

Weak B 971

Chapter 971 If It Were Up to Me, I Wouldn't Go...

Showing a bitter smile, he met Su Qing's gaze: "We both know what's between Kang Li and me. It's us who let her down. If I keep thinking about her, it'd be quite shameless."

His eyes were full of honesty, without a trace of guilt. Seeing this, the resentment Su Qing had bottled up for years seemed to dissipate quite a bit, but she still confirmed, "Are you sure these are your true feelings?"

Zhou Weimin nodded: "Of course."

"Then I'll tentatively trust you. If you dare to deceive me, don't blame me for settling both old and new scores with you."

Su Qing's words carried a hint of pride. Hearing this, Zhou Weimin said lightly, "Don't worry."

As for what Su Qing should not worry about, Su Qing certainly knows well in her heart.

Moreover, Zhou Weimin had even changed the way he addressed Kang Li, clearly showing that he had decided to sever ties with the past.

On the other side.

Captain Kang learned that Yan Songping planned to take two secretaries to stay at a town inn for three days, and immediately insisted on having them stay at home for the New Year, which made Yan Songping deeply touched.

And two years ago, to conveniently accommodate his grandchildren, Captain Kang built five red-brick houses in the backyard. Compared to the quadrangle courtyards in the city, Team Leader's House's living conditions were hardly any different.

The main room had five blue-brick houses. Walking out the back door, there used to be three rooms on each side. Since the year before last, an additional row of five red-brick houses was added. Fortunately, the backyard was spacious, so building so many houses didn't feel crowded.

"My dad said he'd transfer my household registration back to my family's registry. Do you have any objections?"

Yan Rou lay a bit apart on the kang with Kang Yihong, each having their own quilt. She might have been too excited from meeting the couple today, so she couldn't fall asleep despite it being dark,

and thus briefly recounted the conversation between her and her father to Kang Yihong. At this moment, upon hearing her question, Kang Yihong responded without any hesitation: "This is good news."

It's true that he got into university, and it's also true that his household registration will move to North City when he goes to study. But it's a fact that Yan Rou's household registration is in their brigade. If he

wanted to take Yan Rou's household registration along, it definitely wouldn't be possible. Now that his father-in-law is helping, it's like Yan Rou is returning to the city, which is good news.

However, thinking about the household registration of their future children, Kang Yihong couldn't help but ask, "Where will the children's household registration be after they're born?"

"Initially, it will follow me to our family's registry. When you graduate from university and wherever you work, we can move it along with yours. Don't worry, with my dad around, he will definitely help us with such trivial matters."

Yan Rou spoke softly, having no unease about giving her own dad some trouble.

"Then after going to North City... do you want to visit your mom?"

Hearing Kang Yihong bring this up, Yan Rou was silent for a while, then said: "According to my own thoughts, I wouldn't go, but I'll listen to my dad's advice and see what he says then."

After a short pause, Yan Rou's voice held a hint of sadness: "Not to mention my mom forced me to go to the countryside to replace my stepsister Xue Hong so she could stay in the city, but during the over two years I was in the countryside,

she didn't send me anything, not even a letter. Do you think I shouldn't have any feelings about that? When I came here for the rustication campaign, I was only fifteen. As a mother, she was willing to see her underage biological daughter go to the Great Northwest to suffer,

just to keep her eighteen-year-old stepdaughter at home. When I left, she used work as an excuse and let me head to the train station alone with my luggage."

Chapter 972 Don't Benefit Then Play Innocent

Kang Yihong asked, "Does your father know?"

"I haven't told my dad, but knowing his ways, he must have found out everything before coming to find me."

Yan Rou said, "Ever since I can remember, I knew my dad was good to my mom and me. After work, unless there was a necessary social engagement, he would always come home on time,

make dinner for my mom and me himself. But then one day, my mom suddenly asked for a divorce from my dad, and within a week, she married my stepfather,

after which my mom became a stranger to me...I don't care if you think I'm heartless, but I hold a grudge against her."

"I understand how you feel, but maybe your mother had her reasons. You could try to sit down and talk to her when you have time."

Reasons?

Kang Yihong didn't quite believe his own words.

As a mother, could there really be a reason that justifies treating your own daughter like that?

Yan Rou said, "Let's talk about it later."

At the same time.

North City.

Xue Family.

"Do you think he'll target us?"

Qi Meiyi tossed and turned, unable to sleep, and finally sat up to wake up the man sleeping next to her, "Get up, keep me company."

The man's surname was Xue, named Weiwen, Yan Rou's stepfather.

"You go ahead and talk, I'm listening."

Xue Weiwen turned over, facing his wife, "What would Yan Songping target me for? It was you who insisted on marrying me, and you who forced Rourou to go to the Northwest instead of Xue Hong. I tried to talk you out of it, you wouldn't listen. Now you're uneasy about it, who do you blame?"

Qi Meiyi said, "Yes, yes, it's my fault, but we're a team as husband and wife. You can't just ignore me, right? Besides, who did I make Rourou go to the Northwest for? Wasn't it out of worry that your daughter would suffer, so I had to make my daughter sacrifice."

Yes, Qi Meiyi is Yan Rou's biological mother.

"Xue Hong brought this on herself. She signed up to go to the countryside without telling me, her father, and then changed her mind. You, without judging right from wrong, just wanted to help make things right for her, forcing Yan Rou to take Xue Hong's place in going to the Northwest. Did I or did I not try to talk you out of getting involved with Xue Hong's affairs?"

Xue Weiwen frowned, saying, "I've always taught that children should handle their own mistakes. Whoever causes trouble should bear the consequences. But you, turned around by Xue Hong's sweet words, forced Yan Rou to clean up her mess. In doing so, it wasn't for Xue Hong's benefit; you were enabling her mistakes!"

"Don't play innocent."

Qi Meiyi said discontentedly, "In the end, wasn't it to keep you from being distracted at work? Instead of appreciating what I've done, you criticize me. How is that fair?"

Her daughter Yan Rou suffered bullying from her stepchildren in this household. By making her fifteen-year-old daughter leave, at least she wouldn't continue to endure bullying from the stepchildren. Was it wrong?

The Northwest was tough, but compared to staying here at home, at least spiritually it had to be better.

That's how Qi Meiyi consoled herself, to alleviate her guilt towards her daughter Yan Rou.

"Regarding the issue of Xue Hong signing up to go to the countryside, my stance was always clear."

Xue Weiwen felt Qi Meiyi was just creating unnecessary trouble, choosing to close his eyes and avoid further arguments, but Qi Meiyi wouldn't let him sleep. She asked, "Putting Xue Hong and Rou Rou's affairs aside, do you think Yan Songping is back yet?"

Xue Weiwen said, "I don't know."

Chapter 973 Why Is It That We're All Human, Yet Our Fates Are So Different?

Qi Meiyi: "Lately, quite a few people have returned. If Yan Songping comes back, he will definitely inquire about me right away, and then try to take Rourou away. If he finds out that Rourou went to the Northwest on behalf of Xue Hong, with his temper, he would likely do something to me. Moreover, Hoonghoong is your daughter, he will probably think it's through you that I treated Rourou that way."

Xue Weiwen: "I didn't do it, he won't blame me for it."

Qi Meiyi: "If Yan Songping really does come back, given his status, would he waste his breath on a mere junior director like you?"

"I think you are trying to drag me down with you!" Annoyed by Qi Meiyi's every word, Xue Weiwen sat up, pulled the cotton jacket from the quilt onto himself, leaned against the headboard, and stared at Qi Meiyi, saying:

"Is it that you can't stand me? Since it was you who did it, if your ex-husband does come knocking, you better explain yourself. If it involves me, then we're done."

If it wasn't for her being eleven or twelve years younger and good-looking, he would never have married her. But he never expected the seemingly gentle woman to have such a cranky streak?

Once or twice is fine, but she frequently made a fuss, and it was driving him crazy.

Is it a pretty woman's privilege?

If it is, he would have known not to marry her!

"Stop trying to scare me! And don't think I can't live without you."

Unfazed by Xue Weiwen's words, Qi Meiyi tossed the cotton jacket on the quilt and lay back in bed, turning her back to Xue Weiwen, "I'm going to sleep now. But let me be clear, if Yan Songping doesn't confront me, fine. If he does, you must share the responsibility for Rourou's situation."

Xue Weiwen glared.

Aoli Village.

Yan Songping's two secretaries are both men, and the three of them shared a room for the night. Right now, Yan Songping lay on the warm bed, contemplating how to deal with his ex-wife Qi Meiyi once he returns to North City.

Before they divorced, undeniably, he had genuine feelings for her. Even though he later found out she remarried within a week after their divorce, he still couldn't quite let go of his daughter Rourou and his ex-wife Qi Meiyi.

But the last time he returned to North City, after learning some things about his daughter at the Xue family, honestly, he felt very disappointed with his ex-wife, especially after arriving at Aoli Village and knowing his daughter nearly lost her life. That disappointment had turned into resentment.

However, no matter what he wanted to do to Qi Meiyi, he couldn't disregard his daughter's feelings.

The reason is simple, regardless of Qi Meiyi's faults, one cannot deny that she bore the daughter painstakingly for ten months and gave birth to her. Yet, it's impossible for him to do nothing, with a pent-up frustration inside.

In the deep quiet of the night, not only was Yan Songping, the official from North City, unable to sleep, but many others in Aoli Village also were sleepless.

Xu family.

"Third Sister, are you tossing and turning because something's on your mind?"

Xu Chunmei lay on her side on the bed, noticing Xu Chunxia turning like a pancake, somewhat guessing what was on her mind, but couldn't help asking with concern.

"Why are everyone human but have different fates?"

Xu Chunxia's tone was complex amid the gloom: "She's just a girl like us, why does she have such a good family, while we... our sisters, from childhood to adulthood, were either beaten and scolded or frozen and starved. That's nothing—she even got to attend school! Chunmei, tell Third Sister, why is that?"

Chapter 974 Unwilling to Accept Fate

"Maybe we didn't do anything good in our previous lives, which is why we ended up in this family in this lifetime." Xu Chunmei naturally knew that the "her" Xu Chunxia was talking about referred to Kang Li. After witnessing today's lively scene at Team Leader's House, her feelings were mixed with envy.

Just like her Third Sister said, Sister Li Bao was a girl like the sisters, considered "money-losing goods" by their parents, but how did Sister Li Bao grow up compared to how the sisters grew up today?

When they could walk, they had to help out at home. If they wanted to go to school, they could only stand at the courtyard's entrance, watching other kids with backpacks heading to school. If they dared to mention it at home, what awaited the sisters were beatings and scoldings from their parents.

Nowadays, because of the incident between her Third Sister and their parents, their family had completely lost its reputation in the village. As a result, neither she nor her Third Sister had any matchmaker visiting to speak of marriage, and even her little brother, their Fourth Brother, whom the parents doted on, hadn't managed to find a wife.

When they went out, their family was like bugs, avoided by the villagers who didn't want to say more than a word to them, afraid of being tainted by their "stench."

"Is there really a previous life? I don't believe it..."

Xu Chunxia shook her head.

Xu Chunmei: "What difference does it make whether Third Sister believes or not?"

"I want to leave this place, go far, far away. I don't believe my fate is destined to be worse than hers... Do you want to leave?"

"Third Sister... do you think it's possible? To leave, we need an introductory letter, otherwise where can we go?"

"We can take the college entrance exam now; everything is changing. How do we know without trying that there's no way out without an introductory letter? I'm already turning twenty-two, almost twenty-three, and if I keep staying with this family, I'm afraid I'll truly become an old maid for life.

Once I go out, I'll be pointed at and talked about... Chunmei, I'm not resigning myself to this fate. Compared to her, aside from attending school, where am I less than her?

But she not only grew up being loved by her family, she also married such a good man, and now she's about to attend the best university in the country. Chunmei... when I think about how she is my age, yet lives a completely different life, I feel agonized, driven to madness..."

"Third Sister, why do you always have to compare yourself to Sister Li Bao?"

This was Xu Chunxiang's voice. The little girl had grown from a little girl to a young lady, yet due to lack of nutrition, she not only was thin, but shorter by almost half a head than other girls her age.

Xu Chunxia: "I'm not the one comparing. The villagers have been comparing me to her since I was young."

"If Third Sister hadn't argued with Sister Li Bao, Third Sister would certainly be a different person now."

Xu Chunxiang said softly, to which Xu Chunxia responded, "I didn't argue with her. It was her attitude towards me that suddenly changed."

"It's because of Brother Weimin; I know about this."

Thinking about Zhou Weimin and Su Qing as a couple also passing the college entrance exam and going to North City for college after the New Year, Xu Chunxiang couldn't help but say, "Third Sister, since you made that move, why didn't it succeed? Otherwise, you would be Brother Weimin's wife, and after the New Year, when Brother Weimin goes to college, you could have gone along, just thinking about it brings joy."

"What nonsense are you talking?"

Xu Chunmei softly reprimanded her sister Chunxiang.

"I'm not talking nonsense."

Xu Chunxiang defended herself: "I pity Third Sister."

"Alright, stop arguing. I was foolish before, I won't be anymore."

If she hadn't fallen out with Kang Libao, Kang Libao would surely have helped her when she was in trouble, or if she had successfully schemed against Zhou Weimin, then Educated Youth Su's position would undoubtedly be hers. But she had messed up everything, leading to the situation she was in now.

Chapter 975 Envyng Them Yet Again

Xu Chunxia regretted greatly, but regret was of no use; the only path she could take now was to leave this home and seek a way out in the big city.

With her hands and feet intact and a bit of literacy, it shouldn't be hard to survive in a big city.

Having made up her mind, Xu Chunxia felt she needed to quietly prepare for her departure.

She had already decided on her destination: to North City!

There, without mentioning others, just in the Team Leader's family alone, there were several people. If she found herself in dire straits, she could ask them for help. Considering their hometown ties and being from the same village, even if just for the sake of face, they would help her.

Xu Chunxia's thoughts were quite optimistic.

...

Before she knew it, it was New Year's Eve. In the late afternoon, Cui the Loudspeaker finished her household chores and walked out of the yard. She saw Wang Chunhua standing at Li Daniu's doorstep, talking to Li Daniu. Without thinking, she walked over to join them.

"Have you both finished your household chores?"

Cui the Loudspeaker casually asked Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu. In response, Wang Chunhua glanced at her and replied, "Look at your question. If we hadn't finished, would we be standing here chatting?!"

"Aren't you cold?"

As she spoke, Cui the Loudspeaker looked at Li Daniu: "Let's sit on the kang in your house. There's nothing going on now, and chatting while sitting in the warm bed would be much cozier."

Li Daniu said, "The kang in my house is full. Otherwise, would Chunhua and I be standing here talking?"

"What's wrong with you all? You're all so snappy today. What did I do to you? Seriously!"

Cui the Loudspeaker showed her displeasure and said, "By the way, you wouldn't happen to be talking about the Team Leader's family, would you?"

Neither Wang Chunhua nor Li Daniu said a word.

"You definitely are. You're probably, without realizing it, doing as you always do: admiring the Team Leader couple and didn't expect me to come over and interrupt, so you snapped at me."

Feeling she'd hit the mark, Cui the Loudspeaker couldn't hide her smugness: "Judging by your expressions, I'm probably right on the money. But think about it, what good does it do to be envious?!"

Their children are smart, and their son's kids are smart too. They've suddenly produced five college students. That's not something ordinary people like us can envy."

"Don't act like a know-it-all. How do you know we are admiring the Team Leader couple?"

Li Daniu glared at Cui the Loudspeaker and snapped, "Did you finish your chores at home?"

The implication being that if she hadn't finished, she should quickly go back home and not interfere with their conversation.

Cui the Loudspeaker replied, "If I hadn't finished, would I be out here wandering around?!"

After a pause, Cui the Loudspeaker waved her hand and said, "Alright, we're not outsiders. Say whatever you want. You don't need to worry about me being here."

Wang Chunhua rolled her eyes and said to Li Daniu, "I heard from Da Kuan that Educated Youth Yan's father is indeed a big official from North City."

"It seems very likely that in a few years the Team Leader's whole family might relocate to North City."

Li Daniu said with a tone full of envy, "If that's the case, it would be difficult for us to see the Team Leader's whole family again!"

Upon hearing this, Wang Chunhua sighed, "What can we do about it? They are capable; it's just that our children and grandchildren are not."

Cui the Loudspeaker said, "On the 28th, as soon as I saw Educated Youth Yan's father, I felt he wasn't a simple man."

"You're great and all-seeing. We couldn't tell on that day,"

Li Daniu retorted, leaving Cui the Loudspeaker unfazed. She said, "Can we speak nicely? I sought you out because I think the three of us get along well, but don't make it so that I can't keep up."

Chapter 976 What's the Use of Me Worrying?

Seeing the obvious discomfort on Li Daniu's face, Wang Chunhua couldn't help but interject: "Erhua, you're overthinking it. Not to mention anything else, just like you said earlier, with the relationship between us three, how could Daniu and I ever let you lose face?!"

"Can I really believe that?"

Cui the Loudspeaker pouted: "I came over all happy wanting to chat with you two, but you both kept talking back to me, thinking I'm too dumb to notice or what?"

Upon hearing this, Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu's expressions immediately soured a bit.

They really didn't want to deal with Cui the Loudspeaker, so when talking to her, they inevitably sounded a bit aggressive. But knowing it themselves is one thing; having Cui point it out made things a bit awkward!

Li Daniu was silent for quite a while, then asked Cui the Loudspeaker: "So what do you want to do about it?"

"What a strange question, it's clear you two were being exclusive, both ganging up on me, and now it sounds like you're saying I'm the one in the wrong."

Cui the Loudspeaker glanced at Li Daniu and Wang Chunhua, smirking: "Forget it, since you both despise me so much, why should I bother sticking my warm face on your cold butts!"

Leaving behind this remark, Cui the Loudspeaker turned around, swaying her barrel-like waist as she walked away.

"Looks like we've offended the Loudspeaker, I'm afraid soon there'll be a lot of gossip about us in the village."

Wang Chunhua looked at Cui the Loudspeaker's departing figure, sighed with a bitter smile.

Li Daniu dismissed it: "Let her do whatever, in this village, who doesn't have a few gossips about them?! Besides, just because she blabs a bit in front of others, it's not like we'll lose a pound of flesh."

At this moment, Wang Chunhua's expression suddenly changed. She tugged at Li Daniu's hem and gestured with her mouth towards someone: "Look over there!"

Following her gaze, Li Daniu's face also changed: "Hanging out with the Xu family, whatever's coming out of their mouths can't be anything good."

The two looked uncomfortable, their eyes locked on Cui the Loudspeaker and Gao Daozi (Chunxia's mother).

"After today, it'll be a new year, aren't you worried about your daughters Chunxia and Chunmei?"

Cui the Loudspeaker had no idea that Wang Chunhua and Li Daniu were watching her, much less that they both thought she was gossiping about them with Gao Daozi. She was casually discussing the marriage prospects of Xu Chunxia and her sister with Mrs. Xu at the village road.

"What's the use of me worrying?"

Mrs. Xu said expressionlessly: "With the family's reputation ruined, no one comes to propose to the sisters, it's all of their own doing!"

"No matter how you say it, Chunxia and her sister are your daughters, you can't just ignore your daughters' marriages, otherwise, dragging on like this, it'll really be on you and your husband."

Cui the Loudspeaker said with a 'I'm doing this for your own good' face: "From my perspective, if no one comes forward to propose to them, why don't you take the initiative to find someone?"

Mrs. Xu: "My daughters are so ungrateful, on one hand, if I try to arrange a marriage, on the other, they'll report me to the police."

Thinking of the time when she was forcibly reformed, Mrs. Xu resented Xu Chunxia and her sister, grinding her teeth with anger.

"You mean well for them, but this situation is different from before. Just explain it clearly and it'll get sorted!" Cui the Loudspeaker offered another suggestion, to which Mrs. Xu shook her head: "They're so stubborn, I might as well have raised three ungrateful girls for nothing!"

Cui the Loudspeaker: "There are no parents in the world who are wrong, you're their mother, you really can't be pushed to the point of helplessness by your own daughters. Besides, if you're worried they won't agree,

at worst let them find a guy from the surrounding villages themselves, and then you find a matchmaker to talk to the guy's family about it, maybe that'll work!"

Chapter 977 Why Are You Wrongfully Accusing Me?

Unexpectedly, Mrs. Xu heard Cui the Loudspeaker's words and, instead of showing gratitude, her face darkened. She said, "If you want to mock me, just say it directly. Why beat around the bush?!"

Cui the Loudspeaker felt wronged: "Why are you accusing me? I'm offering you advice out of good intentions, not mocking you. Xu family, you can't behave like this, you know?"

However, Mrs. Xu did not respond, turning to walk towards her own courtyard entrance. She only felt that the villagers chit-chatting by the path were all looking over, more accurately, looking at her. For a moment, she wished she hadn't run into Cui the Loudspeaker.

Occasional firecracker sounds popped up now and then. Familiar women and men stood in groups chatting along the village road, while lively children ran around in gang formations. In a moment of carelessness, they would slip on the snow and fall.

But almost none of them cried out loud.

They got up and started running again, laughing and chasing after their little friends.

"Big brother, big brother, it's so fun spending New Year at home!"

Ming Wei and her brother Ming Rui stood at the courtyard entrance. Watching their brother Ming Han and cousin Henghao with other younger cousins hold hands and slide on the snow, the little girl was increasingly eager to join in. She couldn't help but say to her brother Ming Han, "I want to play too, big brother, can you take me sliding for a while?"

Unexpectedly, Kang Yikai, just coming out of the courtyard, heard this. He casually tugged on the pom-pom of the little girl's earflap hat, and said with a smile, "Come on, cousin Kai will take you sledding."

"Great! Great!"

Ming Wei clapped her hands in delight and asked her brother Ming Rui, "Big brother, are you coming too?"

Before Ming Rui could respond, Kang Yikai reached out his two hands: "Come on, Luo Mingrui classmate!"

Ming Rui felt a bit embarrassed, but still placed one of his hands into his cousin's palm.

Soon, the little girl's crisp and melodious laughter rang out loud from outside the courtyard gate.

As time passed, the sky gradually darkened. The villagers who had been chatting by the roadside and children who had been madly playing in the streets all pretty much returned to their own homes.

The sound of firecrackers echoed, and the scent of meat and joyful children's laughter wafted from every household's yard.

Thinking that after more than two years he was finally back home, Kang Li insisted on personally handling the New Year's Eve dinner. But Elder sister-in-law Kang and Second Brother Kang's Wife, between the four sisters-in-law, were all helping Kang Li in the kitchen.

Since this year the whole family gathered together, along with the newlywed Yan Rou, her father, two secretaries, as well as Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei, Kang Li didn't even mention setting three plates, but filled three big tables to the brim.

Before the New Year's Eve dinner started, Captain Kang personally went to Big Uncle Kang's House to invite his parents and two brothers to his home. One could say that everyone enjoyed this New Year's Eve dinner immensely, with the overall atmosphere being both warm and lively.

Almost close to ten o'clock, Grandpa Kang and Grandma Kang were escorted away by Big Uncle Kang and Young Uncle Kang, and then Kang Yiyang and other younger ones gathered in one room to play cards since there was nothing left to fuss about.

Elder sister-in-law Kang and the other sisters-in-law returned to their own rooms to rest, while Big Brother Kang and his four brothers, along with Kang Li and his wife, all sat on their parents' heated bed without the need for Captain Kang's elderly parents to say a word.

Well, Luo Yanqing was held back by Kang Li, not letting her leave.

As for Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei, after Yan Rou left with her father Yan Songping and Yan Songping's two secretaries, they also returned to their room.

"Our family doesn't have the habit of staying up late for the New Year; why are you all sitting on our bed instead of going back to your rooms to sleep?"

Chapter 978 Brotherly Love, One Family

Cai Xiufen glanced at her five sons and her beloved daughter and son-in-law, her face showing confusion mixed with amusement.

Kang Guosheng: "This year, it's rare for us children to all gather together, so we wanted to have a good talk with you and Dad."

Kang Guoan: "Mom, what Second Brother said is exactly what I meant."

"I have nothing to say to you."

Captain Kang glanced at Second Brother Kang (Kang Guosheng) and Kang Guoan, puffing on his pipe as he spoke: "Focus on your work outside, and come home when you can. Your mother and I only wish for all of you to be well, and there's no need for you to worry about anything else."

"Dad, when you say that... we just feel more guilty being away from you and Mom. You raised us, but we work away from home all year long and rarely return to see you. When we call and invite you to stay with us for a while, you and Mom say you can't leave the house. I understand, you worry about troubling us."

Kang Guosheng is a tough guy, but at this moment he couldn't help but be a little emotional. His eyes slightly reddened as he earnestly said: "This year, our family suddenly has five college graduates,

which is all thanks to you and Mom. We've reached where we are today because of your hard work and dedicated upbringing. Dad, Mom, I'd like to wish you an early Happy New Year, wishing you health and happiness always!"

Before the others could react, Kang Guosheng knelt on the bed, and bowed his head to Captain Kang and his wife.

Fourth Brother Kang snapped out of it and teased Second Brother Kang (Kang Guosheng): "Dad, Mom, my Second Brother is still as cunning as ever. He said everything we brothers wanted to say, and even wished you Happy New Year before us. I feel like taking him outside for a fight!"

"You dare to say that, from childhood to adulthood, when have you not been overpowered and beaten by your Second Brother?!"

Cai Xiufen glared at Fourth Brother Kang, and suddenly, Big Brother Kang and the others burst into laughter.

Fourth Brother Kang felt awkward, he rubbed his nose and looked at his mother with a plaintive gaze: "Mom, as the saying goes: don't hit the face when you hit someone, don't expose someone's shortcomings. Yet you always aim for my sore spots!"

Upon hearing Fourth Brother Kang's words, except for Captain Kang and Luo Yanqing who didn't laugh obviously, the others couldn't hold back their laughter again.

Kang Guosheng: "Among the brothers, you're the mischievous one. Every time I beat you, it's because you deserved it. Admit it?"

Putting away the laughter, Kang Guosheng raised his eyebrows and looked at Fourth Brother Kang.

"What do you mean I'm the mischievous one? I'm just lively. Big Brother has never beaten me, neither has Third Brother. You're the only one who always pins me to the ground for a thrashing!"

Glaring at Second Brother Kang, Fourth Brother said: "This is my eternal pain. Every time I think of it, I feel sore all over."

Kang Li smiled with arched brows: "Why haven't I seen Second Brother ever beat you, Fourth Brother?"

"Your Fourth Brother is eleven years older than you, by the time you could remember things, I was already seventeen, a grown lad not waiting around for your Second Brother to get me pinned to the ground! Besides, by that time your Second Brother had joined the army, not giving him any chance to beat me.

Fourth Brother Kang said this, glaring again at Second Brother Kang Guosheng: "In our family, Second Brother only ever beat me alone, showing no brotherly love."

"Where did you learn to say things like that?"

Cai Xiufen turned her gaze to her Fourth Son, and then she glanced at her youngest son, seeing Kang Guoan obviously nervously avoiding her gaze. At this moment, Fourth Brother Kang put his arm around Kang Guoan's shoulders and laughed: "Of course, I learned it from my good little brother. He's told me quite a few stories about his time in North City."

Chapter 979 So What If I Am?

Kang Guoan glanced sideways at Fourth Brother Kang: "Fourth Brother, are you trying to sink our little friendship boat?"

Kang Li leaned on Luo Yanqing's shoulder, covered her mouth and chuckled lightly, deeply contemplating how her little brother, Kang Guoan, had strong learning abilities, remembering even the casual words she once said and skillfully applying them.

"Sink the friendship boat? Isn't it more like the brotherly love is gone?"

Fourth Brother Kang looked at Kang Guoan and then raised his hand to ruffle the other's hair: "You little rascal, I'm your brother, yet you're thinking of sinking my boat. Just wait, tomorrow I'll give your muscles a little stretch!"

"Haha..."

Kang Li couldn't hold back and burst out laughing, saying: "My Fourth Brother is too amusing, haha..."

Seeing his little wife laughing so happily, Luo Yanqing's phoenix eyes were full of affection.

Third Brother Kang: "Indeed, in our family, it's your Fourth Brother who is the most entertaining, like a monkey since childhood, never staying still for a moment."

Upon hearing this, Fourth Brother Kang looked aggrieved: "Third Brother, are you trying to sink the friendship boat between us?"

Big Brother Kang: "Did your Third Brother make a mistake?"

Fourth Brother Kang: "Not really, but I'm old enough now, and yet you're still bringing up my childhood stories, making me lose face in front of Li Bao and brother-in-law!"

Eyes filled with resentment, Fourth Brother Kang moved his gaze from Big Brother Kang to Captain Kang, the old couple: "Dad, Mom, aren't you going to help your poor old Fourth son?"

"Mom always says I'm naughty, but it seems I learned it from Fourth Brother."

Kang Li's beautiful, clear fox-like eyes turned into crescent moons as she said: "In our family, Big Brother, Second Brother, Third Brother, and little brother are all steady, only Fourth Brother and me, the younger sister, are different. Seems like we should be twins."

Fourth Brother Kang: "If Fourth Brother were really twins with you, he'd laugh himself awake even in his dreams."

Kang Li: "Why?"

"Smart! You see, your little brother and you are twins, and you're the smartest treasure of our family; this intelligence must have infected your little brother even in mom's womb, allowing him to achieve such good scores in the college entrance exam and enrolling with you at Shuimu University next year."

Fourth Brother Kang said earnestly.

Kang Guoan chimed in: "Indeed, I was infected by Li Bao's cleverness."

Then he abruptly changed his tone: "It's just a pity Fourth Brother didn't get this chance."

"That's your luck, squeezing into mom's womb with my sister Li Bao. Just look at you gloating!"

Giving Kang Guoan a sidelong glance, Fourth Brother Kang continued to Kang Li: "You don't know, when dad and mom brought you and your little brother home, you looked like a little fairy child, while your little brother was so ugly I couldn't even bear to look!"

Kang Guoan: "Fourth Brother, you're retaliating!"

Fourth Brother Kang: "And what if I am?"

Watching the two, Big Brother Kang shook his head with a smile: "Brother-in-law's here, don't you both feel childish?"

"Brother-in-law is family, he won't think that, right?"

Fourth Brother Kang asked Luo Yanqing.

"Hmm."

Luo Yanqing maintained a smile at the corner of his mouth and lightly nodded.

The six siblings, along with Luo Yanqing, spent almost an hour laughing and chatting lively with the old couple, Captain Kang. Just then, Kang Li cleared her throat and said: "I have something to discuss with Big Brother, Third Brother, and Fourth Brother."

Instantly, the room went quiet, and everyone focused their attention on Kang Li.

"It's like this, I believe that soon the country will allow us ordinary people to do business freely. When that happens, folks across the nation will start getting rich, so I suggest that Big Brother, Third Brother, and Fourth Brother shouldn't miss this opportunity,

Chapter 980 Kang Li's Plan

For example, the eldest sister-in-law can cook great food, the third sister-in-law is quick and good at making clothes, and the fourth brother can drive and is in the transportation business,

these are actually the wealth of your respective small families. When the country officially allows private businesses and companies to be established, Big Brother and the eldest sister-in-law can focus on food, Third Brother and the third sister-in-law can focus on clothing, and Fourth Brother, you can start your own transportation company..."

Kang Li rambled on about her insights into the future, and incidentally gave her suggestions to Big Brother Kang, Third Brother Kang, and Fourth Brother Kang. Finally, she looked serious:

"We are siblings. I can't say if I can help in other ways, but in terms of funds, I am capable of assisting you,"

Seeing the three brothers looking at Luo Yanqing, Kang Li smiled: "The money Luo Yanqing gave me, I won't touch. It's what I earned myself, including my manuscript fees over the past few years,

my salary from working at the TV station, and the awards the country gave me for each gold medal I won. In short, your sister is a little rich woman, and providing financial support for you is absolutely no problem!"

"No, if there really is such a day as you say, we will manage on our own; we definitely can't use your money."

Big Brother Kang shook his head decisively.

"Big Brother is right. Your money is yours, and as your older brothers, we can't accept it."

Third Brother Kang stated.

Fourth Brother Kang's eyes lit up: "Li Bao, are you saying there's really a chance for your Fourth Brother to start his own transportation company?"

Kang Li smiled: "Of course there will be opportunities. I'm waiting to see Fourth Brother grow his transportation company bigger and bigger, eventually forming a large logistics group, transporting goods to cities across the nation and even abroad. However, in doing anything, you must take it step by step and never be too impatient!"

She shifted her gaze to Big Brother and Third Brother: "The same goes for you, Big Brother and Third Brother. For example, Big Brother can start by opening a breakfast stall or a small restaurant with the eldest sister-in-law. Once you accumulate experience, you can expand the premises and gradually

develop into a chain store, making sure your store name is known in cities large and small across the country.

But in the food and beverage industry, you must have your own specialties, and pay attention to hygiene and the taste of the food. Otherwise, not to mention opening a national chain, it might be hard to keep even a small stall running for long."

After a brief pause, Kang Li further advised Third Brother Kang: "The same goes for the clothing business; you need to focus on quality and reputation, or else it would just be a one-off deal. Here's the plan, wait until next summer vacation,

I'll take you and the third sister-in-law to a Southern City to see. There are now many large and small factories there, such as clothing factories, electronic product factories, etc. In our inland cities,

some people are forward-thinking and may have already secretly brought in goods to sell quietly in their cities. The profit in between is not insignificant."

Fourth Brother Kang: "Li Bao, are you talking about dealers?"

Kang Li was taken aback, then nodded: "It seems to be called that now."

Fourth Brother Kang looked serious: "That's inappropriate."

"I know it's inappropriate now, what I'm saying is when it's allowed in the larger environment, Third Brother and the third sister-in-law can start the clothing business,"

Kang Li said with a smile: "Initially, you can open a tailor shop or set up a stall to sell clothes, or directly open a clothing store. In short, when the country permits it, Third Brother and the third sister-in-law can work freely. However, you must have a unique eye and know how to appreciate style, which the third sister-in-law should possess,

after all, I think the style of clothes she cuts is quite good. Later, I will help the third sister-in-law draw some clothing design sketches. I believe with the third sister-in-law's ability, she can definitely succeed in the clothing industry."