

The 80s 1231

Chapter 1231: It's None of Your Business

Cheng Su extended her hand and was pulled up by him. The two lay on the bed, chatting casually.

"Xiao Yun is so understanding it makes one's heart ache. Sigh, divorce always hurts the kids a bit," Cheng Su said.

Qi Taiguo replied, "There's nothing we can do about it. Let her stay here for a while and see if she can become a bit more cheerful. You should comfort her more."

"Alright!" Cheng Su nodded and said, "By the way, there's another thing."

"What is it?"

Cheng Su said, "Xiao Yun accidentally saw Fengping's diary. It mentioned kissing, and Xiao Yun said her aunt has a boyfriend!"

Qi Taiguo sat up and looked at her, "What's going on?"

These days, getting married at seventeen or eighteen isn't strange, but Qi Fengping just finished high school and is aiming for college. Is she capable of having a boyfriend?

"That's what the diary said, and Xiao Yun concluded it from there. The girl even said mysteriously that she wanted to share this secret with me," Cheng Su said, "Xiao Yun is still young and naive, but just seeing 'kissing' makes her think it's about a relationship. So having it in the diary isn't quite right. Besides, the sister-in-law is eighteen now, emotions are normal, so what Xiao Yun said might very well be true."

Qi Taiguo's face turned a bit grim, and he said with a stern expression, "If she doesn't get into college... I'll break her leg!" Not seriously studying to change her fate, talking about a boyfriend!

Cheng Su looked at him with a half-smile and said, "Didn't you predict long ago that she wouldn't get into college?"

He had said many times that Qi Fengping wasn't cut out for studying, but her brother Qi Jianguo still had a chance to get into college.

"How can they be the same?" Qi Taiguo said awkwardly, "Having a knack for study is one matter, but having a boyfriend affecting her studies is another, how can they be the same?"

"They're not the same. But what can you do about it? Can you control it? When the sky wants to rain or a mother wants to remarry, they can't be stopped. She's eighteen now, a grown woman, she can marry! Even if she said she wanted to marry now, you couldn't stop her!" Cheng Su said.

Moreover, they're just the siblings-in-law, their parents are still around, so the sister-in-law's affairs are not theirs to govern either!

Hearing Cheng Su's words, Qi Taiguo's face turned even worse, and he thought for a moment before getting out of bed.

"Hey, where are you going?" Cheng Su held his hand.

"I'm going to ask her!" She's become too bold.

Cheng Su rolled her eyes and pulled him back: "Come back, what time is it? How are you going to ask? Are you just going to directly say, 'Did Xiao Yun say you're in a relationship, is it true?' That would embarrass me, she just shared a secret with me, and then you just spilled it. How would Xiao Yun interact with her aunt after this?"

"But..."

"No 'buts.' Even if she's in a relationship, she's eighteen, and you can't control her. If it's not true, there's even less to say!" Cheng Su said.

"So we should just let her be?" Qi Taiguo said angrily, "Who knows who she's seeing, and what if she's deceived? You're aware of Fengping's nature, she's silly and foolish!"

"Why not ask the eldest sister? She often comes home and should notice any changes in Fengping!" Cheng Su lay back down, "Let's sleep first. I'll ask the eldest sister tomorrow if she knows about this."

But Qi Fenglian probably doesn't know either; otherwise, she would have mentioned it already. If that's the case, Qi Fengping really keeps it well hidden.

So, who is she seeing? A classmate? Or someone else?

Chapter 1232: Two Deputy Company Commanders

Qi Fengping's relationship matter really surprised Qi Fenglian, who exclaimed, "Is it even possible?"

"Sis, you can usually tell if someone is in love. Women in love have a special glow, and they can be quite anxious, don't you think?" Cheng Su asked.

Qi Fenglian felt a bit embarrassed and said, "She's going to school, and I'm busy with the two little ones at home, so I haven't really noticed her."

"What about dressing up?"

"Oh, that's true. She always dresses beautifully, but she's a girl who loves being fashionable and dressing up, which is normal, right?" Qi Fenglian argued.

"Maybe!" Cheng Su laughed a little, hung up the phone, and shrugged at Qi Taiguo.

Qi Taiguo frowned, "She doesn't know either?"

"She said she wasn't paying much attention. Just leave it. If anything happens, the family will say something. With mom and dad around, what are you worried about?" Cheng Su said, "Don't ask, and

don't mention that it was Xiao Yun who said something. Xiao Yun already has it hard enough living under someone else's roof. If Fengping knew it was her, who knows how she'd react!"

Qi Taiguo was very annoyed, cursing a few times about the troublesome girl, but he couldn't do much about it. New recruits were arriving today, so he headed to the military base.

Cheng Su shook her head with a sigh, tidied up a little, and got on with her work.

In late July, the scorching sun was high in the sky.

In the military camp, a line of soldiers in green uniforms stood on the playground, each with their own luggage at their feet.

This batch had all served for a few years and were newly assigned to this Qing City Military Region, so their ranks varied from private first class to sergeants, with platoon leaders and deputy company commanders among them.

But in Qi Taiguo's eyes, they were all newcomers.

He held a roster in his hand and shouted loudly, "I don't care where you came from, what your background is, or what achievements you've made. Coming to this military region, you are rookies, and you must follow orders unconditionally. Military commands are supreme, got it or not?"

"Got it!"

"We'll start roll call now." Qi Taiguo opened the roster and called, "Zhao Jun."

"Here!" Qi Taiguo glanced up, then continued, "Hao Hehe?"

Someone in the crowd chuckled.

Qi Taiguo shot a stern look, "No laughing, what's so funny about a name?"

Everyone straightened up, and Hao Hehe stepped forward and replied with a 'here'.

"Cheng Jiasheng!"

"Here!"

Qi Taiguo looked over and saw a young man about twenty-three or four years old, with handsome features and a dignified appearance, standing straight with a hint of pride, bearing some resemblance to his uncle Cheng Yaozu.

Looking at his rank, deputy company commander.

Qi Taiguo's eyes flashed, and he continued, "Ning Le!"

Another young man of about the same age appeared, but much more handsome, with a high-raised chin, lips lightly pressed together, exuding an unmistakable air of arrogance and nobility, standing out among the new recruits, drawing attention.

Another deputy company commander.

Two deputy company commanders in one go, even though their real ranks were not revealed, made Qi Taiguo feel a faint headache.

But he quickly steadied his thoughts; so what if they were proud? On the battlefield, coming back alive after winning battles, now that's true excellence.

For now, they were just relying on the shelter of their forebears and the ranks earned through education, which didn't fully equate to real capability.

Qi Taiguo scanned the two and continued reading the list, as if he didn't recognize them at all.

Chapter 1233: Display of Authority

After the new recruits gathered for roll call, they were led to their dormitory to settle in. Qi Taiguo checked the time and told them to settle in first and gather again in fifteen minutes.

Once Qi Taiguo and his group left, everyone relaxed and started introducing themselves to get acquainted.

"I'm Cheng Jiasheng." Cheng Jiasheng, who was next to Ning Le's bed, put down his bag and reached out to Ning Le.

"Cheng family?"

Ning Le glanced over and saw a smile on Cheng Jiasheng's lips, then extended his hand, "Ning..."

"I know, Ning Le. You answered just now when Deputy Battalion Commander Qi called your name," Cheng Jiasheng said with a smile.

Ning Le raised an eyebrow, sizing him up. His family had mentioned that someone from Guangcheng was sent by their family to a grassroots position; could this be the unlucky guy?

He suddenly remembered that he was also the one sent by his family to this unfortunate position!

"From Guangcheng?" Ning Le asked, sitting on the edge of the bed with his legs spread and elbows resting on his thighs.

Cheng Jiasheng nodded.

The two exchanged a glance, do you also know Qi Taiguo?

Yeah, you do too? What a coincidence!

"Hey, have you heard? Our Deputy Battalion Commander Qi is really impressive; he fought in the Vietnam War and earned many military honors."

"Yeah, he grew up in a rural area. He looks about thirty, enlisted young, and within just ten years became Deputy Battalion Commander. It's really impressive!"

"I've also heard his training is particularly stringent. Everyone, be careful not to be caught off guard and end up the first sacrifice."

Ning Le and Cheng Jiasheng exchanged another glance, both showing a bit of eager interest in their eyes.

Just how impressive is he? They're genuinely curious, can he be tougher than the instructors and captains at the military academy?

"Hey, where are you guys from?"

Someone noticed Ning Le and Cheng Jiasheng were silent, came over, and asked, "Which barracks did you come from? I used to guard the border in the wilderness, a private first class."

Ning Le looked at the dirty hand resting on his shoulder, his face changed subtly; he had severe OCD and germophobia, couldn't stand dirt.

Cheng Jiasheng found it amusing and was about to help out when a loud shout came from the door, "Gather!"

The hand on his shoulder loosened, and Ning Le visibly sighed in relief, standing up as well.

Qi Taiguo entered, glanced at the chaotic dormitory, and shouted, "Was discipline this lax in your previous camps? Fifteen minutes and you still haven't arranged your luggage properly?"

Everyone was stunned for a moment; he had mentioned a fifteen-minute gathering but not arranging things.

"The neatness of your dormitory reflects the level of discipline you usually maintain. If you can't strictly demand tidiness from yourself, how can you strictly demand anything else?" Qi Taiguo coldly glanced at the messily scattered bedding, his face dark.

When he reached Ning Le and Cheng Jiasheng's area, he glanced around; Ning Le's bed was quite neat, but he didn't know Ning Le had OCD and germophobia.

As for Cheng Jiasheng, it was simply out of habit.

The others, having just changed locations, were relaxed but were caught off guard; they only had themselves to blame.

"Assemble at the track, run ten kilometers," Qi Taiguo said coldly.

Everyone felt uneasy. Was this a show of dominance?

However, ten kilometers is child's play; anyone here is up for it!

"With a twenty-kilogram load!" Before they could dismiss it, Qi Taiguo added another condition.

Done for!

Including Ning Le, all the newcomers wailed inwardly—they had just arrived, mostly by long-haul transport, and now with a loaded run—it was overwhelming!

Chapter 1234: Never Underestimate Your Opponent

Gao Linbing watched the new recruits running under the scorching sun with sandbags strapped to them and laughed, saying to Qi Taiguo beside him, "You've got guts. These guys are all fresh here, and you're putting them through such an ordeal right off the bat. Aren't you afraid they'll hold a grudge against you?"

Qi Taiguo replied, "A deputy battalion commander afraid of some rookies? How would I survive then?"

Gao Linbing chuckled, "A few of them came from military academies, and they're quite the hotheads. I heard they have quite the backgrounds."

Qi Taiguo smirked and said, "I'm not afraid of them being hotheads; I'm just afraid they'll be useless softies who look tough but aren't."

"It's a heavy responsibility, but you've got to temper these sons of the military a bit. Keep it up, brother!" Gao Linbing patted his shoulder and added, "By the way, Old Zhou said he wants to come back next month for the Mid-Autumn Festival and get together with our comrades."

"Old Zhou is coming back?" Qi Taiguo's eyes lit up with joy.

"Haven't told you yet?" Gao Linbing said, "I was informed just last night. Not sure of the exact date he'll be back, but it should be around then."

Qi Taiguo said, "I didn't get a call, but notifying you is the same. But if it's Mid-Autumn, I'm afraid I'll have to do the festival duty this year."

"Ah, I forgot about that mess!" Gao Linbing slapped his forehead.

Last year during Mid-Autumn, they both went to Yanjing for advanced studies. This year, they'll likely have to fulfill their holiday duties.

"I'll give Old Zhou a heads-up," Gao Linbing said. "See if he can come back a bit earlier. We haven't seen each other in years, and from what he says, it seems he's doing quite well!"

Qi Taiguo rarely smiled and said, "That's good to hear!"

At this moment, the person in charge blew the whistle, signaling the end of the 20-kilometer weighted run.

Although they were obviously exhausted, none dared to relax, just standing there catching their breath.

Qi Taiguo frowned and scolded sharply, "You're panting like oxen after only ten kilometers—are your usual training sessions like racing turtles? From this afternoon, all training will be back on schedule." He glanced at his watch, "Dismissed from here, go to the canteen for lunch."

With that said, Qi Taiguo looked at Commander Ou, who was sitting beside him, and said, "You take them to the canteen and brief them on the rules."

"Yes!"

Qi Taiguo and Gao Linbing turned and walked away, feeling two sets of eyes fixed on their backs. Qi Taiguo suddenly turned his head, catching those two stares, curling one corner of his mouth coldly, with a flicker of an indescribable gleam in his eyes, then turned back and left with Gao Linbing.

Ning Le exhaled a breath, thinking, "What keen senses, to have been caught just like that!"

Cheng Jiasheng had the same thought, secretly pulling back a bit of derision in his heart.

Qi Taiguo joined the army at a young age and now, not even thirty, has no strong backing yet has reached his current position. It's certainly not just luck but solid strength. If he underestimated him, he'd surely suffer miserably.

Grandfather said, never underestimate your opponent because you never know what tricks the other side might have. Always stay a bit cautious, as it could save your life.

Cheng Jiasheng glanced at Ning Le, thinking, "This guy's background is even more prominent than mine. If his arrogance isn't tempered, he's likely to suffer in battle."

Well, they're all here to be hardened, regardless of background, it all depends on who can grasp the most!

Chapter 1235: What Is a Beheading Matter

As the day came to an end, Qi Taiguo returned home. His little niece was sitting in the living room reading a book. Upon seeing him return, she quickly went to get his slippers and poured him some tea.

Qi Taiguo was taken aback and praised her, "Xiao Yun, you're so good, but you don't need to do this. Uncle can take care of himself."

"You and Aunt are both busy, I can do little things," Xiao Yun said.

"Where is your aunt?"

"She said she went to buy groceries."

Just as Xiao Yun finished speaking, Cheng Su returned with a basket of groceries. Seeing him, she said, "You're back?"

Qi Taiguo saw the basket was quite heavy, quickly went over to take it, saying, "I'm back. So heavy."

"There are some fruits. Take them out and let Xiao Yun have some!" Cheng Su said while changing her shoes.

Qi Taiguo took out a bag of apples and some grapes and oranges, telling Xiao Yun to wash and eat them.

"How was it? How were the new recruits today? Did you see Ning Le and Cheng Jiasheng?" Cheng Su put down her bag and began taking out the groceries, grabbing a plastic basket and sitting on a small stool to clean vegetables.

Qi Taiguo mimicked her, helping with the vegetables, and said, "I saw them, each more arrogant than the last!"

"Isn't that a headache?" Cheng Su joked.

Qi Taiguo snorted softly, "If they really have the ability to remain arrogant, that would be great. Just hope they don't lose all their spirit after setbacks."

Cheng Su glanced at him, "Cheng Yaozu said he would send his nephew over, but there's still no sign of him, and Ning Ge too, there's no word from him either."

Qi Taiguo's eyebrows furrowed slightly as he said, "Maybe something's delayed them?" But in his mind he was wondering, is it that difficult over in Guangcheng to find anything? Otherwise, why has it been delayed so long?

He wasn't wrong. Ever since Shenglong's overseer noticed something amiss, the trading on that side seemed to have lessened significantly.

Ning Ge discreetly infiltrated two trucks, carefully checking them; they carried only ordinary goods, or basic military supplies like blankets and other daily necessities.

That night, Ning Ge quietly followed Li Gui, who was overseeing the operation, to their office, hiding beneath the window.

"Brother Gui, still no word from the top? It's been so long, and the scrutiny remains so strict. At this rate, our goods probably won't get out."

Goods, what goods?

Ning Ge pricked up their ears, their breath tightening. Sure enough, there was something fishy.

"Without a nod from the top, who dares to ship this stuff? If it's discovered, whose fault is it, yours or mine? I'm telling you, neither you nor I can afford the consequences; this is a matter that could cost heads!" the other man replied, presumably Brother Gui.

Ning Ge's breath hitched. A matter that could cost heads, it's surely something shady. So, where are these goods?

"So we'll just drag on like this? Across the sea, they're pressing us again."

With a snap of a lighter, Brother Gui responded, "Let it drag on, we only follow orders. Without a nod from the top, we won't move. Even if there's movement across the sea, it's none of our concern!"

"Alright. But dragging it on isn't a solution either, Brother Gui. Should we stir up some trouble? They're watching us too closely, it's not good for us!"

Brother Gui seemed to hesitate and said, "Alright, those damn cops staring at our line won't do. We need to stir up some trouble. Start a terrorist attack, create some chaos, at several points, the train station, the bus station..."

Ning Ge listened, their face darkening, just about ready to leave, when a loud shout came from outside. Who?

Then, gunshots rang out.

Chapter 1236: Action Is Inferior to Inaction

Ning Ge extricated himself from the chaos and saw from afar someone kicking a person on the ground; it was unclear if they were dead or alive, and his expression darkened.

This is Shenglong Transportation, supposedly in the transportation business, yet there are gunmen here, and someone has been killed?

No matter if Qi Taiguo's suspicions are correct, to say Shenglong is entirely aboveboard, he wouldn't believe it to save his life.

Moreover, what Li Gui and his subordinates just said indicated there was indeed a batch of goods set for trading across the sea, and whatever it was, it couldn't be good, considering the caution involved. Such dealings are bound to be shady.

The Loo Family, indeed, is involved in illegal activities!

The corners of Ning Ge's mouth curled up coldly; knowing this was enough. Next, he would just glare at them until the end; he didn't believe they could indefinitely drag this out.

But who was that person, and would he alert the snakes? Was it someone sent by the Cheng family?

Ning Ge dared not think further. He first left this place of right and wrong and found a public phone to call Cheng Yaozu, informing him of his location. Soon, Cheng Yaozu arrived to pick him up and took him to the Cheng family.

Sitting in the Cheng family's study, Ning Ge slowly recounted his findings to Cheng Yaoguang and others.

"We've also discovered Shenglong intends to make a big move, but they've been quiet these past few days," Cheng Yaozu said. "Tonight, the people we sent out have not returned yet, and there is no new information."

Ning Ge moved and said, "Probably, they won't come back!"

"What?" Cheng Yaozu glanced at his brother and others, slightly startled.

"Before I returned, Shenglong had just shot someone. I don't know who it was," Ning Ge said. "I hope it wasn't your people; if it was, then they won't be coming back!"

"They actually have guns." Cheng Yaoguang's face was ashen; this was within his jurisdiction.

"With smuggling so rampant now, and illegal immigration this grave, it's no surprise they have guns. Shenglong operates publicly as a legitimate business, but no reputable businessman would carry guns. From an indirect view, they definitely have an unclean background," Ning Ge said. "It's uncertain what cargo they're eager to dispatch. But intercept it, and there'll surely be gains."

Cheng Yaoguang said, "I'll immediately have people search Shenglong."

"No!"

Old Master Cheng and Ning Ge both spoke up in unison.

Old Master Cheng looked at Ning Ge and nodded, so Ning Ge said, "We don't know what the goods are yet, nor where they are. If you rashly send people to investigate, won't it aggravate everything? Shenglong is already alert, so at this moment, it's better to stay still."

"Are we just going to let this pass?" Cheng Yaozu said with a grim face.

If Shenglong truly smuggles out some unknown horrible thing, then his brother's position is likely over.

"They can't stall forever; the other side is urging them, they will have to deliver eventually. Since that's the case, why don't we wait for them to come to us?" Ning Ge pursed his lips and said, "Moreover, it's not enough just with this; we need to make them lower their guard and also make the Loo Family above them lower theirs."

He thought deeply; if they just intercepted this batch of goods, the Loo Family could easily claim Guangcheng acted on their own, pushing all the blame there and freeing themselves, which wouldn't do!

To act, they must strike with double assurance, catching them off guard and leaving them inarguable, which required strategic planning.

Old Master Cheng looked at Ning Ge's calculating demeanor, exchanged glances with Cheng Yaoguang, and nodded secretly.

"Fourth Young Master Ning, whatever ideas you have, speak freely," Cheng Yaoguang also admired Ning Ge greatly. Seeing the old master's gaze, he then spoke in a deep voice.

Chapter 1237: Black Cat, White Cat—A Good Cat Catches Mice

What's the plan?

Ning Ge paced back and forth in the study with his arms crossed and said, "We'll use their plan against them."

That Li Gui wants to create chaos to disrupt the police surveillance, so we should openly withdraw the surveillance to lure the Mouse out.

Additionally, we need substantial evidence to catch the big fish and leave them with no excuses.

A flicker of admiration passed through Cheng Yaoguang's eyes. Indeed, being from the Ning Family, he's not a fool.

"Getting them to lower their guard is easy, but as for this so-called evidence... we still don't know what it is, I fear..." Cheng Yaozu hesitated and said.

Without even having discovered what that batch of goods is, how can we talk about getting evidence to catch the big fish?

"I will continue to investigate secretly. Since they said the pressure from overseas is high, they must have hidden that batch of goods somewhere." A trace of darkness flashed in Ning Ge's eyes. No matter what it was, it had to be uncovered.

"In the Cheng family, only Jiahai is going to the military. If you need personnel in this regard, I'm afraid they can't help you." Old Master Cheng spoke up at this time.

Ning Ge replied, "I know that Secretary Cheng oversees the peace of not only Guangcheng but even the whole province. He has the authority to mobilize all sides, right? I'll handle the covert part, you handle the overt. Now they plan to create chaos at these few places..."

He listed the locations he had heard, and a rare fury appeared on Cheng Yaoguang's face.

All these places were densely populated. If they succeeded in causing chaos, it would instill panic among the citizens, and as the top leader, he would be held accountable.

So, regardless, Ning Ge's favor had to be repaid.

"I will make the proper arrangements," Cheng Yaoguang said in a deep voice.

"Secretary, not everything can be executed perfectly. We need them to lower their guard and ship the goods. If all the chaos is snuffed out, it might raise their alarm instead." Ning Ge said suggestively, meaning there had to be some disorder to draw law enforcement away, allowing the perpetrators to relax.

Cheng Yaoguang understood the implication: "Rest assured, I know what I'm doing!"

Ning Ge nodded. He believed Cheng Yaoguang wasn't boasting. If he didn't have these methods and capabilities, he might as well step down early!

"If you truly need someone from the underworld, I do have someone I can recommend to you!" Old Master Cheng said.

"Dad?"

Cheng Yaoguang and Cheng Yaozu looked at Old Master Cheng as if they'd seen a ghost. Wasn't he against the family getting involved with the underworld? How could he recommend someone like this?

Old Master Cheng coughed and said, "When young, who hasn't seen the world? Knowing many people is one thing, but dealing with them is another!" He paused and continued, "Besides, this is for the great cause of national interest. If someone can be used, of course, they should be used. It doesn't matter whether it's a black cat or a white cat; catching the Mouse is what makes it a good cat."

Noticing Old Master Cheng's unease and Cheng Yaozu's as well, Ning Ge pursed his lips and smiled slightly. Cheng Su was indeed a lucky star, bringing such assistance.

"Then thank you, Old Master, for understanding the big picture!" Ning Ge bowed solemnly.

Old Master Cheng waved his hand and said, "If you approach him, just mention it's for the ten-yuan favor." He gave a name.

Immediately, Cheng Yaoguang and his brother's eyes widened. This was a kingpin in the underworld. Quietly, Old Master had ties with him?

Chapter 1238: Spreading Your Wings

On the Cheng family's side, while Ning Ge and the others were discussing how to catch the big rat of the Loo family, the Loo Family in the Capital City was talking about the same thing.

Old Master Loo glared at Jiang Conghe before him, longing to hit him with the cane in his hand; he realized the man was nothing but an ungrateful wretch.

"Commander Chiang had to invite you several times before you deigned to come. Such arrogance," Old Master Loo said sarcastically.

Jiang Conghe frowned and replied, "Father-in-law, I have a lot of documents and official business to handle over there..."

Meaning to keep it brief and skip the nonsense!

"You...cough, cough, cough." Old Master Loo was so angry he began to cough violently.

"Dad, take it easy, calm down," Lu Zhenhua quickly soothed his back and winked at Jiang Conghe, nodding towards the tea on the table.

Jiang Conghe felt frustrated but obeyed his brother-in-law's cue, picked up the teacup and handed it over, softly saying, "Father-in-law, don't rush, have some water first."

Old Master Loo wanted to explode, but Lu Zhenhua quickly said, "Yes, Dad, take it easy. All the big decisions at home are waiting on your guidance!"

He reminded that it was not the time to quarrel with Jiang Conghe at such a crucial juncture.

Old Master Loo had no choice but to swallow his anger and accept the teacup from Jiang Conghe; his health was deteriorating day by day, and neither Zhenhua nor Shaojun could be relied upon. If he really fell, there wouldn't be anyone left to hold up the family!

Especially now with so many messes at home, he couldn't afford to fall.

Taking the teacup and sipping tea, Old Master Loo calmed down a bit and looked again at Jiang Conghe.

"Do you know about the situation over in Guangcheng?"

Jiang Conghe replied, "I've got a rough idea; now there's a surge in criminal activities in Guangcheng, leading to more crackdowns and investigations. It should pass after this period."

Old Master Loo snorted and said, "You make it sound easy. Don't you know they're urgently pushing for shipments? Our family's avenues are blocked, and we can't ship out goods. Do you understand the losses?"

"Losing a hand or foot is better than total annihilation, isn't it? In fact, over the years, we've earned enough. Old Master, why not take this opportunity to pull out?" Jiang Conghe said tentatively.

Old Master Loo's anger surged again, and he said, "Say that again? Pull out! Fine, the money you need for the next two years, we won't provide!"

Over these years, if it weren't for facilitating his rise, would they have taken such risks, working on shaky grounds for so long?

These jobs were akin to having one's head tied to the waist, and now he says to pull out?

He speaks so simply, not knowing who uses the most money? Unless he found another lucrative source...

Hold on, his opportunistic son is in the transport business now, right? Could it be...

Well, well, Jiang Conghe, he's grown wings indeed, found a backdoor and now wants to abandon the Loo family!

No wonder, no wonder he's been increasingly rebellious over the past year or two; turns out, he no longer holds the Loo family in high regard, now supported by his Chiang surname.

Ha, a naive, foolish idiot!

Back then, why did he have to follow Shufen's insistence on pairing them, raising him all these years only to rear an ungrateful wolf.

Old Master Loo reviewed it in his heart, but being cunning as he was, showed not a trace of it, saying, "Let's put other matters aside for now; we have to get through this hurdle first. Let me remind you, the business is primarily led by the Loo family, but if we falter, you as the son-in-law won't fare much better. If anything goes wrong, no one escapes."

For now, he had to endure, until the issue was resolved, then... hmpf!

Jiang Conghe wasn't too concerned about the matter initially, but upon hearing Old Master Loo's sinister words, his heart skipped a beat. He didn't dare to be negligent, so he put away his arrogance, sat up slightly, and said, "Father-in-law, speak."

Old Master Loo looked at his attitude, finding it even more disgusting and disconcerting. Such a treacherous person could betray you at any moment.

Yet, at this stage, he couldn't abandon Jiang Conghe so easily. After all, he had been elevated with the Loo Family's resources, and among all their connections, his position as a commander was the highest.

The Loo Family still had to rely on him!

Thinking of this, Old Master Loo couldn't help but feel uneasy and angry at heart.

"This batch of goods is already being watched, and we don't know if it's by the authorities or the underworld. We must act quickly," Old Master Loo said calmly, "So you need to make some moves on your end; use whoever you can in Guangcheng."

"But won't that create a big fuss and attract attention?" Jiang Conghe hesitated and said, "It's better to lie low and wait for things to calm down..."

"Didn't you hear that they're urgently pushing for the goods on the other end?" Old Master Loo snapped angrily.

He was furious!

Jiang Conghe's face darkened, and he said, "If you insist on making a move, it's not impossible, but if we attract attention, the Loo Family will be in the spotlight!"

He mentioned the Loo Family, not himself.

This clearly distinguished the two families, and Old Master Loo couldn't help but feel a chill of suspicion growing in his heart.

"Do you know how much this batch of goods is worth? Guicheng has already paid, but the goods haven't been delivered. If we don't make an effort, it'll be gone. And if we can't ship the batch from Guangcheng, we won't receive the deposit, which would mean losing half the Loo Family's wealth!" Old Master Loo said coldly, "You need money to campaign for that position, don't you?"

It was unfortunate; the goods barely moved before this issue arose, blocking them. Now that the payment for the goods was already made, but the goods hadn't left, they couldn't get the money, turning the goods into a hot potato.

Jiang Conghe pursed his lips and after a while said, "Whatever you say, Old Master."

Old Master Loo snorted, squinting at him, and said, "Your wings have hardened now. I can't control you, nor do I intend to! But remember, over these years, who helped you rise? If you don't appreciate that, so be it. But don't forget, the fortunes of both families are linked. If the Loo Family suffers, you, as their son-in-law, won't be spared either!"

Repeating old advice, Jiang Conghe felt disdainful but respectfully said, "You're right, Old Master." Yet, his heart was full of indifference.

Old Master Loo didn't notice and only asked, "How is Qingqing in the United States?"

Jiang Conghe's heart jumped, and a trace of panic flashed across his face as he said, "She's doing well. The doctors say she's recovering nicely, and I've spoken with her over the phone."

Old Master Loo noticed his moment of panic, felt something was amiss, but didn't dwell on it, saying, "Take good care of the child!"

Jiang Conghe smiled in agreement, glanced at the time, and rose to take his leave.

"Go ahead. I'll have Old Zhu contact you about what to do next!"

"Yes!"

Old Master Loo watched Jiang Conghe walk out the door, and after a long while, grabbed the teacup next to him and hurled it, "This traitor!" Thinking further, he felt something was amiss and said, "Zhenhua, when you have time, check on how Qingqing is doing in the United States? I don't trust that traitor."

"Dad..." Lu Zhenhua frowned. With everything going on, why worry about that girl, but he didn't dare to argue and had to agree for now. Whether he'd check or not would depend on resolving the urgent matters at hand.

Chapter 1240: Uncle's Joy

Ning Ge and the others were busy figuring out how to get rid of the big mouse, while Cheng Su and their little family life went on in a simple and fulfilling manner, and with Xiao Yun around, the days were filled with laughter and passed quickly.

Meanwhile, over at Qi Taiguo's side, the days were filled with training new recruits, with increasingly heavy tasks. Everyone grumbled about it, but had no choice but to grit their teeth and endure.

On the last day of July, a congratulatory call came from back home—Qi Jianguo had been accepted into university and had received the admission letter.

The university wasn't close by, but coincidentally, it was right in Guangcheng.

Upon hearing the name of the university, Cheng Su nodded secretly. Although it didn't match renowned institutions like Yanjing University in the Capital, the university that Qi Jianguo got into was still one of the best in Guangcheng.

Aside from Cheng Su, an outsider, Qi Jianguo was the only one in the Qi family to get into university. Indeed, even his twin, Qi Fengping, didn't make it and failed the entrance exam.

Getting into university was like crossing a single-log bridge with thousands of others, fiercely competitive. So, Qi Fengping not getting in didn't dampen the Qi family's happiness at all. In Mother Qi's eyes, as long as a woman could read and write a bit, why did she need a university education?

Moreover, Qi Fengping had already completed high school, could graduate, and find a good job. Whether she got into university or not didn't matter; what mattered was that her brother did, which was truly something to glorify the family name.

In those days, getting into university was difficult, making it a remarkable achievement worth celebrating. In Mother Qi and the others' opinion, they should hold some banquets and invite everyone in the village, along with friends and relatives, to join the celebration, as it was prestigious.

"The days in August are good, during the Mid-Autumn Festival, let's set up some banquets. Taiguo, can you get some free time to come back?" Father Qi asked.

Qi Taiguo said he might have to prepare for an assignment during the festival and might not have time. He then turned to Cheng Su and said, "Can you make time to go back?"

Father Qi looked a bit disappointed upon hearing that. The youngest son getting into university was a reason for the family to gather and celebrate with a meal, as it was a joyful event. But, he also knew there was no choice, since the eldest son was in the military and had difficulty leaving.

"If your wife is free, let her come back. This is a big joyous occasion, she should come for the celebration meal," Father Qi said.

"Alright, I got it!"

After hanging up the phone, Qi Taiguo looked at Cheng Su and said, "They said they're having some banquets on August 13th and asked you to go back for the celebration meal. So..."

Cheng Su pondered for a moment and said, "Since you can't go back, I'll return then. Xiao Yun and the others might be going back as well, so we'll go together at that time."

Getting into university was a joy for his younger brother. Qi Taiguo, as the eldest brother, couldn't return because he was in the military and couldn't leave. If she, as the sister-in-law, didn't go back, it might be frowned upon, leading to gossip. So, it was decided she would go back.

Qi Taiguo sighed in relief and said, "Alright. In that case, you'll probably have to stay at home for a few days. Help out if you can, and if you can't, don't worry about it."

Cheng Su understood what he meant and said, "Got it. If it's something that can be solved with money, I'll use money to solve it. The rest doesn't matter."

Qi Taiguo grinned and said, "Exactly, money is a great thing."

"Of course!" Cheng Su added, "Tomorrow is Luh Kai's wedding. Come back from the army in the afternoon and let's go to the wedding banquet!"

"Alright!" Qi Taiguo nodded just as a messenger came over to call him into formation.