

The 80s 1161

Chapter 1161: Elevation

After everyone got acquainted, as it wasn't yet time for the meal, they sat down to chat.

"Are you overwhelmed by so many people? Our Cheng family is big, but this isn't really a lot. Your third brother went to the United States for an academic exchange these past few days, so you can't meet him. Last time you came, you didn't meet everyone, so this time I called everyone together to put faces to names and have a meal!" Old Master Cheng explained with a smile the reason for so many people.

"I'm not overwhelmed; rather, I'm quite happy. Old Master, you have so many grandchildren; I'm happy for you," Cheng Su replied with a smile. "As for introductions, there will be plenty of opportunities in the future; there's no rush!"

"Yes, yes, yes, that's what I think too," Old Master Cheng chuckled. "You guys are welcome to visit often, we don't have many girls in our family."

Cheng Su pursed her lips and chuckled. Indeed, in this room, except for those who married in, they were all men, and there wasn't a single girl, a testament to the Cheng family's flourishing offspring.

"Many families would be envious of that!" Cheng Su said with a laugh.

"I just wanted a granddaughter; granddaughters are so obedient. These little rascals don't listen!" Old Master Cheng huffed lightly.

Everyone protested.

"Dad, then you'll have to hope for Yaozu!" Cheng Yaoguang's wife said with a smile.

Cheng Yaozu was tossing an apple up and down, saying, "Sister-in-law, don't be like this. I promise, I really didn't escape from the last blind date. I sat obediently and drank two cups of tea; it was just the girl being picky!"

Everyone burst into laughter.

Ying Xiaoya also laughed; this person was truly amusing.

"Next time, I'll find someone for you to meet properly!" Madam Cheng said seriously.

"Don't bother; nowadays, it's all about free love. I'll find someone myself!" Cheng Yaozu pouted.

Old Master Cheng said, "Counting on you, I don't know when I'll get to drink the bride's tea."

As he spoke, his eyes turned towards Ning Ge, sitting properly, and asked, "Ning Boy, are you from Beijing?"

Ning Ge quickly replied, "Yes, Old Master, our Old Master has also mentioned you to us!"

"Oh?" Old Master Cheng became interested, looking at him. The young man was handsome, sitting upright. From what the eldest said, Xiao Su and the Beijing Ning family seemed quite close, and that Ning family in Beijing was quite substantial. Was this the Ning family?

The Ning family, he was old, and his memory was not as sharp.

Cheng Su was a bit surprised, glancing at Ning Ge. Was he about to disclose his family background?

"However, what our Old Master said wasn't too pleasant. He mentioned that now Old Red Army soldiers are scarce, and back then, our Old Master was also in the Red Army, just stationed in the north while you might have been in the south."

"Oh, who's your Old Master?" Old Master Cheng asked.

"Ning Zhengguang."

"That's a senior chief in the military district." As the party secretary, Cheng Yaoguang had no reason not to know the big figures above, his eyes twinkled, quite a significant background.

"Ah, it's him. I've heard of him; your Old Master was indeed mighty back then. During the Anti-Japanese War, he single-handedly blew up a pillbox..." Old Master Cheng slapped his thigh. "Ah, truly, we're family, yet we met and didn't recognize each other!"

"Fate brings people together; now we know each other, don't we?" Cheng Su said with a laugh.

"Yes, yes, it's all thanks to you, the matchmaker," Old Master Cheng laughed, looking at Ning Ge with much more warmth.

"Speaking of which, our Old Master first knew Cheng Su, and that's how our family got to know her," Ning Ge added. "In the eyes of our Old Master, none of us can compare to her!"

Cheng Su was a bit stunned—what did Ning Ge mean by that, trying to elevate her?

Ning Ge glanced at her, winking mischievously.

Chapter 1162: The Bridge of Grafted Friendship

Cheng Su couldn't understand what Ning Ge meant, but as soon as Ning Ge spoke, the way Cheng Yaoguang and the others looked at Cheng Su changed slightly.

In the interaction between people, no matter how pure, there will always be some interests involved, and the establishment of connections usually requires someone to link people, and a bridge needs to be built.

At the moment, if the Cheng family wants to establish this connection with the Ning family, Cheng Su, who knows both families, is the bridge to connect them.

Old Master Cheng reminisced about the days of fighting the invaders, feeling sentimental, and looked at Ning Ge, "Is your grandfather still in good health?"

"Everyone is doing well," Ning Ge replied with a smile.

"Since we fought the invaders together, dad, why don't you call the old chief to say hello?" Cheng Yaoguang said with a smile.

Old Master Cheng then looked at Ning Ge, "Is it convenient?"

Ning Ge nodded. There was a phone in the room, and he dialed a long-distance number, bringing a hush over the room.

When the call connected, Ning Ge spoke a few words, then handed the phone to Old Master Cheng with both hands.

Old Master Cheng took it, cleared his throat gently, then smiled into the receiver, "Old Chief, it's me..."

The call lasted about half an hour. Old Master Cheng introduced himself, praised Ning Ge repeatedly, and reminisced about the past. At the most emotional points, tears welled up in his eyes.

Cheng Su glanced at Ning Ge, wondering what the meaning of all this was.

After hanging up, Old Master Cheng was still emotional, noticing everyone was silent, he said, "Look at me, I'm really getting old, can't even speak about the past without getting choked up."

"Old Master, it's a happy occasion, look at what you're saying," everyone comforted him.

"Yes, today is indeed a happy day." Old Master Cheng held Ning Ge's hand and said, "Ning Boy, in the future, bring your grandfather to Guangcheng to visit more often, let's get together. Your grandfather is right, we, the Old Red Army soldiers, are getting fewer and fewer!"

"Sure."

"Dad, we can also go to Beijing for a visit," Cheng Yaoguang said with a smile.

"Yes, yes."

Ning Ge said, "When you come to Beijing, we'll host a welcome reception for you!"

"Good, that sounds great!" Old Master Cheng was very pleased and said, "Everyone must be hungry, come on, let's eat and chat while we dine."

Everyone stood up and took their seats.

Cheng Su was still arranged to sit next to the old master, with Ning Ge right next to her, while Ying Xiaoya was seated beside Cheng Yaozu, with whom she was chatting happily earlier.

Cheng Su noticed this and slightly curled her lips into a smile.

While waiting for the dishes to be served, Cheng Yaoguang asked Cheng Su again about their land purchase plans, what were they planning to do?

"We don't have any big plans. We just see the future development of Guangcheng. The Guangcheng of the future is bound to be more prosperous than it is now, so we have the thought of buying two plots of land to hold on to. It's just that we don't know what we can buy with such little money," Cheng Su said.

"For what purpose?"

"The purpose isn't clear yet, as funds are limited. I'm managing a restaurant, and if it grows, I might open a hotel here someday," Cheng Su continued, "But the premise is to have our own land. If that doesn't work out, we can hold on to it for a few years. After all, the land is there, it won't disappear. In a few years, the land price might just double."

As he listened, a bright gleam flashed briefly in Cheng Yaoguang's eyes. He picked up his teacup and took a sip.

"You sound pretty confident that our Guangcheng will definitely develop," Cheng Yaozong said with a smile, "Do you know where you want to buy yet?"

Chapter 1163: Closeness

Cheng Su still hasn't made detailed plans on where to buy the land. Buying land doesn't mean you can buy it wherever you want; first, you need money, and there also has to be suitable land available.

As the top leader of the province, Secretary Cheng isn't only responsible for Guangcheng but the entire province. He can intervene in land purchases, but not too obviously, since he is a government official.

So, for now, there's no definitive conclusion.

"Hey, let's leave work talks for later. Today is about having a meal with this old man. If we talk, it should be personal matters. Business can wait. Let's eat!" Old Master Cheng waved his hand.

With the old master having spoken, everyone naturally refrained from discussing personal matters and instead chatted about family affairs.

Old Master Cheng noticed his youngest enthusiastically recommending a large shrimp to Ying Xiaoya, saying how delicious it was and how Qing City couldn't possibly have such fresh ones, causing him to smile.

Looking at the young girl, with her bright eyes and clear eyebrows, fair complexion, and a smile that curved her eyes, she carried herself with the grace of a well-bred young lady.

"Xiao Ya, how old are you this year? Do you have a boyfriend?" Old Master Cheng suddenly asked.

Everyone's eyes immediately turned toward Ying Xiaoya.

Ying Xiaoya, in the midst of biting a shrimp, was caught off guard by the question, her face turning red. She quickly swallowed, half-turned to cover her mouth, coughed gently a couple of times, and naturally took the tissue Cheng Yaozu handed her to wipe her mouth before replying, "In response to the old master, I'm twenty-five this year. As for a boyfriend, I just broke up with one."

Cheng Su nearly spit out her tea. Is this kid too honest?

"Oh, it's okay, if a relationship breaks, it just means it wasn't meant to be, nothing to regret. It shows that your destined one hasn't appeared yet. Who's in your family?" Old Master Cheng continued to ask.

Ying Xiaoya answered obediently.

Cheng Su added, "Her father is the deputy mayor of Qing City, and though she's a university graduate, she's working in our company as an accountant. Old master, don't you think that's a bit beneath her?"

Cheng Su somewhat understood the old master's intention, quickly summarizing Xiao Ya's background.

"As long as she likes the job, anything is fine!" Old Master Cheng said with a smile, looking at Cheng Yaozu, "The young girl rarely visits, Yaozu, you're idle at home anyway. These few days, show them around."

"Dad, I have a job too, you know? Ask my second brother if you don't believe me!" protested Cheng Yaozu.

"Indeed, he shows up at work, naps, reads the newspaper, and slips out before mealtime," Cheng Yaozong said.

Cheng Yaozu cried out in grievance, amusing everyone to laughter.

After a while at the table, Cheng Yaoguang said he had to leave for a meeting, and before leaving, he told Cheng Su, "Discuss the land purchase with our second brother, then we can plan what to do."

"Thank you, Secretary Cheng," Cheng Su quickly bowed in thanks. Although the old master had told her to call him elder brother, she didn't dare be disrespectful; he's a big deal in the south, after all!

Cheng Yaoguang didn't find her mode of address odd and was actually quite pleased. He said, "The old master likes you very much; come visit more often when you're free, and keep him company."

His words were quite close and personal, causing Cheng Su to pause slightly, "Okay," she responded.

Cheng Yaoguang then said goodbye to everyone and left.

Ning Ge heard their conversation, a hint of satisfaction flashing in his eyes.

Chapter 1164: No Fools in the Great Family

A meal was enjoyed by both hosts and guests. Cheng Su and the others had taken a long-distance train, so they were tired and naturally needed to rest. Cheng Yaozu prepared to take them to the hotel to settle in.

Old Master Cheng said, "We actually have space at home, why stay in a hotel?"

Cheng Su said, "Old Master, we also need to visit distribution stores for business, so coming and going from a hotel is more convenient. Don't worry, we'll be back to have tea and chat with you."

"That's settled then, come back for a couple of chess games. Girl, your chess skills are terrible, let the old man teach you!" Old Master Cheng said.

Cheng Su immediately showed a distressed face. She did know how to play chess, having picked up a bit from the hotel chairman in her former life at the hotel.

Actually, the old master's chess skills weren't great either. He often regretted his moves, and no one in the Cheng family wanted to play with him. Last time, Cheng Su fell for it once. He had a childlike nature and thought his chess skills were excellent.

After bidding farewell to the family, Cheng Su and the others arrived at the hotel, where Cheng Yaozong picked up two keys from the front desk and led them upstairs, clearly familiar with the place.

Cheng Su asked and then found out that the hotel also had shares belonging to the Cheng family.

"The family mainly focuses on shopping malls, running chains. There are three in Guangcheng and some in Shanghai," Cheng Yaozu replied. "There are also some investments, and now Second Brother is planning to venture into real estate."

Real estate, Cheng Su's eyes lit up, and she felt her blood boiling all over.

Cheng Yaozu found it a bit inexplicable. He didn't miss the excitement in her eyes. Did this girl have insights into real estate?

"Is the Lai Lai Shopping Mall in Beijing also owned by your family?" Ning Ge asked.

Cheng Yaozu nodded and said, "It just opened early this year, and the business hasn't fully stabilized yet. So..." He smiled at Ning Ge, "Brother, do you have any connections or advice?"

Ning Ge thought for a moment and said, "I have a childhood friend who opened a department store; I'll introduce you later!"

"Great!"

See, that's how connections work. Actually, it's not that the Cheng family doesn't know how to run a business; it's just that they're not local there. Getting to know more people can't go wrong.

After walking for a while, Ning Ge suddenly asked, "By the way, is the Cheng family considered the local boss here? Have you heard of Shenglong Transportation?"

"Shenglong, yes, I've heard a bit about it. But it's not very noticeable, right? Their boss seems to have some connections with the underworld. He once wanted to collaborate with us, but the old master said no black involvement, so there was no contact. Why do you ask?"

Ning Ge rubbed his chin and said, "I noticed they've been doing quite well in the south recently."

Shenglong Transportation is owned by the Loo family. In the past, they were more prominent in the north, but he's found that in recent years, Shenglong has focused significantly on their southern business.

Guangcheng is by the sea on the west side. If we talk about transportation development, nothing beats the ports. If Shenglong's business takes off, could it be related to these factors? This time in Guangcheng, he actually wanted to investigate Shenglong's operations in the south here.

He always felt that there was something unclear and mysterious about the Loo family's transportation business.

"If you want to make it hard for Shenglong to operate here, even if your family doesn't get involved with the underworld, you should have some way, right?" Ning Ge asked tentatively.

Cheng Yaozu raised an eyebrow at him and said, "We do whatever the old master decides."

Meaning, everything depended on the head elder of the family.

Ning Ge didn't say anything more. The Cheng family wasn't just any small household. It was precisely because of this that they were more cautious.

It seems that in this big family, no one is foolish, including himself and the jovial Cheng Yaozu.

Chapter 1165: Old Master Cheng's Stance

Cheng Yaozu stayed with Cheng Su and the others for a while, talked about their upcoming plans, and then left.

As soon as he left, Cheng Su couldn't wait to pull Ning Ge aside and ask what he meant during dinner.

"Are you putting me on a pedestal? And exposing your own background." Cheng Su asked.

Ning Ge replied, "When interacting with people, you always have to present something worthwhile to get respect. Don't think it's too realistic or sharp, the world is bustling about for benefits; everyone is motivated by profit. That's the way it is. It's not against showing true feelings, but interests will make relationships more solid."

Cheng Su pressed her lips together; she understood this principle.

"Elevating you isn't just to boost you up, but to use you as a bridge. Look, our Ning family gets to know the Cheng family because of you, and the same goes for them. Without you, we might have known each other eventually, but probably not as casually or familiarly as now," Ning Ge said. "In big families, interests drive everything. Even if the North and South don't interfere with each other, once interests are involved, that no longer applies. Networking is something you can never have too much of, especially with such large establishments."

"Is your family also planning to expand south?" Cheng Su was somewhat curious.

"Not really, just creating more options, not putting all our eggs in one basket," Ning Ge replied.

Cheng Su gave an "oh" and said, "Thank you!"

Ning Ge raised an eyebrow.

"Actually, you also intend to back me, right?" Cheng Su wasn't stupid. With Ning Ge's words, it was as if telling the Cheng family that the old master of the Ning family held her in high regard.

And the Cheng family, knowing this, would naturally think more highly of her and be closer to her. Didn't Cheng Yaoguang's eyes warm up when looking at her?

"I think the old master genuinely likes you, so things will be easier," Ning Ge laughed and shifted the topic.

"What are you all talking about? Why do I never understand?" Ying Xiaoya was thoroughly confused.

Cheng Su giggled and said, "You've eaten too many prawns."

Ying Xiaoya's face flushed, and she pounced to tickle Cheng Su.

Ning Ge watched from the side while pondering when to check things out at Shenglong.

Cheng Yaozu returned home and also told the old master about Ning Ge's words.

"Dad, what do you think Ning Ge means? Has Shenglong blocked his way?" Cheng Yaozu asked.

"These are things for you young folks to handle. Why ask me?" Old Master Cheng replied while fiddling with a chessboard, not lifting his head.

Cheng Yaozu glanced at his younger brother and said, "If Ning Ge asks us for help, should we help or not?"

"That's up to you," Old Master Cheng said.

"What do you mean?"

"Depends if you want to make good with the Ning family, if you want to move further," Old Master Cheng said flatly.

Cheng Yaozu almost cursed. Isn't it obvious? The Ning family is influential, many want to connect with them but can't. Their family is doing okay in the south, but in the north, everyone is striving. Even the eldest brother is only in his fifties.

But one cannot be complacent. Although the Cheng family is a big player in Guangcheng now, what about the next generation, or the generation after next?

For a family to grow strong, it can't rely only on one or two generations. It needs the contributions of many generations. The foundation built by the ancestors, if not maintained, how long can it withstand challenges?

Old Master Cheng seemed not to give an opinion, but the Cheng Brothers knew that the old master had already stated his stance.

Chapter 1166: Inspection

In the next few days, Cheng Su and Ning Ge began to evaluate their own jam sales points in this area, starting with Lai Lai Shopping Mall's sales section of their products.

In this era, there were no supermarkets as such, but Lailai Department Store had set up several sales areas, covering a variety of dry groceries, food, and daily necessities, as well as leather products and clothing, making it a relatively large mall.

Their sales section was in the dry groceries food area and did not have dedicated sales staff, only general management over a few booths. This was also part of the cooperative agreement with Lailai Department Store, where they were responsible for supplying goods, Lailai was responsible for the buying and selling, and kept a certain profit and booth fee, settled on a quarterly basis.

It's actually quite similar to the supermarket model of the 21st century. Just by looking, you can't discern much, just consider the condition of the place. The specific sales figures depend on the distribution store side, as they would know about the supply and return volumes.

So, after walking around Lailai, Cheng Su and the team headed to the distribution store.

Knowing that the bosses were coming, Wang Bo kept all the sales staff at the store and, upon their arrival, introduced everyone briefly.

As the owner, a few words of encouragement were naturally necessary. Cheng Su said a few motivating words and let them get back to their work, then sat down to look at the various reports Wang Bo handed over.

The distribution store, unlike a franchise store, looked more like a small company, with a counter area for sales, an office set up, and complete staff including business representatives, assistants, and managers.

Cheng Su looked at the sales figures on the report — Guangcheng had just been entered, everything seemed to be going smoothly, but the sales figures hadn't fully picked up yet.

"You climbed up from business yourself. The team now is something you built up personally, and you're almost an area manager. When you have time, think more about how to improve performance, and train the sales staff more. Guangcheng is a big city with opportunities everywhere. Once the sales channels open up, there will be more than just this small distribution store in the future," Cheng Su told Wang Bo.

"Thank you, President Cheng, for your guidance. I will definitely do my best," Wang Bo said.

Wang Bo understood Cheng Su's underlying message. Once the sales channels opened and distribution was not limited to just one, as the company developed and expanded, his achievements would exceed those of today. Can an area manager compare to an area president?

"Although the performance hasn't improved much yet, it's better than when we first started. Keep it up." Cheng Su smiled and made a cheering gesture.

Wang Bo nodded and added, "President Cheng, there's another issue to consult with you. The distance between Guangcheng and Qing City is vast. Regarding the supply chain, do you think we should strengthen it? After all, the extended transportation time compromises the freshness of the food."

Currently, the jam supplies to Guangcheng are transported long distances from Qing City. The time consumed in transit, plus the time spent unloading and sorting, could take from ten days to a couple of weeks at best, or up to a month if slow, which is quite disadvantageous.

Having its own transportation supply chain would be ideal, but Jam Company's current resources and corporate funds do not allow for this, so this needs to be addressed properly.

In any enterprise, as long as there is the movement of physical goods, a transportation chain naturally exists. Cheng Su had also considered this issue. As they didn't have their own transportation chain now, they could only cooperate with others. How to control transportation costs was a major subject that required careful thought.

"I understand, and I will think it over carefully. If you have any ideas, feel free to report them!" Cheng Su said with a smile.

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Chapter 1167: I Only Want This Plot of Land

After observing the operations of her own company's products in this area, Cheng Su gave a few more suggestions based on the plan provided by Wang Bo, and then decided to be a hands-off manager, focusing solely on the land transactions.

So Cheng Su and the others specifically visited Cheng Yaozong to discuss the matter of buying land with him.

When it comes to business matters, Ying Xiaoya didn't understand, so feeling bored sitting there, she was taken downstairs by Cheng Yaozu to buy some snacks, leaving only Cheng Su and Ning Ge to discuss in Cheng Yaozong's office.

"The land in the central area has already been bid on, and our family has bid on a few plots, intended for building houses. These few plots are going to be released next and are not yet announced." Cheng Yaozong passed over a map, with several locations marked in red pen.

Not announced, which means the competition is not yet intense, considered internal information.

Cheng Su took it with some excitement.

This was a map of Guangcheng, and there were four or five marked locations. Cheng Su glanced at the approximate locations, and got a basic understanding.

Ning Ge also looked over but couldn't make much sense of it since he wasn't familiar with Guangcheng. However, he found it strange how Cheng Su seemed so familiar, as if she had visited many times.

Could it be that on her last visit, she had traveled across the entire Guangcheng?

"President Cheng..."

"Just call me Second Brother Cheng, the old man also said you should call the eldest brother 'elder brother'. Calling me President Cheng is too formal." Cheng Yaozong said.

Uh, Cheng Su paused, then corrected herself: "Second Brother Cheng, I want to know, what are the current prices for these plots?"

Cheng Yaozong stood up, walked to his desk, took out a document, and handed it over.

"This is the base price," Cheng Yaozong said.

Cheng Su looked even more surprised, they even had the base prices, indicating thorough preparation.

She felt grateful, took it, and looked closely. It detailed the size and location of each plot, along with the lowest prices.

Cheng Su already had a general direction in her mind, so she skipped the rest, focusing only on her desired plot.

"Second Brother Cheng, for this plot, if we increase the price a bit, it shouldn't be a problem, right?" Cheng Su pointed to that land and asked.

Cheng Yaozong looked over, slightly stunned; it was the least conspicuous of the blocks. Though large and inexpensive, its current development wasn't as good as the others.

The youth only sees the price and size of the land without understanding its development prospects.

Cheng Yaozong smiled and asked how much they planned to invest in the land.

Cheng Su blushed a bit, glanced at Ning Ge, and whispered a number.

"Two hundred thousand, not too much, not too little. Buying this plot is feasible. But, Xiao Su, when buying land, you can't just look at the price and size; the overall development is also important. The plot you are looking at, according to the city's plan, won't develop for at least another ten years." Cheng Yaozong said, "For your money, it would be better to buy this one."

He moved his finger slightly and pointed to the northwest on the map, saying, "Though it's not far from the city center, there's a river close by, and in the coming years, it will surely develop rapidly. This river is considered the lifeblood of the people of Guangcheng."

Cheng Su of course knew this, but she also knew that the plot she had her eye on would eventually become a new district in Guangcheng, a prime business location where land would be worth its weight in gold, and many towering buildings and elite professionals would take pride in working there.

Therefore, she wanted to buy there, and as for time, she had the patience to wait.

"Second Brother Cheng, I just want this plot," Cheng Su stated firmly.

Chapter 1168: Playing the Rare Goods Game

Cheng Su's attitude was very firm, so firm it seemed she had decided long ago, without a hint of hesitation, let alone any wavering.

This made Cheng Yaozong feel puzzled and strange, wondering if this little girl's temperament was a bit stubborn, why couldn't she understand people's words!

Ning Ge also had the same doubt.

"Actually, shouldn't you consider President Cheng's suggestion? This way, the funds would return faster, and we can pay back the bank sooner." Ning Ge suggested quietly.

Cheng Yaozong looked at them in astonishment.

Cheng Su gave a sheepish smile, "The money we used to buy the land is borrowed from the bank." She then reminded Ning Ge, "You forgot, our loan is to be paid off in thirty years."

This hundreds of thousands, in the coming 21st century, won't amount to much. Money becomes less valuable as time progresses, paying monthly becomes easier as time goes on, what's there to fear?

"Second Brother Cheng, I know, the plots you're talking about do indeed offer quick capital recovery, I agree, but they are all too small, and Guangcheng is going to develop slowly." Cheng Su took a pen from the holder on the table, tore off a sheet of paper, and drew a small dot, saying, "This small dot is the central location. Here, construction and development have already begun, and once this area is saturated, it needs to expand outward."

She then drew a circle outside the dot, one circle after another, until the paper was almost filled.

"This Guangcheng District, in another decade or two, will be fully saturated and outdated, so, if development is needed again, or to connect with other fields, will there be any space left?" Cheng Su pulled out another sheet of paper, drew a dot, a large circle, and then combined the two sheets together.

Cheng Yaozong watched, with a look of surprise.

"Assume this is the old district." Cheng Su placed the pen at the junction of the two sheets and pointed to the other sheet, saying: "This would be the new district, and this..." she pointed to the pen, "is the central axis, so tell me, will this area be valuable in the future?"

Cheng Yaozong pinched his chin, a flash of contemplation crossed his eyes, and he thought for a moment and said, "Your analysis has some truth to it. But in business, the most important thing is quick capital turnover, so that the cash flow can keep rolling, enabling the next investment. But if you tie all your money in this area, letting it stay dormant for over a decade or two, the profits that could have been generated over these years would have already recouped the principal. Besides, in business, cash flow is crucial, if your funds are tied up, it's like shackling your hands and feet."

Cheng Su gave a wry smile, "I've actually thought about this problem too; it's one of the drawbacks. Second Brother Cheng, the money I have on hand can only invest in a small piece of land. If it's too tiny, buying it means at most making a quick buck when flipping it. But with the fast-paced era, people's minds will also change quickly. Speaking frankly, at my current state, I'm just a small merchant, with something to spare but not enough to compare to big powers. Competing with truly financially robust business tycoons, I can't win. Even if I have money, others will have more, so if buying this land, can I afford it, can I compete with the powerful? Hence, I can only choose one of the two options."

"Are you playing the game of cornering the market?" Cheng Yaozong asked.

Cheng Su was taken aback; this description was quite apt, so she nodded and said, "If you put it that way, I suppose so."

"What if what you said doesn't happen?" Cheng Yaozong said, "Then, your two hundred thousand would be like sinking in water."

"If it's gold, it will shine one day, no depth of water can block its light. I have confidence in Guangcheng." Cheng Su smiled and said, "In fact, if you, Second Brother Cheng, have some funds left, investing in a few pieces here wouldn't be a bad idea either."

Chapter 1169: She Didn't Lose Out

Cheng Yaozong felt a bit helpless about Cheng Su's persistence. He didn't expect her to be so stubborn, so he said, "Why don't you reconsider?"

Cheng Su nodded.

After leaving Cheng Yaozong, Ning Ge said to Cheng Su, "Actually, I also think Cheng Yaozong makes some sense. Cash flow is very important. Do you want to think about it again?"

Cheng Su laughed and said, "I know, but don't forget, our funds are borrowed from the bank, not taken from our own account. In other words, we took a sum of money from the bank's pocket to make an investment. In return, we will pay a little interest, both parties are willing. Do you think we really need this cash flow back so badly?"

To put it plainly, it's like someone else giving her money for another investment, and she just needs to pay a little more back. Besides, the debt repayment period is quite long and the interest rate is so low. Why not?

If the money was taken from the store's cash flow, it would be a different story. After all, if the business is running and the cash flow stops, it's like the business stops too.

Ning Ge was stunned. He found himself speechless at her explanation.

"So, this is decided?"

Cheng Su nodded and said, "If you're in urgent need of money, you can buy another plot. You don't have to look at the piece I'm interested in."

"The business I keep doing is just jam and restaurant investments. Why would I be in a hurry for this money?" Not to mention, his real intention wasn't even to do business. Maybe in a few years, he would switch to somewhere like National Security!

"Wherever you buy, we'll follow you. In my opinion, it's best to have them connected. Even if we sell it in the future, it would be easier to sell if it's big enough." Ning Ge said with a smile.

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, thought about it, and said, "That works." Anyway, if they made money, they would split it half-and-half.

The Cheng family.

Old Master Cheng already knew about Cheng Su's intention to buy land and was quite concerned, so he asked Cheng Yaozong about the progress.

When he heard the location Cheng Su wanted to choose, Old Master Cheng was taken aback. He put on his reading glasses and took out a map of Guangcheng to look at it.

Cheng Yaozong stood beside him, pointed out the location, and showed him Cheng Su's marked diagram.

Old Master Cheng looked at it again and again, pondered for a while, and then asked, "What did she say?"

Cheng Yaozong recounted Cheng Su's explanation and said, "She has some skills, but she's still too young. In business, cash flow is very important, yet this girl seems a bit disobedient. I think there's an eighty to ninety percent chance she'll buy this plot. By the way, their money for buying the land is borrowed from the bank."

When Old Master Cheng heard the words "bank loan," he took off his reading glasses and said, "Don't underestimate her. This girl is not stupid."

Cheng Yaozong was startled, "What do you mean?"

"Is she buying this land with her own money? Did she pull cash flow from the business? By getting a loan from the bank, it's like using the bank's hand for her investment. A few years back, the country encouraged interest-free loans to the public. That's no longer sung today, but there are low-interest loans. So, all she has to do is pay the bank a little extra sweetener, and she gets a piece of land with her name on it." Old Master Cheng stroked his gray beard and said, "As you said, she's employing the concept of waiting to sell rare goods for a good price, yet it doesn't affect her business at all. You say, did she lose anything? She hasn't lost a penny! It's like extra idle money being invested, without urgent need, so naturally, she can wait for it to develop."

Old Master Cheng grabbed the point diagram drawn by Cheng Su and handed it back to him: "Maybe you can show this to your elder brother for reference."

Cheng Yaozong stared blankly at the paper in his hand and asked, "Dad, should we also employ the strategy of holding rare goods for a high price?"

"Certainly!"

Chapter 1170: Bringing Warmth to the Orphanage

Since Cheng Su and the others have made their decision, the matter of where and how to buy the land has been settled.

As the saying goes, having connections makes things easier. Cheng Su and the others basically don't need to worry much, they just need to transfer the money to the designated account. The land title, of course, will be taken care of by the Cheng family, who are well-connected locals.

The land purchase went smoothly, and even though the registration of the land title can't be done immediately, with the Cheng family there, Cheng Su isn't worried. After the payment, they can just wait patiently to receive it.

After transferring the money, Cheng Su and the others specifically went to see the land. It used to belong to a big landlord, then it was confiscated by the government during the land reforms and is only being released now.

Once they have the land title, whether Cheng Su and the others decide to use it themselves or sell it, it's entirely up to them.

"The land is just too little, and the money is too little, we should've bought a few more plots!" Standing on their soon-to-be land, Cheng Suxin was itching to do more.

Having plenty of land makes one a big landlord. Whether to sell or use in the future, there wouldn't be trouble even with a misstep.

Upon hearing this, Ning Ge's forehead veins twitched a few times and he said, "You really think buying land is like buying vegetables, and you can just buy a few more plots!"

Cheng Su sheepishly said, "What's wrong? This is called a dream. If a person doesn't have dreams, how are they different from a salted fish? One must have dreams. What if they come true?"

"Alright, alright, you're right," Ning Ge rolled his eyes and said, "Once your business grows bigger, you can speculate on land. Someday, you can be like the Cheng family, with excess money to hoard land and speculate just for fun."

Initially, Cheng Yaozong said it wasn't practical for Cheng Su to buy this land, but who knew he also bought a large plot, having more than enough money.

Cheng Su clicked his tongue, "How can I compare with a tycoon? They're lavish!"

Hearing the sarcasm in her tone, Ning Ge chuckled and said, "Dreams, after all, are necessary. What if they come true?"

Cheng Su rolled her eyes at him — a parrot, just mimicking words.

"Xiao Ya and Cheng Yaozu went out to play. What about you? I have something to look into this time. How about you go back to the hotel to rest first?" After sorting out the land issue, Ning Ge asked Cheng Su.

Cheng Su thought for a moment and said, "Then you go first, I'll check the distribution store and also visit a place."

"Where to? The Cheng family?" Ning Ge asked.

"How about delivering some warmth to the orphanage? Let's go!" Cheng Su waved her hand.

"Be safe!" Ning Ge could only remind her from behind and then went in the opposite direction. His investigation was quite urgent and couldn't afford to waste time.

But delivering warmth to the orphanage?

When did she get this intention, and did she go last time too?

Have to admit, Ning Ge guessed it right.

Originally, Cheng Su didn't plan to visit the orphanage. She feared that seeing Little Cheng Su would lead to overthinking and falling into a vicious circle, and deep down, she felt they shouldn't have such interactions.

But then she thought, having been abandoned by her parents and being so pitiful, knowing about her existence, yet not visiting would indeed be too cruel.

So, after much thought, she took a ride to the orphanage and bought a lot of stationeries on the way to give to the kids.

The orphanage director was surprised to see her but very pleased, saying, "Didn't expect you'd come over!"

Cheng Su smiled and asked, "Is Little Cheng Su doing well?" After hesitating for a moment, she asked, "In the past few months, has anyone come looking for her?"