

The 80s 701

Chapter 701: What a Good Calculation

Cheng Su's sudden outburst left everyone in the room shocked, and Mother Qi only saw a blur before something light and fluttering fell at her feet.

"Have you gone mad? You..." Mother Qi screamed, glancing at the object on the floor, and her face turned pale when she recognized what it was.

Oh no, has it been discovered?

"Susu, what's wrong?" Qi Taiguo felt a bad premonition. He had never seen Cheng Su lose her temper like this. Even during the New Year when she got angry, she had never looked as furious as if she wanted to kill someone.

He looked at the object on the floor; wasn't that their condom from their room?

"Yeah, Susu, what happened?" Mother Cheng asked, shaking with fear: "We're family, we can talk it out."

Was this person with bloodshot eyes and a face full of rage still her somewhat spoiled daughter? What on earth had happened?

"What happened? You ask her, ask her what good things she's done. You all ask!" Cheng Su glared at Qi Taiguo, pointing at Mother Qi: "You ask your good mother what she has done?"

Qi Taiguo bent down to pick up the condom from the floor. Mother Cheng looked over, completely baffled. This?

What on earth had happened?

"Mom..."

"What have I done? I haven't done anything." Qi Taiguo had just begun to speak when Mother Qi interrupted him, avoiding his gaze: "Who knows why your wife suddenly went crazy, maybe she's possessed by some dirty spirit!"

Mother Qi's voice was a bit shaky, clearly lacking confidence, dodging Cheng Su's gaze.

"I'm the crazy one? You did it and don't have the guts to admit it? You can use such despicable and shameless tactics, why are you afraid to speak out? You old hag!" Cheng Su screamed.

Qi Taiguo furrowed his brow, pulling her hand: "Susu..."

Cheng Su shook off his hand, her eyes wide and round, nearly hysterical: "You have no idea, do you? How this child came to be, we were clearly using contraception, how could I still get pregnant? It was her..." she pointed at Mother Qi: "Your wonderful mother, secretly pierced these condoms with a needle. That's why I got pregnant. It was her, she caused the loss of our first child!"

Mother Cheng gasped, covering her mouth in disbelief, looking at Mother Qi. How could this be?

Qi Taiguo's face went pale, his eyes widening in horror as he subconsciously looked at the condom in his hand.

Mother Qi, panicked inside, tried to maintain her composure: "Don't talk nonsense, what pierced condom, I don't know what you're talking about?"

"I knew you wouldn't admit it, and you won't. You snuck into our room during the New Year and went through my bag, searching for this, right? Ah, it was then that you sabotaged them, wasn't it?" Cheng Su glared at her: "Really clever, such scheming. With such tricks up your sleeve, why not become a strategist? What cleverness is there in plotting against your own family? How could you be so despicable?"

"You're talking nonsense, I did not." Mother Qi backed away, panic-stricken, seeking help, her eyes pleading with her son: "Taiguo, I really didn't."

Qi Taiguo, full of shock, looked at her and asked, "Mom, did you really do it?"

He could hardly believe it, unwilling to believe that such an act could come from his own mother.

So, the pregnancy was not an accident, but someone's doing?

The child, who wasn't even given a chance to grow in the womb, was gone!

Qi Taiguo closed his eyes in pain.

Mother Qi's expression changed, her face filled with panic, and she demanded loudly: "Taiguo, I am your mother, you don't believe me but believe the words of an outsider?"

Chapter 702: You Don't Deserve to Be a Grandma

Upon hearing that all-too-familiar tone and attitude, Cheng Su became so angry that it made her feel as if one Buddha was born and another ascended to heaven.

"You don't need to throw a tantrum here. I, Cheng Su, have really opened my eyes, to think that for the sake of hugging a grandchild, you would stop at nothing, using such despicable methods, even daring to scheme about your son and daughter-in-law's bedroom matters, shameless!" Cheng Su sternly scolded, saying, "You do have some ability, knowing how to puncture a condom. I got pregnant, and you got your wish, right? Are you satisfied now! Unfortunately, what's not yours will never be yours, and Heaven won't let you hold this grandchild, just because your sins are so great, you don't deserve to be the grandmother of my child."

As Cheng Su spoke, tears began to seep out again, her child.

How could she do such a thing!

"You're talking nonsense, all nonsense. What evidence do you have that it was me? I don't know what you're rambling about," Mother Qi stubbornly rebutted.

"Evidence? Heaven and all the deities above are my evidence, this is the evidence!" Cheng Su snatched the thing from Qi Taiguo's hand and threw it at Mother Qi's face again, saying, "You worship gods and Buddha every day with such piety, dare you swear to the lamps and all the gods above that it wasn't you? If it was, you would descend into Avici Hell, do you dare?"

Mother Qi's face turned pale.

Did she dare? She didn't dare!

The gods have a mind of their own, she didn't dare.

"You, you..."

"Enough!" Qi Taiguo suddenly spoke up in a deep voice, looking at Mother Qi, "Mom, I'll ask you one more time, did you do it?"

Mother Qi's breath hitched, and she simply admitted, "Yes, it was me. I was the one who used the needle, so what? Who asked you to be so selfish, not considering the thoughts of us elderly, to say not to bear a child and then not bear one, without thinking about what we want!"

Cheng Su's heart settled on solid ground, hearing this accusation, she almost laughed out of sheer anger.

"The belly is mine, the womb is mine, I say whether to have a child or not to have a child, why should I listen to you?" Cheng Su countered, "I am a person, I have human rights, I am not the Qi family's childbearing machine."

"What use is a woman if she doesn't bear children? You married into the Qi family, of course you should spread the Qi family's branches, otherwise what use are you?" Mother Qi said angrily.

"Is that so? Then I'm afraid I cannot live up to being the Qi family's daughter-in-law. Go ahead, tell your son to divorce me!" Cheng Su shouted loudly.

Mother Qi pursed her lips, looked at the silent Qi Taiguo, then sat down on the ground and started hitting her thighs, crying, "I can't live like this, this is forcing a mother-in-law to her death."

Cheng Su coldly chuckled, feeling a tremendous disappointment in her heart.

Was dealing with such a mother-in-law her fate? Or was it the fate of the original person who, back then, had insisted on marrying Qi Taiguo? Did she ever consider this?

While Mother Qi was crying and cursing, she kept glancing at Qi Taiguo, noticing that he showed no signs of softening, and she couldn't help but become extremely anxious.

"Stop crying." Qi Taiguo suddenly yelled after a long silence, "Stop crying!"

Mother Qi stopped crying.

"Mom, go home. You're not needed here to take care of things. From now on, don't come back," Qi Taiguo said with his eyes closed, weary in body and soul. When he opened his eyes again and looked at Mother Qi sitting on the ground, he spoke in a serious tone.

Mother Qi was stunned, "What did you say?"

"I'll get my elder sister to come pick you up," Qi Taiguo said as he turned to make the phone call.

Mother Cheng stood still, looking at Cheng Su and making meaningful glances at her.

Cheng Su remained unmoved and turned to go back to her room.

Before she could close the door, Mother Qi's loud wailing came from behind her, "You're driving me away, after I gave birth to you and raised you to this size, you want to kick your own mother out? You unfilial son, are you waiting to be struck by lightning!"

Chapter 703: Chilled the Heart

Upon receiving the call from Qi Taiguo, Qi Fenglian hurried to their house, anxious and speculating the entire way about what could have possibly happened to warrant such urgency. When she saw Mother Qi crying bitterly, she understood everything.

It must have been some terrible incident, and moreover, it must have been Mother Qi's doing!

With Mother Qi causing such a scene, the neighbors living close by naturally heard everything. As they came over to see what was happening, Mother Cheng quickly went to shut the door, smiling as she said, "It's nothing, go back home!"

With a bang, she closed the door. Dirty linen should not be aired in public, why bother?

"Mom, what's this...?" Qi Fenglian looked around the room. Other than her mother and her mother-in-law, Cheng Su and her spouse were nowhere to be seen. Just as she was wondering about this, Qi Taiguo emerged from a small room.

"Elder Sister, please take Mom to stay at your place for the night. Tomorrow morning, I'll trouble you to send her to the station to go back to her hometown," Qi Taiguo instructed, looking at Qi Fenglian.

Qi Fenglian looked at his expression, which was very gloomy. Her heart skipped a beat. What had happened?

"You, you unfilial son, white-eyed wolf, after getting a wife you forget your mother. You drive your own mother away, are you still human? I raised you for nothing!" Mother Qi continued, her heartache unceasing.

"Mom!" Qi Taiguo sternly called out, "Don't you realize what you've done wrong?"

Mother Qi's crying paused momentarily as she stared at him blankly.

"Do you have to make our home unrestful, not satisfied until our family is no longer a home? Do you only find peace when you see us not living well?" Qi Taiguo was extremely disappointed.

"Taiguo, what are you saying? Of course, Mom wants what's best for you. What happened?" asked Qi Fenglian tentatively.

Qi Taiguo looked away, "You ask her, I can't bring myself to say it."

Such an embarrassing matter, he had no face to speak of it.

Mother Cheng then pulled aside Qi Fenglian and softly told her about the incident.

Qi Fenglian listened with wide eyes, covering her mouth with her hands. Indeed, it was true; she had really meddled, and in such a manner...

How foolish!

"Mom, you've really been foolish. How could you do something like this!" Qi Fenglian expressed total disapproval.

"Fine, fine, even you are blaming me, taking their side, right? I'm an eyesore to you all, I might as well die and give you peace of mind!" Mother Qi became agitated and ashamed, standing up to pry open the window, "I might as well jump off a building and die."

Qi Taiguo watched coldly, becoming even more disappointed, and said to Qi Fenglian, "Elder Sister, I apologize for the inconvenience!" With that, without caring whether Mother Qi lived or died, he went back into the small room and slammed the door forcefully.

Mother Qi felt a chill in her heart as she was prying open the windows. This meant he really didn't care anymore, even if she were to die.

Qi Fenglian sighed. With her younger brother's attitude, what else was there for her not to understand? It seemed that this time, Mother Qi had truly chilled their hearts.

"It's better to die, as there's nothing worth living for anymore, I can't take this!" Mother Qi said, looking lost.

"Mother Cheng, listen to what you're saying, such bad luck! Come down first, let's talk after you get down!" Mother Cheng tried to soothe her. Despite feeling both anger and annoyance at Mother Qi's outrageous actions, things had already escalated to this point; could she truly just ignore everything?

Mother Qi was pulled by her to sit on the sofa, staring at the firmly closed small door, her tears flowing freely.

"Mother-in-law, everyone is hot-tempered right now. Just go stay with your elder sister for a couple of days, and once they've calmed down, everything will be fine," Mother Cheng consoled. "I don't mean to criticize you, but in this situation, what you did was really wrong. How could you do something like that? Look, not only have you lost your grandchild, but you hurt yourself too. Did you not lose the chicken and waste the rice? Sigh..."

Mother Qi hung her head without a word. She just wanted to hold a grandchild, was that so wrong?

Chapter 704: Will She Ever Change?

Mother Qi cried for a long time before she stopped, as the door remained firmly shut, her heart began to panic.

This panic had occurred once before, during the quarrel over the New Year. The attitude displayed by Taiguo then was the same as it was now, no, even more unsettling than before.

She had a feeling as if her son was drifting further and further away from her.

Mother Qi felt at a loss, her hands and feet restless, and she felt a deep sense of injustice.

Wasn't it all just to hold a grandchild? Could it be worth all this? Her own son, for whom she had gone through the pains of childbirth, had he stopped caring for his mother just for the sake of his wife?

As Mother Qi thought this, she stared hopelessly at the closed door, which remained unmoved, her eyes reddening again.

"Mom, come back to my place first," urged Qi Fenglian.

Mother Qi opened her mouth, wanting to refuse: this was her son's home; why should she be driven out?

But it wasn't just anyone driving her out—it was her own son.

Tears of pity rolled down Mother Qi's cheeks again.

Mother Cheng chimed in, "That's right, in-laws. There are no overnight feuds in a family. They're just angry now and will be fine once they've cooled off. Go stay at Elder Sister's place for now!" She paused, then added, "Grandchildren have their own fortune. We've toiled our whole lives. Let's not meddle in the young people's affairs anymore. They have their plans, and you'll surely have grandchildren in the future; they might even beg you to help take care of them!"

She was suggesting that Mother Qi let go!

Mother Qi scoffed: "Who cares!" She stood up and declared loudly, "Fine, I'll go, and even if you beg me, I won't come back!"

It was unclear whom she was addressing.

Both Qi Fenglian and Mother Cheng just shook their heads.

And the tightly closed door remained so, leaving Mother Qi feeling a wave of disappointment.

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Mother Qi was led away by Qi Fenglian. Mother Cheng, looking at the cold dishes, sighed deeply and then noticed the flowers on the ground. She picked them up and placed them back in their spot.

"Su? Mom is coming in." Mother Cheng knocked on Cheng Su's room door.

Turning the doorknob and entering, Cheng Su was sitting on the edge of the bed. When she saw her mother come in, she slightly turned away and wiped her tears.

"Your mother-in-law has left; let's go out for dinner," Mother Cheng said as she sat down.

"I don't want to eat, I have no appetite. You go ahead," Cheng Su replied.

"How can you not eat? With your health being like this, when will you ever recover your strength? You have to eat," Mother Cheng chastised her with a look.

Cheng Su wiped at the corner of her eyes again.

Mother Cheng continued, "I know you're upset. Honestly, I'm angry too when I heard about it. But despite the anger, you still need to eat. How can you harm your own body like this? And what's done is done; what good does being angry do now?"

"I just keep thinking about it—her being uneducated, maybe just a bit ignorant, traditional, and stubborn, fine—but never could I have imagined she could stoop so low. How could she do such a thing? She's already in her fifties; isn't she ashamed!" Cheng Su said indignantly.

"Old people become desperate for grandchildren. They can act impulsively when they get impatient. Now that you've scolded and made a fuss, somehow this will pass, and life goes on, right?" Mother Cheng advised, "Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationships are always tough. Just keep a respectful distance from now on. After this incident, she certainly won't dare to do anything like that again! People make mistakes, and you have to give them a chance to correct them."

Cheng Su scoffed, looking at her mother: "Mom, do you think she's the kind of person who will change? She only thinks of herself, of the Qi family. Why would she consider me? Next time? Mom, do you think I have the strength to endure such pain again? I'm only human!"

Chapter 705: Want a Divorce

A woman who lost her child, what kind of pain must that be? Even though the child came by accident, it's still her own flesh and blood.

And this time, plotting over the child, what will she do next?

When it comes to this mother-in-law, Cheng Su really felt numb.

"Life always has to go on..."

"Mom, I want a divorce!" Cheng Su interrupted Mother Cheng, her voice cold.

Mother Cheng was startled, "What, what did you say? Divorce? Have you gone mad, how can you have such a thought."

"I've truly had enough of this mother-in-law and don't want to deal with her anymore," Cheng Su said coldly.

"You're being ridiculous. It's not her you are living with, it's Taiguo you'll spend your life with. You want a divorce over this? Taiguo hasn't wronged you, and now you want to divorce because of the mother-in-law? You must be confused!" Mother Cheng was a bit angry.

"Putting that matter aside. You and Taiguo are now living here; how often do you go back to your hometown in a year? How many times do you see your mother-in-law? You can count them on your fingers. Can't you even tolerate this? Fine, let's say you don't need to put up with it, but you can't handle even this few occasions?" Mother Cheng lectured her, "If you don't get along with your mother-in-law, then don't whine and complain; just confront her directly, can't you? Where's your smarts?"

Cheng Su hung her head.

"Where's that spirited attitude you used to have? Divorcing over something like this, are you even my daughter?" Mother Cheng couldn't help but stretch out her hand to poke Cheng Su's forehead, saying, "If you can't stand her, go confront her directly, show her your displeasure directly, why resort to divorce? You fool!"

She was truly about to explode with anger. Just for this, to talk about divorce, how wronged her son-in-law would feel.

If Qi Taiguo treated her poorly, hit her, scolded her, and didn't protect her, then it would be different, divorce then would be understandable. But now, she thought her son-in-law was getting more reliable by the day. Talking about divorce now, was she not just handing him on a silver platter to another woman?

"You better drop this notion right away; neither your father nor I will agree to it," Mother Cheng huffed.

Cheng Su didn't speak; she didn't really want a divorce, but seeing such a mother-in-law, she felt immensely weary in body and mind.

"Now that you're both leading separate lives, if you can't even handle this, can't even take control, then marrying someone else will be the same. Susu, so many people live with their in-laws, these rows happen, just take a look at your Elder Sister to understand. Now you have your own lives to live, why should you care about other people? You need to appreciate your blessings!" Mother Cheng said with deep meaning.

Outside the door, Qi Taiguo leaned against the frame, listening to the conversation inside, his face somber and his lips tightly pursed.

Mother Cheng stepped out and was startled to see him standing there. How much of her earlier words had he heard?

But she couldn't worry about that at the moment and said, "The air is still heated, you should console her."

"Mother-in-law, I'm sorry." Qi Taiguo said, "I had no idea my mother would do such a thing. Susu, I'm too ashamed to see her."

After such an incident, where did he have the face left? His mother had completely thrown it away. How was he supposed to face Cheng Su?

Mother Cheng sighed, "The damage is done, and fretting over it won't help, but your mother... oh. You should talk to her properly. Your health is what's important. It's not worth skipping meals over anger!"

Finishing her words, she went to sit at the table first, looking at the rice already starting to harden, and sighed deeply again.

This mess really was enough to upset anyone.

Chapter 706: I Respect Your Ideas

Qi Taiguo didn't know how to face Cheng Su, he wasn't lying, and he truly felt he had no face to show. What face could he have?

Thus, after he closed the door, and saw Cheng Su turned sideways, her back to him, he actually felt a bit timid and hesitant.

"Susu..." He had just started to speak when an invisible hand seemed to grab his throat, leaving him unable to speak.

Qi Taiguo took steps toward her, but the short distance felt as if he was crossing mountains and rivers, his steps as heavy as if they were filled with lead.

He finally sat down beside her with difficulty, lowering his head, uncertain of how to begin.

"If you think I've wronged your mother by causing such a scene, then you don't need to say anything," Cheng Su said.

Qi Taiguo raised his head and replied, "I don't think so, you didn't wrong her, she admitted it herself, the facts are right there, I'm not blind. I'm just heartbroken and guilt-ridden, I don't know what to say, I... have no face to say it!"

Cheng Su looked out the window and said, "I am enraged by what happened, and I cannot accept it. Your mother's actions are not just a matter of disrespect to us but an infringement on my human rights. Her ignorance, her selfishness, her folly, I cannot accept it, nor can I regard her as a mother."

Qi Taiguo said, "I'm sorry! For following me, you've been wronged!"

Cheng Su's body trembled, and tears streamed out.

"I know you've been wronged, you always have been. Apart from saying sorry, I don't know what else to say." Qi Taiguo said with difficulty, "Just now I heard you mention wanting a divorce, truly, just to avoid facing my mother, would you prefer to leave me?"

"Time and time again, what do you expect me to do?" Cheng Su turned her head to look at him and said, "If I disrespect her, people will say I'm unfilial, if I tolerate her, I can't take it anymore, nor will I continue to."

Qi Taiguo's face was full of pain as he said, "I know, it's my Qi family that has wronged you!"

Cheng Su's eyes were filled with tears, and she turned her head away.

"She's my mother, and that's something I can't choose. All I can say is, if you don't want to see her in the future, then don't see her, I won't blame you. But about divorce..." Qi Taiguo seemed defeated, his voice almost trembling, "I hope you'll think it over, give it another try. If you really can't stand it any longer, if you don't want to be with me, then..."

His eyes reddened, his nose stung, and he swallowed back his saliva, saying, "If you are really determined to leave, then I... respect your decision!"

Once he had spoken, Qi Taiguo felt as though his heart was about to explode, a crack burst open, shattering his heart into pieces.

Cheng Su looked at him in shock.

"You..." He had said so many times that divorce was absolutely not an option, yet now he respects her decision?

Cheng Su's heart twisted into a knot.

"I love you! I don't want to divorce, but if you're truly suffering to the point where you can't go on, if you're set on leaving, then I also respect your wish. Only..." Qi Taiguo looked at her and said, "Only, I hope you'll think it over, consider it carefully before making such a decision, okay?"

His tears fell.

Cheng Su cried.

With a heart filled with sorrow, Qi Taiguo pulled her into his embrace, his tears falling onto the top of her head.

Cheng Su was so heartbroken she felt like dying, pounding on his chest, her tears like floodwaters breaking a dam.

Both of them couldn't bear to part with each other, yet things had gotten to this point. Whose fault was it?

What path should they take in the future? Should they part ways, or join hands once more?

Outside the door, Mother Cheng was holding a bowl of rice, standing there, listening to the cries of the two inside, and couldn't help but get teary-eyed herself. What to do with these two?

Chapter 707: Refuse to Admit Wrongdoing

The atmosphere in Cheng Su's family was oppressively low, yet when Mother Qi went back to her own place with Qi Fenglian, she cried and babbled the entire way.

"...I think he's completely bewitched, that unfilial son, he doesn't even want his mom anymore, wuu wuu," scolded Mother Qi.

As Qi Fenglian set down her bag, she couldn't hold back and said, "Mom, it's no wonder they're both angry. If it were me, I'd be kicking up a huge fuss too. How could you bring yourself to do such a thing? How could you be so muddled?"

To think of such a thing - what on earth was going on in her mother's mind?

Mother Qi felt somewhat guilty but still retorted stubbornly, "It's their fault for not having children. I was only thinking of the Qi family's future."

"They didn't say they weren't going to have kids, just that they wanted to wait. You've already waited for decades, what's waiting a few more years to you?" said Qi Fenglian irritably. "Look at what you've done now, what kind of situation is this? The daughter-in-law from Taiguo wouldn't have expected to get pregnant because she thought the contraception was foolproof and didn't pay attention to whether she was pregnant or not. But what you did, wasn't that just setting her up for disaster? Now look, just like that, an accident happened!"

"That was just a coincidence, it's not like I caused her miscarriage. If you want to blame someone, blame that 'Fox Spirit,'" Mother Qi argued.

"But if you hadn't meddled first, she wouldn't have gotten pregnant just like that, and then there wouldn't have been a miscarriage!" exclaimed Qi Fenglian.

Mother Qi was taken aback and opened her mouth to say, "That's just because she's no good herself!"

Upon hearing this, Qi Fenglian shook her head and said, "Mom, look at yourself, you're just so stubborn, never admitting you're wrong, never giving in. That's why Taiguo is disappointed and asked you to leave; you're just turning people's hearts cold!"

"I am his mother!"

"What of it, they still asked you to leave, didn't they? Just you watch, if Cheng Su doesn't recover well, can't get pregnant again, you'll have been the one who shot yourself in the foot," Qi Fenglian snorted coldly.

Mother Qi was stunned, "That couldn't be, could it?"

"Anything's possible. She wasn't supposed to get pregnant, but this time she did, didn't she? Isn't that an accident?" said Qi Fenglian, eyeing her.

Mother Qi pursed her lips and said nothing.

"Mom, you were unkind this time. Right now, Taiguo and the others are still livid, so you better not add fuel to the fire. Wait until their anger cools down, then make a proper apology to Taiguo's wife, and this will all blow over."

Mother Qi glared and said, "What, I, an elder, should apologize to them? What kind of reasoning is that? I won't do it!"

She was the mother-in-law after all!

Seeing her mother so stubbornly single-minded, Qi Fenglian became exasperated and said, "You've made a mistake, what's wrong with admitting it? Would you be happy to become estranged from them? Mom, let me tell you, even if you do apologize, Cheng Su might not even accept it. But it's always better to do something than nothing!"

"She dares not to accept it? She always has an excuse not to have a child; she should've been divorced a long time ago, hmpf, she even says whether to give birth is her business, as if that's ever the case!" Mother Qi couldn't help getting angry when she thought about what Cheng Su had said.

"If you continue like this, I can't help you, it's up to you. But just think about it, is divorce that easy? What about Taiguo's future, does that not matter? If he finds someone else after divorce, would they be better than Cheng Su? Better at earning money than her?" said Qi Fenglian.

Mother Qi paused, falling silent.

Qi Fenglian sighed and said, "Mom, put yourself in her shoes, how would you feel if you were wronged like this? Everyone has their limits! You just stay home and rest, I still need to go to work. Tomorrow, I'll send you back to your house."

Mother Qi sat down on a small stool with a huff, her lips pursed in sulky silence.

Chapter 708: Stirring the Shit Stick

Qi Taiguo took the initiative to say he would respect Cheng Su's wishes, giving them both some space to cool off. He even moved into the small guest room next door, so Cheng Su could stay with Mother Cheng.

Mother Cheng was extremely anxious, but Cheng Su accepted the situation calmly. After such an incident, she didn't know how to face Qi Taiguo just yet.

In this way, taking some time to cool off and think things through might be better.

Qi Taiguo then called Father Qi back in his hometown, telling him about his mother's actions.

Father Qi was shocked at first and fell silent for a long while before asking, "What are you thinking?"

Qi Taiguo said, "I told Mom not to come over anymore, and I also talked to Cheng Su. From now on, if she wants to go back and see her, she can, but if she doesn't, I won't force her!"

Father Qi furrowed his brows and let out a long sigh.

"Also, Cheng Su is thinking about divorcing me!" Qi Taiguo added.

Father Qi was truly startled this time, "What? She wants a divorce?"

Qi Taiguo's throat tightened, and he managed a murmur of assent.

"You agreed?"

Qi Taiguo said, "No, but if she really wishes to divorce, I think..."

"Nonsense!" Father Qi cut him off, urgently saying, "Your wife's heart has gone cold, and she's on the spur of the moment; everything she says is hotheaded. How can you take that seriously? She's been wronged, so you should be trying to soothe her, yet you're going along with her. Do you truly not want to continue this relationship? You're being foolish!"

"She promised me she'd think it over. It's just... I can see she's truly disappointed in Mom!" Qi Taiguo expressed painfully. He couldn't bear to part with Cheng Su, but how could he cut ties with his own mother over this?

"Never mind your mother; she has screwed up not just once or twice," Father Qi said. "I'll handle your mother. As for you and your wife, just live your lives well. As for coming back home, if there's nothing important, then don't bother. What's most important is that everyone is safe and sound!"

Qi Taiguo responded with acknowledgment.

"That's all for now. In the future, I won't let your mother go out either. You two just live peacefully!" Father Qi said.

After hanging up the phone, Qi Taiguo sat on the sofa, hands on his knees, holding his head.

Father Qi rushed back home, deeply pondering the situation.

No wonder his wife had been so secretive around the time of the New Year. When asked what she was up to, she'd always be evasive. It turns out she had done something so shameful.

She's over fifty, how could she do such a thing? Destroying her son's family, stirring up trouble like a shit-stirrer!

"Jianguo, Jianguo!" Father Qi called out to his younger son.

"Dad, what's up?" Qi Jianguo came out of the room, seeing his father with a dark expression and couldn't help but ask, "What happened?"

"Grab a broom and help me clean up the old house over there."

"Eh? Clean up the old house? For what? Who's going to live there?" Qi Jianguo didn't understand.

"Your mother. When she comes back, she's going to move into the old house by herself!" Father Qi said angrily.

Let his mother live alone in the old house? That old place was falling apart and leaky, how could anyone live there? What had happened?

"Dad, what's going on with Mom?" Qi Jianguo asked cautiously.

"Your mother is courting death, creating trouble for nothing. If we keep her in our house, she'll tear this family apart. Go, hurry up!" Father Qi waved his hand dismissively.

If it weren't for the fact that all her family members except for her eldest sister were dead, he would certainly send her back to her parents' home. Such a woman, his Qi family could not afford to keep!

With trepidation, Qi Jianguo went inside to fetch the broom. This was a serious matter! He had never seen his father so angry before.

Chapter 709: The Elder Sister Is Also Annoyed

Mother Qi was still oblivious to the precariousness of her position, going on about how her son was heartless and siding with the daughter-in-law to bully an elderly woman of her age.

Chattering on and on all day, even her son-in-law Zhang Jisheng had heard too much, and he whispered to Qi Fenglian, "Your mother really is something, going on and on about it. What's the point? Is it only now that she realizes how formidable her daughter-in-law is?" He had learned this a long time ago, just when his son was born.

But for the mother-in-law to actually set such a trap, it was too despicable. Who would come up with such a bizarre idea as puncturing the condom? No doubt Qi Taiguo and his wife must be very angry now, having suffered such a silent loss.

Qi Fenglian saw him with a face full of schadenfreude and said, "What's that look on your face? Delighted to watch a disaster unfold, are you happy to see my family in disarray?"

Zhang Jisheng touched his nose and replied, "Can't I even make a casual comment? Fine, I'll just shut up!"

Qi Fenglian gave him a glare, then looked back at the old lady who was still complaining and couldn't help but shake her head.

This was now the hardest on her younger brother, and who knew if the couple would start arguing.

Indeed, the situation was tough for Qi Taiguo. The joy of having just rid himself of a plague had not yet passed when this issue emerged; fearing that Cheng Su would be upset and overthink things at home, he had requested leave from the army and returned to duty.

Seeing this, Cheng Su also felt as if she had been pricked by needles in her heart and wept at home.

The next day, Qi Fenglian escorted Mother Qi to the station, where she took a bus back to her hometown. Mother Qi was reluctant to go.

"Mom, there's really nothing for you to do here, so you might as well go back. I have to go to work and can't look after you, and I'm not able to take you out. You'd be alone at home anyway, what's the fun in that? Go on back," said Qi Fenglian.

Mother Qi hemmed and hawed, looking around evasively.

"You don't need to look anymore, Taiguo didn't come. I made a special call to him last night, and he said that he wouldn't come today, just send you off," Qi Fenglian saw through her thoughts at a glance, thinking that it was only now that she started thinking about her son – too late.

Mother Qi snorted, "Who says I want to see him? Such an unfilial son, I don't need him; it's like having one less child!" She said this, but deep down, her heart was sour as if she had ingested years-old vinegar.

Qi Fenglian escorted her to the station, reminding her to take care as she saw her off and took the opportunity to give a few more words of advice before the bus departed.

"Mom, you really need to temper your bad temper. You're causing dissension with everyone, and you will regret it. You're still young now, but if you grow old and your son and daughter-in-law grow distant, who will be there to care for you when you're sick and in pain? Taiguo and his wife have their own life; why meddle so much? You've got money, so eat what you want, drink what you please. You're in your sixties now, time to cool your temper."

Mother Qi's face darkened and she said sternly, "I know, you work in the city now, you think you're a city person and look down on your rural mother, right? Now you even dare to lecture your own mother!"

"Mom, you..." Qi Fenglian got extremely angry, stomping her foot and said, "Must you say such upsetting things? Alright, fine, consider me speaking out of turn. Do as you please."

At that moment, the bus announcement sounded.

Qi Fenglian said nothing more, helped her mother onto the bus, and walked away without looking back.

She had indeed had enough.

Sitting on the bus, Mother Qi watched Qi Fenglian's retreating figure disappear, her heart panicked, her nose tingling, and tears fell.

Both of them were so unfilial, siding with others; she felt as if she had raised them in vain.

Chapter 710: Not Allowed to Enter My Qi Family's Door

Mother Qi hurried back to Huangtian Village, her steps rapid as she fixated on complaining to her husband about the unfilial nature of their son, daughter-in-law, and daughter.

But when she arrived home, she saw her youngest son moving something and couldn't help but ask, "Jianguo, why are you home? Don't you have classes today?"

As soon as Qi Jianguo saw her, he put down what he was holding. Mother Qi recognized it, wasn't that the quilt she usually used?

She looked up at the sky; the weather wasn't looking good today. It was not the right time to air out a quilt.

"Why are you taking out the quilt? There's no sunshine, and it's still March, when there's plenty of rain. Don't air it, take it back inside. Where's your father?" Mother Qi was just about to step into the courtyard when a loud shout stopped her.

"Stand right there!" Father Qi shouted at her from the door.

Mother Qi jumped in fright and shouted back, "Why are you shouting so loudly? Are you trying to scare me to death?"

"You're not allowed inside the Qi family's door," Father Qi walked over and said, "From today on, you can go live in the old house by yourself."

"What?" Mother Qi was taken aback.

"Mom, dad's saying you should move to the old house, we've all cleaned it up for you!" Qi Jianguo added from the side.

Move to the old house, by herself?

As it hit her, Mother Qi shouted, "Why should I move to the old house? You crazy old man, what kind of madness has taken over you?"

The old house was near the mountainside, left uninhabited for over a decade with its derelict structure and leaky tile roof. Why on earth was this old man telling her to live there?

Was he mad, or had a demon possessed him?

"I'm not crazy. You're not one of the Qi family anymore, you have no right to stay here. Get out, go live in the old house, and don't you dare set foot in here again," Father Qi said coldly.

"You've lost your mind, why should I? This is my home!" Mother Qi said, trying to push past him.

Father Qi quickly picked up a carrying pole and blocked her way, "Take one more step, and I'll break your legs!"

Mother Qi recoiled in fear; the look in the old man's eyes was no joke. In his youth, he had quite a temper!

"Old man, what's gotten into you? Has something taken over you? It's almost Qingming Festival!" Mother Qi was genuinely afraid.

Father Qi spat out and said, "You still have the nerve to ask after all you've done. Even Taiguo has called to tell me about it. Zhang Fengzhen, I can't believe how low you've stooped, to resort to such despicable tactics. How shameless can you be?"

Mother Qi was stunned.

"Now, look what you've done. The daughter-in-law wants a divorce, are you satisfied? You've not only caused the death of your first grandson but you've also torn your son's family apart. You malicious woman, what face do you have to come back to the Qi family?" Father Qi pointed at her, yelling, "Get moving to the old house, or go live with your eldest sister. When the daughter-in-law has calmed down and allows you back, only then can you return!"

"She wouldn't dare, you wouldn't dare. Qi Shuhua, you wouldn't dare drive me away! I also have a share in this home, on what grounds!" Mother Qi trembled with anger.

On what grounds? She couldn't return home unless her daughter-in-law agreed? On what basis!

"Just because I'm the head of this family," Father Qi said coldly.

"You're mad! You crazy old man, you've lost your mind!" Mother Qi pointed at him and cursed, "You lot, taking the side of an outsider, you've all gone mad! I refuse to leave, I simply won't."

Father Qi swung the pole, landing it just in front of Mother Qi's feet, and glared at her, "I dare you to try!"

"Dad!" Qi Jianguo took a step forward.

Mother Qi turned pale with fright, and coming back to her senses, she sat down on the ground and burst into tears, "Go on then, beat me to death! I don't want to live anymore!"