

The 80s 1071

Chapter 1071: I'm Here to Invest

Cheng Su's proposal, after some contemplation, also made Little Yu quite tempted. After all, mining is indeed very tiring and dangerous. She had heard about people dying from mine collapses, so every time she went in, she was always trembling with fear.

But as for doing business, she had no such experience, let alone the capital for it.

Thinking of this, Little Yu awkwardly said, "I don't have the capital for doing business, and besides, I don't even know what to do!"

"As for the capital, sister-in-law, there's no need to rush. But sister-in-law, do you have any skills you're good at?" Cheng Su asked with a smile.

Little Yu shook her head and said, "I got married young and didn't study much. I used to work odd jobs and don't have any particular skills."

Cheng Su frowned.

"Hmm, does cooking count?" Little Yu thought for a moment and blushed slightly, "They all say I knead dough well and that my buns taste good. Back when Old Zheng was around, he especially loved the different stuffed buns I made!"

Cheng Su's eyes lit up and said, "That's great too! The food business never goes out of date. Other businesses might be eliminated with social development, but not food. After all, food is the priority for people. As long as your food tastes good, there will be customers and repeat customers. This way, you can ensure a steady stream of customers!"

Back then, didn't she start by selling meals?

"Really? But even if they say it's tasty, I don't know if it really is. Maybe they're just humoring me!" Little Yu said shyly.

"That's simple. Take some free time and make some for me to taste. Then we'll know if they're joking or not!" Cheng Su said slyly.

"My mom's buns are delicious. My brother and I can each eat five!" Niannian chimed in from the side.

"Wow, if Niannian says they're tasty, then they must really be good!" Cheng Su said, feigning surprise and delight.

Niannian gave a bashful smile.

Little Yu smiled and said, "Don't listen to the child's nonsense. She thinks everything is tasty as long as it doesn't smell bad."

Cheng Su laughed and said, "Kids don't lie!"

Little Yu gently looked at the child, then turned to Cheng Su, "Even if I make them well, I don't understand the business side of things, the money..."

"Sister-in-law, you will understand as you learn. Doing business is just about calculating costs, controlling costs, having the technical skills, and setting prices. If you don't understand, you have me as your teacher!" Cheng Su pointed at herself and said, "If you don't mind, I can teach you. As for the capital, it's not like Taiguo and I have much money, but we can always support you a bit!"

"How can that be good!" Little Yu was startled, "No, I can't accept that, I refuse!"

"Sister-in-law, don't turn it down. If you feel embarrassed, you can always give me a one or two percent stake in the business. I'll provide the funding, and the rest is up to you. By the end of the year, you can calculate the profit and give me my share!" Cheng Su had already thought it through. If Little Yu didn't want to accept, she'd use this way to persuade her. After all, starting a bun shop doesn't cost much.

As for the stake, consider it as an additional investment.

"Can it really be like this?" Little Yu was a bit surprised, not knowing such a thing was possible.

"Of course, that's called investment," Cheng Su said with a smile, "But keep in mind, investment means I only provide money. Regardless of profits or losses, I'll bear it, but I won't handle anything else. It's all up to you!"

Little Yu's heart started to beat faster after hearing this, and she bit her lip, "If, if it can be like this, then it's worth a try. I just don't know if anyone will buy."

Cheng Su knew she was tempted and smiled, "The real deal isn't afraid of the test of fire. Try it, and you'll find out!"

Chapter 1072: Agreement Reached

After getting a satisfactory answer from Little Yu, Cheng Su went back and told Qi Taiguo about it, suggesting using an investment for shares approach to assist, otherwise she wouldn't be willing to accept it.

"That sounds good." Qi Taiguo thought for a moment and said, "If it profits, you can get a share, consider it a successful investment. If it loses, then it's as if you've made a donation and the money won't come back."

"I think the same." Cheng Su said, "As for the loss, the probability should be small. After all, it's in the food business; as long as it's tasty and reasonably priced, it should sell well."

"Is she confident?" Qi Taiguo asked.

Cheng Su looked back at him and smiled, asking, "Don't you know? After all, she's your 'first love,' don't you know what talents she has?"

Qi Taiguo blushed, intentionally put on a stern face, and said, "Look at you, how can you talk like that? What first love? Don't make things up! Especially, don't joke about that over there!"

"I know, I'm just saying it here! You're no fun, can't joke with you at all, humph!" Cheng Su pouted.

"Alright, you do know about sister-in-law's status, do you think it's appropriate for joking?" Qi Taiguo chided.

Cheng Su playfully turned her hand into a cat's paw: "I was wrong!"

"I really can't handle you!" Qi Taiguo pinched her cheek and asked, "So when will you go and try her skills?"

"Trying her skills is easy, but finding a shop is what's important. You know, I have to go to Guangcheng these days, and opening a shop is not something that can be done overnight. I'm thinking of discussing and planning this with her when I get back from Guangcheng." Cheng Su said.

Qi Taiguo nodded, "That works too."

...

In a couple of days, Niannian recovered and was discharged from the hospital. Although she recovered, she was still weak and needed careful recuperation.

Qi Taiguo didn't have time to pick her up from the hospital, so Cheng Su went herself and also mentioned the shop opening plan to Little Yu.

"I have to go on a business trip these days, so the details will have to wait until I get back. Sister-in-law, if you have time, in the meantime, look around for a suitable place to open a bun shop, preferably in a busy area." Cheng Su said.

"Okay, you get on with your work first!" Little Yu responded quickly.

"In the meantime, take a good rest. You've been taking care of Niannian, and not taking care of yourself. This won't do. You need a healthy body to do anything, otherwise, getting sick all the time, you'll have no energy for big things." Cheng Su advised.

"You always come up with these words of wisdom." Little Yu blushed, "I'll listen to you, alright?"

Cheng Su stuck out her tongue and laughed, "Taiguo always says I'm a housekeeper, haha, don't mind it!"

Little Yu also laughed, "That's quite fitting indeed!" She has been smiling more these past few days, and chatting with Cheng Su felt comfortable.

Little Yu's family is not in Qing City, but in a place called Xinhua County nearby, about an hour and a half away from the city, so not much small talk was made. Cheng Su put them on the bus and went home.

When she got home, Qi Fenglian was there. After asking, she found out she was off today, and the house looked tidied up. Cheng Su said, "Big sister, if you're here, just be here, don't tidy the house, leave it to me!"

"I have nothing to do anyway, you're all busy. It's no problem for me to help tidy up a bit." Qi Fenglian smiled.

Cheng Su said, "Since you're resting, you might as well go out and about, or go shopping. Actually, you could take the opportunity to visit home and see the kids."

Qi Fenglian nodded absent-mindedly.

Noticing something was off, Cheng Su asked, "What's up? Do you have something on your mind, big sister?"

Chapter 1073: He Is the One Begging You

Cheng Su sat across from Qi Fenglian, looking at her expression, and said, "If there's any difficulty, big sister, you can tell me, and we can discuss how to resolve it."

Qi Fenglian was slightly flustered and forced a smile, "Ah, nothing, everything's fine!"

"Big sister."

Qi Fenglian seemed startled and then said, "It's nothing, just feeling annoyed!"

"Hmm?"

"Zhang Jisheng came to see me!" Qi Fenglian avoided looking at Cheng Su's eyes and said, "He came to Qing City to find a job and joined a renovation team. Now he's staying in a dormitory. After work, he comes to the shop every day to find me. Today, I'm here at your place to avoid him."

Cheng Su's face turned cold and asked, "What's he looking for you for? He still has the nerve to seek you out?"

"Nothing much, just talking about the kids. Seeing that I'm not living there anymore, he came to the shop," Qi Fenglian said. "He wants to remarry!"

"It's been less than half a year since the divorce, and he can't bear it already?" Cheng Su chuckled coldly, "What was he thinking back then?"

"He actually came around New Year's too, even had Xiao Yun act as a go-between," Qi Fenglian smiled self-deprecatingly. "When I was with him, he didn't cherish it. Now he's saying he can't manage without me, just like you said, what was he thinking back then!"

"Big sister, you're not going soft-hearted, are you?" Cheng Su squinted and asked.

"No!" Qi Fenglian quickly said, "I don't have that thought! It's just that he's persistent and it's annoying. What's even more annoying is that every time he brings up the kids!"

Cheng Su sneered and said, "He knows your weak spot, so he thinks he's got you. If you can't hold back, you'll likely be coaxed back by him and continue to slave away for the Zhang family!"

She had long known Zhang Jisheng would try to coax her back, and the Zhang family, probably finding life hard without someone to do all the hard work, it's truly laughable!

Qi Fenglian's face looked a bit displeased.

Cheng Su sighed and said, "I don't have much to say. If you think he's truly reformed and want to remarry, we don't really have a say."

"I'm not..." Qi Fenglian hastily defended.

"Big sister!" Cheng Su interrupted her and said, "We can't make decisions for you. Just hope you take a good look. Since you're already divorced, there's no rush to remarry. You now have two kids, a stable income that you control, without needing to consider anyone else's face, without preparing social obligations for anyone, isn't that comforting? Whether Zhang Jisheng has reformed, make sure of it before proceeding, the civil affairs bureau won't run away. But if it's the same issue causing two divorces, it would be pointless!"

Qi Fenglian understood the meaning behind her words, her face flushed red.

What Cheng Su meant was that if she remarried Zhang Jisheng and it didn't work out again, getting another divorce would be a joke.

Not just a joke, it might not even be possible to get divorced again.

"I know, just feel it's quite vexing." Qi Fenglian muttered.

"Annoyed or not, it's your decision. Big sister, remember, now it's Zhang Jisheng coming back to you, you really don't need to worry. Whatever happens will happen, and it's a chance to see if he's sincere, isn't it?" Cheng Su said. "Pursuing someone tests the most patience, truly. And you have the greatest

advantage because it's him, Zhang Jisheng, wanting to remarry, and needing you, as does the Zhang family, not you, Qi Fenglian."

Qi Fenglian was taken aback: "Is it him seeking me?"

Chapter 1074: Old Qi Scolds His Sister

When Qi Taiguo returned, Qi Fenglian was still deep in thought. Seeing her younger brother had come back, she greeted him briefly and then slipped back into her reverie.

Qi Taiguo found it strange and quietly asked Cheng Su, "What's going on?"

"You let her in with the key, don't you know what's on her mind?" Cheng Su replied with a slightly annoyed expression, "It's about Zhang Jisheng. He's come to Qing City for work and visits her every day after work, wanting to remarry her. She's quite troubled about it."

Qi Taiguo's face darkened upon hearing this and he said, "She better not be getting soft-hearted!"

Cheng Su lowered her voice and replied, "I think she might be a little."

Qi Taiguo's expression became even more displeased. Through gritted teeth, he said, "It hasn't even been long, and she's already this weak-willed! He did so much for her to get a divorce, and now it's been less than half a year, and she's thinking of remarrying, what a slap in the face!"

"Women are too soft-hearted!" Cheng Su glared at him and said, "Just leave it be. Everyone has her own choices. I've said what I needed to, and how she chooses is up to her. We can't decide!"

Qi Taiguo snorted through his nose, his face looking extremely displeased, but he listened to her and acted as if he didn't know.

During the meal, Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo casually mentioned Little Yu and the store opening, as a way to inform him, which was typical of their usual chatty style.

Isn't it true for married couples, that all sorts of family matters are discussed at the dining table and in bed?

Qi Fenglian had been absent-minded the whole time. When she heard about opening a store, she was taken aback and asked, "What, are you planning to open a store again?"

"No, it's a war buddy's widow in Taiguo. She's having a tough time, and we're thinking of investing some money to open a bun shop with her, as a form of support. That war buddy saved Taiguo's life!" Cheng Su said.

Qi Fenglian responded with an "Oh": "That must be quite a bit of money, right?"

"We're not sure yet. We'll have to discuss to know the specifics!"

Qi Fenglian didn't say anything more and quietly picked at her rice with chopsticks.

After they'd finished eating, Cheng Su gathered the dishes and went to the kitchen to wash them, leaving Qi Fenglian to pull Qi Taiguo aside to ask about this investment.

"This investment could be big or small. What if it's a loss? Is it reliable?"

Qi Taiguo, being straightforward, said, "Calling it an investment just sounds nice. We've thought about it. If it's a loss, we treat it as a subsidy for her. Back then, during the Vietnam War, her husband sacrificed himself to save me. So it's also about repaying a debt of gratitude."

Qi Fenglian frowned and said, "Even if it's about repaying, it's too much. This is a lot of money!" Needless to say, it must be Cheng Su's idea.

"Big Sister!" Qi Taiguo looked at her and said, "Isn't a human life more important than money? Without him, I wouldn't be here today. If he hadn't sacrificed himself to protect me, who knows, maybe I'd be dead already. Now it's just investing in a store, what's the big deal?"

His voice rose a bit, and Qi Fenglian was startled and quickly said, "Alright, alright, if you think it's good, then it's good, I won't say anymore."

Seeing her scared expression, Qi Taiguo added, "Big Sister, you must understand the bigger picture. Being soft-hearted is good, but you need to know your people. Don't just soften up when anyone sweet-talks you, or no one will be able to help you!"

Qi Fenglian's face flushed red, and she lowered her head, not daring to speak.

Seeing her like this only frustrated Qi Taiguo more. He stood up abruptly and said, "Big Sister, you sit here! I'm going downstairs to run a few laps!"

Out of sight, out of mind; he didn't want to deal with his sister's aggrieved expression.

Qi Fenglian watched him leave, pressing her lips together, looking even more wronged!

She is his own sister. And look at him, for the sake of outsiders, saying harsh words to her. Isn't she worried about their money, after all!

Chapter 1075: Return to Guangcheng

At the end of March, Qi Taiguo led a team for a twelve-day training exercise. Since his departure was earlier than Cheng Su's, he couldn't see her off, but repeatedly urged her to be safe and cautious.

"Try to have those two business associates accompany you. That city is much larger than Qing City and much more chaotic. Otherwise, I won't be able to relax with you on your own!" Qi Taiguo reminded her once again before departing.

"I know, I'll be careful. You should be too, pay more attention!" Cheng Su replied, feigning annoyance.

Qi Taiguo was still uneasy, but there wasn't much he could do except give persistent advice, until Cheng Su jokingly called him long-winded, and then he reluctantly left.

After he left, Cheng Su arranged work at various sites, then boarded the train to Guangcheng with Wang Bo and Zhao Da.

On the way, Cheng Su discussed work matters with Wang Bo and the others, focusing on business development.

As they approached Guangcheng, she became increasingly anxious, often staring blankly out the train window.

She couldn't quite pin down her true feelings, hoping to find the orphanage, yet fearing this lifetime might mirror the past, abandoned like before.

But if it's not there, then where did she come from?

Cheng Su's mind was in a tangle.

Woo woo woo.

Inside the train, the announcement sounded, and passengers started moving. Cheng Su opened her eyes slightly, felt the train slowing, and the scenery outside the window came into focus.

Thud, the train stopped completely, they've arrived at Guangcheng.

Inside the carriage, there was a flurry of people grabbing luggage and calling out.

"President Cheng, it's time to get off." Wang Wei and Zhao Da, who were carrying bags, called out to Cheng Su, and the group blended into the crowd exiting the train station.

In the station square, throngs of people surged, the sheer number already exceeding that of Qing City greatly, a testament to its future as a major city.

On the main building at the station, there was a large clock, at the top was the station's name and coordinates, with many people taking commemorative photos by the roadside railings. It's already April; most wore white polyester shirts and long trousers, some in jeans and short T-shirts, taking off their jackets for the photos.

Everyone in the moving crowd carried red, white, and blue bags, or gray and military green luggage, the more fashionable ones with backpacks, others holding plastic tubs containing hangers and such.

These were people from all parts coming to Guangcheng for work.

Looking further out, cars came and went, most people pushing or riding bicycles past, with the sound of bells ringing loudly.

As she watched the scene before her, memories merged into a river, suddenly bringing Cheng Su back to her past life, at that Guangcheng station with crisscrossing overpasses, a bustling hub for travelers, locals, and business people.

Currently, this station wasn't as prosperous as it would be in the future, but it already showed signs of its path to prosperity.

This chaotic yet opportunity-filled place would be a haven for some and a nightmare for others.

Cheng Su couldn't contain her excitement, tears welled in her eyes as she took in everything.

"President Cheng, let's take a group photo too!" Wang Bo took out a camera, which he had specially rented from a studio just to capture some pictures in Guangcheng, after all, this was a big city.

"Sure." Cheng Su smiled and nodded, wiping the tears from the corners of her eyes.

Guangcheng, she had arrived, no, perhaps she had returned!

Chapter 1076: Following President Cheng Is the Right Choice

East, west, north, south, prosper in Guangdong.

This old saying constantly lingered in Cheng Su's mind. Now, in the mid-to-late period of economic reform, seeing the tidal wave-like flow of workers, she fully understood its meaning.

Cheng Su dared not lose focus and could only instruct Wang Bo and Zhao Da to stay close by her side to avoid getting separated in the throng of people.

Communication wasn't that advanced back then, and there were no mobile phones. If they got separated in such a large place like Guangcheng, it would truly be hard to know where to start looking!

So, just in case, if they got separated, they shouldn't act like headless chickens running around looking for each other. They should immediately find a hotel, make a long-distance call to the office to report their location, and wait for Cheng Su to come find them.

Wang Bo and Zhao Da found it strange; shouldn't it be two men looking for her instead? Why did it turn around to have her find them?

Cheng Su didn't explain, only told them to follow orders.

She was the boss; seeing her so insistent, Wang Bo and they could only listen to her.

"Be careful of your belongings; keep identification documents separately," Cheng Su repeatedly reminded them.

Train stations everywhere are chaotic mingling grounds of all sorts, especially in Guangcheng. In this year, 1987, many underworld factions were forming gangs, and incidents were frequent.

"Got it." Seeing her serious tone, Wang Bo and Zhao Da couldn't help but become more cautious and vigilant.

Once out of the train station, it was straight to the bus stop. Cheng Su had long considered her destination; her former orphanage was located in a secluded Hebei area, so staying close by was best.

From memory, Cheng Su personally asked the staff at the station for directions, then led the two to take the bus.

Facing this unfamiliar city, Wang Bo and Zhao Da were like blind cats, a bit flustered.

The city was so big; they had no clue where to go, no hint of direction, and only now realized their data wasn't comprehensive enough.

However, President Cheng seemed utterly at ease, without the slightest panic, handling everything in an orderly manner — where to go, whom to ask for directions, which bus to take — she was completely clear and made no mistakes.

Watching Cheng Su walk ahead, Zhao Da quietly said to Wang Bo, "Brother Wang, our President Cheng is really impressive. In such a big Guangcheng, she isn't scared at all, quite adept, like she's been here many times!"

"Indeed!" Wang Bo was equally puzzled; was this really her first time in this city?

"People say college students are smart; it seems President Cheng is exceptionally smart. Look at the way her business is growing, you can tell. Brother, I think following President Cheng is the right choice!" Zhao Da continued, "In this life, I'm gonna follow President Cheng till the end!"

Wang Bo smiled, fully agreeing with this statement.

President Cheng's insight and courage garnered his respect as a man; her vision and capacity were vast indeed. In short, he truly learned quite a lot from her.

Wang Bo thought of the company that tried to poach him recently and figured once he returned, he'd decline. Although the pay was higher over there, President Cheng made him see a radiant future.

Now even Zhao Da noticed President Cheng's greatness, saw the promising future. Was he really no match for this kid?

"Hey, you two still standing there dumbfounded, hurry up and follow me; if you get lost, I won't be able to find you!" Cheng Su noticed while walking that the two hadn't caught up, so she shouted.

"Coming!" Wang Bo responded, pulled Zhao Da by the sleeve, and followed with his large backpack.

Chapter 1077: A Grand Welcome Gift

Amidst the bustling crowd, Cheng Su and Wang Bo boarded the bus, barely finding seats at the back of the vehicle, placing their luggage by their feet. Suddenly, they noticed the commotion inside the bus, with everyone looking outside.

Cheng Su and the others followed their gaze, and their expressions changed immediately.

Outside, a few hooligans in flared jeans with golden dyed hair and tattooed arms were chasing a man with long knives.

The man stood no chance against so many people. Before long, he was caught, kicked to the ground, and repeatedly struck with long knives, blood spilling everywhere.

Inside the bus, screams rang out one after another, and everyone watching turned pale.

Cheng Su's face was ashen. She turned her eyes away, her hands shaking uncontrollably like a sieve as she clutched her pants.

"They're killing someone, my God!" someone shouted, immediately silenced by another, afraid that those people might rush in and start slashing.

Wang Bo and Zhao Da were also ashen-faced at the sight. Why, why was this happening, and why was nobody stepping forward to help?

But how could they help? Who dared to intervene?

No one knew how many times the man was slashed before the police arrived, and the hooligans fled like a swarm. As for the man's fate, it seemed grim and uncertain.

"These damn thugs are hacking people again!" The ticket inspector, holding a bunch of tickets, glanced outside, nonchalantly continuing to sell tickets as if this was a common sight, speaking in the local dialect.

Cheng Su swallowed hard.

Wang Bo and Zhao Da, visibly terrified, looked at Cheng Su: "President Cheng..."

Cheng Su forced a smile and said, "It's okay, let's be careful!"

Wang Bo and the others nodded.

"Where to?" The ticket inspector asked them in the local dialect as he approached Cheng Su and her group.

Cheng Su awkwardly replied with a location in the local language. The ticket inspector gave her a glance, took the money, tore off three tickets, and returned to his seat.

"President Cheng, you can speak their language?" Zhao Da was surprised to hear Cheng Su speak earlier.

"I learned!" Cheng Su smiled, her face still pale with fear, but used this to change the subject: "I specifically learned a few phrases from a local."

In her past life, she could also speak the local dialect with people, but mostly spoke in standard Mandarin.

Zhao Da looked at her with admiration.

"What did the ticket inspector just say?" Wang Bo asked.

"He said that these hooligans are slashing people again, so be careful when going out. If you run into them, regardless of right and wrong, apologize immediately. Don't confront the local bullies, and remember not to argue, got it?" Cheng Su advised.

They knew it was chaotic here, but that was the worst chaos of the 1990s. They hadn't expected it to already be rampant now. They had just arrived and witnessed street warfare, or rather, street slashing.

What a welcome gift.

Wang Bo and Zhao Da, having just witnessed a murder, lost much of their initial excitement upon arriving in Guangcheng. After hearing Cheng Su's words, they didn't dare to boast and promptly agreed.

The strong dragon cannot overpower the local snakes. They must cherish their lives and cannot act rashly.

Inside the bus, people continued to discuss the earlier scene, but Cheng Su looked out the window, watching the scenery flash by in a daze.

The train station was as chaotic and brutal as she remembered from history. But what about the orphanage? Is it still there, waiting for her arrival?

Chapter 1078: Instructing Subordinates

The three of them settled into the hotel by dusk. After witnessing the scene on the bus, their spirits weren't particularly high.

But no matter how low the spirits, they still needed to fill their stomachs. Cheng Su said, "Wash your face, and then we'll head out for dinner!"

Wang Bo and Zhao Da both agreed as instructed.

After each washed their face in their rooms, they went out to eat. Cheng Su took the opportunity to discuss the plans for the next few days.

In her previous life, she was abandoned the day after Qingming Festival. So for the next few days, she decided to explore the city with Wang Bo and the others, visiting various supply and marketing cooperatives and stores to conduct market research and assess people's spending capacity.

"The chicken recipes here are quite different from those back home. Try them out, since you're here, don't worry about anything else, eat well and drink well, and do your jobs well!" Cheng Su pushed a plate of white cut chicken toward the two.

"Doesn't have much taste!" Zhao Da said after taking a bite.

Cheng Su chuckled and pushed the plate of ginger and scallion sauce over, then took a piece of chicken breast, dipped it in the sauce before eating.

Zhao Da suddenly understood, his face turning slightly red, and said, "You need to dip it in the sauce, huh!"

Wang Bo laughed and said, "You fool, didn't you see how the folks at the neighboring table are eating?" He gestured towards the table next to them, where an elderly man was also dipping his chicken into the sauce before eating.

Zhao Da laughed sheepishly and asked Cheng Su, "President Cheng, how do you know everything? You seem very familiar with this city, as if you've been here before."

Cheng Su smiled slightly, "Haven't I been here before?" Seeing their surprised expressions, she added, "In my dreams."

"President Cheng, you really joke!" Zhao Da laughed.

"Hurry up and eat, after which we'll head back to rest; it's been a long train ride and you must be tired!"

"Mm!"

At the table, as they ate and chatted, Cheng Su gave them a few more tips. Being outsiders, they needed to be mindful of local culture and taboos, lest they inadvertently cause trouble by offending local customs; they must be cautious and considerate.

"Is this city so difficult to deal with?" Zhao Da stuck out his tongue, speaking cautiously.

Cheng Su, however, was serious, putting down her chopsticks, "It's not that it's difficult. But every city has its culture and traditions. When we go to a place, we should respect the local culture, try to understand it to avoid making jokes. Not just this city, but many others in the country are like that too, and abroad as well. Wherever we go, understanding local culture is essential."

Zhao Da, having been lectured, quickly straightened up and said, "President Cheng, I got it!"

Cheng Su acknowledged with a hum, saying, "Remember, no matter where you go in the future, you should always have compassion, you should learn to respect others, their beliefs, and their cultures."

"Yes, President Cheng!" Wang Bo and Zhao Da both replied earnestly.

She was teaching them the principles of life.

"Alright, let's eat!" Cheng Su finally said.

They picked up their chopsticks again, suddenly hearing a round of applause. Looking over, they saw it was an elderly man at the neighboring table who had also ordered a plate of chicken, applauding them.

More precisely, he was applauding Cheng Su.

Cheng Su hurriedly nodded slightly at the old man, offering a smile.

"Such a young girl, yet she has such wisdom, not bad at all." The old man praised Cheng Su, his eyes, which seemed to see straight into the heart, sparkling with admiration.

"You flatter me, elder." Cheng Su smiled generously.

The old man, however, came over.

Chapter 1079: A Chance Encounter with a Local Guide

Seeing the elderly man approach, Cheng Su and the others quickly stood up to offer their seats. Wang Bo moved his chair to the other side of the table to make it easier for the elderly man to sit down.

"No, no, you sit," the elderly man said as he glanced around, a look of satisfaction flashing in his eyes as he nodded.

"Please, take a seat!" Cheng Su gestured politely.

"Well, if you're sure... Ah, you don't mind, do you? I came uninvited!" The elderly man's Mandarin wasn't standard, carrying a local accent, but it was understandable.

"Sir, we don't mind at all," Cheng Su chuckled softly.

The elderly man murmured in response and asked Wang Bo to bring over his bowl, chopsticks, and a plate of chicken, saying, "This place makes the best white-cut chicken. I come here often to eat; the chicken is fresh and tender. You made the right choice coming here! Judging by your looks, you're from out of town, aren't you?"

Wang Bo pulled up another chair to sit down.

"Yes, we just arrived today," Cheng Su replied with a smile and poured him a cup of tea.

The elderly man, seeing this, tapped the table beside his teacup twice with his finger and asked, "Where are you from?"

"Qing City."

"Qing City from province X?"

"Sir, you even know Qing City?" Wang Bo asked upon hearing it.

The elderly man stroked his graying beard and said, "Of course I do. I even visited there in my youth. It's a good place, with beautiful mountains and water, a real treasure land."

Zhao Da beamed with pride and said, "Indeed, our Qing City is a land of good fortune!"

"It should be getting better now, what with Comrade Xiao Ping's reforms and opening up. Times have changed, and life is better!" The elderly man sighed deeply and added, "Back then, life was tough. Ordinary people saw no hope. In those hard days, we didn't have enough to eat. We'd even gnaw on tree roots and eat tasteless lumps of earth..."

Cheng Su sat upright, smiling as she listened to the elderly man recalling the hard times and sweet memories.

The elderly man's tales were vivid, spanning from Qing City to Guangcheng, recounting history to Wang Bo and the others like cherished treasure.

Although they had studied a lot, they only had a superficial understanding, and now the elderly man's words made their understanding of Guangcheng instantly come alive.

"...So, young lady, you're right. We must understand the local traditional culture well. It's part of the tradition handed down by our ancestors. Now, many traditional crafts and arts are gradually being lost, alas, such a pity," the elderly man said with a hint of sadness.

"Sir, it's the trend of the times, don't feel too sad," Cheng Su consoled.

"How can I not be? Thousands of years of culture—if it's all gone, future generations will only know about our ancestors' traditions through books or other means!"

Cheng Su fell silent, knowing the sorrow, and was more aware that the future would see more progress, with many skills and crafts being lost compared to this era.

To change the subject and the elderly man's focus, Cheng Su said, "Sir, since we're new here, I can see you're a local expert. Why not tell us about Guangcheng's current development?"

"Oh, you can tell I'm a local expert? Not bad, young lady. By the way, what's your name?"

"Cheng Su, 'Cheng' as in 'prospect,' and 'Su' as in 'simple.' These are Wang Bo and Zhao Da." Cheng Su pointed to the two subordinates.

"What's your name again?" The elderly man was momentarily stunned, his hand shaking slightly.

"Cheng Su."

"Cheng Su, what a good name." The elderly man slapped his leg and chuckled warmly, "What a coincidence, I'm also surnamed Cheng, so we're family from ancient times!"

Cheng Su was taken aback for a moment, then smiled—it certainly was a coincidence!

Chapter 1080: Forming an Intergenerational Friendship

Old Master Cheng joined the dinner, Cheng Su ordered two more dishes, asked the old man's preference, and then ordered a bottle of Shaoxing yellow wine.

"Haha, today this old man is here to bum some wine!" Old Master Cheng laughed heartily upon seeing the wine.

Cheng Su poured a few glasses, raised the glass with a smile and said, "Meeting by chance is destiny, Old Master, here's to you!"

Wang Bo and the others hurriedly raised their glasses as well, raising their hands in a toast.

"Alright, alright, I'll drink this glass!" Old Master Cheng drank it all, exhaling: "I haven't had a drink so heartily in a while!"

Cheng Su smiled and casually said, "It's not that your family doesn't allow you to drink, is it?"

"Ah, you girl are right, a few years back I had surgery, and my kids at home don't let me drink. You tell me, what's the point of life without drinking?" Old Master Cheng said.

Upon hearing he had surgery, Cheng Su paused while pouring the wine, and said, "Old Master, then you really shouldn't drink anymore, just this little for you. Your health is most important!"

"Ah, ah, you girl, you're not playing fair, I just got started!" Old Master Cheng called out with his neck held high.

Cheng Su didn't listen, just placed the bottle far away.

"Old Master, our President Cheng is someone who means what she says. For today, just two glasses, but don't worry, we'll keep you company with tea!" Wang Bo laughed.

Old Master Cheng deliberately showed a helpless expression, pointing at Cheng Su, but there was no sign of anger in his eyes.

"President Cheng? So you all are here for business?" Old Master Cheng asked, "You girl, so young, yet carrying a 'President' title, it's not simple!"

"Our President Cheng is amazing, not only running a restaurant but also has a factory making jam. Our company sells jam!" Zhao Da interjected.

"Oh?"

"Don't listen to his nonsense, they're just small businesses. Old Master, why don't you tell us what's trendy in Guangcheng right now, and how's the people's spending power?" Cheng Su asked.

"What's trendy? Everything is trendy. When it comes to business, as long as you're daring enough to dive in and fight, there's nothing you can't accomplish. Now people's spending power is higher than before; they're willing to spend. As for eating, it's the same, everyone likes to chase new things, accept fresh ideas, just like..." Old Master Cheng slightly sipped the wine, careful not to finish it, then began to talk.

From history and culture to historical progress, year by year, the old man seemed to have endless things to say, leaving Cheng Su and the others amazed.

It turned out there were many things they didn't know, and many things exceeded their understanding.

"However, although society has progressed, people are no longer as they used to be. Public security is not as good as before. To do business, in many places, you have to pay protection fees to small gangsters; it's simply ridiculous!" Old Master Cheng slapped the table, his face stern.

Cheng Su's eyes flickered, and she said, "Rest assured, Old Master, evil cannot triumph over good. Even though they run rampant now, they won't remain rampant forever. As society develops better, those scoundrels who threaten the people will definitely be severely cracked down on."

Hooligans and the Underworld have always existed. Now and in the coming years, they may be rampant, but ultimately, the nation will not turn a blind eye.

"I wonder if this old man will be able to see that day!" Old Master Cheng looked desolate.

"Of course, you will, as long you keep healthy and drink less often." Cheng Su smiled playfully.

"Haha, you girl, you really have a way with words!" Old Master Cheng laughed heartily and said, "I don't understand much about business either, but my second son is also in business. A glass of wine, a meal, let's just become friends despite the age gap. Go find him; he is in sales."