

The 80s 1181

Chapter 1181: Make Her Sick Back

Cheng Su hung up the phone, scoffing and rubbing her forehead speechlessly. That crazy woman, what did she say, just to disgust her.

Honestly, she achieved that. This matter is indeed quite disgusting.

Chiang Qing's approach was to make Cheng Su know it's her causing trouble, yet be unable to do anything about it, just to disgust her.

Cheng Su was just about to call Ning Ge to explain the situation when the guard reported that two people claiming to be from some food company were at the door wanting to see the boss.

Cheng Su found it strange upon hearing this, as it seemed they had no prior contact with this company!

She tidied her clothes. Thankfully, she always kept a set of clothes in the office for emergencies. Otherwise, in this hot summer, she hadn't even gone home, nor had she washed up and dressed properly, so she didn't know how she could meet anyone.

She had Mai Yanmei bring them in, while she waited by the sofa. In no time, a man and a woman carrying briefcases arrived.

"This is our President Cheng," Mai Yanmei introduced.

"Hello, here's our business card," the two handed over their cards.

Cheng Su glanced at them. They were managers and assistants of XX Food Company or something, which puzzled her even more. Could it be they were here to discuss a collaboration?

Cheng Su invited them to sit down, asked Mai Yanmei to serve tea, and then inquired about their purpose for coming.

"It's like this, our company is also a well-known state-owned enterprise, with annual revenues ranking in the top ten. We have been monitoring your company for a while and are interested in acquiring your company." The manager named He Meng said slowly: "Our company would offer a favorable acquisition price."

What, acquire their Jam Company?

Cheng Su almost choked on her tea, hurriedly spat it back into the cup, and grabbed a tissue from the table to dab at the corners of her mouth, instructing Mai Yanmei to replace the tea.

"Sorry, I lost my composure." Cheng Su gave an apologetic smile.

He Meng nodded slightly and said, "The price can still be discussed in detail."

"Sorry, I think there might be a misunderstanding. Our company is not going bankrupt, nor is it struggling to the point of seeking a sale to another company. This talk of acquisition, is it?" Cheng Su looked at them in astonishment.

The two exchanged glances and said, "Your company has only been open for less than three years and is still under development, right? If we acquire it, our company will help it grow better. And the acquisition price is sure to satisfy President Cheng."

Can't understand human language!

Cheng Su slightly withdrew her smile, "Who sent you?"

The two looked bewildered, "Huh?"

"For no apparent reason, our two companies have been like adjacent waters that don't interfere with each other. Suddenly proposing an acquisition is a bit abrupt, isn't it? So, who sent you? Or rather, who instructed you?" Cheng Su asked.

"President Cheng, there's a misunderstanding. No one instructed us. We were simply sent by the company to negotiate with you..."

"It's Chiang Qing, isn't it!" Cheng Su cut him off, seeing them even more bewildered. Realizing that their positions weren't high, likely sent as scouts, she lost interest and said, "Sorry, our company does not accept your acquisition and doesn't need it. Please return and inform your bosses not to bother anymore!"

He Meng glanced at his assistant, stood up, and said, "Then we apologize for the disturbance today. Goodbye!"

"Yanmei, see them out!" Cheng Su instructed Yanmei, while she went to the phone, dialed a few numbers, got through to Ning Ge, and exclaimed in exasperation, "Ning Ge, this Chiang Qing just wants to disgust me. You need to get revenge for me, disgust her back!"

Chapter 1182: Give Her a Big One

Ning Ge suddenly received a frantic call from Cheng Su, and for a moment, he was caught off guard. In his memory, this woman wasn't so easily out of control!

After hearing what Cheng Su had to say, his face darkened several shades: "Damn it, are they really playing with me? Alright, I'll handle it. Don't worry about it, just release the statement clearing the company's name."

After hanging up, Ning Ge grabbed his clothes and headed to Zhou Jun's place.

Zhou Jun had been feeling incredibly frustrated these past two days. He'd been aimlessly drifting for over twenty years, and when he finally did something significant, achieving some success, he got praised by the elders in his family, only to have this incident blow up.

He was the sole agent in all of Beijing for Joy Soon Loy Jam, and a lot of goods were distributed through him. Now, with this food poisoning incident and bugs found in the jam, wasn't this a literal slap in his face?

With such a large batch of goods, how could it be that only those few jars had issues?

They're all from the third-generation rich, and the Zhou family also has a strong background, suppressing the news isn't an issue, but among these circles of childhood friends, he's become the laughing stock.

It's truly infuriating!

"President Zhou, Master Ning is here!" the assistant announced, opening the door.

Zhou Jun looked up: "Why is he here again? Did the quarantine department release the report?"

"In progress," Ning Ge replied, "But, report or not, it doesn't matter, someone is stirring up trouble."

"Who?" Zhou Jun immediately jumped up.

"Chiang Qing."

"Chiang..." Zhou Jun ran through his thoughts, and said, "The nutcase Chiang Qing? Chiang Tian's sister?"

Ning Ge nodded.

"Damn it! What's her agenda? Doesn't she know that the jam is under my agency? What did she do?" Zhou Jun was fixated on saving his own face, and now being messed with by a woman ignited his anger even further.

Ning Ge said, "What else could it be? Such childish tactics, just getting a few people to put on a show, the jam with bugs must have had something extra added by her. She's just trying to smear our names."

"Damn it, she's framing us!" Zhou Jun swung his fist in the air.

"This lunatic, I've disliked her for a long time. Now messing with you means messing with me. This anger isn't something I can swallow!"

Zhou Jun's eyes lit up: "Tell me, what should we do? Or should we just bag her and get a few thugs to scare her?"

"Bagging her" was code for catching her by surprise, putting a burlap sack over her, tying her up, and scaring her.

"Is that all you're capable of?" Ning Ge gave him a disdainful look, "They call you the untouchable little bully Zhou Jun, is that all you've got to show? Forget it, I'll get someone else!"

When they were kids, Zhou Jun and Ning Ge became friends after fights, Zhou Jun was subdued by Ning Ge, so over the years, he always listened to Ning Ge the most.

Feeling belittled by him now, he couldn't take it. He quickly grabbed him and said, "Brother, I'll call you brother, okay? Just tell me, or I won't be able to let it go!"

If his business kept thriving, he could request more funds from his family to invest in other things. He heard that Ning Ge had already bought land!

But with this mess, his family's faith in his abilities was shaken. Could they continue to support him? It was all caused by that crazy Chiang girl.

Ning Ge glared at him and said, "Don't think I'm giving you orders for work, alright!"

"Okay, okay, just say it!"

"Chiang Qing could pull this off, relying on what? It's her family's backing, isn't it? We need to show her we're not to be messed with, so we have to hit her hard, like this..." Ning Ge began whispering in Zhou Jun's ear.

Chapter 1183: The Consequences of Provoking the Little Tyrant

The circle of wealthy young men in the Capital has been quite lively these days. In the entire Capital, if the family isn't part of the official second generation, they're part of the wealthy third generation from the Old Red Army soldier families. Some of these young men have enlisted in the military, while others have started businesses. When it comes to business negotiations, the common practice is doing so in nightclubs, where the chances of reaching deals are higher under the dim lights and flowing drinks.

Lu Shaojun, a wealthy third generation from the Loo Family, is involved in the construction sector and has set up a banquet at the nightclub tonight. He plans to sign a deal with Initiate Real Estate, which has recently acquired a piece of land, to contract the construction of high-rise buildings for Initiate.

The deal is almost settled, and once this agreement is signed, it means a profit of over a million.

Lu Shaojun awaited Initiate's Crown Prince Pan Yan, but also unexpectedly encountered Zhou Jun.

The agreement wasn't signed yet, when someone whispered a few words in Pan Yan's ear, halting the signing pen he was holding. Looking at Lu Shaojun, he said, "Young Master Lu, we regret to inform you that Initiate cannot continue cooperation with you."

Lu Shaojun was stunned, "You, Young Master Pan, what does this mean? We were negotiating well." Had there been a mistake? This deal was worth millions or even more, and just like that, it was called off?

"Young Master Lu, there's nothing I can do about it. After all, our family needs to establish a foundation in the Capital, and we rely on people to do that. If there's someone to blame, blame your Loo Family for not handling things fairly!" Young Master Pan explained. Although their family was indeed wealthy merchants from Shanxi, breaking into the influential circle of the Capital was also a priority, so they couldn't afford to lose bigger opportunities while pursuing smaller ones.

Lu Shaojun was even more bewildered, "What do you mean by not handling things fairly?" He sensed something amiss, poured Pan Yan a glass of vodka, and said, "Young Master Pan, as friends, give me a hint?"

Pan Yan glanced at him and said, "You have a cousin named Chiang Qing, right? She's quite attractive?"

Lu Shaojun's head buzzed, "Yeah, so?"

"Your cousin offended Zhou Jun, messed with Zhou Jun's business, and now Zhou Jun has said anyone doing business with the Loo Family is going against the Zhou family and Chen Family, and shouldn't expect to do business with them in the future. You know how hard it is for us, from Shanxi, to connect with the Zhou family, and we have several businesses that are linked with the Chen Family. So..." Young Master Pan stood up, saying, "I better be going!"

Chiang Qing offended Zhou Jun? What was this about?

"Young Master Pan..." Lu Shaojun stood up, but realized Pan Yan was already gone. He sat down heavily, pondering, and said, "Go investigate what Chiang Qing has done!"

A deal worth millions was canceled just like that — was this a joke?

Chiang Qing, what kind of trouble did she stir up to provoke Zhou Jun, the little rascal?

Lu Shaojun was lost in thought, but soon, the nightclub echoed with a loudspeaker announcement.

"Ahem, I'm Zhou Jun. Let it be known tonight, anyone wanting to do business with the Loo Family or Chiang Tian, don't bother approaching the Zhou family or Chen Family. I, Zhou Jun, have no respect for those who started out as hawkers, nor do I fancy a family full of people trying to steal others' husbands. That's all."

Zhou Jun, a typical example of the wealthy third generation from the Old Red Army soldier families, is the sole heir of his family. Zhou Jun's grandfather was an Old Red Army soldier, and his father was in the military, but died in a mission when Zhou Jun was seven or eight years old.

Thus, he has been coddled as the sole heir, with his grandmother pampering him since he lost his father, indulging him to the point of being lawless. His mother, another formidable female soldier, fiercely protects him, especially since her husband passed away. Back in the day when Zhou Jun got into a fight

with Ning Ge and ended up bruised, his mom almost raised the roof of the Ning Family. Remarkably, Zhou Jun yielded, and since then has followed Ning Ge's lead.

Due to this background, the Chen Family, Zhou Jun's external family with real power, also spoils him. Now Zhou Jun has spoken these words, anyone considering doing business with the Loo Family or Chiang Family should think carefully.

Lu Shaojun's face turned dark instantly.

Chapter 1184: Consecutive Face-Slapping

Zhou Jun, having made up his mind, naturally first discussed it with his family and initially went to cry his grievances to his grandmother.

He lamented about losing his father at a young age, his unfortunate fate, how everyone looked down on him, and even a small businessman dared to bully him. He worked earnestly on his business and just when things started to look up, someone disrupted it.

"I even thought of earning money to buy a Western-style building for you, Grandma, and raising a little foreign dog, but there are people who can't stand my filial piety. Anyway, I'm just a boy without a father to care for me, I don't want to live anymore!" Even though Zhou Jun was obviously throwing a tantrum, his grandmother was moved to tears, and held onto him tightly, unwilling to let go.

Zhou Jun's grandmother, coming from an influential family and being a quintessential noblewoman, highly valued family status and education. After hearing this from her grandson, she grew angry and began to remember more upon inquiry.

"Is it that Jiang girl, the one whose mother was a Cultural Work Troupe director?" Grandma Zhou asked.

Zhou Jun spat: "What director? She's just a shameless woman. I heard she took someone's husband when she was young, and later even helped her daughter to steal one, causing someone to have a miscarriage. At that time, you were returning to our hometown visiting relatives so you weren't aware, but the matter was widely talked about. Now this Chiang Qing is likely enraged and is attacking others. She dared to tamper with the food from the company I represent, framing and sabotaging me, and people could get sick from it. Grandma, I'm suffering! They're bullying me because I don't have a father!"

With these words, he 'cried' again on her lap.

"They're all bullying our orphaned mother and child." Grandma Zhou also felt overwhelmed with grief, quickly soothed her grandson with a few words, and then called the Chen Family to pour out her grievances.

Thus, there was an incident at the nightclub.

This was not the end of it. Just at that time, during an event honoring the Old Red Army, even family members were invited, and Old Master Zhou along with Grandma Zhou attended.

Then, naturally, at the venue, they encountered Jiang Conghe and his wife.

Grandma Zhou's face turned green on the spot. These two people, with no upbringing, what is passed down from one generation to the next is crooked and corrupt, the old are like this, and so are the young, bullying her grandson.

When Lu Shufen and a few ladies came to propose a toast, Grandma Zhou snubbed them right there.

Everyone present were family members of the Old Red Army, so with Grandma Zhou's overt display, Lu Shufen was left at a loss.

Someone attempted to mediate, saying we old folks should educate the young properly.

"Yes, if there's something you're dissatisfied with, feel free to reprimand us." Lu Shufen, after being a commander's wife for years, was well seasoned by now.

"Reprimand you? I wouldn't dare. Your Loo Family, raising good daughters, setting their sights on other people's husbands and seizing them as their own. Begetting daughters and raising them like this, letting them wreak havoc on others, such corrupt family conduct. As for this glass of wine, with the education of my Northeast Fu Family, I dare not drink it." Grandma Zhou snorted.

Grandma Zhou was from the renowned Northeast Fu Family, which everyone knew was a noble lineage, descendants of the Qing Dynasty Manchu, with naturally high standards of upbringing. By saying this, it was akin to delivering several slaps to Lu Shufen's face.

Lu Shufen was bewildered, looking at Grandma Zhou's moving lips, unable to utter a single word.

What was going on, why suddenly mention her past, and all those matters, how dare this old lady!

Lu Shufen wanted to retort, but she didn't dare. Everyone present was a family member of the Old Red Army; if she dared act rashly, Jiang Conghe would probably divorce her as soon as she got home.

But with Grandma Zhou humiliating her like this, how could she ever hold her head high in high society again?

Chapter 1185: Utter Loss of Face

The Old Red Army families present are all elderly and not easy to anger, but seeing Grandma Zhou so upset, naturally someone asked.

Grandma Zhou wiped her tears like Zhou Jun, and whispered, "Even if you are an Old Red Army soldier, so what? What's left is a house of orphans and widows, still bullied by others. Old, useless! Poor my Jun'er for his filial piety."

Everyone started to comfort her.

"I heard that girl was also a military doctor, huh, isn't she from the Lu Family and had a marriage proposal with your grandson?" Someone looked at one of the elderly families.

The grandma referred to as Lu Family replied, "Oh, she looked down on our Hua'er, has high standards. But looking at it like this, luckily she didn't like him, otherwise our Lu Family's face would have been completely lost!"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"If the upper beam is not straight, the lower beam will be crooked."

"Lead by example."

"I've heard there's some kind of illness, could it be hereditary? Anyone who wants to propose should be careful; we can't ruin the future generations!"

"Exactly, exactly!"

Lu Shufen's side lost face completely, and Jiang Conghe's side didn't fare any better. Old Master Zhou didn't say it outright, but implicitly pointed out the lack of family discipline, saying this Old Red Army soldier is useless, as he can't even protect his only grandson.

Jiang Conghe forced a smile, and as they moved to the next table, Director Wang said to him, "You don't need to follow us, go back to your seat. Ning Gang, come and join me to pay respects to the old chiefs."

Ning Gang smiled and followed, Jiang Conghe's face changed dramatically. Even though he still had a smile on his face, his hand hanging at his side had already clenched into a fist.

Once the welfare banquet was over, Jiang Conghe and Lu Shufen returned home.

As soon as they entered the house, Jiang Conghe yelled at Lu Shufen, "Tell me, what happened? What did Chiang Qing do this time?"

"How should I know? Boo hoo, I've lost face tonight, I'll never have face again!" Lu Shufen cried bitterly.

Jiang Conghe's face changed several times and asked how the women's table was.

Lu Shufen explained, and Jiang Conghe stumbled, thinking all these people are families of the Old Red Army, they've lost face and respect, how will he get promoted with such people's influence affecting his chances?

He picked up the phone, swallowed hard, and said, "Xiao Jin, immediately buy Chiang Qing a ticket to the United States."

Lu Shufen was stunned, grabbed his hand and said, "Are you crazy, don't you remember what she did last time?"

"Hasn't she caused enough trouble for me? If she wants to die, let her die, anyway, she must go to the United States! If she doesn't go, then let your Loo Family support her for a lifetime! Let's see if the Loo Family will do it!" Jiang Conghe coldly threw a sentence and went upstairs, he needs to think about how to restore his image.

Meanwhile, Chiang Qing, who is staying with the Loo Family, is completely unaware of these events, as she is currently engrossed in things that disgust Cheng Su.

Lu Shaojun returned home to see Chiang Qing using a nail clipper on her nails, singing a song, his eyes burst red with anger.

Millions worth of business, just flew away, how could he not be angry.

"Chiang Qing." Lu Shaojun gritted his teeth.

"You're back!" Chiang Qing always looked down on this cousin, never able to accomplish anything, so she never thought fondly of him.

"Leave the Loo Family immediately, get out!" Seeing her expression, Lu Shaojun's anger grew.

Chiang Qing was taken aback, "What are you saying?"

"I said, get out of the Loo Family!" Lu Shaojun said coldly, "From today onwards, don't even think about using the Loo Family to do anything for you, you little troublemaker!"

Chapter 1186: Seeds of Discord

Chiang Qing, from childhood to adulthood, has always been the Proud Daughter of Heaven, cherished and adored by everyone. Even this cousin was the same; as a child, didn't he fight someone just to vie for the title of being the prince by her side?

But now, he's telling her to leave the Loo Family immediately? He's driving her away? By what right!

"Lu Shaojun, neither Grandpa nor Uncle is dead yet; you're not the master of this house!" Chiang Qing sneered, gracefully sitting down and continuing to file her nails.

"This is my Loo Family, not your Chiang Family. Leave now, get out now!" Lu Shaojun was enraged by her attitude.

"How laughable! Without the Chiang Family's connections, would the Loo Family be where it is today? You have no right to drive me away!" Chiang Qing retorted, refusing to back down.

"You..." Lu Shaojun, being hot-tempered, suddenly grabbed Chiang Qing's arm, causing her face to contort in pain.

"What are you doing, let go!"

"Leave. Get out!" Lu Shaojun dragged her toward the door.

Chiang Qing screamed.

"What's going on here?" A sudden roar came from the doorway.

Both looked up to see Old Master Loo and Chiang Qing's uncle standing there, watching the two.

"Grandpa, Uncle, Cousin is trying to drive me away!" Chiang Qing cried.

"Grandpa, Dad, don't believe her; you don't know what she's done. Because of her selfishness and stupidity, she provoked someone she shouldn't have, and now my million-dollar business is gone! It's all because of her!" Lu Shaojun shouted.

"Let go of your sister first!" Old Master Loo, leaning on his cane, walked down.

Lu Shaojun released her, glaring angrily at Chiang Qing.

Chiang Qing immediately ran to Old Master Loo's side, clutching his arm, "Grandpa, I'm scared!"

Old Master Loo glanced at her and then at Lu Shaojun, saying, "Speak! What's going on?"

Lu Shaojun gave Cheng Su a piercing glance before recounting what happened tonight, "Grandpa, if we keep this troublemaker in the house, our Loo Family can forget about developing in the Capital."

Chiang Qing was taken aback, her brows furrowed.

Zhou Jun, does he have that kind of power? What does this have to do with him? She's only targeting Cheng Su!

Admittedly, sometimes Chiang Qing's arrogance made her a bit foolish, or perhaps her pride had long overshadowed her intelligence.

Why not directly deal with Cheng Su? Instead, she chose to go through Zhou Jun's side without considering who would be most affected if Zhou Jun's goods were compromised.

"Qingqing, did you really do such a thing?" Old Master Loo asked, squinting at her.

"I just wanted to teach that woman a lesson, that's all. I didn't mean to target Zhou Jun!" Chiang Qing replied obediently.

"Stupid!" Old Master Loo shouted, "If you want to teach her a lesson, just buy out her company and ruin it, isn't that enough? At worst, ruin the person directly, why go roundabout? Avoid provoking those who shouldn't be provoked!"

Chiang Qing lowered her head, saying nothing, pretending to cry, "Who will help me? My dad doesn't care about me; aside from Grandpa, who will help me!"

Old Master Loo saw her like this and couldn't utter another word, saying, "Go upstairs now! In the future, think about the impact before acting. Alright, I'll deal with this matter."

Lu Shaojun watched as Chiang Qing escaped the ordeal, incredulously looking at the old man, "Grandpa!"

"Alright, she's your cousin. What's done is done! Zhou Jun was impulsive too; tomorrow, just send a generous gift over!" Old Master Loo dismissed it lightly and headed upstairs.

Lu Shaojun was speechless. The old man was getting old, out of touch with current affairs. He glanced at his father and mother, who also furrowed their brows, a sense of estrangement subtly rising within the Loo Family.

Chapter 1187: Two Old Foxes

After finishing a half-month course, Qi Taiguo left the military school. Once he exited the gate, he got into the car driven by Ning Ge.

"How's your sister-in-law? What's going on?" Qi Taiguo threw his military duffel bag onto the back seat and jumped into the car, eagerly asking.

Before leaving, he had called Ning Ge to pick him up.

Now that they've met, naturally, his first question was about his wife.

"She's in Qing City, everything's fine. How did you know?" Ning Ge was aware that Qi Taiguo had called home before, but he was curious how he found out about this.

Qi Taiguo said with a cold face, "Chiang Qing called the military school, specifically to tell me your sister-in-law got into trouble!"

"What?" Ning Ge slammed on the brakes and said, "Does she have no shame?"

"Tell me, what exactly happened?" Sometimes Qi Taiguo resented his identity, feeling restricted, unable to act freely or as he wished, always held back. He envied Ning Ge, who could do whatever he wanted.

"It's nothing, just trivial matters stirred up by that little bitch Chiang Qing. But don't worry, it's all settled." Ning Ge smirked and said, "This time she's going to lose out instead."

"How so?" Qi Taiguo quickly asked.

Ning Ge explained what he had persuaded Zhou Jun to do.

"I heard that at the Old Red Army soldier's banquet, Grandma Zhou and her husband completely embarrassed Jiang Conghe and the others, especially Grandma Zhou, who is not to be trifled with. She slapped Lu Shufen's face with a verbal thrashing, saying she failed to raise her daughter properly," Ning Ge expertly maneuvered the steering wheel and said, "It's a pity I wasn't there, or it would have been quite a show."

Qi Taiguo let out a cold laugh.

"Jiang Conghe was furious, saying he wanted to send Chiang Qing to the United States!" Ning Ge said.

"Would the Loo Family agree?"

Ning Ge shook his head, sneering, "The Crown Prince of the Loo Family despises Chiang Qing because of a big business deal gone bad. But ironically, his grandfather still protects this non-biological granddaughter."

Even Ning Ge didn't expect Elder Loo to protect Chiang Qing like this, despite it affecting the Loo Family's interests. It seems this play needs more drama.

Qi Taiguo pursed his lips and said, "If the Loo Family won't deal with Chiang Qing, then we start with Jiang Conghe. There's already a crack here, just add a bit more fuel, and maybe he'll harden his heart."

Ning Ge looked at him, "Got any good ideas?"

"For the sake of face, he'd send Chiang Qing abroad. Yesterday, during our graduation, he came to offer encouragement and was very pleasant to me. Why do you think that is?" Qi Taiguo mocked, "Isn't it to show everyone his stance, that he's fair and just? Now, hearing what you say, it seems he's more interested in saving face. And we're enemies. If I reconcile with him, those rumors would probably dissipate, wouldn't they?"

Ning Ge momentarily couldn't understand his intention and looked at him with confusion.

"For the sake of face, he's willing to send Chiang Qing abroad. So why not go even further?" Qi Taiguo's voice was icy, "Abroad, she could always buy a plane ticket and return. But some places, well, that's not so certain!"

"What do you mean?" Ning Ge seemed to have caught a glimpse of his idea but still had a foggy understanding.

"Instead of sending her abroad, I think there's a better place for Chiang Qing," Qi Taiguo's lips curled into a cold smile, "Like a mental institution."

The two exchanged a look and laughed, like a pair of old foxes.

Upon arriving at the Ning family home, Qi Taiguo first greeted Old Master Ning, and then, seeing the phone, thought of Cheng Su and had the urge to call back home.

Old Master Ning said, "You've been here studying for some days now, haven't you? You haven't been back yet, so give Xiao Cheng a call to ease her mind."

"Alright!" Qi Taiguo replied with a smile, then, checking the time, he first dialed the number for the jam factory.

Cheng Su wasn't sure where she had gone, and after waiting a long while, he finally heard her slightly breathless voice coming through, "Taiguo?"

"It's me!" Qi Taiguo's expression softened as he spoke, "I've finished my studies. I'm currently at the Ning family home, accompanying the old Chief and them for a chat. I'll take the evening train back home tomorrow!" Cheng Su responded, "Still another two days? I miss you already!"

Qi Taiguo felt a pang in his heart, a bit stirred, and said, "Yes, two more days." He missed her too, but with the old master present, he couldn't say anything too affectionate.

"Alright then!"

Qi Taiguo couldn't talk for long, so after saying a few words about taking care of herself and getting some rest, he hung up. Seeing the old master's gaze on him, he felt his face heat up, somewhat uneasy.

"Young man, it's a good thing for a couple to have a harmonious relationship!" Old Master Ning chuckled, saying, "For a man, having a virtuous wife and a harmonious family allows him to work on the front lines with no worries."

Qi Taiguo sat up straight, nodding with a smile.

"Dad, shall we go to the study to talk?" Ning Gang suggested, since there were inconveniences discussing things in the living room.

Qi Taiguo felt a slight sense of foreboding.

"Alright, let's go to the study then!"

The group went to Ning Gang's study, sat down, and after the servants set the tea down and left, closing the door behind them.

"So, how has the studying been these past few days?" Ning Gang broke the silence, asking Qi Taiguo.

Qi Taiguo answered each question and also mentioned yesterday's completion ceremony hosted by Jiang Conghe and what was said to him.

Jiang Conghe had a humiliating moment at the farewell banquet, which put Ning Gang in a pleasant mood. Hearing this, he said, "He even let go of his pride. To reconcile with someone he clearly despises, isn't that letting go of pride?"

"In a way, Jiang Conghe is indeed someone capable of adapting. Director Wang is retiring in two years, and the next year and a half is crucial; we mustn't be careless," Old Master Ning remarked.

"Understood!"

"And how are things progressing with the fourth matter?"

Ning Ge sat on the sofa chair and said, "I went to check on the Loo family's transport company in Guangcheng. They're doing quite well there. I spoke with Old Master Cheng and asked him to have someone keep an eye on them. Currently, the relations between the Jiang and Loo families aren't as tight as before; the rope has loosened. It's a great chance to separate them quickly. If they become aware and unite again, it will be much harder to deal with!"

Interests can bind two otherwise discordant individuals, and it's the same with established families. Now is a prime opportunity to split the Jiang and Loo families. We're just hoping the Cheng family can uncover something.

Old Master Ning nodded slightly, "Be careful not to alert the snake in the grass."

Qi Taiguo felt a bit envious; had the Cheng family in Guangcheng really been swayed to help?

Unfortunately, he hadn't been able to go there this time, so he didn't know what exactly had happened.

Ning Ge noticed Qi Taiguo's thoughts and said with a smile, "Big Brother Qi has married a wonderful wife; the Cheng family holds your sister-in-law in high regard, especially Old Master Cheng. Being able to involve the Cheng family this time is also thanks to her!"

Qi Taiguo was taken aback.

Chapter 1189: Planning to Train the Ning Family's Third Generation?

The so-called "with a virtuous wife, a husband suffers less adversity." Marrying a virtuous wife benefits three generations, and though Cheng Su, whom Qi Taiguo married, may have a temper or be somewhat selfish, she is absolutely appropriate in general.

Since ancient times, marriages, especially among wealthy families, are arranged for the sake of family interests. In choosing a wife, one must consider how much benefit she can bring to the family. If this is achieved, nothing else matters much.

As for Cheng Su, the wife of Qi Taiguo, she not only brought him a life free of worries but also provided support. Is this not fortune?

The Ning Family, it can be said, aligned with the Cheng family because of Cheng Su, and as for the Cheng Family, that goes without saying.

The Ning Family's view of Cheng Su might also have been influenced by the admiration and liking of Old Master Ning, but there was undoubtedly a hint of interest involved.

However, when Ning Ge looked at how Old Master Ning regarded Cheng Su, it was as if she were his daughter. In this regard, there was less calculation and more sincerity.

Precisely because of this, Ning Ge laid all of Cheng Su's matters on the table, trying to bring the Cheng family into the fold.

Though exploiting Old Master Cheng's feelings was undeniable, there was no other way. Although the Ning Family wasn't without power, their main force was in the north, while Guangcheng was the Cheng family's territory in the south. As the saying goes, a strong dragon cannot suppress a local snake, so involving the Cheng family is best.

"Xiao Cheng is indeed a good person, Taiguo, you are truly fortunate. Cherish her!" Old Master Ning said.

"I will surely regard her as my life!" Qi Taiguo immediately responded.

Ning Ge heard this, slightly bowed his head, the smile at the corner of his mouth a touch bitter, yet it quickly dissipated.

However, although he recovered swiftly, Old Master Ning caught it, making him pause briefly.

Could it be Xiao Si...

Sigh, fate has always been predestined.

"The Cheng family has their own influence and tasks, as do we. Taiguo, now that you've been promoted to vice battalion commander, you're dealing with higher levels. You need to be even more cautious in the future..." Ning Gang advised Qi Taiguo on how to conduct himself.

Qi Taiguo sat upright, listened attentively, occasionally asking about matters he couldn't understand.

"Our Ning Le graduated from the military academy this year. I plan to assign him to your place. Normally, you don't have to do much; just train him well and curb the boy's arrogance," Ning Gang continued.

Qi Taiguo was taken aback. Train the Ning family's third generation?

"The boy doesn't know the immensity of heaven and earth. Sending him to the local military district can temper his character. I believe in you," Ning Gang said, "Don't worry about his identity, as a soldier won't be one unless they bleed."

Qi Taiguo felt a little apprehensive. Even if that's the case, finding the right balance seemed challenging!

Old Master Ning, perceiving Qi Taiguo's concerns, said, "Taiguo, you need not worry. This year, with many new recruits joining, treat everyone equally. His identity will not be disclosed. The stricter the training, the better survival chances they'll have on the battlefield. A moment's mercy might become a death warrant in battle!"

"Exactly!" Ning Gang said, "Our Ning family doesn't need weaklings. Without bleeding, it's just sending them to their doom."

"Since both the old chief and the commander say so, I will do my utmost," Qi Taiguo solemnly declared.

Both nodded their approval.

Seeing this, Ning Ge couldn't help but worry for his proud nephew, realizing these good days were numbered!

Meanwhile, in Guangcheng, the Cheng family was discussing the same topic.

Chapter 1190: The Cheng Family Joins the Fun

Old Master Cheng gathered his sons who were in charge of the family matters to discuss the future direction of his grandson, Cheng Jiasheng.

Cheng Jiasheng, the son of Cheng Yaozong, is twenty-three this year and studying at a military academy. He is currently the only male in the Cheng family pursuing a military career, so both Old Master Cheng and his uncle, Cheng Yaoguang, among others, place great importance on him.

Attending a military academy already makes him an enlisted soldier, and he is studying a specialized course, which provides him a solid background. So upon graduation, he'll be eligible for getting a platoon position.

But Old Master Cheng does not see it that way.

Military rank can be conferred, of course, but when it comes to real battlefield missions, lacking genuine strength will simply make one cannon fodder.

The Cheng family has never intended for Cheng Jiasheng to take a mere clerical role. Since he has chosen to be in politics and military, he should strive for military merits in these areas.

However, these can only be achieved based on personal strength, and to gain such strength, one must undergo rigorous training.

Of course, as a son of a distinguished family, seeking stability in command or information services, weapons research, etc., can also lead to success. But that is not what the Cheng family desires.

In Old Master Cheng's eyes, a real soldier must have shed blood and killed enemies to be considered a true iron-blooded warrior. A sissy soldier is not something the Cheng family wants.

"...Sending him to grassroots is a good place for training. Participating in a few missions will provide valuable experience, and military merits will naturally follow," said Old Master Cheng.

"What does Old Master mean?" Cheng Yaozong asked cautiously, glancing at his elder brother.

"Let Jiasheng go to the local unit, retaining his rank, starting from the bottom. He's studying reconnaissance and information, so gaining practical experience in these areas would be beneficial," Old Master Cheng said.

"What does elder brother think?"

"I agree with Dad. But what do you think? Jiasheng is your son, after all," Cheng Yaoguang replied.

Entering into combat means undertaking missions on the battlefield. If luck is bad or skills are insufficient, it might result in sacrifice during the mission. Cheng Jiasheng is the eldest son of the second son, so naturally, caution is needed.

"If Dad and elder brother agree, then I have no objection, but where to go?"

Cheng Yaoguang glanced towards Old Master Cheng, knowing that since he brought it up, he must have already planned it.

"Go to Qing City," Old Master Cheng lightly tapped the table and said, "Her husband Qi Taiguo comes from a rural background with no lineage, but he is brave in battle and has earned remarkable military merits. Even though I haven't met him, such a person surely has unique qualities. Let Jiasheng go and learn from him, it wouldn't be a bad idea."

Moreover, Qi Taiguo is already a deputy battalion commander and affiliated with the Ning family faction. Training under him is far better than serving as a clerk in an institution.

Cheng Yaoguang was not in the least surprised; hearing Qi Taiguo's name had already pointed him in that direction.

"There's another matter I want to discuss with you," Old Master Cheng paused, looking at his two accomplished sons, and said slowly, "I intend to recognize Cheng Su as a foster daughter, what do you think?"

Suxin might never be found, and Cheng Su's presence greatly fills the regret and longing in Old Master Cheng's heart.

Additionally, he feels a deep connection with Cheng Su, finding her very agreeable; acknowledging her as a foster relative wouldn't be an issue.

If Suxin cannot be found, then Cheng Su would become like both daughter and sister.