

Back To The 80s: President's Doted Wife #Chapter 41 Acting Coy - Read Back To The 80s: President's Doted Wife Chapter 41 Acting Coy

Chapter 41: Chapter 41 Acting Coy

The next morning, as soon as the Qi family got up, they sensed something was off between Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo, that awkwardness was palpable even from a distance. Seeing the two of them ignoring each other only confirmed their suspicions that the couple was at odds.

Mother Qi was the first to feel displeased. Her own son, who already led a tough life in the military, was supporting such a large family with his allowance; yet Cheng Su treated him with such indifference. What was this about?

By marrying into the Qi family, she was supposed to have come into good fortune, yet she dared to give her own husband the cold shoulder?

Mother Qi's gaze towards Cheng Su was far from friendly.

Cheng Su was no fool. She was keenly aware of the deep malice coming from her mother-in-law, but she didn't care. There was never a time when her mother-in-law was satisfied with her. After freshening up, she rolled up her sleeves and went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast.

No sooner had she stepped in than her mother-in-law followed, implying with her words, "Taiguo has a heavy responsibility and works hard to earn money for the family. It's not easy for him to come home, and as his wife, instead of being considerate, you're just showing him a long face. I don't know where you learned to behave like this; you don't cherish your own husband at all."

Cheng Su paused briefly, then turned around and said, "Mother-in-law, if you have something to say, just say it directly instead of beating around the bush."

Say it directly?

"Fine! I'll ask you, what does Taiguo owe you? Why are you giving him such looks?" Mother Qi said indignantly.

Cheng Su chuckled, "He doesn't owe me anything. But whether we are having a quarrel is our business as husband and wife. It would be better for you not to get involved, mother-in-law."

When a mother-in-law meddles in the couple's emotional life, it often leads to tragedy. A wise mother-in-law would never interfere in her son and daughter-in-law's marriage.

But clearly, her own mother-in-law was not such a wise person.

"He is my son, a piece of flesh that fell from my body; of course I'm going to stand by him!" Mother Qi was furious.

"Yes, yes, it's good for you to stand by him. But, mother-in-law, I am also a person with an independent personality, my own temper, and my own limits. Now, please leave; after breakfast, we should go to the hospital to see my eldest sister-in-law!" Cheng Su didn't want to argue any further.

Mother Qi turned green with anger and wanted to lecture her some more, but just then Qi Taiguo came in asking what was for breakfast, and her attention was diverted. She began fussing over her eldest son, "You just rushed back last night and went to bed late. Sleep in a little. Breakfast isn't ready anyway..."

"I'm used to it," Qi Taiguo interrupted her, "Mom, I've been craving the pickled cucumbers you make. Can you cut some for me?"

"Yes, yes, I'll get them now." Mother Qi hurriedly fetched a plate, went out to get the jar of pickles, and no longer paid attention to Cheng Su.

With his mother gone, Cheng Su turned her head, and the two of them exchanged a glance before looking away from each other.

As Qi Taiguo stepped out, Cheng Su scrubbed the pot with a bamboo brush until it clanged loudly, thinking to herself that being a daughter-in-law was indeed tough. No wonder in the 21st century, so many women chose to stay single or not remarry.

And as for being a mother-in-law, they always believed the son was right, and if there were a thousand or ten thousand faults, it was always the daughter-in-law's fault.

She sighed and quickly finished preparing breakfast to avoid another nagging session from Mother Qi about being slow.

After setting the breakfast on the table, the only ones who sat down were her in-laws and Qi Taiguo; the two younger brothers-in-law had already left for school.

"Dad, I actually just took a moment to come back. After visiting my eldest sister-in-law, I will immediately return to Qing City from the county town. Due to the tight schedule, I won't come back home to say goodbye," Qi Taiguo said while biting into a large pancake.

Upon hearing this, Mother Qi felt reluctant to let him go, but she knew that her son had important matters to attend to. She silently blamed herself for being too meddlesome and losing her temper, wondering why she had bothered telling him and wasted this trip.

"That's fine. Oh, and take your wife with you to the military base!"

Chapter 42: Chapter 42: Go With the Army

As soon as Father Qi said this, the two who were at odds glanced at each other, both seeing surprise and astonishment in the other's eyes.

So she's going to Qing City with him just like that?

"Dad, is it because she's causing trouble at home?" Qi Taiguo's first reaction was to think that Cheng Su had caused problems at home and had fallen out of favor. Therefore, his gaze carried a warning as he glared at Cheng Su.

Cheng Su rolled her eyes and glared back; she couldn't shoulder such a big blame.

"Nonsense, what trouble? You've just got married; it's not good to live in separate places. You're there and you always need someone to cook for you, even if you usually eat at the cafeteria. You'll still need a supper, right?" Father Qi laughed and said, "You're married now; you make your own life. Having your wife accompany you in the military, you'll keep each other company. If anything comes up, you can discuss and decide together."

Qi Taiguo stopped talking and silently picked up his bowl of porridge and took a sip.

Seeing him seemingly unwilling, Cheng Su spoke up, "Dad, if it's not convenient for Taiguo, I can go by myself!"

Qi Taiguo looked up and glared at her.

Cheng Su responded with an equally defiant glare.

"Didn't you also say you wanted to look for a job or something? Since you're both going anyway, why split it into two trips? Go together, you can take care of each other on the way, and you don't have to go there and blindly search by yourself!" Father Qi wouldn't let her argue and said, "Alright, have your breakfast, then pack up and go with Taiguo."

Qi Taiguo wanted to say something but ended up keeping his mouth shut.

Seeing this, Cheng Su could only respond with an "Okay."

Father Qi watched their reactions, feeling somewhat anxious in his heart, but soon he had a change of heart.

It was exactly because they were not together that they couldn't communicate and understand each other. Once they started living together, affection would grow over time, and they would gradually come to love each other!

After all, isn't love something that is cultivated?

With this thought, his frown eased. The two were the eldest son and daughter-in-law of the family. The family's future relied on them. He hoped for their happiness because a happy couple meant a thriving family.

"...In married life, you need to discuss matters and make compromises with each other. Taiguo, as a man, you should be considerate to your wife and not always act high and mighty, as if you are the lord of the house. She's come to be your wife!" Father Qi patiently advised his son.

Cheng Su kept her head down, the corners of her mouth slightly upturned.

Qi Taiguo caught her smile and snorted, saying, "As long as she doesn't cross my boundaries, I, of course, won't nitpick her."

Cheng Su raised her head indignantly and replied with a smile, "The feeling is mutual!"

Mother Qi, not liking what she was seeing, admonished Cheng Su, saying, "As a man works to earn for the family, you as his wife should know how to cherish him. If a man comes home to a cold meal and has to cook and wash clothes himself, then it's a failure on your part as a wife, understand?"

Cheng Su replied, "I will also look for a job and make money." And she was confident she would make a lot of money.

Mother Qi was dissatisfied with her response and wanted to say more, but Father Qi interjected, saying, "In any case, from now on, you should discuss and live your life together. Don't always be bickering. Remember, harmony in the family leads to prosperity in all things."

"Yes." Cheng Su was quite willing to listen to her father-in-law's words, as they were fair.

Qi Taiguo, seeing her hypocritical expression, scornfully bit into his flatbread, she sure could put on an act.

Since the decision had been made, Cheng Su hurriedly went to pack her things, as time was limited. She also entrusted her father-in-law to stop by her parents' house when he had time to let them know she was going with the military.

Once everything was ready, she and Qi Taiguo went to the hospital to visit Fenglian.

Chapter 43: Chapter 43: Do You Still Want to Be With Him?

Since they were going to visit Qi Fenglian, they couldn't just go empty-handed. Mother Qi made chicken soup at home for them to bring, and they also picked up some nutritious products from the county to take to the hospital.

When Qi Fenglian saw her younger brother Taiguo arrive, she was both happy and aggrieved, crying and laughing together as she pulled on him, asking all sorts of questions, "I told Mom not to tell you, so why did you still come back? Can you even get away from the army?"

"I just took some time to come back, but I have to leave soon, to return to the army," Taiguo said, not noticing the figure of his brother-in-law and couldn't help asking, "Where's Zhang Jisheng?"

"He went to see the child!" Qi Fenglian's smiling face stiffened for a moment, and then she carefully glanced at his expression before saying, "The child had to be put in an incubator as soon as he was born. He's so worried about the child, he goes to see him several times a day."

"Big sister, tell me the truth, do you still want to be with him?" Qi Taiguo asked with a serious face, "For all those years, you've spoken up so much for the Zhang family, I won't criticize you. You don't have to say anything; I know you've been suffering inside. It's just for Yunyun that you've been enduring. Now, the Old Zhang's family is ignoring your life and death, tell me honestly, do you still want to continue with this? If you don't want to continue, rest assured, your younger brother will make the decision for you!"

Sitting to one side, Cheng Su rolled her eyes. So much for having an understanding, but now she's pushing her older sister to make a choice?

Qi Fenglian's eyes reddened but she sucked in a breath through her nose and said, "Why bring this up as soon as you come? Aren't I fine? Now I also have a son."

"Big sister!" Qi Taiguo growled lowly, both helpless and anxious at the sight of his older sister's weakness.

"I know you care about your big sister, I know all about it." Qi Fenglian patted his hand, saying, "Your brother-in-law is a bit soft, and he listens to his mother, but he's been good to me and Yunyun on a daily basis. Now, with the birth of the son, there's no question of staying or not. I myself am alright, but what about your two nephews? Do you think they should be left without a father?"

"As for my mother-in-law, which mother-in-law and daughter-in-law could be as close as a biological mother and daughter? Now that I've had a son, I can shut her mouth too." Seeing her younger brother upset, Qi Fenglian said, "Don't worry, if they go too far, I definitely won't tolerate it. I have a brother who is an army commander to back me up!"

That meant she was going to continue with it!

Qi Taiguo, feeling helpless, said, "Big sister, even if you divorce him, it's okay. The Zhang family, they wouldn't dare to do anything."

"After the divorce, it's just finding another man. Men come and go just like this. And with finding another, who knows if he'll be good to the children," Qi Fenglian said somberly.

After all is said and done, it's all for the children.

In her heart, Cheng Su sighed. For thousands of years, for the sake of children, people have bound themselves together even without love!

Running out of patience, Taiguo then said, "Big sister, if you have any thoughts, remember to tell me. We're siblings, and I've got your back, don't worry."

After thinking it over and glancing at Cheng Su, he took out three Great Unity RMB notes from his pocket, stuffed them into her hand, and said, "Take this money for yourself, don't let him know. Buy whatever you want to eat, don't skimp, your health is the most important."

Qi Fenglian looked nervously at Cheng Su and refused, "How can this be? You just got married, and you have so many expenses. And when you have children with your sister-in-law, that'll be even more reason. I can't take this, please take it back quickly."

Had Taiguo lost his mind in anger, giving her money in front of his wife? If Cheng Su harbored any thoughts and they fought over it, what would happen then?

Chapter 44: Chapter 44 Who Says Discharge

Cheng Su watched the siblings pushing the Great Unity RMB notes back and forth and then, with a laugh, rose to her feet and said, "Big sister, don't refuse it. Just take it. Otherwise, he won't be able to sleep tonight." She paused before adding, "But Old Qi Taiguo said something sensible. You should keep this money to yourself and hide it. Don't let him know you have it unless it's absolutely necessary. A woman should always have some money of her own to feel confident."

As she spoke, both siblings felt a sense of relief. Thinking of her own son and the daughter who could only watch her classmates eat cookies with envy, Qi Fenglian accepted the Great Unity RMB notes and said, "Big sister thanks you for the favor. Once I get a job at the factory and earn some money, I'll pay you back."

Cheng Su smiled, knowing they might have something to say. She made the excuse that she was feeling stuffy and needed some air and went outside.

Once the door was closed, Qi Fenglian said to Qi Taiguo, "You really scared me, brother. I was truly afraid that your wife might take it the wrong way just now."

Thirty yuan was not a small sum. Anyone would feel a bit uncomfortable, and yet Qi Taiguo pulled out the money in front of his wife and gave it to his big sister.

"Big sister, don't worry, it's okay, she's not that petty," Qi Taiguo smiled.

"Nonsense, as if I don't know what kind of temper she had before?" Qi Fenglian scolded him with a glance and added, "But it's strange, don't you think? How can a person change so much? Back then, she was jealous and stingy, with a fierce temperament, but after getting married, it's like she turned into a different person. Look at what just happened, if it were the old her, she might have thrown a fit, right? Now that she's your wife, she seems to have become gentle and generous. Did you manage to completely domesticate her?"

"Gentle? She's not exactly that," said Qi Taiguo. "As for being generous, it doesn't matter much. It's my money I earned. I gave it to you, and she doesn't really have a say." As for being docile, let's not talk about that.

"I don't agree with that. You're married, you're a unit; it's best to discuss things and make decisions together—that's what makes a harmonious couple. Take the money you gave me, for example. If you had discussed it with her first, she wouldn't overthink it. But since you decided on your own, she might still be a bit unhappy, being your wife and all. Women, after all, are usually a bit narrow-minded. Don't do that again!"

Was that so?

Qi Taiguo was thoughtful.

That gesture just then—was it not a test of her reaction? Was she genuinely not bothered, or was she annoyed?

"Or maybe you should take the money back?" Qi Fenglian was also worried that any strain between them would be her fault.

"No need, big sister. Don't underestimate her. Money that's been given can't be taken back. Just keep it with peace of mind," Qi Taiguo said with a smile.

While the siblings were talking, the door opened and someone pushed their way in, speaking as they entered.

"This hospital is simply a bandit, charging a few bucks a day—outrageous! We're getting discharged, right away." The voice belonged to an old woman who complained, "Which family doesn't have a child at home and then get up the next day to do chores? But your wife, oh so precious, cesarean section aside, it's wrong to have my darling

grandson lying in that incubator, which just looks appalling. Plus, the excessive hospital stay; the money is pouring out like water... Why are you pulling at me?"

As the old woman was in full rant, she suddenly stumbled when her son yanked her, causing her to glare at him displeased.

Zhang Jisheng smiled sheepishly, looking across at the burly, intimidating figure with a face full of appeasement, calling out, "Taiguo, you're here too?"

Taiguo, Qi Taiguo?

The old woman looked over and her expression changed drastically—it was that ominous man, the big brother of his daughter-in-law.

Qi Taiguo narrowed his eyes and asked, "Who just said my big sister should be discharged right now?"

Chapter 45: Chapter 45: Another Jump from the Building?

County Hospital was not large, just five stories high. Cheng Su walked around on the ground floor and found that modern hospitals didn't have much to admire or places to sit, just a few large trees planted around. They were nothing like the hospitals of the twenty-first century which, in order to provide patients with a good recovery environment, had large and beautiful gardens with various flowers and plants, resembling parks.

She simply decided to go up to the hospital's rooftop—after all, ascending high to see far, it would be good to have a look at the county town as well.

The June sun shined strongly; as she walked out onto the rooftop door, she stretched out her arms and yawned loudly before stepping forward.

Suddenly, her gaze was drawn by an elderly man with white hair standing in front of her, his hands on the railing, half of his body leaning out.

Cheng Su's eyes narrowed. No way, she had only come for a walk, how could she have come across someone trying to jump off a building again!

Jumping off a building, seeing it yet again, Cheng Su's head buzzed, her heart lamented, but her legs moved as if they had wings, quickly dashing toward the man.

"Don't jump," she said as she grabbed the old man's arm with a tug.

The old man stumbled from her pull, also startled with a big jolt, and turned his head to see a young girl.

"Old man, life is truly precious. As the saying goes, nothing is more serious than life and death. If there is something you can't get over, why resort to suicide?" She held his arm tightly and pleaded while catching her breath.

"Suicide?" The elderly man was taken aback, pointed at himself, and laughed, "Girl, you think I'm going to jump off the building?"

Uh, isn't it?

It was only then that Cheng Su looked at his face. The old man had graying hair and seemed to be in his late sixties or seventies, yet he looked remarkably spirited, his complexion rosy, his mouth upturned in a smile, and his eyes were bright and alert—hardly the look of someone who wished to die.

How embarrassing!

Cheng Su let go of her hold, somewhat sheepishly, and asked, "With the strong wind up here, why are you standing so close to the edge, leaning out halfway?"

Strong wind?

The elderly man formed a visor with his hand over his eyebrows and glanced at the big sun, bursting into a hearty laugh, "Girl, what you say is really amusing. Sure, it's the rooftop, but where's the wind?"

Cheng Su scratched her head and gave a sheepish laugh, "Is that so? But this sun is so intense, it makes people dizzy; one shouldn't stand too long under it either."

The old man gave a faint smile, leaned on the railing to look out, and said, "Girl, from up here we are high enough to see far. Look, standing like this allows us to see the whole city. I'm old now; standing here on high and looking below, who knows how much longer I'll be able to do this.

His tone carried an indescribable sense of melancholy and a slight reluctance.

Cheng Su stood by his side, also leaning on the railing, looking into the distance, and said, "Your words sound a bit pessimistic. Why can't we always look far from a high place? I think, as long you keep yourself in good shape, remain robust, and as long as you're still breathing, you'll be able to do it.

"Besides, constantly looking down from high places isn't very interesting. It's like life, which is full of ups and downs, an unceasing series of highs and lows—that's what life is. If we only stand high and ignore the scenery below, is that enjoyable? If you carelessly fall from a high place, that would be a true injustice, and afterward, you wouldn't be able to see it anymore. Old man, what do you think?"

The old man shook all over as he listened, then turned to Cheng Su with a surprised look and profound gaze, "Girl, for someone so young, you have a broad mind and a fair understanding of philosophy."

Cheng Su smiled lightly, "I'm just a girl without much experience; I don't really know any philosophy. I just think that scenery varies from high to low, just like life itself. I've made you laugh, old sir!"

"No, your talk of the highs and lows of scenery is quite good. Girl, what's your name?" the old man asked with a smile.