

The 80s 651

Chapter 651: Speak Frankly and Openly

Lu Shufen swaggered into Cheng Su's home, casting a disdainful look over the small pigeonhole of an apartment, her face showing nothing but contempt.

"Madam Jiang, please have a seat," Cheng Su gestured toward the sofa.

Lu Shufen snorted and sat down without a word of thanks.

Cheng Su also sat down, and didn't even serve tea, figuring that such a haughty person wouldn't appreciate it, so why waste the water.

Lu Shufen grew even more displeased. Coming from a rural background, she indeed lacked manners, not even knowing to serve tea.

Still, serving it or not didn't matter; who knew if it was clean? She wouldn't drink it!

"Madam Jiang's time is precious; let's not beat around the bush. Let's cut to the chase," Cheng Su said, "You're here because of Chiang Qing, aren't you?"

Lu Shufen was taken aback by Cheng Su's initiative, but she quickly composed herself and said, "You're a clever one, but unfortunately, not clever enough."

Cheng Su watched her with a smile, as if waiting for her to continue.

Lu Shufen, seeing that she got no response, was even more irritated. She thought to herself how cunning Cheng Su was; no wonder Qingqing was no match for her. Qingqing was too naive!

Sitting up straight, she looked at Cheng Su and said, "Speak, how much money do you want to leave Qi Taiguo, that kid? Name your price, the Chiang family can pay any amount!"

Cheng Su had just taken her cup to drink some water and almost spat it out upon hearing this.

She choked a bit, then laughed, "Sorry, I'm like this; when I hear a funny joke, I can't help but choke. What did you just say?"

She must have heard it wrong. They were offering her money to leave Qi Taiguo.

Aren't these words meant to be said by a legal wife to a mistress? But Chiang Qing's mother, with this stance, was treating her like the mistress who had stolen someone's husband?

Truly, like mother, like daughter—both utterly ridiculous!

Lu Shufen felt her eyes pricked by Cheng Su's smile. Her own daughter was lying in bed like a wilted flower, and here she was, smiling like everything was rosy?

"Don't push your luck. Ten thousand yuan, is that enough? If not, then twenty thousand," Lu Shufen said coldly. "Twenty thousand yuan, more than you'll ever earn in your lifetime, should be enough for you to live comfortably!"

This time, Cheng Su laughed out loud, "Madam Jiang, it seems you haven't done your homework on your opponent. Twenty thousand yuan, it's not only your family that has it, I do too. Besides, twenty thousand yuan to buy off a son-in-law, doesn't that seem a little low?"

"Pah! For a boy from the countryside, twenty thousand yuan is already too much!" Lu Shufen was furious, remembering now; they said this woman was a businesswoman.

"A boy from the countryside, what can we do when Military Doctor Chiang has fallen head over heels in love with him, recklessly and not caring whether he's already taken. What can anyone say about this?" Cheng Su shot back sarcastically.

"You..."

"I didn't want to say much, but since Madam Jiang has come all this way, let me add something. Shouldn't your daughter be re-educated to understand what shame is, what morality is? Don't just grab at anything you see; don't covet other people's men as if there are no other men left in the world," Cheng Su sneered. "By behaving this way, she only makes people doubt the Chiang family's upbringing, wondering if the problem runs from top to bottom, like mother, like daughter."

That included an attack on her too!

"You..." Lu Shufen stood up abruptly, pointing at Cheng Su and scolding, "What a sharp-tongued hussy you are, so insolent!"

Cheng Su stood as well, her smile faint, "It seems Madam Jiang doesn't agree with my words. In that case, there is no point in continuing this conversation. Please show yourself out, Madam Jiang, I won't see you to the door!"

Chapter 652: Who is Really Being Excessive!

How audacious, how presumptuous!

Too presumptuous! Does she even know who she is, this uneducated rural woman from a village, daring to speak to her with such an attitude?

Lu Shufen trembled with rage!

She was a director of the Cultural Work Troupe, she had created so many leading ladies of substance; her husband was a Commander, revered by many, everyone wanted to curry favor with her, no one dared to spout insolence at her.

And then there was this woman before her, who knows from what godforsaken corner of the mountains she came, daring to speak those words to her, defying her.

"You're being presumptuous!" Lu Shufen pointed at Cheng Su, saying, "Do you know who I am? Do you not know that with just one word from me, I could make it so that little brat Qi Taiguo can no longer stay in the military camp?"

Scared now, aren't you? Not begging for mercy yet!

Cheng Su's face was expressionless, looking at her as if she were looking at an idiot, she indifferently said, "I know, you're Commander Chiang's wife, high and mighty. You're wealthy and influential, so what?"

Lu Shufen was taken aback; she, she, she wasn't begging for mercy!

Could it be that she truly wasn't afraid of Qi Taiguo's future being ruined?

"You military folk wield great power. Recently, you even wanted to send our Old Qi to guard the border, didn't you? You say you could make sure Old Qi can no longer be a soldier, I believe that, why wouldn't I?" Cheng Su sneered, "But what of it? If he can't be a soldier, we can just go back home and farm the land, right? Would we starve? But your precious daughter, she wouldn't be able to handle that!"

Lu Shufen's complexion shifted slightly.

"Your precious daughter, she's so in love with our Old Qi that she's willing to abandon her dignity. Last time you wanted to transfer him to the border, Chiang Qing was on her knees, begging Old Qi for forgiveness, sobbing. If she finds out you want to end Old Qi's military career, how would she react, huh? I'm quite looking forward to it!" Cheng Su laughed mockingly.

Unexpected indeed, truly unexpected, to be able to use Chiang Qing's deep affection like this.

Lu Shufen stumbled, taking two steps back. Indeed, sharp-tongued and mouthy, no wonder Qingqing couldn't outfight her!

However, she was speaking nothing but bitter truths. Last time, Qingqing was indeed crying and making a scene, seriously disturbing Qi Taiguo—if Chiang Qing finds out, wouldn't she despair of her life?

What a tragic mess, what a tragedy!

Lu Shufen took a deep breath, forcing herself to calm down, she must not be led astray by this cunning woman.

"You tell me, what do you want? What would it take for you to divorce Qi Taiguo?" Lu Shufen said coldly.

Cheng Su was even colder, counter-asking, "That question should be directed at you. Just what will it take for you to leave us alone?"

Ridiculous, a woman who's after someone else's husband dares to act more arrogant than the first wife and questions them on how to get a divorce, pah! Shameless!

"You, don't push your luck by refusing the wine only to be forced to drink a forfeit!" Lu Shufen grew impatient, her voice becoming increasingly sharp and agitated.

"I'm not drinking any wine. Why should I divorce Qi Taiguo? Has he said he wants to marry Chiang Qing?" Cheng Su found it laughable: "Chiang Qing is obsessed, and as her mother, are you also blind? Don't you see that our Old Qi doesn't like her at all, doesn't want to see her? Only a mother like you could raise such a foolish daughter, it's simply disgraceful!"

"Shut up, don't you go too far!" Lu Shufen abruptly pushed Cheng Su.

Cheng Su, caught off guard, was pushed so hard that her back hit the dining table sharply, causing pain that shot from her back to her belly. She quickly steadied herself on the table and, with a stern face, yelled, "Madam Jiang! This isn't your home, what are you trying to do? Are you looking to hit someone?"

Too much? Who is being too much now? She takes over as if she owns the place, isn't that too much? She demands righteously that I divorce Qi Taiguo as if it's her business, isn't that too much?

Such a ludicrous absurdity.

Chiang Qing said she wanted to sleep, but woke up after only a little while, looked around blankly, walked out of her room, and only her younger brother was there.

"Xiao Tian, where's Mom?" Chiang Qing glanced around, didn't see her mother, and couldn't help asking.

Chiang Tian's eyes flickered as he said, "Mom said since we're here, she wanted to check out your courtyard and went out for a walk. She'll be back soon!"

Chiang Qing furrowed her brows, immediately thought of something, and hastily pressed on, "Tell me the truth, where did Mom go?"

"No, it's just that..."

"Did she go to find Cheng Su?" Chiang Qing's face changed.

Her mother was hot-tempered. If she had gone to find Cheng Su, who knew what might happen? She couldn't let her make things worse!

Chiang Qing stomped her feet in frustration, ran back into her room, grabbed a jacket, and dashed outside.

Chiang Tian stood there dumbfounded, thinking to himself: She doesn't seem crazy now, looks quite normal!

At Cheng Su's household, Lu Shufen's voice was sharp, her eyes glaring at Cheng Su as if she had been poisoned.

"So what if I hit you? You dare to slap Qingqing, and I can't hit you? Who do you think you are, commanding me around?" Lu Shufen was truly furious.

When had it come to this, that a village woman with no background or education dared to stand up to her? If this got around socially, wouldn't it make people laugh until their faces turned yellow?

"I spoke to you nicely and you wouldn't listen, insisting on making me angry. Can't you understand human speech or what?" Lu Shufen pointed at Cheng Su, her finger nearly poking Cheng Su's nose, and said, "If you truly love Qi Taiguo, you should consider his future. Our Chiang family can make him soar, what could a rootless person like you contribute? You selfish woman."

Crazy, downright crazy. Like mother, like daughter, truly a family through and through.

Cheng Su was so angry she laughed instead, no longer willing to waste her breath, and pointed to the door, "Get out! Leave my house!"

This enraged Lu Shufen even more; she'd lived for decades and this was the first time anyone had told her to get out.

Before she could respond, the door was knocked from outside.

"Mom, are you in there? Open the door."

It was Chiang Qing's voice. Cheng Su snorted. After one comes another.

Cheng Su opened the door, and Chiang Qing rushed in, "Where's Mom?"

Outside, Chunhua and the others were also there. Upon seeing Cheng Su, they immediately asked, "Is everything okay?"

Cheng Su shook her head.

"Qingqing, weren't you sleeping? Why did you come here?" Lu Shufen was eager as she saw her daughter and said, "You're not feeling well, you should sleep more. I will be back soon."

"Mom, what are you doing here? Come back with me." Chiang Qing was frantic; if Qi Taiguo found out her mother was still causing a scene at his house, he would dislike her even more.

She couldn't let her push him further away!

"Wait a moment, I need to discipline this selfish person, she has no respect for her elders." Lu Shufen hadn't forgotten she wanted to 'teach' Cheng Su a lesson.

"If you and your daughter want to have a heart-to-heart, please do so outside, leave my house, don't dirty my floor!" Cheng Su, annoyed to death, bent down to pick up the teacup from the coffee table, and said coldly.

Lu Shufen, furious, strode forward and shoved Cheng Su hard, "Are you talking back to me, calling me dirty?"

There was a clanging sound as the porcelain teacup flew from Cheng Su's hand and she was pushed against the corner of the table.

Cheng Su felt a sharp pain in her stomach and couldn't help crying out in pain, clutching her stomach as she collapsed to the floor.

"Mom!" Chiang Qing was shocked.

"Sister-in-law Qi." Chunhua and the others, standing by the doorway, surged in as they saw this, and couldn't help exclaiming upon seeing Cheng Su collapse to the ground.

Chapter 654: Pregnant?

Cheng Su only felt her lower abdomen cramping intermittently, the pain spreading throughout her body, and between her legs, something was gushing out. Looking down, her face gradually grew pale.

"Blood, Cheng Su, you're bleeding!" Hualing was the first to point and scream at Cheng Su's lower body.

Cheng Su was wearing a beige pair of casual pants today, which was now stained red.

What's happening, why is this happening?

Everyone was stunned, including Chiang Qing and her daughter. Chiang Qing, as if thinking of something, felt the blood drain from her face, turning it pale in an instant.

"Sister-in-law Qi, you, Heaven above, something terrible has happened! Someone, anyone, come quickly!" Chunhua came to her senses and yelled out.

Cheng Su clutched her belly and collapsed to the ground, groaning in spasmodic pain as something seemed to be pulling away from inside her, "It hurts, my stomach hurts so much... Um."

"It has nothing to do with me, she fell on her own, it's not my fault!" Lu Shufen snapped out of her daze and started to leave, pulling Chiang Qing with her.

"Don't you leave, you're not allowed to leave!" Chunhua blocked her path and then forcefully pushed Hualing, "What are you standing there for? Go, go get help, call an ambulance, otherwise someone will die, hurry!"

Hualing stumbled out, her face white as if she too had realized the severity of the situation.

Ning Ge entered the compound and saw Platoon Leader Chen's wife running out with a pale face, somewhat puzzled.

As he went upstairs full of doubts, he perked up his ears and heard crying, yelling, his heart immediately filled with panic.

He ran up the stairs two at a time, the shouting coming from Cheng Su's room; he hurriedly sped in that direction.

"You'll see, sister-in-law, Sister-in-law Qi, wake up, oh, Heaven, someone come quickly, help!"

Ning Ge felt a bad premonition and rushed into the room, only to see Cheng Su on the ground and the blood-red stain, his eyes instantly turned bloodshot.

"Fourth Young Master, you're here, hurry, we need to get to the hospital," Chunhua cried out, her voice choked as if something was blocking her throat.

Oh, Heaven, let it not be what she thought, otherwise what would Cheng Su do?

Ning Ge didn't stop to think, he knelt down and picked up Cheng Su, rushing out the door.

The room suddenly became quiet, Lu Shufen's hands trembling as she clutched Chiang Qing's arm, stammering, "Qing, Qingqing, what's happening to her, could it be?"

Her own words were stuck in her throat, unable to be spoken.

Chiang Qing, looking at the dirtied bloodstains on the ground, felt her legs give way and knelt on the floor, staring blankly at the blood.

How could this be, how could she, was she pregnant? And this...

"Qingqing..." Lu Shufen's heart fluttered with panic, subconsciously calling out to her daughter.

She couldn't stay any longer, the room reeked of blood, and she didn't dare to stay.

Chiang Qing, suddenly jolted into action, hastily got up and said, "Mom, you need to leave, go back to the Capital right away!"

"No, you're coming with me," Lu Shufen clutched her daughter tightly, already out of her wits.

Just moments ago, a person who was talking back to her with sharp words fell with just a push and was now bleeding on the ground.

As a woman who had given birth, she knew what this meant.

Chiang Qing was beside herself with urgency, not bothering with anything else, she pulled Lu Shufen and they ran outside.

Ning Ge, cradling Cheng Su, also ran out. Hualing had already summoned a vehicle, and together, they left. Chunhua's daughter was still asleep, unable to follow, so she had to return.

But as she entered the compound, she saw Chiang Qing and her mother trying to flee in a state of panic, and shouted urgently, "Someone, come quickly! These are murderers, catch them, close the gates, don't let them escape!"

Chapter 655: Miscarriage

The military vehicle entered Qing City, and all the soldiers in the vehicle let out cheers, finally back, finally freed from the devilish training.

Qi Taiguo's face was dark as he poked his head out the window and shouted upwards, "What's all the cheering about, you'll still train when you get back."

Someone let out a cry, daringly retracting their head, and loudly said, "Commander Qi, training is training, but could you spare some time for our sister-in-law? Sister-in-law has been alone at home for quite a while."

"Exactly, exactly!"

Qi Taiguo was irritated but laughed, saying, "You little rascal, run ten laps when we get back."

The soldier cried out in pain, quickly saying he didn't dare anymore.

Qi Taiguo settled back into his seat, shaking his head.

"It seems these kids are really scared of you this time, as soon as they got back they feel like they've escaped your clutches," Gao Linbing laughed.

Qi Taiguo snorted, saying, "They will have plenty to be afraid of in the future."

Gao Linbing chuckled.

Qi Taiguo looked outside the window, saw a military vehicle roaring past on the opposite side, and couldn't help but frown—who was using the vehicle, driving so fast?

The convoy soon entered the base, and Qi Taiguo announced the end of the training; only after giving the command to dismiss did he prepare to report to the regiment commander, but someone came running over, gasping for breath.

"Commander Qi, hurry." It was the communications soldier Xiao Zheng, his face full of urgency, he said, "Commander Qi, your wife has just been taken to the hospital, you should hurry over there, it seems really bad."

Qi Taiguo's face dramatically changed: "What?"

He looked at Gao Linbing, who said, "What are you waiting for, go on, I'll explain everything to the regiment commander."

Qi Taiguo then threw his luggage to Xiao Zheng and dashed toward the vehicles, drove one away at high speed toward the hospital.

On the way, Qi Taiguo drove furiously fast, his mind in complete disarray.

What was going on, what happened to Cheng Su, and why did she have to be taken to the hospital?

Was that vehicle just now the one carrying Cheng Su, what on earth had happened?

Qi Taiguo's heart was both chaotic and panicky, he pressed the accelerator harder, and the vehicle shot away like an arrow.

...

Ning Ge watched as Cheng Su, who had lost consciousness, was placed on a emergency stretcher and pushed into the emergency room, leaning against the wall, feeling soulless.

Blood, so much blood, it had soaked her pants—what had happened, could it be...?

Suddenly, Ning Ge thought of a possibility, his face turning ashen—could she have been pregnant?

Hualing paced back and forth nearby, her face full of shock and fear. So much blood, with Cheng Su like that, could it mean she had had a miscarriage?

Didn't she know she was pregnant?

Ning Ge grabbed Hualing's hand and asked, "Sister Hualing, could it be, could Cheng Su..."

He dared not finish the question—if it was true, how would he face Qi Taiguo? He had been entrusted to look after her, but such a serious incident had occurred, a matter of grave importance.

How would he explain this?

"I don't know," Hualing was also extremely alarmed, shaking her head, "If she was pregnant, then maybe, maybe she's had a miscarriage."

Ning Ge's legs went weak and he nearly collapsed to the floor.

The emergency room doors opened, and a nurse came out, looked at Ning Ge, noticed Hualing, and asked, "Sister Hualing, do you know the patient?"

Hualing nodded hastily, "How is she?"

"The patient has lost the fetus, she's had a miscarriage. It's not completely clean yet, we need to perform a dilatation and curettage surgery. You should go through the procedure now!" said the nurse.

Hualing turned pale.

Ning Ge kneeled directly on the floor; she had had a miscarriage.

"What did you say? Who had a miscarriage? That's impossible!" A furious roar came from behind them.

Chapter 656: Heartache

Qi Taiguo could hardly believe his own ears. A miscarriage—how could that be possible? They had been taking contraceptive measures; how could Cheng Su be pregnant? And even if she was, how could she have had a miscarriage?

He must have heard wrong; the person lying inside couldn't be Cheng Su; it couldn't be her.

But with Hualing and Ning Ge both present, if it wasn't her, who else could it be?

Qi Taiguo's heart was terrified. Was it really, truly a miscarriage?

His legs were weak, his hands trembled, and his eyes stared fixedly at Ning Ge, the question almost squeezed out between his teeth, "Who had a miscarriage?"

"Big Brother Qi..." Ning Ge's throat choked up, unable to utter another word.

How could he say it, how should he say it?

"Who is it, who's inside?" Qi Taiguo stepped forward quickly, grabbed Ning Ge by the collar, and with bulging eyes, he demanded, "I'm asking you, who is lying inside there?"

Ning Ge's eyes reddened, his head lowered, and after a long while, he only managed to say he was sorry.

With those words, what else was there for Qi Taiguo to not understand? The person inside was indeed Cheng Su.

His heart, held so high up, crashed to the ground in an instant, shattered into a thousand pieces.

She had indeed been pregnant. Carrying his and her child—was it not something he had actually been hoping for deep down?

But such an eagerly awaited child came by accident, and the news he heard brought not joy but fright, a nightmare!

How could this happen, how could it, he had only left for a twenty-some days, how could it have come to this?

"When I left, I asked you to look after her, to watch over your sister-in-law; how did you promise me? What is this now? Ning Ge, what are you!" Qi Taiguo swung his fist, aiming it at Ning Ge's face.

Ning Ge, with reddened eyes, did not dodge or flinch; amidst shrieks, the blow stopped short at his cheek, landing on the wall beside his head instead.

How forceful was that punch?

Even propped against the wall, he could feel the vibration of the wall's surface, making him involuntarily close his eyes.

Qi Taiguo's fist hit the wall instead, skin on his knuckles scraped to blood, with Hualing on the side covering her mouth, terrified.

"This isn't your business; I'm the husband who lacked the ability, I failed to protect her, it's my fault," Qi Taiguo reversed his hand and slapped his own face, then again, "It's all my fault."

"Big Brother Qi." Ning Ge hurriedly grabbed his hand.

Qi Taiguo closed his eyes, tears seeping out from the corners.

Who says men don't easily shed tears; it's just that they haven't reached the depths of sorrow yet.

How much pain must he be in, but how much pain must the one inside be going through!

Qi Taiguo slumped, cradling his head. Let's not even mention how it was possible to get pregnant despite contraception; more importantly, how could there have been a miscarriage? What had happened?

Wiping the tears from the corner of his eyes, Qi Taiguo stood up from the ground and glared at Ning Ge, demanding, "What exactly happened? How did things turn out like this all of a sudden?"

"I don't know either," Ning Ge responded immediately, "When I got to your house, your sister-in-law was already semi-conscious... and there was blood all over the ground!"

Upon hearing that, Qi Taiguo's body swayed, all that blood, all that blood.

"It was Chiang Qing, Chiang Qing's mother came, and while talking to Cheng Su, she pushed her, that's when the accident happened!" Hualing added from the side.

As soon as she finished speaking, both sets of eyes turned sharply towards her, frightening her so much that she took two steps back, swallowing her fear.

Just as Qi Taiguo was about to press further, the lights in the operating room went off, the door opened, and Cheng Su was wheeled out.

Her face was colorless, her hair on her forehead disheveled, her complexion ashen, and Cheng Su, with her eyes closed, lay on the white sheets, lifeless.

A sharp pain struck Qi Taiguo's heart, and he rushed forward.

Chapter 657: Lost Before It Begins

Before Cheng Su woke up, Qi Taiguo had already learned what had transpired over these days from Ning Ge and Hualing. Everyone from the Jiang family had come to cause them discomfort.

And that Lu Shufen, she even killed their child with her own hands.

Looking at Cheng Su's pale face, Qi Taiguo clenched his fist, wishing he could go right now and strangle them to death.

"Cheng Su herself didn't seem to know she was pregnant," said Hualing.

Qi Taiguo furrowed his brow, she didn't know, and they had been using birth control, so it truly was an accident.

Ning Ge sent Hualing away and in the hospital room, he reported to Qi Taiguo the information he had gathered.

"What? Are you serious?" Qi Taiguo looked at him in astonishment.

Ning Ge kept a serious face and nodded, "It should be true. Look at Jiang Qing, does she seem like a normal person?"

With a dark expression, Qi Taiguo pressed his lips together and said, "Whether she is truly insane or feigning madness, being mentally ill cannot excuse her wrongdoings, especially her mother. If they dare to do such things, they must pay the price, none of them shall escape."

"I've been keeping an eye on Jiang Conghe," said Ning Ge.

Qi Taiguo looked at him intensely and finally said, "Whatever you're planning to do, count me in!"

A debt of a murdered child cannot be left unsettled like this, he wanted them to pay with their lives.

And as for Lu Shufen and her lot, if it weren't for the fact that Cheng Su still hadn't awakened, he would have already gone and wrung their necks.

Ning Ge looked at Qi Taiguo, nodded heavily, then glanced at Cheng Su's eyelids twitching and said, "I should head back and have someone make some soup."

A woman's miscarriage is a serious matter, she needs to be properly nourished, otherwise what will they do later?

Qi Taiguo nodded, his eyes returning to Cheng Su, seeing the eyeballs beneath her eyelids moving, he gently called out, "Susu, Susu."

Ning Ge stepped out, stood by the door for a while, and then heard crying coming from inside. His eyes reddened and he pursed his lips and left.

Now was not the time for sadness. There was much to be done. He had to call big brother as well. They couldn't touch Jiang Conghe now, but with this incident, they had to at least peel a layer off him.

Cheng Su opened her eyes, her gaze woodenly fixed on the ceiling's white expanse, which pained her eyes. Her memory slowly returned.

During the surgery, she had woken for a moment. What did the doctor say? He had said she had miscarried.

Miscarried, how could this be? She had been practicing contraception, yet the doctor's words and the blurry mass of flesh and blood they had shown her almost made her vomit, the pain spreading to her limbs.

She had only just remembered, it seemed she had indeed missed her menstrual cycle, along with the fatigue of the recent days, so, was she pregnant?

Had the child come quietly when she was unaware and unprepared, and she had lost it as soon as she found out?

Cheng Su, through two lifetimes as a human, was becoming a parent for the first time. She hadn't had time for joy before experiencing loss. Heaven, are you playing a joke on me?

Since you brought the child, why not let it stay? Why take it back again?

She had been careless, she didn't even realize, not sensing it at all, she had lost the child herself.

Tears seeped from Cheng Su's eyes, falling in strings, like beads off a broken string.

"Susu, Susu, look at me," Qi Taiguo held her hand, calling softly.

Hearing the familiar call, Cheng Su's head mechanically turned, and she saw his unkempt beard, and the helplessness, fear, and agony came at her all at once, making her burst into tears with a loud wail.

Chapter 658: Self-Blame and Carelessness

Cheng Su's grievances poured out through her tears; Qi Taiguo held her tightly, allowing her to punch and scold him, crying along with her, filled with towering hatred in his heart.

He hated the Chiang family, and he also hated himself, for being so weak, allowing others to butcher him. If he too stood in a high position, would anyone dare trample over them like this?

When it came down to it, it was all about power.

"The baby, the baby is gone," Cheng Su sobbed breathlessly: "I, I didn't know I was pregnant, I didn't know, it's gone, woohoo." "It's okay, it's okay, there will be others in the future. He just wasn't ready to call us mom and dad, he'll come back, don't worry," Qi Taiguo hastily consoled.

Cheng Su shook her head, crying bitterly, "It's not that, he didn't want us, why did you come back so late?"

"I'm sorry, I was late!" Qi Taiguo's heart clenched, he closed his eyes, letting regret engulf him.

After a long while, Cheng Su stopped crying. Qi Taiguo wrung out a hot towel to wipe her face, then sat next to her, taking her hand again, saying, "I'm back, don't worry. Just focus on getting better, I'm here for everything else."

Tears continued to stream down Cheng Su's face, pain and guilt written across it: "I'm sorry, I didn't know I was pregnant, it was my carelessness."

If she had been aware of her own condition, she definitely would have been more cautious, but who knew, she would conceive so quietly.

"This isn't your fault, we were both using contraception, no one could have expected this to happen. It's okay, the doctor said we're still young, we're healthy, as long as you recover well, we'll have another chance," Qi Taiguo kissed her hand again and again.

Cheng Su nodded, but couldn't stop her tears of sorrow.

"You're tired, why don't you rest and sleep a little? Ning Ge has gone to the restaurant to get some soup," Qi Taiguo offered gently, arranging her hair.

"Don't go," Cheng Su clung to his hand, tears streaming down relentlessly.

"I won't go, I'll stay with you, I'm here, don't worry," Qi Taiguo promised with a smile.

Cheng Su looked at him with full dependence, saying, "It was Chiang Qing's mother, she pushed me, and my stomach hit the corner of the table."

In fact, it wasn't just her mother; two days before, when she and Chiang Qing had fought, she had already taken a fall, feeling some pain in her abdomen then, which she had ignored, not giving it a second thought. Probably, the signs were already there.

The new life within her, how could it withstand such a fall?

Then today, Lu Shufen had pushed her twice; the first time she hit her lower back, then the blow to her abdomen was square on, and that was it.

Cheng Su's tears welled up again; blaming others was less important than blaming her own negligence, which had cost her child's life.

"If I had known I was pregnant, I definitely wouldn't have dared to confront them, I didn't know..." Cheng Su cried.

"Don't blame yourself, we didn't know, who would? Each time we took precautions, but still..." Qi Taiguo also found it strange, how could this have happened?

Cheng Su choked up, saying, "It's just our bad luck, they say that even with that there's a one in a thousand chance, I..."

Not only is there a chance with condoms, but she heard that even those who get IUDs, or even sterilizations can still conceive. How could she have such a body constitution?

"Okay, okay, let's not talk about this anymore, close your eyes and rest now, we'll talk again later, okay?" Qi Taiguo saw how haggard she was and pat her hand gently.

With tears in her eyes, Cheng Su finally closed them and soon fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter 659: The Murderer

Chiang Qing dragged Lu Shufen out of the Southwest Ladder Building, only to be surrounded by Chunhua and a group of women.

"Don't even think about running, you murderer, you're not allowed to run." Chunhua pointed at Lu Shufen and yelled, then told everyone, "It was her, she caused Sister-in-law Qi to bleed."

Chunhua didn't dare to imagine whether Cheng Su was really pregnant or not, but if it was true, with so much blood, could the child still be saved?

Sinful, so sinful!

These two have caused the loss of a child, how grievous a sin must they have committed!

Lu Shufen was extremely panicked, tightly clutching Chiang Qing's hand. She had never killed even a chicken in her life, and now she was being accused of being a murderer?

How could it be possible, she only shoved her, how could that have killed her, at most, at most...

Lu Shufen, upon the thought that Cheng Su might have miscarried, couldn't help shuddering through her entire body.

"How outrageous, do you know who I am, what on earth do you want to do, get out of the way." Lu Shufen's scolding was severe yet contained a hint of apprehension.

"It doesn't matter who you are, the fact you hit Cheng Su is true, and it's also true that Sister-in-law Qi has been taken to the hospital," Chunhua said loudly. "So much blood, we don't even know if she's alive or dead!"

"What happened, what blood?"

"I don't know either."

"I know, just now Sister-in-law Qi was sent to the hospital, there was so much blood, her pants were dyed red."

"My God!"

The crowd buzzed with their discussions.

Chiang Qing trembled with fear, yet there was a faint glitter of anticipation in her eyes, if she was dead, it would be better if she was.

"You dare, get out of the way." Lu Shufen pulled Chiang Qing and said, "Let's go."

"Don't let them leave." Chunhua's eyes swirled around, turning to grab the dried vegetables and beans drying on bamboo poles in the courtyard and threw them at the two women.

Lu Shufen screamed.

"Wicked woman, a harmful wicked woman," Chunhua cursed as she threw items.

Chiang Qing and her daughter never expected this, ducking and screaming as they tried to avoid being hit.

"Stop it, you dare, do you know who I am? Somebody help, Regimental Commander Mai, call Regimental Commander Mai over, ah." Lu Shufen, seeing the spit on her chest, screamed, nearly fainting.

The courtyard was in chaos, with a cacophony of noise reaching the sky.

Chiang Tian was bored in his sister's room when he heard the noise. He looked out the window to see what was happening, his eyes widening in shock before he rushed downstairs.

"What are you trying to do?" Chiang Tian got to where Chiang Qing and Lu Shufen were surrounded and shouted loudly.

The women took a step back.

"Xiao Tian..." Lu Shufen was almost crying with relief, seeing her savior, she reached out her hand towards her son.

Chiang Tian took a reluctant step back, looking at his mother and sister.

His mother's head was covered in a strip of yellowing vegetables, her chest smeared with a lump of something yellow, oh my, how disgusting.

And his sister, she had two strips of vegetables on her shoulder.

"What happened?" Chiang Tian didn't dare to get close, he simply asked.

"These barbarians, these shrews, they're causing trouble for no reason. Xiao Tian, go, go call Regimental Commander Mai here, get all their names down, have all their men written up for a major offense, this is too much!" Lu Shufen trembled with anger.

Hearing about getting a major offense recorded, the crowd became uneasy and looked toward Chunhua.

Chunhua was also a bit panicked but tried to appear composed, "You are clearly the ones who did wrong first, accusing others to hide your guilt, it was you who harmed someone, and now you want to run?"

Chiang Tian was startled, harmed someone?

"Hualing is back." Someone shouted.

Chunhua hurried over to ask Hualing about Cheng Su's condition.

Hualing sighed and said, "Cheng Su has miscarried; she's now lying in the hospital, with Commander Qi accompanying her. You help me pack her a bag, I need to take it to the hospital."

Chunhua's face changed abruptly, then she pointed at Lu Shufen again, "Murderer!"

Chapter 660: Feeling Guilty and Wanting to Run Away

She really had a miscarriage!

Lu Shufen was just as shocked as everyone else, and then she wondered, what now?

When Chiang Qing heard this news, darkness filled her eyes, and her expression grew somber; she was pregnant, pregnant with Qi Taiguo's child. They had conceived a child together, a legitimate and natural claim.

But it couldn't be raised; could it be that even Heaven thought this child shouldn't exist?

Yes, that must be it; Chiang Qing felt a vague excitement.

Chiang Tian was confused. What did this have to do with his mother and sister? How could Cheng Su's miscarriage be related to them?

This woman was calling his mom a murderer—impossible. Could his mom have done something to Cheng Su?

No matter what, this was not a place to stay for long. He had to lead them away quickly.

"Let's go." Chiang Tian started to take the two women back.

Chunhua still wanted to stop them, but Hualing said, "Leave them be for now, let's help Cheng Su."

Without Chunhua taking the lead, the others didn't stop Chiang Qing and her group, so the mother and sons left quite smoothly.

Chunhua pulled Hualing aside to ask urgently, "It's really a miscarriage, how did this happen? She didn't know she was pregnant?"

"She probably didn't know," Hualing's heart was heavy with complex emotions.

Weren't they using contraception? How could she still get pregnant? What was this luck? As for herself, she still had no signs of pregnancy - was this what they meant by 'some are born to endless night'?

Chunhua wiped away tears, "It's such a sin. Everything was fine, how could such a disaster strike? It's all that woman's fault, utterly hateful. They are murderers, they must pay."

Hualing sighed. What could be done now? They were high-ranking officials' wives, could they even compensate with their lives?

Lu Shufen's group cursed all the way home.

Chiang Qing sat on the sofa, dazed, with only Hualing's words that "Commander Qi has returned" running through her mind.

He's back. What will he think about this?

Chiang Qing was somewhat panicked.

Lu Shufen continued to rant furiously, "My god, what kind of people are these, shrews, shrews. Ah, my clothes, they're ruined!"

Chiang Tian hardly dared to approach his mother, just asking, "Mom, what were they talking about? What happened? What's this about a murderer? You didn't actually attack Cheng Su, did you?"

Lu Shufen's ranting stopped abruptly, she was a little flustered but tried to keep calm, "I just pushed her gently, didn't do anything, it's her own fault, it has nothing to do with me."

"Mom, you actually did it?" Chiang Tian's eyes widened as worry creased his brow; this could be a serious problem.

He paced back and forth several times, then declared, "Mom, we need to go back to Beijing right away."

Lu Shufen thought the same way; it wasn't that she was afraid, but she felt extremely uncomfortable. She had wanted to bring Chiang Qing back with her in the first place, and it certainly wasn't out of guilt.

"Alright, let's leave now," Lu Shufen called out to Chiang Qing. "Qingqing, pack up a bit, and leave with us!"

Chiang Qing was still a bit dazed: "Leave?" Her eyes widened: "I won't leave."

Lu Shufen pointed at her in frustration, struggling to catch her breath: "If you won't go, I wouldn't have said anything if this hadn't happened. But now that Cheng Su has had this accident, what else do you plan to do here?"

Was her daughter trying to drive her to her grave? Did she still think that Qi Taiguo would be kind to her?

Chiang Qing fell silent.

"Be good, let's go back first, okay?" Seeing her like that, Lu Shufen felt both anger and pain, and with an arm around her shoulder, she said, "After we go back, we can talk things over, okay?"

Chiang Qing didn't respond.

Lu Shufen gave Chiang Tian a meaningful look; no matter what, she had to bring her back to Beijing.