

The 80s 1031

Chapter 1031: Someone Still Remembers Her

"Sure enough, she's improved. Look at that overflowing smile. Tsk tsk, if you didn't know the truth, who would guess this delicate beauty is mentally disturbed?"

"Even more unfathomable now!"

At a certain window, two people were discussing the woman they saw, none other than Qi Taiguo and Ning Ge.

Cheng Su's office had a great location, on the second floor, just enough to see the entrance of the restaurant, so the two had a clear view of Chiang Qing's every move.

"Who's that old man?" Qi Taiguo noticed the old man with a rosy face next to Chiang Qing. Was it his imagination?

The way the old man looked at Chiang Qing, his gaze was really quite interesting!

"The provincial secretary from Yanjing, he's got quite a connection with the Loo Family. Just last year, Old Master Loo helped Jiang Conghe make a connection." Ning Ge explained, "Chiang Qing could only get into that department through this old man's influence."

"Hmm?"

Ning Ge then explained the complex relationships in the Capital, who was whose lifesaver, and how pathways were made: "These connections always link one after the other, extending continuously, just like factions in the ancient court."

Qi Taiguo nodded.

"Let's go, there's nothing worth watching. If the Chiang and Loo families fall, Chiang Qing won't have anywhere to go either." Ning Ge withdrew his gaze and sat back down.

Qi Taiguo gave Chiang Qing a deep look before finally letting down the curtain.

As if by telepathy, Chiang Qing sensed a gaze falling upon her, so intense it made her uncomfortable and uneasy.

She looked towards the source of the gaze, but there was no one, not a single person, only an open window on the second floor with the curtains gently swaying in the breeze.

Chiang Qing tilted her head slightly. Was she mistaken?

"Xiao Chiang, let's go!" Secretary Gao noticed the fragrance around him vanished and stopped in his tracks. Seeing Chiang Qing still standing there with her brows furrowed, he asked with concern, "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

"It's nothing, just a moment of distraction!" Chiang Qing smiled.

"Welcome." Qiulan stood at the entrance with two attendants greeting guests, her waist almost bent at ninety degrees. As she raised her head and saw Chiang Qing, her smile froze, and her expression changed slightly but quickly resumed a nonchalant smile.

What's going on, how come Military Doctor Chiang would appear here?

Chiang Qing noticed Qiulan's expression, smirked slightly, thinking that at least someone remembered her!

Was Cheng Su here too?

The group followed Qiulan into a prepared private room. The interior was freshly decorated, with a warm arrangement. In front of each seat's tableware was a name card of the dining guests, and Secretary Gao, of course, sat at the main seat.

The group seated according to hierarchy, Secretary Gao noticed Chiang Qing's name was placed rather far and said, "Xiao Chiang, sit by me."

Accompanying them was the mayor from Qing City. Upon hearing this, discerning the implication, he immediately switched his place with Chiang Qing.

Qiulan saw this, feeling slightly shocked, glanced at Chiang Qing, then served tea and handed out warm hand towels to everyone.

The towel came to Chiang Qing. She took it, raised her head to look at Qiulan, and smiled slightly: "Qiulan, long time no see. I remember you are Qiulan, right? Platoon Leader Lu's sister-in-law?"

Qiulan was slightly stunned, smiled and nodded: "Hello!"

Secretary Gao looked curious and asked, "Does Xiao Chiang know this Director too?"

"Secretary Gao, don't you remember? I used to be a military doctor at the military district here. I not only know this Director Li, but also the owner of this restaurant!" Chiang Qing gave a sweet smile and looked at Qiulan again: "By the way, is your boss here today?"

Chapter 1032: Another Confrontation

It's here.

Cheng Su listened to Qiulan's urgent words, her eyes slightly narrowed. She had long known that Chiang Qing would not 'forget' her, but she didn't expect her to be so eager, summoning her as soon as she sat down.

"I got it, you go over there and take care of things and make sure to pay attention to the service details," Cheng Su said to Qiulan.

Qiulan knew what Chiang Qing had done before, and now that she was specifically asking to see Cheng Su, it was clearly with bad intentions, coming with ill motives. She worriedly said, "Why don't you just not go over, Sister Su? I can say you had something come up and left?"

"No worries, I know what I'm doing, just go get busy!" Cheng Su replied.

Seeing her like this, Qiulan could only anxiously return to the private room and get back to work.

Cheng Su knew Qiulan was worried about her, including the two downstairs who said they were here to look over the place, all afraid she would fall for Chiang Qing's tricks.

But the more public the setting, the safer Cheng Su felt, and for this reason, she also wanted to see how much Chiang Qing had improved and to what extent?

Chiang Qing wanted to see her, she could go, but not at Chiang Qing's beck and call.

Cheng Su went to the kitchen to take a look, everything was well prepared, so she returned to the second-floor office with peace of mind.

When Qi Taiguo and the others saw her come in, they stood up and asked in unison, "How is it?"

Seeing their tense expressions, Cheng Su smiled, went to her seat, took out her makeup bag, and said, "Looking at you all nervous, people would think I was going to see the head of state!"

"Don't joke around, we just saw Chiang Qing through the window, she's become more enigmatic," Qi Taiguo said with a frown.

Cheng Su replied, "She's been thinking about me, just sat down and said she wanted to see me, wants to 'reminisce' with me!"

"Don't go!"

"Who does she think she is, that she can see you just like that!"

Qi Taiguo and Ning Ge said in unison.

Cheng Su took out a small mirror and lipstick, carefully touched up her makeup, pressed her lips together, and said, "No problem, I also want to see what she's capable of!"

Qi Taiguo furrowed his brow deeply, and his face darkened slightly.

"Don't worry, the more public this setting, the less she'll do to me, she just wants to show me that she's back!" Cheng Su said.

Qi Taiguo hesitated for a moment and said, "Is there another private room on the third floor, arrange one for us over there!"

Cheng Su, being smart, immediately understood what he meant, which was nothing more than the possibility of something happening, so they could arrive in time!

"Sorry, today's private rooms are all booked, so many people have come, there aren't enough private rooms!" Cheng Su shrugged, saying, "You guys sit tight, I'll go meet her."

"Be careful!"

Qi Taiguo reminded her from behind.

Cheng Su made an OK gesture and left the room.

Chiang Qing had been staring at the private room's door, half an hour had passed, and Cheng Su still hadn't shown up. Could she be scared?

She huffed to herself.

At this moment, the lock sounded, and Qiulan came in, smiling and saying, "Our President Cheng has come to greet everyone!"

Chiang Qing's eyes immediately shifted over, and Cheng Su appeared in high heels, smiling, her hair up, revealing her slender neck, adorned with a thin necklace holding a small pendant.

"Mayor Zhang, hello... hello," Cheng Su came in, greeting everyone she knew one by one.

Ying Jian was also there and introduced her to Secretary Gao.

Secretary Gao, intrigued, looked at Cheng Su and shook her hand gently.

"Madam Qi, long time no see!" Chiang Qing, standing next to Secretary Gao, extended her hand to Cheng Su.

"Miss Chiang, long time no see!" Cheng Su's lips curled up as she shook her hand.

Finally, they met again, and once more, they were ready to clash.

Chapter 1033: Turned Into a Beautiful Puppet Doll

A simple "long time no see" seemed to pull the two women back to a year ago, with scene after scene of confrontation, repeated clashing, and indescribable pain and bitterness, all because of each other.

Looking at Cheng Su in front of her, after a year of not seeing her, it seemed as if time had particularly favored her, leaving not a trace, and instead making her appear more charming and dignified.

Cheng Su's face was not stunning, yet it radiated light. Was it because of love, because of happiness?

Within Chiang Qing, the jealousy and hatred in her blood boiled, screaming out, wanting to tear off that face. Why was she in hell, while Cheng Su stood above smiling?

They should all be in hell together, the three of them.

While Chiang Qing was scrutinizing Cheng Su, Cheng Su was also appraising her.

She wore long pants and a trench coat, with perfectly applied makeup, her red lips slightly curled up. She looked very capable and elegant, yet also charming, her lips slightly curving, her face betraying no emotion.

Chiang Qing had changed; her face appeared more radiant, but she wasn't sure if it was because of makeup. It always seemed that beneath that radiant face was a visage full of ruins, just a beautiful puppet doll.

The old Chiang Qing, gorgeous and beautiful, was coldly arrogant and proud, with the temperament of The Proud Daughter of Heaven. Although she was arrogant, she was full of blood, flesh, and soul.

Now, she was more radiant, her demeanor appearing more genteel and soft, but she was missing a soul, that arrogant and cold soul. So she looked like a beautiful puppet.

No one present noticed anything unusual about Chiang Qing, seeing how beautifully and softly she smiled!

But Cheng Su knew she was furious, she was always jealous. Just from the increasingly forceful grip of her hand, it was clear she was struggling to suppress her true emotions.

Cheng Su slightly lowered her head with a smile. She had changed, becoming more subtle in her expressions, but deep down, she hadn't changed at all. Oh, perhaps she had become more twisted?

In any case, maintaining composure was indeed a skill Chiang Qing had honed over time.

"Look at this, Director Chiang and President Cheng standing together, like two lovely flowers, so beautiful that you can't look away!" Someone broke the probing tension between the two by speaking up.

Hands released, Cheng Su placed one hand over her own, smiling, "You're joking, how could I compare to Director Chiang? I'm just a married woman now, while she is a stunning beauty!"

"Whether you can compare or not is not up to President Cheng, why not let Secretary Gao decide, which of these two flowers is more outstanding?" someone glanced at Secretary Gao.

At social gatherings, such joking comments were not uncommon, especially at such official banquets, they were inevitable.

In her past life, Cheng Su had heard such jokes countless times. She was already impervious to them and merely smiled them away.

But it was different for Chiang Qing. She was The Proud Daughter of Heaven, and listening to these suggestive words always felt particularly jarring. Yet she showed not a hint on her face, only slightly lowered her head, curling her lips into a shy smile, masking the flash of anger in her eyes.

Secretary Gao glanced at Chiang Qing, then at Cheng Su, smiling, "Each has their merits, one is a peony, the other an orchid, both outstanding!"

"So does the Secretary prefer peonies or orchids more?" the person continued.

Secretary Gao smiled without answering.

Someone accompanying them said, "You might not know, but Secretary Gao learned Chinese painting from a famous master and is skilled at painting peonies, which are highly sought after!"

"Oh? So that means a preference for peonies!"

Secretary Gao humbly smiled and waved his hand, Cheng Su also smiled, yet her eyes quickly flashed, glancing at Chiang Qing. She too was smiling, but her hands were clenched!

Chapter 1034: What Is Her Motive for Building Up Her Reputation?

At the social event, Cheng Su had lost count of how many she had attended. Presently, she was surrounded by city and inter-provincial business magnates. Although Cheng Su was reluctant to face Chiang Qing, she had no choice but to sit down and engage in the pleasantries.

Be it by accident or design, someone had arranged for Cheng Su to sit to the right of Secretary Gao, while on his left was Chiang Qing.

The fragrant aroma of refined wine had already graced the table. Cheng Su inquired Secretary Gao's preference, then nodded towards Qiulan. In just a moment, the dishes began arriving one by one.

Since guests had come from afar, Cheng Su was obliged to introduce the dishes to those present, detailing the ingredients used, the culinary process, and whatnot, explaining everything in great detail.

Secretary Gao listened and nodded secretly in approval. His eyes showed satisfaction as he glanced at the plate of vinegar-soaked garlic slices in front of his seat.

So young, yet possessing such meticulousness and determination, indeed rare qualities. Catching sight of her smile, which was neither fawning nor deliberately flattering, he found her words truly apt.

No wonder Xiao Chiang had lost to this woman.

Secretary Gao took a sip of tea, smiling slightly. Last year, Old Master Loo had introduced Jiang Conghe to him for assistance; he knew the reasoning behind the matter. He had a rough understanding that it was merely youthful impetuosity, blinded by first love.

And now, isn't Xiao Chiang taking it all in stride?

"Secretary Gao, you wouldn't know; President Cheng is quite a remarkable woman!" Chiang Qing smiled and told Secretary Gao.

"Oh?"

"Do you know the origins of this restaurant?" Chiang Qing chuckled, "Initially, it was just a small eatery. I heard that President Cheng started by selling meals from a vendor cart, and then she expanded to open this restaurant. Within just two years, it reached its current scale. Tell me, isn't she remarkable? I heard she's also engaged in other businesses. Oh, she should be a college student by now?"

Hearing the word "college student," Secretary Gao was slightly surprised and looked towards Cheng Su.

Cheng Su smiled modestly and did not dare to accept such praise.

However, Ying Jian present did not miss the opportunity to boost her image, praising how her company engaged in philanthropy and won awards, not to mention her avid learning, showering compliments upon her.

Cheng Su just laughed, "Deputy Mayor Ying, your praise makes me break out in a sweat. I am just a small-time businesswoman, not nearly as exceptional as you say!"

Everyone laughed, saying she was being modest.

Cheng Su laughed too, though inwardly she was vigilant: Why was Chiang Qing trying to create such a momentum for her?

"Secretary Gao, isn't she remarkable? You must let President Cheng toast you with two cups!" Chiang Qing smiled, casting a glance at Cheng Su.

Cheng Su smiled at her as well.

Once the chopsticks started moving, the wine began to flow. Cheng Su only sipped a couple of times.

"President Cheng, surely you're not disrespecting Secretary Gao with just a sip? I remember you can hold your liquor well," Chiang Qing intentionally laughed.

"Director Chiang, you might not know, but our President Cheng is seriously preparing to have a child now. Even when dining with us, it's rare that she can be persuaded to have a drink." Someone from the city laughed and revealed Cheng Su's situation, saying, "She's doing her duty for the country by nurturing talent; otherwise, she wouldn't get away with it!"

Having a child!

Chiang Qing's expression slightly changed, her hand holding the small wine cup trembled gently, spilling some of the wine.

They are going to have a child?

Cheng Su noticed, smiling slightly, though the smile didn't reach her eyes, and a fleeting hint of coldness passed through instead.

Chiang Qing's stiffness lasted but a moment. She smiled, approached Cheng Su, and said, "President Cheng, congratulations to you. I toast you, you decide how much to drink."

Cheng Su stood up and clinked her glass lightly against hers.

Chiang Qing downed her drink in one, tilting her glass, but as if she had drunk too much, she stumbled towards Cheng Su.

Chapter 1035: I Will Take Everything From You

Chiang Qing leaned toward her, and Cheng Su quickly supported her with a steady hand, though her grip was slightly stiff and her gaze was cold, but in an instant, she was standing firm.

"Is Director Chiang already drunk?" Cheng Su smiled sweetly, "What should we do? The bottle's not even halfway through!"

"There's nothing I can do about a low tolerance!" Chiang Qing laughed as she patted her head, then returned to her seat.

Cheng Su also sat down, poured Secretary Gao another glass of wine, watched him turn to inquire about Chiang Qing, and smiled slightly as she picked up her teacup and toasted the person next to her.

The teacup concealed the coldness at the corners of her lips. Just as Chiang Qing leaned over, she swiftly whispered in her ear: Can you really still have children for him?

Was Chiang Qing reminding her of last year's incident?

Or was she deliberately trying to hurt her? Or perhaps it was out of jealousy and a curse?

"Looks like I've had a bit too much too. President Cheng, can you accompany me to the restroom?" Chiang Qing looked at Cheng Su and said.

"Qiulan, go prepare some sober-up soup." Cheng Su quickly instructed, then looked at Chiang Qing, "Director Chiang, this way, please."

Chiang Qing stood up and followed her out of the room.

In the new restaurant, Cheng Su, following a 21st-century design, assigned separate restrooms for men and women. She walked Chiang Qing to the door, then stopped.

Chiang Qing didn't mind, thanked her, and walked in.

Cheng Su stood by the sink waiting. After a while, Chiang Qing came out, washing her hands under the faucet while looking at her in the mirror.

"Didn't expect I'd set foot on this land again, did you?" Chiang Qing said to Cheng Su in the mirror.

Cheng Su smiled, "Yes, indeed!"

Chiang Qing flicked the droplets from her hands, glanced at her, and said, "I didn't expect it either."

She walked up to Cheng Su, looking at her face, then down to her abdomen, and said, "About the past, I'm sorry. If it weren't for that incident, you'd probably be a mother by now."

Why does she keep bringing up last year's incident? What exactly is she trying to do?

In her heart, Cheng Su heightened her guard. Just by seeing Chiang Qing talk about the past with such composure, it was clear she was different from before, making her hard to read. No wonder Taiguo and the others were on high alert. Such a Chiang Qing indeed makes people uneasy.

She smiled and said, "The one who should apologize is your mother, right? But if apologies were enough, what would we need the law for? I always believe that what goes around comes around, and this world has its justice, don't you think?" She would not accept such an apology!

The smile at Chiang Qing's lips gradually faded, and she said, "Do you know? What I hate most is your smile, pretending nothing happened, it's disgustingly fake. Hasn't Qi Taiguo noticed your two-faced nature?"

Couldn't hold back anymore, huh?

Cheng Su smiled, alerted a passing waitress that her hairstyle was crooked and needed fixing, and only after she walked away did she look at Chiang Qing, "I'm sorry, what did you just say? I didn't quite catch that."

"You... Cheng Su, don't get too complacent!" Chiang Qing's gaze turned cold, as she slowly approached Cheng Su, her voice seeming to whisper in her ear, "The humiliation and pain I received from you in the past, I will repay tenfold. Everything you have, I will slowly take away. Just you wait."

With that, she barged past Cheng Su's shoulder and went back to the private room.

Cheng Su watched her back, her smile fading, with a glint of coldness in her eyes, as if her heart was enveloped in frost, piercingly cold and severe.

Chapter 1036: Whatever She Throws at Us, We'll Handle It

Cheng Su stood at the door, personally escorting the group of honored guests to their cars. As the car slowly moved, she saw Chiang Qing's eerie smile cast her way and couldn't help but tighten her face.

When the cars were completely out of sight, her shoulders finally slumped, and she let out a long sigh.

This kind of reception, especially facing Chiang Qing, was like fighting a hard battle.

Fortunately, everything went smoothly without any incidents, except for Chiang Qing throwing a few cold remarks at her.

After the banquet, naturally, someone else handled the cleanup. Cheng Su, after a busy day, was already exhausted. She returned to the office, where Qi Taiguo and the others greeted her.

"Are you okay? You look really tired," Qi Taiguo pulled her over to sit down, looking concerned.

"It's fine," Cheng Su sat down, saying, "Everyone's gone."

"Tell me, what did Chiang Qing say?" Ning Ge was still uneasy about Chiang Qing.

Cheng Su took the water handed by Qi Taiguo, took a sip, and then recounted her confrontation with Chiang Qing in detail.

Taking everything that belonged to her!

Ning Ge and Qi Taiguo both furrowed their brows.

"Don't worry, I'm here!" Qi Taiguo firmly held her gaze, speaking in a deep voice, with a hint of menace flashing in his eyes.

Cheng Su patted his hand and smiled slightly.

Ning Ge tapped the table, saying, "It seems she still hasn't given up."

Cheng Su gave a bitter smile.

"What do you think she's planning to do?" Qi Taiguo looked at Ning Ge.

Ning Ge stood up, paced back and forth, arms crossed over his chest, and after a while said, "I can't figure it out. But saying those things, it's nothing but trying to hit. What does sister-in-law have? A few small businesses, she wants to suppress them? Or perhaps, ultimately, it's still about you?"

Qi Taiguo's face darkened.

Cheng Su glanced resentfully at Qi Taiguo, her eyes silently accusing him of causing all this trouble.

Qi Taiguo felt equally innocent; he hadn't given any wrong signals. If his existence was the mistake, then he accepted it!

Everyone remained silent.

The atmosphere was oppressively stifling, and finally, Ning Ge said, "Don't think too much. If there's a move, we'll handle it. After all, Chiang Qing is only here for research and inspection for a few days. She usually stays far away in the Capital. She relies on the Loo Family and Jiang Conghe, making it inconvenient to do much."

His words were meant to reassure the two of them.

But Cheng Su thought of the socializing at the banquet and said, "What if she had one more to rely on?"

"Hmm?"

Cheng Su then recounted Chiang Qing's interaction with Secretary Gao. It wasn't that she had a wicked mind, but she always felt Secretary Gao was quite warm and appreciative of Chiang Qing.

If Chiang Qing used a bit of her charm...

Cheng Su frowned slightly. For someone with power wanting to do something, it becomes much easier, whereas she is just a businesswoman.

"No way, from what I know, Gao Hongbo is very cautious. He's retiring next year, so he won't do anything that doesn't benefit him," Ning Ge said.

"But since ancient times, heroes have struggled to resist beauties," Cheng Su didn't quite agree with him, saying that some people, faced with beauty, can forget all morals and shame.

"Do you think Chiang Qing would sacrifice her charm to target you? Her mind is always on Big Brother Qi," Ning Ge said. "Unless absolutely necessary, she won't do it, and with everything she has available now, it's enough. It's true Secretary Gao has power, but her father is also a distinguished Commander."

Chapter 1037: If You Can't Win, Run

In terms of power, Jiang Conghe's official position is several times greater than Qi Taiguo's. In terms of money, there is the wealthy Loo Family. To be honest, if Chiang Qing were a bit smarter and used all her strength to crush them, Cheng Su and the others might indeed be reduced to dust.

Previously, why did she fail? It's simply because of her arrogance and pride, not fully utilizing the resources she had. Frankly speaking, it's because she was foolish.

Now, if Chiang Qing comes to her senses and stops being foolish, whether she'll take Cheng Su and the others by surprise is still an open question!

Listening to Ning Ge's harsh analysis, Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo only felt the dark clouds over their heads growing thicker, as if completely engulfed, with a bleak future ahead.

The situation is not as strong as others, causing a deep sense of powerlessness in both of them.

Qi Taiguo's face turned green.

Ning Ge, realizing this as well, looked a bit worried. This means they really need to step up and bring down the Loo and Chiang families.

Seeing their gloomy expressions, Cheng Su really disliked this oppressive atmosphere. She clapped her hands and said, "Alright, look at you two worrying. If I were Chiang Qing, I'd just say a few words to make you all anxious. Seeing you worry like this would make me as happy as a flower."

Ning Ge and Qi Taiguo both glared at her.

"Now's not the time for jokes, do you know she..."

"I know!" Cheng Su interrupted Qi Taiguo. "I know she's more powerful than us, she has authority and wealth, and she can have us at her mercy. But so what? As long as she's not insane and doesn't kill us, there's nothing to fear. As for my possessions, they're just business, and you. Wealth is external; if she can take it, then be my guest. The law of the jungle—I understand that. And without those things, I can earn again."

"As for you, even less to worry about. If she could get you and have you in her palm, then there'd be no problem at all. If she had such ability, you would already belong to her. So, no need to fret; let her make the move, I'll take it. As long as we're fine, that's what matters," Cheng Su continued.

She had decided that if they lost, it wouldn't be because they were afraid, but because their abilities weren't enough, their situation wasn't strong enough.

In this world, survival of the fittest is a rule they must accept.

So, if Chiang Qing really comes to crush them, let her, if they can confront it, they will, if not, then retreat.

Isn't there a saying, if you can't win, run?

If they truly can't win, then they'll run. As long as they're alive and fine, because people are the capital.

By preserving themselves, they maintain the possibility of a comeback. As long as Jiang Qing doesn't hire an assassin to kill, what does it matter if she takes their belongings?

Upon hearing her words, Qi Taiguo was stunned, and even Ning Ge was somewhat surprised.

"If you can't win, run. Although it sounds cowardly, it might just be a good strategy, a retreat to advance. Good, very good!" Ning Ge snapped his fingers. "Yes, you're right, people are the most important."

All their worries, isn't it because they're afraid of losing? But apart from people, is there anything they can't afford to lose?

Who knows if losing something means it can't be regained? One must have the heart to let go in order to stand undefeated.

"Though not afraid, what must be guarded against should be. We can't just let everything we've built with hard work be destroyed..." Ning Ge's eyes gleamed with determination. "What Chiang Qing can rely on is the Chiang and Loo families, so we'll make sure she can't rely on them."

Chapter 1038: Chiang Qing Is the Law

If you want to make Chiang Qing unable to rely on the resources she has at her disposal, then make what she relies on disappear. Even if it can't disappear for a while, it should be too busy to care about her.

Imagine if the Loo Family and Jiang Conghe encounter continuous troubles, would they follow Chiang Qing to stir up trouble for her? Would they ignore the big picture for the sake of her children's affairs?

If that's really the case, then the Loo and Jiang Families are just clueless and on the verge of downfall without needing to be dealt with.

Therefore, their main efforts should be focused on Jiang Conghe and the Loo Family. Once these two families are taken care of, Chiang Qing is nothing more than a toothless tiger.

"I need to return to Beijing immediately." Ning Ge came to a key realization and said to Cheng Su, "You will take charge of company affairs. We can communicate over the phone if there's anything."

His thoughts came out one after another, causing Cheng Su to almost lose the rhythm and foolishly nod.

It wasn't until Ning Ge had left that she responded and looked at Qi Taiguo, asking, "Does Ning Ge have a side that I'm unaware of?"

Qi Taiguo almost burst out laughing, coughed, and looked at her saying, "All you need to know is that he won't harm you or harm us!"

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, her mind filled with more doubts.

Qi Taiguo pulled her close and kissed her once, thinking that since Ning Ge would be handling matters, he couldn't afford to be idle either. Power is too important, so crucial that it can't be ignored. He must become strong, strong enough to make people hesitate to act easily.

...

"Xiao Chiang, do you have some worries that you can't figure out? You seem not very happy after eating, did you drink too much?"

Back at the guesthouse, Secretary Gao laughed and asked Chiang Qing, showing deep concern in a way that makes people lower their defenses.

Chiang Qing plastered a smile on her face and said, "I'm a bit dizzy from drinking. While you, Secretary, seem completely unfazed, you really have an impressive capacity!"

"I didn't drink much though, you see, drinking is all about knowing when enough is enough. Actually, it's the same with us humans: the moon waxes and wanes, water overflows when it's full, anything that reaches its extreme will decline. Xiao Chiang is still so young, you must understand this." Secretary Gao held a peony flower tea mug and smiled faintly, though upon closer inspection, his eyes were filled with deep meaning.

Chiang Qing laughed sweetly and teased, "That's how Secretary Gao is, seizing every chance to educate the young ones. Maybe next time I shouldn't call you Secretary, but Teacher instead?"

Secretary Gao let out a hearty laugh, patting her hand: "I was very close friends with your grandfather. I view you as my niece, of course I should guide you to the right path."

Chiang Qing's eyes flickered slightly. She teased again, "Then if this niece of yours were bullied, would Uncle Gao protect her?"

From Secretary to Uncle, from subordinate to niece, Chiang Qing rode the train of seizing opportunities with finesse.

"That depends on the situation. We're reasonable people, if you're standing on the right principle, feel free to come to Uncle. But Xiao Chiang, young people should look forward, not always backward, as that would only harm you without any benefit." Secretary Gao added another remark.

Chiang Qing playfully chimed, "You see, you're lecturing again. I shouldn't chat with you longer, you should rest for a while if there's still time, you'll be visiting another county this afternoon!"

Saying that, she turned to leave, and as she turned around, the playfulness and smile on her face completely disappeared.

What about standing on reason, she believes Chiang Qing is the reason, what does he know?

Secretary Gao watched her graceful back, shaking his head. Ah, young people must stumble a few times to learn and become sensible.

Chapter 1039: Fated Calamity

Knowing that Chiang Qing was active in Qing City these days, Qi Taiguo dared not relax. While instructing Cheng Su to be careful, he also tried his best to accompany her, knowing her whereabouts, which left Cheng Su at a loss whether to cry or to laugh.

But since the day Chiang Qing came by, Cheng Su hadn't seen her, nor had she heard of her appearing within her living range, as if the reception that day was just a dream.

Cheng Su wasn't one to dwell on such things. It was even better if Chiang Qing didn't show up; she was happy to be at ease.

The task of receiving the VIP guest at Joy Soon Loy was completed exceptionally well, almost without errors. The few minor mistakes were negligible, leaving Cheng Su very satisfied. Moreover, the other party expressed great satisfaction with Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, stating that there would be more opportunities for cooperation in such receptions in the future.

So, this time's VIP reception was a splendid battle since Joy Soon Loy Restaurant reopened.

To encourage everyone, Cheng Su held a motivational meeting and asked the kitchen staff to prepare a special dish for the staff meal, as a way to encourage and reward everyone for their work.

After taking stock of the performance since the reopening, which was steadily rising, Cheng Su was very happy, and the discomfort brought by Chiang Qing was also ignored.

So, where was Chiang Qing at this moment?

Chiang Qing had never been able to overcome the thoughts in her heart, leading her to the military base, wanting to see Qi Taiguo.

In March, the sky was drizzling. Chiang Qing stood under a tree not far from the military gate, holding a floral umbrella and wearing sunglasses, staring longingly at the entrance.

She hesitated, not daring to move forward, her mind racing about what excuse to make to see him, and what reason she had?

Taking a step forward, she suddenly recalled the scene from last year when Qi Taiguo was in training, and she secretly went to see him.

He was so cold, so indifferent, as if he completely ignored her, which made her both angry and heartbroken, and filled with hatred.

The more love, the more hate.

That saying was true; her feelings for Qi Taiguo were like that. The more she loved, the more she hated.

Love him, and hate him!

As she slowly stepped forward, suddenly, Chiang Qing's eyes brightened as she saw Qi Taiguo running out from the base.

Wearing a crisp military uniform, he was unfazed by the fine rain from the sky, with his lips slightly pressed and his face stern yet firm.

Chiang Qing's heart pounded fiercely; she thought her heart would never beat again, but it turned out it did, and only for him.

"Miss Chiang has a destined emotional calamity. If she can't get through it, she will fall eternally into Avici Hell..."

Lu Shufen, during her illness, took her to Dafa Temple to offer incense and draw divination sticks. The temple's diviner said so, angering Lu Shufen, who cursed him as a charlatan.

Chiang Qing, on the other hand, was very calm. An emotional calamity?

Could it be that Qi Taiguo was the calamity in her fate?

Chiang Qing stared blankly at Qi Taiguo, seeing him look ahead, the corners of his mouth lifted, eyes smiling.

Following his gaze, her face suddenly froze as she saw Cheng Su not far away, holding an umbrella and waving at him.

Qi Taiguo ran over, took her umbrella, and they exchanged words, with Cheng Su acting coyly as he gently stroked her hair, his expression full of affection.

Chiang Qing watched them walk away under the umbrella, away from her, her hand relaxed, and the umbrella fell. Her legs weakened, and she knelt on one knee, clutching her chest, gasping for breath.

If she couldn't get past this calamity and would forever fall into Avici Hell, then let's go together!

Chapter 1040: This Year Is 1987

Chiang Qing did not know how long she had been crouching in the rain, until a pair of military boots appeared in front of her, along with an umbrella over her head.

"Chiang... Doctor?"

Chiang Qing looked up, took off her sunglasses, and upon seeing the person in front of her, frowned slightly, but stood up.

"It really is you? Why are you crouching here?" Dong Jun reached out to help her up, speaking with a tone of pleasant surprise.

Just a moment ago he thought he had seen wrong, but it was truly her, The Proud Daughter of Heaven, Commander Chiang's daughter.

He thought he would never see her again in this lifetime, yet here she was again after all these years.

Dong Jun's eyes became enthusiastic once more, while Chiang Qing's eyes flickered upon seeing that look.

...

Qi Taiguo held Cheng Su close as they walked home, suddenly turning to look around.

"What's wrong?" Cheng Su looked at him with a face full of curiosity.

"It's nothing." Qi Taiguo's sharp gaze scanned around but saw nothing unusual, so he continued walking with her, chastising: "It's raining, why did you come to pick me up? It's still quite cold."

"Hehe, normally you're the one picking me up, let me pick you up this time. I saw it raining and thought you wouldn't bring an umbrella, so I came to get you!" Cheng Su said with a smile.

Qi Taiguo felt warm in his heart and couldn't help but give in, moving the umbrella more towards her, not minding that half of his own body was getting wet.

Cheng Su chattered on about the restaurant's growing business, then mentioned the Jam Company having conducted a charity event that made it into the newspaper, which opened up their reputation.

Qi Taiguo listened quietly and casually said: "Charity events are always positive and uplifting with good energy. This time you delivered to the five-guarantee households, next time, you could consider delivering to homes for the aged or orphanages; I bet the children would love these things!"

"Yes, back when I was at the orphanage..." Cheng Su accidentally blurted out, then abruptly stopped.

"What's wrong?" Qi Taiguo noticed her face change and she stood there, not moving.

"This year, is it 1987?" Cheng Su tightly gripped his hand, trembling slightly.

"Yes, what's up?" Qi Taiguo saw her face not only looking worse but also holding a trembling voice and hand, furrowing his brows he asked: "What's happened to you all of a sudden?"

Cheng Su took a deep breath, slightly curling the corner of her lips, and said: "Nothing, let's go home!"

She had forgotten, almost forgotten, that in April of 1987 in her past life, she had been abandoned at the doorstep of Guangcheng Orphanage, and later grew up with support from others. So who abandoned her, and why did they not want her?

In her previous life, she couldn't find the answer. In this life, she wanted to search for the answer herself. She wanted to know why they didn't want her.

But if she truly found herself, then who was she now?

Cheng Su's expression changed again and again. If she found the abandoned self, would she still grow up, would she still be that same self?

So who am I now?

Back home, Cheng Su was still immersed in her thoughts, her mind in a chaotic mess, unable to untangle the lines, the more she struggled, the tighter they seemed to wrap.

Qi Taiguo noticed something off with her, her face pale and somewhat panicked, his eyes couldn't help but reveal worry as he placed a cup of hot water into her palm.

Cheng Su was brought back to her senses by the warmth in her palm. Seeing his worried expression, she wanted to smile.

"If you don't feel like smiling then don't." Qi Taiguo held her shoulders and asked: "Susu, what happened? We are husband and wife, speak out, and let's solve it together, okay?"