

## Back To The 80s: President's Doted Wife

### Chapter 26: Chapter 26 Elder Sister's Premature Birth

Qi Taiguo was feeling uncomfortable, but Cheng Su naturally didn't know; she was still immersed in her grand plans for making a fortune, writing her proposals without going out to look for a job.

Mother Qi was especially displeased about this, speaking more and more unpleasantly, accusing her of being lazy and doing nothing.

"You might as well go to Taiguo to take care of him," Mother Qi accused her irritably.

Because Cheng Su had brought good fortune, Mother Qi's hopes of holding a grandchild were dashed. Suddenly, she thought of the two living so far apart, barely able to see each other; when would she be able to hold her grandchild?

She had heard of some soldiers who had married but hadn't fathered any children for many years because they were away from their wives.

She didn't want that; she wanted to hold her grandchild. Otherwise, why bring a daughter-in-law home? Why get married if not to have children!

And without the couple being together, how would they have children? Would they just spring out of stones?

Cheng Su's behavior now made her even more displeased. Sending her to her son would not only ensure his well-being but also, hopefully, a quicker childbirth; out of sight, out of mind.

Hearing this, Cheng Su was truly tempted. Since she was planning to start a business, naturally, going to a more bustling place was better.

Flower County was just a county city; even with her ambitions, there was only so much she could achieve here, and besides, she wanted to get away from the incessant nagging and complaining of her mother-in-law and sister-in-law.

Living together was easy, cohabitating was hard. She was not a submissive person by nature and had reached the limit of her patience with her in-laws.

Since they disliked each other, it was better to separate, which could at least preserve some decorum between them.

So, after hearing her mother-in-law's words, Cheng Su responded, "Alright, then I'll go to Qing City!"

Mother Qi had only spoken in passing, but upon hearing Cheng Su's eager agreement, she felt somewhat displeased, thinking that Cheng Su hadn't even tried to refuse, clearly showing her eagerness to live the good life in the city.

Thinking this, she set her face into a frown and glared at Cheng Su, "You've been longing for this day, haven't you? You, with your high and mighty heart, can't be retained by the countryside. You're probably sick of looking at us two old fogeys, aren't you?"

Cheng Su's expression darkened, "This was your suggestion, Mother Qi, to go 'take care' of Qi Taiguo! What is the meaning behind saying these things now?"

Her meaning couldn't be more obvious—she was blaming her either way.

Mother Qi's face turned even sterner, "I hadn't realized you were such an obedient daughter-in-law."

Cheng Su couldn't help but retort, "There are a lot of things you haven't realized, Mother Qi!"

Mother Qi's face grew even darker upon hearing this, and just as she was about to say something, someone called out from the courtyard.

Both mother-in-law and daughter-in-law went outside. There stood an unfamiliar woman—unknown to Cheng Su, but recognized by Mother Qi.

"Taozi, what brings you here?" Mother Qi approached to open the door.

This woman called Taozi had also married out of the village. Coincidentally, she was from the same village called Gaotian Village where Mother Qi's eldest daughter, Qi Fenglian, lived.

"Oh dear, Mother Qi, it's good you're at home. Sister Fenglian has gone into labor; please hurry over!" Taozi said in a rush.

Mother Qi was stunned, "How is that possible? Fenglian still has two months to go before she's due; how could she be in labor already?" As she finished her question, her voice became anxious.

Cheng Su also frowned and recalled an image of a woman—Qi Taiguo's elder sister, Qi Fenglian—who had come to the wedding banquet heavily pregnant, seemingly about seven months along. It had only been a little over a month; was she about to give birth already?

"Don't even mention it. Sister Fenglian fell while delivering a meal, she's bleeding, and the baby is coming!" Taozi exclaimed.

"What? A premature labor?" Mother Qi's legs gave way, and she nearly collapsed to the ground.

## **Chapter 27: Chapter 27 Miss, Keep It Big**

Hearing that her daughter might have a premature and difficult birth, Mother Qi was unsettled and hastily sent her younger daughter to her elder daughter's place, then ordered Cheng Su to look for Father Qi in the fields, as they would head over first.

Cheng Su also knew the situation was critical and immediately went to summon people from the fields. As soon as her father-in-law got some money, they rushed to the village where Elder Sister was.

But upon their arrival, they heard Elder Sister had already been taken to the hospital, unable to deliver naturally. Her elder daughter, Xiao Yun, was crying inconsolably, clinging to Cheng Su's hand without letting go, her little face filled with terror.

"Don't be afraid, Auntie is going right now to take a look, your mom will be fine!" Cheng Su said, seeing her cry so pitifully. Then catching sight of a basin of bloody water in the courtyard, she shuddered. Having to go to the hospital because of a difficult labor was no wonder the child was scared, uncertain if Qi Fenglian could hold on.

Racing to the county hospital in the county town, she and Father Qi hurried inside.

The hospital was small at that time, and with a quick inquiry, they knew where obstetrics was. Cheng Su hurried over there.

Entering the obstetrics corridor, she heard a noisy commotion and frowned.

Why didn't the hospital nurses take care of all this noise?

"What do you mean? She can't deliver but you won't let her have a C-section? I'm telling you, if something happens to my Sister Feng, you Zhang family are murderers!" The shrill voice of an old woman came clearly to Cheng Su's ears.

"Which daughter-in-law doesn't give birth naturally? If we agree to a C-section and my grandson doesn't survive, what then? He's my grandson!" Another old woman's voice retorted.

"So you're saying you'd rather save the child than the mother?" The first voice was clearly shaking now, "Jisheng, do you think the same? She's your wife!"

"He's the eldest grandson of the old Zhang's family!" The old woman said loudly.

"You're going to kill my sister," a young woman's voice shouted in anger.

Cheng Su's face darkened; she knew by the voices who they were. Turning around the corner of the corridor, wasn't it her mother-in-law, Mother Qi, and her sister-in-law?

And the other people belonged to Qi Fenglian's husband's family. They had come to drink at her wedding too. Qi Fenglian's mother-in-law had even taken quite a bit of food back with her.

"The labor-inducing injection has been given, and she still can't deliver. Are you signing or not? If you don't decide now, we can't save either the mother or child," said a nurse coming out of the delivery room.

At the nurse's words, everyone was stunned.

The old woman who should be Qi Fenglian's mother-in-law quickly pulled her own son, speaking nervously, "How can she not deliver? We're at the hospital. Aren't you doctors skilled at delivering babies? And it's not her first birth. How's my grandson?"

"If it weren't for you, Sister Feng wouldn't have had a premature fall. You, old thief!" exclaimed Mother Qi, becoming frantic as she realized her daughter was in danger and started cursing.

Cheng Su hurriedly approached the nurse and asked, "Miss, what's the condition of the woman inside now?"

"It's a difficult birth, the labor-inducing injection is ineffective, and if we don't proceed with a C-section now, we can't save either the mother or child," the nurse said, seemingly taken aback but quickly replied, "Even with a C-section, saying who we can save is difficult; make a decision fast, both the mother and child can't wait."

"Save the child, save the child, miss, you must save my grandson." Mother Zhang shouted, "He's the eldest grandson of Zhang family, choose the child."

"You, you..." Mother Qi was furious, pointing at the man crouched on the ground, "Zhang Jisheng, is that what you think too? Fenglian couldn't give birth at home, and you still won't agree to a C-section; do you want her dead along with the baby?"

Qi Fenglian's husband, who was Zhang Jisheng, looked up for a moment then withdrew his gaze again.

Cheng Su, feeling a surge of anger, snatched the paper and pen from the nurse and hastily signed her own name, saying, "Miss, save the mother."

## **Chapter 28: Chapter 28 You Are Not Human**

As soon as Cheng Su signed, the nurse took the consent form and left. It was only after the door to the delivery room slammed shut again that everyone reacted, staring at Cheng Su as if they had seen a ghost.

"You, what right do you have to sign? Daughter, come back, we must save the baby," Mother Zhang was the first to jump up, pounding on the door of the delivery room with her hands.

Cheng Su pulled her away and growled lowly, "Shut your mouth, they are performing surgery inside, what are you making such a racket for?"

"What are you to wave your hands and give orders in front of me, who the hell are you, who gave you the gall to make decisions for our Zhang family!" Mother Zhang was so angry that she trembled all over.

"I'm not a thing, I'm Qi Taiguo's wife, your daughter-in-law's sister-in-law, what about that? You're not so old that you've gone blind, you just came to my wedding banquet last month!" Cheng Su glared fiercely and coldly glanced at Zhang Jisheng, who was standing there like a fool, then said, "And you, have you forgotten too? Shall I call Qi Taiguo to ask if I'm not his wife?"

The mention of Qi Taiguo made Zhang Jisheng shudder and, holding his mother who was about to curse out loud, he said, "Mom, let it go."

"Let what go? She's signed now, where does she get the qualification to sign?" Mother Zhang shouted back, looking at Cheng Su and saying, "Even if you're a sister-in-law, by what right do you sign for us?"

"You are not human, you want to watch my elder sister and the child go to their deaths with your eyes wide open, am I not human either?" Cheng Su scoffed coldly.

"You, who are you cursing!"

"Whoever isn't human, that's who I'm cursing," Cheng Su replied with her arms folded.

"Mom, let it go, let's just leave it," Zhang Jisheng, pulling at his mother who was about to start cursing, tried to soothe her.

"Leave what? Fine, fine. The Qi family has plenty of people and capability, so you all can deal with whether she lives or dies. Jisheng, we're leaving!" With that, Mother Zhang hurriedly pulled Zhang Jisheng and said, "Let's go back and get the household register. If my grandson is gone, you divorce her immediately!"

Cheng Su was shocked. She had seen bad and very bad before, but she had never seen someone this awful; it was truly extraordinarily bad!

"Zhang Jisheng, when you were kneeling on the ground begging me and your father-in-law to marry Sister Feng to you, is this how you treat her? She's still in there, her life hanging by a thread, and you're talking about divorce? Are you still human!" Mother Qi was also completely shocked.

"Zhang Jisheng, you dare!" Father Qi trembled with anger.

"Marrying Sister Feng to you was truly a mistake," Qi Fengping clenched her fists and said coldly, "If my elder brother comes back, he'll surely beat to death scum like you!"

Zhang Jisheng and Mother Zhang both shuddered.

"I've said it long ago, if it comes to saving the eldest, then forget it, divorce, you brought this upon yourselves!" Mother Zhang stubbornly said, "After all these years, Yayun is already ten, and she's only just gotten pregnant with a boy, something she finally managed to do. If it weren't for Jisheng's protection, she should have been divorced a long time ago!"

"If the grandson is gone, we can have another, but if the adult dies, how can you have another?" Cheng Su was furious at how ignorant some people could be.

"The grandson is a seed of our Old Zhang's family, women can be found anywhere," Mother Zhang muttered under her breath.

"Mom..." Zhang Jisheng tugged at her, saying, "It's already signed, let's just wait a bit longer, maybe everything will turn out fine!"

"You can wait if you want, I certainly won't," replied Mother Zhang, shaking off his hand and striding away.

Zhang Jisheng chased after her, not caring whether his wife was on the brink of death inside the delivery room!

"This is a sin, such regret, truly regretful, we should never have married Sister Feng into the Zhang family," Mother Qi wailed, beating her chest.

Qi Fengping said, "Mom, if they really dare to divorce my elder sister, let elder brother beat them to death, let's see if they dare!"

Cheng Su glanced at her and thought, this young girl of fifteen or sixteen sure was bold in speaking!

The waiting always seemed interminable, and Cheng Su also learned about Elder Sister's story from Mother Qi.

Speaking of Qi Fenglian, it had been eleven years since she married Zhang Jisheng at the age of twenty. She gave birth to their eldest daughter, Zhang Yayun, in the second year of their marriage, which displeased her mother-in-law, Mother Zhang, for being a girl. In the following years, for reasons unknown, Qi Fenglian did not conceive again until Yayun was four years old, but she miscarried at five months during the busy farming season; it was already a fully developed male infant.

A miscarriage is even more damaging to the body than childbirth, and Qi Fenglian, after her miscarriage, had not recovered well. Her health remained poor, compounded by her sharp-tongued mother-in-law's daily scolding, which deepened her depression. This likely contributed to her inability to conceive for several years.

Only last year did she finally become pregnant again, and at four months, with some difficulty, they gave a hefty red envelope to the hospital for an ultrasound, discovering it was a male infant. The Zhang family was overjoyed, treating Qi Fenglian's womb like a precious gem, and even she herself was incredibly anxious.

These past few days, as the rice in the fields ripened, Zhang Jisheng and his father were out working, and Mother Zhang sent Qi Fenglian to bring them meals. Unfortunately, Qi Fenglian felt unwell—eight months pregnant, she hardly wanted to go, suggesting that Mother Zhang ask her sister-in-law, Wang Li, to go instead.

Wang Li, the youngest daughter-in-law of the Zhang family, was spoiled and headstrong from a young age, and her sharp tongue paired with slightly better family conditions resulted in Mother Zhang's favoritism. Whenever she complained of dizziness, Mother Zhang would permit her to rest. She told Qi Fenglian that walking more would make the delivery easier.

Left with no choice, Qi Fenglian went to deliver the meals only to stumble midway, feeling pain and the urge to give birth. She was hurriedly carried home, and they summoned a midwife to assist with the delivery. But after two hours and considerable blood loss, her cervix had still not fully dilated, forcing them to rush her to the county hospital, where they said she might need a cesarean. The Zhang family refused.

When Mother Qi and the others arrived at the Qi family's home, they were just trying to take Fenglian to the hospital. Upon hearing about the cesarean, they outright refused to sign the consent form.

The Zhang family's reluctance stemmed from the high cost of a cesarean operation and the belief that women should give birth at home—after all, in those times, who wasn't up and walking a day after delivering a baby?

But a cesarean was not only expensive in terms of the surgery fee, but it also required a hospital stay, and that meant more money, which they were reluctant to spend.



More importantly, in such a difficult childbirth, signing the consent form for a cesarean meant making a critical decision between saving the mother or the baby if it came down to it, and the Zhang family was even less willing to do that. They prioritized the baby without a second thought.

How could Mother Qi agree to that? That was flesh from her own body. This issue caused quite the uproar, resulting in the Zhang family laying down an ultimatum—if they prioritized the mother, the family would wash their hands of it and consider divorce.

They were complaining about the excessive expense!

Hence, Mother Qi and the others were so infuriated. Even Cheng Su was angry. Was this even human behavior?

"Don't know if your elder sister can pull through. If she... if anything happens, call Taiguo; they think our Qi family has no one to stand for us," Mother Qi, her eyes red with anger, instructed Cheng Su furiously.

Taiguo, the eldest son of the Qi family, was expected to bring his presence home as support; after all, as a military man imbued with a formidable aura, even evil spirits would stay clear of him, and it would also shake the Zhang family into consideration.

"Let's wait and see, Taiguo is in the military, he can't just come back whenever he wants!" Father Qi said gravely, wanting a cigarette but remembering they were in a hospital.

Cheng Su's temper flared, cursing the ignorance and outrageousness. If she hadn't hurried over, would the consent form have remained unsigned, leading to Qi Fenglian dying along with her child?

She shuddered at the thought.

She had heard such news stories before and often felt they were just news, but now it was happening right in front of her, it chilled her to the core.

The one who left her the coldest was Zhang Jisheng, Qi Fenglian's husband, that weak, irresponsible man. His wife was on the brink of life and death indoors, and here he was siding with his mother, agreeing not to sign.

Now, with his mother throwing a tantrum and threatening to leave, was he really ignoring his wife's struggle in the delivery room, instead of staying here to follow his mother out?

"Damn it all!" Cheng Su cursed as she watched in the direction of Zhang Jisheng and his family's departure.



## Chapter 29: Chapter 29: If Worse Comes to Worst, Get a Divorce

Cheng Su was truly infuriated. She knew that the bias favoring males over females was still severe nowadays. There was no need to look far; the Qi family itself valued boys more than girls, even if they didn't treat women as worthless as mud. Even in her own parents' house, her stepmother was biased towards her younger brother. Anything tasty or good to drink would first be given to him, spoiling him into a little tyrant.

Though boys were generally valued more, Mother Qi was still protective of her own daughter. But what about the Zhang family?

For the sake of the unborn child, diagnosed as a boy from a simple ultrasound, they were ready to forsake a living adult without a second thought. How chillingly coldhearted could they be?

She really wanted to know if these people were born from stones and not from a woman.

The looks Qi Fengping and Mother Qi gave Cheng Su were as if they were looking at a monster.

The Cheng Su from just moments ago was so domineering!

She seemed like a stranger, powerful and authoritative. They knew she had a temper, but they didn't realize she could be so righteous and overbearing.

Without a word, she signed the papers. Where did that decisiveness come from?

And now, as she stood with her arms folded in front of the delivery room, she seemed like a guardian deity, forbidding evil spirits to stir trouble.

She wore a pale jade-green tunic, paired with trousers that reached just above her ankles, giving her a somewhat unconventional appearance.

But to Qi Fengping, she looked incredibly stylish because it revealed her slim, fair ankles, and the delicacy of her sandals only added to the beauty of her feet.

Looking at Cheng Su with her hair tied back in a ponytail, her neck appeared long and her stature tall. She never seemed this tall before.

Her expression, currently tight-lipped with anger, carried...

An aura that made her seem untouchable, her face etched with resolute decisiveness.

Qi Fengping actually saw a glimpse of their eldest brother in her!

Had she seen a ghost? This was not the same Cheng Su, the jealous type they knew!

Mother Qi also found it very strange, yet as a mother-in-law, she had to preside over matters. For generations, it was the role of the mother-in-law to take charge. Now, upon seeing Cheng Su's demeanor, Mother Qi asserted her authority!

"You too, acting so hastily, signing as soon as you arrived, why didn't you discuss it first? If something happens to Sister Feng, you'll have to answer to me!" scowled Mother Qi at Cheng Su, frowning as she scolded, "And what on earth are you wearing? You don't look respectable at all."

Cheng Su rolled her eyes inwardly, ignoring her latter remark, and retorted, "Discuss? You all have been discussing for hours without making a decision. Had Dad and I not arrived in time, you would still be haggling with the Zhang family. You all might be able to wait, but Qi Fenglian can't. By the time you reach an agreement, she would have already..."

Under Mother Qi's glaring stare, Cheng Su swallowed the last three ominous words she was about to say.

"Even so, you can't just sign without consent, as if we're using our influence to oppress the Zhang family. How is Sister Feng supposed to stay in the Zhang family after this? How can we continue like this?" Mother Qi said with a worried expression.

She wanted the best for her daughter and knew that once a woman was married, her life and death were in her husband's family's hands. Now with Cheng Su signing the papers to prioritize the adult over the child, if all turned out well, so be it, but if not, could the Zhang family still accommodate Sister Feng? What would happen to them, mother and daughter, in the future?

"Should she still lower herself to please such a family? A husband's family that could dismiss her life, Mother, are you still concerned about her staying in that house?" Cheng Su was utterly astonished in her core beliefs and said, "If the Zhang family prefers the minor over the major, meaning they don't care about her life, isn't that the same as murder? Are you worried she won't be able to cope? If it comes to that, then so be it, they can divorce!"

### **Chapter 30: Chapter 30 Safe and Sound Mother and Child**

Let's just get a divorce!

Cheng Su's statement, blurted out the moment she opened her mouth, shocked Mother Qi into widening her eyes. "Are you crazy? Divorce? It would be better to tell her to die!"

In Mother Qi's eyes, divorce was a disgraceful matter, especially for a daughter. If she divorced her in-laws, regardless of who was right or wrong, the news would not sound good, and it would tarnish her own family's reputation as well.

So, she had never considered letting Qi Fenglian get a divorce, even now, with the Zhang family valuing the small life over the big one, she hadn't thought about Qi Fenglian leaving the Zhang family, not to mention there was Yunyun!

"If she loses her life, what use is that husband's family?" Cheng Su scoffed coldly.

"You, you speak so lightly, all this nonsense," Mother Qi shivered with anger.

Cheng Su was about to preach a lesson, but at that moment, down the hall, Zhang Jisheng and his mother turned back, prompting her to scoff coldly.

Just then, the door to the delivery room opened. Cheng Su couldn't care to say anything and quickly approached.

"How is it, doctor, how did it go?" Cheng Su was the first to ask.

"My grandson, is my grandson safe?" Mother Zhang pushed past her excitedly.

The female doctor removed her mask, saying, "The surgery was very successful. Both mother and child are safe—mother and child are both well!"

Cheng Su breathed a sigh of relief, and Qi Fengping jumped for joy, shaking Mother Qi's hand, "Mom, my sister is fine, my sister is alright."

"Amitabha, thank you for the Bodhisattva's blessings," Mother Qi clasped her hands together and chanted a few times.

Father Qi also breathed a sigh of relief, his hands trembling slightly.

"Doctor, doctor, is it a son or a daughter?" Mother Zhang asked again.

Cheng Su furrowed her brows, her cold gaze swept towards Zhang Jisheng and saw his similarly expectant face, which darkened her expression further.

He's truly a son of a bitch!

The obstetrician also frowned slightly but still replied, "It's a boy..."

Before she could finish, Mother Zhang shouted joyfully, grabbing Zhang Jisheng's hand, "Oh, it's a son, my Zhang family has an heir. Jisheng, you have a son now!"

Upon hearing it was a son, even Zhang Jisheng's tanned and honest face revealed a smile, which Cheng Su found utterly nauseating.

Not a single word asked about the wife's life or death, just the child's gender—such a man is truly scum!

The obstetrician, interrupted, was quite displeased and coughed in annoyance, "Don't celebrate too early either. The child was born prematurely and the delivery was difficult. If the cesarean had been done a moment later, not only would the child not have survived, but the mother could have bled out too!"

Hearing this, Cheng Su was secretly relieved in her heart, while Mother Qi and the others showed faces that had just survived a catastrophe, but Mother Zhang and her family didn't take it seriously at all.

"Hey, isn't she born now? Didn't you say mother and child are safe?" Mother Zhang said indifferently.

"Yeah, if you had insisted a bit longer on not having the cesarean, would you still have your grandson and wife?" Cheng Su couldn't help but sneer, casting a disdainful glance at Zhang Jisheng.

Zhang Jisheng's face turned red.

"Hey, hey, you, why is your mouth so poisoned, who are you cursing?" Mother Zhang was displeased.

"Stop it, both of you, this is a hospital, not a vegetable market, what are you arguing about?" The obstetrician became furious, saying, "The child, because he's a preemie, needs to be placed in an incubator for observation, and the mother needs careful recuperation. The child will be taken to the incubator soon and the mother will be out shortly. You all wait here."

"Jisheng, let's go, let's wait in the incubator room," said Mother Zhang as she pulled Zhang Jisheng away, not caring at all about the people in the delivery room. From a distance, she still didn't forget to mutter, "Why put him in the incubator? Really useless, such trouble just to have a child. If anything happens to my grandson, I'm going to make her pay."

Cheng Su was so angry she almost pounced to hit someone, but she still had some sense left. Prioritizing the adults, she reached into her pocket and pulled out a prepared red envelope, grabbing the doctor's hand and stuffing it in, saying, "Doctor, the patient inside is my Elder Sister. Please give her some extra attention and use the good medicine."

The obstetrician's face lit up with a smile, "Don't worry, this is our responsibility as doctors. But as family members, you also need to take good care of her. After all, it was a difficult delivery, and she lost a lot of blood. She has had a miscarriage before, right? If she doesn't recuperate well this time, forget future pregnancies, she might even ruin her health."