

The 80s 761

Chapter 761: Reclaim Joy Soon Loy and Sell It Off

Sister Wang wiped away her tears and said, "A full ten thousand yuan, we can't come up with that. After many discussions, we finally set the amount at five thousand five hundred yuan."

Five thousand five hundred, not a lot, but in this era, it wasn't too little either; it was half of what a ten thousand yuan household would have.

Although the integrity of a person can't be measured with money, what happened had happened, and there was no other way but to negotiate a solution.

"Although we act as this supplier, we are only middlemen. There's the money that has to go to the fruit farmers, and the customers don't settle their bills promptly, so our cash flow is also limited."

Cheng Su understood and immediately said, "I'll notify our finance department right away and settle up with you."

"No, no, that's not what I mean!" Sister Wang stuttered, "Even if we settle up, there won't be enough money, so, so..."

"How much are you short? If the amount isn't large, I might be able to lend you some," Cheng Su hesitated and said.

Sister Wang's face turned redder upon hearing this, and she said gratefully, "You're a good person, but I'm not here to borrow money."

"Then what is it...?"

Sister Wang pursed her lips and said, "You're our family's benefactor. We really don't want to trouble you. If it wasn't our last resort, we wouldn't have thought of this."

Cheng Su was confused.

"Well, my family and I have discussed it, and, it's about the house we have now in Joy Soon Loy, we want to take it back and sell it, because we really don't have enough money!" Sister Wang said with a flushed face.

Cheng Su's expression changed; taking back and selling meant they no longer wanted to rent it out.

"Big sister, we really have no other choice!" Sister Wang also knew her request was excessive, especially since the other party had helped her a great deal.

Cheng Su quickly regained her composure, and after thinking it over, she asked, "How much do you plan to sell the house for?"

Sister Wang, taken aback, said, "We've asked around, and for a house in that area about the size of ours, it would sell for something like six or seven thousand."

Cheng Su let out a quiet sigh of relief; six or seven thousand was still manageable. After all, Fa Ji, a much larger restaurant, was priced at a hundred thousand!

If she bought this house, she could add more floors on top in the future, creating more space.

"What's the specific price?" Cheng Su had an idea in mind.

Sister Wang looked at her hesitantly, and probing, she asked, "Big sister, are you thinking of buying it?"

Cheng Su gave a bitter smile and replied, "Sister Wang, you know that our Joy Soon Loy is currently growing its business. If you suddenly take back this house, how can we continue to run our business? Even if you sell it to someone else, they might not want to rent it to me. So I might as well buy it myself!"

Sister Wang, feeling embarrassed, her face and ears turning red, said, "I'm sorry, we really had no choice. We were pressed urgently by the other party and didn't have any money on hand, so..."

"I understand; you're also in a tough spot," Cheng Su sighed and said, "Let's do this, go back and discuss it with Brother Wang, and decide on a specific price for me to consider. If it's suitable, I'll buy it, how about that?"

Sister Wang bit her lip and replied, "I don't need to discuss it with him; I can make the decision. If you want to buy it, just make an offer, and I will sell it to you. It's just that, as you know, given our family's current situation, the money would have to be paid in one lump sum!"

Cheng Su laughed upon hearing this, "We can't rush this; you should still go back and talk to Brother Wang. I also need to discuss it with my family before I can decide!"

Sister Wang could only agree to this, and they arranged to meet again the next day, then she hurried off.

Chapter 762: We Bought It

Since Sister Wang said she wanted to sell Joy Soon Loy, Cheng Su had the idea and immediately returned to the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant to discuss it with Old Song.

"To sell?" Old Song's eyes lit up, saying, "That's great. By buying it, it will become part of Joy Soon Loy's property. After reporting to the relevant departments, we could build an addition, and we won't have to worry about the limited space!"

"That's what I was thinking," Cheng Su sized up the whole restaurant and said, "If possible, tearing it down and rebuilding would be an even better choice."

Currently, Joy Soon Loy has a courtyard, which already occupies a large open space. The house is not big, and even with an addition, the space might not be particularly large. But if the courtyard could be utilized, it would be different; at least there would be over sixty square meters per floor, right?

"The cost of demolition is too high. It's also okay to keep the courtyard and build on top of it. As long as we get the department's approval, we can expand," Old Song said with a smile.

Cheng Su thought it over and agreed. After getting the department's approval, it shouldn't be difficult, especially with a county mayor backing them!

"If you also agree, then I'll buy it!" Cheng Su smiled and went to settle the accounts with Liang Dan. She needed to see how much money was on the books and how much would need to be supplemented.

After doing the accounts at Joy Soon Loy, Cheng Su went home, cooked dinner, reviewed some material, and waited for Qi Taiguo to return home to discuss this significant matter. This would be their second piece of property.

When Qi Taiguo entered the house, he was shirtless. Seeing Cheng Su sitting on the sofa, he glanced at the small clock and asked, "Why did you come back so early today?"

Cheng Su stood up, saw his bare torso, and frowned, saying, "Although it's almost summer, you should still be careful after training not to catch a cold!"

Qi Taiguo laughed, saying, "No worries. I'm very hearty."

Cheng Su glared at him, pulled him to sit down, and said, "Sit down quickly, I have something to tell you."

"Hmm? What is it?" Qi Taiguo looked at her.

Cheng Su pushed her teacup towards him, her eyes shining like stars, excitedly saying, "The proprietor of the house where Joy Soon Loy Restaurant is located now, Sister Wang, said she wants to sell. I want to buy it. Then we can expand and operate by building an addition. What do you think?"

Qi Taiguo took a sip of water, startled at the news, "Buy that house?"

Cheng Su nodded eagerly, saying, "The business at Joy Soon Loy is doing very well, often we don't have enough seats. But we can't rent another place too far away. This house can be built upon to increase space."

"How much does it cost?" Qi Taiguo asked upon hearing this.

"Six to seven thousand; six thousand should be enough to seal the deal."

"Do you have enough money?" Qi Taiguo asked, "The restaurant near the train station was bought just half a year ago. Do we have enough funds? And shouldn't we keep some working capital in the shop?"

Cheng Su nodded and said, "I did the restaurant's accounting this afternoon. I can take out three thousand yuan from there, and I will add a bit more from my side. We can just increase the fixed asset cost!"

"Oh?"

"Our family's savings are also twenty to thirty thousand. Buying this restaurant, we have more than enough," Cheng Su declared proudly.

Qi Taiguo was astonished, "We have that much in savings already?"

"You could say it's slow!" Cheng Su touched her nose and said, "If we had less in savings, I wouldn't dare to buy our own house!"

Qi Taiguo chuckled, "You've had this restaurant for less than a year, and considering the income from your other shops and factories, your personal savings are quite impressive. It can't all happen at once."

Cheng Su stuck out her tongue, realizing it was true.

"Since you have enough money, then go ahead and buy it. After all, it is our own property," Qi Taiguo agreed with a smile.

Cheng Su cheered; she had just acquired another piece of fixed asset.

Watching her happy expression, Qi Taiguo couldn't help but smile too. As long as she was happy, so was he.

Chapter 763: Can't Compare with Her

Having obtained Qi Taiguo's consent, the very next day, Cheng Su met up with Sister Wang, and the two agreed on a deal for 6,500 yuan. Since both parties were interested in buying and selling, and Sister Wang's family was in urgent need of money, they quickly went to the relevant department to handle the property transfer procedures.

While waiting for the transfer, Cheng Su paid the money to Sister Wang first.

Sister Wang looked at the Joy Soon Loy building which had been thoroughly renovated and bore little resemblance to when they lived there.

"Actually, if it weren't for this incident, we wouldn't be willing to sell this house, after all, it's what your Brother Wang and I earned through hard work from dawn to dusk," Sister Wang sighed.

Cheng Su smiled and comforted her, "Once this matter is settled, your business will continue, and sooner or later, you'll earn back a bigger house than this one."

Sister Wang then said, "You're right, we must look forward. Just you wait, I absolutely won't accept defeat. In the future, I will definitely earn back a big house, drive a nice car, and become a city dweller."

"Yes, you certainly can!"

Sister Wang also had her own family affairs to attend to, so after completing the transaction with Cheng Su, she hurried back home.

Cheng Su, holding the receipt from the relevant department, smiled like a delighted flower. This restaurant was officially hers now.

She walked around the house, and the more she looked at it, the happier she became. Owning a house felt completely different from renting one—there was none of the sense of belonging that came with ownership.

No wonder people are so obsessed with owning their own homes. It must be for this sense of belonging!

Even though the building was being used as a restaurant, it was still her property!

Cheng Su was so elated she almost jumped for joy. Next, she would have to plan the expansion project, but before that, she would need to feel out County Chief Ying, as she wasn't fully sure whether construction could actually be added on.

After buying the building of the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, all the employees knew about it and were very happy about it.

Before, although this was their workplace, the restaurant was rented, and if the landlord became unhappy, he could simply stop renting it out, and then they would all be unemployed.

But now, the restaurant truly belonged to Joy Soon Loy, and with business still booming, they no longer had to worry about closing down and losing their jobs, and their year-end bonuses were assured, so how could they not be happy?

Seeing this, Cheng Su simply proposed a get-together, to be held in the restaurant as a celebration.

When the news reached the employees at the train station branch, everyone was envious but also happy. The boss's assets were growing, and as employees, they no longer had to worry about their wages not being paid!

Qi Fenglian felt happy yet a bit melancholic, with more feelings of envy.

How long had Taiguo's wife been in business? Barely a year in total, yet now she already had a shop, a building, and a company.

She really had capabilities.

And what about herself?

After a few months of work, she had a salary, but when it came to buying a house or a shop, that was still far off, let alone the fact that Zhang Jisheng's salary was still handed over to his mother!

Qi Fenglian felt depressed thinking about this and used the fact that Cheng Su had bought another Joy Soon Loy property to lecture Zhang Jisheng.

"My salary is also twenty-five yuan a month, and you, you get over thirty yuan. If we save and accumulate, maybe one day we could buy a shop or something, don't you think?"

Zhang Jisheng frowned upon hearing this, and said, "Why are you comparing yourself with your brother's wife again? We're just workers, how can we compare with someone who's doing business like her?"

Chapter 764: Stuck in Old Ways

Qi Fenglian was fuming. He kept saying that she was trying to compete, but what was there to compete with? What could she use for that? It was all about making calculations for their own benefit, yet he made it sound like something else.

"I know we can't compare, I just feel that we can't rely on working for others forever. Once we have some capital, we can also start a small business. Wouldn't that be better than getting up early and going to bed late like now?" Qi Fenglian said, trying to contain her anger.

Zhang Jisheng felt a stir in his heart, and fell silent before saying, "The wages are only so much, where is the capital supposed to come from? We're not cut out for business!"

Qi Fenglian replied, "But doesn't everything start from small beginnings? The Taiguo wife started out just pushing a cart, and she built her business from there!"

Zhang Jisheng didn't speak anymore.

"So, what I mean is, we should save some money, put more aside, and then when we have the capital, we'll be able to do business, right?" Qi Fenglian said.

"Do whatever you like," Zhang Jisheng said, getting up to go to sleep.

Qi Fenglian quickly grabbed his hand, "It can't be just 'do whatever I like.' If I save money, and you keep handing over your entire salary to your mother, how much can that leave us?"

Zhang Jisheng's face immediately darkened, "Mom and the others are helping us look after the children at home. Isn't giving them money the right thing to do? How can you be like this!"

"I didn't say don't give them anything, just not everything. We must leave some," said Qi Fenglian. "If you give your entire salary away every month, relying only on mine, when will we ever save up enough?"

Zhang Jisheng sneered, "It all comes back to the same thing, doesn't it? You just don't want to part with the money!"

Qi Fenglian's face fell, "How am I unwilling to part with money? I'm not saying we shouldn't give at all, just that we could give a little less!"

"If it were your own mother, would you still talk like this?"

Qi Fenglian became furious, "Zhang Jisheng, what are you implying? I married you, I belong to the Zhang family, what does that have to do with my mother? If you're suggesting it's like my mother, did you marry into the Qi family?"

Zhang Jisheng glared at her, his face darkening.

The two glared at each other, and Qi Fenglian continued, "If we give a little less now and save up some money, once we have the capital to start a business, we can earn more and then give more, right? Of course, Zhang Jisheng, if you just want to work for others all your life, then pretend I never said this."

Qi Fenglian felt extremely weary at heart and couldn't be bothered to speak further. She resolved to save her own money. As for Zhang Jisheng, whether he listened to her or not was up to him. He really was set in his old ways.

Zhang Jisheng snorted, thinking to himself that his wife's ambitions were growing larger by the day. Living and working in the city had changed her; she was no longer as obedient as before.

When Cheng Su went to the train station branch to audit the accounts, she saw Elder Sister looking despondent and couldn't help but inquire further.

As for Qi Fenglian, apart from going to and from work in Qing City and knowing only a few people, she had no close friends to vent her frustrations to.

Now that Cheng Su had asked, Qi Fenglian seized the opportunity like a free sounding board, pouring out all her anger. At the end of her tirade, she asked, "Tell me, is it wrong for me to think this way? I'm not saying he shouldn't give, just that he should give a little less. But he makes it out as if I'm a miser who wouldn't pluck a single feather! At the end of the day, isn't it also for the future?"

Cheng Su, not wanting to interfere in the couple's affairs and being the Elder Sister, advised, "Then just hold onto your own savings. Let him give you a portion for the household, for everyday expenses."

Qi Fenglian felt resentful, "That's all I can do. Your brother-in-law is just a person set in his old ways!"

Cheng Su chuckled and deftly changed the subject.

Chapter 765: Anniversary of Marriage

At the end of April, Cheng Su received the property deed for Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, bearing her name on it, which solidly made the restaurant hers.

No longer did she have to worry about the landlord taking back the premises; as long as she wanted, she could run the restaurant for a long, long time without being kicked out.

Good news followed one after another, as Qi Taiguo was unexpectedly honored for his participation in the earthquake rescue effort, even receiving a third-class merit recognition.

Initially, they had simply acted on impulse to help with the rescue, never thinking about earning any accolades. Plus, at that time Qi Taiguo was on private leave to visit family, so even though he participated in the rescue, it was a personal action and didn't represent the military district's troops, let alone an official mission.

Thus, the award and recognition he received were unexpected rewards.

Having purchased property and received an award, Cheng Su and her husband brushed off the previous gloom, their faces beaming with joy every day, enough to make others envious.

May 1st marked the first wedding anniversary of Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo, and Cheng Su wanted to celebrate properly.

But when the day arrived, Qi Taiguo was being mysteriously secretive, asking her to get dolled up and look pretty to go out with him.

"What's going on? Why so formal?" Cheng Su was very curious.

"Don't ask, just hurry up; you'll find out when we get there." There was a rare blush on Qi Taiguo's face.

Cheng Su chuckled with pursed lips, "Okay, I'll listen to you!"

Applying makeup was her forte; sitting in front of the vanity mirror, Cheng Su meticulously cared for her skin before applying foundation, blushing her cheeks, and drawing her eyebrows.

Qi Taiguo too came out of the bathroom and sat down behind her.

Glancing casually in the mirror, Cheng Su exclaimed with a "yo," turned around to look at him with interest, "You've cleaned up pretty nicely!"

Qi Taiguo had his hair cut short, styled with mousse now, looking glossy; a freshly shaved face adding to his refreshingly clean look.

He was wearing gray-white casual pants and a striped shirt with the sleeves rolled up to his elbows, a watch that Cheng Su had given him on his wrist. Simple and unadorned, yet stylish and cool.

"How do I look?" Qi Taiguo asked with some discomfort.

Cheng Su walked over, straightened his collar, and planted a kiss on his face, "My husband looks amazingly handsome!"

Having always seen him in military uniform, she always felt he had an air of iron and blood. Now, seeing him dressed so casually was rare, almost like a white-collar executive strategizing in an office.

With a blush creeping on his face, Qi Taiguo asked, "Are you ready?"

Seeing his discomfort, Cheng Su couldn't help but laugh, returning to her vanity saying, "Almost there!"

After finishing her eyeliner and applying lipstick, she tidied her hair in the mirror and then went to open the wardrobe. Looking inside at her section of the closet, she saw that it had already been filled with numerous outfits over the year.

Cheng Su picked out a silk long dress that the original owner had bought, touched it, and swiftly changed into it, looking at herself in the mirror and feeling very satisfied.

When she stepped out of the room changed into her outfit, Qi Taiguo looked up and saw her dress, momentarily stunned, "Why are you wearing that dress?"

Cheng Su twirled, smiling at him, "Today is our first wedding anniversary. This dress was bought with your money, and I wanted to wear it."

The reason wasn't clear; she just felt like wearing it—perhaps because of the former owner, or maybe as a commemoration, which is why she chose it out of many.

Qi Taiguo walked up to her, pursing his lips, "It's a good thing I didn't get rid of it; you look really beautiful in it."

Cheng Su smiled softly, yes, fortunately!

Chapter 766: The First Time Wearing a Wedding Dress

The couple tidied themselves up beautifully and walked out arm in arm. It was now May, and the weather was quite pleasant. When they reached downstairs, many people from the courtyard were sitting on stools, chatting leisurely.

As soon as Cheng Su and her husband appeared, the chatter stopped, and everyone's gaze turned towards them, their eyes not blinking.

"Wow, Commander Qi, Sister-in-law Qi, you're dressed so nicely, are you going to a wedding banquet?" someone asked.

"We've got a place to be," Qi Taiguo replied with a smile.

"You two are really a perfect match," someone complimented.

Cheng Su responded with a smile and a warm thank you.

Qi Taiguo pushed the bicycle, and Cheng Su followed him. As soon as they left, the families behind them started talking.

"Look at them, after such a big incident happened, they're still as sweet as sugar figures, so affectionate."

"Isn't that the truth, isn't this what you call inseparable?"

"Must be fate. Oh, remember, they've been married for a year now, right? I recall they got married in May?"

"Yes, yes, I remember too. Sister-in-law Qi came to the courtyard in June. It's been less than a year, right? Being a boss, with a handsome husband, oh, some people are just blessed!"

"Exactly, we usually can't bear to spend, but she acts like it doesn't cost a thing. Sometimes when she buys fruit, if she sees our kids, she hands them one without a second thought, truly generous!"

"It's a pity, though, that there's no such thing as perfection. What happened before, ah... it's such a shame for that child."

"Let's not dwell on that, they're still young. With the love these two share, who knows? In a couple of months she might be expecting!"

"Giggle, you're terrible, have you no shame? But looking at them today, they really are a good match!"

"..."

Sitting on the rear seat of the bicycle, Cheng Su gently wrapped her arms around Qi Taiguo's waist, curious as to where he might be taking her.

A gentle breeze caressed them, and the early summer wind was very comforting. Qi Taiguo talked in front, and Cheng Su replied, resting her face lightly against his back.

Such tranquil moments, they were truly priceless.

Qi Taiguo slightly turned his head to glance back, the corners of his mouth lifted, and he slowed down the bike.

When they arrived at the destination and stopped the bike, Cheng Su got down and was momentarily startled by the shop in front of her.

Yanfang Photo Studio.

Was he bringing her here to take photos?

As Qi Taiguo locked the bike, he took her hand to enter the photo studio. Cheng Su was surprised—was it really happening?

There were people sitting inside the shop. Seeing the two enter, a person stood up, recognized Qi Taiguo, and said, "Oh, Commander Qi, you've arrived!"

"Yes, we're here," Qi Taiguo looked at Cheng Su and said, "We're here today to take a wedding dress photo. Didn't you say everyone has one?"

Cheng Su's mouth fell open in surprise, feeling a slight warmth in her eyes. Had he chosen today for its special significance?

"Please choose a wedding dress," the shop owner suggested, pointing to a row of white wedding dresses hanging on a rack.

"Go on!" Qi Taiguo encouraged her with a smile.

Cheng Su walked over to the dresses and touched the pristine white fabric, her fingertips trembling slightly, her heart swelling with bittersweet emotion and pounding wildly.

In her two lives, this was the first time she would wear a wedding dress. The previous year, the original host married him without a wedding ceremony or a wedding dress.

And now, it would truly be her in the wedding dress.

Looking at her tall reflection in the big mirror, she wore a simple off-shoulder wedding dress revealing her beautiful collarbones. Cheng Su smiled, but her eyes brimmed with tears.

Chapter 767: From Today Onwards, We're Married

Qi Taiguo had already, under the landlady's guidance, put on a black suit and fastened the bow tie, stepping towards Cheng Su, he paused, gazing at her with eyes full of amazement.

"Commander Qi's wife is truly beautiful," the landlady said sweetly, complimenting her repeatedly.

Cheng Su slightly turned her body, looking towards Qi Taiguo with a beaming smile.

Qi Taiguo swallowed hard and approached, saying, "You, you're really beautiful. No wonder everyone gets married in these foreign devils' attire, this, it's really good-looking!" She looked like a fairy in it.

Cheng Su looked down at herself and said, "This is my first time wearing a wedding dress."

It was also her first time getting married, she added in her heart.

Qi Taiguo felt guilty and said, "I'm sorry, last year, there wasn't enough time..."

Cheng Su covered his mouth and said, "Don't mention it. Wearing it this year is just perfect, really good, truly."

It was indeed good, and only now did she feel as if she was getting married, to him, and not just taking someone else's husband.

Now, wearing the wedding dress and standing with him, she would appear in a photo frame, their very first wedding photo, becoming his true wife.

The white wedding dress, symbolizing pure love, only now did she truly feel that she was about to marry!

Qi Taiguo took Cheng Su's hand and stood in front of the photo studio's backdrop, ready to follow the landlady's direction for the photo shoot.

But who was Cheng Su? She was a fashionable person of the 21st century, having seen hundreds if not thousands of wedding photos, she knew very well how to take more impressive ones.

So, she rejected the landlady's stiff and rigid instructions, choosing instead to pose according to her own ideas, leaving the landlady to simply operate the shutter.

The landlady, having run her shop for so long, had never encountered such a customer, but the customer is always right. As long as she was paid, she gladly clicked away, and after a while, even she admitted that they indeed looked great.

The two of them, smiling broadly, took an entire roll of photos, most of them together and a few individually.

After changing back into their regular clothes, Cheng Su again dragged Qi Taiguo away to take a couple of casual life photos.

In those days, photos were taken on film, and you couldn't see the results right away. They had to wait until they were developed, so they could only choose which ones to enlarge later.

After paying, as they left the photo studio, Cheng Su's smile never ceased.

"Are you that happy?" Qi Taiguo unlocked his bicycle.

Cheng Su nodded and said, "Qi Taiguo, I am now your wife, and you're my husband."

Qi Taiguo laughed and responded, "You've been my wife for a while now."

Cheng Su shook her head and retorted, "That doesn't count. It starts from today."

Qi Taiguo didn't understand the true meaning behind her words, assuming she was just happy about the wedding photos. He said, "If you like it, how about we come here every year on our wedding anniversary and take a picture?"

"Great! But we don't need to wear the wedding dress. We can just take a photo every year!" Cheng Su agreed with a smile.

Qi Taiguo gently pinched her nose and said, "Really, I don't know what to do with you! Let's go."

"Where to?" Cheng Su asked lightly, hopping onto the bicycle seat.

"To sell you!" Qi Taiguo joked with a laugh.

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, "Okay, but for a good price!"

"You're taking it seriously! I could never part with you," Qi Taiguo got on the bicycle, pedaled forcefully, and they rode forward.

Their voices carried along with the breeze.

"From today, we're married."

"Nonsense, we got married last year!"

"No, it starts today!"

"..."

Chapter 768: Old Qi, You're Really Funny

Qi Taiguo took Cheng Su out for a wild day of fun, and in the evening, he brought her to a very ancient-looking and upscale western restaurant in town for dinner.

"What's wrong?" After locking the car, Cheng Su noticed that Qi Taiguo seemed nervous and hesitant, which made her a bit curious.

Qi Taiguo cleared his throat and, lowering his voice, asked, "Does my hair look messy, and are my clothes dirty? I've heard that this is a very high-class western restaurant, and they won't let you in if you are not dressed properly."

Cheng Su burst into laughter and said, "You look fine, very handsome," as she helped him straighten his collar.

No wonder he had asked her to dress up and put on makeup today—it turned out this was the main event.

"On my last birthday, you cooked me western food, and although it was quite proper, it was also hard work. Today, for our wedding anniversary, let's experience this upscale place," Qi Taiguo said proudly.

"Okay!" Cheng Su said, smiling lightly with a tenderness in her heart.

It was then that Qi Taiguo took her hand, reminding her, "This is our first time at this place, and we don't know the proper way to eat here. Pay attention to how others do it; we can't let ourselves become a laughingstock!"

Cheng Su agreed again, her smile almost spilling from her eyes.

She had seen all walks of life, how could she embarrass herself eating western food? Yet, his cautious instructions made her find him incredibly adorable and sweet.

A host came up and asked if the couple had a reservation. Qi Taiguo stammered that they had, under the name "Qi."

The host smiled and led them to a table by the window.

Just as Cheng Su was about to sit down, Qi Taiguo pulled out her chair for her, and with a wink, waited until the waiter had poured water and left before whispering, "I saw someone else do this just now."

Cheng Su covered her mouth to hide her light laughter.

Old Qi, her husband, was too funny!

When the waiter handed them the menu, Cheng Su looked at Qi Taiguo across from her as he seriously opened it, his eyes turning green. She couldn't help but look down and chuckle softly.

The menu was all in English, which he couldn't understand!

Cheng Su leisurely perused it, and sure enough, Qi Taiguo looked over at her with panic, too afraid to speak with the waiter there.

If the waiter hadn't been present, Cheng Su really would have burst out laughing. She quickly grabbed a napkin from the table to cover her mouth and stifle her giggles, lightly coughing.

"Shall I order? How about steak?" Cheng Su asked Qi Taiguo with a smile.

Qi Taiguo nodded hastily, "Yes, yes, I'll listen to you!"

Cheng Su then swiftly rattled off their order to the waiter: how well the steak should be cooked, what to have for appetizers and main courses, which dessert, and what wine to pair it with.

Qi Taiguo watched Cheng Su's composure with widened eyes.

Once the waiter left, Qi Taiguo leaned forward, lowered his voice and asked, "Susu, can you really understand all that?"

Cheng Su also lowered her voice in reply, "I don't quite understand it either, I'm just pretending."

"No wonder!" Qi Taiguo exhaled, saying, "But you looked so adept at it."

"Well, it's all in the books. I figured that western restaurants always serve the same dishes, so I just guessed!" Cheng Su said, pretending to be bashful.

Qi Taiguo gave her a thumbs-up, "My wife is so clever!"

Cheng Su chuckled to herself. Today's Qi Taiguo was full of surprises and so amusing!

The waiter brought an ice bucket and a bottle of red wine, asking Cheng Su if she would like it opened to breathe. After a while, he poured wine into the glasses in front of them.

Cheng Su picked up her glass and swirled it, observing the way the wine clung to the side. Qi Taiguo watched and imitated her, not really knowing what he was looking for.

Chapter 769: Wedding Ring Ceremony

Throughout the entire dining process, Qi Taiguo kept his eyes on Cheng Su, all thoughts of watching how others ate long discarded—he only needed to watch his wife.

Under the candlelight, she sat up straight, her movements with the knife and fork both graceful and skilled, without a hint of discomfort or shyness, even her gentle chewing was pleasing to watch.

Qi Taiguo was quite smitten!

"Eat up!" Cheng Su chided, looking at him.

"With beauty before me, I'm full just by watching you!" Qi Taiguo sincerely said.

Cheng Su pursed her lips and chuckled, "Still, you should eat first." She paused and then shyly added, "When we get home, you can look all you want."

Qi Taiguo's eyes lit up, revealing a hint of a suggestive smile.

Cheng Su could tell what was on his mind. She felt a mix of warmth and excitement, and she didn't know if it was the alcohol or something else, but her face felt warm. She picked up her wine glass to clink with his.

Clink!

The crisp sound of the wine glasses touching echoed, followed by a lingering hum, which was very sweet to hear.

"Husband, happy anniversary!" Cheng Su said with a smile.

"Happy anniversary!"

The two of them ate and whispered with laughter, the atmosphere warm and harmonious. When dessert came, the restaurant also presented a cake with "Happy Wedding Anniversary" written on it, along with a bouquet of red roses, and a violinist played a lingering wedding tune.

After the song finished and everyone had left, Qi Taiguo whispered, "I've heard how upscale and exclusive this place is, that ordinary people don't dare to come in. I didn't expect it to be true. This place truly is too posh, you really wouldn't dare to walk in if your pockets weren't full."

"It's okay, no matter how upscale, we have the confidence to come in," Cheng Su said. Money is made to be spent; he's thoughtful, and she's happy—that's worth the expense.

After finishing dinner at the western restaurant, carrying the take-home cake and the bouquet of roses, Qi Taiguo drove Cheng Su back home.

Once they put everything down and Cheng Su had arranged the flowers, they each went to remove their makeup and wash up.

By the time everything was sorted out, it was nearly eleven o'clock. Cheng Su, wearing an extremely sexy red nightgown, got into bed, which made Qi Taiguo's eyes redden too.

"What are you doing? Aren't you getting in?" Cheng Su playfully beckoned him with her finger.

Qi Taiguo's throat tightened, and he promptly closed the door with a bang and walked over.

"What a fool!" Cheng Su hooked his neck and leaned in for a kiss.

"Wait!" But Qi Taiguo suddenly pulled away, getting up to take out a red velvet box from the cabinet.

Cheng Su guessed what it was and sat up straight.

Qi Taiguo opened the box, inside was a pair of simple yellow gold wedding bands, without any pattern—just plain rings, bright golden.

Cheng Su's heart raced with excitement.

Qi Taiguo took the smaller ring and slid it onto her ring finger, saying, "When we got married, we didn't even have wedding rings. Now I'm making up for it; don't be mad at me."

Cheng Su's eyes grew warm, "Why would I be mad? Now is the perfect time!" Because now, they were truly married, she responded, fitting the men's ring onto his ring finger.

Their hands together, the simple bands already signifying their marital bond.

They were truly husband and wife now!

"Susu, I swear here, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, I will never leave you." Qi Taiguo said, looking at her.

Cheng Su placed her hand in his palm, "May we stay by each other's side for life and death, never parting even when our hair turns white."

Only then did Qi Taiguo smile, teasing the strap of her nightgown, leaning in for a kiss, utterly tender and affectionate.

The light flickered softly, the room filled with seductive charm.

Chapter 770 Getting Along

The saying "a long-awaited rain is a blessing" could probably apply to Qi Taiguo and Cheng Su as well.

After a night of passionate love, Cheng Su woke up with jelly legs and an endless spring in her eyes. Even looking at herself in the mirror made her blush.

The cake they brought back last night was still sitting on the table. As the weather was getting warmer and their home still lacked a fridge, it seemed they needed to buy one.

Like the cake that couldn't be left out, Cheng Su cut it into several pieces and distributed them to her neighbors as usual.

Guiying, with her belly protruding, took a piece of cake from Cheng Su and silently stared at the spring in her eyes, her expression full of innuendo.

Chunhua was always straightforward. Seeing Cheng Su's bashful and shy demeanor, she nudged her hand and said, "Looks like you had a lovely night yesterday!"

Cheng Su spat back playfully, "Mind your own business!"

Chunhua giggled, glanced at the anniversary chocolate plaque on the cake, and sighed, "It's gone by so fast, yet not too fast, it's been a year since you got married!"

"Yeah! Time really flies." Cheng Su sighed as well.

A year had passed, and so many things had happened, it felt like they all occurred just yesterday.

"The two of you dressed up so nicely yesterday, the whole courtyard was saying what a perfect match you are!" Chunhua said enviously, "You know how to keep the romance alive, not like us, we're just an old married couple now."

Cheng Su didn't intend to show off, so she laughed it off and continued sharing the cake with everyone.

After breakfast, Cheng Su kept a portion for Qi Taiguo and went to the supply and marketing cooperative herself.

She visited the cooperative managed by Luh Kai, and upon asking for him, Luh Kai emerged from his office.

"It's rare to see you here," Luh Kai smiled and examined her. "You look much better."

Cheng Su touched her cheek and said, "I've come to ask for a favor. If you're willing, I'd like to treat you to a meal to thank you for the tonics you sent me."

"Oh? What do you need help with?" Luh Kai gestured to the table for guests and invited her to sit down.

Cheng Su sat down and said, "It's nothing much. I want to buy a fridge, but I don't have the coupons. So, I've come to seek help from you, the director, haven't I?"

"Ah, you're a big customer then," Luh Kai said with a laugh.

"How big of a customer can I be for buying a fridge? Can you recommend a model?" Cheng Su asked with a smile.

"Sure, but there's no rush, right? Have some tea first!" Luh Kai poured her a cup of tea and inquired about how she'd been lately.

"There's been a lot of frustrating stuff at home. I've been recovering for a while, so let's not talk about it. Life is like that, full of unsatisfactory moments. Just got to accept it," Cheng Su said, shrugging her shoulders.

"I can always expect to hear some nuggets of wisdom from you," Luh Kai chuckled.

"And how have you been?" Cheng Su sipped her tea and asked in return.

Luh Kai exhaled with a hint of resignation, "Well, it's hard to say if it's good or not."

"Hmm?"

"The good part is eating well every day."

"Oh?" Cheng Su waited for him to continue.

"The not-so-good part is almost eating with someone different every day." Luh Kai gave a wry smile, meeting Cheng Su's gaze, and said, "My family arranges blind dates for me all the time."

Cheng Su burst into laughter, "Being wined and dined for your looks is not bad, huh! Did you like anyone?"

Luh Kai shook his head, "Not really, it always feels like something's missing."

"What's most important is being able to have a good conversation, having things to talk about. I think that's quite important," Cheng Su said.

"When it comes to women I can talk to, I'm afraid you're the only one," Luh Kai remarked.

"Too bad, I'm already taken!" Cheng Su said with a playful lift of her brow.

Luh Kai's eyelids twitched slightly as he smiled, "Yes, what a pity!"