

The 80s 641

Chapter 641 Mental Issues

Chiang Tian asked two nurses about the ins and outs of the situation before letting them go, and then stayed by Chiang Qing's bedside waiting for her to wake up.

He was a tough guy, and although he and Chiang Qing were not heart-to-heart close, they were siblings, both surnamed Chiang, born of the same mother. Now that his older sister had been bullied, it was tantamount to bullying him and the Chiang family.

Even if it was his sister falling for a man she shouldn't have and bringing it on herself, Cheng Su had gone too far. To strike at will, did she think the Chiang family had no one? That an uneducated village woman could trample over the Chiang family like this; if word got out, would not anyone dare to step on them in the future?

Cheng Su would definitely have to pay a price for this, but, well, she could be put aside for now. The concern was his older sister...

Chiang Tian thought of what the nurses had said and couldn't help frowning.

Regardless of how Cheng Su provoked her, she wouldn't reveal her own shortcomings in a fit, right? His sister had spelled out her thoughts so bluntly, even a valid point became invalid!

Moreover, she wasn't senseless; otherwise, she wouldn't have become a military doctor. She had always been intelligent, so how could she be so impulsive after a few provocative words?

Chiang Tian looked at Chiang Qing's unconscious face, furrowing his brows tightly. Her face was pale and thin, with her cheekbones protruding; just looking at her like this felt rather chilling.

Could his sister really be just as Cheng Su had said, with some sort of mental problem, all for the sake of that man?

Feeling uneasy in his heart, Chiang Tian decided he couldn't just stand by and do nothing.

"Hmm..." Chiang Qing let out a soft moan, her eyelashes and lids trembling.

"Sister, big sister," Chiang Tian gently patted her face, knowing full well how heavy his own hand was.

Chiang Qing slowly opened her eyes, staring blankly at the canopy above her.

"Sister..."

Hearing his voice, Chiang Qing turned her head and looked at Chiang Tian blankly.

Seeing her unfocused eyes, Chiang Tian felt a shiver run through his scalp.

"Xiao Tian?" Chiang Qing gradually regained consciousness and propped herself up: "Why are you here, where am I?"

His sister's words sent a pang of panic through Chiang Tian, and he cautiously replied, "Big sister, you don't remember anything?"

Remember what?

Chiang Qing's consciousness and memories slowly gathered back, like thousands of images flying towards her, striking her directly. She clutched her head, "Ugh, my head hurts."

"Sister, don't scare me!" Chiang Tian was truly frightened by her and hurriedly reached for her hand.

Chiang Qing caught his hand and turned her face sharply towards him, her expression one of terrified pallor: "I remember now. I just had a fight with Cheng Su. I..."

Heaven above, what had she done?

So many people, and she had said such things. Oh god, how could she face anyone after this?

How could this have happened, how could things suddenly turn out like this, how could she have said those words? That wasn't her speaking, no!

"Sister, don't be scared, don't be scared!" Chiang Tian quickly embraced her.

"Xiao Tian, I... I can't show my face anymore!" Chiang Qing threw herself into her brother's arms, sobbing hysterically.

Chiang Tian had a splitting headache.

"Sister, it's okay, Cheng Su that wretch got what she deserved, don't worry, your little brother here will definitely avenge you," Chiang Tian comforted her.

Chiang Qing cried out, "No, it's not right, I can't live with this."

Chiang Tian continually comforted her, talking until his mouth was dry and his throat parched, until he finally managed to soothe her to sleep.

Looking at Chiang Qing's haggard face, Chiang Tian felt a deep pain in his heart. This was something he couldn't hide, nor did he dare to. His sister's mental state was not good at all; he must tell their parents, no matter what, and first bring his sister back to the Capital for a check-up.

Chapter 642: She is ill

Beijing, Lu Shufen's phone fell from her hand, and she slumped onto the sofa in a daze, stupefied.

Jiang Conghe shifted his gaze slightly away from the newspaper, glanced down, and peered over the rim of his glasses, "What happened? Did Xiao Tian cause trouble again?"

Lu Shufen shook her head as tears began to stream down her face.

Jiang Conghe, startled, dropped the newspaper, sat beside her, and took her hand, only to find it ice-cold. He anxiously asked, "What's the matter? What happened?"

Lu Shufen clasped his hand and murmured, "Something's happened, Old Chiang, something's happened!"

Jiang Conghe was beside himself with urgency and kept probing, "What in the world happened? You must tell me—are you trying to kill me with worry?"

"It's Qingqing, Old Chiang. The thing I feared the most has still happened. Qingqing, she..." Lu Shufen looked helplessly at Jiang Conghe, her face deathly pale.

Jiang Conghe was stunned for a moment; his face slowly drained of color, "You mean?"

Lu Shufen nodded, and breaking into sobs, cried out, "Qingqing, she might have had an episode!"

Jiang Conghe drew a sharp breath and blurted out without thinking, "How could this happen; it's impossible!"

"Xiao Tian just called, he said something was off with Qingqing, said she had a breakdown, said..." Lu Shufen was visibly terrified.

Jiang Conghe pursed his lips, locking eyes with her, both seeing the terror and the dread reflected in each other's gaze.

His memory suddenly traveled back twenty-something years, to when... how long had it been, right, when Qingqing was five.

The child was clever from the start, could sing and dance, and was sweet-talking. He and his wife doted on her like the apple of their eye. Even her uncle and grandfather loved her dearly, calling her a little princess who was the apple of everyone's eye was no exaggeration.

That year she was five, they were also living in a compound. The neighbor's girl from the Lin Family, what was her name? He had forgotten, Lin Jinger, perhaps?

The child had received a puppy, a small dog just a couple of months old, all white like snow, without a single spot of any other color, very pretty indeed. Lin Jinger loved it immensely and was so proud.

Qingqing saw it and wanted it, but in their home, Lu Shufen was allergic to dog fur. They wouldn't keep such pets nor allow their child to have one. But Qingqing insisted she must have it, and specifically Lin Jinger's dog, claiming it was hers.

But it was someone else's pet and they loved it too, so of course they wouldn't give it away, and since they couldn't keep one at home, they naturally didn't entertain Qingqing's idea. No matter how much Qingqing cried or threw tantrums, they wouldn't agree.

So what happened? Qingqing suddenly stopped bothering them, but one day, Lin Family's dog vanished, as did Qingqing. Both families searched together, finally finding them in a small park.

They were found in a small hollow in a tree at the park, Qingqing together with the puppy. But the scene at that time...

Jiang Conghe shuddered at the memory.

There sat Qingqing, her snow-white dress covered in fresh blood. At her feet lay the horribly disfigured little white dog, and her mouth was full of dog fur and blood. She smiled at them and said just one sentence, "Now this puppy will always be mine."

Lu Shufen fainted on the spot, and Lin Jinger, who was screaming nonstop, also passed out.

Afterward, the Lin Family was transferred to the South and moved away, and Jiang Conghe covered up the entire incident.

But after what had happened, they could not be at ease and took Chiang Qing to see doctors stealthily, visiting psychiatrists and psychologists, where she was diagnosed with acute intermittent schizophrenia, leaving them both dumbfounded.

Chapter 643: Outburst of Anger

The precious gem they had raised like a princess, nurtured in the palm of their hand, was diagnosed as a mental patient, and at that moment, Jiang Conghe felt as if the sky had collapsed. How could this be possible?

He and his first wife had a son, and everything was fine. How come when it came to Chiang Qing, she had this illness?

He looked at his daughter's innocent face, her smile so pure, and felt as if Heaven was playing a cruel joke on him, slapping him hard at the height of his success and family bliss. Was it Heaven's punishment? Punishment for abandoning his wife and child?

No matter what, if there was an illness, it needed to be treated. The doctors had said it was just a sudden intermittent psychotic disorder, that as long as she complied with treatment, she would be okay.

So, they sneaked around, taking her for treatments, administering medications, and she really did get better.

But since it was intermittent, they feared a relapse, so regular follow-up appointments were necessary. In the beginning few years, they went for follow-ups annually. Qingqing behaved normally, and after she started middle school, they stopped, and she didn't take any more medication.

Until later, when she went to high school and college, she even took the initiative to study medicine, later becoming a military doctor. Beautiful, talented, as normal as can be, this made Jiang Conghe and his wife incredibly happy, and they finally let go of their worries.

This daughter was their pride!

But now, they say Chiang Qing has relapsed?

Jiang Conghe felt a heavy dark cloud pressing down on his head, so suffocating he could hardly breathe.

"Xiao Tian knows only very little. Could he have made a mistake?" Jiang Conghe swallowed, his throat both dry and hoarse.

Lu Shufen had been crying all along. Hearing this, she shook her head, relaying what Chiang Tian had said, "How is this different from back then?"

Jiang Conghe's face finally changed color.

"No, I must go to Qing City. I need to bring Qingqing back. If she doesn't come back, I'll die right in front of her." Lu Shufen wiped her tears and, with trembling hands, reached for the phone. "I've told you before that those methods were no use. That girl has always been stubborn since she was little. Just give her what she wants instead of forcing her like this! Woo-woo, my poor daughter, your life is so hard!"

Jiang Conghe's head throbbed with pain.

"Xiao Jin, book me a train ticket to Qing City right away. Yes, tomorrow, the earliest one!" Lu Shufen instructed over the phone.

After hanging up the phone, she stared blankly into space.

"Tomorrow, I'll go with you," Jiang Conghe said.

Lu Shufen shook her head. "No need. Xiao Tian is also over there; that's enough for us. You stay here and make arrangements, go see Doctor Zhong."

Jiang Conghe stood there stunned. Doctor Zhong, his daughter's primary doctor from childhood, was now an old man.

"Should we arrange for a psychologist?" Jiang Conghe asked with difficulty.

Lu Shufen, looking utterly weary, said, "Arrange everything. She needs to be seen." She paused before adding, "Be careful not to let it out. Our daughter is no longer five years old; she is twenty-seven. If word spreads, how will she face people in the future?"

Jiang Conghe's pupils contracted, and he nodded gravely.

"It's all because of that Cheng Su, that shameless village woman, the uneducated and coarse person. If not for her, Qingqing wouldn't have ended up like this!" Lu Shufen mentioned Cheng Su, grinding her teeth with hatred: "I will never let that wretch off."

This was misdirected anger!

Jiang Conghe also hated, but he was still somewhat rational, "We can deal with that small fry later. The key now is Qingqing. Don't make a scene over there. If it gets out, it will harm Qingqing instead. Even justified anger can become unreasonable."

Lu Shufen snorted, "Whom should I be afraid of? She's just a company commander's wife. What if I destroy her?"

Jiang Conghe furrowed his brows, seeing her fiery anger, he said no more, waiting for her temper to subside before he could try to persuade her again.

Chapter 644: Abnormal

Cheng Su had a nightmare all night long, and when she woke up the next day, her entire body was drenched in sweat as if she had been washed with water.

She wiped the sweat from her forehead, still looking as though she were in a dream state, her face the very picture of unsettlement.

It was too terrifying, she had actually dreamt about Chiang Qing, dreamt about that lunatic who said she'd rather be "a piece of shattered jade" and then...

Cheng Su shuddered and dared not continue thinking about it, got up to wash her face, and went to the company in a daze.

"Susu, you look terrible, what's wrong?" Ying Xiaoya asked with concern.

"It's nothing, just didn't sleep well last night." Cheng Su smiled and shook her head, then asked, "Has Ning Ge come back yet?"

"Not yet..."

"Who's looking for me?" Ning Ge entered from the doorway.

Cheng Su turned around, and Ning Ge let out a loud yelp, "What happened to your face, you've seen a ghost in broad daylight?"

"Tch! You never say anything nice." Cheng Su glared at him and added, "I need to talk to you about something."

The two of them went outside.

"What's the matter? You look awful!" Ning Ge asked, frowning.

Cheng Su sighed and said, "I had a nightmare last night." She didn't want to think about the scenes from that dream, and simply said, "Let's not talk about that, I hit Chiang Qing yesterday afternoon."

"Oh, what?" Ning Ge's eyes widened: "What did you say? You hit her, you struck her?"

Cheng Su looked somewhat sheepish and said, "I was feeling a bit upset, I couldn't keep calm. It was her fault for not listening, so I slapped her."

"And her, she didn't do anything to you, did she?"

"Listen to me, I think she's a bit strange." Cheng Su clicked her tongue, as though afraid she'd be disturbed, and quickly recounted Chiang Qing's reaction.

The more Ning Ge listened, the grimmer his face became.

"Tell me, no matter what, wouldn't it be crazy for her to act like this? But yesterday, she really seemed like a madwoman who had lost her reason, as if she had become a completely different person." Cheng Su hesitated then said, "Do you think she might have some kind of problem?"

"What kind of problem?"

Cheng Su pointed to her head and said, "Here, do you think she might have that mental issue?"

Thinking back to Chiang Qing's crazed behavior from the previous day, Cheng Su felt somewhat scared. Remembering the nightmare from last night made her shiver uncontrollably.

Chiang Qing usually seemed so aloof and normal, but if there really was some issue, that would be terrifying!

"That's what I'm saying, why did you have to provoke her? I've told you, she's just a lunatic." Ning Ge said with a dark face, "She kicked and hit you, didn't hurt you, did she?"

"No, just a bit of a stomachache, probably from falling down, nothing serious. But her, you say, could she have some problem?" Cheng Su was anxious about Chiang Qing's mental health.

"I'm not a doctor, and I can't even x-ray a brain, how would I know!" Ning Ge rolled his eyes.

Cheng Su's shoulders slumped despondently: "Right!"

Then Ning Ge said, "Don't think too much about it. Just avoid her, don't provoke her again. If she's really crazy, then... Qi Taiguo should be back soon, shouldn't he?"

Cheng Su bit her lip and counted on her fingers, saying, "I don't know, it's been twenty days already, no phone call has come through. He should be back soon."

Ning Ge nodded and gave a few more words of advice, saying, "With people at the company right now, you shouldn't stay here. Looking at your pale face, white as a ghost, you should go back and rest!"

Cheng Su also felt very tired and nodded in agreement.

After she left, Ning Ge made a phone call to Bai Ying, asking her to look into Chiang Qing's personal records, specifically her medical history, and the Chiang family's medical history.

Cheng Su's worry was somewhat justified; Chiang Qing's response was abnormally intense!

Chapter 645: Speaking from the Heart

Just as Cheng Su had expected, Qi Taiguo, who had been leading the team outside, had also reached the tail end of the training mission.

"Rest in place." With a wave of his hand, Qi Taiguo watched as the soldiers, with sandbags strapped to their calves and shirts off, immediately collapsed into a sitting position, pounding their arms and waists with their hands, but they did not remove the sandbags.

Qi Taiguo himself also sat down, took the canteen tied to his waist, guzzled all the water, and heaved a long sigh of relief.

"This training mission is finally coming to an end. Damn, I was nearly trained to death. I can finally go home and hold my wife," Gao Linbing, who had somehow found his way to sit down, was wiping the sweat from his neck and said.

Qi Taiguo laughed, "You once won first place yourself, why are you complaining about the hardship now?"

"I'm getting older, I can't compare my physical strength with my younger days," Gao Linbing sighed, "I think, this position is probably as far as I go in this life!"

Qi Taiguo's brow furrowed slightly and he said, "How old are you to be snuffing out your own ambition like that?"

"You know the situation now as well as I do. With the military downsizing, the competition is even greater. The best I can hope for is probably to get promoted to deputy battalion level and retire. The country inevitably needs a strong military that retains the strong and lets go of the weak," Gao Linbing said.

"So, training is indispensable. If you can't keep up with the physical demands, you can't keep up with anything!" Qi Taiguo said, "I know this training was a bit too tough, but just as you said, retaining the strong and letting go of the weak, if you're not strong, you'll be eliminated. This world is all about the survival of the fittest, natural selection. If you don't make yourself strong, you'll be devoured by those who are stronger."

As he spoke, his eyes gazed at a point in the distance, and it was unclear what he was thinking. His pupils seemed to blur, as if he was speaking from deep inspiration.

"It's rare to hear you talk like this. Were you really stimulated?" Gao Linbing looked at him, "What's up, still thinking about that past event?"

The corner of Qi Taiguo's mouth twitched upward, and he said, "Not really, just speaking my mind, that's all."

"Speaking your mind is brooding over it. But it's good that you have this mindset. Survival of the fittest is indeed the case. Both Old Long and I have high hopes for you. That tenacity in your bones is no joke," Gao Linbing said.

Qi Taiguo plucked a foxtail from beside him to fiddle with in his hand and said, "I don't have many thoughts about it. I just feel if you're weak, you'll be easily assigned and unable to resist. I don't like that."

Gao Linbing sighed, "It's a tradition left by our ancestors, not so easy to break. The rules of this world are just like that."

"Therefore, I must become stronger." A flicker of determination shot through Qi Taiguo's eyes. He needed to become stronger, to climb higher!

"You can do it. After this time, I bet those boys below are most afraid of you. Did you know, they've been calling you 'Devil Company Commander' behind your back?" Gao Linbing chuckled lightly.

"I was doing it for their own good!" Qi Taiguo's face darkened.

"I know. This time out, who gained the most? Even the weakest kid in our company can now carry a gun without moving for two hours! Look at them, after this training, hasn't everyone's spirit transformed?" Gao Linbing nodded towards them.

Qi Taiguo looked over. Those boys, whether sitting or leaning, had skin turned dark and rugged, their bodies marked with bloodstains from thorns and branches, their arms filled with genuine muscle. Yet their eyes were resilient, convincing him that once they reached the battlefield, once they were assigned their tasks, their will would be just as resilient.

Qi Taiguo's mouth curled up, then quickly straightened as he said, "It's still not enough. They need real hard-earned experience."

Only when they truly faced missions on the battlefield, would they be forged into soldiers through trial by fire and hammered resilience.

Chapter 646: Never Expected Her to Be That Kind of Person

Chiang Qing had requested two days off from the army and sat in her room clutching her knees, staring blankly at the sky through the window.

When Chiang Tian brought food, he saw her like this and felt a pang in his heart, exclaiming, "Sis, it's time to eat!"

These past two days, she had barely eaten anything.

Chiang Qing, as if she hadn't heard, simply asked, "What date is it today?"

Chiang Tian was taken aback, glanced at the calendar on the wall, and realized he didn't know the date. The pages of the calendar were meant to be torn off day by day, and since he had never torn one off at his sister's house, he didn't know.

Without a response, Chiang Qing checked herself, saying, "It's the 10th already, he should be coming back soon!"

He, who was he?

Chiang Tian quickly learned who Chiang Qing was referring to, and his expression darkened. Even now, how could she still be thinking about that man!

Chiang Tian really wanted to shake her awake, but seeing the sparkle in her eyes, he didn't dare. He could only suggest, "Come eat something, you've lost a lot of weight recently!"

Chiang Qing touched her face and asked another question, "Does it look bad?"

"It's not bad, just not as good as before," Chiang Tian said evasively.

More than bad, she looked like a ghost.

Chiang Qing sat down at the table and said, "Have you heard something outside?"

She hadn't left the house in days, but without a doubt, she knew the people in their courtyard were gossipy and must be talking about her.

Chiang Qing's face was overcast with gloom.

"They are all uneducated roughnecks, why bother yourself with their words, don't lower yourself to their level," Chiang Tian said with utter disdain.

Chiang Qing hummed in response, but her complexion didn't improve.

This scandal had only increased the distance between her and Qi Taiguo; it was all Cheng Su's fault for pushing her to this point.

Indeed, everyone in the courtyard was talking about Chiang Qing's situation.

People said that despite the Military Doctor Chiang coming from a good family background and having a respectable job, it was unexpected that she could fall for another woman's man and say those things; she must be mad.

The households of Southwest Ladder were busy consoling Cheng Su.

"Considering how high and mighty she always acted, I never would've thought she was like this inside. To brazenly declare her love for Commander Qi, tsk, it's just shameless," Chunhua said while breastfeeding her daughter: "Sister-in-law Qi, you shouldn't waste your words on her. With such a shameless person, just slap her in the face and be done with it."

"Exactly, oh my, to just say you like someone is one thing, but to have the courage to declare it, as if she was afraid we all didn't know, and to say it with such righteousness, really opened my eyes," Qiumei said as she too came downstairs with her son to join the gossip.

Clearly, that incident had reshaped their perceptions and worldviews.

"I don't even want to see her now; it's disgusting," Cheng Su admitted, also feeling a sense of fear.

Chunhua and Qiumei exchanged glances and cautiously asked, "Sister-in-law, seeing how crazy she acted, could it be that she has some kind of sickness?"

Cheng Su's bean-snapping hands paused, and her brows furrowed.

"I think she really might be sick in the head, otherwise she wouldn't have gone that mad. You didn't see it, Chunhua, but I did. Ah, the look on her face was as if she wanted to devour Cheng Su," Qiumei said with a face full of fear.

"In that case, it's best to keep our distance indeed," Chunhua added worriedly.

Cheng Su curled her lips slightly and said, "Let's keep these words between us. Don't talk about it outside, lest it causes unnecessary trouble." "Of course, we'll just discuss it here!" Qiumei nudged Chunhua, changing the subject: "Oh, those who went for training should be returning soon, right? Little Egg certainly misses his dad."

Platoon Leader Lu had also gone out for training.

Cheng Su smiled and said they should be back soon, but then her hands became restless as she pinched the beans.

Chapter 647: The Tiger Mother Who Protects Her Cub Has Arrived

Lu Shufen got off the train and boarded the military vehicle that had been sent to pick her up upon notification; she traveled all the way to the family compound where Chiang Qing resided.

On the train, she had hardly closed her eyes, her mind consumed with thoughts of her daughter. When her thoughts turned to sorrow, the tears would fall, her eyes red and swollen. Now that she had arrived at the compound, she pulled out a pair of sunglasses and put them on.

As she followed the guiding sentry into the compound, many people looked over. Who was this distinguished lady?

With a stern face and gaze straightforward, Lu Shufen's high-heeled leather shoes clicked on the cement ground as she walked.

"Hold on," Lu Shufen called to the signalman leading the way in front, asking, "Where does Commander Qi, Qi Taiguo live?"

The signalman pointed in a direction, and Lu Shufen looked following his finger. She let out a cold snort through her nose, thinking, just wait for me.

Arriving at Chiang Qing's home, the door was opened by Chiang Tian. Seeing his mother, it was as if he was seeing a savior: "Mom."

Hearing this call, Chiang Qing retracted her gaze from the window, staring at the approaching Lu Shufen with a face full of surprise: "Mom, why have you come?"

Then she glared at Chiang Tian. Did you call her here?

Chiang Tian averted his gaze and touched his nose.

Seeing her daughter emaciated and haggard, Lu Shufen took off her sunglasses and her tears streamed down. She exclaimed loudly, "If I didn't come, if I didn't, how long would you go on like this? How could you keep it hidden from us?"

Oh my, was this still her daughter, who was once like a blooming flower?

Her complexion was sallow, her hair disheveled, cheekbones jutting from her gaunt face, her lips devoid of color. No longer the delicate flower she once was, but clearly a blossom on the verge of withering.

"How did you get into this state?" Lu Shufen looked at her in disbelief, feeling as though her heart was being sliced open.

For the sake of a man, was all this worth it?

How could this child be so foolish!

Upon hearing this question, all the grievances in Chiang Qing's heart surged forth. She threw herself into Lu Shufen's arms and burst into tears, "Mom, I can't live anymore, I just can't!"

"Silly child, why are you so foolish, huh? Are you trying to stab your father and me in the heart, you silly girl!" Lu Shufen struck her daughter's arm, reluctant to really hit hard, and they embraced, weeping together.

Chiang Qing, gasping for breath through her tears, said, "Mom, I'm in pain, I'm in so much pain. If I had known it would be this hard, I'd rather be dead!"

"Nonsense. It's better to live poorly than to die well. What's there that can't be overcome? Is it for a man that you want so desperately to live or die? Are you being fair to your father and me, you silly child!" Lu Shufen scolded angrily.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Mom, your daughter has let you down!"

After crying together for a while, Lu Shufen said, "Stop talking, let's go, we're going back to Beijing. We're never coming back to this place! We'll talk about it once we're back in the Capital, all right?"

Chiang Qing's sobbing paused: "Back to Beijing? No, I won't go back! I want to stay here!"

Lu Shufen, frustrated and on the brink of losing her composure, swallowed the words about seeing a doctor that had come to her mouth; she feared any further agitation. Instead, she coaxed, "My sweet child, listen to your mom, let's go back for now, and we can make long-term plans later. I promise you, whatever you want, mom will get it for you, okay? For now, just come back to the Capital with me!"

"No. Mom, where are you trying to take me?" Chiang Qing asked warily.

Lu Shufen was on the verge of breaking down but forced a smile: "We're not going anywhere. Look at yourself, you've gotten so thin it hurts me just to look at you. Be obedient, come back first, get your health back, recuperate, and then we'll make plans, okay?"

Chiang Qing shook off her hand, stood up, and looked at her intently: "Mom, are you trying to take me back to take that medicine, aren't you?"

Chapter 648: She's Not the Mad One, Cheng Su Is

Chiang Qing's direct question caught Lu Shufen off guard, her complexion changed, and she seemed a bit flustered. Chiang Tian, standing not far away, also looked over, his expression grave.

Swallowing hard, Lu Shufen forced a smile and said, "Qingqing, what are you talking about? We're just going home, not anywhere else. Don't you trust your mother?"

Chiang Qing's face darkened: "Mom, do you also think I'm sick? Everyone says I'm a madwoman, do you think so too? Xiao Tian, and you?"

Madwoman, mentally ill, needing to take medicine, needing to be obedient.

Those medicines were for madwomen; she was no madwoman; she refused to take them.

In the past, she had secretly thrown them into the toilet without ever ingesting them, and hadn't she grown up anyway? Who was the madwoman? She certainly wasn't, it was Cheng Su, Cheng Su was the madwoman, the one truly mentally ill!

It was she who insisted on wedging herself between her and Qi Taiguo, she deserved to die!

"I'm not going back; I want to stay here. Qi Taiguo is mine; he can only be mine. Only I am worthy of him, only I can possess him!" Chiang Qing paced back and forth in the room.

Seeing this, Lu Shufen's head buzzed, and that scene from so many years ago surfaced before her eyes again!

"That puppy is mine; it belongs to me. It can only play with me; it can only keep me company," the doll-like little Chiang Qing said haughtily.

And there she was, sitting in the hollow of a tree, a mouthful of blood and dog fur, smiling at her: "Mom, look, this dog, it's forever mine now!"

The memory replayed; back then she had killed a dog, what about now?

Lu Shufen felt dizzy and could hardly stand, but Chiang Tian quickly came over to support her.

"Qingqing..." Lu Shufen covered her chest and called out with difficulty.

Chiang Qing looked over.

"Qingqing, come to mom!" Lu Shufen waved her hand with a forced smile.

Chiang Qing approached like a cautious child, and Lu Shufen grabbed her hand; mother and daughter sat down together.

Drawing a deep breath, Lu Shufen stroked her hair and said, "Qingqing, mom knows what's in your heart. Let's go back to Beijing first, alright?"

"Mom!"

Holding her tightly, Lu Shufen said softly, "Listen to Mom, be good. Come back with me, and we'll get you well first. I promise, I'll make that Qi Taiguo kneel before you and beg you, alright?"

How could it be, how was it possible, for someone as proud as him to kneel before her and beg!

Lying in her arms, Chiang Qing said, "Mom, he'll be back soon. I really miss him!"

A heaviness settled in Lu Shufen's heart.

"Mom, I'm so tired."

"How about taking a nap? Let's have a sleep first, and then we can talk after you wake up," Lu Shufen immediately suggested.

Chiang Qing nodded and obediently went back to her room to lie down. Soon, she fell into a deep sleep.

Lu Shufen looked at her face, tears streaming down.

Chiang Tian felt anxious and asked softly, "Mom, my sister, is she—" he pointed to his head, "sick again?"

Lu Shufen shot him a glare, and Chiang Tian immediately clamped his lips shut. He only knew very little; he knew that his sister seemed to have been ill as a child, something wrong with her brain.

Could it really be mental illness?

"Come with me!" said Lu Shufen as she walked out. "Tell me about these past few days since you arrived. And why did your sister ask you to come?"

Dodging the question, Chiang Tian said, "Nothing much, just came here to hang out!"

Furious, Lu Shufen struck him, "At a time like this, you're still keeping secrets from me. Do you want to kill your sister? If you won't speak, I'll ask your uncle to cut off your financial support."

This was Chiang Tian's weak spot, and he immediately spilled everything like pouring beans from a bamboo tube.

After listening, Lu Shufen sank into a chair and murmured to herself, "Your sister is even more possessed than I was back then!"

Chapter 649: She Deserved the Slap

Cheng Su was chatting with Chunhua and the others when Hualing came back, her face alight with excitement as she stared at Cheng Su, "Hey, Cheng Su, you'd better be careful."

Cheng Su had a confused look on her face. What did she need to be careful about?

"You don't know yet? Military Doctor Chiang's mother has arrived, and by the looks of it, she might be here to settle scores with you," Hualing said with schadenfreude.

Military Doctor Chiang's mother had come?

"That's really funny, what face do they have to trouble Sister-in-law Qi? It's her daughter who's shameless, trying to seduce other people's husbands!" Chunhua, remembering the kindness Cheng Su had shown her when she had just given birth, immediately retorted against Hualing.

Hualing smacked her lips and said sheepishly, "Well, didn't Cheng Su hit someone first?"

Chunhua sneered, "She deserved to be hit. Who asked her to shamelessly try to lure someone else's husband? Cheng Su was too gentle, if it were me, I would have scratched her face to shreds!"

Hualing was sprayed by Chunhua's rapid-fire tirade and immediately felt disgusted.

"And you, Hualing, if some other woman entangled herself with your Chen Shouwang, could you really handle it calmly and talk it out?" Chunhua looked at Hualing with disdain.

Hualing huffed, "I am not a shrew!" Besides, she doubted Chen Shouwang would dare to fool around outside.

Chunhua gave a sarcastic "Oh, " "So you mean to say that we all are shrews now? Are you siding with that shameless Fox Spirit?"

Hualing was greatly annoyed, "I didn't mean that." Stomping her foot, she added, "Besides, I just meant to kindly alert Cheng Su to be cautious. What's with your insinuations? I haven't offended you!"

It was enough, Chunhua was protecting Cheng Su like a tigress. What did she mean by that?

"Whether you're being kind or just want to watch the drama, who knows?" Chunhua scoffed.

"You..."

Seeing that the two were about to quarrel, Cheng Su had to interject, "Enough already, we're all neighbors, why fight?"

"I won't argue with you, you're someone who can't remember the good done to you. Last year when you were fighting with Chen Shouwang, Cheng Su and Commander Qi were there advising you. Now you're ready to speak for outsiders, hmph, ungrateful!" Chunhua scoffed disdainfully.

"You... you..." Hualing was furious, "How am I being ungrateful? I was just telling her to be careful."

Cheng Su felt a headache coming on and said, "If you want to quarrel, go ahead, I'm going home!"

She stood up to leave, and that's when Chunhua and the others finally stopped.

"Aren't you going to tell us what kind of person she is?" Chunhua jabbed Hualing.

"How should I know? I just heard people downstairs talking about it!" Hualing said irritably.

"You..."

"I just came back from work, how would I know what she looks like? They said she looks very opulent, very elegant, very dignified. Anyway, no good person comes this way; if a person is evil, they will come. She's the wife of a high-ranking official, it's always right for you to be a little cautious," Hualing said, glancing at Cheng Su.

Chunhua muttered, "At least you said something sensible!"

Hualing glared back.

Cheng Su said, "Alright, if she comes, she comes. This place isn't mine anyway. No matter how important she is, I'm not afraid of her, I'm in the right!"

"That's not the way to look at it. Chiang Qing herself is so unreasonable, as the saying goes, 'A crooked beam makes a crooked rafter.' Her being that way must be the result of her parents teaching. Who knows if this one might be just as unreasonable? Hualing's right, it's better to be careful!" Chunhua was somewhat worried too.

Cheng Su felt a warmth in her heart and nodded.

As the conversation ended, they heard someone outside calling, "Sister-in-law Qi, someone is looking for you!"

Chapter 650: Ill-intentioned Visitor

Ning Ge listened to Bai Ying's report on the phone, eyes wide with astonishment.

"Did you check thoroughly?" he asked.

"Are you doubting my abilities?" Bai Ying replied with an irritated tone.

Ning Ge quickly said, "Of course not, otherwise I wouldn't have asked for your help! But is this really true? Chiang Qing seems so normal!"

"What does 'intermittent' mean? It's sporadic, not constant. With proper treatment, she can get better. Without major provocations, she won't easily relapse." Bai Ying rolled her eyes on the other end of the line and continued, "Chiang Qing has had a smooth sailing life since she was a child, what kind of provocations could she have faced? Of course, she appears to be a normal person. But if she gets provoked, heh heh!"

Ning Ge felt a shiver run down his spine.

"The Chiang Family has kept a deep secret; it's practically a classified file, so hardly anyone knows about it. Moreover, I suspect that the Lin Family being transferred has a lot to do with this matter. I specifically called Lin Jinger, and oh boy, she said that person is extremely paranoid!" Bai Ying added, "Indeed, to be so ruthless at only five years old—who wouldn't find that terrifying?"

Ning Ge's face was a portrait of gravitas as he said, "Thank you."

"When can you come back? I've also found some information about Cang Lang and the others," Bai Ying remarked.

Ning Ge sat up straight and replied, "In a few days, I will return."

After hanging up the phone, Ning Ge was dumbfounded—both he and Cheng Su had predicted correctly—Chiang Qing indeed had schizophrenia, and her mental state was greatly compromised!

Was this provocation because of Qi Taiguo?

Can a person really become that obsessed?

Ning Ge also recalled what Bai Ying had said—being only five years old and crippling a puppy because she couldn't have it. Just the thought of that scene sent shivers down his spine.

Trouble—Cheng Su didn't know yet!

Ning Ge hastily grabbed his coat from the chair back and dashed out.

...

Cheng Su looked at the elegant lady before her, furrowing her brows.

About forty or fifty years old, with curly hair, the woman wore a smart, well-tailored suit, the cut perfect, and a string of round pearls around her neck that exuded nobility.

However, it appeared she hadn't slept well. Even with makeup, her face didn't look good, and her lips were quite thin—the kind that suggested meanness. But her eyes, if one ignored the look of hatred and aversion in them, were actually quite beautiful. It must be from her that Chiang Qing inherited them.

"I am Chiang Qing's mother, are you Cheng Su?" Lu Shufen was sizing up Cheng Su as well.

She thought Cheng Su's features were just average, nothing special compared to Qingqing's natural beauty. She was just a bit taller.

Yet it was such a wretched woman who caused her daughter to become a ghost of herself, just like that lowly woman back in the day—all of them vulgar and base.

"What brings Madam Jiang here?" Cheng Su asked calmly.

"When a guest arrives, you don't invite them inside to sit—is that how you treat your guests? Is this the way your parents raised you? Really no manners!" Lu Shufen glanced at the surrounding environment disdainfully, shattered and gloomily dark everywhere. If it were not for her daughter, she would never step foot in such a place.

Hmph, a wretched woman indeed, suitable only for such a derelict house.

Hearing her harsh tone, Cheng Su knew the visitor boded ill and seemed unlikely to be reasonable.

"This way, please," Cheng Su stepped aside to let her in.

"Sister-in-law Qi!" Chunhua and the others panicked. It was clear the woman was here to pick a fight, and still, she was letting her in the house. Wasn't this asking for trouble?

Cheng Su sent a reassuring glance their way before welcoming Lu Shufen into her home.