

Weak B 881

Chapter 881

"That's appropriate, I have no objections."

Big Brother Kang expressed his stance.

"I have no objections either."

Third Brother Kang echoed.

"Since no one has any objections, go back to your own rooms and rest, don't just stand here in front of me."

Captain Kang waved his hand, shooing Big Brother Kang, Third Brother Kang, and all the grandchildren out of the room. Then, he found a secret place to stash the money he had in his hands, muttering to himself, "She really is my daughter." So capable!

"I tell you, everyone has children, but ours are all duds. Look at the Team Leader's family, among his kids, aside from the eldest and the third who earn work points at home,

the other four all live on state grain. If that wasn't enough, his sons' kids have directly gotten into college, while look at my eldest and his wife, all their kids take after their parents, every single one of them is a dud!"

After leaving Team Leader's House, Cui the Loudspeaker grabbed Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu to chat idly on the village road. Clearly, this was about talking behind Captain Kang and Cai Xiufen's backs, or more precisely, Cai Xiufen's.

Wang Chunhua: "Erhua, you're belittling your own family and grandkids, don't drag me into this..."
Before Wang Chunhua could finish, Li Daniu shot a glare at Cui the Loudspeaker: "Don't drag me into this either!"

Erhua was Cui the Loudspeaker's nickname. Hearing what Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu said, she looked at the two with a strange expression: "What's the matter? You think all your kids are clever or something?"

"What's wrong with you? Isn't it enough to belittle your own family that you have to drag us into it too?"

Wang Chunhua glared.

"Who am I belittling? All I'm saying is the plain truth! If your kids were clever, why isn't a single one living on state grain? And of all the grandkids your sons have had, has any one of them gone to college to make you proud?"

Cui the Loudspeaker pouted and said: "It's not like I want to belittle myself and drag you two along, it's just that none of those things we gave birth to turned out successful.

You've seen it too, in front of us those leaders directly handed Captain Kang three thousand yuan, another gave him a thousand, and two others chipped in six hundred, three hundred respectively; even the town's middle school principal gave a hundred, five thousand yuan in total, all earned by Li Bao. Can you say you're not envious? Can you really say your heart isn't sour?"

After a pause, Cui the Loudspeaker continued: "If we swapped Li Bao with my family or you, Wang Chunhua, or Li Daniu, your daughters, then that five thousand yuan would be sitting safely in our pockets right now!" With a long sigh, Cui the Loudspeaker exuded a sour tone: "At the end of the day, none of us are as good at giving birth as Cai Xiufen!"

Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu stayed silent.

At this moment, the two of them thought of the two thick wads of money that the provincial, city, county, and Commune leaders handed over to Captain Kang, and the sourness in their hearts just kept rising.

After a pause, Cui the Loudspeaker continued: "If we swapped Li Bao with my family or you, Wang Chunhua, or Li Daniu, your daughters, then that five thousand yuan would be sitting safely in our pockets right now!" With a long sigh, Cui the Loudspeaker exuded a sour tone: "At the end of the day, none of us are as good at giving birth as Cai Xiufen!"

After a pause, Cui the Loudspeaker continued: "If we swapped Li Bao with my family or you, Wang Chunhua, or Li Daniu, your daughters, then that five thousand yuan would be sitting safely in our pockets right now!" With a long sigh, Cui the Loudspeaker exuded a sour tone: "At the end of the day, none of us are as good at giving birth as Cai Xiufen!"

Chapter 882: They Started Arguing

Upon hearing the two people's conversation, Cui the Loudspeaker couldn't help but freeze for a moment, then nodded in agreement: "I also think what you said makes sense." Of course, if the seeds are not good, you can't blame it on the soil not being fertile.

After all, how did those crooked melons and split dates come out from this barren ground of theirs?

The more Cui the Loudspeaker thought about it, the more it seemed to make sense.

Anyway, she didn't think her children being dim-witted and not so good-looking had anything to do with her.

Suddenly, she clapped her hands with dissatisfaction and said, "It's all their men's fault! No looks, no brains, causing us women to give birth to one terrible child after another, so frustrating!"

"I say, Erhua, can you stop using such harsh words? What's with 'crooked melons and split dates'? If Dog Leftover and his siblings heard this, will they still be filial to you in the future?"

Li Daniu was clearly perplexed: "First, you say your own kids are blockheads, now they're called crooked melons and split dates. It's really unsettling to hear."

Wang Chunhua: "Even if my kids aren't great, they're still mine. I certainly won't go badmouthing them outside."

"Hypocrite!"

Cui the Loudspeaker sneered: "I heard what you two just said loud and clear. Want me to repeat it?"

"So what?"

Wang Chunhua rolled her eyes: "I just said you reap what you sow, but that doesn't mean I think my kids are bad."

Li Daniu: "Exactly, Chunhua and I just think the men in our houses are not great. We didn't go around nitpicking our kids like you."

"You two don't even admit it when called hypocrites?! Are you not envious of that Cai Xiufen lady? Not envious that Li Bao got a full mark and easily received a five thousand reward from the leaders?"

Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu were speechless.

"See, you guys are obviously green with envy inside, isn't that the best proof you secretly think your kids don't look good and are not smart?"

Cui the Loudspeaker felt a bit smug: "I always speak the truth. Whatever I say, even if it's not pleasant to hear, it's never nonsense."

Unintentionally, Cui the Loudspeaker spotted Mrs. Xu and couldn't help but shout: "Xu family! Xu family, what are you standing there for?"

Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu exchanged looks, unanimously feeling that Cui the Loudspeaker was just stirring up trouble with Mrs. Xu.

But they didn't say more, standing by to watch the show.

Mrs. Xu didn't want to bother with Cui the Loudspeaker; she could guess with her toes what the latter wanted to say, hence she pretended not to hear and started to walk home.

However, Cui the Loudspeaker wouldn't just let her go back that easily. They heard Cui the Loudspeaker say: "Don't you always like to compare your Chunxia with Li Bao? Well, now that Li Bao got a full mark as a top scorer, the leaders personally came to give Kang Li to the Team Leader, aren't you envious? Oh!

But what good does being envious do you? It's your own fault for not sending your Chunxia to study. Otherwise, maybe Chunxia would have gotten that top score, and the leaders would have naturally brought Kang Li to your family's pocket!"

This was a mixture of mockery and sarcasm, making Mrs. Xu so angry she couldn't help but retort, she turned to Cui the Loudspeaker: "I'm envious, so you aren't? Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu aren't either?"

Since we're all envious, then what were you blabbering to me about? I didn't send the money-losers to study, but did you send yours to school? We're all the same anyway, thinking spending money on the money-losers is a waste, so no one should laugh at anyone!"

Chapter 883 - Making a "Change

That year, in order to forcibly give medicine to the daughter, hoping to turn raw rice into cooked rice and marry her off, before the matter was accomplished, comrades from the police station took them away from home. Mrs. Xu and Father Xu really lost face in the surrounding villages, and they even had to undergo reformation for a period of time. Because of this, the couple almost hated Xu Chunxia, Xu Chunmei, and Xu Chunxiang to death.

Once they regained their freedom and returned home, Mrs. Xu and Father Xu almost treated Sister Chunxia as if she were dead.

They didn't care about food or drink, whether to go to work or not, their idea was to starve them to death to end it all.

Being treated like this by Mrs. Xu, Xu Chunxia didn't feel much. They didn't give her food, couldn't she cook for herself? Locked the grain up, didn't she know how to pry open the cabinet?

There's no way to starve her to death!

Xu Chunmei and Xu Chunxiang were hurt inside, but to survive, they had to stand on the same side as their sister Xu Chunxia. Otherwise, if their parents didn't care, and their brothers and sisters-in-law just watched without helping, there was no other choice.

Thus, every now and then, a “war” would break out in the Xu family.

The main characters were undoubtedly Xu Chunxia and Mrs. Xu.

When mother and daughter started tearing into each other, it was clear that neither saw the other as family; they wouldn’t stop until they inflicted visible damage.

Occasionally, Xu Chunmei would join in, but not to tear into Mrs. Xu, rather to stand in front of Sister Xu Chunxia and take the slaps and scratches from their mother.

This was a family matter of the Xu family, but in the village, their reputation was completely ruined.

In more than two years, not a single person came to the Xu family to propose marriage.

Whether it was for the marriage of the Xu Chunxia sisters or Xu Chunwang, no one mentioned it in front of Father Xu and Mrs. Xu. Mrs. Xu, hating the three ungrateful daughters deeply, didn’t care about the sisters’ fates or whether they got married, but she was anxious for her son Chunwang.

They only have two sons. One was already married and had children, and the other was getting older every year. If he didn’t find a wife soon, would he remain a bachelor for life?

Thinking about how her son might remain a bachelor for life, Mrs. Xu undoubtedly became more resentful of these three worthless daughters for ruining the family’s reputation. Meanwhile, she tried

her best to control her temper and became low-key in the village, hoping that over time, people would forget their family's past troubles.

So she could find a wife for her son Chunwang.

But today, Cui the Loudspeaker brought up the things that shouldn't be mentioned, insisting on comparing Kang Li with Xu Chunxia. It was like stabbing Mrs. Xu in the heart, causing her to finally be unable to hold back and retort against Cui the Loudspeaker, even dragging Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu into it.

After all, Mrs. Xu wasn't easy to mess with in the village. She felt that Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu stood with Cui the Loudspeaker, and there was an eighty to ninety percent chance that the three of them were gossiping about her or her family. Otherwise, why would Cui the Loudspeaker suddenly attack her like a mad dog?

Thinking this way, Mrs. Xu naturally couldn't leave Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu out of it.

"Who are you calling a worthless daughter? Xu family, in your eyes, the Chunxia sisters are worthless, but don't compare my daughter with yours!"

Wang Chunhua was furious. First, she was being dragged into it by that brainless Cui the Loudspeaker, calling her children dimwitted and deformed melons, and now Gao Daozi (Mrs. Xu's name), a fool, was insulting her daughter as a worthless daughter. What kind of bad luck had she run into today?

One and another, is there no end to this?

Although in her opinion, daughters were indeed a loss, she only ever thought this to herself and never spoke it out loud to avoid her daughter growing distant from her. But why was the Xu family's loose tongue gossiping on the village road?

Chapter 884 - Shows How Little You've Seen, Huh?!

Glaring at Mrs. Xu, Wang Chunhua wished she could bite the opponent to death!

"What did I say wrong? Is this girl not a burden? Can she like the men in the family, carry on the lineage, and take care of you in old age?" Mrs. Xu sneered, "Li Bao is capable, but no matter how capable she is, she's married, and become someone else's wife."

Cui the Loudspeaker: "Xu family, you failed to sell your daughter, and now she's stuck with you. Do you not see her as a person? Burden, have you forgotten what you are?"

"Bah! Loudspeaker, spare me your reasoning. In our village, except for the Team Leader and his wife who treat their daughter like a treasure, who doesn't see a daughter as a burden?"

You accuse me of selling my daughter, haven't you asked for dowry when you married yours? Since you have, how are you any different from me?" Mrs. Xu spat on the ground, ignoring Cui the Loudspeaker and the others, and went towards her courtyard gate, taking out her frustration on Xu Chunxia and her sisters once inside the yard.

If Cai Xiufen were in the village, upon hearing Cui the Loudspeaker and Mrs. Xu mention her, she would surely say to the four of them, "You're all full and have nothing better to do."

North City.

Kang Li and Luo Yanqing took Min Rui back from school, and before entering the living room, Kang Li heard her mother sneeze several times in a row.

“Could Mom have caught a cold?”

Hearing this, Luo Yanqing paused and said, “Do we have cold medicine at home? If not, I’ll go buy some now. If you’re worried, we can take her directly to the hospital to have the doctor check.”

“Who are you taking to the hospital?”

Cai Xiufen heard faintly what Luo Yanqing said and asked as they entered the living room.

“When we walked to the center of the yard, we heard you sneezing several times in a row, so I was worried you caught a cold. Luo Yanqing said if we don’t have cold medicine at home, we should take you to the hospital to see the doctor.”

The neighbors who came to congratulate had all left, and Kang Li spoke while sitting next to her mother.

Cai Xiufen waved her hand: "Go to the hospital for what?! I'm in good health, and as for sneezing earlier, I suspect someone back home is talking about me."

"Mom, what are you thinking?"

Kang Li chuckled: "North City is far from our hometown, even if someone is talking about you, how would you know from such a distance? Moreover, how can you be so sure someone at home is talking about you?"

"You must be lacking knowledge!"

Cai Xiufen looked at Kang Li: "There's a saying: When you sneeze, once is someone thinking of you, twice is being cursed, thrice is being mentioned, four or five times is catching a cold. I sneezed three times, paused, then sneezed three more times, so surely someone is mentioning me, and since your mom doesn't know many people in North City, what does that tell you?"

It tells you that almost certainly, the people mentioning me are those back home. Besides, you scored full marks as the top student; the village gossipers know this, are you sure they won't gossip a bit? When they talk about you, they'll naturally bring your mom into it."

"Our family didn't mention it, how would the villagers know? Even if they know, and talk about me, why would they need to talk about mom too?"

Kang Li's beautiful eyes showed confusion.

Luo Yanqing then interjected: "You are the top science scorer with full marks, it's reported not only in papers but also mentioned on TV and radio, it's not difficult for people from your hometown to know."

"That's possible."

Cai Xiufen nodded, "Even if people in our village didn't listen to the radio or watch TV, who can guarantee your brother and the others at home won't talk about it outside?"

Chapter 885: Kang Li's Confusion

"After all, scoring a perfect top score is such a joyous occasion for our family. When they step outside and chat with others, there's a great chance they might accidentally spill the beans."

Kang Li said "Oh," indicating he understood, and then heard his mother continue: "Our village has a few women who love gossiping. Once they find out our family suddenly produced several college students at once, especially you scoring the perfect top score, whether out of jealousy or for other reasons, they're bound to gather and talk about our family. But I doubt they can say anything nasty."

Their family conducts themselves uprightly, and their children got into college through real abilities. Even if someone drags their family, or her and her precious daughter, into gossip, what can they do besides feeling envious?

Just as Cai Xiufen finished speaking, the telephone rang.

"Hello..."

Cai Xiufen sat on the sofa next to the phone, picked up the receiver, and heard Captain Kang's voice coming from the other end. Her eyebrows twitched slightly, and she said:

"It's me, Li Bao and Yanqing are here, you can speak directly... What? An award?! Director Wu, during lunch today, brought leaders from the provincial, city, and county education departments, and the principal of the town's middle school also visited our home... How much?

Five thousand! That much... All for Li Bao's award? Okay, okay, I know..."

Cai Xiufen's eyes were nearly overflowing with a smile: "Keep the money safe, it's Li Bao's. When we return home, you give the money to Li Bao... Yes, that's how it should be, it's good that the elders are perceptive and know what to say,

Exactly... My health is good, Li Bao and Yanqing and Ruirui are all fine. That's it, nothing else, okay, then that's it, goodbye."

After putting the receiver back on the phone, Cai Xiufen's gaze fell on Kang Li: "You heard it all, right? Provincial, city, and county education department leaders came to our home today, with Director Wu leading you. Your middle school principal also came, they all came to our home to deliver your award!

The province gave three thousand, the city gave one thousand, the county gave six hundred, the commune gave three hundred, and the town's middle school gave one hundred. Li Bao, I really didn't expect studying hard and scoring the top score could also earn rewards. Your dad was very happy on the phone just now, telling me repeatedly how amazing you are and how proud he is!"

"..."

Kang Li was stunned for a while, then she came to her senses and said: "I didn't even take the college entrance exam in our place, why would the provincial, city, county education departments, the commune, and the town's middle school give me an award?"

Luo Yanqing: "You didn't take the college entrance exam at home, but your perfect score standing originates there."

"I understand now, our province, city, county education departments, and the commune, town's middle school think I got a perfect science score and feel it's a great honor, so they gave me a reward."

Kang Li realized.

Luo Yanqing nodded: "That's how it is."

Next door, at the Wen's family.

Upon learning that recruitment teachers from three renowned universities came specifically to seek out Kang Li, hoping to recruit this perfect science top scorer to their universities, Su Man's jealousy grew like weeds, wildly sprouting.

The more she thought, the more jealous she became, and the deeper the jealousy, the angrier she got, resulting in her skipping lunch. Alright, she didn't make lunch at all and lay in bed sulking.

Wen Siyuan said nothing about this, fetched the three Wen Yue sisters home, personally went to the kitchen to prepare some noodles for himself and his three daughters, sprinkled with scallions, and placed two poached eggs in each bowl. The four of them ate their fill, tidied up the kitchen, and left the house.

"Aren't you hungry?"

After taking the three Wen Yue sisters to school and returning, Wen Siyuan intended to head to the study, but he stood in the living room for a while before he finally stepped toward his and Su Man's bedroom.

Chapter 886 - But I've Worked Hard Too!

Su Man lay sideways on the bed with her back to the door, hearing Wen Siyuan's footsteps approaching, without even a slight reaction.

"Honestly, don't you think you're a bit quick-tempered?"

Standing by the bed, Wen Siyuan's face showed no particular emotion, and his voice lacked any emotional fluctuations: "If you're not satisfied, make yourself excellent enough, and naturally, you'll regain your dignity."

Yet, Su Man remained silent.

“There’s roughly half a year until the next college entrance exam. If you choose to retake it, I can tutor you during my holiday at home. As long as you’re willing to work hard, getting into Shuimu University isn’t difficult.”

Wen Siyuan spoke peacefully, but Su Man offered no response, leaving him momentarily feeling stumped, unsure how to continue persuading her.

He turned and left the room. About ten minutes later, Wen Siyuan returned to the bedroom with a bowl of scallion egg noodles, placing the bowl on the dressing table and saying, “I made you some noodles, get up and eat.”

“No appetite.”

Su Man responded.

“Seems like you haven’t taken my words to heart.”

Wen Siyuan’s expression remained unperturbed. He pursed his lips and was silent for a moment before saying, “What’s the point of being angry like this? It only makes you uncomfortable; it doesn’t harm anyone else.”

Sitting up, Su Man met Wen Siyuan’s gaze: “Then what do you suggest I do?”

“I’ve already said, if you’re dissatisfied, retake the exam, and I’ll tutor you. Otherwise, keep a calm mindset. After all, others achieving good grades means they’ve put in significant effort in their studies.”

“But I’ve also worked really hard!”

“Can’t you be less stubborn? If I were like you, spending all day comparing myself to others and not seeking personal growth, wouldn’t I have already driven myself to madness?”

Wen Siyuan’s expression became somewhat serious: “I took the college entrance exam the same year as Luo Yanqing, and I was several years older. Before knowing Luo Yanqing, I was always the exemplary child praised by the elders,

consistently taking first place in exams throughout my school years. That year, I thought I did well in the entrance exam, and indeed, I was accepted into Shuimu University.”

After a moment of silence, Wen Siyuan’s voice resurfaced: “But Luo Yanqing was the valedictorian who scored a perfect score in our cohort. He, like his partner Comrade Kang, achieved perfect marks in the science exams that year.

At just fourteen or fifteen, they took the entrance exam and scored full marks, completed their college courses in two years, and were then sent to study abroad at prestigious universities on behalf of the country... Upon returning, earned dual PhDs directly.

Achieving such results in just two to three years at renowned foreign universities, you can imagine how incredible such a person is, right?

The foreign institution was reluctant to let him go, but Luo Yanqing insisted on returning to his country, relinquishing many benefits offered abroad, eventually returning with difficulty, immediately establishing his own project research group, and any research project Luo Yanqing proposed would yield results, and quickly so..."

Wen Siyuan gave a bitter smile: "We are in the same field. Do you think I'm jealous of him? I am, very jealous of him, but I know that jealousy is useless; he is indeed better than me. Only by striving to improve can I possibly narrow the gap between us... But this is truly difficult."

His gaze toward Su Man suddenly turned deep and unfathomable: "If you were me, what would you do? Become so jealous that you can't work, eat, or sleep at night? Just sulking alone in jealousy? If that were the case, do you think I could still stay in the institute?"

Chapter 887: In the End, It's Still a Mindset Problem

Wen Siyuan sighed deeply: "I told you before, jealousy can easily make people lose their reason, make people become unbearably ugly. I'm not just saying this casually. I don't want you to become unrecognizable to even yourself one day, turning into someone everyone dislikes the moment they see you."

"Su Man, you're not a child; you're an adult, even a mother. You have to set an example for the kids. Don't let jealousy blind your mind, causing trouble out of nothing, constantly acting out, and failing to pursue improvement to become outstanding. Instead, you keep focusing on someone better than you in a negative light."

"Are you jealous of Comrade Luo?"

Originally intending to say "Luo Yanqing", but for some reason, Su Man found it hard to say it out loud.

"Yes, I am jealous."

Wen Siyuan nodded: "He is so outstanding. Including me, there are many people jealous of him, but what can that do? Besides our jealousy, we also admire him! Because even if we tried our hardest, we couldn't keep up with Comrade Luo Yanqing's pace!"

"..."

Su Man was silent for a long time, muttering: "But I just can't stand her being better than me, and she's better in every aspect. I feel she is my nemesis, and her presence is there to antagonize me. The more I think about how good she is, the more unsettled I become, and it just drives me crazy."

"Mindset, at the end of the day, it's still a mindset issue."

Wen Siyuan pointed at the bowl of scallion egg noodles he had placed on the dressing table:
"Remember to eat, then think carefully about whether to take the college entrance exam again."

"...No."

After a slight hesitation, Su Man gave her answer, then said: "I'm afraid I won't do as well as I did this time."

Wen Siyuan nodded slightly: "I understand."

"Do you... really think there's a big gap between you and Comrade Luo?"

"Yes."

"Can't you surpass him?"

"I don't know... but I always strive hard."

"I also want to strive and improve, but I can't play the erhu, nor play the piano... now even the college entrance exam scores have been left far behind by the neighbor. Do you think she is just that capable?"

The "she" that Su Man mentioned was undoubtedly referring to Kang Li.

Wen Siyuan: "Talent, some people not only have high intelligence but are also naturally gifted in certain areas. Comrade Kang might be one of those people!"

"That Song Xuan, he belongs to the category of smart and talented people, right?"

Su Man met Wen Siyuan's gaze, biting her lip, she said: "When I just married you, I often heard in the courtyard that the grandson of the director's family was a fool. But ever since that neighbor came to this courtyard, the director's grandson gradually changed,

not only learning to play the erhu in a short time but also winning first place in a musical instrument competition... and this time in the college entrance exam, his score was even far above mine. With that neighbor and Song Xuan to compare to, I'm really upset, feeling how could I be outdone by someone who used to be... a fool..."

She didn't finish before being interrupted by Wen Siyuan: "Enough! Song Xuan wasn't foolish back then. The child was diagnosed with a condition called 'autism,' which manifests in daily life as living in their own world, fearing external communication, and facing some language barriers, but that doesn't mean the child has an intelligence problem.

In fact, as you've seen, Song Xuan is not only smart but also has a natural talent for instruments. It's best if you don't say things like you did just now, otherwise, if the director's couple hears it, it would be bad for both you and me."

Su Man glared: "Why are you so harsh? Can't I just admit I was wrong?!"

Chapter 888 - Looks Like You Really Forgot

"I'm going to the study."

Leaving those words behind, Wen Siyuan turned and left.

“All you ever do is lecture me with your big ideas. Do you think I’m stupid? I know jealousy can make people lose their sense and turn them ugly! I just can’t stand how that person next door is better than me in every way...”

Muttering under her breath, Su Man put on her shoes, sat in front of the vanity, and stared at the scallion egg noodles in the bowl for a long while before picking up her chopsticks to eat.

“At least you have a conscience and didn’t let me starve!”

Holding up the bowl for a sip of soup, Su Man’s expression softened a lot.

Time flew by. Kang Guoan, Kang Yiyang, Song Xuan, and Mo Yan all received their acceptance letters, which made Kang Li naturally very happy when she found out.

During this time, Kang Li picked out a lot of winter clothes and shoes for adults and kids from Dwen Dwen’s stash. Well, these clothes were still prizes Kang Li had won earlier. She and Luo Yanqing packed several parcels together and mailed them to their hometown, her second brother Kang Guosheng’s place, and to the Loh family in Hu City.

These packed clothes and shoes, of course, weren’t just randomly taken out by Kang Li. She used the excuse of going to the department store and sneaked the items out when the clingy little one wasn’t

watching, found a secluded place to get them into her hands, then estimated the time before heading back to the compound.

After going out alone twice to “shop at the department store” and finally getting everything “ready,” the third time she went to the department store, she took the clingy one with her.

The purpose was to make him labor for her.

They bought plenty of candies and toys for children.

These were also packed and sent out separately.

“Train tickets for 10 AM tomorrow, soft sleeper, in two separate compartments, but they are adjacent.”

Luo Yanqing entered the room, took out several sleeping berth tickets to show Kang Li.

“Did you get them from Godfather?”

Glancing at the tickets in Luo Yanqing’s hand, Kang Li asked casually.

“Yes.”

Luo Yanqing nodded slightly.

“Speaking of which, we’re really lucky to be able to book soft sleepers, all thanks to you, Professor Luo!”

Kang Li’s clear, bright fox eyes were filled with laughter. Hearing her, Luo Yanqing was first stunned, then chuckled, “It’s hard for ordinary people to get soft sleeper tickets, but you’re different.”

Kang Li raised an eyebrow, “How am I different? Aren’t I an ordinary person?”

In this era, buying train tickets was not easy, even for regular hard seats, requiring a work unit introduction letter or ID to purchase at the station. Buying hard sleepers often meant having connections or asking the unit to arrange it.

As for soft sleepers, they were even harder to get, as they were usually reserved for certain high-ranking officials or special individuals.

After all, the soft sleeper compartments had better facilities, more attentive service, and came with private washrooms.

Luo Yanqing smiled with Phoenix Eyes, “Have you forgotten your status?”

“My status? I’m just me, an ordinary citizen. Do you think I’m like you, part of some special group?” Kang Li said with some amusement, “I’m not an impressive scientific talent.”

“It seems you’ve truly forgotten.”

Luo Yanqing looked at her indulgently yet helplessly and said, “Who once won four gold medals in an overseas competition all by themselves...”

Before Luo Yanqing could finish, Kang Li blinked her beautiful fox eyes in surprise and said, “Am I considered a special individual too?”

“What do you think?”

Luo Yanqing let out a low laugh, “Alright, don’t think about it. Anyway, you are qualified to take the soft sleeper.”

Kang Li gave an “oh” and then asked, “Soft sleepers are quite expensive, aren’t they?”

“They’re safe and comfortable; a little extra cost is worth it.”

Luo Yanqing had an easygoing expression: "Godfather has already arranged our return tickets. All you need to do is go to the ticket window at your train station with my ID to pick them up."

Kang Li: "Thank Godfather for us, okay? You didn't forget to say thank you, did you?"

"I'm not a little kid just learning to talk."

Luo Yanqing gently pinched Kang Li's straight and pretty nose and asked, "Are you holding onto the tickets, or should I?"

"You're the head of the family, so you should keep them."

Kang Li replied casually, then added, "We already packed and mailed everything we needed to take home two days ago. Tomorrow, we're just setting off with some snacks, so the whole family is traveling light."

Luo Yanqing: "That's good, so we don't have to carry too much stuff on and off the train."

Even though there was still about half a month to go before New Year, the train station was already packed with people.

With elderly and children in their family, nothing was more important than safety.

Kang Li: "You rest up, I'll call my big brother and Yangyang, tell them to pack up and get to our place before dark today."

Luo Yanqing nodded: "Okay."

"Did you see our mom and Ruirui before coming home?"

"They were outside the courtyard. Mom was talking with Comrade Fang next door, and Luo Mingrui and a few kids of similar age were squatting down and playing in the snow. I told them not to play too long."

"Kids just love playing in the snow, but you're right to remind them or they might get too excited and catch a cold."

"I noticed their hands were a bit cold. Luo Mingrui and Luo Mingwei weren't playing much, just watching from the side. Luo Minghan was playing wildly."

"I'll make all three of them stand as punishment when they come back."

Luo Yanqing looked puzzled when he heard Kang Li say this.

“The older brother should advise the younger one not to play too much, and the sister should stop her brother from going wild in the snow. None of them are innocent, they all should be punished.”

Kang Li smiled with her eyes: “Let’s have them hold hands and face the wall to reflect on their actions, what do you think?”

“I have no objections.”

Luo Yanqing smiled in response.

“Whenever you’re not home and they make a mistake, I have them face the wall to reflect. If two or three of them make the same mistake, they automatically hold hands and stand facing the wall without me having to say much. But truthfully, this kind of situation hardly happens twice a year.”

At this, Kang Li laughed out loud: “After all, the three little ones in our family are all good kids.”

Luo Yanqing looked at her warmly: “That’s because you taught them well.”

“The kids are well-behaved by nature, and Mom deserves a lot of credit too.” Kang Li said, taking advantage of the fact that the man wasn’t paying attention, she quickly kissed him on the handsome cheek with a “smooch,” followed by a delightful laugh: “I’m going to make the call now.”

As he snapped out of it and watched her back, Luo Yanqing chuckled softly, while the fondness and amusement in his phoenix eyes nearly overflowed...

North City Cultural Workgroup.

Kang Yiyang received a call from his little aunt, Kang Li, and heard that the train tickets were bought for noon tomorrow, so he immediately went back to his dorm to pack up.

In fact, as soon as he received his admission notice, Kang Yiyang had already processed his resignation and gathered the things in the dorm that he needed to take, only lacking the final packing.

"Knock, knock, knock!"

Someone knocked on the door.

"Come in."

Stuffing clothes into his travel bag, Kang Yiyang turned to look towards the door, and the moment it opened, he saw a familiar face, looking slightly dazed for a moment, but then he smiled: "Do you need something from me?"

"I thought you might be leaving the Cultural Work Troupe these couple of days, so I... I came by to check in and see you off."

Chapter 890: But I Don't Want to Lie to You...

Lin Dan walked into the dormitory, glancing at Kang Yiyang with a trace of shyness in her eyes.

But when their eyes met, she quickly averted her gaze, looking quite nervous.

"You're nervous."

It wasn't a question; Kang Yiyang made a direct statement.

"No, I'm not nervous. Why would I be nervous? You're not a man-eating tiger!"

Lin Dan spoke quickly, somewhat like she was trying to cover up for something.

Hearing this, Kang Yiyang let out a laugh.

"What... what's so funny?"

Lin Dan felt even more uneasy upon hearing Kang Yiyang's laughter.

She glanced at Kang Yiyang with her watery eyes and then quickly looked away, saying, "I... I'm really not nervous."

Kang Yiyang stifled his laughter, but the smile lingered on his face. He gestured for Lin Dan to sit on the chair and then spoke: "I'll have to leave in a while. My aunt and uncle have already bought train tickets for tomorrow..."

Lin Dan: "Then shall I see you off at the train station tomorrow?"

Kang Yiyang: "No need."

Upon hearing this, Lin Dan's mood instantly sank.

"It's cold; if you come to see me off, you'll definitely get cold. Besides, it's not like we won't see each other again, no need to make that long trip."

Lin Dan's mood improved upon hearing this, and she asked, "So you mean after the New Year, when school starts, I can visit you at your school, right?"

Kang Yiyang didn't answer immediately. He stared into Lin Dan's eyes filled with anticipation, remained silent for a while, then slightly moved his lips: "Do you... really like me that much?"

"Yes."

Lin Dan nodded without hesitation. Worrying that Kang Yiyang might not believe her, she nodded emphatically again: "I like you, I really do!"

"But I don't want to lie to you..."

Kang Yiyang began, but seeing Lin Dan's expression tense up again, he continued to speak his mind: "So far, I only have a good impression of you, um... and I feel like the current you is a bit different from the old you..."

"Different? I haven't changed, have I? I've always been like this."

Lin Dan's heart was in knots, and she watched Kang Yiyang with nervousness and unease.

"Don't be nervous; what I mean is... the old you was outgoing and lively. The current you, or more specifically today's you, seems a bit cute, but it's all you, and that's great."

After hearing Kang Yiyang's words, Lin Dan felt like she was on a roller coaster, her emotions soaring high and low, finally reaching the clouds.

He was complimenting her, calling her outgoing and lively, even saying she was cute... Thinking of this, Lin Dan's face unknowingly turned bright red.

"Are you complimenting me?"

Her lowered eyelids lifted, and she met Kang Yiyang's gaze.

"Comrade Lin Dan, the impression you give me is of quite a confident young lady." The implication being, do not doubt yourself.

"I just..."

It's just being caught between hope and fear, not a lack of confidence, but worrying in front of you that she might not be good enough. Thinking this, Lin Dan asked the question she had always wanted to ask: "Would you be willing to try dating me? Don't worry, if after some time you feel..."

Seeing the tears well up in the girl's eyes, Kang Yiyang's heart softened, and he interrupted her: "Okay, we'll try dating for a year, and if we think it truly fits, we'll solidify the relationship."

"... What did you say? Kang Yiyang, could you repeat what you just said?"

Lin Dan was emotionally shaken, her voice trembling.

"I said we can try dating, and if we genuinely feel suited for each other, we'll make it official. After college graduation, we'll register for a license."