

Back To The 80s: President's Doted Wife

#Chapter 21 Zhen Fu Gang - Read Back To The 80s: President's Doted Wife Chapter 21 Zhen Fu Gang

Chapter 21: Chapter 21 Zhen Fu Gang

Cheng Su accompanied Qi Taiguo all the way through the village to the main road, where they were greeted by many of the villagers.

"Where are you two off to? Heading back to the unit? Oh my, you've only been married for a few days, and you have to return to the ranks already? Well, yes, you're a company commander now, the responsibilities are heavy..."

In those words, one could always hear a sense of admiration. Cheng Su glanced at Qi Taiguo and saw him walking with his head held high and chest out, standing tall and straight, which made her chuckle.

Indeed, Qi Taiguo was only twenty-eight this year. He joined the army right after junior high when he was what, fifteen or sixteen years old?

In just over a decade, a boy from the countryside with no backing had persevered to his current rank. It was no wonder he was so proud.

A capable person has the foundation for pride. If Qi Taiguo kept being so ambitious, given time, he would truly stand out.

"What's with that look?" Qi Taiguo couldn't help but ask when he saw the ambiguity in her gaze.

"Nothing much, just thinking about how someone your age has already become a company commander. I wonder how you've endured these years!" Cheng Su did not hide her thoughts and expressed them openly.

Qi Taiguo was startled, not expecting such a question from her. His heart warmed slightly as he looked towards the distant mountains and forests. How did he struggle through? Simply by risking his life, that's all.

Through wind and rain, amidst bullets and explosions, he fought his way step by step from an enlisted soldier to a commissioned officer. There was no luck involved, just risking his life and accumulating military achievements to earn the position of company commander.

And he had only just begun to fill this position; there was still a long way to go.

But he was still young, with plenty of opportunities ahead. Thinking of this, Qi Taiguo felt a surge of indomitable spirit and said, "Endure what? I'm a soldier, and I naturally shoulder the responsibilities of a soldier. All my actions are my duty. The country awarded me with the rank of company commander because the nation trusts me."

So cheesy!

Cheng Su curled her lip.

Qi Taiguo didn't miss her expression and frowned, saying, "What's that look? Aren't you convinced?"

"You're overthinking it!" Cheng Su shrugged.

Qi Taiguo, noticing her indifferent attitude, felt even more aggrieved. They were married now, and overnight, she seemed to have changed. The way she looked at him wasn't as eager as it had been before the wedding!

What was going on? Was she planning to play hard to get all the way? Or was it a case of eating her words?

Qi Taiguo was startled by this thought that suddenly popped up in his mind. Weren't these concerns supposed to bother women? Why was he feeling slighted like a little wife?

He felt his ears growing hot with irritation and said more sternly, "Let me tell you, now that we are married, you are a part of the Qi family. From now on, you can't act as recklessly as you used to. Nor can you behave arrogantly because of my position. If I find out you've done something dishonorable, I will not let you off easily!"

As he spoke, his tone grew heavier, and his gaze grew sharper.

Cheng Su was momentarily taken aback.

Seeing this, Qi Taiguo thought he had intimidated her and couldn't help feeling proud. That's right, he needed to uphold the authority as a husband; he couldn't allow her to drag him down.

"That's the way it is. You take care of my parents and siblings at home, and I won't let you down. So..." he continued.

"The bus is here!" Cheng Su stepped past him, raising her hand to wave towards the bus behind him.

Qi Taiguo was stunned. Sure enough, he saw a bus with a sign for Qing City arrive, and then his hand grew heavy as Cheng Su thrust a bag of smoked meat into it.

"This is where I leave you, bye!" Cheng Su waved her hand, not waiting for him to board, and started walking back to the village.

Qi Taiguo stood still until the bus horn urged him on, then, gritting his teeth, he boarded the bus. This damn woman!

Chapter 22: Chapter 22: Daily Life

After seeing off Qi Taiguo, Cheng Su peacefully started to live her small village life. She had a strong adaptability, and even though she initially felt quite uncomfortable with various aspects of rural life, it only took her a few days to convince herself that she was there to experience rural living, and she gradually got used to it.

Additionally, given her past profession, she could be said to be good at socializing and quickly made her way into the village's social circles.

Of course, she just listened to the domestic gossip without ever speaking ill of others. Her ability to keep secrets made her seem reliable to others.

The only thing Cheng Su couldn't stand was cleaning up the various animals' excrements, and the latrine, which was the most primitive kind of dung house. Every time she went there, she stuffed her nostrils with two wads of paper, much to Mother Qi's disapproval, who criticized her several times for being too delicate.

As for the fieldwork, she didn't know how to do it, but her father-in-law, being understanding, only let her prepare and deliver the meals.

It must be said that Cheng Su's cooking was quite good; the entire Qi family recognized this, even if they didn't say it out loud. However, Mother Qi always felt the pain of it.

Because Cheng Su was too generous with oil when cooking, which made her mother-in-law distressingly upset, never missing a chance to complain about her wasteful daughter-in-law.

Apart from that, the sister-in-law also took Mother Qi's side, and the two of them together would confront her, the "outsider."

As for Cheng Su, she had been a great debater in college, able to eloquently best her opponents. With just a fraction of her abilities, she could leave her mother-in-law and sister-in-law red-faced and speechless.

Over time, Mother Qi and her daughter came to a unified decision that Cheng Su was a fierce woman not to be trifled with, lacking any hint of submission and commanding respect from all around.

As the proverb goes, mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law are natural enemies. No mother-in-law wants her daughter-in-law to be the boss, so Mother Qi incessantly pressured Cheng Su, always making sure to include her daughter as well.

Thus, Cheng Su slowly spent her days amidst a battle of wits with her mother-in-law and sister-in-law.

The air in the countryside was fresh, and she would go for a run every morning. Then she'd return home to make breakfast, help with housework, take a nap after lunch, and tend to various chores. As for the evenings, without any other activities or entertainment, she would either go to bed early or practice yoga in the courtyard, enjoying an extraordinarily leisurely lifestyle as if she were on vacation.

Speaking of yoga, once while Cheng Su was upside down practicing in the courtyard, Mother Qi, on her way to the latrine with an upset stomach, was startled upon seeing her and caused an uproar, nearly giving Cheng Su a fright that could have injured her back.

After a month of various frictions with her mother-in-law and sister-in-law, Cheng Su began to feel bored.

People need rest and relaxation, but they also need work and to get out. Staying home all day was too boring and restrictive; it wasn't what she liked or wanted to see.

She had to find a job. Without something to devote herself to, how could she get by here?

In her previous life, Cheng Su was a hotel executive, familiar and insightful about the business. She believed that if she found a job in this field, she could carve out her own niche based on her abilities.

A woman must have her own career and financial independence to not be looked down upon. Otherwise, just by looking at her current situation, it was clear; Mother Qi disapproved, having said many times that Cheng Su was there to enjoy herself and only knew how to spend money, not earn it.

Once she made up her mind, Cheng Su found the right moment, notified her in-laws, and then went off to Flower County to look for a job.

Chapter 23: Chapter 23 No Interest

Flower County was just a county town, which naturally couldn't compare to the prosperity of some larger cities, but since the economic reform and opening up, every place had been striving for economic development. In recent years, Flower County had also tasted some sweetness, becoming somewhat more prosperous than before.

Although the economy was gradually picking up, there weren't many investors coming to the county yet, and what the county had in abundance were guesthouses and hotels. As for more upscale hotels, there were hardly any.

Cheng Su was a person of high spirit, and in her previous life, she was a senior manager at a star-rated hotel, so the small guesthouses and hostels were hardly a match for her eyes. Thus, she spent half the day running around the county and asked quite a few people before she found a relatively well-known hotel.

She approached the front desk confidently to ask if they were hiring, and the young girl at the desk, dressed in a skirt, sized her up and disdainfully said, "We're not hiring!"

Cheng Su furrowed her brow and said, "But I saw that your hotel had a 'hiring' sign posted."

The front desk girl got flustered by her question and turned red as she said, "We've hired enough. Besides, we're looking for experienced hands. Do you have any experience?"

Cheng Su laughed angrily and said, "How do you know I'm not experienced if I haven't even had an interview yet?"

"Anyway, you're not suitable!" the young girl replied arrogantly. "We also require cultural and educational qualifications."

Cheng Su was taken aback. She looked down at herself, dressed in a decent Liang shirt and a gray skirt. Although it wasn't particularly flashy, her attire was presentable. Was this considered not beautiful enough?

"Are you in charge of hiring?" Cheng Su asked, looking at her.

The young girl became somewhat annoyed: "What are you implying?"

Cheng Su replied with a half-smile, "What I mean is, if you're in charge of hiring, then I'll leave. If you're not, it would be better to call the person responsible. Otherwise, you're overstepping your authority!"

The young girl caught on to her meaning, and her pointed face instantly stiffened: "No need for the manager. With that attitude of yours, you're just not suitable for our hotel."

"What's going on?" a male voice came over.

Cheng Su looked over to see a middle-aged, greasy man with a big belly, wearing a shirt and hanging black trousers, walking over.

"Manager," the front desk girl said as soon as she saw the man, immediately putting on a pitiful, wronged appearance and pointed at Cheng Su, saying, "This person is here to cause trouble!"

Cheng Su took one look and narrowed her eyes, then looked at the man known as the manager and said, "I saw that you were hiring, so I came for an interview."

The man looked her over from head to toe, his gaze settling on her ample chest, and his eyes lit up.

Cheng Su's face darkened. If there was one thing that was the best about this body, it would be the development of the two mounds on her chest. She was indeed wearing white today, which wasn't too transparent, but some outlines could still be seen.

Such blatant stares from the man made her very uncomfortable and angry.

Just by the way he was looking at her, she wouldn't accept a job here if he was the one in charge. Otherwise, it would be like walking straight into a lion's den.

"Oh, you're here for an interview? Come on, let's talk in my office!" The manager beckoned warmly.

The front desk girl was the first to dissent, stamping her foot and whining, "Manager..." She knew that once the manager saw this woman, he would become lustful, so she was unwilling to serve her.

The manager glanced at her indifferently and then turned his attention to Cheng Su, his enthusiasm unabated.

Cheng Su saw it all clearly and scoffed internally. She said, "No need, I'm no longer interested!"

Without waiting for a reaction from either of them, she turned and left. With such a manager and front desk, filthy to the core, she disdained to work in such a hotel.

Chapter 24: Chapter 24: Is She Silly?

Determined to find a job and start her own career, Cheng Su was instead confronted by such disgusting personnel matters. She felt depressed and nauseated, but then she thought about it—hadn't she seen enough of such unspoken rules in her past life?

Forget it, it was that hotel's loss not to have someone as talented as her!

Having come to terms with it, Cheng Su visited two more inns, both of which were hiring room service staff. She wasn't interested, so after a day that yielded no results, she returned home feeling rather disgruntled.

Unable to find a job, Cheng Su felt gloomy. Facing her mother-in-law's harassment, she had no mood to argue and went back to her room early.

Lying in bed and staring at the ceiling, Cheng Su felt somewhat deflated, as her setbacks made her realize she wasn't invincible.

Suddenly, an idea struck her, and she bolted upright in bed.

This was the 1980s, a time of economic reform and opening up, when everyone was getting into business to make a fortune. And there she was, still looking for a job. Why not seize this opportunity to "go into the sea" of business?

Indeed, although she was an unfortunate reborn person, she still had the halo of a protagonist: she had lived another life and knew the future trends of the era.

With such convenience and a head start, she was still thinking about working under others, subject to their whims? Was she foolish?

This was an era of struggle, an era of hard work. No matter what business one did, there was something to be gained, especially after the 1990s when the economy would skyrocket, and not to forget real estate...

Cheng Su's memories spun rapidly, forming a blueprint of the future—a vision of prosperity that made her blood race with excitement.

If she could make her first bucket of gold, it could keep rolling onwards. Using her knowledge of the era's progression, how could she not become wealthy?

With money, she wouldn't have to think about small hotels; she could build star-rated ones, which would be far better than working in one, wouldn't it?

The more Cheng Su thought, the more she felt confident in her course of action.

Building her own business to become rich and self-reliant was her foundation and capital as a woman.

Women could hold up half the sky. Times had changed. Going into business wouldn't brand one a reprehensible capitalist, nor would it bring contempt; instead, poverty had always been a shackle throughout the ages.

But to enter business, capital was needed. Thinking of this, Cheng Su quickly got out of bed and rummaged through her personal savings in the cabinet.

Though a newlywed, she had not, regrettably, gained control of the finances. In the box, aside from around ten yuan, there was nothing else, and this was all her wealth.

"Truly poor," Cheng Su said with a bitter smile.

Her family wasn't wealthy either. Her dowry had not included a single piece of gold jewelry, just a pair of Silver Bracelets, hence her mother-in-law's dissatisfaction.

The abundance of a dowry was a woman's pride; her poverty was the reason her mother-in-law wasn't more pleased, or else she wouldn't be accused of marrying into the family for an easy life.

Cheng Su pinched the few thin bills, closed the box with a sigh, and felt even more determined to strive for success. Otherwise, there was no hope for comfortable days, and as for relying on her husband? The thought had never even crossed her mind.

Whether you call her distrustful of Qi Taiguo or proud, Cheng Su, in her two lifetimes, had never thought to change her fate through a man.

A woman, no matter the time, must rely on herself, because if you lean on a mountain, the mountain may collapse; if you rely on a man, the man may just run away.

Thinking of Qi Taiguo, she glanced at the large bed. What had become of that man?

Chapter 25: Chapter 25 The Bed Is Too Big

How is Qi Taiguo doing?

At this time, he had just returned from another company commander's home, reeking of alcohol. It was Old Zhou's birthday tonight, and Sister-in-law Zhou had personally prepared a table full of dishes, inviting familiar comrades-in-arms and their families to celebrate.

Qi Taiguo and Old Zhou were close, so naturally, he also attended the feast.

Upon opening the door to his home, darkness enveloped the room. Qi Taiguo entered just as before, taking off his shoes—it all seemed the same as before, yet he felt that something was different.

Next door, at Liang Shurong's place, his wife Chunhua was nagging him for drinking too much and kept insisting he drink honey water to sober up.

Wan Dahe's household was no different, with Guihua loudly calling for Dahe to take a bath and come down in fresh clothes so she could wash the dirty ones.

But what about himself?

Qi Taiguo shut the door, blocking out the nagging voices, suddenly understanding what was different. He too was a married man, but when he returned home after social

drinking, there was no wife to tend to his needs or to nag him, and he was still a lonesome soul.

There was no one to say he drank too much or to offer him a hangover cure. No one cared whether or not he bathed; there was no one to hurry him.

Qi Taiguo saw a basin full of dirty clothes in the bathroom and frowned—there was also no one to wash his clothes.

Suddenly, he felt a bit lonely and a faint sense of injustice.

Everyone else was a family man, so why was he still living the life of a bachelor, simply because his wife wasn't by his side?

Thinking about how Cheng Su had indifferently seen him off, so cheerful about it, Qi Taiguo snorted, stripped off his clothes, and turned on the cold shower.

At the banquet earlier, Old Zhou had also asked him how it was that his wife didn't come back with him. It didn't make sense for newlyweds to live apart.

He explained that he'd let her stay with her parents to show filial piety—how could he say she didn't want to come?

Thinking of Sister-in-law Zhou's tender care and understanding of Old Zhou, weren't those things also achieved through years of companionship?

"Who cares whether she comes or not, hmph!" Qi Taiguo doused himself with several buckets of cold water, extinguishing the fire in his heart, before he slipped into a pair of underpants and returned to his room.

Having turned off the lights, he found himself unable to fall asleep. In the deep silence of the night, some sounds became especially clear.

The sound insulation in these dormitories was not the best; with the rooms so close together and the windows made of simple stained glass, any louder sound could be clearly heard.

Just like at this moment, that sporadic but fervent noise made Qi Taiguo's heart seethe with restlessness, bile rising in his throat.

Was he the only one without a wife?

Qi Taiguo felt irritated but couldn't help recalling the wedding night, the body he had seen, the ecstasy he had tasted.

The alcohol went to his head, and combined with his frustration, a certain part of him became restless, eager to move. Qi Taiguo's heart itched unbearably, and something inside wanted to be immediately released.

He couldn't help but reach into his crotch, close his eyes, and his thoughts drifted back to that unfinished wedding night, that person...

In a moment, the light snapped on, and Qi Taiguo grabbed the lavender-colored roll paper from the wooden table, cleaned his hands and that area, then lay back down, staring blankly at the canopy of his bed.

Though he had relieved himself, why did he feel even emptier? There was a hollow feeling in his heart, yearning to be filled.

He turned his head and his brows furrowed as he looked at the other side of the bed.

Normally, he didn't think much of it, but today, why did the bed seem too large?

Tomorrow, he'd go sleep on the bivouac in the next room—it was only meant for one.