

## The 80s 671

### Chapter 671: Counterclaim

Regimental Commander Mai had a headache. He had been in his position for several years, and just when he saw a glimmer of hope for promotion, this mess landed on his lap.

One was the Commander's wife, and the other was a soldier prioritized for development by Chief Ning, neither of whom he could afford to offend. If he didn't handle it well, his hopes for promotion might well disappear, so he had called Chief Ning overnight to consult about the situation.

Chief Ning's response was, "Since ancient times, the prince and the commoner are equally subjected to the law." Was this meant to imply that he should deal with the Chiang family or abandon Qi Taiguo?

Regimental Commander Mai guessed painfully and, with a brazen face, asked for clarification, only to receive the phrase "understandable circumstances."

Regimental Commander Mai was nearly led in circles!

Now, hearing Qi Taiguo's words, he thought that it was indeed as Chief Ning had said, "understandable circumstances."

"Regardless, as a military man, it's wrong to resort to violence and killing, and moreover, the victim is a woman, a leader's family member," said Regimental Commander Mai, his face a picture of righteousness.

"I was wrong," Qi Taiguo lowered his head.

To admit his fault so readily turned the tables on Regimental Commander Mai, leaving him at a loss for reprimanding words.

"For this issue, tell me, what do you plan to do? Now, Commander Chiang's wife is unrelenting and demanding that you be discharged from military service and make a public apology," Regimental Commander Mai said irritably.

"Speaking of this, Regimental Commander, I too have been wronged. This is my written report. My partner was harmed by Commander Chiang's wife, causing a miscarriage. I hereby plead with my superiors for fair justice and request Commander Chiang to give me an explanation!" Qi Taiguo handed over the report he had written the previous night.

He had been impulsive, but that didn't mean he was completely thoughtless. He had acted, but he could not just let it go; he could not allow the Chiang family to focus only on his errors.

The Chiang family had power and influence; he could not compete with that, so he might as well make a big fuss about it. It was do or die, and nobody was going to have it easy.

Regimental Commander Mai received his so-called written report dumbfounded—a thick stack, several pages long. Upon a cursory glance, it detailed the events and also included hospital evidence.

Such thorough preparation!

Regimental Commander Mai's lips twitched slightly as he looked at Qi Taiguo: "You..."

"If Regimental Commander Mai cannot make a decision on my behalf, I will submit a report to the political office and the Military Commission. I believe that this country has justice," Qi Taiguo said earnestly.

Regimental Commander Mai's headache intensified. Could this issue be further escalated or toned down?

A company commander challenging a commander—where did Qi Taiguo get this confidence?

Regimental Commander Mai swallowed, saying, "Taiguo, you're still young, and not just Chief Ning, but I too believe you have an unlimited future. There's no need to be a hotheaded martyr. There are still plenty of opportunities for you."

Qi Taiguo looked at him and said, "That's precisely why I must fight for this breath of honor," he paused before continuing, "Also, Military Doctor Jiang and his family have threatened the lives and health of military families. Therefore, I request that the organization transfer Military Doctor Jiang out of Qing City Troops."

If the Chiang family could accuse him, why couldn't he counteraccuse? He was impulsive, but there was a reason for it. What about the Chiang family?

It was not him, Qi Taiguo, who should be using his leverage; it was the Chiang family!

Regimental Commander Mai looked at him as if he were mad and, finding no words to say, waved his hand and made a call to Ning Gang.

Ning Gang was stunned, then laughed after a long pause, "He's not as foolish as I thought. Let him file the complaint. Send a copy of that report to me via telegram, immediately."

From behind the scenes to the foreground, Jiang Conghe would likely suffer a setback this time.

#### Chapter 672: Add a Piece of Firewood

Qi Taiguo let out a long sigh of relief after walking out of Regimental Commander Mai's office. After some thought, he returned to his own office and made a phone call to Ning Ge, telling him about the incident.

"To be brought to the brink of death and then survive, that's a pretty good move. Since things have already escalated, why not go all the way? The barefooted aren't afraid of those with shoes. The Chiang Family will definitely be stripped of a layer of skin," Ning Ge praised and then added, "But since you've hit Lu Shufen, you won't be able to escape responsibility for that. The Chiang family was already in the wrong to begin with, so forcing you out of the army uniform likely won't happen, but hitting someone is hitting someone. Getting a demerit is also a very real possibility. Big Brother Qi, you should be mentally prepared."

The Chiang Family has come to its current state not without some luck and powerful backing. With influence and stature, if they can't make a small company commander suffer, then all the years they've spent would be in vain.

"No problem, I'm not even afraid of being stripped off my uniform, why would I fear a demerit?" Qi Taiguo smiled indifferently.

He dared to act and was willing to bear the consequences. It was still that old saying, at worst he'd just be stripped of his military uniform.

"That's true," Ning Ge nodded and continued, "I have several childhood friends with good relationships, either 'Red Third-Generation' or with connections. I'll go add some fuel to the fire for Jiang Conghe and fan the flames."

The influence this could have is not to be deemed insignificant. First off, Lu Shufen's future would definitely be affected. In her position as a director, she's not the only one fit to sit there; others would also want the seat. What if they took advantage of this incident?

Using someone else's knife to kill is the best scenario. Ning Ge enjoyed watching this kind of drama unfold the most.

Qi Taiguo thanked him and hung up the phone, then closed his eyes, resting his hands behind his head to think.

Talking to Ning Ge meant talking to Chief Ning Gang. As for the final outcome of this affair, he could only wait.

But one thing was for certain, this would be a storm, and whatever the result, he would bear it alone.

In the eyes of others, he was like an egg crashing against a rock, overestimating himself, and indeed it was so. But so what? He had to seek justice for himself, for Cheng Su, and for their unborn child who was lost before its time.

Is there justice in this world? He believed there was.

And after weathering this storm, he would have to be even more proactive and climb higher. Through this ordeal, he realized that without power, there was no confidence; without power, one is simply bullied. If he wanted himself and those around him to have confidence and not be bullied, he had to reach higher positions.

After hanging up the phone, Ning Ge mentioned the matter to Ying Xiaoya and then contacted Xiao Pinshan to give a few instructions. He said he needed to return to Beijing to handle some things and that they should take care of the company in his absence. He would return in a few days.

He needed to go back and add to the fire, to really stoke the flames for Jiang Conghe and his ilk.

Ying Xiaoya frowned and said, "Susu definitely can't come to work these days, and you're going back to Beijing? Don't tell me you're just trying to avoid work."

"Am I that kind of person?" Ning Ge glared and replied, "I'm going back to Beijing for Cheng Su, you know. Do you not realize who caused this mess? If I don't go back and find some connections to support them and get some payback, then she would have been bullied for nothing."

"Alright then, just make sure you get justice for Susu," Ying Xiaoya said indignantly.

Susu was too pitiable, and so was that child. Those people from the Chiang family were utterly oppressive!

"Don't worry, my friends are not to be messed with," Ning Ge said, a fierce glint flashing in his eyes.

Xiao Pinshan, who was listening on the side, glanced at Ning Ge and, seeing the chill in his eyes, paused. Xiao Ya said that their boss had powerful backing, and now it seemed he not only had confidence but also some tricks up his sleeve.

It looked like it was time to reassess this boss who normally didn't seem very reliable!

Chapter 673: Mother Confronts Mother-in-law

The bus station was bustling with people, and both Mother Qi and Mother Cheng were a bit panicked as they followed the crowd out of the station exit.

"Mother-in-law, how do we get to where we're going? Do you remember the way?" Mother Cheng clung closely to Mother Qi and asked.

She had never been to her daughter's side before and now, facing this bustling city, she was completely lost.

She had been so anxious on the ride over that she hadn't thought to take down a phone number for someone to come pick them up. Now it seemed like a serious oversight.

Mother Qi wasn't too sure either; she had only visited once before. Previously, it had always been Taiguo and his wife who came to meet them, and she and her eldest daughter just followed along.

What was the number of the bus they had taken that time?

Mother Qi was also feeling at a loss, now what to do? She hadn't brought any phone numbers with her!

"Mom, mother-in-law."

A familiar voice came from behind them. The two women turned around to see Qi Taiguo, both surprised and delighted.

"Taiguo, how did you know we were coming?" Mother Qi was very happy. Could it truly be a mother-son connection?

"I called home today, and dad told me when you left, so I timed it to come over here to wait, really afraid I'd miss you!" Taiguo also let out a sigh of relief.

Busy with wanting to inquire about her daughter's situation, Mother Cheng immediately asked, "Taiguo, how is Susu? What's happened to her?"

Yes, the daughter-in-law, the grandchild!

Mother Qi also thought of this and pressed on immediately, "What exactly happened? She was perfectly healthy, so how could she have miscarried? Did she eat something wrong, or did she fall? Doesn't she know she's pregnant? As an adult, doesn't she know to take care of herself?"

She rattled off questions like firecrackers popping, her tone suggesting she partly blamed her daughter. Mother Cheng did not appreciate it and said, "Mother Qi, let Taiguo speak!"

Mother Qi was slightly displeased but couldn't help but look towards her son.

Qi Taiguo then explained, "We weren't planning on having children right now, and we don't know how it happened. We've always been careful, so we didn't pay much attention to that possibility. That's why, when Susu got pregnant, she didn't think she was."

Mother Qi felt a bit uncomfortable and also a bit irritated upon hearing this.

"But how did it happen then? Susu has always been so strong since she was young." Mother Cheng anxiously asked.

Qi Taiguo's expression darkened slightly as he said, "It's a long story, but there was an argument with someone, they shoved Susu a couple of times, and as a result, she hit the corner of a table, and that's how we lost the baby."

"What? An argument? Who caused such a sin? Who killed my grandson?" Mother Qi was shocked upon hearing this.

It wasn't that Cheng Su ate something wrong, nor was it anything else; it was a heated argument with someone, she was pushed, and hit the table corner?

Oh, Heaven, what kind of situation is this?

"How could this have happened, why did they start arguing!" Mother Cheng was also full of disbelief, thinking about her daughter's temperamental nature, what was she arguing about this time?

Now look, she had suffered a great loss.

Thinking of this, Mother Cheng's nose began to tingle with sourness, and her heart ached. How heartbroken her daughter must be!

"I always said her temperament would cause serious trouble one day. She never knew when to hold back, always had to compete and be the strongest. Well, now look what happened - my eldest grandson has been lost just like that. Oh my, my poor grandson, my fate is truly bitter!" After blaming her daughter for a moment, Mother Qi started crying again.

Mother Cheng glanced at her, full of resentful thoughts; how could Mother Qi say such hurtful things, implying joy in another's pain? She couldn't help but retort, "I disagree with what you're saying, Mother-in-law. How can you blame Susu? God knows how distressed she must feel! If anyone is to blame, it's the culprit who pushed our Susu. It was she who caused the death of our grandson!"

Chapter 674: Old Qi Scolds Mother

Qi Taiguo first took the two elders back to the courtyard to drop off their luggage, and he hadn't had a moment to rest when Mother Cheng was already eager to visit her daughter in the hospital.

As for Mother Qi, she was still grieving. With the loss of her grandson, how could she be in the mood? But out of consideration for the presence of her relatives, she also had to agree to visit, though her reluctance was quite apparent.

Seeing this, Qi Taiguo felt a deep sadness. He thought to himself that this was the difference between one's own mother and a mother-in-law, and no wonder Cheng Su had complained to him about it so many times.

Arriving at the hospital, and with his mother-in-law entering the ward first, Qi Taiguo pulled Mother Qi aside, saying, "Mom, when you go in, don't say those blaming words to Cheng Su."



Mother Qi was already feeling uneasy, and hearing this, her expression turned even uglier. She retorted, "What, I'm not even allowed to speak now? Are you siding with your wife that much?"

Qi Taiguo, struggling to contain his anger, said, "Mom, I'm not saying you can't speak, but at this moment, Cheng Su is just as heartbroken as you and me. I hope you won't say those upsetting things. The most important thing now is that she needs to recover."

"If she hadn't been unable to control her temper, would they have argued? If not for that, my grandson wouldn't have gone!" Mother Qi thought, her tears flowing once again.

"Mom!" Qi Taiguo suddenly bellowed.

Mother Qi was startled by his roar and just stared at him in a daze.

"Mom, did you come here to genuinely care for and visit Cheng Su, or to accuse and blame her? If it's the latter, then you better not enter. I'll ask my sister to come over and take you back home," Qi Taiguo said with a stern face.

"You..." Mother Qi's heart was pounding, thinking to herself that everything had changed—her previously doting son was now different because of his wife.

"We're all heartbroken, Mom. You're a woman too, and I hope you can understand," Qi Taiguo took a deep breath.

Mother Qi pursed her lips and remained silent.

Only then did Qi Taiguo push the door open and enter. Mother Qi, after struggling with herself, followed him inside.

Upon entering, they saw Cheng Su holding Mother Cheng's hand and shedding tears. Seeing Mother Qi, she wiped away her tears and called out softly, "Mom."

Mother Qi glanced at her son and approached to ask, "How are you feeling now?"

"I should be discharged tomorrow," Cheng Su replied.

"Discharged tomorrow? Why not stay a few more days? Look at how pale you are. Is there no serious problem?" Mother Cheng asked anxiously.

Mother Qi murmured on the side, "Giving birth usually means discharging in two or three days. This was just a miscarriage, and she has to stay for several days?"

"Mom, the doctor said it's fine, it's better to recover at home. I don't want to stay here; the smell makes me uncomfortable," Cheng Su said with a faint smile.

After hearing that, Mother Cheng also said, "That's good then, it's better to go home. At home, anything you want to eat can be made. I brought a chicken to stew for you," wiping her eyes as she spoke.

Mother Qi couldn't help asking, "How did something like this happen so suddenly? Didn't you even realize you were pregnant?"

Qi Taiguo gave her a warning look, and she shrank her neck—was she not even supposed to ask questions? Wasn't this different from blaming?

"Exactly, it's your first time being a mother, you should have noticed something wrong with your body. How could you be so negligent?" Mother Cheng added, though her comments were much more tactful than Mother Qi's.

Cheng Su looked tiredly at Qi Taiguo and said, "Taiguo was pursued by a 'Fox Spirit'; she came to our house with money, forcing me to step down in her favor. I was so angry that I argued with her, and that led to the dispute, which caused this to happen."

Mother Qi was stunned.

Mother Cheng glared like an old hen, saying, "Taiguo, what is going on? Have you wronged our Susu?"

#### Chapter 675: Taking the Wife's Side

Mother Cheng was very angry, while Mother Qi felt a bit guilty. If that was the case, then it was her son's fault.

"Mom, it's not like that, Taiguo has done nothing wrong to me!" Cheng Su hurriedly explained.

After hearing this, Mother Qi let out a sigh, frowning and saying, "It was that doctor, she was so sweet-talking at the beginning, I actually thought she was good-hearted, but it turns out she is heartless and rotten, truly detestable."

Cheng Su lowered her eyelids; her mother-in-law was not entirely without judgment, still able to discern right from wrong, although it was for the sake of that unborn child.

"Such a despicable woman should be beaten to death. Taiguo, you are a soldier, don't be blinded by other women outside. If you make a mistake, there's no turning back," Mother Cheng lectured.

"Mother-in-law, I know, I promise to treat only Susu well," Qi Taiguo hurriedly said.

Mother Qi watched and felt increasingly displeased with everything, very bitter inside. Her son, why should he be so submissive and deferential?

"Even if that woman is bad, you are also negligent. You didn't even know whether you were pregnant or not. You should have been alert the moment your period stopped. Otherwise, how could such things happen?" Mother Qi unwillingly chided Cheng Su.

"Mom, since you're here, have you not yet visited my older sister? Let me take you for a walk there!" Qi Taiguo spoke up.

Mother Qi's heart skipped a beat.

He was warning her!

"I..."

"Let's go, it's a good opportunity to see where my sister works," Qi Taiguo said insistently, not allowing her to refuse, and then to Mother Cheng, "Mother-in-law, please accompany Susu for a while. I'll come back later to pick you up."

"Oh."

Mother Qi's face darkened as she stood up and walked out.

Once the mother and son were gone, Mother Cheng said, "What's going on, why does Taiguo seem to have changed quite a bit?"

Cheng Su was quite satisfied, saying, "That's a good thing. Mom, didn't you notice my mother-in-law was picking on me? Taiguo distracted his mother, saving me from having to listen to her blame."

"That's true!" Mother Cheng also quite approved of her son-in-law's behavior, patting her hand and saying, "If he can stand by your side, your days in your in-law's house will be much easier!"

Cheng Su snorted and said, "Mom, I've figured it out over the New Year, whether my life is good or not is up to me. A mother-in-law is just a mother-in-law after all. No matter how well I do, she will never be satisfied and will always find fault. So why should I continue to curry favor with her? I've thought it through; it's enough if we get along on the surface. If she doesn't give me face, I won't give her face either."

Mother Cheng was taken aback and let out a sigh.

"Let's not talk about this. As long as you feel comfortable, that's what matters. Now I see, if Taiguo always stands by your side, she probably won't dare do much to you, can she scold her own son? In the end, doesn't she have to bow down to her son?" Mother Cheng said.

Cheng Su nodded.

"Let's not talk about her, what about this time? What exactly happened? Tell me everything, and about that fox spirit, what's the deal with her?" Mother Cheng changed the topic.

Cheng Su's expression became a bit somber. There was no need to hide anything from her own mother, so she recounted the details of the incident meticulously.

Mother Cheng listened with a mixture of alarm and trepidation, asking, "A high official, eh? If Taiguo has offended them, might they strip him of his post?"

"He'll handle it; we women don't need to worry about it," Cheng Su said indifferently, "Even if he is discharged from military service, we won't live poorly. We can do business."

Mother Cheng relaxed upon hearing this, saying, "You've managed to conceive while avoiding pregnancy, isn't it the will of the Goddess of Childbirth? Alas, it's a pity it didn't last, such is the will of Tianyi."

Cheng Su's eyes dimmed, but she was also pondering the matter, how could she have become pregnant?

#### Chapter 676: Unfilial Son

Mother Qi followed behind her son with a cold face, huffing with anger. Her eldest son had completely changed, embarrassing her in front of her in-laws and daughter-in-law. His heart had clearly sided with his wife.

Back in the day, she could hardly bear to eat anything herself, giving it all to him instead, raising him through all the hardships of childhood. Was this how he repaid her?

The more Mother Qi thought about it, the more aggrieved she felt, and her eyes began to redden. Seeing that Qi Taiguo showed no reaction, she burst into tears, "My life is so hard."

Qi Taiguo's steps halted, he stopped, and turned to look at her.

Mother Qi cried harder, "I raised you with such effort, and I haven't yet enjoyed the blessings of having grandchildren, but you disdain me so. You really treat me right, sob, sob."

Qi Taiguo remained silent.

After crying for a while and seeing that he did not utter a word, Mother Qi felt a little embarrassed. Noticing his stern face, she gradually lost confidence and her cries slowly subsided.

"Mom, have you cried enough? If you're done, let's continue walking," Qi Taiguo finally spoke.

Mother Qi was taken aback and looked at him dumbfounded.

"I told you earlier, Cheng Su can't be upset right now. I was hoping you wouldn't say things to make her heart feel blocked and let her recover properly. Mom, how did you act? Did you have to make her uncomfortable?" Qi Taiguo said coldly.

Mother Qi retorted angrily, "How did I make her uncomfortable? Didn't I speak the truth? She's grown up but didn't even know she was pregnant? Where did her cleverness go? And you blame me!"

"Everyone makes mistakes sometimes, we weren't even planning on having children right now, so how would we have noticed?" Qi Taiguo raised his voice slightly, "Cleverness isn't always used in these matters."

Mother Qi, feeling guilty, said, "So you're set on siding with her against me, aren't you? For your wife's sake, you don't even want your own mother anymore, is that it?"

"What you're doing is unreasonable and overbearing. All I ask is for you to be peaceful and let us have some ease. It's a challenging time right now; shouldn't our family be united? You're not just causing difficulties for Cheng Su, but for me as well!"

"You, you unfilial son! I've raised a thankless wretch!" Now Mother Qi truly began to cry.

Qi Taiguo's head throbbed with pain, but still he steeled his heart and said, "Consider me unfilial then. Since you've come all this way, stay in Qing City for a few days before you return home. I'll have my elder sister accompany you. Cheng Su doesn't need you to wait on her; I've asked my mother-in-law to help out for a few days. Let's go!"

Mother Qi was shocked, "What, you, you're sending me away?"

"I'm not sending you away. Mom, if you don't like Cheng Su, then it's better to reduce contact and spare everyone the discomfort," Qi Taiguo said dejectedly. He couldn't change his mother's mind, so he had no choice but to give up.

Hearing the disappointment in his voice, Mother Qi started to feel panicked. What was going on? In the past, when she cried and made a scene, her eldest son would relent to her will. But now that tactic didn't work anymore?

It was all the fault of that damned Cheng Su, failing to produce a grandson and instead turning her son against her.

Mother Qi was also indignant, "Fine, now that you've spread your wings, you forget your mother once you have a wife. I've been raising you for nothing, fine."

Qi Taiguo stopped talking and just walked straight ahead. After a long pause, he finally said, "Mom, Cheng Su and I have already had a tough enough time. If you really care about me, be kinder to her. Think about how you were treated by your own mother-in-law in the past?"

His words carried away with the wind. Mother Qi stared at her son's retreating back, her mouth slightly open, feeling as if a knife had been thrust into her heart, painful and chaotic. Did her son really no longer need her?

#### Chapter 677: Getting a Wife and Forgetting One's Mother

Qi Taiguo took Mother Qi to the fast food shop at the train station. It was already dark, and the fast food shop was bustling. Qi Fenglian, seeing her mother arrive, was startled for a moment.

"Why have you come over here?"

She carefully observed the expressions on Qi Taiguo and her mother's faces. Both of them looked quite upset. Her mother's eyes were red—had they been arguing?

Qi Fenglian felt uneasy inside. Her younger brother had always objected to her telling their mother about the situation. Could it be that they really started quarreling as soon as she arrived?

Mother Qi looked pitifully at her eldest son, like a poor old lady who had been abandoned by everyone.

Qi Taiguo deliberately looked away and said to Qi Fenglian, "Big sister, it's rare for mom to come visit, and Cheng Su still needs to recover. Spend the next few days with mom, will you?"

Qi Fenglian's complexion also changed slightly. She opened her mouth and said, "With your wife in this condition, let mom take care of her for a few days."

Qi Taiguo glanced at Mother Qi and said, "My mother-in-law is also here. It's enough with her around. Mom hasn't had it easy; let her rest for a few days."

Mother Qi's face turned slightly pale.

"I can't be away from the hospital. I'm heading back," Qi Taiguo said, then took out two Great Unity RMB notes, put them into Mother Qi's hand, and added, "Mom, if you want to buy anything while you're with big sister, just go ahead. I'm leaving now."

Mother Qi watched him leave without looking back, in a daze.

Only when he was out of sight did her tears start to fall. Seeing this, Qi Fenglian cautiously called out, "Mom..."

Mother Qi burst into tears, not caring that she was in a fast food shop, attracting the attention of everyone around.



Qi Fenglian felt her scalp explode with anxiety, thinking to herself that she had done a bad deed with good intentions, and now it was like she was adding fuel to the fire. Seeing her mother about to cause a scene, she had to quickly comfort her by saying, "Mom, we're still in the shop. Please stop crying; everyone's looking!"

"Let them look! Let everyone see what an unfilial son he is, getting a wife and forgetting his mother. Oh, woe is my life!" Mother Qi didn't care at all!

Qi Fenglian felt a headache coming on, thinking it was no wonder her younger brother had been so reluctant to tell their mother about the incident.

But she couldn't just leave it be. Qi Fenglian had no choice but to pull her into the kitchen, asking the chef to prepare a warm bowl of egg soup, and then said, "Mom, you must be hungry, right? Have some soup to fill your stomach. Afterwards, we'll go back to where Jisheng and I are staying to take a look. By the way, you haven't seen the shop before, have you? What do you think? Business is pretty good, isn't it?"

Mother Qi, distracted by these thoughts, took a glance through teary eyes and said sourly, "What's there to look at? No matter how much money is made, it's not yours; it's Cheng Su's."

Upon mentioning Cheng Su, Mother Qi became angrily indignant, "Your younger brother is just too heartless! He says I'm adding trouble for Cheng Su. How did I add trouble? She's a grown woman and didn't even know she was pregnant. I just asked a couple of questions, and he reacted as if I was taking his life, rushing to her defense. In front of his mother-in-law, he just dragged me here to your place. Tell me, how did I raise him? He has no conscience, taking a wife and forgetting his mother!"

"Mom, Taiguo didn't mean it; a miscarriage is no small matter. You know I barely made it through my own. If Cheng Su doesn't properly recover, how will she bear you a healthy grandson in the future? That's why Taiguo is worried. After all, they are both still young and inexperienced. They just want to focus on her recovery, so it's understandable if his words were harsh. You also look forward to holding a grandson soon, right?" Qi Fenglian continued to persuade with patience.

"Bah! Now that she's had a miscarriage, don't even think about a grandchild. Who knows if she can still have children in the future? Even if she can, it certainly won't be soon." Mother Qi spit out angrily, "They're just selfish, not considering the feelings of their elders. If it wasn't for me taking that set of..."

Mother Qi suddenly stopped mid-sentence, her complexion changing. Qi Fenglian looked at her with growing suspicion, "Mom, what set are you talking about?"

#### Chapter 678: Not Afraid

Qi Fenglian looked at her elderly mother with full-faced suspicion, always feeling that she was a bit odd, especially with what she had said just now. Although her mother had changed the subject, she still felt the conversation was incomplete.

What did she mean?

Talking about her grandson, if not for her, if not for her then what?

Qi Fenglian did the accounts while distractedly pondering this matter.

Mother Qi watched over the shop from the side and shot a glance at her daughter. She felt very guilty, thankful that she had stopped herself in time; otherwise, there really could have been a disaster!

...

After making sure his mother was settled, Qi Taiguo hurried back to the hospital. Seeing his mother-in-law and Cheng Su talking and noticing the smile on her face, he couldn't help but feel at ease.

He chatted for a while, then took his insistent mother-in-law who wanted to stay the night at the hospital back to the compound before going to the cafeteria to get some food for Cheng Su, then rushed back to the hospital.

Mother Cheng, watching her son-in-law handle everything appropriately, couldn't help feeling relieved. Judging a person by the details, this son-in-law, perhaps a bit too paternalistic for her taste, was reliable in crucial moments, and that wasn't bad at all.

Cheng Su watched as Qi Taiguo spun around like a top, and she couldn't help feeling a bit of heartache. "Actually, you don't need to come over to accompany me. Aren't you on duty at the base tomorrow?" she said.

"It's all right. I just came back from training, and I'm in great shape," Qi Taiguo said with a smile. "I've explained the situation to Regimental Commander Mai at the base and taken a few days off. Right now, you are the most important."

"Sweet talker," Cheng Su chided softly.

Qi Taiguo washed his face, then climbed onto the hospital bed to squeeze in beside her, like the previous night he wrapped his arms around her, resting her against him. He gently touched her belly and asked, "How are you feeling today? Any better?"

"Yes, much better." Cheng Su liked the feeling of his hand on her lower abdomen, warm and comforting, just like a heating patch.

"That's good. Now that your mother is here, let her look after you for a few days while you recuperate," Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su looked up at him, "Did you really send my mother-in-law to stay with my elder sister?"

Qi Taiguo nodded and replied, "I asked my sister to accompany her for a few days. In a few days, I'll take her to the station to head home."

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow and asked, "Is my mother-in-law willing? She didn't make a fuss with you?"

Logically, her mother-in-law was known to be a tough cookie; was it possible she complied so easily?

Qi Taiguo showed a bitter smile and said, "How could she not make a fuss? She called me an unfilial son and a white-eyed wolf!"

Cheng Su laughed out loud, turned to face him with interest and probed, "Oh, what did she say? Tell me, how did she scold you?"

Seeing her face eager to hear the story, Qi Taiguo couldn't help but pinch her nose gently and said, "You just love to see me made fun of." He paused, then added, "What else could she do? She just cried, saying she raised me for nothing."

With that, he imitated Mother Qi's tone and scolded a few phrases.

Listening, Cheng Su laughed merrily and commented, "You've got her down to a tee."

"Yes! We're already in such a tough spot, and compared to her, we, as the parents, are even more heartbroken. I don't want to cause you any more distress," Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su felt a warmth in her heart and nodded.

"Thank you!" she kissed him, then after a moment of silence, she asked him, "How are things going over there?"

Qi Taiguo came to his senses and shared with her the events of the past two days, "I really wanted to kill her."

Cheng Su shivered, grabbing his hand, "Don't act rashly. Murder requires a life in return; it's not worth it. The evil person will meet a bad end eventually."

Qi Taiguo nodded.

"Have you got everything prepared? That matter, I'm afraid that Mr. Jiang won't just let it go," Cheng Su said with a hint of worry.

"Let him come, what's there to be afraid of? Don't worry about these things. Just focus on resting and healing. For everything else, you have me," Qi Taiguo patted her arm reassuringly.

"Okay," Cheng Su nestled into his chest, listening to his strong heartbeat, and her heart gradually calmed down. With him by her side, she had nothing to fear.

#### Chapter 679: Elder Sister's Conjecture

Qi Fenglian tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep, as if there was something on her mind. Zhang Jisheng was annoyed by her constant fidgeting, so he got up and turned on the light, looking at her discontentedly, he asked, "What's the matter with you? Are you feeling restless or what? You're not sleeping in the middle of the night, and I have to go to work tomorrow!"

The renovation work was exhausting enough, and now he couldn't even have a peaceful sleep at home.

Qi Fenglian sat up and said, "Aren't I worried about something?"

"What's there to worry about? In my opinion, you're just too idle." Zhang Jisheng snorted lightly. If he were like her, constantly busy and worn out like an ox, he wouldn't have time for all these trivial concerns.

Qi Fenglian glared at him and said, "What do you know? I have this uneasy feeling, like mom is hiding something from us."

Moreover, this feeling was intense, as if something major was about to happen.

When it came to his mother-in-law, Zhang Jisheng sneered, "Hiding what? Whatever it is, it's not going to fall on you. Aren't you just needlessly worrying over nothing?"

"If I knew what it was, would I still be losing sleep over it? Something just doesn't feel right," sighed Qi Fenglian. Then she added, "Cheng Su had a miscarriage this time, and mom is furious about it. In hindsight, I shouldn't have rushed to tell her. You know how temperamental my mom can be, and now look, Taiguo has sent her over, sigh..."

Zhang Jisheng said, "You're just now realizing how bad your mother's temper is? Otherwise, would you think she's so easygoing?" He felt uneasy all over just thinking about the way his mother-in-law used to glare at him when Cheng Su was trying to have a son.

"What's that supposed to mean?" The expression on Qi Fenglian's face darkened.

"I haven't said anything wrong," Zhang Jisheng muttered as he lay down and said, "Stop overthinking. Whatever it is, it has nothing to do with you. Go to sleep, I have to get up early tomorrow!"

"Sigh." Seeing that he was unwilling to talk any further, Qi Fenglian was truly frustrated and sighed, "Do you think we'll have to persuade mom to go over to their place in Taiguo tomorrow? Since she has already come, we can't really send her back to play around. We should at least help them out for a few days, right?"

"Convince her if you think you can. To me, this isn't a big deal. We're all family, and there's no deep enmity. Taiguo too—how serious can it be, falling out with her own mother? If it were up to me, I'd side with your mother—it indeed doesn't make sense. How could such a grown-up not even know she was pregnant?" Zhang Jisheng said with his eyes closed, his back towards her.

"She's never been a mother before, so it's understandable if she didn't know! Besides, they've been trying to avoid pregnancy, so how could this happen?" Qi Fenglian retorted irritably.

"How do you know they've been careful every time? Maybe they skipped using protection once or twice, or it failed or broke—what's so surprising about that?" Zhang Jisheng scoffed.

Just as Qi Fenglian was about to argue back, a sudden realization flashed through her mind, and she grabbed his hand urgently, "What did you just say?"

"Are you done yet?" Zhang Jisheng turned over impatiently, shaking off her hand.

"No, what did you just say a moment ago? Something about something failing or breaking?" Qi Fenglian's face turned slightly pale.

"What's wrong with you?" Zhang Jisheng looked at her in bewilderment, taken aback by her urgency.

Qi Fenglian suddenly considered a possibility, yet didn't quite dare to confirm it; but remembering how her mother had spoken evasively during the day, her heart started pounding rapidly.

She gripped Zhang Jisheng's hand, swallowing nervously, "I'm wondering, could mom have done something to help Cheng Su get pregnant, just to have a grandchild?"

"Done something? What could she possibly do? Watch over them in bed? She..." Zhang Jisheng began to say, then suddenly something occurred to him, and his face twisted oddly as he said, "You must be crazy, how is that possible!"

Chapter 680: Going to Make a Scene

Qi Fenglian hardly slept all night, and the next day she awoke early with dark circles under her eyes. Mother Qi had already risen and couldn't help but frown upon seeing her state.

"Didn't sleep well? You have some serious bags under your eyes."

Qi Fenglian smiled and said, "Mom, Cheng Su is being discharged from the hospital today, and you're going back to the big house. Could you help out by cooking for a few days?"

Mother Qi snorted with a cold laugh, "They don't welcome me there, so why would I go and make myself despised? I won't go!"

"Mom, what's this? Are you really getting angry with your own son? Taiguo was just nervous for a moment. Don't you know him by now? He's always been the most filial to you!" Qi Fenglian urged.

"Filial? Lucky he hasn't angered me to death!" Mother Qi curled her lip, sourly saying, "He's filial to his mother-in-law, that's for sure."

"He's filial to both, but you're his birth mother. Do you really want to be estranged from him for life?" Qi Fenglian said pointedly, "If that's the case, then you're really pushing your son away."

Mother Qi listened, feeling a rush of urgency, but remained silent.

Qi Fenglian glanced at her, then offhandedly remarked, "It's strange though, Taiguo and his wife planned their baby, taking measures to avoid pregnancy, and they still conceived. Taiguo's wife must be in excellent health."

Mother Qi's face took on an odd expression, and she just hummed in response.

Qi Fenglian's heart sank as she continued, "That director of women's health isn't reliable at all, promoting the use of condoms, and yet they ended up pregnant anyway. Mom, do you think those condoms might have broken?"

"Huh, could it be?" Mother Qi was taken aback.

"How else could they have gotten pregnant? It either broke or was tampered with." Qi Fenglian stated.

Mother Qi's face changed slightly, showing a mix of embarrassment and annoyance, "What's the point of talking about this? Now that she's a mother, you should have some discretion." She quickly changed the subject, "I'm busy at the shop, take me over to Taiguo's place, so no one can say I haven't looked after her at all."

Qi Fenglian saw her panic, and her heart felt heavy.

Her mother's evasive behavior was definitely suspicious. Could it be that she really tampered with their condoms? Impossible, when would she have had the chance?

Qi Fenglian felt anxious and frightened. She wanted to ask, but feared her grandmother's temper, and was more afraid of stirring up trouble. If word got out, it could be a serious matter!

Arriving at the big house filled with unease, Cheng Su and her family hadn't returned yet; only Mother Cheng was at home, simmering chicken soup to help her daughter recuperate.



When Mother Cheng saw Mother Qi, she warmly took her hand and said indignantly, "My dear in-law, you're back. I have something to discuss with you and need your advice."

Mother Qi, feeling flattered, asked, "What's the matter?"

"About that, I've asked around from Chunhua and the neighbors. The wretched woman who caused the loss of our grandson lives right next door. I just think, my grandson is gone, and they sit there so comfortable—I can't stand it. We need to go and demand justice, don't you think?" Mother Cheng asked.

Going to demand justice was more like going to create a scene. Her heart was ablaze with anger. That shameless Fox Spirit, causing her daughter and grandchild harm, how dare she covet her admirable son-in-law?

Upon hearing this, Mother Qi immediately replied, "What, that woman hasn't left yet? Let's go, we need a proper explanation. After bringing harm to my grandson, she can't just get away with it." They had to get some compensation, her precious grandson after all!

"Let's go! I've already found out which apartment it is, this way." Mother Cheng rolled up her sleeves and led the way out.

Dazed, Qi Fenglian watched the two older women leave with a fierce air about them. She then snapped to her senses and hurried to follow them.