

Weak B 991

Chapter 991: Hiding Something (4)

Seeing that Mrs. Shen's emotions were clearly a bit agitated, Old Lady Li followed suit and got up. She advised, "Speak to the child calmly, don't be too hasty, so as not to damage the relationship between you two."

"My husband Old Shen has lived his entire life with integrity, and I've never done anything against my conscience. Shen Yunxiu is our child, if he...

If he truly went against his conscience and morals, I'd rather disown him as my son than let him taint me and Old Shen's reputation!"

Mrs. Shen's face looked grim as she spoke and waved to Old Lady Li, "I'm heading back now, let's chat another day."

Upon entering the house, she saw Shen Yunxiu and Qiu Qin sitting on the living room sofa talking, while Qiu Qin's daughter Wenwen was beside them nibbling on a piece of pastry. Mrs. Shen, expressionless, said to Qiu Qin, "Xiao Qin, bring your child and head home first, Auntie needs to discuss something with Yunxiu."

Qiu Qin, upon hearing this, appeared slightly embarrassed. She agreed, picked up her daughter, and left quickly with her head down.

"Follow me to the study," Mrs. Shen walked ahead, and behind her, Shen Yunxiu followed closely. As soon as they entered the study, Mrs. Shen's expression turned cold, "Speak, did you start a family in the place where you were sent?"

Shen Yunxiu was momentarily stunned, but after a brief pause, he shook his head, "No."

"Do you think your mother's eyes are just decorations?" Mrs. Shen, judging by Shen Yunxiu's change in expression, could tell something, and her expression became serious, "I'll ask you again, in the place where you were sent, did you start a family? If you don't understand, I can phrase it differently—did you marry a local girl as your wife?"

Shen Yunxiu kept his mouth tightly shut and remained silent.

"Why didn't you tell me after you came back?"

Mrs. Shen slammed her palm on the desk, staring intensely at Shen Yunxiu, "No wonder when I ask about your years in the Northwest, you either say nothing or brush me off with excuses. Shen Yunxiu, I want to hear the truth now!"

"Yes, I did start a family, but we didn't get a marriage certificate..." Before Shen Yunxiu could finish, Mrs. Shen walked over and slapped him, "No marriage certificate, so you don't acknowledge that marriage, is that right?"

Shen Yunxiu's eyes reddened, "I don't acknowledge, is it wrong?"

This remark earned him another heavy slap from Mrs. Shen!

"From childhood, your father and I taught you this way? To let you morally degrade and toy with girls' feelings?"

Mrs. Shen was so furious with her son that she was panting and almost lost her balance, nearly falling. Luckily, Shen Yunxiu quickly held her up, but Mrs. Shen pushed him away, steadied herself with the desk, her eyes moist, choking up as she said, "Your father conducted himself with dignity his whole life, and I've also lived justly and righteously. Why did you grow into what you are now?"

"Mom, I..."

Knowing he had deeply upset his mother, Shen Yunxiu was filled with guilt, opening his mouth to say something, yet hesitating to continue.

"When you returned, did you talk to your wife? Did you inform your wife's family?"

"..."

"No, right? You didn't say anything to your wife or even mention to your wife's family, you actually secretly ran back... isn't that right?"

"..."

Shen Yunxiu maintained his silence.

Mrs. Shen's tears trickled down the corner of her eyes, and she accused broken-heartedly, "How could you do this? On the day you returned, I noticed you were in a good spirit, wearing clothes that were eighty percent new,

which shows your days in the Northwest weren't hard, so I want to know, who made it better for you? Who has made your life more comfortable?

Knowing your physical condition, even if staying strong enough to return to the city with the college entrance exam, would you be as spirited as you are now?"

Shen Yunxiu: "But I'm already back, and I don't have feelings for that woman, you can't just ask me to be responsible for her for a lifetime because of that past marriage, right?"

Mrs. Shen: "No feelings? Then why did you marry the girl?"

Shen Yunxiu: "It was her who liked me, it was her choice to marry me."

"Since you didn't like her, you shouldn't have agreed, but you did agree, implying you had intentions for that girl, and now you've gotten into college and returned to Hu City,

using your dislike, using your so-called lack of feelings for the girl, to deny your marriage. Shen Yunxiu, don't you feel that this is shameless?" Mrs. Shen felt her previous slap was too light, she wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes, her expression turned stern again, asking, "You have children, don't you?"

Shen Yunxiu nodded.

Mrs. Shen: "How old are the children?"

"Son is five, daughter is three..." Before Shen Yunxiu's voice faded, he saw his mother swiftly approach, and, without a doubt, received another heavy slap.

"Chen Shimei! You're the modern-day Chen Shimei!" Mrs. Shen shook her head, stepping back step by step and grabbing the edge of the desk, "Are you planning to get back together with Qiu Qin? To help her raise her daughter?"

Shen Yunxiu remained silent.

"Did Qiu Qin tell you how she returned? Did she ask if you had a family in the countryside?" Mrs. Shen sneered, "She probably secretly ran back too, right? And you hadn't told her about the family you had in the countryside, not even about having two children, correct?"

"I've already returned, Mom, what do you want me to do?"

Suddenly, Shen Yunxiu scratched his head, squatted down, and covered his head, saying, "It's wrong to sneak away, but I... but I miss you and Dad, I want to come back to our own home, I feel Cui Xiaokui and I are not from the same world, she's just a village girl, if I have to live with her for a lifetime, I don't know if I'll go crazy in the future..."

Mrs. Shen: "Village girl? You look down on the girl you married as a village girl, then if there were no college entrance exams, if you had to stay in the countryside for a lifetime, what would you do?"

"I..."

Shen Yunxiu found himself speechless when asked by Mrs. Shen.

"You're very selfish!" Mrs. Shen spared no face for her son, "Only ever thinking about your own benefit, not considering others' feelings, Shen Yunxiu, I'm so disappointed in you! Before your father closed his eyes, he still cared about you as his son. If he knew the child he raised was like this, do you think his eyes would still close?"

"Did I really make a mistake?"

Shen Yunxiu raised his head, his eyes red, looking at Mrs. Shen: "Mom..."

"Pack your things; I'm accompanying you now to the place you were sent, to apologize to your in-laws, to bring back your wife and children."

Saying that, Mrs. Shen walked out of the study.

"Mom... you're not physically well, why don't... why don't I first write a letter back..." Shen Yunxiu followed behind Mrs. Shen, he said, "If I return to that home just like this, they won't let go of me."

"Don't worry, they won't take your life!"

Mrs. Shen walked towards the master bedroom, intending to pack briefly before setting off.

Unexpectedly, someone knocked on the door at this moment.

"Auntie Li."

Old Lady Li stood outside the door; seeing it was her, Shen Yunxiu hurriedly wiped his face and invited Old Lady Li inside.

"You..."

Looking at Shen Yunxiu, Old Lady Li's gaze was extremely complex at this moment. Before knocking on the Shen Family's Door, she had received a phone call, and it was through this call that she learned certain things.

Chapter 992: Resolution

"Oh, it's Old Li. Please, have a seat in the living room."

Mrs. Shen came out from the bedroom with a travel bag in hand. At first sight of Old Lady Li, she was briefly taken aback but quickly put on a smile and invited her to sit in the living room.

"Are you heading out?" Old Lady Li noticed the travel bag in Mrs. Shen's hand and couldn't help but ask. Upon hearing this, Mrs. Shen didn't pay much mind to the idea of keeping family scandals under wraps. She sat opposite Old Lady Li, placing the travel bag beside her, then glared at Shen Yunxiu and said:

"I finally got it out of him. The rotten kid really has been hiding something from me. Not only has he settled down where he was stationed, but he also has a pair of children. Yet he acted like a Chen Shimei, sneaking back to Hu City all by himself, leaving his wife and children in the countryside. I plan to head to the Northwest with him today to bring my daughter-in-law and grandchildren back."

After hearing Mrs. Shen's words, Old Lady Li's expression changed noticeably. Seeing this, Mrs. Shen said, "Judging by your look, it seems you have something to discuss with me." It wasn't a question, but a statement.

Old Lady Li nodded. "Yes."

Mrs. Shen: "It has to do with this rotten kid of mine." Once again in a declarative tone.

"Yes." Old Lady Li nodded again, then said, "I was initially skeptical, but I didn't expect Yunxiu to actually do something like that." Pausing for a moment, Old Lady Li glanced at Shen Yunxiu and then refocused on Mrs. Shen. "If Yunxiu's wife's name is Cui Xiaokui, then you don't need to go to the Northwest."

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Shen was puzzled. "Old Li... what do you mean by that?"

"Your daughter-in-law and the two kids are presently in Hu City," said Old Lady Li. "Her father sought out an acquaintance, facilitating their journey through those connections."

Kang Li and his group got off the train and directly went to the large courtyard where Elder Loh and Old Lady Li lived, according to the address Elder Loh had left them. However, they were stopped by the gatekeeper, who said that Elder Loh and his wife had left early in the morning with Xiao Loh En to clean the residence at the university where Old Lady Li taught. So, Kang Li borrowed a phone in the gatekeeper's room and dialed a number.

After getting in touch with Old Lady Li, although Kang Li didn't say much, he did reveal the issue between the Cui family and Shen Yunxiu.

After finishing the call, Old Lady Li speculated that the "Shen Yunxiu" Kang Li mentioned was very likely the Shen Yunxiu she knew. However, she didn't want to believe that the Shen Yunxiu she knew would do such a thing as described by Kang Li.

Yet, since Shen Yunxiu was stationed in the Great Northwest and given what Mrs. Shen had said in front of her, Old Lady Li had no choice but to equate the "Shen Yunxiu" referred to by Kang Li with the one she knew.

Thus, after ending the call, Elder Loh took Xiao Loh En back to the courtyard first, while Old Lady Li went to the Shen family, planning to ensure that regardless of the outcome, she would have Mrs. Shen and Shen Yunxiu visit the courtyard.

"Old Li, you mean..."

Mrs. Shen was a bit emotional. Seeing Old Lady Li nod, she tried to control her emotions and asked, "Then where are they now?"

"Come on, I'll take you to see them." Old Lady Li stood up and looked at Shen Yunxiu, "Child, in Auntie Li's heart, you've always been outstanding, but I never expected you to abandon your wife and children."

Upon hearing this, Shen Yunxiu lowered his head in shame.

"Love isn't a necessity in life, but as humans, responsibility and accountability are essential. Otherwise, what do you think a person's purpose in living would be?"

Auntie Li is saying this to you not to preach, but to tell you, Yunxiu, you are wrong! Abandoning your wife and kids is a massive mistake!"

"It's not just a moral issue; it's your attitude toward handling things that Auntie Li truly cannot agree with!"

Shen Yunxiu's lips were tightly pressed together, and he didn't speak.

At this moment, Mrs. Shen told Old Lady Li, "I scolded him before you arrived. Old Li, don't worry, I won't let this rotten kid earn the reputation of a Chen Shimei."

"Oh, come on! What am I worried about?" Old Lady Li replied. "It's just that you don't have to get overly involved. Yunxiu is an adult now. If he truly lacks responsibility and accountability to his wife and kids,

even if you force him to maintain his marriage with that Cui Xiaokui, the ones getting hurt in the end would still be that poor girl and her two kids.

Furthermore, if Yunxiu feels that he won't regret it in his lifetime, nor fears being despised and scorned, I suggest he face his wife directly, sit down, and have a talk. He should give the girl and her family an explanation.

Chapter 993: Resolution (Part 2)

However, once Yunxiu truly ends his marriage with his wife, and especially after abandoning his wife and children, how can he expect any significant career development in the future?"

The fact that they came all the way to Hu City proves that the woman's family will definitely not dismiss the abandonment of their daughter lightly. In this way, what reputation will Shen Yunxiu have in this school?

With a blemish on his character, which unit would accept him after graduation?

Even if some establishment did take him in, the chances of Shen Yunxiu advancing in position are slim.

“If he indeed gains the reputation of being a Chen Shimei, I will no longer acknowledge him as my son.” Mrs. Shen implied that she cannot accept Shen Yunxiu ending his marriage with Cui Xiaokui, nor allowing her grandchildren to grow up in an incomplete family.

...

Instructing the driver to pick up his wife, Elder Loh got out of the black sedan carrying Xiao Loh En, and looked up to see Kang Li and Luo Yanqing.

“Why didn’t you give Uncle Loh a call before coming? That way Uncle Loh could have picked you up at the train station,” he said warmly, then asked Kang Li, “Where are the children?”

As his words fell, Min Rui and the others walked out from the doorman’s quarters.

Behind them were Captain Cui and his son Cui Yaping, as well as Cui Xiaokui and her mother.

Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei were the last to come out.

“Hello Grandpa Loh!” Min Rui and the others greeted Elder Loh, and at that moment Xiao Loh En recognized Kang Li and Luo Yanqing, his eyes lit up, and he called out in a childish voice, “Dad! Mom!”

Luo Yanqing responded with an “Hmm,” acknowledging the little one.

Kang Li, with a smile on his face, walked up to Elder Loh and reached out to take Xiao Loh En, “Our little En is so well-behaved!” Xiao Loh En felt a bit shy and buried his head in Kang Li’s shoulder.

“Let me hold him.”

Without waiting for Kang Li to speak, Luo Yanqing took Xiao Loh En into his own arms, clearly not wanting Kang Li to get tired.

“Let’s go, everyone inside.”

Elder Loh cheerfully invited everyone into the house.

About an hour later, Old Lady Li was brought back to the house by the driver, and naturally Mrs. Shen and Shen Yunxiu accompanied her.

As they stepped into the living room and briefly caught Captain Cui’s gaze, Mrs. Shen felt ashamed.

She had learned everything on her way here.

Needless to say, Mrs. Shen naturally interrogated Shen Yunxiu for details.

— Weak in health, unable to bear the work of earning points in the field, he agreed to the pursuit of the Team Leader's daughter for the sake of a better life, got married, and

Soon after, he was arranged by the Team Leader's father-in-law to teach at the village school, and to save face for his son-in-law, the Team Leader specially built two mud-brick houses for his daughter and son-in-law.

Being treated with such genuine kindness by the Yue family, and having a wife who is diligent with both chores and childcare, it's clear how comfortable Shen Yunxiu's days of rural reassignments were.

But the lousy boy did something heartless, and Mrs. Shen found herself getting angrier as she made her way over, and so felt both guilty and embarrassed upon gazing at Captain Cui.

She didn't bother with pleasantries and directly went up to Captain Cui saying, "Old brother, are you our in-law? I'm Yunxiu's mother, my apologies for not raising my son well enough, leading him to make inconsiderate decisions, nearly letting him wrong his wife and kids."

Before Captain Cui could respond, Cui Yaping suddenly stood up from the sofa, grabbed Shen Yunxiu by the collar, and dragged him out of the living room. Soon enough, the sound of punches connecting with flesh and Shen Yunxiu's cries of pain echoed through the yard.

Mrs. Shen didn't even blink, or defend Shen Yunxiu in front of Captain Cui. To her, Shen Yunxiu indeed deserved to be taught a lesson!

Old Lady Li said, "Old Lu, let's sit down and talk."

In response, Mrs. Shen nodded her head.

"Are you Shen Yunxiu's mother?" Captain Cui stared at Mrs. Shen to confirm.

"Dear in-law, I am."

Mrs. Shen replied.

"Let's not rush into calling each other in-laws, especially since your son has abandoned my daughter. How could you dare call me your in-law then?"

Captain Cui spoke bluntly without pulling punches: "I dare say neither my Xiao Kui, nor anyone in our family, has ever wronged Shen Yunxiu in any way.

Especially my Xiao Kui, she has treated Shen Yunxiu better than even us as her parents, doesn't ask him to do anything, brings food right to his hands, washes clothes spotlessly and puts them before him,

whenever the seasons change, she thinks up ways to make new clothes for Shen Yunxiu, and takes care of the two children diligently. I want to ask, does Shen Yunxiu even have a heart?

Chapter 994 - Resolution (Part 3)

"He actually abandoned his wife and child, causing my daughter to run to the village entrance every day, being called a lunatic by the villagers. Now if Shen Yunxiu doesn't give me an explanation, he can't blame me for taking drastic measures!"

Cui Xiaokui sat beside Captain Cui, holding her children, her head lowered, tears streaming down her face.

As for Elder Loh and Kang Li, Luo Yanqing, they, as onlookers, had somewhat grave expressions.

Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei stood under the eaves outside the living room door, as if they hadn't seen Cui Yaping scolding Shen Yunxiu, conversing in low voices.

The living room was so quiet at that moment that you could hear a pin drop.

"Third Brother, I was wrong, please stop hitting me, I know I was wrong, I really do!"

Shen Yunxiu begged Cui Yaping for mercy, shielding his head with his hands, curling up on the ground, receiving a hard kick from Cui Yaping, who said through gritted teeth:

"Now you know you're wrong, where were you earlier? Because you sneaked back to the city, Xiaokui was so shocked that she ran to the village entrance, acting crazy all the time. It caused my mother to fall ill in bed and my family couldn't even celebrate the new year. Do you think it's right for me to beat you today?"

"It's right! I deserve to be beaten! I'm heartless, I'm not even human..." Shen Yunxiu cried, no trace of the artistic youth he once was.

Cui Yaping: "Get up, go in front of my dad and my sister and make it clear what you intend to do next!" He kicked Shen Yunxiu's leg, glanced at his reddened fist, then glared at Shen Yunxiu and stepped toward the living room.

Moments later, Shen Yunxiu got up from the ground, his cheek swollen, limping behind Cui Yaping.

"Dad, I was wrong!"

In front of everyone in the living room, Shen Yunxiu knelt directly before Captain Cui, choking up, "I was momentarily confused, leaving Xiaokui and the two children to run back to Hu City. Actually... actually, I've been regretting it all this time..."

"Regret? I don't see it, otherwise why didn't you write a letter home?"

Captain Cui stared coldly at Shen Yunxiu.

"I..."

Shen Yunxiu didn't know how to explain. He truly regretted it, otherwise he wouldn't have been restless since returning to Hu City. He avoided his mother's questions about his time in the Northwest and, even with Qiu Qin's obvious attitude, he didn't take the opportunity to get back together.

"Listen, I'm only asking you if you plan to continue your life with Xiaokui. If not, how do you plan to arrange things for her and the kids?"

Captain Cui asked in a deep voice, his tone devoid of any warmth.

"I will treat Xiaokui and the kids well, Dad. I know I was wrong, and I assure you, from now on I won't mess up again. Please forgive me this once!"

Shen Yunxiu said, looking at Cui Xiaokui: "Xiaokui, I've wronged you and our children before. Now that you're here, don't go back. Let's live a good life from now on. If you want to go to university, I'll help you prepare. As for Xiao Hai and his siblings, let's send them to kindergarten, is that okay?"

"Daddy...will you really be as nice to Mom and me and brother as before? Won't you leave us again?"
The little girl blinked her bright eyes, asking Shen Yunxiu in a childish voice.

"Yes, Daddy promises to treat you well, just like before!"

Shen Yunxiu nodded emphatically.

The next moment, little Shen Yubing cried out, "Daddy is bad! The kids in the village say you don't want me and brother anymore, that you abandoned Mommy. They even said Mommy is crazy and called us kids without a Dad! I hate you, Daddy! Wah..."

The little girl cried suddenly and without warning.

Seeing this, Cui Xiaokui hugged her daughter tightly and also sobbed out loud.

The five-year-old boy didn't cry loudly like his sister, but his eyes were full of tears, glaring at Shen Yunxiu, his father.

"In-laws, with Yunxiu's words and my assurance, you can rest assured to leave Xiaokui and the children in Hu City. If Yunxiu is ever mean to Xiaokui, even if I have to give him up as a son, I'll keep Xiaokui here! By the way, about the children's marriage certificate..."

Mrs. Shen showed her utmost sincerity, but without hearing Captain Cui's reply, she looked at Elder Loh and Old Lady Li, hoping they could say something.

Seeing the meaning in Mrs. Shen's eyes, Elder Loh didn't mind helping to mediate with a few words. While Old Lady Li, with a bitter smile in her heart, felt that if she interfered today,

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From now on, she must supervise to ensure that Shen Yunxiu treats Cui Xiaokui and her family well, and if she notices anything amiss, she has to bring Shen Yunxiu back on the right path,

or else, even if she doesn't consider how to face Captain Cui, it would be hard for her to hold her head high in front of Kang Li and Luo Yanqing.

After all, they are brought over by her son Xiao Loh En's godfather and godmother, and out of trust in her, the two young people asked her for this favor. If Shen Yunxiu reneges on his promise, it would be a slap in her face!

Thinking this, Old Lady Li said to Captain Cui, "Older Brother Cui, just listen to Yunxiu's mom and Old Loh from my family, leave Xiao Kui and her family in Hu City. I can assure you here,

I'll supervise Yunxiu well. If he dares to wrong Xiao Kui, I'll be the bad guy and let Old Lu sever ties with him and recognize Xiao Kui as a goddaughter to stay with the Shen family."

Captain Cui looked somewhat moved, but he didn't respond immediately. Instead, he asked his daughter, "What do you think? You've heard what Shen Yunxiu and your mother-in-law have said. If you want to stay with the two kids, I'll support you... If not, we'll come up with another plan."

Raising her head, Cui Xiaokui looked at Shen Yunxiu with tear-filled eyes, "I'm staying with the kids... Are you sure you'll treat us well? You won't ignore me all day, you won't neglect Xiao Hai and the others?" During the period when Shen Yunxiu learned his college entrance exam scores and didn't receive an

admission letter, there were several days when he hardly spoke to Cui Xiaokui or interacted with the two kids.

He would either lay on the bed to rest or wander around alone, all in all, giving Cui Xiaokui an uncomfortable feeling.

Hence, there were Cui Xiaokui's two consecutive questions.

Shen Yunxiu replied, "No, I won't."

Upon hearing this, Cui Xiaokui looked at her two children, pursed her lips, and turned her gaze to Captain Cui and her third brother, Cui Yaping, "Dad, Third Brother, I'll stay. I don't want the two kids to be without a father..." Saying this, the tears that had stopped in Cui Xiaokui's eyes fell again.

"Alright! If you want to stay, then stay. Just remember, if you're wronged, call the team office, and your dad, your mom, and your brothers will stand up for you!"

Captain Cui reminded Cui Xiaokui.

"Okay."

Cui Xiaokui nodded with tears streaming down.

Captain Cui said, "In the afternoon, after you and Shen Yunxiu get the marriage certificate, your dad and Third Brother will head back."

Cui Xiaokui asked, "Can you stay for a few more days?" Her eyes clearly showing unease.

Mrs. Shen said, "In-laws, it's not easy to come all the way to Hu City, why don't you stay for a couple more days and let Yunxiu show you around."

"No," Captain Cui shook his head, "Her mother is still sick at home, I can't be at ease if I don't go back." Before coming to Hu City, Captain Cui had grabbed the household registration proof from home, thinking it might be useful.

Thus, there's no issue with Shen Yunxiu and Cui Xiaokui registering for the marriage certificate in the afternoon.

However, the household registration for Cui Xiaokui and her family must remain in the countryside, on the Cui family's household register, unless Cui Xiaokui later finds a job in Hu City, or through the summer college entrance exam, gets into a university in Hu City, then transferring their household registration wouldn't be difficult.

...

After having lunch, Mrs. Shen proposed to leave, and she, along with Shen Yunxiu, took Captain Cui and Cui Yaping, Cui Xiaokui, and her family away from the Loh family. Before leaving the door, Captain Cui handed over the money for the soft sleeper tickets they used coming over to Kang Li, who shook her head and refused to accept it without thinking.

Being neighbors in the village, and since she and Luo Yanqing are not short on money, they treated it as a token of respect for their elders!

Kang Li said, "Uncle Cui, then my husband and I won't accompany you any further. When you get back to our place, please say hello to my dad so that I know you've arrived safely."

Captain Cui replied, "Sure! Once I'm back in the village, I'll go to your house."

Kang Li lowered her voice, "Uncle Cui, rest assured about Xiao Kui. Aunt Li will help take care of them, and if I have the chance to visit Hu City, I'll also stop by and check on Xiao Kui and her family, so you can be at ease at home."

"Thank you, my girl!" Captain Cui wiped the corner of his eyes, nodded, and waved at Kang Li, "It's cold outside, go back inside, I'll be on my way!"

Kang Li said, "Be safe on the train, Uncle Cui!" Watching Captain Cui's figure gradually disappear into the distance, Kang Li raised her voice in reminder.

"Got it, good girl, go inside now!"

Turning around, Captain Cui waved at Kang Li once more, retracted his gaze, and continued walking ahead.

In the living room.

"Aunt Li, I really didn't expect things with Xiao Kui to go so smoothly, thank you!"

Upon returning to the living room, Kang Li immediately thanked Old Lady Li.

"Oh, don't mention it with me, niece! Besides, I didn't do much to help. You must have noticed when Yunxiu came into the living room, there were two obvious slap marks on his face."

Hearing Old Lady Li's words, Kang Li nodded and then looked puzzled, "What happened there?"

Old Lady Li explained, "His mom hit him. Before I went to Yunxiu's house, or rather, before you called me, Yunxiu's mom was talking to me about Yunxiu, saying he was hiding something from her. When she got home, I don't know how the mother and son talked,

but when I got there, I saw the slap marks on Yunxiu's face. I almost immediately guessed the reason and it turned out to be exactly as you told me and as I suspected,

it was because Yunxiu's abandonment of his wife and kids was discovered by his mom. In a fit of anger, she slapped him twice."

Kang Li said, "Professor Lu has very upright views, she seems like she'll be a good mother-in-law."

"Old Lu is indeed a good person. With her in charge, Yunxiu wouldn't dare mess around again," Old Lady Li said warmly, "Yunxiu used to be a model child in others' eyes,

polite and personable, I never thought he'd do something like abandoning his wife and children. Fortunately, he's acknowledged his mistake and sincerely repented, or else he would have completely ruined his parents' reputation!"

Captain Cui looked somewhat moved, but he didn't respond immediately. Instead, he asked his daughter, "What do you think? You've heard what Shen Yunxiu and your mother-in-law have said. If you want to stay with the two kids, I'll support you... If not, we'll come up with another plan."

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"Being deeply affectionate is far better than being indifferent, and the fact that that student of yours was deeply devoted to his late wife suggests that she was a woman worthy of such devotion. In that case, perhaps, in that student's mind, he doesn't think anything is wrong with his current life."

It was obvious that Kang Li was advising Old Lady Li to see things more openly. After all, the feelings within one's heart, be it regarding familial love or romantic love, are something that only the person themselves has the most say about. It's a bit inappropriate for others to interfere.

"You... you're right, I'm just overthinking!"

Old Lady Li smiled, as if she suddenly saw the light. She said, "He's already in his thirties and knows what kind of life he wants. On the other hand, if someone really can't stand him living like a monk and wants to meddle, the most appropriate and qualified people would be his parents."

"As a mentor, don't you have both the appropriateness and the qualifications?"

Kang Li smiled faintly: "I mentioned before, thinking that your student isn't a clueless young person. He surely knows whether his current life is what he wants. Based on this, I advised you not to worry too much, so as not to trouble yourself."

"Oh, you! I know you're saying this for my own good, there's no need to explain." Holding Kang Li's hand, Old Lady Li gently patted the back of it, and said warmly: "Your Uncle Loh considered my health condition and originally didn't plan to let me return to teaching at school. But I couldn't stay idle, and since the school is currently lacking teachers, I convinced your Uncle Loh, and accepted the school's offer."

Kang Li spoke with concern: "You and Uncle Loh have been through a lot during those years in our village. Now that you've returned to Hu City, you must take good care of your health daily, so that when Xiao En grows up, he can be filial to you two."

"We've been taking care of ourselves since we returned!"

Old Lady Li replied with a smile.

"That's good." The smile lingered in Kang Li's eyes and brow. She changed the topic and asked about Xiao Loh En's situation: "With Xiao En back home with you and Uncle Loh, is he accustomed to everything now?"

"He seems to have adapted, but he is still somewhat introverted and mature for his age. At home, he never fusses, and when taken outside to play with kids his age in the community, he just stands beside them, watching and not initiating conversation."

When speaking of her great-grandson, a tinge of worry couldn't help but show in Old Lady Li's eyes: "Kids should be lively and mischievous. It's normal to cry when unhappy, but ever since Xiao En returned home, he has never done so."

Kang Li: "But I think Xiao En is doing well. When he saw me and Yanqing, he just looked at us for a moment before recognizing us and calling us Mom and Dad. Listen now, how happily he's playing with Ruirui and the others in the room."

Listening to the merry "giggles" from Min Rui and Xiao Loh En playing in the room, Kang Li wore a gentle expression. She said to Old Lady Li: "Don't worry, once Xiao En starts kindergarten and is surrounded by other children, his character will surely become more lively and cheerful."

Shaking her head, Old Lady Li said: "There's no rush, I just hope Xiao En grows up healthy and strong. Children in this world have all sorts of temperaments. Xiao En might just be the kind that enjoys quietness, and there's nothing wrong with that."

"That's right. Just like Ruirui and his siblings, as the eldest brother, Ruirui has been stable in temperament and speaks little since he was young, while Hanhan is more lively and loves to act spoiled and clingy even more than Vivi..."

Chapter 997

Before Kang Li could finish speaking, Ming Wei toddled into the living room: "Mom, what are you saying about me?"

Kang Li looked at her with indulgence: "I'm saying you're smart and clever, lively and cute, and also warm and generous."

Immediately, Ming Wei's face turned rosy: "I'm not as good as Mom says!" The little girl was clearly a bit shy, she said in her childish voice, then turned and ran back to her room.

Old Lady Li saw this and couldn't help but laugh: "The little girl is shy!"

Kang Li smiled and made a sound of agreement: "Her skin is thin."

"Haven't the three kids ever mentioned their biological mom at home all these years?" Old Lady Li suddenly asked this, and upon hearing it, Kang Li was momentarily stunned, then shook her head. She smiled and said: "No, they've never mentioned it in front of me. That year when Luo Yanqing and I got married, Ruirui was five, Hanhan and Vivi were twins, they were not yet three. All three kids were very sensible and obedient, they especially listened to me."

Old Lady Li asked: "Have you ever thought about having one of your own?"

"I've had poor health since childhood, went to a big hospital, and the doctor said it's hard to conceive." Kang Li maintained her smile, and upon hearing this, Old Lady Li asked again: "Does Little Luo have any thoughts?"

Kang Li shook her head: "He does want another child, but my condition is clear, so we agreed to let nature take its course. If it happens, it happens; if not, we won't force it. Anyway, we already have Ruirui and the others, we're not lacking a son or a daughter."

Whether this was true or not, Old Lady Li could see it clearly in Kang Li's eyes, knowing that Kang Li was speaking from the bottom of her heart, her face showing a kindly smile: "One should open their mind like this. In my view, blood relations are important, but children you raise yourself, even without blood ties, if raised well, they turn out no worse than your own."

"Yes."

Kang Li nodded. She said, "There are all kinds of people in this world, there are plenty who don't care for their biological parents. I've never thought about whether they're biological or not."

Just thinking that since Ruirui and the others call me Mom, I must raise them well and fulfill my duty as a mother. Moreover, as Ruirui and the others have grown, they've all truly turned out wonderful!

Also, I've never thought about burdening the kids. In the future, when Luo Yanqing and I are old, we'll just live our lives supporting each other. When we can't move anymore, we'll make all arrangements ourselves, not to trouble the kids."

Old Lady Li was surprised: "Aren't you thinking a bit too far ahead?"

Kang Li laughed: "Isn't it because you asked, so I just casually shared my thoughts."

"Sigh!" Old Lady Li sighed with a bit of embarrassment, saying: "As we age, we tend to talk more. It seems I've asked you too much today, don't take offense!"

Waving her hand, Kang Li smiled and said: "Not at all. We're just having a chat, and besides, you only speak so casually because you don't see me as an outsider."

"You speak so well, young girl!"

Old Lady Li's eyes were full of affection, with no trace of awkwardness left. She smiled and said: "I almost forgot to tell you the name of my student..."

Upon hearing this, Kang Li assumed a listening posture.

Old Lady Li: "His name is Xiao Shen. His temperament is quite like Little Luo's. Even his brows and eyes bear a slight resemblance."

"Really? Then I must pay attention when I meet him." Kang Li said this, and unconsciously glanced in the direction of Elder Loh's study. Seeing this, Old Lady Li asked: "What's the matter?"

Chapter 998

Kang Li blinked her beautiful, clear fox eyes and whispered, "Luo Yanqing is so jealous. If he hears Auntie mentioning other men to me and hears what I just said, he'll definitely get upset with me later."

"..."

After a moment of surprise, Old Lady Li burst into laughter, "Why don't I believe that?"

Kang Li's eyes were cunning, "Then you must have been fooled by his appearance!" Hearing this, Old Lady Li immediately laughed out loud, "Aren't you afraid that Little Luo will be angry if he hears you say that?"

Kang Li replied without hesitation, "It's fine."

"Why? Is Little Luo afraid to lose his temper with you?" Old Lady Li teased.

"It's not that he doesn't dare, it's that he won't."

Kang Li's fox-like eyes were full of amusement as she said, "Luo Yanqing has never even argued with me."

Old Lady Li said, "Little Luo is really good to you!"

"Uncle Loh is also very good to Auntie, I can see that!" Kang Li's voice was sweet and soft, with a touch of playfulness. Looking at her, Old Lady Li felt a deep envy for Captain Kang's old couple and said, "Your parents are very fortunate to have such a wonderful daughter like you."

Kang Li said, "It's me who is fortunate to be their daughter."

Over here, Old Lady Li chatted merrily with Kang Li, while over there, Xiao Shen, the pride mentioned in front of Kang Li, was both agitated and angry.

"I told you not to show up in front of me again!"

"What you want to say is your freedom; whether or not I listen is mine. Now you should answer me, why didn't you take me with you to North City for New Year?"

"Take you with me? What is our relationship that I have to take you?"

"I'm your fiancée!"

"If you're sick, go see a doctor."

"I'm not sick!"

The woman stood opposite Xiao Shen, looking somewhat neurotic, she said, "I worked hard to prepare a feast for New Year's Eve, yet you left me alone in Hu City while you went back to North City for New Year by yourself. Do you know how upset I was then?"

"No one stopped you from going to North City for New Year. Besides, it's my own home I'm returning to, do I need to notify you?"

Xiao Shen's brows were nearly knotted in frustration. He had originally planned to stay in Hu City for New Year like every other year, but his elder brother called and said their father had declared,

if he didn't come home, he would no longer consider him a son. Helplessly, he had to rush back before New Year's Eve, but what did that have to do with anyone else?

"Not taking me back is your fault!" The woman held back her heartache and suddenly asked, "Did you find it surprising to see me today?"

Xiao Shen remained silent.

The woman continued uninterrupted, "I told you, you can't get rid of me. Now I'm also an employee at this university, and the house assigned to me is not far from yours."

Indeed, Xiao Shen had moved to Hu City after the New Year and was living in the faculty housing of the university where he was to work.

However, the apartment he was assigned was exactly thirty-five square meters. Though small, it was spacious enough for one person.

"Why are you doing this to yourself?"

Having grown up as childhood sweethearts, although he didn't like her, he always treated her like a sister. After all, the relationship between their families was evident, but because of this, he was always considerate when entangled with such a person.

Perhaps precisely because of this, she never gave up over the years, always hoping he would acknowledge their so-called engagement.

Chapter 999

As his thoughts wandered to this point, Xiao Shen felt a headache and pinched his brow, asking, "What do you like about me? Tell me, and I'll change, won't that be enough?"

"I like you as a person. No matter how you change, I will only like you!"

The woman was very persistent.

"In your life, is there really nothing else to do?" Xiao Shen's expression was cold as he sat on the nearby sofa, his deep eyes fixed on the woman.

The woman looked resolute: "There is only one thing I want to do in this life, and that is to marry you!"

Hearing this, Xiao Shen truly wanted to pry open her head to see what kind of obsession made her determined to marry him. He was silent for a while, then said, "Let me tell you, I will not marry again until I die."

"Then I'll just stay single with you." The woman seemed determined: "I mean what I say!"

Xiao Shen stared at her for a long time and then said, "The country is so big. Do you really think that if I wanted to hide from you, you could find me?"

Before the woman could respond, Xiao Shen added, "But I haven't done that. It's not an opportunity for you; it's because I don't think it's necessary. After all, you're a person, not a natural disaster. But I really have no romantic feelings for you. Can't you let me go?"

"You have no romantic feelings for me, then who do you have them for? Is it only for your wife who passed away years ago? If so, how do you explain what you've done with that young girl surnamed Luo?"

"Don't speak nonsense here!"

"You think I'm talking nonsense? Am I really talking nonsense? Xiao Shen, deep down you know better than anyone. Can you swear that nothing happened between you and that girl surnamed Luo?"

"Do I need to prove anything to you?"

"I say you're too afraid to swear!"

"Feng Lu! You need to wake up. A girl's reputation is more important than anything. I don't care how you slander me, but if you dare to recklessly attack a young girl's reputation, don't blame me for going to Uncle Feng!"

Xiao Shen's face was stern, and his gaze was incredibly sharp and cold.

"I'm not called Feng Lu! I haven't been Feng Lu for a long time! Because of you, Feng Lu is already a dead person, and has been for many years. Xiao Shen, listen closely, since seven years ago I've been Mei Lu, and now and in the future, I will only be Mei Lu!"

The woman's real name was indeed Feng Lu, her current name was Mei Jie, and the surname Mei was from her deceased birth mother's surname.

"I think your whole family is crazy! I really don't know what Uncle Feng is thinking, letting you run wild like this!" Xiao Shen was very doubtful of the Feng family's character based on Feng Lu's behavior, and couldn't understand why his family was close with the Feng family.

"What do you mean by that? My dad just loves me and wants to fulfill my love, yet you speak disrespectfully of my dad and my family. Xiao Shen, in your eyes, do you still consider my dad an elder?"

Feng Lu accused painfully.

"Just leave."

Waving his hand, Xiao Shen dismissed her; he didn't want to waste his breath on a woman who couldn't get her priorities straight.

Unexpectedly, Feng Lu actually left without hesitation.

Seeing this, Xiao Shen was somewhat surprised.

To his surprise, at around nine o'clock the next day, just as Xiao Shen was leaving through the school gates with a gift, a figure followed him. The figure was Feng Lu, wearing a red woolen coat, trailing not too far behind him, and squeezed into the same bus as him.

She wanted to see where Xiao Shen was going, actually worried about Xiao Shen's interactions with other women,

Chapter 1000:

In short, ever since Feng Lu came to Hu City and stayed by Xiao Shen's side, she's been overly suspicious, not wishing for any female presence around Xiao Shen aside from her—even if it's just a female mosquito!

As one stop after another went by and seeing that Xiao Shen was finally about to get off, Feng Lu tried hard to hide herself among the crowd, fearing that Xiao Shen would discover she was following him.

“Mom, where are we going?”

Kang Li held the hands of the twins as they walked out of the courtyard, with Luo Yanqing carrying Xiao Loh En behind her, and Min Rui walking beside Luo Yanqing. Zhou Heng and Zhang Lei walked last, planning to go shopping.

After all, Hu City is a big city. Now that we’re here, not walking around would seem like a wasted opportunity!

Okay, it was Kang Li who said that.

“Taking you guys out for a stroll,” Kang Li replied, then teased Ming Han, “If you don’t want to go, Mom will send you back to Grandpa Loh’s house.”

Ming Han shook his head like a rattle drum, “I want to go, I want to go! I want to go shopping with Mom and Dad!”

“Mom, I think Second Brother doesn’t want to go. Let’s just let him go back to Grandpa Loh’s house by himself!” Ming Wei chimed in to undermine her brother Ming Han.

Upon hearing this, Ming Han glared at his sister, “Luo Mingwei, are you trying to rebel?”

Ming Wei: “Nyah nyeh nyeh...”

Kang Li laughed out loud, “Can’t you two go a day without bickering?”

“Mom, I don’t even care to argue with Luo Minghan!” This was Ming Wei’s voice, followed promptly by Ming Han’s cold snort, “You think I care?”

Ming Wei: “How would I know!”

Ming Han suddenly quoted, “Only women and petty people are hard to deal with!”

Ming Wei: “Mom is a woman too. Looks like you’re asking for trouble!”

“I didn’t mean Mom, stop trying to stir things up!” That annoying sister, the older she gets, the less cute she becomes—is she trying to be his arch-enemy?

Ming Han thought to himself angrily.

"I'm not stirring anything up, you're the one who said it!" Ming Wei retorted confidently.

Min Rui coughed at that point, saying unemotionally, "We're outside, can't you two be a bit quieter?"

"We can." Ming Han answered firmly, then he told Ming Wei, "Since you're a girl, I, with a prime minister's tolerance, won't fuss over it with you."

Ming Wei said proudly, "As if I care to argue with you!"

"Luo Yanqing, did you hear that? Our Hanhan knows quite a bit. There's 'only women and petty people are hard to deal with' and then 'a prime minister's tolerance allows him to sail a boat', and he uses idioms so well. Who do you think he takes after?"

"You."

Luo Yanqing answered without hesitation.

Kang Li was momentarily stunned, then burst out laughing, "Really?"

Luo Yanqing: "Yes." He slightly curled the corners of his lips, his phoenix eyes filled with amusement.

While Ming Han and Ming Wei were bickering, someone walked past Kang Li and the others. It was none other than Xiao Shen.

Hearing the twins' conversation and glancing at Kang Li and Luo Yanqing, a trace of envy flashed in Xiao Shen's eyes.

If his wife had not died in childbirth, resulting in the loss of both mother and child, his current life would surely be happy as well, going out with his wife and children. Such a life, just thinking about it feels so warm.

As Xiao Shen brushed past Luo Yanqing, he took another look at the Xiao Loh En in Luo Yanqing's arms, thinking the child's eyes looked very familiar, but couldn't recall who they resembled at the moment.

Xiao Loh En was wearing an earflap hat, a mask, and a scarf, with only a pair of round almond eyes exposed. When he noticed someone looking at him, the little guy must have been either timid or shy, quickly burying his head into his Godfather Luo Yanqing's shoulder.