

The 80s 661

Chapter 661: Towering Rage

Cheng Su woke up again to find that Qi Taiguo's shadow was nowhere to be seen, but Ning Ge and Ying Xiaoya were there.

"Susu, you woke up," Ying Xiaoya noticed her wakefulness and immediately her eyes turned red.

"Why did you come?" Cheng Su's throat was a bit hoarse as she tried to get up, but Ying Xiaoya hurried to help her and placed a pillow behind her back.

"Once Ning Ge mentioned it, I came right over, I didn't know you..." Ying Xiaoya choked up, but stopped when Ning Ge coughed, swallowing the rest of her words.

Susu is so pitiful!

Cheng Su instinctively touched her lower abdomen with a sour heart and tears welling up in her eyes.

"I brought some soup from the restaurant for you to drink while it's hot—it's chicken soup, personally cooked by Old Song." Ning Ge pointed to the thermos on the table and went to get a bowl.

"Yes, have some soup first," Ying Xiaoya wiped the corner of her eyes and quickly got up to help with the soup.

Cheng Su glanced outside the window, noticing that twilight had fallen and Qi Taiguo was not in sight, leading her to inquire about his whereabouts.

Ning Ge said, "Big Brother Qi just returned with his team today, and he rushed over as soon as he heard something happened to you. Seeing you asleep and with us visiting, he went back to the military base to report in, take a shower at home, and then he'll come to stay with you through the night."

In fact, Qi Taiguo's main intent was to settle the score with Chiang Qing and her daughter.

Cheng Su acknowledged with an "oh," taking the soup bowl from Ying Xiaoya's hands with a pretense of not noticing the pity in her eyes.

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Chiang Qing did not want to leave; she wished to see Qi Taiguo, at the very least, one last time.

"Qingqing, we should go now," Lu Shufen reached to pull Chiang Qing.

"Mom!" Chiang Qing shook her head, her face full of pain.

Lu Shufen's face turned cold, and as she was about to speak a single word, a loud banging on the door interrupted her.

The door was wooden and trembled as if about to fall from the force of the banging.

"Who, who's there?" Lu Shufen's voice trembled with fear.

As Chiang Tian furrowed his brows, about to open the door, it was kicked open from the outside, sending splinters flying everywhere.

Lu Shufen and her daughter screamed.

A figure walked in against the backlight, his features not entirely clear, but Chiang Tian could feel his sharp, lethal aura.

Getting a clearer view, he saw a man with fierce, broad brows and wheat-colored skin—a standard military visage—wearing only army fatigues and exuding a strong build.

Without a doubt, he knew who this man was—no wonder his sister was so infatuated with him, it was this kind of man.

Such a fierce demeanor, so heavily enveloped with the aura of a soldier.

Chiang Tian swallowed hard, dumbstruck as he watched Qi Taiguo burst in.

"You are..."

"Who are you, what do you want to do?" Lu Shufen shouted in terror.

Upon seeing her, Qi Taiguo's eyes bulged with rage, and mustering all his strength, he slapped her across the face.

Qi Taiguo had come with rage surging like a tidal wave, and Lu Shufen couldn't withstand it. With that slap, she was rendered unconscious, blood trickling from the corner of her mouth.

Chiang Tian came to his senses and shouted while lunging toward her, "Mom." Then, looking at Qi Taiguo with terror, he said, "What do you want to do? Don't—don't do anything crazy."

"You all deserve to die!" Qi Taiguo glared coldly at him, then turned towards Chiang Qing, who had stood up from the sofa. In three strides, he reached her, grabbed her by the neck, and pinned her against the wall.

Chiang Qing coughed up blood, her face filled with terror, her hands grabbing and beating at his grip, legs kicking off the ground.

"I'm going to kill you, I'm going to kill you!" Qi Taiguo's eyes turned crimson with fury, his grip growing stronger.

Chiang Tian rushed over, shouting, "Help, murder, someone come quick!"

Chiang Qing—coughing, her tongue nearly protruding, eyes bulging in pure terror, felt her brain slowly starving for oxygen...

Chapter 662: He Wants to Kill Her

Chiang Qing's eyes rolled back, her throat emitting gurgling sounds, her face turning purplish-blue, and she was on the verge of suffocating.

Chiang Tian rushed over to pry off Qi Taiguo's hands, "Let go, let go quickly, you're going to strangle her to death."

Qi Taiguo swatted him away with one hand, focusing only on Chiang Qing.

If it hadn't been for her, none of this would have happened, his child wouldn't have been lost like this, and Cheng Su wouldn't be lying in the hospital.

Thinking of Cheng Su's pale face, and the unborn child, Qi Taiguo felt as if a knife was cutting through his heart, the pain unbearable.

Because of that, his grip tightened even more, his eyes bloodshot like a demon devouring its prey.

Chiang Tian yelled and screamed frantically, that actually awoke the fainted Lu Shufen. Groggily opening her eyes, she saw her daughter being strangled against the wall by Qi Taiguo, barely breathing, and with a roll of her eyes, she fainted again.

Chiang Tian almost collapsed, finally managing to call the neighbors. Not sure whose family member they were, everyone instantly became frantic upon seeing the scene.

"Commander Qi, don't be reckless, let go first." Some men arrived and while persuading, they forcefully pulled his hands away, saying, "At least, think of your wife, don't be impulsive."

Qi Taiguo's hands loosened, and Chiang Qing fell, gasping and wheezing for air, clutching her throat, like someone who had been underwater deprived of oxygen for too long, only feeling alive again once the air filled her lungs.

She cowered in the corner, her eyes filled with terror as she looked at Qi Taiguo—he wanted to kill her, he truly wanted to kill her!

There was no pity or affection in his eyes that she had imagined, only towering hatred, wishing to put her to death.

He was truly ruthless.

Chiang Qing's tears fell, her devoted heart, he did not understand, was met only with a killing intent.

Ha ha, how ludicrous and pitiful.

Chiang Qing, while crying, began to laugh loudly, with everyone looking at her as if she were a fool.

"Qi Taiguo, don't you have even the slightest bit of me in your heart?" Chiang Qing asked with a face full of sorrow.

Qi Taiguo didn't even have the desire to respond, saying coldly, "Don't show up before me ever again."

After dropping those words, he was about to leave.

Chiang Qing threw herself at him, clinging desperately to his legs, raising her head, "You can't go, answer me, answer me."

Qi Taiguo looked down upon her from his height, his gaze void of any warmth, just like one looking at a lunatic, and said, "There was none before, there will never be any in the future, not even if I die." With that, he kicked her hands away and left quickly.

Chiang Qing sat there stunned, laughing loudly.

No one dared to linger, everyone quickly left, and Chiang Tian, with a face full of fear, went to pull Chiang Qing, "Sister, stop laughing."

"He doesn't want me, he doesn't want me, he wants to kill me, ha ha. How wretched I am, ha ha, he's so cruel, too cruel." Chiang Qing laughed and cried simultaneously, causing Chiang Tian to feel an inexplicable heartache.

That damned Qi Taiguo, despicable!

"Qingqing..." Lu Shufen moaned, slowly waking up, her mind fixated on the image of her daughter being strangled by Qi Taiguo, yelling, "Qingqing."

The sound of Chiang Qing's cries and laughter made Lu Shufen come to her senses, looking at her daughter who seemed to have gone mad, Lu Shufen felt an unbearable pain.

She rushed over quickly, clearly seeing the marks on Chiang Qing's neck and couldn't help but let out a piercing scream. Turning to Chiang Tian, she shouted, "Xiao Tian, quick, call your father, we're about to be killed!" She felt a swollen pain on her face, a sickly sweetness in her mouth, and involuntarily spat out, losing a tooth in the process.

Chiang Tian uttered an acknowledgment, but looking at his sister and mother, who were incessantly crying and yelling, he felt an overwhelming headache. It was better to call their father to handle this mess!

Chapter 663: Impressive Once Out of Military Uniform

Qi Taiguo took a shower at home, grabbed some clothes, and then headed to the hospital.

Ying Xiaoya was chatting with Cheng Su when Ning Ge called Qi Taiguo out to the stairway in the hallway.

The two sat down, and Ning Ge passed a cigarette over, lighting up for both of them. He took a drag and asked, "It didn't turn into a huge mess, did it?"

Qi Taiguo also took a puff and said, "I slapped Lu Shufen across the face; she might lose a tooth. I almost killed Chiang Qing."

Ning Ge paused his smoking and said, "It's a good thing she's not dead."

Qi Taiguo said nothing.

"You need to be mentally prepared. You've laid hands on them, and Jiang Conghe will certainly not let things slide. He might even use this as an excuse to take further action. Given the current situation, you and he can be considered irreconcilable," Ning Ge said indifferently: "You're just a company commander, but Jiang Conghe is a commander. It would take just a word from him to take action against you."

Qi Taiguo sneered, "I'm not afraid of him. At worst, I'll take off this uniform and go back home to farm. Can he cover the sky with one hand and kill me, too?"

Ning Ge looked at him in surprise, "You..."

"That's right, when I did it, I was prepared to take off this uniform," Qi Taiguo admitted unabashedly.

If it weren't for Cheng Su, he really would have wanted to kill them right there and then.

"If you're set on this course, then you truly have nothing to fear," Ning Ge said with a smile, "As the saying goes, the barefoot are not afraid of those wearing shoes. Your fearlessness could lead you to victory. As for Commander Chiang, I wonder if he can bear the guilt of indulging his wife and daughter's aggression."

Qi Taiguo pursed his lips.

"However, don't get your hopes up too high. Based on this incident alone, pulling down Jiang Conghe is unlikely. But don't hurry, keep a close eye on him, and we might have the chance to bite off a chunk!" Ning Ge remarked.

In ancient times, if the children of high officials committed violence against commoners, even murder could be settled with money.

Even though it's a society governed by law now, where legal authority is honored, those without power or influence can hardly withstand the pressure of powerful officials.

So, it's highly probable that this incident will eventually be downplayed.

Having grown up among the powerful elite, Ning Ge knew to some extent the dirty tricks within these circles and was giving Qi Taiguo a heads up.

Qi Taiguo was not unaware either. An accident that led to the miscarriage of a woman during a quarrel was hardly enough to bring down a high official, so his current anger was essentially just venting.

But to have lost his child, with his wife still in the hospital, and to do nothing—it was just too suffocating.

So let him be impulsive. He just wanted to vent. If taking off the uniform was what it took, so be it—he was not afraid!

"Right now, I don't want to think too much. If he wants to come at me, let him come. I'm not afraid. The key is that your sister-in-law recovers first," Qi Taiguo said.

"That, of course, is the key," Ning Ge thought for a moment, then added, "Sister-in-law is only twenty-one years old, and you haven't even hit thirty yet. You both are still young. There will be children in the future, rest assured. Don't dwell on this, and don't take it to heart. Right now, what sister-in-law needs most is your care and comfort. You can't blame her for this."

"What do you mean by that?" Qi Taiguo frowned, "Of course, I wouldn't blame her. Not to mention her, even I am caught off-guard by this. It's true that I am heartbroken over the miscarriage, but her pain must be far greater than mine. If I blamed her, would I even be human?"

Ning Ge sighed in relief upon hearing this. He had been worried that Qi Taiguo's machismo might lead him to blame Cheng Su now that the child was gone, which would have been truly painful.

Qi Taiguo glared at him with an odd expression. This kid... wasn't he acting too differently from before, making so much sense in what he said!

Chapter 664: His Gentle and Considerate Side

The day was not late, and after seeing off Ning Ge and Ying Xiaoya, only Cheng Su and her husband remained in the hospital room.

Qi Taiguo personally took a thermos to fetch hot water, scalded the basin he brought with boiling water several times, and then poured the hot water in, even adding some ginger to it, as he attended to washing Cheng Su's feet.

Cheng Su's nose felt a bit sour; it was rare to see such a thoughtful side of him, yet it was under these circumstances, which was truly heart-wrenching.

"What's wrong? Is the water too hot?" Qi Taiguo heard her snuffle and quickly asked, reaching into the water to test its temperature. It was a bit hot, but he said, "The hotter the better, to drive away the cold."

Cheng Su wiped the corner of her eye and asked, "How did you know to use ginger?"

"Chunhua told me. She also asked me to bring it, saying that miscarriage is just as damaging to a woman's body as giving birth. Washing your feet and bathing with ginger can expel coldness," Qi Taiguo replied. "The hospital conditions aren't great, and you like to be clean. After a couple of days when you get discharged and we're back home, I'll buy a bag of ginger and make ginger water for you to bathe in, okay?"

His tone was tender, and Cheng Su hummed in agreement.

Only then did Qi Taiguo smile, stir the water, and meticulously massage her feet, tears falling into the basin, perhaps steamed from the water.

Cheng Su saw it clearly but pretended not to notice, turning her eyes away and wiping the tears from her face.

After washing her feet and lying back down in bed, Cheng Su shuffled to the side and said, "Come up and sleep with me."

Qi Taiguo hesitated for a moment, took off his coat, and got into the small single bed, stretching out an arm for her to rest her head on as they both lay on their sides.

"How many days has it been since you shaved? Weren't you just home? Why didn't you shave before coming back?" Cheng Su teased his stubble.

Qi Taiguo said, "I thought of shaving when I got home, but I didn't while I was on the road, and I forgot again when I got back. It's fine; it's not too long, and it's not as if it will grow lice."

Cheng Su was amused and chuckled, lightly punching his chest.

Seeing her laugh, Qi Taiguo's heart eased. He went on to talk about his training, deliberately showcasing his pectorals: "Poke it, has it gotten firmer?"

Cheng Su reached out and poked it; it was indeed quite firm, and she said, "I reckon those kids must hate you now!"

"They're bound to hate me. They've even given me a nickname: 'The Devil Company Commander'. Humph! I'll have to keep disciplining them!" Qi Taiguo said with mock seriousness.

Cheng Su laughed again and after a while said, "These past days, I've been too careless, didn't even realize I was pregnant, and couldn't control my temper, which led to this."

After regaining consciousness, she realized that there had been signs of pregnancy; it was just that she had never been a mother before and hadn't paid attention while busy. If she had been aware, she wouldn't have provoked Chiang Qing and the others, leading to her breakdown.

"Don't blame yourself; self-reproach won't make up for the maliciousness of a villain. Just now, I taught them a lesson, and it's possible that I might have to take off this uniform," Qi Taiguo assured her.

Cheng Su was startled and looked at him.

Qi Taiguo casually recounted the conversation he had with Ning Ge and then jokingly said, "From now on, I might have to depend on you to provide for us!"

"If it's really such a system that can't distinguish right from wrong, then whether or not to be a military commander is of no concern; we can still live well!" Cheng Su said coldly.

Qi Taiguo hummed in agreement and said, "Sleep, don't think too much. The ship will straighten itself when it reaches the bridge. We have nothing to fear!"

"Mhm!"

Cheng Su buried her face in his chest, her arms wrapped around his waist, and quickly fell asleep.

Qi Taiguo, however, lay awake, brushing the stray hairs away from her face, watching her until dawn. No matter what, he couldn't let her suffer any grievances.

Chapter 665: A Family that's Not at Peace Can't Pacify the World

Night was like water, and in Beijing, Ning Gang hung up the phone, his brow furrowed in concern.

No sooner had Old Master Ning set down the newspaper, preparing to head to his room to sleep, he noticed his eldest son's deeply furrowed brows and decided to sit back down.

"What's the matter, has your younger brother run into some trouble that he needs your help with?" Old Master Ning asked his eldest son.

"It's not him, it's the business with the couple, Qi Taiguo," Ning Gang said as he handed the teacup to the old man.

Old Master Ning raised an eyebrow and asked, "Did the two of them have a quarrel?"

Ning Gang shook his head and replied, "If only it were that simple; marital spats can be resolved from the head of the bed to the foot, but no, that's not the case."

He paused for a moment before continuing, "You're aware of what the fourth brother mentioned before, right? About Jiang Conghe's daughter, Chiang Qing, setting her sights on Qi Taiguo."

Old Master Ning nodded, "Yes, I've heard something to that effect. And then?"

"Chiang Qing has been acting so recklessly because there's a reason for it. The fourth brother somehow got wind of the news— that girl had intermittent schizophrenia as a child, and now, it seems she's having an episode!"

Upon hearing this, Old Master Ning straightened in his seat, his eyebrows knitting together, "That serious?"

Ning Gang made an affirming noise, "She seems to have gone mad; otherwise, she wouldn't be so stubbornly fixated. Jiang Conghe's wife even rushed over."

It looked like the situation was indeed quite serious.

Just bring her back for treatment, and all will be well," Old Master Ning said, relaxing his brows.

"If only it were that easy. You're familiar with Jiang Conghe's wife, Lu Shufen, a woman who holds herself in high regard. Saying she dotes on her child would be an understatement. Seeing her daughter wronged, she would definitely not let the couple off the hook. With Qi Taiguo away for training, only Cheng Su was left at home. When Lu Shufen showed up, an argument broke out."

At this, Old Master Ning's brows furrowed once again.

"Cheng Su had a miscarriage!"

"What?" Old Master Ning exclaimed, looking stunned, "The child, had a miscarriage?"

Ning Gang nodded and said, "It was Lu Shufen. She pushed her, causing her to hit the corner of a table."

Old Master Ning felt a pang of sorrow in his heart. At his age, he could hardly bear to hear such distressing news, especially when it was about an occasion that should have been joyful.

"The child is alright though?"

Ning Gang replied, "Her constitution is quite strong; with proper rest, there won't be any serious issues. But as it happened, Qi Taiguo returned from training at just that time. He ended up hitting Lu Shufen and almost strangled Chiang Qing to death."

That was truly the most troublesome part—for Qi Taiguo to have quelled one matter only to stir up another so soon; how could Ning Gang not be troubled?

Old Master Ning stared blankly for a moment before saying after a long silence, "It's not his fault. Any man would be unable to tolerate such a thing." Especially since he was a soldier of martial spirit.

"Now that this has happened, it can't be kept hidden. Jiang Conghe will definitely exploit the situation. The fourth brother thinks we should cover for him. Dad, what do you make of all this?" Ning Gang said with some dissatisfaction, "If our own house is not in order, how can we hope to bring peace to the world? I'm thinking, is Qi Taiguo too lacking in ability to cope with situations?"

Old Master Ning looked at his son and said, "Exactly right, eldest son. If our own house is not in order, how can we bring peace to the world, and if we can't protect our own people, how can we protect our country? His wife has suffered a great wrong, he's lost a child; if he had remained silent, would you dare to rely on him?"

Ning Gang frowned.

"While it was indeed a rash act, under such provocation, who could remain calm and collected? The key is that he didn't completely lose his reason," Old Master Ning sighed, "A person pushed to the limit has no choice but to fight back."

"What are you suggesting, Dad?" Ning Gang asked cautiously.

"Matters of the heart are also domestic affairs; it's not right for us to intervene. But you said something earlier that makes sense—if our own house is not in order, how can we bring peace to the world? Isn't Jiang Conghe also failing to manage his own household? Allowing his wife to cause someone to miscarry—frankly, isn't that akin to killing someone?"

Ning Gang was taken aback, his face thoughtful.

Chapter 666: Lu Shufen's Sorrowful Plight

One problem and multiple families worried, all in Beijing, Jiang Conghe was so angry he almost smashed the phone; outrageous, too outrageous!

What did this Qi Taiguo think he was? Did he even take the Chiang Family into consideration at all? How dared he bully the Chiang Family members so blatantly?

Too much for him! Just a minor company commander, and he really thinks I have no way to deal with him, that I can't punish him, huh?

"Aunt Zhang." Jiang Conghe shouted towards the dining room.

"Coming." The servant of the Chiang Family hurried over.

"Go, have Xiao Jin book me a train ticket, and pack two sets of clothes for me," Jiang Conghe commanded angrily.

"Yes."

As Jiang Conghe sat back down, his eyebrows furrowed again thinking about what Xiao Tian had just said.

His wife caused Qi Taiguo's wife to have a miscarriage, which is indeed a problem. She still has that violent temper, but it's not really much of an issue, miscarriage or no miscarriage. Besides, who said it was Lu Shufen who pushed her? It's possible she fell on her own!

Jiang Conghe quickly dismissed this trivial matter from his mind, instead growing more worried about his daughter's condition.

From his son's tone, his daughter's situation seemed truly bad, especially after Qi Taiguo's attack.

This damned Qi Taiguo should be banished to the Great Northwest!

The more Jiang Conghe thought about it, the less reassured he felt, so he picked up the phone again and dialed a number, "Hello, Doctor Zhong, it's me, yes, Commander Chiang..."

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In Qing City, after hearing what her son said, Lu Shufen felt settled and much bolder, declaring, "Then we'll just wait and see if we don't skin that Qi Taiguo and Cheng Su alive, I won't be named Lu!"

How dared he hit her and treat Qingqing like that without inquiring about the background of their family!

Oh, her tooth.

Lu Shufen picked up the mirror again, and seeing the missing tooth near the corner of her mouth made the pain seem to resurface, along with the swollen, bruised cheek that appeared so striking.

"This damned Qi Taiguo." Lu Shufen cursed, miscarriage served them right, she wished never to bear a child for generations.

"Mom..." Chiang Tian poked Lu Shufen's arm and gestured with his mouth towards the window.

Turning her attention there, Lu Shufen saw Chiang Qing hugging her knees, motionless, gazing out of the window, which made her heart skip a beat.

Ever since Qi Taiguo had left, she'd been like this.

This calamity!

Setting down the mirror, Lu Shufen walked over and called softly, "Qingqing, what are you thinking about?"

"I'm wondering why he doesn't want me!" Chiang Qing answered absentmindedly, "He isn't like this, he shouldn't be so cruel, it shouldn't be like this!"

Lu Shufen felt a surge of anger to the point of vomiting blood, grinding her teeth she said, "Have you lost your mind? It has come to this and you still can't give up? He wants your life, do you really want to die at his hand before you'll be satisfied?"

Disappointment, heartbreak, Lu Shufen was truly too heartbroken. Almost losing her life didn't seem to bring her daughter to a realization.

"He wants my life!" Chiang Qing murmured the phrase before suddenly turning pale, she spun around and glared at Lu Shufen, screaming shrilly, "He wasn't originally like this, it's all because of you, all because you had to meddle! If you hadn't gone to see Cheng Su, would such a thing have happened? It's all your fault, good intentions, bad outcomes!"

Lu Shufen was so stunned by the scolding that she faced her daughter's hateful eyes and shivered, taking two steps back, a wave of desolation washing over her.

She came to this wretched place for the sake of her daughter, and yet her daughter blamed her for doing wrong?

This daughter was utterly deluded. No, she was profoundly ill. This wouldn't do, she had to be taken back for treatment, or else, she really was going to lose her daughter!

Chapter 667: Don't Tell Mom Yet

Cheng Su's hospitalization due to miscarriage wasn't kept a secret, nor could it be; how could such a big matter be concealed? Especially the image of her covered in blood, being carried into the car by Ning Ge, really gave everyone a fright!

The people in the courtyard knew, and since Cheng Su had this incident, she naturally couldn't go to work, and it was Ying Xiaoya who informed everyone one by one.

The restaurant staff were okay; they were just colleagues, after all, and couldn't leave their duties to visit. They could only find time to send a representative.

At the train station's fast food shop, Qi Fenglian, upon receiving the news, was stupefied. She hurriedly ordered Xiaoying and the others to mind the shop, and she rushed to the hospital herself.

Qi Fenglian bought a bag of apples next to the hospital, entered the hospital, and then asked a nurse for Cheng Su's ward before heading over.

Cheng Su had just gotten up not long ago and was being cared for by Qi Taiguo, eating hot porridge. The porridge was bought pork lean congee, steaming and billowing with heat.

The door was pulled open, and Elder Sister appeared at the doorway, causing Cheng Su to be startled.

Qi Taiguo was also startled, "Elder Sister, why have you come?"

"How have I come? Such a big thing happened, and you didn't even inform me. Ah, if Xiao Ya hadn't told me you needed rest, I wouldn't even know such a big thing had happened." As Qi Fenglian spoke, her eyes reddened, and tears suddenly fell.

Heaven, what is this? The Qi family had long been looking forward to a grandchild, and finally, this daughter-in-law became pregnant. But to miscarry? What is all this?

Qi Taiguo fell silent.

Cheng Su weakly curved the corners of her lips, "Elder Sister, I thought I'd be discharged in a couple of days, so I didn't say anything. It's okay, after hanging IVs for a couple of days, I'll be discharged."

After hearing this, Qi Fenglian was both angry and heartbroken, "How can you call this okay? You've miscarried... you've become like this, how can it be okay? Look at your face, do you have any color in it?"

Cheng Su lowered her head.

Qi Fenglian then asked, "What happened? How could you have miscarried while everything was fine? Did you eat something cold, didn't you know you were pregnant?"

Cheng Su shook her head, "We were using contraception, and somehow I got pregnant. As for the miscarriage, it wasn't because I ate something I shouldn't."

"She was harmed by someone," Qi Taiguo interjected.

"What? Harmed by someone? How so?" Qi Fenglian was astonished.

Qi Taiguo briefly explained the reason, and Qi Fenglian was furious, "I knew it! I had a feeling that doctor was no good from the start, a married man shamelessly getting so close. Look, something did happen, didn't it? A real fox spirit that harms people."

"Let's not talk about that now; Elder Sister, let Cheng Su rest properly," Qi Taiguo said, "I have my own plan for this matter."

Qi Fenglian opened her mouth, wiped her tears again in distress, and looked at Cheng Su, "Indeed, you shouldn't bother with all those annoying, vile people, just focus on recovering quickly. In the future, there will still be children."

Cheng Su nodded.

Qi Taiguo urged Cheng Su to eat the porridge, while he made a gesture to Qi Fenglian, and the siblings found an excuse to step out into the corridor.

"Elder Sister, don't tell mom about Cheng Su's miscarriage yet!" Qi Taiguo whispered.

Qi Fenglian was taken aback, "Why not? A miscarriage is not a small matter, and if you have to train at the army, Cheng Su still needs someone to take care of her. Before I came, I already told mom, and asked her to come down quickly."

Upon hearing this, Qi Taiguo immediately felt a headache coming on.

He was afraid to let his mother know because she had been longing for a grandchild and had even specially called to ask last time. Knowing about Cheng Su's miscarriage, who knew how she would react!

Chapter 668: The Elder Sister with Good Intentions Who Made Things Worse

Qi Fenglian saw her younger brother's face grow bitter and couldn't help feeling somewhat uneasy; it seemed she might have done more harm than good.

"I, I just thought such a big matter should be known by mom and the others, and it couldn't be hidden, right? So, I didn't think too much and just told her. I didn't mean anything else," Qi Fenglian explained hurriedly.

"I know, Elder Sister, I'm not blaming you. It's just, you know how mom is, she had long been looking forward to me and Cheng Su having children, remember how many things she has said, how much she has done? If she finds out about this, won't she be worried sick? Worrying is inevitable, what I'm most afraid of is her making some comments and causing a fuss. Right now, I just want some peace, to let Susu recover well, and not have her be troubled anymore. We're already heartbroken after what happened; if there's more commotion, it will only hurt more," Qi Taiguo said.

Qi Fenglian, thinking of their mother's past actions, felt a little panicked and stammered, "Then, what should we do? I, I've already told her." She felt continuously irritated with herself for not thinking things through, acting on her own accord without consideration, and now she truly feared she had done a good deed in a wrong way.

Qi Taiguo pursed his lips and said, "Forget it, what's said is said. I'll talk to mom about it."

Qi Fenglian felt awkward and extremely restless, not knowing what to do with her hands.

Unable to leave the fast-food restaurant at the train station unattended, Qi Fenglian sat for a while before returning to work.

Just after she left, Ying Xiaoya's mother, Director Ying, also came by, carrying a pot of chicken soup that moved Cheng Su so much she didn't know what to say.

"It's okay, you're still young, there will be other chances. The most important thing is to recover well and to keep a peaceful mind. Don't think too much about the rest," Director Ying said with tearful eyes, comforting her with words that everyone says.

Cheng Su also had teary eyes and nodded heavily.

Director Ying didn't ask how exactly Cheng Su had found herself in this situation; she only talked about happy things. After Cheng Su finished the soup, the Director took the thermos and left, saying she would bring more soup the next day.

"Director Ying is really good to you, treats you like her own daughter," Qi Taiguo said as he sat down.

Cheng Su nodded, "She has a good temperament, that's why Xiao Ya is also raised so well." It truly was an honor to know them.

"Yeah," Qi Taiguo smiled and felt genuinely happy for her, acknowledging that it was Cheng Su's good nature that earned such sincere treatment from others.

"What did you and Elder Sister talk about?" Cheng Su asked casually.

Qi Taiguo paused before saying, "I was thinking of asking her not to spread this matter at home, to save them the heartache."

Cheng Su was taken aback for a moment, then lowered her head, "She already told them?"

If the family finds out, no, she feared her mother-in-law might turn everything upside down. Ah, this Elder Sister, what could be said about her?

"She did," said Qi Taiguo. "Elder Sister's intention was for mom to come over and take care of you. After all, this isn't a small matter, and you need to recover well, so she hurriedly told her."

Cheng Su gave a wry smile, "I'm not bedridden after childbirth; I'll be fine after resting for a few days. No one needs to come and take care of me."

"Nonsense, this is a big deal. You can only lie down or sit at home to rest. You can't do anything else and you mustn't touch cold water," Qi Taiguo retorted with widened eyes. "If you really don't want mom to come over, I'll tell her not to. Then, I'll ask Elder Sister to stay for a few days to help take care of you. Does that sound good?"

"How can Elder Sister take time off from her job? It's really not necessary. No one needs to come," Cheng Su shook her head.

"Alright, alright, if you don't want it, then you don't. Besides, I'm still here," Qi Taiguo acquiesced, saying, "Shall I go make a call then?"

"I'm afraid your mom is already on her way here," Cheng Su said with a bitter smile.

Qi Taiguo looked closely at her complexion then clenched his teeth and went out.

Chapter 669: False Joy

Cheng Su really hadn't guessed wrong; Mother Qi was indeed already on her way.

When Mother Qi received the phone call from Qi Fenglian, hearing that the grandson she had been longing for day and night was gone, she was stunned as if struck by lightning.

She returned home in a daze. Father Qi was fixing a plough, and seeing her flustered look, as if she were soulless, he asked, "What happened?"

Mother Qi sat down on the courtyard bench with a thud and muttered, "Something big has happened, something very big!"

"What has happened?" Father Qi paused in his work and looked at her intently, standing up.

Mother Qi looked at him blankly and said, "It's Lianlian..."

"What happened to Fenglian?" Father Qi asked anxiously, "Did she argue with the Jisheng officials?"

Mother Qi shook her head and suddenly cried out with a slap on her thigh, "It's not Lianlian, it's the daughter-in-law. Our grandson is gone. Oh my, what a sin!"

Gone? Gone how?

Father Qi was even more confused. What grandson, which grandson was gone?

"Hey, stop just crying and start explaining. What do you mean our grandson is gone? You're going to drive me insane! At least make yourself clear!" Father Qi was frantic. With only half the story, how could he understand the meaning?

"Fenglian just told me on the phone, the daughter-in-law from Taiguo was pregnant, but she miscarried, miscarried," Mother Qi sobbed.

This...

Father Qi's face turned slightly pale, "How could this happen? Weren't the couple planning to have children in a couple of years? How did she miscarry?"

Mother Qi paused in her crying, looking away guiltily and sidestepping the question, she said, "No, I must go to Qing City. I have to ask them how they let my grandson slip away!"

"Mother-in-law, Father-in-law," outside the courtyard, Cheng Su's mother lifted the basket and shouted, "My husband and I went up the mountain and picked some bamboo shoots. Here's some for you to try."

Father Qi hurried over to open the door and let in Mother Cheng.

"These shoots are very fresh, specially picked the plump white ones for you, should last a few meals. Huh, what's wrong with you two?" Mother Cheng said, noticing something off in their expressions.

Mother Qi, a bit annoyed, said, "What bamboo shoots? I just got a call from my daughter Fenglian, saying the daughter-in-law from Taiguo miscarried. I was just about to go there!"

The daughter-in-law from Taiguo miscarried? Wasn't that Cheng Su?

Mother Cheng's face dramatically changed, the basket in her hand dropping to the ground, scattering bamboo shoots everywhere.

"How could this be?" she murmured in disbelief.

"Who knows what she did to herself, to lose a perfectly fine grandson like that?" Mother Qi wiped away a tear, her heart aching as if it were about to break.

Her grandson, the one she had been eagerly awaiting, was gone before she ever met him. It would have been better if they hadn't even told her, saving her this crushing disappointment!

Mother Qi pounded her chest, feeling a true heartache.

Father Qi was the first to regain his composure and said, "Let's not talk about what could have been or not now. Our daughter-in-law over there probably needs someone to take care of her. If you want to go over, just go quickly. Don't worry about the house, I'm here. What's most important is to take good care of the daughter-in-law from Taiguo."

Pah! To take care of her? My precious grandson is gone!

Mother Qi felt a surge of anger inside but held back from speaking out loud because Cheng Su's mother was still there. She had to swallow her words.

"Mother-in-law, wait for me, I'll go too, I must go!" Mother Cheng came to her senses.

"Alright, let's all go and see the child," Father Qi said before Mother Qi could respond.

Mother Cheng nodded mechanically, stumbling out of the Qi family door and rushing towards her home to gather a few pieces of clothing.

Chapter 670: Just How Tragic, Say How Tragic

Qi Taiguo's call was answered by Father Qi, who, upon learning that both his mother and mother-in-law were on their way, couldn't help but feel a headache coming on.

Father Qi was pained and anxious, and of course he would inquire about the matter, but Qi Taiguo didn't want his elderly father to worry, so he simply said it was an accident and let it go at that.

After hanging up the phone, Qi Taiguo told Cheng Su that both of the elders were coming; Cheng Su let out a bitter smile.

With both mother and mother-in-law coming, there was sure to be a commotion.

Knowing that Qi Taiguo had not yet reported back to the military after his return, and with nothing pressing on her end, Cheng Su suggested he go ahead and report in.

Qi Taiguo agreed as he indeed had to make a report, and additionally, he needed to make a request for a transfer away from Chiang Qing.

Back at the military base, Qi Taiguo was intercepted by Gao Linbing.

"You're back just in time. If you hadn't come, I would have had to look for you. That incident last night where you went to see Military Doctor Chiang, it's been reported to Regimental Commander Mai. I said, why are you so impulsive? That's the Commander's wife, are you not wanting to serve anymore?"

What Qi Taiguo caused at Chiang Qing's place couldn't possibly be kept secret; it spread wildly, making it difficult for Gao Linbing not to know.

And the person he had a conflict with was the wife of a high-ranking official—Lu Shufen was not an easy-going person. Having been beaten and her daughter nearly killed, she couldn't just let it go.

It was said that as of last night, the matter had reached the Regimental Commander, and they hurried to call Qi Taiguo back today.

"The Regimental Commander is very angry. You, you are too impulsive!" Gao Linbing was running around frantically.

"It's alright, I'm mentally prepared," Qi Taiguo patted Gao Linbing on the shoulder.

Gao Linbing opened his mouth, sighed, and asked, "Is your wife okay?"

"She's hanging in there. She's doing alright," Qi Taiguo pressed his lips together.

Gao Linbing nodded and said, "After all, you were in the right to begin with, and it's understandable. When you get to the Regimental Commander, first admit your mistake, there's no harm in that, then tell the truth."

Qi Taiguo felt warmed inside and said, "Good brother, I will remember this favor!"

As Gao Linbing watched him walk away, he thought to himself that if it were him, he probably would have fought with all his might as well.

Upon arriving at the Regimental Commander's office, Dong Jun came out from inside. Seeing Qi Taiguo, he raised his eyebrows and said, "Commander Qi, your courage really is uncommon. I just don't know if you can make it through this one!"

Qi Taiguo gave him a fleeting glance and said, "I believe that the country has justice."

Dong Jun let out a cold laugh and brushed past his shoulder as he left.

Qi Taiguo took a deep breath, knocked on the door, and entered the Regimental Commander's office.

As expected, as soon as Regimental Commander Mai saw him, he unleashed a tirade, scolding him for being brainless, impulsive, and displaying blind courage without considering the consequences.

Qi Taiguo kept silent.

"How is Comrade Cheng Su's health?" After finishing his scolding, the Regimental Commander asked another question.

"Not good, she's pallid, with a very poor complexion, looking very weak. The doctor said that it was the severe impact that caused the miscarriage, with injuries to the stomach and womb. If she doesn't recover well, it will be difficult for her to have children in the future," Qi Taiguo spoke while looking down, in stark contrast to his earlier words to Gao Linbing. He knew what would be beneficial for him and naturally painted as dire a picture as possible.

Regimental Commander Mai's face paled slightly as he took a deep sigh.

"But you still can't be so impulsive. Madam Jiang lost a tooth because of you, and she's accusing you of attempted murder, going so far as to threaten to strip you of your military status," the Regimental Commander rubbed his forehead as he spoke.

This incident was indeed a headache; he had just returned from a meeting in the province the day before and was overwhelmed when he heard the news. The wife of a Commander assaulted on his turf and her daughter nearly got killed—how could this not be a serious matter?