

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

### #Chapter 31 The Impossibility of Compromise - Read Back To The 80s: President's Doted Wife Chapter 31 The Impossibility of Compromise

#### **Chapter 31: Chapter 31 The Impossibility of Compromise**

Qi Fenglian was wheeled out of the delivery room and, upon seeing her maternal family, she revealed an excited smile. Weakly, she said, "Mom, I've given birth to a son."

"I know, I know," Mother Qi wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes.

She turned her head left and right, but seeing no one from her husband's family, she felt a chill in her heart and asked in a weak voice, "Where's Jisheng?"

Just as Qi Fengping was about to speak, Mother Qi interrupted her and rushed to say, "The doctor says the child is not very well because of the difficult birth, and they've taken him to the incubator. Jisheng and the rest are too worried to leave him, so they went to check on him first."

Upon hearing this, Qi Fenglian became nervous; that was the son she had nearly died to bring into the world.

"It's just for observation, and I believe he will be brought back soon. Elder Sister, you can rest assured," Cheng Su said with a heavy heart, adding her own words of comfort.

It was only then that Qi Fenglian noticed her. "You came too!" she said.

Cheng Su nodded. The nurse then asked them to step aside and began pushing Qi Fenglian towards the ward. Following behind was another nurse, who said, "Family of the patient, please go and complete the hospital admission procedures."

Mother Qi warned both Qi Fengping and Cheng Su, "Don't talk nonsense in front of your elder sister. She's still weak!"

Cheng Su couldn't help but look at her, her heart aching for her own daughter.

"Elder Sister is not a fool," mumbled Qi Fengping.

Mother Qi glared at her and said, "Go, tell your brother-in-law to handle the admission procedures."

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow. If the Zhang family heard about the admission and the high cost of the hospital stay, they would surely make a big fuss!

"Mom, the Zhang family is unreliable. Elder Sister has just given birth, and she doesn't look well. Why don't you go buy some soup for her to replenish? The doctor also said her health cannot be neglected," Cheng Su said, recalling the pale face of Qi Fenglian. Fearing that her mother-in-law might overthink, she quickly added, "It's not that I'm shirking my duties, but you're more experienced. Otherwise, I would go buy it myself."

Upon hearing this, Mother Qi felt pleased, thinking to herself that since getting married, her daughter had started speaking more pleasantly than before.

"What's bought outside isn't good, and it's expensive. I think I'll go home and cook her some old chicken soup," Mother Qi considered and then said, "I don't know when Jisheng and the others will be back, so you watch over her for now."

Cheng Su agreed.

It was only after making up her mind to leave that Mother Qi stopped and warned her again, "Don't spout nonsense in front of Sister Feng. Now that the child is born and she's fine, it's better not to make trouble out of nothing."

Cheng Su rolled her eyes and said, "Mom, I know what I'm doing. The most important thing right now is for Elder Sister to rest well."

Listening to her daughter's confident assurances, Mother Qi walked away, half-convinced.

Cheng Su did want to criticize the Zhang family, but as Mother Qi had said, it was better not to stir up trouble. She also didn't know Qi Fenglian well enough to comment further, and right now, what mattered most was for her to recuperate. Why cause her more pain?

But with such a husband's family, even though she had given birth to a son, Qi Fenglian's days ahead were unlikely to be easy. With a domineering mother-in-law and a spineless and foolishly filial husband, and herself being too submissive, it would be strange if she could live comfortably!

As for herself...

Cheng Su suddenly imagined herself in that situation. Not to mention the weak elder sister-in-law, the younger sister-in-law was a hot-tempered one. As for the mother-in-law, she was a typical woman from the old society. Ever since moving into that family, how many verbal battles had they had?

Cheng Su, compromise and acquiesce? In her dreams!

If the Qi family treated her like that, and Taiguo was as foolishly filial as Zhang Jisheng, she wouldn't care less about Taiguo's future; she would definitely divorce him, no matter who it affected!

And in the previous life, was one of the reasons for the original host's suicide due to her husband's family?

Cheng Su fell into deep thought.

## **Chapter 32: Chapter 32 The Suffering Inside**

Just as Cheng Su had anticipated, the Zhang family caused a commotion about leaving the hospital immediately after hearing the cost of hospitalization. The hospital staff explained that the child was born premature, only eight months along, and there's an old saying "seven months survives, eight months does not." If they insisted on leaving the hospital, the hospital would not be responsible for any consequences.

With just these words, the Zhang family matriarch, who had been making a racket, changed her tune instantly and said the child should stay, but the mother could be discharged.

Naturally, the hospital did their part in persuading them, mentioning how difficult childbirth was on the body, especially given it was a C-section, and how complications could easily arise. Discharge was out of the question.

Mother Zhang was unwilling to listen, claiming the hospital was only in it for the money, which nearly drove the head nurse to the brink of rage. Then they called for the only person related to the maternity patient who had a say in matters.

And that person was none other than Cheng Su!

Cheng Su didn't waste words, but simply looked at Zhang Jisheng and said, "You can choose not to stay in the hospital. If Qi Fenglian were to worsen, as long as you can handle Qi Taiguo's fury, then it's fine."

Zhang Jisheng immediately cowered at the mention of his older brother-in-law's name, and said he would pay. Mother Zhang was still ranting, "What's so great about being in the military? Could he possibly dare to kill someone? Those who kill will be taken to firing squads, does he dare?"

"Whether he dares or not isn't for you to decide," Cheng Su said with a sneer, unable to hide her disdain. "Old Qi is especially protective of his own. After all, Big Sister was the one who largely raised him, and he respects her the most."

Mother Zhang and Zhang Jisheng fell silent in unison for a moment, because Cheng Su was speaking the truth.

Qi Fenglian is only a little more than three years older than Qi Taiguo, but as is often the case with children from poor families who mature early, being the eldest sister, she began helping to take care of her brother as soon as he was born. Their bond as siblings has been strong ever since.

To say that Qi Taiguo was protective was an understatement. In middle school, when someone made a joke about Qi Fenglian's chest and she came home crying, Qi Taiguo, furious like a young bull, beat up the boy.

If he found out the Zhang family, over a few bucks, disregarded Qi Fenglian's life and death, wouldn't he fight with everything he had?

Nowadays, you can challenge anyone you want, just don't compare wrath with Qi Taiguo, who never lets any offense pass.

"We'll pay, we'll pay," Zhang Jisheng took out a ten Great Unity bill from his pocket and handed it to the payment desk.

Seeing this, Mother Zhang felt a pang of distress at the expense, saying, "Giving birth doesn't make her more precious than others. What a waste of a lot of money."

Cheng Su couldn't care less to listen any further. She turned around, only to see Qi Fenglian standing not far away, supported by Qi Fengping, her eyes brimming with tears.

She hurried over, taking hold of her other hand and scolded, "Big Sister, why have you come out? You've just had a C-section and shouldn't be moving about like this." She then glared at Qi Fengping, criticizing her thoughtlessness.

Qi Fenglian was indeed in great pain. As Cheng Su reached out to her, she leaned all her weight onto Cheng Su, her face pale as paper. "I... I just wanted to see the child."

"He's safe and sound in the incubator. Take care of yourself first. If something happens to you, how can the child be alright?" Cheng Su's brows furrowed deeply. "I'll help you back. A C-section isn't like natural birth. You're tormenting yourself by not being careful, and if you end up with postnatal complications, it'll be hard for you to even hold your child."

Cheng Su wasn't trying to scare Qi Fenglian. It's well-known that natural births are preferred. Although painful during delivery, they're much better than enduring surgery. A woman could be up and walking the day after a natural birth; however, after a C-section, one must lie in the hospital for several days, and recovery is many times slower.

It was only because Qi Fenglian was so desperate to see her child that she disregarded the extreme pain and sweated profusely, only to come out to witness such a disheartening scene.

There is no greater sorrow than a dead heart, as the saying goes!

"Taiguo's wife, my heart is so bitter!" Back on the hospital bed, Qi Fenglian couldn't hold back her tears, and they fell uncontrollably.

### **Chapter 33: Chapter 33: Big Sister Owes You This Favor**

Whether shoes fit or not, whether your heart aches or not, only you yourself can truly know. Qi Fenglian, seeing her sister-in-law who was also a woman, ultimately couldn't hold back her compassion and started to cry.

"Oh, don't cry. Stop crying. If our mother comes back and sees this, she'll definitely blame me for making you cry." Seeing her cry, Cheng Su quickly tried to comfort her: "Mother already dislikes me enough as it is, and if she sees you crying, she might even say that I bullied you!"

Qi Fenglian was feeling utterly dejected, but at Cheng Su's words, she let out a laugh through her tears, crying and laughing at the same time.

Cheng Su let out a sigh and ordered Qi Fengping, "Hey girl, go fetch some hot water and bring a towel for your elder sister to wipe her face."

Qi Fengping was busy cleaning her fingernails, and upon hearing this, she glared in protest: "Why should I have to do it!"

"If you don't go, I'll tell your mother-in-law. I'll say that you took your elder sister outside, which made her upset!" Cheng Su feigned severity.

"You, you malicious woman!" Qi Fengping pointed at her and yelled loudly.

Qi Fenglian, not wanting Cheng Su to lose face, quickly said, "Fengping, please go, I appreciate your effort."

Qi Fengping snorted and took the peony flower-patterned hot water kettle, but before leaving, she voiced her resentment at Cheng Su: "I'm listening to my elder sister, definitely not to you!"

Cheng Su just smiled and said nothing.

Once the door closed, Qi Fenglian took a careful look at Cheng Su's expression and cautiously said, "Don't take it to heart; Fengping didn't mean it, she's just a child, she doesn't understand."

"Would I really hold a grudge against such a young girl?" Cheng Su laughed off the matter and pulled the blanket over Qi Fenglian, covering her properly, "Rather it's you who shouldn't talk too much, you need to focus on recovering!"

Qi Fenglian sighed deeply and said, "Fengping told me about them, the Zhang family was originally biased toward sons."

As soon as she said this, her eyes reddened again.

Cheng Su inwardly cursed the girl for her loose lips.

"Now that you know, I won't say much. What's done is done. The child is already born, so don't be all sad and melancholic. You should sit through your confinement period properly, that's the main thing. As for the Zhang family, you've seen what they're like, it's not worth being upset over such people. Now that you have both a son and a daughter, just focus on recovering and raising the kids. With the Zhang family, well, if you're willing to stay with them, stay, but if you don't want to anymore, it's not the end of the world to get a divorce. Able-bodied as you are, you're not going to starve to death, are you?" Cheng Su consoled her.

Qi Fenglian was taken aback.

Seeing her shocked expression, Cheng Su guessed she might have frightened her, and knowing that Qi Fenglian probably shared Mother Qi's mindset, she made light of it with a laugh, "Hehe, just pretend I'm talking nonsense, now get some rest, your complexion is awful!"

Qi Fenglian pursed her lips and said, "Actually, without you mentioning it, I've thought about leaving him countless times. I just can't bear to part with Yunyun, and also, on regular days, he isn't really bad to me. But now with how Old Zhang's family treats me, my heart has turned cold. Like you said, if I can't bear it anymore, I'll just leave. I'll take my children and live on."

"That's the right way to think. Let me tell you, times have changed; it's not like how it was in the old society anymore. Women can survive without men and can hold up half the sky. As long as you want a good life for yourself, you'll definitely be able to have it. For now, you just need to focus on recovering your health - that's where your strength for anything else comes from!"

Qi Fenglian nodded and looked deeply at this woman. Everyone said she was no good, and no one in the family liked her. Even she herself used to think Cheng Su wasn't good enough for her brother, but now, she thought Cheng Su wasn't so bad after all. If it weren't for her, she probably wouldn't have been able to make it through.

"Sister-in-law, I really owe you one this time," Qi Fenglian suddenly said as she took Cheng Su's hand.

**Chapter 34: Chapter 34: Spare Her This Time**

Mother Qi brought over some soup, came and then left, while Cheng Su took it upon herself to stay at the hospital for one night, keeping company with Qi Fenglian. As a member of her parental family, she gave Fenglian moral support, earning endless gratitude from her.

She truly had not expected such kindness from her sister-in-law.

The next day, Cheng Su was persuaded to leave by Qi Fenglian. Seeing that Zhang Jisheng was also there to nurse and care for her, she returned home.

It wasn't that she was unwilling to attend to Qi Fenglian, but rather she did not want to give Zhang Jisheng the impression that it was the duty of the woman's family to serve, and as a husband, serving was his natural responsibility. This should also let him know how difficult it had been for Qi Fenglian to bear his child at the risk of her life.

Husbands and wives are one entity. If a man shows no care or tenderness towards his wife during pregnancy and childbirth, he is nothing but scum.

The journey from the county town to Huangtian Village on the minibus takes an hour. The road is not very smooth, but the scenery is beautiful. Unfortunately, Cheng Su, having been tired out from a day and night, dozed off on the way and did not wake until nearing the village, which was almost noon by then.

The village houses were nicely arranged, with indigenous dogs running around, children playing with stones outside, and the elderly sitting in front of their homes, sewing and mending or weaving baskets, creating a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere.

Yawning, she headed home and saw someone washing something by the well.

It was none other than her mother-in-law, Mother Qi.

"I'm back," Cheng Su called out, barely able to keep her eyes open, dead tired.

Hearing her voice, Mother Qi lifted her head from the tub of clothes, and seeing her, couldn't help but frown: "Didn't I tell you to stay with Sister Feng at the hospital?"

"Big brother is there with her, and they sent me back home," Cheng Su yawned again.

She had stayed up all night and hadn't really slept well; she was indeed tired and sleepy now.

"Relying on a man, what good does that do? Besides, he needs to earn work points too. I think you're just lazy; can't even keep watch for a while!" Mother Qi huffed.

"That's Big Sister's husband, and since Big Sister gave birth to his treasured son, it's right that he takes care of her. You shouldn't indulge him, Mom; otherwise, he'll become



the kind who shirks his duties, always depending on Big Sister's family!" Heading into the yard, Cheng Su added, "Mom, I stayed up with Big Sister all night and didn't sleep. I'm going to my room to catch up on sleep, okay?"

Hearing this, Mother Qi smashed the clothes back into the basin with force and scolded, "You won't admit you're lazy, but you are, you lazy woman. It's already noon; what sleep do you need to catch up on? Your dad is still out working in the fields, so hurry up and cook. And after that, feed the chickens, ducks, and pigs."

Cheng Su inwardly groaned but, seeing Mother Qi's fierce look that said you better do it or else no entry to the house, she complied.

Only after she had finished all the chores as instructed by her mother-in-law did Cheng Su finally wash her face and enter her own room. She flopped down onto her bed and promptly fell fast asleep.

"Lazing around inside, aren't you? Aren't you going to start a fire and cook?" Mother Qi shouted from outside. She waited for a moment but heard no response from Cheng Su.

Furious, she threw the clothes aside and went to her daughter-in-law's room, pushed open the door, and saw Cheng Su fast asleep, hugging the quilt. She put her hands on her hips, ready to scold her loudly.

But upon seeing the dark circles under Cheng Su's eyes, the angry words died in her mouth. She thought of Cheng Su's decisive signature the day before, the lifesaver of her daughter and grandson.

Without her resolve, Mother Qi might have been mourning the loss of a family member at this moment.

Let it go; for the sake of her daughter and grandson, let this slide just this once.

Thinking this way, Mother Qi walked back outside, pondering on bringing another nutritious soup for Fenglian to strengthen her.

### **Chapter 35: Chapter 35 This Profligate Woman**

Cheng Su woke up in the late afternoon and sat dazedly for a while before she got out of bed. As expected, Mother Qi called her to prepare dinner.

In the countryside, kitchen stoves were usually built at the same time as the house, and Old Qi's house was no exception. The stove, built with stones and cement, had two large and two small openings. A large cauldron sat on one of the larger ones, while one of the smaller ones held a rice pot, leaving the other empty.



When Cheng Su entered, something was being boiled over the wood fire in the large stove, emitting a sour smell that was extremely unpleasant.

She approached and lifted the lid. Steam rushed at her face, and she quickly stepped back to take a look. Inside, a mix of things had been stewed to mush: bran, finely chopped sweet potato leaves, greens, and all sorts of other things.

Pig feed, once again pig feed.

Although she had seen it frequently over the past month, Cheng Su still found the smell somewhat unbearable. She covered the pot, turned around, and took another pot to rinse the rice.

"Six bowls of rice will be enough for tonight. Don't cook too much. With the heat, leftovers quickly spoil, and we can't afford your wastefulness, having leftovers every day!" Mother Qi, standing at the kitchen entrance, spoke at some point.

Cheng Su responded.

Having gone from a novice at starting a kitchen fire to becoming quite adept after numerous attempts, Cheng Su soon had the rice cooking.

"The eggplants in the garden have grown large. Pick some to cook, and just boiling a handful of greens will be enough," Mother Qi said as she came to collect the pig feed in a bucket, offhandedly instructing Cheng Su.

Vegetarian dinner again?

Frowning slightly, Cheng Su went behind the house to the vegetable garden and the trellised frame, picking several large eggplants. She also uprooted five heads of romaine lettuce and, remembering the bag of eggs by the rice bin, gathered a handful of scallions as well.

Even with a vegetarian meal, she could cook something delicious. She made braised eggplant, garlic stir-fried lettuce, and scrambled three eggs mixed with chopped scallions to make a pancake, neatly sliced into attractive triangles that whetted the appetite.

By the time the rice was done and the fire was out, Cheng Su had also finished preparing the simple three-dish meal.

As the lights of a hundred homes came on, the Qi family returned, and Cheng Su called Qi Fengping to help set the table for dinner.

"My God! You wasteful woman, did you turn over an entire canister of oil?" Mother Qi exclaimed upon sitting down at the table, pointing at the braised eggplant and scolding

Cheng Su, "How many times have I told you, don't use so much oil. You never listen. As if you have the money to buy oil, you don't earn a penny, but you sure know how to spend it..."

Cheng Su didn't speak, just stared fixedly at Mother Qi with a stern face.

Qi Fengping, who had been enjoying the drama, saw her sister-in-law's expression and suddenly recalled the aura Cheng Su had around her at the hospital by the delivery room the day before, which sent a shiver down her spine, and she subconsciously bumped Mother Qi's arm.

Mother Qi also felt something was amiss when she saw Cheng Su's expression and stubbornly said, "What now, did I say something wrong to you?"

"Mother-in-law, you didn't say anything wrong. Therefore, I've decided. In a few days, I will go to Qing City to find a job and earn money!" Cheng Su glanced at the dishes on the table and said, "I'm not hungry. I won't eat tonight." She then returned to her room.

Her stance was so assertive that it left people astonished.

"Look at her, your precious daughter-in-law, what an attitude!" Mother Qi was furious.

Father Qi, with a stern face, said, "What attitude? It's good that she's standing her ground. Otherwise, would Fenglian still be here yesterday? A bit more oil won't kill anyone, but you had to make a fuss. Let's eat!"

Mother Qi, choked with anger and her face purpling, found herself unable to retort and simply huffed with frustration.