot of the mountain? If I hadn't gone there, would that accident have happened?"

"But I truly didn't mean to deceive you!" Xu Chunxia's voice carried a sobbing tone, "I thought maybe Zhou Weimin wanted to meet you... maybe he had regrets and wanted to reconcile with you... so I just..."

"Are you trying to play the victim in front of me?"

Although it was a question, Kang Li used a declarative tone.

"Kang Li, we're friends, can't you stop talking to me like this?" Changed, she had really changed; no longer as easy to deceive, no longer tender-hearted.

Xu Chunxia was at a loss for words.

"It seems you really do have a short memory. I remember telling you after I woke up that day that we were no longer friends. Now here you are bringing up 'friends' again—don't you think that insults the word 'friends'?"

People were starting to look over, and Kang Li didn't want to waste more words; she said to Luo Yanqing, "We've been out for a while; let's go back."

"Alright."

Luo Yanqing nodded.

While Xu Chunxia and Kang Li were talking, Luo Yanqing hadn't even given Xu Chunxia a glance. He stood by Kang Li's side,

Chapter 609: Are You Asking Me to Repay Evil with Kindness? Where's My Face?

His gaze was tender, simply watching Kang Li, watching his young wife.

"Li Bao!"

Xu Chunxia would not let Kang Li leave so easily. Throwing all caution to the wind, she knelt down right in front of Kang Li. "I'm begging you, can you just listen to me for a few sentences? Just a few!"

"Are you sick or something?" Kang Li was startled by Xu Chunxia's sudden kneeling. Regaining composure, she stepped back twice and said indifferently, "You have three minutes. Stand up now, and say what you have to say quickly." Turning to Luo Yanqing, Kang Li pointed to a tree a few dozen feet away, "You wait for me there."

Luo Yanqing nodded again.

Once he walked near the tree, Kang Li returned her attention to Xu Chunxia and saw that she was still kneeling before her, her tone involuntarily becoming slightly cool, "Do you expect me to help you up by doing this?"

"No, no."

Xu Chunxia got up, tears brimming in her eyes. She said, "You see how I am now, Li Bao. This is what my mom did to me. These past two years, whenever she gets upset, she hits me, scolds me, calls me a loss, says she'll sooner or later sell me... Li Bao, please help me. I don't want to be sold to some old bachelor or an idiot to be their wife. I want to leave Aoli Village, leave this place. Can you... can you take me with you?"

"Are you sure you're not joking? Take you with me, how can I do that? Without a letter of introduction, where could you go? Even with a letter of introduction, if you went outside, how would you solve the problems of food and shelter?" Kang Li looked straight into Xu Chunxia's eyes, "Or are you thinking of imposing on me to provide for you?"

"It's not like that, Li Bao. I don't have such thoughts. I... I just want you to take me out and help me find someone in North City. I don't have any special requirements. As long as they can provide me with food and a place to sleep, that's enough. What do you think?"

In Xu Chunxia's tearful eyes was a full sense of longing, "Li Bao, even if you find me a divorced comrade, I am willing."

"Go home, wash up, and go to sleep. You'll have everything in your dreams." She was not a matchmaker, so why should she help find someone? What kind of wishful thinking was this?

Kang Li was speechless.

"Li Bao, you don't want to help me?"

The longing in Xu Chunxia's eyes turned into pain, and with a choked voice she said, "No matter what, we have been friends for many years. Do you really want to hear one day that I was sold by my mom, hear that I couldn't go on living, that I had to seek death? I admit, I did like Zhou Weimin before, but I knew he was your fiancé. During that time, I didn't do anything!

Likely, you have heard about what happened between me and Zhou Weimin from your aunt. But by then, you had already ended things with Zhou Weimin. It was because I couldn't stand Educated Youth Su ruining your marriage arrangement with Zhou Weimin that I thought of stealing Zhou Weimin away to vent your anger. Yet, before I did anything,

I was ruined by Educated Youth Su's slander. Li Bao... just think of it as pitying me, take me out of the village, find me a marriage match. Isn't this small request something you can agree to?"

Gazing at Xu Chunxia for a good while, Kang Li still had an indifferent expression, but the corners of her lips curved slightly in a smile that was not quite a smile, "You've got a brain to learn and thereby to broaden your horizons, but you have chosen to feed pigs with it. I wonder why you just assumed and begged in front of me, thinking I would help you with what you call a 'small request.' Friend, are you practicing repaying evil with kindness? Where's your pride?"

Without a doubt, Kang Li's "friend" was laced with obvious irony.

Chapter 610 Luo Yanqing Speaks Out

Xu Chunxia couldn't believe it, "Li Bao, are you really going to be this heartless?"

Kang Li said, "I think I'm being a bit foolish right now." As she spoke, Kang Li turned and walked towards Luo Yanqing. Had her mind gone haywire, listening to all that nonsense from Xu Chunxia?

"Li Bao..." Xu Chunxia caught up with Kang Li, grabbing her arm and pleading with tears, "Please help me out! As for the letter of introduction, Uncle Kang is the Team Leader and your dad; he adores you. Just have a word with Uncle Kang..."

Brushing off Xu Chunxia's hand, Kang Li's expression suddenly turned cold, "Don't push your luck."

Xu Chunxia said, "You're pushing me to death, Li Bao!"

"Comrade, you blatantly slander my love, thinking he is easy to bully?" Luo Yanqing's eyes were sharp as he said each word, "If you don't want to be sent to labor reformation, stay away from my love!"

"..."

Frightened, Xu Chunxia dared not follow Kang Li anymore. She stood frozen in place, watching helplessly as Kang Li and Luo Yanqing walked away.

"Are you okay?"

Hearing the concern in Luo Yanqing's voice, Kang Li looked at the man and smiled, "What could be wrong with me?"

"Were you friends before?"

Suddenly, Luo Yanqing dropped this question.

"..." Kang Li paused slightly, then asked, "You sure don't think that I was blind to have ever been friends with someone like that?"

"No." Luo Yanqing's will to survive quickly kicked in, "That's not what I meant."

Kang Li hummed softly, fixing her gaze on the man, "Then what did you mean? Go on, explain."

"I... It just surprised me." His girl was so outstanding; how had she ever befriended someone so scheming? Luo Yanqing was somewhat baffled.

"So, you really think I was blinded." Perceiving some nervousness in the man, Kang Li suppressed a laugh and said lightly, "We played together as kids and gradually became friends. You know, children are innocent and don't think too much. But who knew, after she assertively called off her engagement at the Zhou Family and lured me to the stream at the foot of the mountain,

there, I had an argument with my former fiancé. As I turned to leave, I slipped and fell backward. I fainted right there, and when I woke up, I accidentally encountered her walking with my former fiancé,

and his new partner. They came up to me and started spouting nonsense. I'm one to talk back, and that's when I cut off all ties with Xu Chunxia. In a way, you were the trigger for all this."

"It involved me?"

Luo Yanqing looked puzzled.

"Yes." Kang Li nodded, a smile playing at her lips, "My former fiancé was overly sentimental, thinking I agreed to marry you, a divorced man, out of spite to him, that I was degrading myself. Little did he know, I agreed because I was charmed by your looks."

On hearing this, Luo Yanqing's face involuntarily flushed, and he was silent for a long while.

"Don't believe me? I've told you before, being with you has a lot to do with your looks."

As she spoke, Kang Li chuckled, her hands clasped behind her back as she occasionally observed Luo Yanqing's expression, "Oh dear, are you feeling shy?"

Luo Yanqing said, "Not at all."

Kang Li, "I think you are. Otherwise, why won't you look at me while speaking?"

"Are you flirting with me?"

Grasping Kang Li's hand, Luo Yanqing glanced at his young wife.

"Am I?"

Kang Li certainly wouldn't admit it.

Luo Yanqing said, "You know it in your heart."

"I really don't."