

The 80s 681

Chapter 681: Take Down the Cheap Goods

Chiang Qing's temporary residence; Chiang Tian had been sent by Lu Shufen to pick up Jiang Conghe. She and Chiang Qing had to stay at home, could not go anywhere, suffocated to the point of a headache.

Why?

The moment she stepped outside, people would gossip about them. Chiang Qing herself was reluctant to go out unless it was to wait for her husband to deal with that damn Qi Taiguo, Lu Shufen really wanted to return to Beijing immediately.

This wretched place, this poverty-ridden dump, these despicable people, she would never want to come here a second time in her life. This visit was nothing but a nightmare.

Lu Shufen looked towards her daughter, who was sitting by the window, both heartbroken and furious. Ever since that night when she blamed her for meddling, the child hadn't said a single word to her.

Either sleeping or sitting by the window in a daze, stupid and foolish, not knowing what she was thinking about, like a wandering soul.

Watching her, Lu Shufen's heart felt as if it were being sliced open, the pain immense.

"Qing..."

"Open the door, open the door." The door was pounded heavily.

Lu Shufen, still traumatized by Qi Taiguo's beating, jumped up like a frightened bird at the unfriendly banging on the door.

"Chiang, open the door, I know you're home!"

Outside, a woman's voice demanded, and it terrified Lu Shufen; just by the tone, she knew the visitor meant trouble, and only a fool would open the door.

"Chiang, open the door, don't hide there in silence. If you have the guts to steal a man, have the guts to open the door."

Chiang Qing got up and walked to the door.

"Qingqing, what are you going to do?" Lu Shufen exclaimed in shock, grabbing her quickly: "Don't go, they are all shrews, surely it's Cheng Su and her lot."

Indeed, it must be them looking for trouble again.

Cheng Su, Chiang Qing's breath hitched and she said, "What are you afraid of, what am I afraid of? I'm not scared of her!"

Chiang Qing shook off her hand, went over and opened the door. She wasn't afraid; if Cheng Su wanted an argument, then they would argue. She hadn't pushed her; it was her own weakness that caused the miscarriage.

She was not to blame.

As soon as the door opened, Chiang Qing, who was standing by the door, was pushed aside.

Mother Cheng didn't know who Chiang Qing was and didn't dare to act rashly, but Mother Qi, who had seen Chiang Qing, recognized her instantly and slapped her square across the face.

"There you are, at home, you seductive Fox Spirit, shameless homewrecker of my son's family!" Mother Qi was the first to lash out.

Lu Shufen screamed: "How dare you, this is outrageous, where did this shrew come from? Get out, get out!"

"Shrew?" Seeing her, Mother Qi's eyes turned redder, hands on hips, she lowered her head and charged towards her: "It's all because of you, you wicked woman, black-hearted and rotten to the core, cheap trash, you caused my grandchild's death, you murderer, repay me for my grandchild!"

Lu Shufen, accustomed to a life of pampering, never even lifting a broom, was no match for Mother Qi, who was accustomed to hard labor. With one charge, Lu Shufen was knocked to the ground where Mother Qi sat on her, smacking her face repeatedly.

"Ah, ah. Help, someone, I'm being murdered!" Lu Shufen flailed and scratched with her hands.

Meanwhile, Mother Cheng was slapping Chiang Qing: "That's for stealing someone's man, you shameless hussy."

Chiang Qing was stunned by the hits.

"Let it be, Mother-in-law, that's enough," pleaded Qi Fenglian, who feared things getting out of hand, as she rushed to pull her away.

Mother Cheng stopped hitting, but she wasn't done yet. She walked into the house and started smashing things.

Qi Fenglian moved forward again to pull her mother away: "Mom, it's enough, if you keep it up someone will die!"

Mother Qi paused, rolled some spit in her mouth, and spat it on Lu Shufen's face.

Lu Shufen's screams were continuous; this had to be a nightmare.

Chapter 682: Playing the Rascal for Once

"Everyone come and look, this shameless woman who steals other men and has caused someone's grandson to die is a murderer!" Mother Qi yelled, dragging Lu Shufen along.

The neighbors had already gathered to watch the commotion when Mother Qi and her group started calling at the door.

Lu Shufen felt like she wanted to die, damn woman, these are all shrews, robbers!

Husband, Xiao Tian, why aren't you here yet? Me and my child are about to not make it.

It was as if Heaven had heard her summons; from the doorway, a stern voice of authority came through.

"What is going on here?"

Hearing this voice, Lu Shufen felt like she had heard the voice of a savior; she mustered all her strength to shake off Mother Qi's hand and rushed over.

"Move aside, move, everyone go back home."

Jiang Conghe finally emerged from the crowd, accompanied by Regimental Commander Mai and two soldiers.

Lu Shufen burst into tears, "You took so long! My daughter and I were almost beaten to death!"

Qi Fenglian's face drastically changed. She quickly grabbed the two old ladies and, after a quick thought, whispered hurriedly into Mother Qi's ear, "Mom, whatever they say later, don't bother with anything, just start slapping your thigh and wail."

Mother Qi, upon seeing the person of authority, felt somewhat panicked and swallowed hard.

Jiang Conghe, witnessing Lu Shufen's swollen face, felt his head buzz, "Who did this, who hit her!"

"Who else, but these shrews, sob sob, we were almost beaten to death!" Lu Shufen glared bitterly at Mother Qi.

"Sister!" Chiang Tian saw Chiang Qing sitting inside with bright red slap marks on her face and couldn't help but go over and pull her up.

Upon seeing his daughter, Jiang Conghe's eyes instantly turned bloodshot.

Was this still his flower-like daughter? She looked more like a mad woman, and his wife—usually so dignified and graceful—now...

Jiang Conghe couldn't bear to look, as rage spread throughout his body.

At the back of the group, Regimental Commander Mai saw this and his scalp tingled; he quietly gestured to Gao Linbing, who had come with him. Gao Linbing, pale-faced, hurried away.

"Where are the guards? Call the guards, lock these troublemakers up and summon the police," Jiang Conghe roared with rage.

Lock them up, call the police.

Mother Qi and her group immediately became flustered and at a loss.

From the corner of her eye, Lu Shufen saw this and her lips curled into a cold smirk. You damn shrew, now you're afraid? Too late!

Qi Fenglian's face turned white, and she quietly nudged Mother Qi.

Mother Qi immediately sat down on the ground, hitting her thigh and started wailing, "Heaven above, open your eyes, is there no law left? To justify murder, it's an outrage against Heaven. Oh Heaven, please open your eyes; this is driving us powerless commoners to death!"

Mother Cheng joined in the commotion, crying out, "A murderer gets to be right, commoners have no way out, might as well just die!" Saying so, she went to the window and acted as if she would jump out.

Jiang Conghe and the others were taken aback.

This was completely a hooligan's behavior!

"Mom, Mother-in-law, please don't do this," Qi Fenglian earnestly wiped away a few tears.

"My poor grandson, you didn't even get the chance to open your eyes, oh dear, to see a white-haired person send off someone with black hair, I might as well die!" Mother Qi wailed again, "Everyone, judge for yourselves, isn't this a case of the perpetrator justifying herself? Can the powerful bully the common people?"

"This is outrageous!" Jiang Conghe trembled with anger.

Having seen enough of the drama, Regimental Commander Mai stepped forward and diplomatically suggested, "Commissar Tan, Commander Chiang, this might be the family of Comrade Qi Taiguo, the old lady is ignorant, got anxious and is seeking justice."

Chapter 683: Is it Wrong to Hit Someone, But Right to Kill?

Ask for an explanation, what explanation?

Commander Chiang's face darkened. Since when did the Chiang family have to be questioned?

He gave Regimental Commander Mai a faint glance, then turned to Commissar Tan, "Regimental Commander Mai may not know how to speak, but you surely aren't as foolish as to follow suit!"

"Commander Chiang, everyone is watching, making a big fuss won't look good," Commissar Tan stepped forward and whispered.

Lu Shufen wouldn't have it though, "They assaulted a chief's family member, and we just let it go? No way, take them all to prison for sentencing."

The moment Mother Qi and her group heard this, they wailed even louder, "No justice anymore, eh? Do commoners' lives mean nothing? Money and power rule, is that it?" The onlookers couldn't help but whisper among themselves.

"Shrews, attacking people and thinking you're in the right!" Lu Shufen trembled with anger.

"And you causing my miscarriage, is that right?"

A voice called out from behind.

The crowd looked over, only to see Cheng Su being supported by Qi Taiguo as she walked over, her complexion pale and lips white, displaying all signs of frailty.

"Comrade Cheng Su, why have you come? Comrade Qi Taiguo, how can you act as a husband like this? Your wife has just been discharged from the hospital, why join this chaos?" Regimental Commander Mai was the first to speak out.

Chiang Qing, who had been silent till now, lit up when he heard Qi Taiguo's name and looked over.

There he was, cradling Cheng Su's waist with one hand and holding her hand with the other, carefully shielding her. That protective gesture was like a needle, piercing Chiang Qing's eyes.

He hadn't glanced her way even once.

Jiang Conghe locked eyes with Qi Taiguo, and his pupils contracted slightly.

A young man full of sharp edges!

Merely a lowly company commander, yet his aura matched his own, but...

Jiang Conghe's appraisal turned to indignant anger. It was this man who had caused his daughter to be lovesick and foolish.

If possible, he truly wanted to kill him!

"Regimental Commander Mai, as soon as I returned, I heard that my mother-in-law and her group came to demand an explanation from Madam Jiang. Anxious, I rushed over. They are just rural women who can hardly recognize big characters, I feared they might do something disrespectful, so I had no choice but to come!" Cheng Su said a few words but started to gasp for air.

"You're weak, don't talk so much," Qi Taiguo quickly soothed her, then turned to Qi Fenglian and the others, "Eldest sister, what are you doing here? If our mother is old and confused, are you confused as well? Why don't you take them back?"

"Oh!" Qi Fenglian hurried to pull the two elders.

"Hold on, who said they could leave?" Jiang Conghe's face was cold as he stared at Qi Taiguo, "They came knocking to assault someone, and not just anyone, but the commander's wife. And you think they can just walk away?"

"Commander Chiang, it was wrong of my mother-in-law and mother to hit someone. I offer my apologies to Madam Jiang on their behalf," said Cheng Su as she was about to apologize to Madam Jiang, but then added, "Before apologizing, I still have a question for Commander Chiang. Commander Chiang is a great figure responsible for national security, essentially a parent official to the people. Officers are officials too. So, I plead with Commander Chiang and this... "

"This is Commissar Tan!" Regimental Commander Mai hurriedly introduced.

"Commissar Tan," Cheng Su nodded as a greeting and continued, "You are all venerable parent officials, and I am just a humble commoner, unfamiliar with great principles. I understand that it's wrong to hit someone and that an apology is in order, but what about killing? Is that right or wrong, is there any justice in that?"

Her gaze fixed on Lu Shufen, with the rage in her eyes clear to see. It made Lu Shufen's heart jitter and she turned her head away subconsciously.

Jiang Conghe was at a loss for words. How should he answer that question?

Chapter 684: I Admit Defeat

Everyone present was no fool; they all knew that murder was not only wrong but also illegal, yet Cheng Su dared to question Jiang Conghe in such a way.

Was she treating him like an idiot?

Jiang Conghe was extremely annoyed. Having been in politics for so many years, he had always been flattered and fawned upon. Suddenly being questioned like this, especially by a woman, he felt his dignity evaporate and a flash of murderous intent crossed his eyes.

Qi Taiguo saw it clearly and felt a chill in his heart. He subconsciously stood in front of Cheng Su, blocking Jiang Conghe's line of sight and staring back at him.

There was a moment of silence in the room, and the atmosphere was heavy.

"Who committed murder?" Jiang Conghe squeezed the words out through his teeth.

"Exactly, who committed murder? You're slandering us," Lu Shufen joined in, hearing her husband's words. How ridiculous, she thought to herself, afraid of what? A mere company commander.

Cheng Su, standing behind Qi Taiguo, laughed out loud, laughter mingled with tears.

She patted Qi Taiguo's arm, stepped forward, and said to Lu Shufen, "Madam Jiang truly has a busy life of the privileged. You came to my house the other day and bluntly asked me how much money it would take for me to divorce my husband—ten thousand, twenty thousand? I must admit I admire your

motherly love, Madam Jiang. Whoever Doctor Chiang loves, just buy with money – what a wonderful mother!"

Regimental Commander Mai and others looked at Lu Shufen, thinking to themselves, could it be true? So shameless!

Lu Shufen's face turned the color of purple sauce as she yelled, "You—you're talking nonsense. I never said such a thing!"

Cheng Su ignored her and turned to Commissar Tan and the others, "Regimental Commander Mai, Commissar Tan, shouldn't military marriages be protected? My husband is a righteous soldier, defending the homeland, repeatedly risking his life for the country. He's a true hero, a man, not an object. Just because someone fancies him, they think they can buy him off with money? Is that what a soldier amounts to? An item?"

Qi Taiguo gave Chiang Qing a cold glance.

Chiang Qing trembled and lowered her head, her hands clenched tight.

"I truly love my husband, and why, Madam Jiang, must you tear our family apart just to indulge your maternal heart? So you attacked me without hesitation, pushing me into the corner of the table and causing me to miscarry!" Cheng Su looked at her coldly, then turned to Jiang Conghe, "Wasn't the child in my womb a life, too? Whether intentional or not, Madam Jiang acted – doesn't that count as having killed someone?"

What a sharp-tongued and fierce girl!

Jiang Conghe glared at her, a murderous aura swirling around him.

"You're making it up, I did nothing of the sort, and you won't pin this on me," Lu Shufen shrieked in desperation.

Anyway, without evidence, she would never admit to it, even if it killed her.

"My neighbors can testify; they saw you push me with their own eyes, and Doctor Chiang saw it too. Of course, I expect she'll say she saw nothing," Cheng Su chuckled coldly. "If this is how justice works, then we common folk have no choice but to accept our lot."

Before Jiang Conghe could react, Cheng Su continued, "Commander Chiang, we are here to seek a resolution. Can you provide one? Since ancient times, the penalty for murder has been life for life. I don't want Madam Jiang's life; I just want her to make amends."

"You wish," Lu Shufen screamed shrilly. "Who do you think you are? Expecting me to apologize to you, pah! You don't deserve it!"

Cheng Su's smirk was almost a smile as she turned to Commissar Tan, "Commissar Tan, I have nothing more to say. We common people, what right do we have to speak? But it's unfair to the old people to continue to worry and be frightened in their old age. Let's say I accept my fate and apologize to Madam Jiang. Would trading one life for another be acceptable?"

This was a show of weakness that was anything but weak; it was a clear accusation that they bullied others because of their power.

Jiang Conghe's face turned an ugly shade, hating this damned woman to death.

Chapter 685: The Always Disruptive Jiang Chi Ren

Those present, watching the commotion, couldn't help but feel sympathy as they watched Cheng Su's pale face being supported by Qi Taiguo, her weak and unsteady pitiful appearance also evoking a shared sense of distress.

This world has always been unequal. Faced with high officials and strong powers, these rootless common folk have no right to speak. Even with laws in place, it's still the common folk who suffer. They have always been the ones sacrificed.

Thus, even if they suffer a great injustice, they can only admit defeat and dare not pursue it further.

Jiang Conghe had not failed to notice the looks in people's eyes, which spoke of fear and resentment, as their anger flared from their toes to the top of their heads.

It was infuriating, too infuriating. They said it was coercion, but clearly, it was that wretched girl forcing them, playing the weak to garner sympathy.

"If this still isn't enough to appease Commander Chiang, then I will voluntarily remove my uniform, I only ask that Commander Chiang graciously spare me!" Qi Taiguo looked towards Jiang Conghe.

Regimental Commander Mai immediately rebuked, "Comrade Qi Taiguo, don't act rashly. The nation has laws. As a soldier, can you just speak of removing your uniform? What regard do you have for military regulations?"

Chiang Qing trembled upon hearing this, lifting her head in disbelief.

Without the uniform, would he still be himself? No, that simply cannot happen, absolutely not!

Jiang Conghe glared fiercely at Qi Taiguo. This troublemaker was the root cause of all this mess. Without him, none of this would have happened. Damn him.

Seeing the atmosphere becoming untenable, Commissar Tan suggested, "Commander Chiang, these are just uneducated rural women who resort to violence. Perhaps, I could assign a women's director to educate them?"

Jiang Conghe snorted.

Lu Shufen heard the implications: that was it, they were just going to let it slide!

So was she just supposed to accept having been slapped for nothing?

Unacceptable!

"No, we can't just let them go, take them all to prison," Lu Shufen urged.

Qi Taiguo glared back.

Lu Shufen took several steps back, instinctively covering her face. She hadn't forgotten—he had slapped out one of her teeth with a single smack.

Jiang Conghe saw his wife's frightened demeanor and grew even more enraged, glaring back, but Qi Taiguo had already lowered his gaze.

"Commander Chiang, it won't be good if word gets out," Commissar Tan whispered, nudging his mouth towards the outside.

We'll see who dares!

Jiang Conghe was defiant. For how many years had he been forced into a corner by someone?

"Let them go!" Chiang Qing spoke out, looking at her father: "Dad, I'm begging you, please let them go."

Lu Shufen felt anger welling up, enough to spill three liters of blood. Her daughter, always undermining her at critical moments—was she trying to infuriate her, to leave them swallowing this injustice in silence?

"Comrade Qi Taiguo, problems cannot always be solved with force. Your family, uneducated and lacking insight, doesn't mean they can throw tantrums. There are state laws. Let it go for now, take them away immediately," resigned, Jiang Conghe gestured dismissively as his daughter had spoken.

"Thank you for the guidance, Commander Chiang," Qi Taiguo said flatly, calling for Qi Fenglian and leading his family away.

Chiang Qing gazed blankly as he disappeared, the brightness in her eyes fading away with him, her desire to cry tearless.

"Commander Chiang must be tired too. This..." Regimental Commander Mai glanced at the messy room and suggested, "How about you rest at the guesthouse with me?"

Jiang Conghe looked around the room and then at Lu Shufen and the others, his head aching, and he nodded in agreement.

The Chiang Family all left, and the onlookers hadn't dispersed yet, still relishing the recent drama. They felt pity for Cheng Su and feared the authority, and mentioned that Qi Taiguo had offended the high official and might really have to remove his uniform.

Chapter 686: What's the Next Move If You Have One?

Mother Qi and Mother Cheng, the two old ladies, followed behind Qi Taiguo with apprehension as they entered the house, not daring to utter a word.

Mother Qi felt some urgency in her heart. Had Qi Taiguo seriously considered taking off his military uniform? And that commander, he was too frightening, his eyes looked as if he wanted to devour someone. That was Taiguo's superior!

Would this cause Taiguo to act out? Would he then have no future?

Mother Qi was somewhat annoyed and regretful. She shouldn't have listened to her in-law and made trouble for that surnamed Jiang. Now, they hadn't even received compensation, and she feared they might end up sacrificing her son!

In her eyes, nothing was more important than her son's future.

Mother Cheng also felt some regret. She had just wanted to stand up for her daughter and the unborn grandchild, but now it seemed like they had stirred up quite a mess. They were just common folks from the countryside, even with a son-in-law who was an army commander, could they really take on someone like that?

Qi Taiguo helped Cheng Su sit down on the sofa, glanced at Qi Fenglian, and said, "Big sister, it's almost lunchtime. You should go back to work first!"

Qi Fenglian nodded, glanced at the old ladies, knowing she couldn't help with this matter.

In the living room, the two old ladies were very restless, Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo exchanged a helpless look.

Mother Cheng was the first to stand up, sheepishly saying, "Daughter, son-in-law, this, it's not your mother-in-law's fault, I was the one who started it by looking for trouble. I, I just wanted to vent for you, but I didn't expect..."

Mother Qi didn't expect her in-law to take the blame upon herself and muttered, "A life for a life, we can't just let them get off easy!"

Cheng Su gave her mother-in-law a faint look and then turned to her own mother: "Mom, you've been so foolish. How could you just barge in recklessly? What if you had gotten hurt?"

"We won't get hurt, they aren't as strong as us; they didn't harm us at all!" Mother Cheng immediately said.

"Still, you shouldn't have gone. It was only by coincidence we arrived in time. What if we had been late? We would have had to get you out of jail, right?" Cheng Su said.

Mother Cheng and the others turned pale.

"Let it be, mother-in-law just wanted to stand up for us," Qi Taiguo spoke.

"You cannot act recklessly. There are some people we are not afraid of, but we can't afford to offend them to death either!" Cheng Su sighed.

This time, Mother Qi said, "Now we've thoroughly offended them. Taiguo, will this affect you?"

"Yeah! Will you really need to take off your uniform?" Mother Cheng also asked anxiously.

"No, if that were the case, they wouldn't have let us come back!" Qi Taiguo consoled, "Don't worry about this matter anymore, I will handle it." Mother Qi felt even more anxious and regretful.

Mother Cheng also blamed herself for being too impulsive, especially now that they were not blaming them, she felt even more uncomfortable.

How could it be right for the mistakes they made to fall on the younger ones to bear?

After having the two old ladies tidy up a bit, Qi Taiguo took Cheng Su to rest in the bedroom. Once they lay down, Cheng Su asked, furrowing her brows, "It looks like we've won for now, but Jiang Conghe, he probably won't let it go, right? Could he seek personal revenge again?"

Hearing that the two old ladies had gone to cause trouble, they were both panicked, worried something might happen to them, and hurried over.

And the moment they saw Jiang Conghe, they knew he was not an easy person to deal with. Especially since he had sought personal revenge before, and this time he had suffered a dumb loss at their hands, he would likely be even angrier!

"Are you scared?" Qi Taiguo asked in return.

Cheng Su paused and shook her head.

"Then that's fine. I've said it before—if worse comes to worst, we can just take off the uniform and go back to farming. Can he really kill us?" Qi Taiguo scoffed, "We've come this far; whatever tricks he has, I'm ready for them!"

Chapter 687: Infighting within the Chiang Family

The military district guesthouse, Lu Shufen, with her swollen face, had been crying and cursing. Every time her cheek twitched, she occasionally hissed in pain.

"I waited so long for you, just to end up with this outcome. Had I known, I would have gone back to Beijing." She wouldn't have had to suffer that shrewish wife's beating, oh God, her face was no longer presentable, and she hurt all over.

Lu Shufen was extremely dissatisfied with how the recent farce had been handled, and what disappointed her most was that Jiang Conghe actually let those shrewish women off the hook so easily.

They were from the Capital, their family held power and influence, yet they were intimidated by people from the countryside, what a joke, she'd never heard of such a laughable thing before.

"Then what do you suggest we do about this?" Jiang Conghe's face also looked very unpleasant.

He had arrived full of fury, but the first thing he saw was his wife and daughter being beaten to a pulp by others and being accused and pressured by a young company commander's spouse, leaving them with no retort.

Such an inglorious outcome was simply too dreadful!

"What else can be done, of course, all those wicked barbarians must be thrown into jail!" Lu Shufen glared, questioning him, "You, a high-ranking commander, can't even manage this, still a commander for what? Watching your wife and daughter being bullied and not standing up for them, what kind of man are you!"

Jiang Conghe darkened his face and said coldly, "If it hadn't been for your move that caused that woman to miscarry, not to mention throwing them in jail, I could have had them immediately convicted."

Lu Shufen's face changed, "What do you mean by that? Are you blaming me now?"

"Am I not speaking the truth? Without the moral high ground, how are we to argue our case? Does that make sense?" Jiang Conghe said irritably.

Lu Shufen shrieked, "I've never heard of such reasoning before, a bunch of nobodies among the common people arguing with us? Jiang Conghe, do you still think you're the poor young man from humble beginnings? That's so laughable."

She suddenly thought of Jiang Dafang. It was that scoundrel who kept coming to him, probably having influenced him again, seeing the lowlife reminded him of his own past, naturally making him soft-hearted.

Without thinking, Lu Shufen angrily yelled, "I had long told you not to deal with that lowlife Jiang Dafang, but you insisted on doing it behind my back. Look now, you just want to side with those lowlifes, disregard the life and death of your wife and daughter!"

Chiang Tian was sitting on the couch, glanced at his mother, and shook his head.

His mother was always like this, never discerning the gravity of the situation, still dragging that person into it, wasn't she just stabbing dad in the heart?

Sure enough, Jiang Conghe got annoyed and said, "What does Dafang have to do with this, why bring him into it?"

This protective attitude completely infuriated Lu Shufen, and, feeling utterly disappointed, she threw herself onto the sofa and began sobbing uncontrollably, "I knew it, you would always protect that lowlife. If that's the case, you might as well let our mother and daughter be beaten to death, not like we've got much to live for anyway!"

She was truly aggrieved, bullied outside, and yet still bullied by her own family behind closed doors. Her life was indeed hard.

Jiang Conghe said angrily, "You're being completely unreasonable, beyond persuasion."

Upon hearing this, Lu Shufen cried even louder, and Chiang Tian had no choice but to go and try to console her. It was so annoying; they might as well go back to the Capital.

Chiang Qing suddenly opened the door, staring at them coldly, emotionless, and said, "If you're going to argue, do it outside, don't disturb my sleep."

The crying abruptly stopped, Lu Shufen lifted her head, staring blankly at her daughter, while Jiang Conghe also looked at her with a stern face.

He certainly hadn't forgotten, it was this daughter who had undermined him just a moment ago.

Chapter 688: A Nest of Madmen

He could have actually used his authority to lock that person up just now, but his daughter jumped out and told him to let go, how infuriating.

At this point, she was still thinking of helping Qi Taiguo, oblivious to the fact that he didn't spare her a glance, nor would he remember the favor, what a fool!

"You, what kind of attitude is this?" Jiang Conghe's anger surged from his heart as he pointed at Chiang Qing and scolded, "Look at you, go find a mirror and see yourself, what have you become? Neither human nor ghost. Just for such a man, you've had the whole family revolving around you."

"Look at yourself, look at your mother, who lived a life of luxury and comfort, never having a hair touched by others. And for you, she was beaten to this state, just to protect you. Do you still have a shred of conscience?" Jiang Conghe then pointed at Lu Shufen, speaking with deep sorrow, "We have advised you so many times, told you to come home, not to come back here, but you wouldn't listen and sneaked back again. Now that it has escalated to this, are you happy? Are you satisfied?"

Chiang Qing let out a cold laugh, with eyes wide open and said, "Did I ever ask you to help me? Did I ask you to protect me? If you hadn't meddled, would things have ended up unsolvable? It's your interference that has made things like this, if you want to blame, blame yourselves for meddling!"

If they hadn't meddled, Qi Taiguo wouldn't hate her like this. Now it's over, he will never look at her again, she really has no hope!

It was all their doing, they personally cut the thread between her and Qi Taiguo, they dug an insurmountable chasm between him and her, she hated them!

Jiang Conghe and Lu Shufen felt a chill in their hearts when they saw the hatred in their daughter's eyes, unable to utter a single word.

She hated them, their own daughter, their princess whom they had doted on and raised, actually hated them.

"Are you insane!" Jiang Conghe pointed at her, his fingers trembling.

A disaster, she's a disaster.

For her alone, the whole family is in turmoil, and now she's talking like this, if she's not insane, if she's not a disaster, then what is she?

"Qingqing, you..." Lu Shufen's heart twisted painfully, it was a pain of heartache and disappointment.

"I am insane!" Chiang Qing looked at them expressionlessly and said, "Isn't this exactly why you came? Is it not to take me, the madwoman, to see a psychiatrist and force me to take medication?"

Her voice gradually became sharp, "I'm a madwoman, what about you? Aren't you all mad too, the insane giving birth to the insane!"

Madwoman, madwoman, madwoman!

Chiang Qing clutched at her head and shrieked, "Madwoman, madwoman, the whole family is mad! Ahhh!"

Bang, she slammed the door shut, and the whole house trembled.

Chiang Tian's face turned pale, this was the first time he saw his older sister lose her composure, it was terrifying, truly terrifying!

Lu Shufen started crying out loud, rushing forward to pound on the door, "Qingqing, open the door, Qingqing, don't do anything foolish, you are going to be the death of mom."

"Get lost! Get lost!"

Lu Shufen collapsed to the ground, crying desperately, "What to do, my good daughter."

Pitiful the heart of a parent, Lu Shufen just felt wronged, now she truly felt heartbroken; it was flesh from her own body that changed to this, how could it not hurt?

Jiang Conghe stared at that door with clenched teeth, his hands balled tightly into fists.

This is all due to Qi Taiguo, the instigator of this calamity. If not for him, how could his proud daughter have turned into this ghastly figure?

What's so good about him, what's he worth? Such a foolish girl!

Jiang Conghe was filled with both pain and disappointment, and the tears began to flow from the corner of his eyes.

Chapter 689: x Stirring Things Up

Some families experience joy while others face grief; this was destined to be a sleepless night.

Just as Jiang Conghe and his wife were nearly going gray with worry for their daughter, unbeknownst to them in Beijing, trouble ignited right behind their backs.

As soon as Ning Ge returned to Beijing, he immediately made arrangements to meet a few childhood friends and, through them, he also invited a scion who served as a deputy director in the Cultural Work Troupe.

A group made up of second-generation officials, the third generation of old revolutionaries, or the rich second generation gathered in a private room of a club, drinking and chatting.

Ning Ge, who was the ringleader, had come with the clear intention of stirring things up—he was responsible for setting the atmosphere. Soon after, he began sharing the Chiang Family's secrets in a tone full of mystery.

A female military doctor stole someone else's husband; Director Lu came to help but ended up causing a company commander's wife to miscarry.

"Such a respected director of the Cultural Work Troupe, unable to distinguish right from wrong, even causing someone to miscarry; such a director has a poor image, with a profound impact on the Cultural Work Troupe..." Ning Ge deliberately addressed these words to the offspring of the deputy director, who seemed contemplative.

Ning Ge paused, and his childhood friend mysteriously added, "If the top beam isn't straight, the bottom ones will go awry. Back in the day, Commander Chiang also had a wife, and Director Lu took her away—so the story goes."

Ning Ge 'accidentally' mentioned an incident from Military Doctor Chiang's childhood, and someone with a loose tongue let it slip.

The gathering was lively, and once it dispersed, the topics discussed quickly spread to the various families involved. Those who were scheming started to take action.

On Ning Gang's end, he didn't halt his actions and formally presented Qi Taiguo's "petition for punishment" up the chain.

When Ning Ge gleefully returned home, he was intercepted by his eldest brother and Old Master Ning.

"How is Xiao Cheng feeling?" Old Master Ning's first question concerned Cheng Su's health.

Ning Ge replied, "What's so good about a woman having a miscarriage? When I got to their place, she was lying on the floor, blood everywhere, like a dead person."

As he spoke, a look of distress crossed his face; he couldn't shake off the unease he felt remembering that scene.

Ning Gang gave him a glance.

"A young woman—take good care of her, and she can still bear children in the future. Older brother, have your wife prepare some nutritious tonics. I'll have the fourth brother take them back later as a token of my concern," Old Master Ning sighed.

"Yes."

Ning Ge was taken aback, then said, "I'll thank Old Master Ning on behalf of Cheng Su."

Old Master Ning nodded. He didn't want to hear about such unpleasant matters, so he changed the subject and asked Ning Gang, "How are things on your end?"

"The report has been delivered, and Director Wang is very angry," Ning Gang exhaled.

Ning Ge's eyes sparkled with anticipation.

Old Master Ning saw this, and a glint of sharpness passed through his eyes, saying, "Just delivering it is enough; don't do anything more to avoid accusations of not caring about the image of a soldier, only seeking to overpower your superiors."

Ning Gang nodded in agreement.

"I added fuel to the fire for big brother!" Ning Ge interjected.

"What have you done now? If you are in business, just stick to business honestly; don't always cause trouble," Ning Gang scolded.

Old Master Ning said, "Let's hear what he has to say; it can't hurt."

With a smug raise of an eyebrow, Ning Ge shared how he spread the Chiang Family's scandal, "Big brother, you don't have to do a thing. Just wait and reap the profits. Now, that Chiang's face is covered in mud."

"You really are causing trouble!" Ning Gang huffed dismissively.

Old Master Ning, however, nodded with a degree of satisfaction, saying, "The fourth child may be reckless, but the result is the same. There are things he can do that you can't. The fourth is right—you don't need to do anything, just wait!"

"Yes!" Ning Gang, who always obeyed Old Master Ning without question, then cast a glare at his overtly pleased younger brother.

Chapter 690: Blaming Her for Being Too Obsessive

Cheng Su awoke with a start several times during the night, each time staring unblinkingly at the pitch-black ceiling seeing nothing, and she could always recall the sight of blood seeping through her pants that day.

It was her blood, her child's blood, and it seemed as though she could still hear her child's cries.

"What's wrong?" Hearing sobs, Qi Taiguo woke up and pulled the light cord.

Cheng Su buried her face in his chest and began to cry.

"What on earth is wrong? Are you not feeling well somewhere?" Qi Taiguo said, becoming very anxious and ready to peel back the bedding to check.

Cheng Su shook her head and said, "No, it's not that, I... I'm just thinking about the child."

Qi Taiguo's hand stiffened, and he asked, "Why on earth are you thinking about this now?"

He felt a sourness in his heart, and it was unbearable.

"I just think, if I had been more careful, more cautious, maybe we wouldn't have lost him." Cheng Su cried.

"You didn't know you were pregnant, right? Didn't the doctor say it had only been a little over a month? Before, you've also had late periods; don't blame yourself. This child wasn't meant to be with us at this time; we have no connection to him. He will definitely come in the future," Qi Taiguo consoled her.

Cheng Su nodded and it took a good while before her crying stopped.

"I'm thinking, when I feel a bit better in a few days, I want to go to the temple to hold a ritual to help him reincarnate. Will you come with me?" Cheng Su spoke, nestled in his embrace.

Qi Taiguo hummed in agreement: "There's no rush for that. Wait until you've recovered more before we go."

As long as it could provide her some peace of mind, he was willing to do anything.

Only then did Cheng Su feel at ease. Now that she couldn't sleep, she might as well talk with him.

"I never believed in all of this before, but then..." Cheng Su recalled her own bizarre transmigration and said, "After that, I had no choice but to believe there is a heaven's will in this world."

"That's why you shouldn't overthink it. The child is definitely doing well in another world," Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su said nothing. She too had traversed to this world as a soul. What about the child who had just formed an embryo? Missing out on this life, would he be born into a better family?

"Let's continue to sleep, okay? You're too preoccupied; if you can't sleep well, you won't be able to recover," Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su nodded and suddenly grabbed his hand to ask, "Taiguo, Chiang Qing, is she really a schizophrenic?"

"Why bring up such a person?" Qi Taiguo's hand paused as he was about to pull the light cord.

"I just feel it's too frightening." Feeling both fear and regret, Cheng Su said, "Do you think if I hadn't provoked her, she might still be normal, wouldn't have attracted attention from her family, and this wouldn't have happened?"

The butterfly effect, probably just like that, anything has an initial butterfly that first fluttered its wings.

Qi Taiguo chuckled and said, "If that's the case, the one who should be blamed most is me. If I didn't exist in this world, none of this would've happened. The logic is the same."

"This..."

"Listen, no one's to blame here. If we must blame someone, then blame her parents for not raising her properly. Blame her for holding on too tightly to her obsessions, which led to the current situation. When a person is too obsessed, even if we do nothing, she would still end up pushing herself to the edge of a cliff, and might even fall off. Do you understand?" Qi Taiguo pressed her lips and said, "So don't blame yourself. I won't allow it. Now sleep."

Click, the light went out, and the room returned to darkness.

With her eyes half open, Cheng Su contemplated obsession—the insistence on clinging to something without letting go, the inability to transcend. When obsessed, there would be resentments. Only by letting go of the obsession can one find ease. Otherwise, it would bind them.

And Chiang Qing, would she let go?