

## The 80s 611

### Chapter 611 Chief's Speech

Having removed a great weight from their hearts, both Qi Taiguo and Cheng Su were very happy. Cheng Su busied herself packing Qi Taiguo's gear for the upcoming training session, while she spoke, "Now that this matter is settled, you should focus on your training and strive to serve our nation with a stronger physique."

"Yes, sir!" Qi Taiguo grinned, watching her bustle about.

Cheng Su then turned around and said, "We owe a lot to Chief Ning for this matter. Do you think we should prepare a gift to thank him?"

After thinking for a moment, Qi Taiguo said, "If we were to give something, it wouldn't need to be too valuable. I think those local products you prepared before the New Year were quite nice. After all, Chief Ning hasn't had much contact with me, and sending something too extravagant might not be well received. A small token of appreciation might actually be better, don't you think?"

Cheng Su quite liked that he was reasonable and considerate, so she nodded in agreement, saying, "That's what I think too. Anything too much might be used against us by those with ulterior motives. We'll just prepare something ordinary."

Qi Taiguo gave a hum, walked over, and kissed her, "Thank you for your hard work, my wife!"

Cheng Su glared at him playfully, and as if thinking of something, she took out a slip of paper from her pocket. It had a phone number written on it, and she said, "I got this from Ning Ge. Although we aren't

really qualified, and we don't usually interact openly, it's proper to express our gratitude in private. Would you mind calling Chief Ning to have a chat?"

Qi Taiguo took the slip of paper and nodded.

"Go ahead and make the call. I'll go out and buy you some cold medicine to take to the training," Cheng Su instructed.

"Mhm."

Cheng Su grabbed her purse and walked out.

Qi Taiguo looked at the phone number for a while then dialed the number. The phone rang twice before being answered by Ning Gang's steady voice.

"Qi Taiguo from Qing City Military Region, sending my respects to the chief!" Qi Taiguo instinctively straightened his chest.

Surprisingly, the person on the other end seemed not to have expected Qi Taiguo's call and paused briefly before responding, "Is that you? What's the matter?"

"Nothing urgent, Chief, just wanted to send my regards. Also, to report to you that I will soon be leading a team out for field training. I'll be sure to manage the team well and remain loyal and dutiful to the nation," Qi Taiguo said sincerely, a touch of nervousness in his voice.

Ning Gang, at the other end of the phone, apparently detected his nervousness and slightly curved his lips, thinking that Qi Taiguo might be none too skilled at dealing with superiors.

He intentionally softened his tone and said, "There's no one else on the line, so you can be more relaxed when you speak."

Qi Taiguo breathed a sigh of relief, "Yes!"

"I've heard about your situation. I heard there's been some misunderstanding with the daughter of Jiang Conghe?" Ning Gang asked.

Qi Taiguo's scalp tingled, and without thinking, he said, "Absolutely not." He paused then added, "Military Doctor Chiang does have some feelings for me, but I have firmly rejected her. I know my duty as a soldier is to be disciplined, loyal to the country, and loyal to my wife."

"Good, it's good that you understand. Military discipline is strict, and you must always remember your identity and not tarnish it," Ning Gang advised. "Jiang Conghe is a vindictive person. This time putting you in a difficult position might have been to teach you a lesson. So, keeping a proper distance is a must."

"I understand," Qi Taiguo frowned, hesitated for a moment, and then said, "Chief..."

"What is it?"

"Nothing much. Please also give my regards to the old man on behalf of me and my wife, and wish him good health," Qi Taiguo replied, after changing his mind mid-sentence.

Such a minor matter didn't warrant troubling a chief who dealt with countless affairs daily. It was better to handle it oneself!

#### Chapter 612 All Members of the Chiang Family are Madmen

Cheng Su saw Qi Taiguo off from the military base, and reminded him to take care of his health, as it was the time of melting snow, brutally cold, and catching a cold was not something to be taken lightly.

"I know, I'm not a child anymore. Rather it's you, when I'm not around, you should lock the doors and windows tightly, and don't come back too late at night," Qi Taiguo said, "If you're scared, why not ask elder sister to stay over for a few days? Or have Xiao Ya keep you company?"

"Our compound is a military family area, are there even thieves?" Cheng Su said with playful annoyance.

Qi Taiguo touched his nose and said, "I'm just worried about you being alone at night and getting scared."

Cheng Su smiled.

"Then, when you're at home, pay extra attention. If anything seems off, ask the neighbors for help. Also, be aware when you're out, and remember to have your meals on time. Don't be so busy that you skip meals, as your health is the most important," Qi Taiguo continued to instruct, "This time I'm going out, based on past routine, I'll return in at least half a month, or at most one month. However, since we'll be training in the wilderness under tough conditions, I may not be able to call back home."

"Mm, take care yourself," Cheng Su replied, sending him off to the entrance of the military base, then gave him a push and pouted.

Qi Taiguo followed her gaze and his expression darkened, "Don't pay attention to her."

That was Chiang Qing, standing in the distance, watching the couple!

Now that he saw Chiang Qing, Qi Taiguo couldn't help but warn again, "This woman seems a bit crazy to me, her mind is not right. While I'm gone, don't have a direct confrontation with her, in case she does something unpredictable in a fit of madness."

"She's a military doctor after all!" Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, "And yet you call her a lunatic."

Qi Taiguo snorted coldly, "Even if she were the president, what's the use if she doesn't understand human language? Those who don't understand human speech are either lunatics or beasts."

Having been nominated to the replacement personnel list, Qi Taiguo felt not only that Chiang Qing was trouble that could not be avoided or evaded, but that even attempting to avoid her would still lead to unjust troubles.

And because of this incident, he was even more inclined to keep his distance from her.

So when he returned from training, he would have to find a way to have this woman transferred away. Otherwise, she would be like a live bomb, never knowing when it might explode.

In the end, it all came down to his own rank being too low, insufficient to contend with the Chiang Family. Consequently, he could only be the one being arranged, if he were also a person of high position, then...

Qi Taiguo clenched his fist and glanced at Cheng Su by his side, pursing his lips.

The Chiang Family had first targeted him, and now, having been foiled once, he didn't know if Jiang Conghe would become furious from the humiliation. Next time, would they target someone close to him?

Chiang Qing was crazy, and so were the Chiangs. If they did something rash, he...

Qi Taiguo's heart clenched, and subconsciously grabbed Cheng Su's arm, saying, "Anyway, you must be very careful, always wary of Chiang Qing, and absolutely avoid a direct confrontation with her."

Cheng Su saw his serious expression, and said, "You..."

"Susu, I am only a company commander now, I can't match the Chiang Family's background. If they really take action, I..." I'm afraid I won't be able to protect you.

Qi Taiguo swallowed these words, understanding the importance of power. He knew he had to keep climbing higher, to have enough means and power to protect the people around him.

For now, he was nothing more than an ant that could be crushed with a single finger by others.

"Don't worry, I'll be careful," Cheng Su reassured, patting his shoulder.

Qi Taiguo exhaled, and after they parted, he made a phone call to Ning Ge.

### Chapter 613: Sighing at the Hardships

"Qi Taiguo..." Chiang Qing watched with wide-open eyes as Qi Taiguo walked past her, without even a glance her way, and her heart felt like it had just bitten into a green plum, both sour and astringent.

Just now, he had been speaking to Cheng Su with such tender affection, why, when it came to her, didn't he show even a hint of kindness?

Unable to let it go, Chiang Qing followed after him, cautiously saying, "Qi Taiguo, it's okay now, my dad has removed your name from the list, I told you, I wouldn't just watch you go to the border, you can relax."

Poor Military Doctor Chiang, who, in front of anyone else, held herself with such composure, so highly esteemed, had become like dust on the ground before Qi Taiguo, utterly humble.

Was this the magic of love, or perhaps a curse?

Qi Taiguo treated her as if she were invisible, continuing to walk on by himself, and a frustrated Chiang Qing raised her voice, "Qi Taiguo, don't push me."

People started to look over.

Qi Taiguo reached the departing troops and threw his military bag on the ground, then started to line up for training, hands behind his back.

Chiang Qing, biting back her anger, didn't dare to follow him and turned to run away.

Meanwhile, Ning Ge, after receiving Qi Taiguo's phone call, furrowed his brows into a frown.

Qi Taiguo had actually entrusted him to take extra care of Cheng Su, afraid that Chiang Qing might cause some kind of trouble. With him about to go for training, if something happened, he would be too far to reach.

It seemed that the commotion brought on by Chiang Qing and the Chiang Family had put Qi Taiguo on alert.

But that Chiang Qing, she really was a bit mad. If she continued down this path, she might indeed go completely insane.

Shit, was this woman blind? She knew it was impossible yet still insisted on charging headfirst, or was it her heart that was blind?

Ning Ge had never met someone like her before, immune to words, impervious to scolding, a complete stubborn ox.

After some thought, Ning Ge made a phone call, "Bai Ying, it's me, do a favor for your brother..."

...

After seeing off Qi Taiguo, Cheng Su went to inspect the shop at the railway station. It had been almost a month since the shop opened, business was fairly good, but since it was just the beginning, she couldn't let her guard down completely.

It was already one in the afternoon, and the fast food restaurant was filled with travelers eating, their feet surrounded by luggage of all sizes.

When the employees saw Cheng Su, they greeted her, and Qi Fenglian came up with a smile, asking, "What brings you here today? Did Taiguo leave?"

"Yeah, I just sent him off. I had nothing else to do, so I came to check how things are going. Is everything running smoothly?" Cheng Su took a seat behind the cash register.

Qi Fenglian said, "You could rest at home if there's nothing urgent. You've also been quite busy these days, you look a bit haggard. Is it because you haven't rested enough or something else?"

"No, it's probably because spring is coming, and people tend to get more tired." Cheng Su smiled and said, "Don't people become lazier in spring?"

"True, you should drink more nourishing soups then."

"Yeah." Cheng Su glanced at the ledger she was registering in and then asked, "How's Elder Brother-in-law doing in the decorating team?"

The smile on Qi Fenglian's face stiffened for a moment before she casually replied, "It's as usual, isn't it always the same with wage work?"

Cheng Su paused while flipping through the ledger and looked up, "Is he being mistreated?"

"That shouldn't be the case. Besides, who doesn't get mistreated doing wage work? Looking at him, it seems that he finds it quite strenuous. No big deal, he'll get used to it," replied Qi Fenglian.

In fact, every day Zhang Jisheng came back complaining of how tired he was, talking about the heavy workload at the decorating team and how hard it was.

She had argued with him about it; after all, wage work, especially in decoration, was always tough, and money didn't come without putting in some effort, did it?

Hearing Elder Sister's words, Cheng Su frowned for a moment and then steered the conversation away.

#### Chapter 614: Manager

Qi Taiguo wasn't home, and Cheng Su was at home by herself. At first, she felt a bit unused to being alone, but in her previous life, she had lived by herself as well. After a day or two, she got comfortable and managed her time effectively, settling into a regular routine.

Rising early in the morning, she would cook herself breakfast, memorize vocabulary, and spend some time reviewing exam prep materials, then she would go to the company. In the afternoon, she'd swing by a restaurant or a fast-food place at the train station before returning home to cook and look over materials.

Cheng Su had been wanting to hire a manager, but she wasn't quite satisfied with any of the interviewees who came for the job interviews.

That day, as she returned, she heard Ying Xiaoya's exuberant laughter. This girl, she wondered, what good news had she come across that she was laughing like this first thing in the morning?

Upon entering the office, Ying Xiaoya was speaking to a man. Quick to notice Cheng Su's arrival, she stood up and announced, "President Cheng is back!"

The man also rose upon hearing this, turned around to face Cheng Su, smiled, and nodded in greeting, "Hello!"

Cheng Su was somewhat surprised and looked at Ying Xiaoya with a questioning look in her eyes.

"He's here for a job interview," Ying Xiaoya said with a smile.

Realizing the situation, Cheng Su handed her purse to Mai Yanmei and turned to the man. He was about thirty-five, with a sharp outfit and handsome features, his slender eyes sparkling with intelligence.

He had already stepped forward a few paces and stretched out his hand, introducing himself, "President Cheng, hello, my name is Xiao Pinshan. I saw your company's recruitment advertisement in the newspaper and I've come to interview for the manager position."

"Hello, please have a seat," Cheng Su said as they shook hands briefly before she gestured to the sofa.

Xiao Pinshan sat down and took out his academic credentials and resume from his briefcase, handing them to Cheng Su, "This is my resume."

On receiving it, Cheng Su first glanced at his academic qualifications and looked somewhat astonished before turning her gaze to Ying Xiaoya.

"It's a coincidence, he's my senior from the same alma mater," Ying Xiaoya said with a sly smile.

No wonder they had been chatting so happily—it was because he was a senior.

Cheng Su then examined the resume meticulously. He was a bona fide university graduate who had worked on assembly lines, served as a supervisor, and also been a sales representative. The last entry on his resume indicated that he was a manager at Golden Eagle Cannery.

After reading it, Cheng Su looked at Xiao Pinshan and said, "Golden Eagle is a renowned brand. Mr. Xiao, why did you leave? And from a manager's position at that! Our Joy Soon Loy is just starting up, and I'm afraid our benefits and compensation might not compare with Golden Eagle's."

Xiao Pinshan's lips curved slightly as he replied, "I'm aware. I spent six years at Golden Eagle. I know the company quite well and was indeed one of its longstanding employees with good benefits. As for my resignation, it was due to personal reasons."

"Oh?" Cheng Su eyed him and continued, "I don't mean to pry into your privacy, but we are hiring a manager to oversee a large team, so... If you really don't want to talk about it, that's fine. But could you share your thoughts on Golden Eagle?"

Xiao Pinshan pursed his lips and said, "It's not anything I can't discuss; it's just that my ex-wife and I divorced, and it became an issue at the company, which negatively affected my image. To prevent causing further issues for the company, I resigned."

Divorced?

Cheng Su was taken aback and looked at his resume again. Under marital status, it stated 'married,' and he hadn't indicated that he was divorced.

"Golden Eagle is an established brand. Their mackerel cans have been top in sales among major brands for five consecutive years. The owner of Golden Eagle is adept at recognizing and utilizing talent..."

Cheng Su picked up her tea and sipped, listening intently, the admiration in her eyes hidden behind half-lowered eyelids.

#### Chapter 615: The Arrival of a Phoenix Man

"Mr. Xiao, we will notify you if there is any news," Cheng Su said with a smile, extending her hand towards Xiao Pinshan. "I hope we have the chance to work together."

Xiao Pinshan also extended his hand with a smile.

"Xiao Ya, please see Senior Xiao out," Cheng Su called out to Ying Xiaoya.

Ying Xiaoya responded crisply.

Cheng Su was still flipping through Xiao Pinshan's résumé. There were no computers yet, so résumés were handwritten. His was written with a fountain pen, sharp and forceful, his characters bold and powerful, neat and proper, without a single error.

They say handwriting reflects the person, and Xiao Pinshan's penmanship was indeed impressive. Good handwriting with no mistakes showed attentiveness, and after this round of conversation, he seemed quite steady.

Ying Xiaoya came back, rushed to Cheng Su, and eagerly asked, "How is it? Susu, did our Senior make a good impression on you?"

"What, did your Senior ask you to inquire for him?" Cheng Su raised an eyebrow.

"Not really, I just find it quite miraculous and coincidental. Let me tell you, our Senior is a legend at our university," Ying Xiaoya said.

Cheng Su's interest was piqued, and she patted the sofa beside her. "Oh? What kind of legend? Do tell."

Ying Xiaoya sat down and began, "Senior Xiao comes from a rural background. I heard he didn't even have money for college and earned it by carrying bricks for others. During university, he was also diligent in working part-time, taking on five odd jobs to support himself while also helping to manage school affairs. Despite this, he always ranked at the top academically, never placing second, and he received scholarships every year until graduation."

So, he was a top student!

"And that makes him a legend?"

"Of course, there's more. In college, he dated a senior named Ma Lili who was famously beautiful and came from a good family. I heard she even pursued him. They performed in stage plays together, studied together, a match of talent and beauty that everyone envied. After graduating and starting work, they got engaged and married. A match made in heaven—how romantic!" Ying Xiaoya said, filled with longing.

Cheng Su laughed dismissively. Was that it? Such stories were all too common in the universities of the twenty-first century!

In plain terms, Xiao Pinshan was just a 'Phoenix Man' who had changed his fate through his own efforts. The only question was whether this Phoenix Man was a good or a bad one?

Seeing Cheng Su laugh, Ying Xiaoya pouted and protested, "Susu, you can't be like that. Don't you think it's romantic and legendary?"

Cheng Su covered her smile. Okay, she didn't see anything legendary or romantic about it, but then again, it was the mid-1980s, and from Xiao Ya's perspective, it probably did seem truly romantic.

And that Xiao Pinshan, at thirty-three years old, was at least a college student from ten years ago, an even rarer breed from the 1970s.

"Romantic as it may have been, isn't he divorced now? Is it from that senior sister of yours? They have a child, don't they?" Cheng Su said.

Ying Xiaoya sighed and said, "That's true. They have a daughter, already eight years old. I didn't inquire too deeply about why they divorced—it doesn't feel right to ask too much about a senior with such seniority, someone I'm not very familiar with. I just find it surprising that he ended up at our company and is an alumnus too."

"The world is neither too big nor too small, but if it's meant to be, people will meet. There's nothing too extraordinary about it," Cheng Su said, shrugging her shoulders.

"That's true. So, I'm asking you, what do you think about Senior Xiao? I tell you, he's truly an exceptional person. Our university still records his past achievements. In terms of management, I think he'd be good," Ying Xiaoya earnestly promoted.

#### Chapter 616: Even the Former Employer Recommends

Cheng Su truly pondered whether she esteemed Xiao Pinshan, especially after hearing that he was a Phoenix Man.

Cheng Su didn't discriminate against Phoenix Men; she was well aware that in life, there certainly were many Phoenix Men, especially in this day and age where quite a few had changed their destinies through education.

Nor was it the case that all Phoenix Men were peculiar or extraordinary; surely, people in this era aren't like some Phoenix Men of the 21st century who were flamboyant and vain, right?

Through their conversation, Cheng Su had a fairly good impression of Xiao Pinshan, finding him steady and sincere. When he spoke of his previous employer, it was with praise and without criticism. Just from this, his character seemed quite decent.

In her previous life, she had seen many who, in order to win favor with a new employer or boss, would incessantly slander their former employers or bosses behind their backs, talking about how stingy and malicious they were. Such two-faced individuals who could badmouth their past employers would likely speak ill of their current ones as well.

But Xiao Pinshan didn't do that; he spoke objectively about his former company, and didn't badmouth any of his colleagues. Such a person was reassuring. After talking about his past employers, they discussed the shortcomings and strengths of Joy Soon Loy Jam, and some of Xiao Pinshan's insights quite satisfied Cheng Su.

Still, Cheng Su wanted to know more, especially after learning that his divorce had become an issue at his workplace, wondering what could have caused it.

Cheng Su knew that office romances could be problematic; she feared whether Xiao Pinshan might have had an extramarital affair that his wife discovered, leading to such a scandal. No matter how talented, she would hesitate to hire someone with such character flaws.

Cheng Su shared her thoughts with Ying Xiaoya, saying, "The person we're hiring isn't just an ordinary salesperson or assembly line worker, but a managerial executive. To speak frankly, if we hire him, aside from me and Ning Ge, he would have the most power in the entire company. If his character isn't up to par, how could we employ him?"

Ying Xiaoya nodded in agreement, then after some thought said, "How about I find someone to look into why he got divorced?"

"If that's possible, that would of course be good." Cheng Su hesitated, feeling that prying into someone's privacy wasn't quite proper, but considering it pertained to the character and image of a management-level employee, she had to be cautious.

Ying Xiaoya went off to inquire.

Before Ying Xiaoya could find out anything, Cheng Su received a call from Qian Jinhe, Xiao Pinshan's former boss.

Over the phone, Qian Jinhe praised Xiao Pinshan profusely, commending him as an outstanding young man with a strong sense of responsibility and dedication.

Cheng Su was surprised and decided to ask about Xiao Pinshan's divorce and resignation.

"... He was quite wronged and helpless. His ex-wife was quite suspicious, thinking that he was involved with a female colleague in an inappropriate manner, that's what caused her to create a scene. In reality, it was just ordinary colleague interaction. We all felt he should ignore it and also expressed our trust in him, but he felt he owed it to the company to resign, and there was nothing we could do about it," Qian said with a tone of regret.

Was there really such a story?

"I can vouch for Xiao Pinshan's character. If he could return to our company, I would welcome him. It's just that I heard he was interviewing with your company, and I know your company is an emerging brand with good prospects, so I hope he can thrive in your company," Qian Jinhe said.

"Thank you, Boss Qian, for calling. Mr. Xiao is really fortunate to have such a former employer like you," Cheng Su said with a smile, feeling it was a stroke of luck to encounter someone recommended by their previous employer.

Qian Jinhe exchanged a few courtesies, talked about the possibility of future cooperation between the two companies, and then hung up the phone.

#### Chapter 617: Life is Full of Melodrama

News about Ying Xiaoya also came back quickly, but she seemed indignant, not knowing whom she was angry at.

"Senior is so pitiable," said Ying Xiaoya as she sat down on the couch.

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow.

Ying Xiaoya heaved a long sigh. After a while, seeing that Cheng Su hadn't asked anything, she said, "Why aren't you asking me?"

"If you want to say something, you definitely will. Why would I need to ask? I was just waiting for you to finish pitying him," Cheng Su said with a smile.

"Annoying!" Ying Xiaoya pouted.

Before Cheng Su could speak, Ying Xiaoya's own chatterbox opened.

The story was as melodramatic as Cheng Su had seen in her previous life.

After Xiao Pinshan and his ex-wife Ma Lili, both talented and beautiful, got married, they were affectionate for two years. But conflicts started to slowly arise after his wife got pregnant.

Xiao Pinshan was very busy with work. After Ma Lili became pregnant, the burden of the family seemed to fall on him. Back then, he was a supervisor at a factory, and naturally, he had to work overtime to rush orders.

Since Ma Lili stopped working after she got pregnant, focusing solely on giving birth, as a pregnant woman, she definitely wanted her husband's company. But Xiao Pinshan was busy all day. Even after work, he had to go home and take care of her meals. Gradually, he couldn't cope and had to call his mother to come and take care of things.

Ever since ancient times, mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law have been natural enemies. Ma Lili wouldn't give any face to her mother-in-law from the countryside. Xiao Pinshan's mother was a gentle soul, enduring everything for the sake of her grandson and to not make things difficult for her son, while Ma Lili grew increasingly unreasonable.

It was not easy to endure until the granddaughter was born. There was constant quarreling, but Xiao Pinshan, seeing that she had given birth to a daughter for him, didn't hold it against her. He doted on his daughter in every possible way, and his mother, for the sake of her son's family harmony, went back to her own home.

Ma Lili, now a mother, turned into a full-time housewife. She didn't work and naturally didn't care about managing her figure. She spent her days gossiping and playing mahjong with the neighbors. Day in and day out, the former beauty turned into a coarse and resentful woman, resenting Xiao Pinshan for being poor, criticizing his work, and resenting him for not having time to accompany her.

Xiao Pinshan couldn't help it. He repeatedly suggested his mother come to take care of their daughter so that she could go to work, but she would retort that he was incompetent and couldn't support them. When their daughter was three years old, because Ma Lili complained that he was too busy with work to spend time with them, Xiao Pinshan resigned and then joined Golden Eagle, climbing step by step to the position of manager.

The better a man's work became, the more he earned, while the woman could only ask for money, looking greasy and dirty, even disgusted with herself, which led to an increasing sense of inferiority, constant complaints, and mistrust. Conflicts kept building deeper and deeper; they would have small

fights every three days and big ones every five, until their affection for one another was completely gone.

Physically and mentally exhausted, Xiao Pinshan finally proposed a divorce. He wanted custody of their daughter, and was willing to give her all the family assets, including the house. Of course, Ma Lili would not agree, making a scene, stalking him, accusing him of despising her and their daughter, alleging that he was unfaithful and involved in improper relationships, even causing trouble at his company with her accusations.

"How did they end up divorcing?" Cheng Su wondered. A woman like that should be unwilling to divorce even at death.

"It was Ma Lili who brought it on herself. She threatened the senior, saying she would agree to a divorce but wanted everything, including the daughter. She thought the senior wouldn't dare to divorce for the sake of his daughter, but it turned out he really did divorce her," Ying Xiaoya said with a sigh. "It's a real pity. Once, the two were admired by everyone as a perfect match, how did it turn into this mess?"

"Because life is full of melodrama!" said Cheng Su with a shrug.

A woman becomes a resentful wife; while the man certainly bears some responsibility, the greatest responsibility still lies with her. Ma Lili had ruined her own marriage.

#### Chapter 618: Pull Him Out

Cheng Su didn't want to comment much on Xiao Pinshan's marriage. As long as it was clear he hadn't left the company due to an affair or some messy business, that was enough. At least upon seeing him, his character didn't seem to be that of a bad man.

Looking again at Ying Xiaoya pitying Senior Xiao for his misfortune in meeting the wrong person, she couldn't help but reach out and tap her on the forehead, saying, "So this tells us, as women, even if we only earn ten yuan, we should still go out to work. Look, if you don't work and gossip all day long, you turn yourself from an excellent and beautiful woman into a shrew and complainer, and even destroy a happy marriage. What a loss!"

Ying Xiaoya stuck out her tongue and said, "There you go again, preaching like an old nanny."

"I'm putting money into your pocket, teaching you the ways of a new era woman, and not a word of thanks. Instead, you call me an old nanny, hmpf," Cheng Su pretended to be angry and rolled her eyes.

Ying Xiaoya immediately hugged her arm and rubbed against her, smiling and saying, "Hehe, I knew Susu is the best. So, what do you think, is Senior Xiao reliable or not?"

Cheng Su pursed her lips and said, "It's not enough for me to say he is good; we also have to ask Ning Ge. Where has he gone off to now?"

"He said he had something to do, went to Shanghai," Ying Xiaoya said. "It's useless asking him; whenever you make a decision, does he ever disagree? Doesn't he always look up to your leadership?"

Another issue? Cheng Su furrowed her brows and said, "Then let's have Xiao Pinshan come back for another test tomorrow."

Ying Xiaoya let out a sigh.

In a coffee shop filled with old Shanghai charm, Ning Ge sat across from a petite and delicate-looking woman.

"What do you want Jiang Conghe's file for? Haven't you seen it before?" The woman handed over a leather pouch.

Ning Ge took it, untied the cord around the brown paper bag, and while doing so said, "You know that my brother is now Jiang Conghe's rival."

Upon hearing this, the woman leaned over and placed her hand on his, frowning and saying, "The organization has discipline and absolutely forbids the leaking of intelligence. Are you trying to use your position to clear obstacles for your brother? I heard about that incident last time, your brother..."

"Bai Ying, I can assure you, my brother would never act out of self-interest," Ning Ge said sternly.

Bai Ying's lips curled up slightly, "Do you have any convincing evidence?"

"I stake my life on it," Ning Ge stated.

"Your life already belongs to the organization. If it really comes to that... you won't be able to face Cang Lang and the others," Bai Ying sneered. "Moreover, our organization strictly prohibits personal emotions from interfering; everything we do must be fair and impartial. You took an oath when you joined the organization. Have you forgotten?"

"I haven't forgotten!" Ning Ge said, somewhat angrily. "This isn't for my brother. It's Jiang Conghe; I think there's something wrong with him."

Bai Ying looked at him with skepticism.

"That last incident with the highway robbers, although Zhang Zhongming was brought forth, could a mere regiment leader orchestrate something so big? I strongly suspect there's someone else above him," Ning Ge stated.

"You're suggesting?"

"I don't have proof, but I feel that Jiang Conghe is definitely not simple. And the things he's been doing lately, does that seem fair and just to you? It's all about wielding power," Ning Ge said with a cold laugh.

Bai Ying let go of his hand, lowered her eyelids, and said, "I know, you still have some personal interest in this."

"I'm human; everyone has personal interests. Moreover, if there really is a problem, regardless of whether it's personal interest or not, he should be exposed!" Ning Ge said proudly.

Bai Ying said nothing, picked up her coffee, and gazed out of the window with a distant voice, "It's been three years..."

Ning Ge shivered and looked out as well, his eyes filled with sorrow.

### Chapter 619: Let Him Start the Show

Ning Ge and Bai Ying broke up and then he boarded the train back to Qing City with the intelligence documents he had brought. As the train clanked and rattled, he opened the file.

Indeed, Bai Ying was also right about something, he wasn't without his own ulterior motives, for his elder brother and for Cheng Su as well.

And yet, to use one's position to divert soldiers just for a personal affair, Jiang Conghe was no less self-serving, was he?

Such self-interest, such abuse of power, wasn't he taking advantage of the nation?

As a fair and impartial undercover agent, it was his duty to root out such threats to the country.

He wasn't spouting nonsense, he truly had his suspicions about Jiang Conghe; disregarding evidence and relying on instinct alone, the clues from past events made him feel that there was something complicated about Jiang Conghe. Or perhaps, the person behind him was the complicated one.

Nevertheless, he wanted to get to the bottom of it, and then to root it out. He was born to do this sort of thing, wasn't he?

Ning Ge pulled out the documents. Bai Ying was excellent at organizing intelligence, very meticulous. The intelligence file was very comprehensive, detailing everything from Jiang Conghe's birth, to his enlistment, to his marriage, followed by divorce and remarriage; it was all very thorough.

Ning Ge steadied his focus and read through the information carefully.

An hour later, Ning Ge closed the file and shut his eyes, replaying the content he had just seen in his mind.

It was clean, judging from this file, Jiang Conghe's background seemed rather clean, even the part where he divorced and remarried; it was due to a breakdown in the marital relationship, and the divorce was discussed and agreed upon by both parties. The ex-wife had consented, Jiang Conghe gave a substantial living allowance, and there was also child support every month.

But what was the reality? As far as Ning Ge knew, it was clearly a case of the Loo Family forcing the divorce through underhanded methods.

How the divorce happened was one thing, but speaking of Jiang Conghe himself...

He had good fortune; just before the liberation, he carried an explosive pack and made a merit, and it was only logical that he gained achievements. But his career was mediocre until he married Lu Shufen; that's when things really started to go smoothly for him.

The Loo Family was no different, starting out as mere merchants, but as time passed, their business grew larger and more successful. Was there no foul play involved?

Since ancient times, officials and merchants have been inseparable. It wasn't unlikely that the Loo Family later took advantage of their connection to Jiang Conghe to benefit their own enterprise. It was said that Old Master Loo, when he was young, was a decisive and ruthless character; otherwise, he wouldn't have managed to grow from a mere street hawker to the wealthy and influential Loo Family, respectfully addressed as Elder Loo.

The largest business of the Loo Family was their transport company, which delivered military supplies every year. This was a substantial source of income, and Jiang Conghe's son, Chiang Tian, was also involved in this business.

Transport companies...

Ning Ge bit his nails, suddenly thinking of something, he flipped to one page of the documents and smiled.

Jiang Conghe's other son, the one from his first wife, Jiang Dafang, was also involved in transportation with a partner.

With so many other businesses to choose from, he specifically entered into transportation; was Jiang Dafang unintentional or did he do it deliberately? Now, this was getting interesting.

If he were Jiang Dafang, watching his mother and himself being abandoned for money and power, even to the point of mother's death, what would he do?

Jiang Dafang must harbor resentment in his heart!

Oh, this is going to be quite a show!

Ning Ge closed the documents with interest, thoughtfully considering where he should start to take a bite out of the Chiang Family.

That place was Jiang Dafang.

To root out Jiang Conghe, he had to take down the Loo Family; after all, the two families were tied together by mutual interests. So, a move against one would be a move against both.

And this play, he would be the one to set it in motion, heh.

#### Chapter 620: Stay Away From That Crazy Woman

When Ning Ge returned to Joy Soon Loy, he happened to meet Xiao Pinshan coming in for a second interview. Just as Ying Xiaoya had predicted, Ning Ge had absolutely no idea about this manager and, seeing that Xiao Pinshan looked upright and decent, he immediately decided and almost wished Xiao Pinshan could start on the spot.

With this manager on board, he would have more time, and he could... hehe.

Xiao Pinshan had also researched Joy Soon Loy. It was an emerging enterprise, but it seemed to have solid backing. Just by looking at the VIPs who attended its opening, he knew it was no simple matter.

Therefore, he knew that the Jam Company was run by two owners. He had met Cheng Su, who was young with unique insights and sharp words, creating an imposing presence that set her apart from her peers.

However, President Ning seemed a bit... offbeat.

"Our President Ning is kind of unconventional," said Cheng Su with a smile, noticing Xiao Pinshan's discomfort and offering an explanation.

Xiao Pinshan quickly said, "President Ning has an extraordinary demeanor."

Everyone knew that was just a polite remark. Those who were familiar with the situation knew very well that Ning Ge was indeed unconventional.

"Welcome to our company. Working hours are from 8:30 in the morning to noon. Xiao Ya will introduce the specifics to you. If you're not in a hurry to leave, you can also take a tour around our company and the operation room," Cheng Su said.

Naturally, Xiao Pinshan agreed and followed Ying Xiaoya on the tour.

Turning around, Cheng Su saw Ning Ge's laissez-faire demeanor and her smile faded, "Where have you been messing around these past few days?"

"What do you mean, messing around? I had important things to deal with, alright?" Ning Ge said, utterly unconvinced.

Cheng Su humped and said, "Even though we've hired a manager, we can't just leave everything to others. We need to develop the market, the products, and fine-tune our management models and regulations."

Being part of a company doesn't mean you can just dump everything on the employees and not think or consider anything yourself. If it were that simple, there would be more than enough business people around.

To manage a company well, employees must work together, but it's also necessary for the bosses to be responsible, to have unique perspectives, and to make decisive decisions. They were all new to entrepreneurship, including her, and there was so much to learn!

"I know, I really had something important to do," Ning Ge rolled his eyes.

It was then that Cheng Su let it go.

"By the way, I wasn't here these past few days, did anything happen to you?" Ning Ge inquired again.

Cheng Su was a bit puzzled, "What could have happened to me?"

"Did Chiang Qing come and harass you?"

Cheng Su was taken aback and countered, "Why would she harass me, I'm not Qi Taiguo."

"Isn't it just because I'm afraid she'd go crazy and lose her mind? It's better to stay away from such a lunatic," Ning Ge glared as he spoke.

"Oh, you seem to be quite concerned about her? Did she suddenly grow an extra pair of claws, ready to lash out?" Cheng Su said with an amused face.

Like Qi Taiguo, he considered Chiang Qing to be crazy, but with Qi Taiguo absent, what was the point of her bothering Cheng Su?

Even if she were mentally unstable, surely Chiang Qing wasn't that far gone. After all, being a well-educated military doctor and proud, there was no sense in her making a scene in front of Cheng Su!

"Anyway, stay away from that lunatic," Ning Ge said irritably, "lest she plucks out a strand of your hair and when Qi Taiguo comes back, he blames me for not looking after you properly."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Su was genuinely surprised, and Ning Ge continued, "That's right, your Old Qi told me to take good care of you these days. I think he's a bit of a scaredy-cat now!"

Cheng Su's eyebrows furrowed. Was it really that serious? But deep down, she felt a sweet sense of care—how concerned he must be for her!