

The 80s 1091

Chapter 1091: I Fostered Myself

In her past life, Cheng Su had long known that someone had sponsored her when she was very young, but she didn't know who it was and had never met them. Not even a photograph. When she asked the orphanage director, she only said it was a kind-hearted person.

Every month, that mysterious Foster Parent would send a sum of money to the orphanage as her living expenses, but letters were rarely sent, probably only once every two or three months. There was no return address either.

So, she only knew of such a kind-hearted person, but still never knew who they were. She couldn't even send a letter in return. Heaven knows, her replies filled an entire small box.

Now, she found herself saying she would sponsor Little Cheng Su. Could it be that she was sponsoring herself?

Cheng Su was so shocked she stepped back.

"If you sponsor, what's their name?" Cheng Su asked hesitantly, her throat dry and hoarse.

"If the kind-hearted person wishes to sponsor this child, you can give her a name. Otherwise, we will give her one," the orphanage director said with a smile.

She was, of course, very welcoming of sponsorship because raising a child requires money and effort. The operation of this orphanage relied entirely on donations and making small handicrafts, or accepting donations from kind-hearted people in society.

And sponsorship can also be considered a form of donation, though it is to an individual. The orphanage receiving this money ensures the child's living expenses, and any extra can be used for other children.

So, to repay the kind-hearted people's kindness, if they like, they can rename the child, or even give the child their own last name. If they don't wish to, then the child's original name will be used.

But this child was sent over without any identity information, so she must have a new name given to her.

"Cheng Su, her name is Cheng Su!" Cheng Su blurted out.

As soon as she said this, tears welled up in her eyes and then spilled out.

What's going on? How could this be? Had someone pulled her down the stairs, brought her back to this era, and she then found herself and sponsored herself?

She knew what Little Cheng Su's future would hold, knew everything about her, and knew everything she would do when she grew up.

Is it possible that she went to that hotel and pulled herself downstairs? Otherwise, who would have found her and sponsored her? Who gave her the name?

Cheng Su's head felt dizzy, her body swayed, and she staggered back two steps, grabbing a chair next to her for support.

"Kind person, are you alright?" The orphanage director saw her pale face and couldn't help but ask.

Cheng Su shook her head, took a deep breath, and said, "I'm fine."

The orphanage director and the nun exchanged a glance, both thinking this kind person was very peculiar!

"What the kind person just said, is it true? Are you sure you want to sponsor this child?" The orphanage director continued the earlier topic.

Cheng Su nodded, gritting her teeth, "I'm sure."

No matter what the truth is, at this moment she only wanted to follow her heart. She wanted to sponsor Little Cheng Su, sponsor herself, let her grow, and let her succeed.

She wanted to show that even if they were abandoned, even if no one wanted them, they would live well, and they would live significantly.

Another thought was, if she hadn't come, what would ultimately happen? Would she still exist? Would her future self still exist?

But now she's here, she's found herself, and she will let her achieve herself, allowing herself to truly exist.

Cheng Su's heart trembled. She seemed to see the truth, yet she felt the most real things were entangled in a chaotic mess, impossible to unravel.

Chapter 1092: Swearing in the Name of the Lord

Xiao Cheng Su was sent back to the nursery. Cheng Su watched eagerly, and the director took it all in, becoming more convinced of one thing: Cheng Su surely knew this child.

As for the truth, it's unknown. Everyone has secrets they cannot speak of.

"...In fact, a child growing up in a wholesome family is a thousand times better than in an orphanage. If you, kind person, know the child's background, I hope you can persuade her parents. Children are angels in their parents' hearts," the director said again.

Cheng Su withdrew her gaze and said to the director, "Director, I understand what you mean, but I really don't know who her parents are. I swear in the name of the Lord."

The director was slightly taken aback and sighed, "That's really a pity!"

Having sworn in the name of the Lord, what more could she demand?

"I have had similar experiences, director. I am willing to sponsor her growth. If someone else adopts her, that would be best. If not, I will support her until adulthood," Cheng Su said.

In her past life, she was never adopted but was treated as a daughter by the director growing up.

But in this life, even the days of being abandoned at the orphanage had changed; this trajectory had already altered, and she did not know if the future would change.

"Thank you for your kindness," the director clasped her hands together and said, "Since you have such a kind heart, would you please come with me to handle the paperwork?"

Cheng Su nodded numbly.

Sponsoring is not as complicated as adoption. Adoption requires comprehensive documentation, while sponsorship just involves providing money and registering.

In the identity information column, Cheng Su left it blank. The director was puzzled, so Cheng Su said, "I only hope she grows up without burdens, so there's no need to leave it."

The director frowned slightly. Is there an unspeakable secret in not even leaving information?

"Director, my name is Cheng Su!" Cheng Su suddenly said.

The director exclaimed, remembering that she also renamed the child as Cheng Su, and nodded with a smile, "Little Cheng Su will be grateful to you!"

Cheng Su smiled and then asked if she could stay for a night because she came from a faraway city and didn't live in this city.

"That is of course possible."

"Then, can I stay with Little Cheng Su for a night? I want to see more of her," Cheng Su asked.

"It is rare to see a kind person so close to a child like you. If you hadn't sworn in the name of the Lord, I would certainly believe you are her parent or know her parents," the director said.

Cheng Su replied, "Perhaps seeing her is like seeing my childhood self, so it touches me profoundly!"

The director smiled without speaking.

After completing the paperwork, the director went to arrange Cheng Su's accommodation, letting Cheng Su wander freely.

Cheng Su borrowed a phone from her, as she needed to call the hotel lest Wang Bo and the others worry themselves sick if she didn't return for the night.

Wang Bo and the others weren't at the hotel; they might have gone out somewhere. Cheng Su asked the hotel owner to leave a message indicating her whereabouts.

After making the call, Cheng Su walked out of the director's office. Outside, the sky was blue with white clouds. It was afternoon, and the children were playing in the playground. Seeing Cheng Su, they all stopped to look.

Cheng Su felt as though she had returned to her childhood, also stopping to look expectantly when seeing someone.

She walked over and asked, "What are you playing? Can we play together?"

The director and the nun stood together, watching Cheng Su play the eagle-catching-chicken game with the children. The nun asked, "Director, is she really not that child's mother or relative?"

The director shook her head and said, "She is not." How could someone who loves children so much abandon their own flesh and blood?

Chapter 1093: A Conversation with Myself

With the director's permission, Cheng Su stayed at the orphanage and played with the children. It made her feel as if she had returned to her own childhood, where she also played wildly with the kids at the orphanage.

Seeing that each of the children was a half-grown kid, Cheng Su consulted the director again and spent money to buy many pastries and candies to distribute to each of the children, making them ecstatic and circling around Cheng Su.

Seeing them happy made Cheng Su happy too. After all, children are really easy to please.

As the sun gradually leaned westward, Cheng Su sat on a bench in the playground, resting and watching the children cheer in the distance. Not far away, a little girl was watching her quietly, biting her finger.

Cheng Su beckoned her over, and after hesitating for a moment, the child happily ran over.

"What's your name? Why aren't you playing with the other boys and girls?" Cheng Su asked, letting her sit beside her.

"My name is Yuanyuan. They don't want to play with me," the little girl said with her head down.

"Why is that?"

"Because I cry a lot."

Cheng Su chuckled and said, "Then you shouldn't cry. Crying makes your face unpretty!"

Yuanyuan nodded, then looked up and asked, "Auntie, are you here to adopt a child? Can you adopt me?"

"Why do you ask that?" Seeing the child's eager expression, Cheng Su's heart ached a little.

"Last month, someone came and took my roommate, and now they have parents. Yuanyuan wants parents too." Yuanyuan looked at her with hopeful eyes, "Can Auntie be Yuanyuan's mom?"

Cheng Su hugged her and said, "I'm sorry, Auntie can't yet. I've never been a mother, and I'm afraid I can't be a good mom to Yuanyuan."

"You can't?" Yuanyuan's eyes dimmed.

Cheng Su added, "Yuanyuan is so adorable; someone more suitable than Auntie will come to be Yuanyuan's mom."

"Really?" She tilted her head, but there was no longer any anticipation in her eyes.

Cheng Su's heart felt sour, she touched her hair and said, "Really."

She can sponsor, but she can't adopt. She doesn't even have a child herself. What would happen if she adopted a child and then had her own in the future?

If it weren't for that, she would have taken Little Cheng Su home already.

In the evening, after dinner, Cheng Su indeed stayed in the same room with Little Cheng Su.

The little guy lay on the small bed, her eyes wide open, not sleeping. When she saw Cheng Su looking at her, she also looked back ah-ah.

"Why aren't you sleeping yet?" Cheng Su glanced at her watch and said, "It's already ten o'clock."

Little Cheng Su flailed her arms and legs, babbling ah-ah, drooling.

Cheng Su's heart softened, and she picked her up, placing her on her own bed, then lay on her side and talked to her face-to-face.

"Xiao Susu, you have to grow up healthy and happy, you have to have an open and lively personality. Even if people abandon you, it's no big deal. They don't want us, and we don't want them. In the future, we will definitely make them regret leaving us, right?"

"Ah-ah."

Cheng Su extended a finger, and Xiao Susu grabbed her hand, trying to put it in her mouth.

She quickly drew it back and said, "No biting, there are lots of germs on fingernails."

As if she understood, Xiao Susu stopped trying to bite and just held onto her hand, looking at her.

Realizing that her younger self was so adorable, Cheng Su couldn't help but poke her cheek, making her giggle, which made her smile as well, "You really are a tough little one."

It's truly amazing, talking to the younger version of herself, it feels just like making a sci-fi movie.

Chapter 1094: Letting Go and Leaving

Early the next morning, Cheng Su felt something heavy on her face, as if something was pressing down, making it difficult for her to breathe.

Hmm, soft and squishy, what is it?

She opened her eyes groggily, and a tiny hand slapped on her forehead. It didn't hurt but still woke her up.

Turns out, it was Xiao Susu sitting on her face, her chubby bottom, no wonder it felt so soft.

Cheng Su pulled her down, glaring at her, said, "Are you trying to murder yourself? I could barely breathe."

Xiao Susu giggled, looking at her and called, "Ma."

Cheng Su was taken aback, said, "Not 'Ma', you can't call me 'Ma', call me Su, Su."

"Ma. Ma!" Xiao Susu bounced on her bottom, waving her little hands.

Cheng Su's eyes reddened, hugging her, asked, "Have you seen your mother? Was she by your side? But why did she leave us?"

Children all grow subtly, and for Xiao Susu to call her 'Ma', someone must have been teaching her before.

But why, then, abandon her?

Tears flowed down Cheng Su's face, and Xiao Susu's little hand touched her, as if comforting her, warming her heart but also making it ache more.

Such a small child, so endearing, how could they bear to, how could they have the heart!

Didn't feel this way in the past life, but seeing this little one now, Cheng Su's heart filled with resentment.

She resented the parents she never met, if they didn't want her, why have her, if they did, they should be responsible to the end, why abandon her at the orphanage.

"Su."

The little child mispronounced, but still said what Cheng Su taught, maybe seeing her not yet smiling.

This time, Cheng Su was truly delighted, wiped away her tears, embraced and kissed her repeatedly, praising with a smile, "Our Susu is such a smart girl, yes, we're all smart good children."

Looking at her features, couldn't help wondering, what kind of parents would have such a child?

Outside the window, there were chirping sounds, birds calling, and the sound of someone cleaning.

Cheng Su looked out and saw older children cleaning.

"We should also go have breakfast!" Cheng Su teased Xiao Susu, tidied herself and her up, then carried her out.

She was greeted by a nun, the headmistress was out of town on business, Cheng Su didn't mind, after breakfast, she played with Xiao Susu.

Her days in Guangcheng were numbered, possibly leaving within two days, and once gone, who knows when she'd visit again, so she wanted to spend as much time with her as she could.

In the afternoon, a couple came to adopt a child, unexpectedly they chose Yuanyuan.

Yuanyuan was overjoyed, her smile towards Cheng Su was more radiant than ever.

Cheng Su held Xiao Susu until nearly dusk before letting go, she needed to leave.

As if sensing Cheng Su's departure, Xiao Susu cried loudly, wanting only Cheng Su.

Cheng Su held her and cried too, said, "You must be well, live well, so you can meet me, have me, understand?"

She is her, so if she's well, she'll exist.

The banquet must come to an end, no matter how reluctant, she had to let go, Cheng Su forced herself to put Xiao Susu back into the headmistress's arms, left without looking back.

Behind her, Xiao Susu's heart-wrenching cries, Cheng Su's heart felt like it was being cut, but she didn't turn back.

You are me, I am you, we need not meet, time and fate will ultimately reunite us.

Chapter 1095: No Visit Without a Reason

Cheng Su left crying all the way. By the time she got out of the car and back to the hotel, her eyes were swollen and red like two peaches.

"President Cheng."

Cheng Su turned around to see Wang Bo and Zhao Da sitting on the hotel's redwood sofa, their faces filled with joy upon seeing her.

"What are you two doing here?" Cheng Su asked with a hoarse voice.

"President Cheng, where have you been? You took so long to return, we were worried sick!" Wang Bo noticed Cheng Su's eyes were red and swollen, paused for a moment, and asked, "What happened? Your eyes are so swollen, have you been crying?"

"I went to the orphanage to visit a child." Cheng Su pressed the corner of her eyes and said, "I'm going upstairs to put something on my eyes. You two go ahead and eat, don't wait for me. Bring me back a portion. We'll be heading back to Qing City in a couple of days!"

"Oh."

Just as Cheng Su was about to leave, she suddenly heard a cough. Wang Bo quickly stopped her and said, "By the way, there's a Mr. Cheng here looking for you. He's been waiting for quite some time."

Cheng Su was taken aback and looked up, finally noticing a middle-aged man with a dignified presence behind them. She thought he was just another hotel guest.

Someone looking for her, but she didn't know him!

"Hello, my surname is Cheng." The man took out a business card from his suit pocket and handed it over.

Cheng Su took a look at it, Cheng Yaozong, general manager of Lailai Department Store. Who is this!

Wait, Cheng Yaozong, didn't the old man write down this name and address for her earlier?

Cheng Su glanced at him, then rummaged through her bag and took out the note the old man had given her. Sure enough, it was the same name.

Could they be the same person?

Cheng Su also took out a business card from her bag and handed it over, saying, "Hello, I am Cheng Su, and you are?"

Cheng Yaozong looked at the business card, which had two company names on it. One was Joy Soon Loy Jam Food Company, and the other was Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, both with the title of General Manager.

Joy Soon Loy, this company name, seems kind of familiar!

"I'm Old Master Cheng's son, second in the family. It's like this, I heard from the old man that he met you once. He mentioned that if you have any needs, you should come to me. I hadn't seen you these past few days, so I thought you had left!" Cheng Yaozong explained.

Cheng Su listened and couldn't immediately understand his intention, so she smiled and said, "The old man is too kind. For the time being, we don't need any help. Thank you for coming all this way, it's really too polite!"

Cheng Yaozong noticed Cheng Su's polite demeanor and inadvertently frowned; she was a cautious lady.

The old man said she resembled their aunt quite a bit; in what way though? She looked completely different from the photos; was it in character?

Their aunt had been gone for many years, and they didn't know what her character was like. But since the old man said she resembled her, then she probably did, as he was the only one who really knew their aunt.

Cheng Su was indeed quite vigilant. Without any reason, one doesn't visit a hall of treasure; there was no reason for them to seek help if they hadn't been seen, right?

"It's like this, our old man wanted to thank you for treating him to a meal last time. He wishes to host you this time in return. Would Miss Cheng do us the honor?" Cheng Yaozong expressed his intentions.

Cheng Su was stunned and declined, saying, "The old man is really too kind. We're just passing acquaintances; there's no need to be so courteous."

"Miss Cheng!" Cheng Yaozong's voice was slightly louder, seeing Cheng Su startled, he softened his tone and said, "In fact, our old man said you resemble an old acquaintance of our family. These past couple of days, he's been so overwhelmed with longing that he fell ill, so he's inviting you over to see him."

Cheng Su was stunned, the old man fell ill?

Chapter 1096: A Woman with an Extraordinary Background

To be precise, Old Master Cheng fell ill after the Tomb Sweeping Day ancestral worship.

In Guangcheng, great importance is placed on observing the Tomb Sweeping Festival. With the Cheng family being prosperous, the entire family went out to pay respects, honoring the old master's parents.

During the ceremony, the old master knelt and wept uncontrollably before his parents' tomb, as he had never found his sister, who had left in anger, and did not know if she was alive or dead.

The old man felt guilty towards his parents and feared he might never find her again in his lifetime. This sorrow and worry made him fall ill, and even in illness, he couldn't stop thinking of his sister's name—Suxin!

If it weren't for the old man saying this woman resembled their aunt and hearing her name, Cheng Yaozong and the others might not have thought to come and look for Cheng Su.

Cheng Suxin, Cheng Su, regardless, the connection is quite deep now.

Hearing Cheng Yaozong's words, Cheng Su thought for a moment and then said, "Since the old man is ill, and we've crossed paths, it's already late today. Let's visit tomorrow!"

Cheng Yaozong smiled and said, "Then at ten tomorrow, I'll send a car to pick you up!"

Cheng Su nodded.

Cheng Yaozong soon took his leave. Cheng Su watched her go and saw Wang Bo looking very excited. She asked, "What's going on?"

"President Cheng, that Lilai Department Store is a very famous mall, and if our products are sold there, then..." Wang Bo looked extremely excited, rubbing his hands together, "President Cheng, we've met a benefactor on this trip!"

Cheng Su chuckled and said, "Alright, let's talk about such matters later. The old man is sick, so we'll go see him tomorrow. You all eat first!"

"Ah, okay!"

Cheng Yaozong returned to the grand family residence where the brothers sitting in the hall looked up and asked in unison, "How did it go?"

"She's quite a cautious woman. I can't see any resemblance to our aunt, the appearance is not at all alike." Cheng Yaozong said.

"Second brother, could she also think of you as a fraud?" Cheng Yaozu raised an eyebrow and asked.

"Not really, it's just that with a sudden visit, people generally get suspicious." Cheng Yaozong handed him a business card, "Hasn't your computer skills gotten good? Check if there's any information on here."

Cheng Yaozu took it, whistled, and said, "Not simple, a food company, a restaurant. It's not just a shell company, is it?"

"Cut the nonsense, go check it out! Joy Soon Loy, I do have some impression of it." Cheng Yaozong said.

Cheng Yaozu shrugged and headed upstairs.

"Did she say she'd come over?" Cheng Yaoguang asked.

"She said she'd come tomorrow, and I'll send a car at ten!"

Cheng Yaoguang frowned and said, "I also have a meeting at the provincial committee in the morning."

"Never mind, big brother, you handle your stuff, the family's got us." Cheng Yaozong waved his hand, "As smart as she might be, she's still just a woman. What new tricks could she pull?"

"Since the old man is fond of her, don't underestimate it. Over the past two years, the old man's health has been declining; keeping him happy is most important, as for the rest, don't worry too much!" Cheng Yaoguang said.

Cheng Yaozong understood his meaning, which was that as long as what made the old man happy, let it be his way. As for money and power, the Cheng family didn't lack those.

"Found it. Second brother, this Joy Soon Loy is quite interesting, you know. Last year, they won a cherry competition in Qingcheng, and when the Joy Soon Loy Jam opened, there was a gathering of big shots, quite the background..." Cheng Yaozu slowly recounted the information he discovered.

Cheng Yaoguang and Cheng Yaozong exchanged a glance; if that was the case, then this woman certainly was not simple either!

Chapter 1097: Visiting the Cheng Family

Cheng Su slept restlessly through the night. When she got up in the morning, she felt her mood had calmed down considerably. As long as Xiao Susu is alive, she will surely live well.

Thinking of the visit to Old Master Cheng today, Cheng Su got up to wash her face. Seeing her complexion still a bit wan, she opened her makeup kit and started to apply makeup.

When visiting someone who is ill, the worst thing is to look wan and tired. It can make the patient feel even more depressed, so looking presentable is essential.

Soon, Cheng Su had finished applying powder to her face, which made her look much more spirited.

Zhao Da knocked on her door, bringing her a breakfast of rice noodle rolls and porridge, which are unique to Guangcheng.

Cheng Su thanked him, slowly finished eating the breakfast, and then lay down for a while, thinking about this and that until the scheduled time, when the sound of a car horn honked twice downstairs.

Cheng Su and her group went downstairs, where a red Santana was parked in front of the hotel. Wang Bo and the others were very excited to ride in a car with four wheels!

Seeing them getting a bit carried away, Cheng Su coughed and gave them a stern look, reminding them to mind their manners.

Before getting into the car, Cheng Su noticed a shop selling fruit and gifts across the hotel and asked the car to wait for a moment while she went to buy fruit and gifts.

Visiting someone who is ill, you can't go empty-handed!

Cheng Su thought the old man was in the hospital, but the car took them to a small villa, where Cheng Yaozong was already waiting at the door.

Cheng Su was slightly anxious and asked, "Why, isn't the old man in the hospital?"

"The old man doesn't like the smell and atmosphere of the hospital and insisted on recuperating at home," Cheng Yaozong said. "Please, come in."

"Hello, Mr. Cheng!" Wang Bo and the others greeted him.

"Hello!"

Climbing up the steps and entering the villa, the space was exceptionally spacious, with exquisite and luxurious decor, but Cheng Su didn't look around. She had seen all kinds of luxurious decor, and this was nothing special.

Cheng Yaozong had been observing discreetly. Seeing Cheng Su's demeanor, he couldn't help but nod in approval.

Her manners and poise are quite good. It seems that having two businesses at a young age wasn't achieved without merit.

"Xiao Su, you're here!" Old Master Cheng had been waiting in the living room, knowing Cheng Su would visit.

Upon seeing the old man, Cheng Su quickened her pace, stepped forward with a slight bow, and smiled, "Old Master, we've met again!"

Following behind her, Wang Bo and the others hurriedly greeted him and then presented the gifts.

"Good, good, just come and have fun, no need to bring anything," Old Master Cheng said with a smile.

"Mr. Cheng mentioned you were ill, so I came to see," Cheng Su deliberately examined his complexion and teased, "In my opinion, did you secretly stash a bottle of wine and drink it by yourself at night, is that why you're sick?"

Old Master Cheng was taken aback, then laughed heartily, pointing at her, "You girl, still as sharp-tongued as ever."

"If that's the case, Mr. Cheng and the others should search your room, just in case you don't behave like a child and need watching," Cheng Su added.

"Alright, alright, go ahead and search. Anything you find, you can take it all!" Old Master Cheng, in high spirits, laughed so much that his eyes were nearly shut.

"Dad, the guests are here, and they're still standing," Cheng Yaozong said.

"Oh yes, please sit down. Look at me, I'm getting forgetful in my old age!" Old Master Cheng gestured to the sofa.

Cheng Su went to sit down graciously.

Cheng Yaozong watched and thought it was no wonder the old man thought highly of this girl; with just a few words, she had him laughing, lifting the air of illness considerably.

Chapter 1098: Not the Old Friend's Daughter

As everyone sat down in the living room and the servants brought tea, Cheng Su asked Old Master Cheng, "What's bothering you?"

"They're just making a fuss. It's nothing, just a bit of wheezing, no problem!" Old Master Cheng waved his hand and then started coughing again.

Cheng Su replied, "It's already April, and the South is quite humid and hot. But this April weather can sometimes have big temperature differences, so you shouldn't be too careless with the cold, sir."

"I know, I know," Old Master Cheng replied with a cheerful smile and asked, "Didn't I tell you all, if you want to do business, look for our family's second son! So why haven't I seen you go? Could it be you think this old man is a con artist? Let me tell you, I was an old Red Army soldier!"

Cheng Su quickly said, "It's not that we don't believe you. We've just been busy out there running the market these days, and for now, we don't need any help."

"Really?"

"How dare we lie to you? I'm just afraid that the old Red Army soldier who once wielded a big cannon would fire a shot at me!" Cheng Su joked.

Old Master Cheng burst into hearty laughter.

Cheng Yaozong then said, "I understand your company makes jam and has even won awards. Are you here in Guangcheng to pursue this?"

"If possible, I'd like to establish a branch here, or set up an agency, counters, things like that. After all, there are many opportunities in Guangcheng, and we want our business to grow," Cheng Su responded.

Cheng Yaozong nodded in agreement.

"If you are thinking of setting up counters or display cases, our department store might have opportunities for cooperation, and we could provide you a spot," Cheng Yaozong said.

Cheng Su was momentarily stunned, then stood up and bowed to him, saying, "Thank you so much in advance!"

"No need to thank me. We are both Chengs; we're family and should help each other!" Old Master Cheng said with a hearty laugh.

"Yes, who else is in President Cheng's family?" Cheng Yaozong asked again.

"I'm already married and living with my partner in the military," Cheng Su replied.

"What about your own family?"

Cheng Su's eyes flickered, recalling what Cheng Yaozong said yesterday, realizing they wanted to know if her family was connected to any of their old friends.

She hesitated a bit and said, "I still have my parents at home. Our Cheng family, several decades ago, was capitalists, the ancestors all lived in Qing City. Later, we were overthrown and fell. Great Grandmother was quite a business-savvy woman."

"What was your grandmother's name?" Old Master Cheng pressed.

Cheng Su thought for a moment and then replied, "My grandmother's name was Chen Xiang."

Old Master Cheng fell into a melancholic silence, his eyes dimming.

"Old Master, I heard from Mr. Cheng that I resemble one of your old acquaintances. Is that right?"
Cheng Su hesitated for a moment before asking.

"She was my younger sister," the old master sighed and said, "In those days, I joined the army to fight the Japanese, and she, talking about her patriotic spirit, wanted to protest against the Japanese. How could I let her go? We had a big fight, and I locked her up so she couldn't leave. But she ended up picking the lock and running away. I had to set off for the military and couldn't find her after looking for days. With no other choice, I left for the military campaign. After the liberation, I came back and searched for her like crazy, but all these years, I've never found her, not knowing if she's dead or alive."

Cheng Yaozong handed over a photo, and Old Master Cheng, with reddening eyes, handed it to Cheng Su.

Cheng Su took a look and said, "I don't really look like her!"

"No, you don't, just have a similar aura. She, like you, was sweet-talking, stubborn, and once determined to do something, not even nine oxen could pull her back!" Old Master Cheng chuckled and sighed, "It's just a pity that after all these years, I've still never found her!"

Chapter 1099: Speaking Honestly

Hearing that the old master still has a lost sister he can't find, the atmosphere in the living room became a little heavy.

"Dad, stop it, we have guests here," Cheng Yaozong could only comfort him.

"Right, look at me, I've lost my manners!" The old master slapped his forehead and laughed awkwardly.

"Old Master, you just miss your family." Cheng Su smiled and asked, "Can I have another look at the photo?"

"Of course!" The old master handed over the photo.

Cheng Su looked at it. The woman in the photo seemed to be about eighteen or nineteen, wearing those student outfits from the Republic of China era, with short hair, curved eyebrows, slightly pursed lips, and a slightly raised chin. You could tell she was quite proud and confident.

Does she look like me? Not at all!

But as she looked at the woman, Cheng Su felt a strange sensation inside. Before she could figure out what it was, the hall suddenly became noisy.

She looked up to see a young man of about twenty-seven or twenty-eight walk in, wearing shorts and a t-shirt, holding a basketball in his hand.

"Hey, there's a guest!" Cheng Yaozu immediately noticed Cheng Su sitting on the sofa.

"Look at you, there's a guest, and you're dressed like this! Covered in sweat, go wash up and change before you come out again!" The old master scolded.

Cheng Yaozu shrugged, waved at Cheng Su, and ran upstairs.

"Sorry you had to see that, that's our fourth child, he's called Yaozu," the old master explained to Cheng Su with a tone of helplessness.

Yaozong, Yaozu, Cheng Su said to herself and blurted out, "Could it be that you have four sons named for bringing glory to the ancestors?"

"Oh, you're a smart girl, aren't you? That's exactly it, four rascals bringing glory to the ancestors!" The old master chuckled and continued, "The eldest is a chief in the provincial government, the third is in academia, the second is in business, and the fourth, the most unreliable one, is just idling with his second brother now."

This was practically revealing the family's background to Cheng Su, seemingly wanting to treat her as a friend.

Both Cheng Su and Cheng Yaozong thought so.

Cheng Su felt strange, wondering if it was simply because her personality resembled his sister's that she was being treated so warmly?

Isn't this a bit too casual, like a cheat in life!

"Old Master, you are truly fortunate, all your sons have become successful, many people must envy you!" Cheng Su complimented with a smile.

"That's true, my old comrades didn't fare as well as I did. I have more sons, haha," the old master laughed heartily, then sighed, "But it's a pity that I still can't find my sister, so the family can't be reunited."

"Life is full of disappointments, Old Master, take it easy. You need to keep exercising and aim to live for many more decades. If Grandma Cheng were still alive, there would always be a day for reunion!" Cheng Su laughed.

"Wouldn't that make me an old monster? But you're right, I should aim to live a few more years!" The old master said, "None of my sons followed in my footsteps to become a soldier. Now I just watch to see if my grandson can become an officer."

"That will surely happen," Cheng Su flattered, "The genes are right there, there's no reason not to achieve that!"

The old master laughed heartily, "Right, no reason. By the way, just now I seemed to hear you say that you and your husband live in the army. Is your husband also a soldier?"

They had laid bare their family background, so there was no reason to hide anything anymore. Cheng Su nodded and said, "He's in the Qing City Military Region Army Corps, currently a deputy battalion commander, named Qi Taiguo." Building connections requires honesty.

The old master and Cheng Yaozong were surprised, then smiled and said, "What a small world, your husband is in the military region, and I have a grandson who joined the army too. One big family, one big family."

"No," Cheng Su said, "No food, no acquaintance!"

Everyone laughed.

Chapter 1100: Kindred Spirits at First Sight

Cheng Su and the others had lunch at the Cheng family, and then played two games of chess with Old Master Cheng. Seeing that he was tired, they tactfully suggested taking their leave.

"Su Girl, you're not leaving so soon, are you?" The old man looked at Cheng Su, his eyes full of reluctance.

The old man saw Cheng Su as his little sister from his younger days, even though she didn't resemble her at all, nor was she from the same ancestry. But he just felt they were alike.

As people grow older, they become more stubborn, and once something is decided in their minds, it doesn't change. Old Master Cheng had firmly decided in his heart.

"We've been out for almost ten days now, and this market research is about done, so it's time to head back." Cheng Su hesitated for a moment before saying.

The old man's expression grew even sadder, and he said, "Can't you stay a few more days?"

Cheng Su could only smile, saying, "I still have my studies to attend to, and I can't just leave things at home. Besides, I have some businesses that I can't just abandon!"

What she meant was that she truly couldn't stay!

The old man let out a long sigh.

"Dad, don't be like this. In the future, won't Su Girl come to Guangcheng to do business? Then you'll be able to meet again. Right?" Cheng Yaozong looked at Cheng Su and asked.

"Yes, there will always be a chance to meet again," Cheng Su said. "Guangcheng is a big city with a promising future, and I'm indeed quite interested."

The old man finally smiled and said, "Hmm, hmm, when you come, let your Second Brother Cheng help you."

Oh, Second Brother Cheng, my goodness, isn't this a bit too passionate?

Cheng Yaozong pursed his lips and smiled, "We're all kindred spirits, feel free to contact if you need anything. We'd surely help if we can."

Cheng Su nodded.

"Then I'll also give you a call to nag sometimes!" the old man added.

"All right, take care of yourself!" Cheng Su smiled gently, adding, "No sneaking drinks!"

"All right, all right."

With a wave goodbye, she returned to the hotel in the same car.

The old man, supported and led back inside only after Cheng Su's car disappeared, said to the second child, "If she really comes to do business in the future, lend her a hand!"

"Dad? Really keep in touch in the future?" Cheng Yaozong hesitated for a moment.

"Why not?" The old man stopped, looked at him, and said, "Do you look down on her?"

"It's not that, it's just that we've only met once or twice!" Cheng Yaozong said.

Old Master Cheng snorted, "Do you not know what it means to hit it off right away? That's how it is with me and that girl. Some people, even if you've known each other a lifetime, you can't truly connect with, but some people, at first sight, are worth befriending. I really like this Su Girl."

Isn't it just because she has a personality like his sister? Cheng Yaozong muttered.

Old Master Cheng glared at him and said, "Don't be so unconvinced. You've built a big business, met a lot of people, and do you think this girl is lacking in some way? In what way is she lacking? Her background is not inferior at all! Her business may not be as big as yours, but her backing might be just as strong as yours!"

Cheng Yaozong, duly chastised, looked embarrassed.

"I don't care about the rest of you; in any case, I want to interact with this Su Girl as if she's family." Old Master Cheng shrugged off his hand.

Cheng Yaozong was at a loss whether to laugh or cry—Old Master Cheng was getting more and more willful as he aged!

"Did Dad scold you?" Cheng Yaozu sidled over, grinning in schadenfreude.

"Go away, Dad said to prepare some local specialties to send to Cheng Su's hotel for her to take back. From now on, treat her as family. Go, you might have to call her Great Aunt!" Cheng Yaozong instructed and walked away.

"What? Great Aunt? Second Brother, you're joking, right? Second Brother..." Cheng Yaozu chased after him.