

The 80s 1201

Chapter 1201: Joy Soon Loy Makes Mooncakes

Cheng Su spoke with Old Master Cheng for a good half an hour before hanging up the phone, then looked at Qi Taiguo with sympathy.

Qi Taiguo felt uneasy under her gaze and asked, "Could you not look at me like that? It's too creepy! What's up?"

"You're in for some real trouble this time. The Cheng family also wants to send their third generation to your military camp for training. So, two big family youngsters are coming, and they'll surely give you a headache!" Cheng Su clicked her tongue.

Qi Taiguo was taken aback, "Are you saying..."

Cheng Su nodded and passed on what Old Master Cheng meant, which was essentially the same as the Ning family's intention — to have the kids trained more and gain practical experience.

Qi Taiguo slapped his forehead, feeling like a disaster was looming ahead!

But Cheng Su was in high spirits. Both families saw potential in Qi Taiguo, so how could she not be happy?

As for the two boys coming over, she didn't mind at all. It was good for them to be humbled a bit, or else they wouldn't know there are always stronger people out there.

The boys from those families will report with the team in mid to late July, and it's only the beginning of the month now, so there's no need to worry yet.

Qi Taiguo returned to the troops, leaving the Jam Company matters behind for a while, and Cheng Su went to manage things at the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant.

It's already July, and in a couple of days, it'll be the day when the Cowherd boy meets the Weaver Girl on July 7th. A little over a month later, it'll be the full moon of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

So, even though it's just July, many pastry shops in Qing City have started selling mooncakes.

Last year, Joy Soon Loy Restaurant also wanted to sell mooncakes, but Cheng Su felt there was not enough space to fully implement it, so they postponed it to this year. Now that the restaurant has a pastry section, they can naturally produce and sell mooncakes.

Since the reopening after the renovation, Joy Soon Loy has been getting better with business and reputation, and now many customers are asking if they sell mooncakes.

Who wouldn't want to do business when it's knocking on the door?

So, Cheng Su went to the restaurant and gathered the pastry section supervisor and Old Song to talk.

"This year, our restaurant is definitely launching mooncakes. Chef Chen, do you have any issues, any thoughts?" Cheng Su asked Chen Guorong, the pastry section supervisor.

"The pastry section is fully equipped; making mooncakes isn't a problem. But since it's the first year, if we want to establish our Joy Soon Loy mooncake brand and aim for future business, I think the materials need to be excellent, and the process refined. If President Cheng is sure about doing it, we need to first test some samples, taste and improve them until they're perfect, and then we can produce in bulk," Chen Guorong said.

"That's only natural," Cheng Su said. "Our Joy Soon Loy Restaurant has a good reputation now, and since customers are asking, business will come. However, it's already early July, and it's said that presents aren't given in July, so once August arrives, a lot of people will start giving presents. In these days, you should study more and get it out quickly!"

"Yes!"

"As for the varieties of mooncakes, since it's our first year, and people these days like red bean paste, we won't make too many variations. For this first year, let's launch five nuts, red bean paste with salted egg yolk, pure red bean paste, and lotus seed paste with salted egg yolk," Cheng Su added.

Chen Guorong was puzzled, "The five nuts are..." He knew red bean paste filling and lotus seed paste; they were sweet, but what about these five nuts?

Seeing his confusion, Cheng Su paused as well.

She had forgotten that five nuts were more popular in the South, specifically in Guangcheng, and not much up North here!

Chapter 1202: Cantonese Style Needed

Cheng Su tentatively asked Chen Guorong what kind of mooncakes he planned to make.

Chen Guorong and Old Song found it even more puzzling, exchanged glances, and thought, what else is there to mooncakes? Aren't they just the same as the current kinds?

"President Cheng couldn't possibly have never tried the mooncakes from Qing City, right? They're all the same; it's just about the skill and timing, and of course, the proportions and recipe!" Chen Guorong replied.

Making mooncakes isn't difficult; what's hard is making them tasty, not greasy, with a fragrant, soft, crispy sweetness. So, it's extremely important to choose the right ingredients and ratios.

Cheng Su listened, lightly furrowing her brows. This was indeed challenging. She had tried Qing City's mooncakes before, but some feature fruity or bean paste fillings. What she wanted Joy Soon Loy to sell, however, were Guangzhou-style mooncakes.

And she had just mentioned a few types of fillings, which are the most renowned varieties in Guangzhou-style mooncakes.

The pastry department was set up when Joy Soon Loy was renovated and reopened this year, and Cheng Su hasn't spent much time at the restaurant, so Chen Guorong, the head of the pastry department, couldn't quite guess her thoughts when he saw her silent.

Old Song, on the other hand, felt differently. Having worked with Cheng Su for quite some time, he understood her well. Seeing her contemplating, he asked, "President Cheng, do you have any ideas you'd like to share?"

Cheng Su pursed her lips and said, "Actually, I hope our restaurant can sell Guangzhou-style mooncakes. I've tried them, and their texture is naturally more fragrant and delicious than ours here. However, I'm an outsider when it comes to tasting these kinds of foods. You all are insiders and know more than I do, so share your thoughts, and let's discuss together."

Old Song laughed and said, "You're being modest. Your expertise in the food industry is by no means inferior to those culinary experts. What you think is good must indeed be good; as for the method, that's up to Chef Chen. I'm not very good at making pastries myself."

Chen Guorong humbly said, "It's not that I can't do it, but without a template, we don't know how things are on that side. Just relying on our own blind efforts is time-consuming and resource-wasting."

Cheng Su smiled and said, "That's easy to solve. I have a few friends in Guangcheng. I can ask them to mail me a few sample boxes, and we can study them together."

Chen Guorong nodded upon hearing this: "That's not a bad idea."

"Since we've decided, let's set it tentatively like this. As for the mooncake packaging, we shouldn't use regular oil paper; if we're doing it, let's do it well, with unified packaging in boxes printed with our Joy Soon Loy branding, which will make it look more upscale. Additionally, the mooncake molds should also have our own logo. I mean we should find a mold design shop to specially design a logo unique to our restaurant. What do you think?" Cheng Su said.

This way, it can prevent others from using inferior products to pass off as ours.

Old Song and Chen Guorong both agreed that this was a good idea; it not only highlights the distinct characteristics but also promotes their restaurant.

"Then it's settled. Chef Chen, do you know anyone who makes molds? Perhaps they could help design a couple for us to see? Price isn't an issue." Cheng Su looked at Chen Guorong and said, "The molds should have the joy character and the names of different varieties."

She quickly wrote down several mooncake names and handed them to Chen Guorong.

Chen Guorong glanced at them and said, "I'll inquire with my fellow colleagues later."

Cheng Su nodded and then brought up Luh Kai's wedding banquet in August, to be held at their place.

Chapter 1203: Sounding Out Their Intentions

After finalizing the mooncake plans with Old Song and the others, Cheng Su called Song Xiaojang and asked him to contact a printing factory to design and order some mooncake boxes for the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant.

Additionally, they needed to find suppliers for lotus seed paste and red bean paste, which were urgent matters to handle.

Once all the details were settled, Cheng Su called Cheng Yaozu and asked him to send over some boxes of Cantonese mooncakes as samples.

Why couldn't she ask for something other than mooncakes? Cheng Yaozu found it quite amusing. After asking, he realized that her restaurant wanted to make Cantonese mooncakes, so he mentioned it jokingly to Old Master Cheng.

"In that case, you better send them over quickly so her business doesn't get delayed. It's nearly the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, and just over a month until the Mid-Autumn Festival! If you're late, everyone will have already exchanged gifts for the holiday." Old Master Cheng responded.

Cheng Yaozu, however, rolled his eyes and said, "Dad, since I'm going to Qing City Military Region in late August anyway, why don't I go check it out first? I'll deliver the mooncakes to Cheng Su myself!"

Old Master Cheng gave him a knowing, amused look.

"You're getting lazy again, aren't you?" Cheng Yaozong looked up from a pile of documents and glared at him.

Cheng Yaozu replied, "Come on, I'm just paving the way for my nephew, and I want to see how Cheng Su's business is going. Honestly, her couple of small businesses aren't much to look at, but since we're practically family, as an older brother, I should help out a bit."

"You're like the old man who loves the mountains but not the wine," Old Master Cheng pointed at him.

"No, no!" Cheng Yaozu's eyes flickered as he said, "Dad, you want to adopt her as a daughter and regard her as family, but you haven't discussed it with Cheng Su yet, have you? I'll test the waters for you, so we don't end up scaring her unexpectedly!"

Old Master Cheng, considering this, felt it was a good point but was a bit nervous: "She won't refuse, will she?"

He only had sons, and his sons had more sons, so apart from daughters-in-law, there were no girls in the family. He wasn't very familiar with dealing with young women.

If Cheng Su didn't want to, then... well, she probably would!

A daughter like Cheng Su would be so considerate, obedient, and smart.

Thinking about this, Old Master Cheng felt a bit wistful, only regretting that his wife passed away early, after having their fourth son. Otherwise, having a daughter would have been nice too.

Seeing Old Master Cheng's anxious and conflicted expression, Cheng Yaozong and the others couldn't help but laugh. He was trying to make someone his goddaughter like he was begging them, as if he was afraid they wouldn't want to. So many people would wish for such a thing!

If the old man just mentioned his desire for a goddaughter to care for him, there would surely be many people eager to oblige!

Cheng Yaozong thought he had two sons. They were still young, and his wife was only in her forties, so shouldn't they have a daughter too?

Cheng Yaozu held back laughter and said, "That's why I need to test the waters!"

"Then go, and go today!" Old Master Cheng immediately said.

"What about the company..."

"Isn't your older brother here for that?" Old Master Cheng glanced at his second son, and Cheng Yaozong suddenly felt like he was fated to carry a burden.

"By the way, if you see Ning Ge, make sure to mention what Huzi reported." Cheng Yaozong looked at Cheng Yaozu.

After the last incident, Old Master Cheng had asked them to keep an eye on that Shenglong Transportation. Recently, there had been some news that Shenglong seemed to not be simple at all!

Cheng Yaozu agreed and jumped up from the couch, "I'll get things ready then!"

Chapter 1204: Wanting to Become Sworn Family with You

Cheng Su didn't expect Cheng Yaozu to personally bring the mooncakes, nor did she expect him to find his way to Joy Soon Loy Restaurant.

"How did you end up here? You didn't even say you were coming. What if I wasn't here? You would've come for nothing!" Cheng Su took the several boxes of mooncakes and handed them to a nearby waiter, leading him to sit down in the office.

"How big can Qing City be? Just a taxi ride after leaving the train station gets me here!" Cheng Yaozu chuckled, "If you're not home, I can hang out with Ying Xiaoya!"

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, looked him up and down, and said, "You're like Xiang Zhuang performing sword dance targeting Liu Bang, aren't you? Bringing me mooncakes is just an excuse; you're really here for the beauty, aren't you!"

Cheng Yaozu touched his nose and said, "No way, I'm on a mission."

"What mission?"

Cheng Yaozu sat down and said, "Our family member Jia Sheng is planning to join the Qing City Military Region, so I'm scouting the path for him."

Cheng Su snorted and mimicked his words, "Qing City is only so big. How could such a big person like him get lost?"

"Also, I'm here to talk to Ning Ge about something. There's been some progress on the issue he was worried about. Has he come back yet?" Cheng Yaozu asked again.

"He's still in the Capital these days. What's the matter?" Cheng Su was a bit curious. Ning Ge had something to ask of the Cheng family?

"Men's business, women don't interfere!" Cheng Yaozu wagged his finger.

Cheng Su smirked, picked up her tea, and took a sip.

"And, from now on, you have to call me Fourth Brother!" Cheng Yaozu suddenly said, "So, you have to show me more respect!"

Poof!

Cheng Su spat out her tea.

Cheng Yaozu looked at her with disdain.

"Can you speak properly?" Cheng Su rolled her eyes at him.

Cheng Yaozu said, "If this isn't proper, then what is in your eyes? Our old man said, if you're willing, he wants to formally recognize you as a goddaughter. So, if you become his goddaughter, you have to call me Fourth Brother!"

Cheng Yaozu repeated it, feeling it rolled off the tongue, and said, "Come on, call it once and let's hear it!"

"Stop, stop, stop, what did you say? Formally recognize a god connection?" Cheng Su stared at Cheng Yaozu in disbelief. Did she hear wrong?

"You unwilling?" Cheng Yaozu squinted his eyes.

Cheng Su said, "It's not about whether I'm willing or not, it's just, isn't this too sudden? Out of nowhere, why recognize a god connection?"

"You know the Cheng family has plenty of people, but no girls. It so happened that my dad feels a connection with you and always says you resemble my aunt, so he wants to recognize a god connection and become family!" Cheng Yaozu replied.

Cheng Su still felt quite surprised and a bit unreal. It's a bit too sudden, right? She said, "We haven't met that many times, isn't this a bit reckless?"

"Fate between people isn't measured by the number of meetings, it's about the connection. The old man likes you, and we all think you're great. It's just a formal thing to recognize a god connection, just getting closer." Cheng Yaozu looked at her and said, "Could it be that you're unwilling? You wouldn't think our family wants to take advantage of you, right?"

Cheng Su chuckled, "I have no roots or foundation, what is there for you to take advantage of? You're overthinking it!"

"Then it's settled!" Cheng Yaozu clapped his hands and said, "Actually, we do want something!"

Cheng Su looked at him unexpectedly.

"Sincerity. Your sincerity." Cheng Yaozu said, "The old man is turning seventy this year. If he's lucky, he might live another ten or so years, if not... We hope that in his later years, he can truly be happy. He likes you; he sees you as both daughter and sister, so we want your sincerity."

Cheng Su was stunned.

Chapter 1205: Are You Just Playing or Truly Sincere?

Cheng Su was surprised when Old Master Cheng suddenly mentioned a sworn kinship, feeling both unexpected and a bit unreal.

Honestly speaking, given her current status, her background isn't high; she's just a village woman. With some cleverness and knowledge from her past life, she managed better than most. In this era, many might consider her quite lucky, but in the eyes of those truly elite families, this isn't much.

Both the Cheng family and the Ning Family are such elite families, and she just happened to cross paths with them, and now Old Master Cheng even suggested taking her as a sworn kin. What virtues did Cheng Su possess to deserve this?

Could she have stepped in dog crap and gotten lucky?

Or perhaps Heaven really brought her here to give her a privileged life?

Cheng Su lowered her head and chuckled to herself.

"What are you laughing about? You wouldn't really be unwilling, would you?" Cheng Yaozu glanced at her sidelong.

"Being able to connect with a tycoon family like yours must be a blessing cultivated over several lifetimes. Why wouldn't I be willing?" Cheng Su chuckled lightly.

"Say what you mean!"

"Actually, even without this sworn kinship, I would treat Old Master Cheng like a close elder; no need for formalities." Cheng Su said.

Whether it was humility or not, she just had a vague feeling in her heart that made her want to draw close naturally.

Cheng Yaozu said, "This is the old master's own idea. We juniors can only comply with the elder's wishes." He noticed the phone in her office and asked, "Has Ying Xiaoya finished work? She mentioned last time that she'd host when I came over. Now that I'm here, she should fulfill that. I'll give her a call!"

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow.

Watching him pick up the receiver without needing to look at any phone book, dialing from memory, Cheng Su's eyes filled with more mischief.

After he hung up the phone with a smile, Cheng Su leaned on the desk, arms crossed, looking at him.

"She said she'd come over for dinner after work." Cheng Yaozu said, looking quite pleased as he picked up his tea to drink.

Cheng Su then said, "You wouldn't happen to have an eye on our Xiao Ya, would you?"

This time it was Cheng Yaozu's turn to spit his drink, raising his hand with his head down, "Can you not be so direct when you talk?"

"We're adults; what's the point of beating around the bush?" Cheng Su snorted lightly and said, "Let me tell you, Xiao Ya is my good friend, my good sister, and a pure good girl. If your intentions are sincere, that's fine, but if you're just looking to fool around, I advise you to mess with someone else!"

A playboy like Cheng Yaozu, if he decided to fool around, a pure girl like Ying Xiaoya wouldn't stand a chance.

The Cheng family is wealthy, but if he's not serious, all that wealth means nothing.

"Am I really that bad?" Cheng Yaozu felt a bit guilty.

Cheng Su looked at him with a knowing smile, as if to say, "Yes, you are."

Cheng Yaozu couldn't help but feel a bit awkward and said, "I admit I'm a bit interested in her, but I never thought of playing around. I just find this girl quite interesting."

"Xiao Ya just went through a breakup. If you genuinely care, this is an opportunity. But if your intentions aren't genuine, let it be. The girl has it tough, one heartbreak is enough, and she can't handle another!" Cheng Su said very seriously.

"Got it. Look at you, protecting her like a mother hen with her chicks. Aren't you younger than all of us?" Cheng Yaozu tutted twice.

Watching Chen Su, who was younger than them, but her reasoning manner seemed more steady and calm than theirs, truly extraordinary.

Chapter 1206: She Came Especially to See You

Since Cheng Yaozu is here, naturally the host role has to be done. Hearing that Ying Xiaoya is coming after work, Cheng Su simply called Qi Taiguo, telling him the Fourth Young Master of the Cheng Family is here, and invited him to the restaurant for dinner to welcome Cheng Yaozu.

Ying Xiaoya was quite excited to receive a call from Cheng Yaozu. As it was almost time to get off work, she packed her bag to leave.

"Xiao Ya, leaving work already?" Xiao Pinshan saw her pick up her bag and was slightly stunned.

Ying Xiaoya's smile faded, she hummed indifferently, showing no sign of wanting to talk to him.

Xiao Pinshan's eyes darkened.

"Excuse me!" Ying Xiaoya glanced at him coldly as he was blocking the way.

Why? It was you who said to break up, and now you're blocking the way, what's the meaning?

Xiao Pinshan instinctively stepped aside, which made Ying Xiaoya even angrier. She felt a tinge of disappointment, thinking too much, thinking he wanted to reconcile, ha!

Just as she walked past, Xiao Pinshan grabbed her hand, and Ying Xiaoya stopped, turning around to look at him: "Manager Xiao, what's the meaning of this?"

"Be careful on the road!" Xiao Pinshan opened his mouth but only managed four words.

Ying Xiaoya was infuriated, coldly saying: "No need for your fake concern." With that, she forcefully shook off his hand and walked away quickly.

Xiao Pinshan looked at his empty hand, feeling a pang in his heart.

He had no right, no reason. Let her go, she deserves a better guy, shouldn't suffer grievances with him.

Ying Xiaoya went to the restaurant with a bit of anger, and someone led her to a small private room on the third floor. Seeing Cheng Yaozu's masculine face, she smiled.

"Why did you suddenly come to Qing City without saying a word beforehand," she asked.

Cheng Su casually said, "He came especially to see you!"

Cheng Yaozu immediately glared at her.

Ying Xiaoya was a bit confused, looking at him, Cheng Yaozu smiled and said, "At the old man's order, I came to Qing City to handle some matters. Our nephew is also coming to serve in the Qing City Military Region. I'll be around Qing City a lot, so we can hang out often."

Cheng Su snorted lightly.

Ying Xiaoya naively agreed with an innocent smile, truly a silly girl lacking wit.

"You guys chat, I'll go see if Qi Taiguo is here yet. I'll also check out the pastry department." Cheng Su stood up, leaving space for the two.

Since the mooncakes have been delivered, the pastry department should research and make them according to the varieties, so their own mooncakes can hit the market soon.

The mooncakes Cheng Yaozu brought were from Full Fragrance Tower, a renowned restaurant, so the mooncakes were fragrant and soft.

"The taste is indeed good, but I'm not sure if we can achieve the same quality. After all, it's Cantonese style, and we lack experience," Chen Guorong said with some embarrassment.

Cheng Su said, "Do your best. Once the materials are purchased, start baking."

"Yes!"

Cheng Su walked out of the pastry department, just reached the entrance, and saw Qi Taiguo coming on the family bicycle, still wearing his military uniform and cap.

"You're here!" Cheng Su greeted him with a smile, "Didn't change your clothes? I thought you'd change before coming!"

"Worried the guest might wait too long, so I didn't change!" Qi Taiguo looked down at himself and asked softly, "Do I look rude?"

"No, my husband is the handsomest!" Cheng Su complimented with a smile.

Qi Taiguo couldn't help but proudly puff out his chest, saying, "Let's go see the guest!"

Chapter 1207: He'll Have to Call Him Fourth Brother from Now On

In the private room, Cheng Yaozu was chatting enthusiastically with Ying Xiaoya. As soon as they saw the door of the private room being pushed open, Cheng Su walked in with a man in military uniform, and the two immediately stood up.

"Big Brother Qi," Ying Xiaoya called out sweetly.

Qi Taiguo nodded slightly, "Xiao Ya is here too." Then he looked at the man standing beside her, a handsome young man dressed fashionably, with a tall and striking figure.

"Let me introduce you!" Cheng Su said with a beaming smile as she introduced the two.

"Hello, welcome to Qing City!" Qi Taiguo extended his hand.

"Hello, Deputy Battalion Commander Qi!" Cheng Yaozu reached out to shake his hand, while sizing up Qi Taiguo.

He was about 1.88 meters tall, with a buzz cut, wearing a military uniform, standing tall and straight. His looks weren't particularly handsome, but he had a strong masculine charm. Maybe because he was a soldier, his temperament also carried a bit of sharpness and fierceness.

A hint of satisfaction flashed in Cheng Yaozu's eyes.

He barely matches Cheng Su!

Indeed, ever since the old man's intentions were revealed, in Cheng Yaozu's eyes, Cheng Su was already like their sister, so when looking at Qi Taiguo, he naturally had the gaze of a brother evaluating a future brother-in-law, assessing if he was worthy of the Cheng family's girl.

Qi Taiguo found it strange, but he had long learned to keep a composed demeanor, so even if he found it odd in his heart, he didn't show a single bit on his face.

Once they sat down, Qi Taiguo said to Cheng Yaozu, "I've heard from my wife that the sons of the Cheng family are all outstanding, and now that I've met you, it really confirms it."

Cheng Su gave Qi Taiguo a sidelong glance, when did she ever say such a thing?

Qi Taiguo squeezed her hand under the table.

"Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, you really know how to talk. I don't think Xiao Su would say something like that, I haven't heard her praise me once!" Cheng Yaozu laughed heartily.

Xiao Su!

Qi Taiguo's eyes flickered at the intimacy of the address.

"Seeing is believing," he said with a smile.

"Come on, don't be so formal, calling ranks and wives, we're all familiar with each other, speak more casually, otherwise my ears will grow calluses from hearing this!" Cheng Su said.

Qi Taiguo responded, "Sure, Fourth Young Master Cheng can call me by my name too."

"Then I'll just call you Taiguo!" Cheng Yaozu said with a smile.

After all, once they acknowledge each other as sworn siblings, this Deputy Battalion Commander Qi would have to call him Fourth Brother, the thought of it amused him.

Cheng Yaozu couldn't help but grin, but realizing his lapse in etiquette, he quickly picked up his teacup to hide his smile.

But even so, Qi Taiguo saw it all, wondering if he had missed something, why did it feel a bit off!

Cheng Su probably guessed something, and glared at Cheng Yaozu, meaning to tell him to restrain himself a bit!

Cheng Yaozu cleared his throat and said, "Taiguo, this time around, our old man also asked me to trouble you. In a few days, when our family moves up to your military district, don't hold back because of his status, feel free to train him hard. So, please take care of it!"

He raised his tea and toasted, Qi Taiguo picked up his own cup, clinked it, and said, "Rest assured, we will treat all recruits equally."

Cheng Yaozu smiled.

"Any plans for the next couple of days? About the accommodation tonight..." Cheng Su asked.

"There's a fairly large hotel near our home, I asked my dad to book him a room there," Ying Xiaoya said.

Upon hearing this, Cheng Su gave Cheng Yaozu a knowing look, as if to say, who would believe you're not interested in matchmaking!

Chapter 1208: Were You Relatives in a Past Life?

After the dinner welcoming Cheng Yaozu, Xiao Ya took him to the hotel to settle in, while Cheng Su sat on the back of Qi Taiguo's bicycle on the way home, chatting about the dinner.

"... Why does it seem like Xiao Ya and this Fourth Young Master are quite familiar with each other? Doesn't Xiao Ya have a boyfriend?" Qi Taiguo asked.

"They broke up!" Cheng Su replied, holding his waist.

"Ah? Broke up?"

"I never thought they would last. Breaking up is actually for the best. With Xiao Ya's temperament, even if she can accommodate and get along with Xiao Pinshan's daughter for a while, what happens in the long run? Besides, their family backgrounds are worlds apart," Cheng Su said.

In marriage, while love between two people matters, there's also something to be said for well-matched backgrounds, which makes sense.

If Xiao Ya were to be wronged, Mr. Ying and his family wouldn't just stand by; they would definitely step in. With too much interference over time, the couple would start to have conflicts, and eventually, divorce wouldn't be surprising. It's better to break up now since they aren't married yet.

It's good that even after dating for so long, they didn't reach the final step. Xiao Pinshan has been patient; his character is somewhat acceptable.

"So what about her and Cheng Yaozu?"

Cheng Su smiled slightly and said, "It depends on whether they have fate together. If they do, they could be quite a match!"

While talking, they returned to the courtyard, locked the bicycle, and went upstairs, where it was quiet.

"Hualing gave birth. I'll go see her tomorrow. She went straight from the hospital to her mother's house to rest," Cheng Su said as they passed by Hualing's place.

"All right!"

Once they opened the door, Qi Taiguo, remembering the scrutinizing look Cheng Yaozu had given him today, pulled Cheng Su to sit down.

"Sit down first, I have something to say!"

Cheng Su found it amusing, "Just say what you have to say. What's with the seriousness?"

"I felt like Cheng Yaozu was looking at me in a weird way today, similar to the way my father-in-law looked at me back then, scrutinizing. Is it just me being overly sensitive?" Qi Taiguo seemed doubtful.

Cheng Su chuckled and said, "Do you want to know why?"

Qi Taiguo nodded.

"It's because he was looking at his brother-in-law through a brother's eyes!" Cheng Su said.

Qi Taiguo felt even more puzzled; he couldn't quite grasp what that meant.

Cheng Su explained about Old Master Cheng wanting to acknowledge her as his goddaughter, "Wouldn't that make him somewhat like a brother if the relationship were recognized?"

Qi Taiguo was a bit stunned, "Recognize as a goddaughter?"

"It's quite a surprise, right?" Cheng Su laughed lightly. "I also think so. Do you think this is a blessing from Heaven? Somehow, it doesn't feel very real to me, being acknowledged by such a prestigious family feels like something out of a drama!"

"So what do you think?"

"I honestly don't mind. In my heart, Old Master Cheng is just a lovable old man, a grandpa, and of course, I respect him as an elder," Cheng Su said.

"Old Master Cheng must have seen the kindness in your nature and how you resemble his long-lost sister," Qi Taiguo mused. "Hey, do you think in your past life you were an orphan, possibly a descendant of that lost lady from the Cheng family? You might have been relatives in a past life, so you have such a connection in this life?"

Cheng Su laughed at that, "You really have a vivid imagination. I chose my name, Cheng Su, myself."

"But maybe not in a past life!" Qi Taiguo looked at her.

Cheng Su felt a bit strange inside but quickly dismissed the thought. It's impossible. If it were true, given the power of the Cheng family, how could they not have found an orphan like her!

Chapter 1209: Our Cheng Family Has Good Taste

Because of Qi Taiguo's words, Cheng Su couldn't sleep well all night, tossing and turning in bed until late at night when she forced herself to stop thinking and finally fell asleep.

Cheng Yaozu mentioned he wanted to visit the jam factory, and as the boss, Cheng Su had to be present to accompany him, so she headed over to the factory today as well.

As soon as she entered the office, she saw Xiao Pinshan with an unpleasant look on his face, lost in thought about something.

Cheng Su cleared her throat, and Xiao Pinshan came back to his senses, standing up to greet her.

Just as Cheng Su was about to speak, she heard Ying Xiaoya's chattering voice outside, accompanied by Cheng Yaozu's laughter.

She glanced briefly, noticing Xiao Pinshan's face looked even worse, and understanding why, she said, "Manager Xiao, the overall price of Qing City's cherries has increased this year. Last year, our supplier also had the idea to raise prices. If they insist, we'll sue them. Can you go negotiate on my behalf?"

Xiao Pinshan frowned slightly and said, "The contract is originally a three-year term, and their sudden price increase is quite untrustworthy. We have the right to sue."

"So, I want you to talk with them first. We are all in business, and simply filing lawsuits isn't a good practice. But if they continue to insist, we certainly need to protect our rights." Cheng Su said.

Ying Xiaoya walked in with Cheng Yaozu, and Xiao Pinshan saw them and said, "In that case, I'll arrange a trip to Qing City."

"Thank you for your hard work!" Cheng Su nodded with a smile.

Xiao Pinshan replied, "It's part of my job."

Moreover, being here, seeing her laugh and chat with other men, makes him feel even worse.

Thinking of this, Xiao Pinshan said, "I'll go arrange it." After finishing his words, he left, nodding at Cheng Yaozu as he passed by.

Cheng Yaozu squinted his eyes slightly, looking at Ying Xiaoya, who had her lips slightly pursed.

"You came so early, how's the visit going?" Cheng Su asked.

"Your factory is too small, especially the operating room, it seems a bit petty, which doesn't match the current reputation of your Jam Company." Cheng Yaozu said.

Cheng Su replied, "There's no way around it, this factory was rented. We looked at several places initially, none of which were very satisfactory. This one is the largest we've found!"

"With the current development, your operating room is quite insufficient, right? In that case, how can the business expand?"

"Funds are limited, the space is only so big, to expand requires this." Cheng Su rubbed her thumb and index finger together, implying the lack of money.

"In business, when it reaches a certain level, if funds are insufficient, it's necessary to bring in investment." Cheng Yaozu said, "Don't think about monopolizing a piece of the cake. Bringing in large investments will only make the business bigger and the returns greater."

"For a small factory like ours, who would even be interested?" Cheng Su laughed.

"Would a big tycoon like me go unnoticed by you?" Cheng Yaozu raised his eyebrows and pointed at himself.

Cheng Su was startled: "You? The Cheng family is in the marketplace, now advancing into real estate, would you be interested in a small company like ours?"

"Who would dislike having too much money? In business, if there's money to be made, investing is no big deal. The Cheng family has reached where we are today not solely by developing one thing. It's through repeated investments that we have today's assets. Of course, the Cheng family members have a keen eye and good luck, that's why every investment brings profit." Cheng Yaozu said proudly.

"A pedlar praising his own goods!" Ying Xiaoya handed him a cup of tea and said, "If you're investing, how much would you invest?"

Chapter 1210: Intent to Invest

Cheng Su felt a stir in her heart upon hearing Cheng Yaozu's intention to invest.

She had enough ambition and naturally wouldn't want her career achievements to stop here. As Yaozu said, no one thinks money is too much, and she's the same. She also enjoys the process of making money and the thrill of watching the savings numbers continually rise, how delightful!

Besides, although she seems to have plenty of money now, in her pocket, there's actually not much real cash. Otherwise, could she still live in a small apartment in the family compound, riding a bicycle? If she had money, she'd surely buy a big house and drive a car!

More importantly, she still owes the bank over two hundred thousand, and someone in debt can't be considered wealthy.

Therefore, she's very willing to expand the business and make more money.

When Ying Xiaoya asked, Cheng Su glanced over, right, how much are you investing? Ten, twenty thousand wouldn't really do much good!

"Money isn't the issue; the key is you don't even have a detailed plan. What would convince me to shell out the cash?" Cheng Yaozu said, "Although we're familiar, and soon to be family, money can't just go up in smoke like that!"

"Family?" Xiao Ya was slightly stunned.

Cheng Yaozu said, "My dad is planning to adopt her as a daughter. When the banquet is held in Guangcheng, you should come for the celebration!"

Xiao Ya's eyes lit up, "Really?" Then looking at Cheng Su, she said, "Congratulations, Susu! Just right, you're also a Cheng, and so is their family — what a great coincidence!"

On hearing this news, her eyes only showed joy and happiness, no envy or jealousy, which Yaozu noticed, and his smile widened.

Such a rare and wonderful girl.

"Why are we drifting onto this topic? Weren't we talking about investment?" Cheng Su coughed and said, "Cheng Yaozu, if you want a plan, I can give you one, as fancy as you need. But are you sure? Our jam factory, though it's got a bit of a name now, still falls short compared to many food companies," Cheng Su said.

"There are many food companies bigger than yours, but there's a saying: the Yangtze River's waters push the waves ahead. Aren't you confident you can outshine them? Your company's been operating for less than three years and has already gained some fame, which is a decent achievement. Given time, it could get even better, achieving great success later!" Cheng Yaozu said.

Cheng Su smiled, "Why does it sound like you're looking down on our small company, sort of comforting us!"

Cheng Yaozu coughed twice and said, "Whatever it is, if you want investment, first bring me a plan. In my opinion, this place is too small. The land around here is all empty; you might as well buy it and expand!"

A big factory would definitely be more impressive than a small one, giving confidence, but all this requires money! Large factories, equipment in each workshop, and so on, all need to be built up with money.

"That depends on how much this wealthy magnate is investing!" Cheng Su's eyes sparkled.

Cheng Yaozu crossed his legs and waved his hand; money isn't the problem.

"I'll have to discuss this with Ning Ge anyway. While you're around. Xiao Ya, I'll give you a few days off; show him around Qingcheng!" Cheng Su said generously and then added with deep meaning, "Xiao Ya, whether our company can secure the investment from this magnate depends on you!"

Ying Xiaoya said boldly, "Sure, leave it to me. I'll definitely persuade him to invest in our company!"

Cheng Su and Cheng Yaozu exchanged smiles, both pursing their lips in amusement — this girl is truly naive!