

Weak B 921

Chapter 921

On hearing this, Xiao Jin was momentarily stunned, then nodded, "Alright, I'll call my younger brother, but I estimate he's likely to stay in Hu City for the New Year, just like every year."

Father Xiao: "You two brothers were inseparable when you were young, but by the time you were fifteen or sixteen, you started to drift apart. I still don't understand what happened between you two. Why don't you tell me now?"

Xiao Jin: "There's nothing to it. The relationship between me and my younger brother has always been good. It's just that as we got older, we each have our own circle of friends, so it seems like we're not as close as when we were kids."

"Is that really so?"

Father Xiao was skeptical.

"Yes."

Xiao Jin nodded, his expression revealing nothing unusual.

Staring steadily at his eldest son for a moment, Father Xiao changed the subject, "What exactly is the problem between you and Shen Yun? Your mother said she hasn't seen Shen Yun at your place the few times she visited. Is it really just because she's busy with work?"

"We're doing fine." Xiao Jin's expression was calm as he said, "Xiao Yun is inherently busy with work. Both you and mom should know that, so when mom visits my place to see the kids, she doesn't see Xiao Yun at home."

Father Xiao: "Are you sure there's no issue between you two as a couple?"

Xiao Jin chuckled, "What could possibly be wrong between me and Xiao Yun? Her work nature means she can't be home often. How could I possibly have an unpleasant time with her when she finally gets to come home?"

"I hope so." Father Xiao was slightly reassured, then waved his hand and said, "Alright, you have three kids at home. I have nothing else, so you should head back soon."

"Then I'll be off."

As he rose and was about to leave, Xiao Jin didn't forget to remind Father Xiao, "You and mom are getting on in years, so don't worry about me and my younger brother. We are all adults and know what we're doing and our responsibilities. Moreover, nothing is more important to us than you and mom's health."

Father Xiao, glaring, "Your mom and I are still robust. Just take care of your own family, you don't need to worry about us."

Xiao Jin smiled, "Take care of your health, Dad."

Leaving the study, Xiao Jin said goodbye to Mrs. Xiao, then rode away.

On the way back to the compound, he barely noticed a trace of a bitter smile at the corner of his mouth, feeling that the life he's living now cannot truly be called living, but he couldn't tell his parents the truth.

After all, he's not a child anymore, troubling his parents with his problems.

Moreover, before marrying Shen Yun, he had been married once; though his ex-wife passed away due to illness, not matter how you look at it, marrying Shen Yun is indeed a second marriage. If their marriage did have problems and reached divorce, not only would it be a disgrace to his parents, he himself would be unable to hold his head high among others.

The root of it all is that divorce sounds bad.

Especially since Shen Yun gave him children, it means if this marriage ends, he would have to live with his daughter Tongtong and son Xuan Xuan.

But the two kids are still young and need care. In this situation, would he start a third marriage?

Shaking his head internally, Xiao Jin knows he cannot let go of his pride and ignore other people's gossip.

Precisely because of this, Xiao Jin has been very agitated recently.

He can't figure out why Shen Yun is constantly cold and sarcastic toward him and always compares him to Professor Luo from the compound, showing no regard for his dignity.

He can't help but wonder if...she has feelings for Professor Luo, otherwise, why would she frequently bring up another man in front of him?

Yet doesn't she realize that Professor Luo has a family? Even if she harbors any thoughts, what could she do?

Interfere in someone else's marriage, destroy their family?

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To take a step back, even if she wanted to do this and put it into action, would that Professor Luo even notice her?

His family has a lovely wife, and Comrade Kang is exceptional in every aspect. Even if Shen Yun is a returnee and a scientific researcher, in that Professor Luo's mind, she probably can't even compare to a single strand of Comrade Kang's hair.

Setting aside what Professor Luo thinks, just looking at Comrade Kang himself, he not only won multiple gold medals in international sports events for the country but also scored full marks in science in the college entrance examination, making him the undisputed top science student. For such a smart person, pursuing further studies abroad to become a scientific researcher is, in his view, a very simple matter.

So, Shen Yun, what reason does his wife have to look down on Comrade Kang?

To elevate that Professor Luo in front of him and belittle Comrade Kang, as if only she could be a perfect match for that Professor Luo, is absolutely ridiculous!

...

Kang Li had no idea that whenever Shen Yun had a conflict with Xiao Jin, she would deliberately elevate Luo Yanqing in front of her husband Xiao Jin while belittling her. At this moment, Kang Li and her group had already gotten off the train and boarded the bus heading to the county town.

After almost three hours, the bus arrived at the county town, and the group transferred to another bus heading toward the town.

The snowy road was difficult to travel on, and the bus was moving slowly to avoid any accidents.

Ming Han: "Mom, are we almost at the town?"

Kang Li: "Yes."

Ming Han: "How much longer do you think it will take?"

Kang Li: "At most about twenty more minutes." It had been almost an hour since they boarded the bus from the county town. On normal days, they would have already been in the village by now. Moreover, Kang Li poked her head out to look through the bus's front windshield and saw that they were less than three li from the town.

At the current bus speed, arriving at the stop in about twenty minutes was definitely not a problem.

Laoan Town.

"Big Brother, there's a bus coming over here. Do you think Mom and Li Bao could be on it?"

Third Brother Kang rubbed his hands and looked at the bus slowly driving over as he spoke to Big Brother Kang.

"It's hard to say for sure."

Big Brother Kang sighed: "It's snowing and the roads are hard to travel. After Mom and them got off the train, they had to take a bus from the city to the county town, and then transfer to get to the town, which definitely takes several more hours than usual on this journey."

"True," Third Brother Kang thought Big Brother Kang made sense, so he didn't talk about this topic anymore and instead asked Big Brother Kang about his nephew Kang Yihong's situation: "Is Yihong still stubborn?"

Upon hearing this, Big Brother Kang's face immediately darkened. However, this had nothing to do with Third Brother Kang's features. It was because he thought about the recent unsettling matters caused by their family's third brother, which made him furious.

He said, "That kid is as stubborn as a mule. When you ask him what the matter is, his mouth is sealed tight like a clam, not saying a word."

Third Brother Kang shared Big Brother Kang's headache: "So... is he really going to marry that Educated Youth Yan?"

Big Brother Kang: "I don't know."

Third Brother Kang: "What's Dad's opinion?"

"Dad couldn't get any sense out of that brat either and just flatly told me and your sister-in-law to handle it."

He couldn't figure out when their third brother had any involvement with that Educated Youth Yan from the Educated Youth Spot, but the reality was, that brat suddenly said he was going to marry Educated Youth Yan a few days ago and even claimed she was having his child. How does any of this make sense!

Third Brother Kang: "I fear this situation won't end well."

Big Brother Kang: "Whether it can end well, I don't know for now. But do you really believe that the child Educated Youth Yan is carrying is related to that brat?"

"Our kid would never do something so irresponsible."

Chapter 923

The snowy road was hard to traverse, so the bus drove slowly to prevent accidents.

Ming Han: "Mom, are we almost at the town?"

Kang Li: "Mm-hmm."

Ming Han: "How long do you think it will still take?"

Kang Li: "At most, about twenty minutes." They had been on the bus for almost an hour since boarding in the county; if it were a usual day, they would have already reached the village by now. Also, as Kang Li craned her neck to look through the bus's front windshield, it wasn't more than three miles from the town.

At the current speed, reaching the station in twenty minutes was certainly achievable.

Laoan Town.

"Big Brother, there's a bus coming, do you think Mom and Li Bao could be on that bus?"

Third Brother Kang rubbed his hands, looking at the bus slowly driving over and said to Big Brother Kang.

"That's hard to say."

Third Brother Kang used a definitive tone, he said, "How about wait until Mom and Li Bao come back, let Mom take Li Bao and start asking from Educated Youth Yan."

"This brat always brings trouble to the family. If it weren't for you and Dad holding me back, I would have already broken his leg!" Big Brother Kang said with a cold face, "Luckily, Educated Youth Yan didn't make a fuss; otherwise, who knows what the villagers would say about us. It could even impact the brat's chance of going to college after the new year."

The bus stopped slowly not far from them, and as the door opened, passengers started to get off one by one.

"Big Brother, watch the ox cart here, I'll go take a look."

After saying that, Third Brother Kang stepped towards the bus.

"Third Uncle (Third Brother)!"

Kang Yiyang and Kang Guoan got off the bus carrying Hanhan and Min Rui. As soon as they saw Third Brother Kang, they almost simultaneously beamed with smiles and cheerfully called out.

"Yangyang, Little Wu!" Third Brother Kang quickly advanced, hearing the innocent voices of the twins, "Hello, Third Uncle!"

"Hello Hanhan, hello Vivi!"

A simple smile hung on Third Brother Kang's face. He scrunched the ear-flap hats on the two little ones' heads, then moved his gaze to the bus door, seeing his dear sister and brother-in-law supporting his elderly mother walking towards him, he couldn't help but shout, "Mom! Li Bao! Yanqing!"

"Third Brother."

Kang Li and Luo Yanqing glanced at Third Brother Kang, smiling. As Third Brother Kang approached, Luo Yanqing introduced Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei to him, "These two are Comrade Zhou and Comrade Zhang."

Third Brother Kang: "Hello, comrades."

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After hesitating for a moment, Big Brother Kang responded.

It's said that age brings wisdom, so how could Cai Xiufen not sense something was up? However, as they were on the road, she decided to hold off her suspicions, planning to clarify everything once they got home.

About halfway through their journey, Luo Yanqing intentionally slowed his pace. Seeing this, Kang Li was puzzled: "What's wrong?"

"Get on."

Moving in front of Kang Li, Luo Yanqing bent his knees. Clearly, he intended to carry Kang Li on his back for the rest of the way.

"No need."

Kang Li shook her head: "I'm not tired."

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing said nothing further and simply carried her on his back: "Be good, don't move around." His little girl wasn't heavy at all, and carrying her was effortless.

"The road is already hard to walk on. Carrying me will only make it slower." Lying on the man's back, Kang Li's gentle voice was filled with concern: "Let me down, I don't want you to exert yourself."

Luo Yanqing's lips curved slightly: "I'm very at ease carrying you."

"Big Brother and the others are all looking back at us!" Kang Li's cheeks were slightly warm: "Once we're in the house, my mom will definitely say I'm bullying you again."

"It's my own choice; if Mom says anything about you, I'll explain. As for Big Brother and the others, they can see if they want! I'm carrying my own wife, and no one has the right to say otherwise."

Kang Li laughed and asked: "Aren't you worried Big Brother and the others will think you're henpecked?"

"I care about my wife and don't want her to be tired. If that's seen as henpecked, it just means Big Brother and the others haven't seen much. And even if I were henpecked, I'd be doing it willingly."

Speaking casually, Luo Yanqing's dark, phoenix-like eyes were full of laughter. Though Kang Li couldn't see, she could easily tell from his tone that he was in a great mood!

Kang Li: "Professor Luo, why are you so good to me?"

Luo Yanqing: "Who else should I be good to, if not you?"

"Why, though?"

Kang Li asked, knowingly.

Luo Yanqing replied with a question: "You don't know?"

"I just want to hear you say it!"

Kang Li's voice was sweet and clear as she acted spoiled to the man.

"Then listen carefully: being good to my own wife is only natural; there's no 'why.'" His cool, melodic voice carried a trace of tenderness. Hearing this, Kang Li's eyes darted, and she asked, "What if I weren't your wife? Would you still be good to me?"

Luo Yanqing: "There's no such hypothesis; the fact is, you are my wife."

With a soft laugh, Kang Li's red lips curved into a soft arc: "Does that mean you'll show no interest to any other women?"

Upon hearing this, Luo Yanqing responded without hesitation: "Other than you, I will keep my distance from all female beings."

"Our Professor Luo is amazing!"

Saying that, Kang Li gave a "smack" on the man's handsome face with a kiss.

Luo Yanqing: "It's the least a husband should do. But being praised by you makes me very happy." In every matter, he wouldn't let his loved one suffer the slightest grievance!

The snow underfoot made a "crunch, crunch" noise. Looking ahead, Kang Li could already see Aoli Village. At this moment, she lightly patted Luo Yanqing's back: "Let me down, we're almost at the village entrance."

"I'll carry you a bit further."

Luo Yanqing didn't stop; he continued to carry Kang Li forward.

"You'll spoil me like this, making me a pampered princess."

Being pampered by her man made Kang Li both happy and blissful, but since the man was hers, as a wife she also felt concern for him.

With that in mind, she couldn't help but pat his shoulder again: "I want to walk with you."

Luo Yanqing: "How about fifty more meters?"

"Not good. You've already carried me for two miles, I worry for you." Kang Li struggled slightly, showing she really wanted to get down. Seeing her determination, Luo Yanqing didn't persist further: "Then take it slow getting down."

Once Kang Li was steady on the ground, he immediately took her hand: "Let's go."

...

It was too cold, and snowflakes were still drifting in the air, so Kang Li and her group didn't see many villagers on the village path.

“Mom, look! Grandpa and Auntie are all standing at the courtyard entrance!”

Ming Han’s voice suddenly rang out.

Kang Li responded with a smile: “I see them!”

“Ruirui! Hanhan! Vivi!” Before the carriage could reach them, Kang Yiheng and several cousins ran forward, smiling as they greeted the three children.

“Cousin Heng, Cousin Fei, Cousin Lin... hello to all of you!”

Ming Han quickly pulled down his mask, tugged his scarf tighter around his neck, and showed a big smile to all his cousins.

Chapter 925 - Family Matters

Min Rui and Ming Wei also greeted their cousins in the same way.

“Grandma, little aunt...”

Led by Kang Yiheng, the cousins all greeted Cai Xiufen and Kang Li with smiles.

“Why haven’t I seen your Third Brother?”

Except for the nephews of the second family, who weren’t at home, the first family was missing the second and third brothers. The third and fourth families were all present, and the second brother of the first family, Kang Yichen, was at Second Brother Kang’s place. This left only the third brother of the first family, Kang Yihong, missing at home.

Kang Li found it strange and couldn’t help but ask Kang Yiheng.

“He’s lying in bed!”

Kang Yiheng dropped his smile and said, “My third brother is being stubborn. He doesn’t listen to my grandpa or my parents and has been locking himself in his room lately.”

“Did something happen?”

Kang Li looked puzzled.

“Little aunt, you better ask my third brother.”

Out of the blue, he started talking about wanting to marry Educated Youth Yan from the Educated Youth Spot, saying she was pregnant with his child and that he wants to take responsibility. How did this happen?

He was preparing for the college entrance exams day and night at home, rarely went out even after the exams, so how did he end up getting involved with a female educated youth?

Kang Yiheng really couldn't understand what his third brother was thinking, wanting to bring trouble on himself.

Kang Li raised an eyebrow, "Are you saying you can't talk about it?"

Kang Yiyang replied, "Hmm."

"Alright, I understand," Kang Li laughed and followed the family members into the courtyard.

"It's warm on the bed, let's all sit up there."

In the main room, Captain Kang looked at Luo Yanqing, Zhou Heng, and Zhang Lei, then turned his gaze to Kang Li's mother and the others: "Li Bao, take the children and sit on the bed too."

"I'm not cold."

Kang Li shook her head.

“Li Bao, listen to our dad, go sit on the bed, we’ll start eating in a moment.” Elder sister-in-law Kang, wearing an apron, said with a smile: “Dad had me and your third sister-in-law specially make a pot of stewed meat for when you came back to eat!”

Kang Li: “No wonder I smelled meat as soon as I entered the courtyard.” She said, turning her gaze to Cai Xiufen: “Mom, you take a break. I’ll go to the kitchen to help elder and third sister-in-law.”

But before Cai Xiufen could speak, Elder sister-in-law Kang waved her hand: “No need for you to help, you and our mom can rest, both stoves are on. One has big white steamed buns, the other has meat stewing...”

Listening to Elder sister-in-law Kang, Kang Li’s eyes were full of smiles: “Just hearing that makes me hungry, it seems I have to eat more at dinner.”

“You’re at your own home, eat to your heart’s content!”

Elder sister-in-law Kang was straightforward, saying this, she looked at Third sister-in-law Kang: “The buns should be ready, check the time, and take them out if they’re done.”

Upon hearing this, Third sister-in-law Kang went straight to the kitchen without another word.

Anyway, when Kang Li and her group entered the house, it was already 4:15 in the afternoon, and during winter, it got dark early, especially since Aoli Village was in the mountains, making it dark earlier than outside.

For example, it was just past four now, but the sky was already getting dark, and almost every household in the village was preparing dinner at this time.

Thus, Kang Li and her group returned home just in time.

Dinner was sweet potato cornmeal with big white steamed buns and stewed pork with cabbage and vermicelli.

The whole family, along with Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei, were all very satisfied with the meal.

After the meal, Kang Li followed Elder sister-in-law Kang and Third sister-in-law Kang to the kitchen to clean up. Meanwhile, before she could ask about her nephew, Kang Yihong, Elder sister-in-law Kang went ahead and told her everything.

At this moment, Kang Li paused wiping the water stains off the bowls with a cloth, quite incredulous: "Yihong insists that the female educated youth's child is his?"

Elder sister-in-law Kang, full of worries, nodded: "He's so stubborn. No matter how I or your big brother ask, he just keeps saying the child is his and that he wants to marry Educated Youth Yan."

Kang Li: "So, before Yihong brought up marrying Educated Youth Yan, no one in the family noticed any interaction between him and Educated Youth Yan?"

Elder sister-in-law Kang: "Before and after the exams, he was mostly home, even if he went out, he was always accompanied by a few young ones."

Kang Li: "So, he was never alone?"

Elder sister-in-law Kang nodded again.

After a moment of silence, Kang Li asked about Educated Youth Yan: "What kind of person is Educated Youth Yan?"

"Among the female educated youth, she's considered pretty," Third sister-in-law Kang said while scrubbing the pot: "She seems gentle and weak, doesn't talk much, and is not very sociable."

Elder sister-in-law Kang: "She seems like a decent girl, but when I or your third sister-in-law asked her questions, she just started crying, which made us very uncomfortable."

Chapter 926

"What did Dad and Big Brother say?"

With such a big issue in the house, Kang Li didn't believe her father had no ideas.

"Dad couldn't get anything substantial out of that scoundrel's mouth, so he threw the ball to me and your brother, telling us to handle it." Elder sister-in-law Kang cleaned up Kang Li's dishes, wiping away the water stains, and said with a furrowed brow: "I think Kang Yihong is hell-bent on raising someone else's child!"

Kang Li was taken aback for a moment, then chuckled and said: "There's definitely something hidden here, I'll go and ask Yihong in a while."

"There's nothing left to do in the kitchen, why don't you go and ask him now? We've been eating and sleeping poorly these days, almost worried to death by that scoundrel!"

Elder sister-in-law Kang was truly worried and agitated. As she spoke, she pushed Kang Li out of the kitchen: "That scoundrel listens to you the most, maybe you can get something out of him."

"That's not necessarily true. Yihong is all grown up now, if he doesn't want to talk, I have no way to make him." Kang Li chuckled, then waved her hand at elder sister-in-law Kang, before stepping out to find Kang Yihong.

"Knock knock knock!"

Standing outside the door, Kang Li knocked with her knuckles.

But there was no response from inside the room.

"Knock knock knock!"

Kang Li knocked again, and called out to Kang Yihong: "It's Auntie, aren't you planning to open the door for me?"

"Auntie?"

Kang Yihong's voice came out, though it carried a trace of uncertainty.

"It's me." Kang Li coughed lightly twice: "You didn't know I came home today? Kang Yihong, don't let me down, hurry and open the door for me now."

As soon as she finished speaking, the door was pulled open from the inside, and Kang Yihong looked at Kang Li: "Auntie."

"Hmm."

Kang Li responded, and walked into the room.

"Tell me, what mischief have you been up to at home lately?"

Sitting down in the chair, Kang Li glanced up at Kang Yihong: "Don't try to fob me off with the excuses you give your parents and your grandpa."

Pressing his lips together, Kang Yihong was silent for a long while. He met Kang Li's calm and unwavering gaze, and spoke: "I can't say."

Kang Li frowned: "What do you mean?"

Kang Yihong: "Auntie... I'm bound to get married eventually, so why can't I marry Educated Youth Yan now?"

"It's not that the family doesn't allow you to marry, is it?" Kang Li stared at Kang Yihong: "Your grandpa and your parents just don't want you to play the role of a father, don't want you to raise someone else's child!"

"The child is mine."

Kang Yihong avoided Kang Li's gaze, mumbling.

"Look me in the eye and say that again, and tell me when you and Educated Youth Yan got together."

That scoundrel is really stubborn. He's obviously guilty, but insists the child of Educated Youth Yan is his. Could it be that he truly likes her, so he doesn't mind that she's carrying someone else's child, willing to be the scapegoat without regrets?

"Auntie... I swore an oath, can't you stop forcing me?"

Kang Yihong's expression showed his struggle and helplessness. He said: "Educated Youth Yan is a good girl, I like her and want to marry her, this is my most genuine thought."

"I see," Kang Li's lips curved into a faint smile: "Because Educated Youth Yan is pretty, you fell for her, willingly help raising Educated Youth Yan's child. And for the sake of Educated Youth Yan's reputation and her unborn child, you swore to her not to tell the family the truth, isn't that right?"

Though it sounded like a question, Kang Li was actually using a declarative tone.

Kang Yihong froze upon hearing this.

"Seems like I hit the nail on the head." Kang Li had a smile on her lips, asking: "Are you sure you won't regret it in the future?"

"No."

Kang Yihong shook his head decisively.

"What is the current situation with Educated Youth Yan? You must know you've already gotten into college, what about her?"

Facing Kang Yihong's eyes directly, the smile in Kang Li's eyes faded, her gaze was clear, as if it could see into the heart.

After a long silence, Kang Yihong said: "Educated Youth Yan didn't pass."

"Where's her family? Who else is in her household? Has she informed her relatives about you and her in a letter? And does the biological father of the child in her womb know of its existence?"

Kang Li looked serious, firing three questions in succession, waiting for Kang Yihong to answer.

And Kang Yihong's expression subtly shifted, though it was all caught by Kang Li.

"Educated Youth Yan is from North City, her family's affairs I don't know..."

Kang Yihong spoke, but soon fell silent.

Kang Li: "Keep going."

"I..."

Kang Yihong's lips moved, unsure of what to say next.

Chapter 927

"Have you run out of things to say?" Kang Li tapped her fingers lightly on the table. She gazed thoughtfully at Kang Yihong. "Since you don't know, then go ask. If Educated Youth Yan really intends to marry you, she wouldn't hide anything from you.

Go on, I'll wait in your room. If you don't know how to ask, you might as well invite Educated Youth Yan over to our place. Just tell her I want to meet her and let her know, maybe I can help you two be together."

"Aunt..."

Kang Yihong stood still.

"Don't you trust me? You should know, anything I agree with, your grandparents and your parents will support me. In other words, besides me, no one else in this family can help you and that Educated Youth Yan become a couple."

It's not that Kang Li is boasting, but during the original host's growth, the family never said "no" to the young girl.

Of course, she wouldn't speak for this brat and that Educated Youth Yan without understanding the truth or knowing the other person's character.

In life, meeting the right person at the right time is not easy. If that Educated Youth Yan truly is good and not marrying her nephew just to use him, then everything is negotiable.

Seeing that Kang Yihong had yet to leave, Kang Li raised her eyebrows: "Don't want to go? Or do you think even if you ask, she won't tell you? Or perhaps she doesn't dare to meet me either?"

After a brief hesitation, Kang Yihong said, "I'll go, I'll head to the Educated Youth Spot now."

Kang Li: "You may leave now."

...

Currently, there are eight male educated youths and five female educated youths at the Educated Youth Spot.

For the convenience of the educated youths' living, the team had built the Youth Educated Institute early on, with two male dormitories and two female dormitories, each room fitted with large brick beds.

Speaking of which, back when the college entrance exam results came out, there were eleven male educated youths and eight female ones at the institute. But with the distribution of college acceptance letters, three males and three females packed their belongings and left for the city upon receiving their letters.

Among those who stayed, there were indeed some awaiting their notices, but the majority hadn't passed.

And Educated Youth Yan, named Yan Rou, was one of those who didn't pass. Being introverted by nature, the only other female in her dorm moved out to an available spot in another dorm, thinking Yan Rou was too dull.

Leaving Yan Rou to live alone.

"You... do you have something to say?"

The dorm door creaked open, and seeing Wang Qin, the former roommate who shared the dorm with her, walk in, Yan Rou quietly asked.

"No, it's nothing much, just came over to chat with you."

Wang Qin casually closed the door, then walked over to sit on the bed's edge.

"I haven't seen your boyfriend come looking for you lately?"

After staring at Yan Rou for a while, Wang Qin, with a concerned look, said, "I heard he got into college, right?"

"We broke up."

With her eyes lowered, Yan Rou casually flipped through a high school mathematics book.

"Ah? No way!" Wang Qin showed surprise, "How's that possible? He seemed to really like you. How could he suddenly break up with you? Could it be that he looked down on you for not getting into college and broke up with you because of that?"

Yan Rou pursed her lips and remained silent. After a pause, she replied, "We were incompatible."

"Did he say so?" Wang Qin listened and pouted, "If you were really incompatible, why didn't he say so earlier? If you ask me, he definitely broke up with you because he looked down on you for not getting into college, fearing you'd hold him back. So, what do you plan to do now?"

"I..."

Yan Rou's lips moved, but no words came out for a while.

"They say you've gotten close to that Kang Yihong from the Team Leader's House, is that true?" silently meeting Wang Qin's gaze, Yan Rou didn't speak for a moment.

Feeling a bit awkward being stared at, Wang Qin let out a couple of dry coughs and said, "Don't look at me like that. I heard it from Cui Nina. She said she saw you and Kang Yihong coming down from the mountain together a few days ago.

Yan Rou, in my opinion, if it's true, you should seize the opportunity. Compared to your former boyfriend, Kang Yihong is much better!"

Think about it, Kang Yihong is more handsome than your former boyfriend, he also got into college, and even though his family is from the countryside, many of them work in the city.

Especially Kang Yihong's aunt, who not only brought glory to the nation with several gold medals but also achieved full marks on her college entrance exam, being the undisputed top scorer in science.

Moreover, Kang Yihong's uncle is someone remarkable. If you truly marry him, your life will surely be good!

Yan Rou stayed silent for a while, then looked at Wang Qin and said, "I am not worthy of Comrade Kang Yihong."

"Why would you say that?" Wang Qin furrowed her brow slightly, "You're beautiful and gentle. As for not passing the college exam, neither did I. Besides, it's not like you can't try again. Don't think so little of yourself."

"Knock knock knock!"

Kang Yihong stood outside, knocking on the door: "Educated Youth Yan."

"It's Comrade Kang Yihong." Wang Qin winked at Yan Rou, then jumped from the bed to open the door: "Yan Rou is here, chat with her briefly."

Glancing back at Yan Rou, Wang Qin returned to the neighboring dormitory.

Kang Yihong: "My aunt wants to meet you."

Hearing this, Yan Rou was first stunned, her eyes then turned red, making Kang Yihong a bit baffled. He asked, "What's wrong with you?"

"I... I'm fine..." wiping her teary eyes, Yan Rou looked at Kang Yihong to confirm, "Are you saying your aunt is back? Really?"

Her eyes gleamed with tears, and without a closer look, it was clear Yan Rou was filled with emotions, the most apparent being excitement and restraint.

"Yes. My aunt, along with my uncle, grandma, and my cousins, arrived home at around four this afternoon."

Filled with doubt, Kang Yihong couldn't understand the complex emotions Yan Rou was experiencing. He said: "Would you like to meet my aunt?"

I previously promised to marry you, but neither my grandfather nor my parents have agreed. Before I came to the Youth Educated Institute, my aunt talked to me and said she wanted to meet you, hoping to help persuade the rest of my family to accept us."

"Why would you help me like this?"

Tears fell from the corners of Yan Rou's eyes as she bit her lip and said, "You know my situation."

"I help because I want to, no reason needed."

He didn't wish to bind her with his affection, intending to support her through tough times. If she ever wanted a divorce, he would, as he had previously promised, let her and the child go.

Indeed, Kang Yihong held feelings for Yan Rou. Since her arrival in Aoli Village two years ago, from a chance glance, her image had been engraved in his heart.

He found Yan Rou delicate and beautiful, thinking how wonderful life would be to marry such a girl.

However, he never had the chance to act, witnessing her walking with a male Educated Youth from the neighboring team in town one day.

His heart sank in disappointment.

He thought there'd never be a future between them, not expecting that just a few days ago, early in the morning, he saw the girl who had once moved him, Educated Youth Yan, going up the mountain alone as he was exercising outside.

Curious, he secretly followed her.

Then... he saw her jumping from a large stone to the ground, again and again, only to accidentally fall and hit her head on a rock.

He hurriedly appeared and found her unconscious, and as he carried her downhill, she suddenly woke up... After a brief daze, her "sob sob" cries echoed in his ears.

Chapter 928

After learning the reason she went up the mountain and jumped off the big rock, he almost didn't think, just said he was willing to marry her, willing to raise their mother and child, and promised to help her divorce when she wanted.

"You like me, right?"

Yan Rou didn't know what Kang Yihong was thinking. She looked steadily at the boy standing at the dormitory door, eyes glistening with tears, and said, "Even if I have someone else's baby in my belly, even if I want to give birth to him..."

Lowering her eyes to look at her still-flat belly, Yan Rou placed her gaze on Kang Yihong again: "You don't mind, do you?"

Hearing this, Kang Yihong didn't expect this shy, introverted girl to confront him directly. Being watched intently by her, he stayed silent for a while then nodded: "Yes, I like you."

Pausing briefly, he continued: "Whether you want to keep the baby or not, I'll abide by your decision."

Yan Rou: "When did you start liking me?"

"On the day you first arrived in our village... However, knowing you had someone, I didn't want to add to your troubles." This was Kang Yihong's heartfelt truth, his expression forthright as he let Yan Rou's gaze assess him.

"So that's how it is."

Biting her lip, Yan Rou's eyes brimmed with tears. She hesitated slightly before saying, "The previous me is gone!"

Kang Yihong was baffled: "You..."

What does this mean?

Clearly living well, how could she say she's already gone?

"When you saved me on the mountain, the old me had already died... do you understand what I'm saying?"

Except for the tears in her eyes, Yan Rou's face showed no other expression. Seeing Kang Yihong shake his head, she said, "I mean I'm not the same person you once liked. Everything from the past, when I opened my eyes from the coma... I abandoned completely. If it's the old me you still love, then I can only say sorry."

Both spoke softly, and the dormitory door was ajar, sparing them from worrying about anyone overhearing.

Furthermore, it was freezing cold, the sky almost completely dark, and the other educated youths were cozily tucked in their beds. None of them had the habit of eavesdropping.

"If you don't marry me, you..."

Kang Yihong glanced at Yan Rou's belly, and seeing this, Yan Rou gently shook her head and said, "I really appreciate your offer to help me by marrying, but this great favor will be repaid once I am capable... As for feelings, I think... I can't reciprocate."

Upon hearing this, a bittersweet feeling surged in Kang Yihong's heart: "I know, didn't I say that if, down the road, you want a divorce, I won't hold you back."

In truth, Kang Yihong didn't fully comprehend Yan Rou's intentions. He mistakenly thought she still liked her partner, so amidst feeling dejected, he felt a pang of jealousy.

"Then should we go."

He got out of bed and put on his cotton shoes. Yan Rou casually pulled the light string, and followed Kang Yihong out of the dormitory.

She locked the door and asked softly: "You said your aunt's family had all returned?"

Kang Yihong responded with a "Hmm."

After a moment of silence, Yan Rou spoke hesitantly, "... What does your aunt's family include?"

"My aunt, uncle, and my two male cousins and one female cousin."

Kang Yihong responded casually, not hiding anything.

Yan Rou: "What are your cousins' names?"

Kang Yihong: "My eldest cousin is named Min Rui, second cousin is named Ming Han, and my younger cousin is named Ming Wei." Hearing this, Yan Rou's steps paused, and when her feet continued forward, her face was wet.

Chapter 929

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"I heard the sound of the door being locked, did you guys hear it?" Wang Qin asked the other three young female educated youth while sitting in her own bed. Among them, two were veteran educated youth, and one had come last winter.

"What's up?"

The girl who spoke was the one who came last winter, the same person Wang Qin had mentioned in front of Yan Rou, and who had seen Kang Yihong and Yan Rou going down the mountain together a few days ago. Her name was Cui Nina.

Wang Qin: "It's already dark, aren't you curious where they went?"

The two veteran educated youth said nothing.

Cui Nina didn't show much curiosity on her face either. She took off her cotton coat and slid into bed, saying, "Where they go is none of our business. I'm not interested in knowing."

"Aren't you envious that Yan Rou and Kang Yihong are getting along so well?"

Wang Qin looked at Cui Nina, her face full of gossip. "We're all educated youth here. I think Yan Rou is much more capable than us. Just a moment ago, she was dumped, and immediately after, she hooked up with the Team Leader's grandson. I feel jealous just thinking about it."

Cui Nina: "What's there to be envious about? Being stuck in this mountain village for a lifetime, I'd never want that."

"Why does she have to stay here for a lifetime? Let me tell you, don't underestimate Yan Rou's abilities. Her previous partner was quite good-looking and got into university. The one she's with now looks better than the last one, and his academic scores are better, too. Just wait and see; maybe after New Year's, Yan Rou will leave with Kang Yihong."

With a sour tone, Wang Qin saw that Cui Nina and the two veteran educated youth were all lost in thought, and added: "Believe it or not, I think my guess is pretty close to the truth."

After a while, Cui Nina said: "What if you're right? As you said, that just means Yan Rou is capable. I'm not envious anyway."

"Yes, yes, you're not envious. After all, you just have to wait for your acceptance letter to arrive, and you can pack up and leave. But as for me... unless I get through the college entrance exam in a few months, I'll probably be stuck here."

Wang Qin sighed deeply: "If only I were as pretty as Yan Rou."

At this point, one of the veteran educated youth said: "I heard that a young male educated youth from the neighboring village ran away overnight a week ago."

"That's nothing new."

Wang Qin said: "That male educated youth seems to be called Shen Yunxiu. He was the best-looking among the male educated youth in their village but had poor health, so he joined the team over here six years ago...

and married the youngest daughter of the Team Leader not long after, instantly changing roles to become a substitute teacher at the village school. Over the past few years, he and the Team Leader's youngest daughter had a son and a daughter...

In the eyes of the villagers, he had a good reputation... and then he just up and left the very night he received his acceptance letter. When the Team Leader's youngest daughter found out her man had returned to the city on his own, she went crazy!"

Cui Nina asked: "How did you hear about this, with all the details?"

"A couple of days ago, I happened upon two educated youth from the neighboring village when I went to town. I overheard them talking about it," Wang Qin said, clicking her tongue, and added, "That Shen Yunxiu is not a real man. Walking away like that, driving the Team Leader's youngest daughter crazy, and not even caring for the two kids. In my opinion, such a person is just scum!"

"Truly not decent."

The veteran educated youth who had spoken earlier chimed in and then asked Wang Qin: "What happened next?"

"What's to talk about later?! Shen Yunxiu's family is in Hu City. Her father doesn't have a specific address or contact information, plus Hu City is a big city. It's not easy to find someone there."

Wang Qin smirked, "It's all because that Team Leader's family was brainless. They trusted Shen Yunxiu too much, and now that something's happened, they don't know what to do."

Cui Nina: "They don't know the home address, but what about the school address?"

Wang Qin: "I'm not sure about that. But even if they know, so what? They didn't register their marriage. Even if that Team Leader's family goes to Hu City and finds her, it depends on whether Shen Yunxiu admits to it. Moreover, traveling to Hu City costs a lot of money. For rural folks who haven't traveled far or seen much of the world, do you think that Team Leader's family would go and find her?"

After listening to Wang Qin, the elderly Educated Youth said, "If I were the Team Leader from the neighboring village... I would ask Captain Kang's family for help."

"Sister Khor, why don't I understand what you're saying? The neighboring Team Leader's family issue and you want Captain Kang's help, how does that connect?" Wang Qin was puzzled.

Similarly, the other elderly Educated Youth and Cui Nina were equally confused.

The elderly Educated Youth, addressed by Wang Qin as Sister Khor, said, "Our Captain Kang's daughter is famous. If she's willing to help, no matter where Shen Yunxiu is in Hu City, she can be found easily."

Cui Nina's eyes lit up, "I understand now, Sister Khor means that Captain Kang's daughter is famous and likely has many connections."

Wang Qin: "But why would Captain Kang's daughter help with this? Also, the neighboring Team Leader's family might not even think of the method Sister Khor suggested."

"Little Wang, I was just hypothesizing. Whether the neighboring Team Leader's family thinks of it or not, what's that got to do with me?" Educated Youth Khor's face remained expressionless, "I'm going to read, you guys chat."

She has been living in Aoli Village for a full eight years. Watching her fellow female Educated Youth, who also stayed in the countryside, marry local young men or return to the city through family connections, she has been gritting her teeth and persevering until now.

She thought about returning to the city, but her family has many siblings, and her parents are ordinary workers with no connections to help her return. Yet, she was a hundred times unwilling to settle down here.

Unexpectedly, after years of perseverance, she reached the point of taking the college entrance exam and passed the associate degree threshold.

This means both Educated Youth Khor and Cui Nina are waiting for their admission letters. Once the letters arrive, they will definitely return to the cities where their families are.

Based on this, among the five female Educated Youth remaining at the Youth Educated Institute, Educated Youth Khor and Cui Nina are neither anxious nor panicked. They just idled away some time chatting with Wang Qin, but Khor herself wasn't interested in meddling in others' affairs and wouldn't bother to go to the neighboring village to be a good Samaritan.

To prevent Wang Qin from nagging further, Educated Youth Khor picked up a book from beside her pillow as soon as she finished speaking and started reading.

Kang Family.

Kang Li had no idea that a female Educated Youth was talking about her, not to mention that they might end up giving her something to do. Right now, as she looked at the girl standing three steps away in front of her, she felt overwhelmed.

"Educated Youth Yan... can you please stop crying?!"

She hadn't even said a single word when, unexpectedly, the moment Educated Youth Yan laid eyes on her, tears started falling like they were free.

At that moment, she finally understood her eldest and third sister-in-law's feelings—standing before Educated Youth Yan, feeling uncomfortable seeing her crying incessantly.

"Educated Youth Yan..."