

The 80s 821

Chapter 821: Courting Favor

Cheng Su dragged her weary body home and saw a backpack in the living room, realizing that Qi Taiguo had returned, probably from the army unit.

She put down her bag and helped him organize his backpack, discovering a lot of stuff inside, like dried mushrooms and black fungus, probably brought from their hometown. She neatly arranged them all.

After resting for a while, she was too lazy to move and dialed a number to Qi Taiguo's office.

"It's me." Cheng Su's voice was soft, "When did you come back?"

Qi Taiguo replied, "I got back around two, went straight to the unit, what's up? Why are you calling? I'll be back soon!"

"Nothing much, I'm really tired and don't feel like cooking, nor have any appetite. You can eat at the canteen, just bring back some greens for me when you return!" Cheng Su said.

"Alright. You get some rest first." Qi Taiguo responded.

Cheng Su hung up the phone. She was truly exhausted, and the weather was hot. Even though the fan was whirring, it still felt sticky and uncomfortable.

She gathered her energy, went to the bathroom, and took a refreshing shower, which made her feel a bit better, then lazily laid on the sofa waiting for Qi Taiguo to return.

Half-closing her eyes, her mind dwelled on making jam lately. She made it over and over, using different ingredients, finally settling on cherries, lemons, rock sugar, cane sugar, etc. Each batch was closer to perfect, but it never reached the effect she desired.

The jam she'd tasted before was sweet but not cloying, refreshing and delicious, but the current batch, although everyone praised it as perfect, felt like it was missing something to her.

What was it? The sense of satisfaction and happiness was lacking.

Cheng Su covered her eyes and wondered if she was being too demanding.

There was a noise at the door, followed by the sound of keys turning and Qi Taiguo's voice, "I'm back!"

Cheng Su responded with a hum but didn't open her eyes.

She sensed Qi Taiguo approaching with a rush of warm air, and his hand landed on her forehead.

"What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?" Qi Taiguo asked worriedly.

Cheng Su opened her eyes, "No, just feeling tired, maybe I've been too tense lately."

"Come, turn over, I'll help you relax a bit." Qi Taiguo gently tapped her leg.

Cheng Su turned over, lying on her stomach. Qi Taiguo's hands pressed on her lower back, the pressure just right, hitting all the right spots, making her sigh with comfort.

"How's dad's leg?" Cheng Su asked.

"It's wrapped like a zongzi, no big issues, just needs rest. He has to use a crutch, but his spirits are fine." Qi Taiguo said, "This morning I got up early and went to your parents' house with the one hundred yuan you gave, fifty for your father-in-law, fifty for dad."

Cheng Su exclaimed, "Why did you visit my family too!"

"Since I was back, I thought I should visit the two elderly folks." Qi Taiguo laughed.

"Offering compliments for no reason," Cheng Su teased with a glance, but felt sweet inside, "Is my family doing well?"

She was very satisfied with Qi Taiguo's actions, respecting and caring for her family, which showed his respect and love for her, so why be dissatisfied?

"They're all fine, don't worry. They were also happy to hear about your company's competition." Qi Taiguo said, thinking of Qi Fengping, his brows furrowed slightly, this sister was worrying.

Feeling the change in his demeanor, Cheng Su asked, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing. Anywhere else sore? How about we eat first, then I'll continue the massage? Otherwise, the food might get cold and not taste as good!" Seeing her so tired, Qi Taiguo decided not to tell her about the bothersome things, saving her from more worry.

Chapter 822: What Did I Ever Do to Deserve This?

Cheng Su was awakened by a clear bird call. Opening her eyes, she saw a green-blue long-tailed bird perched on the window, chirping crisply.

"Oh." Cheng Su carefully got up, widened her eyes to look, and said, "You're a magpie, why have you come to my house?"

Cheng Su sat up and reached out her hand, but startled the bird, which flapped and flew out of the window. Even so, her heart was filled with joy and delight.

The magpie's visit promised good fortune—could it be that something good was about to happen?

Cheng Su happily got up to wash and hum a tune as she walked to the kitchen to make breakfast.

"Morning!" Cheng Su placed the pot under the tap and called out to Hualing, who was standing there in a daze.

"Morning!" Hualing replied woodenly, turning her head to look at her, and seeing her in high spirits, she couldn't help but ask, "So happy, is something good happening?"

"No, it's just that a magpie flew into my room just now. According to the ancestors, the arrival of a magpie heralds good news, right? I'm looking forward to it too!" Cheng Su said with a light laugh.

Hualing snorted softly: "And you were the one saying you wanted to go to college, yet you believe in this superstition, it's just a bird!"

Cheng Su shrugged and said, "It's not superstition, just a good thought for oneself!"

Hualing said nothing.

Cheng Su glanced at her, noting the low mood on her face, and then asked, "What's wrong? You don't seem very happy!"

"Nothing, just didn't sleep well," Hualing said softly.

Could it be another fight with Platoon Leader Chen?

"Did you quarrel with Platoon Leader Chen?" Cheng Su cautiously asked.

Hualing glared over angrily, suddenly yelling at her, "I said it's nothing, why do you like to pry into others' privacy? Are you happy if we argue?"

Cheng Su was startled by her sudden outburst, staring at her in confusion—being scolded first thing in the morning, what had she done to deserve this?

Hualing seemed to realize she was too harsh, muttered an apology, and hurried back to her room, bumping into Guiying, who was coming to wash up.

Guiying yelped, staggered, and nearly fell over.

Cheng Su quickly went to support her, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. What's gotten into her this early in the morning? Ate gunpowder, did she? I just heard her yelling at you or something?" Guiying said with a face still shocked, lightly rubbing her big belly.

"No idea why she got angry all of a sudden, as long as you're okay!" Cheng Su frowned.

"What else could it be? Women, it's always about men and in-laws. Probably having a spat," Guiying said in a lowered voice.

"Still not reconciled?" Cheng Su had been busy lately, often out during the day, unaware of what was happening next door.

"Made up, then quarreled again. Once, I even overheard Platoon Leader Chen mentioning divorce!" Guiying's voice lowered even more.

Cheng Su then said, "Well, let's not get involved in other people's business."

"Mm!"

Hualing returned to her room, slammed the door, placed the basin on the ground, and her gaze fell on the bivouac in the living room, a trace of anger and resentment flashing in her eyes.

She walked over, yanked the thin bed sheet off the bed and threw it on the floor, then overturned the bivouac and sat on a small stool, tears welling in her eyes.

The relationship with Chen Shouwang was up and down. Last time, he even mentioned the word divorce, and then they started sleeping separately. It had been almost a month now, and still no reconciliation, the two remained in a stalemate.

This life was going on without any hope or meaning. When would it finally come to an end?

Chapter 823: Admission Letter

Qi Taiguo came back from training, and Cheng Su had already moved breakfast onto the table. It was quite a hearty breakfast, prompting him to ask what the occasion was.

Cheng Su excitedly said that a magpie had visited their room.

Before long, she also told him about being scolded by Hualing, sticking out her tongue and saying, "Exactly, it's really not wise to meddle in other people's business."

Qi Taiguo frowned and said, "I really don't know what's going on in Chen Shouwang's mind." He was desperate to marry Hualing back then, and now he's causing a fuss and talking about divorce. Why did he insist in the first place?

Cheng Su didn't want to talk about their family, and just as she was about to change the topic, someone outside shouted loudly.

"Cheng Su, Sister-in-law Qi, the postman downstairs says there's mail for you."

Cheng Su was stunned, mail?

In this day and age, who would write her a letter!

She looked at Qi Taiguo, and he also found it quite strange.

"I'll go check it out." Cheng Su stood up.

Downstairs, she indeed saw a person in a green uniform, wearing a red-starred cap, with a single-shoulder canvas bag that was open, full of letters and magazines. In his hand, he was holding a white envelope.

"Hello, I'm Cheng Su!" Cheng Su walked over, smiling and nodding.

"Oh, it's you, here you go, your acceptance letter!" The postman handed her the envelope.

Cheng Su was taken aback, an acceptance letter?

Realizing it, she opened the envelope, took out the paper inside, and saw it was an admission letter from Guicheng College, with her name written in it, showing that she had been accepted into a university.

"I got into university, I got into university!" Cheng Su checked it two or three times, confirming that her name and personal information were correct, and couldn't help but jump for joy.

In this day and age, just going to a technical school to find a job was quite good, so getting into university was an extraordinary achievement. Cheng Su's shout immediately attracted the people in the courtyard.

"What, you got into university?"

"Yes, yes, I got in, here's my acceptance letter, haha." Cheng Su waved the admission letter in her hand.

The crowd gathered around to take a look, most of them women who hadn't studied much. How could they have seen such a letter? They couldn't help but praise her.

"Sister-in-law Qi, congratulations!"

"Yeah, congratulations, congratulations, you're a university student now!"

"Thank you, thank you," Cheng Su said with a beaming smile. "I'll buy candies to share with everyone later."

Saying this, she ran back home, eager to share the good news with Qi Taiguo.

Hualing had just come running out of the building and felt a little embarrassed when she saw Cheng Su. She was about to greet her, but Cheng Su ran past her like the wind, leaving her stunned.

After a couple more steps, she heard people in the courtyard talking.

"Sister-in-law Qi is really something. She has such a big business and still has the mind to apply for university. And she actually got in!"

"Isn't that true, going to university is just to get a good job, isn't it? She's already so wealthy, why still go to university?"

"But it's such an honor, a university student, how nice it sounds!"

"She really is lucky!"

Hualing's head buzzed. Cheng Su got into university?

Back then, she said she was full of the stink of money, an uneducated nouveau riche. That was only last year, wasn't it? But in just a year, she's transformed into a university student, praised by everyone?

This person's change, how could it be so drastic in just one year?

Listening to these praises, thinking back to her previous disdain, Hualing felt her face burning, as if she'd been slapped hard, extremely embarrassed, and she hurriedly left the circle of discussion.

Chapter 824: Double Blessings Arrive

Cheng Su ran up the stairs with joy, screaming all the way, and Qi Taiguo got up to greet her when he heard the commotion.

Before he could step out, Cheng Su threw herself at him, hugged him tightly, and kissed him several times with excitement almost driving her crazy.

"What's going on, what got you this happy?" Qi Taiguo had never seen her this delighted.

"Look!" Cheng Su handed him the paper she held.

Qi Taiguo took it and saw an acceptance letter?

He looked at her in astonishment.

Cheng Su's face was all smiles, her eyes sparkling, and she said, "Surprised, delighted, happy?"

Anyway, she was truly happy!

Like a child, Qi Taiguo burst into laughter, pulled her over, and kissed her: "Surprised, delighted, happy. Congratulations, my university student wife!"

Cheng Su screamed again and snuggled up to him like a koala bear.

Qi Taiguo embraced her, saying, "Alright, alright, look at you, isn't this something we expected?"

Cheng Su replied, "Even expectations have surprises. This is my first achievement in over twenty years of life, can't I be happy for a bit longer?"

Qi Taiguo chuckled and said, "You got it wrong, this isn't your first achievement."

"What?"

"Your first achievement was marrying me, the second was making several business deals thrive, this is at best your third," Qi Taiguo raised an eyebrow and said.

"Hmm, sounds about right," Cheng Su thought for a moment, then realized and playfully punched him, saying, "Hmph, you're just finding ways to praise yourself."

Qi Taiguo kissed her again with a smile, saying, "My greatest achievement was marrying you. I'm proud of you, my wife!"

Cheng Su laughed so hard her eyes squinted into lines, saying, "At least you have some self-awareness."

"Now that you're a university student, I better work hard to catch up, or I'll be a big step behind!" Qi Taiguo brushed her pretty brow.

Cheng Su understood what he meant, in a few days, he would be heading out to study, so she said, "Alright, let's work hard together!"

Their hands tightly clasped together, fingers intertwined.

Returning to the factory with a buoyant mood, Ying Xiaoya and the others quickly sensed Cheng Su's happiness and naturally asked what good news was there?

Cheng Su showed them the acceptance letter, Ying Xiaoya saw it and joyfully jumped up.

"President Cheng, congratulations!" Xiao Pinshan said sincerely. Not everyone can get into university, but this young woman did it. "Xiao Zhu and the team worked overtime last night, adjusting the formula proportion. Please taste the latest jam."

Cheng Su looked surprised, glanced at the jam on the table, and picked up a bowl and spoon to taste.

The jam was sweet but not greasy, the fruit pulp tender, and it seemed to still offer its original taste, with a tangy and sweet flavor that passed through the throat, filled with expectancy and hope, like a woman thinking of her beloved.

The taste of love.

Cheng Su opened her eyes, yes, that's the feeling she wanted.

"How is it?" Xiao Pinshan asked carefully.

Cheng Su finally noticed that Xiao Zhu and the team had gathered around her, each sporting dark circles under their eyes, eagerly watching her, hands clenched into fists.

Cheng Su gave a thumbs up: "Passed, it can go to the competition!"

Xiao Zhu and other technicians cheered loudly, their days of hard work finally got recognized, Xiao Pinshan also let out a long sigh, feeling increasingly the need to handle business cautiously, because the boss's standards were too stringent.

Seeing everyone with smiles on their faces, Cheng Su's heart soared, thinking of the magpies in the morning; not only did good news arrive, it was double happiness!

Chapter 825: I Have to Melt You Into My Body

The news that Cheng Su got accepted into university spread fast, and as she had promised before, she bought two big bags full of various candies, distributing them to everyone she met in the compound, and took another bag to different businesses to spread the joy.

She didn't forget to call home to share the good news, but Cheng Su thought there was no need to make a big deal out of it to avoid unnecessary trouble.

Her family was the happiest, especially Mother Cheng, who felt vindicated. Years ago, Cheng Su fought for Qi Taiguo and would get angry if any female came near him, earning a bad reputation. Moreover, she

was always told Cheng Su wasn't good enough for Qi Taiguo. Now that she got into university, a legit college student, making money from her business, she was more than good enough!

Unfortunately, her daughter won't allow her to spread the news, fearing people might follow up with requests and bother her. Father Cheng also didn't let her boast, so they simply closed the door and celebrated quietly as a family.

As for the Qi family, Father Qi was also very happy, and Qi Jianguo was too; having a sister-in-law in college puts on a good show.

The only ones not happy were Mother Qi and Qi Fengping.

"Hmph, her head will probably get even higher now. My brother will spoil her to heaven!" said Qi Fengping.

Mother Qi thought having a daughter-in-law as a college student meant she'd care even less about her opinions. Hearing Qi Fengping's words didn't make her smile at all.

Father Qi didn't care about her stubborn unpleasantness and only instructed Qi Jianguo, "From now on, consult your sister-in-law more often; she's the first in the Qi family to attend university!"

"Yes!"

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University registration was set for the end of August, and when Cheng Su was applying, she chose Guicheng College, the closest to home, for convenience in caring for her family. Although it's called Guicheng, it's actually in Qing City, located in the eastern part, quite far away. Taking the shuttle bus takes an hour and a half.

With about two months left until registration, there's no rush to start college yet. Right now, there's something more urgent—the competition.

With only two days left before the competition, Qing City is not close by train, and registration is required. So, they must arrive in Qing City by the 27th to register.

The factory was extremely busy preparing to book train tickets and organizing travel essentials, especially auxiliary materials, which couldn't be missing, along with various company documents, factory uniforms, and more.

Time was too tight, and Cheng Su didn't have any extra time to enjoy the university acceptance celebration, focusing solely on preparing for the competition.

"I'm leaving for the competition in Qing City tomorrow; I'll probably be back on the 29th or 30th. You're scheduled to leave on the first, right?" Cheng Su asked Qi Taiguo while packing her luggage.

"Yes."

"That's perfect; I'll be back in time to take you." Cheng Su said.

"Honestly, the timing is too tight; you just had to lead the team to compete now when I want to spend more days with you!" Qi Taiguo complained sincerely.

Cheng Su chuckled, walked over, and sat on his lap, asking, "You can't bear to part with me?"

Qi Taiguo immediately embraced her, taking in the fragrance from her neck, saying, "Yes, I can't bear to!"

How could he bear it, thinking about not seeing her, without news for three months, his heart felt clawed at like a cat, both painful and itchy.

"I can't bear to part with you either." Cheng Su pouted.

Qi Taiguo then picked her up and brought her to the bed, saying, "I have to integrate you into my soul first!"

Cheng Su giggled sweetly, with a leg wrapped around his waist, lightly biting her lip, her enchanting demeanor making Qi Taiguo's eyes redden as he pounced...

Chapter 826: We'll See the Real Skills on the Field Tomorrow

After a full day and night on the train, Cheng Su and their team set foot in Qingcheng. This time, three technicians came to participate in the competition. Besides Xiao Zhu and Old Liu, the other one stayed at the factory to handle any sudden issues in the operating room.

Additionally, Ning Ge also came, along with two business personnel, Wang Bo and Zhao Da, and Mai Yanmei, making a total of seven people.

Following the directions, once off the train, Cheng Su and the team rented a vehicle specially for passengers, headed to the competition venue where they first registered, received the competition schedule, and then checked into the designated hotel.

Of course, it was the subordinates who handled the checking-in process, while Cheng Su and Ning Ge, the two bosses, analyzed the competition schedule.

The on-site jam preparation process is cumbersome and only six hours are allotted. You have to select the main ingredients, prepare the jam, and ensure it has the right texture. After doing the math, it's barely enough time, as just the time spent removing fruit pits already eats up the majority of it.

"Do we really have to remove the pits first?" Ning Ge knew that step was quite troublesome.

"If you don't remove the pits and boil them together, they will add a bit of bitterness, affecting the overall taste of the jam," Cheng Su replied.

"Alright, then we need to move quickly, otherwise it'll be problematic if others finish before we've even removed the pits," Ning Ge sighed. "You always strive for perfection in your work."

"If I have the capability to be number one, why should I settle for number two?" Cheng Su rolled her eyes in annoyance and continued studying the schedule.

Due to confidentiality concerns, each participant will have an isolated setup to work in, to prevent competitors from observing their methods. The only ones allowed close are the judges.

During the competition, only two representatives from each team are allowed on the stage, and apart from the judges, no one else is permitted to enter or exit.

"In fact, removing the pits is fine; my biggest concern is the freezing not being done promptly," Cheng Su said.

The jam, once cooked, must be cooled and frozen for the best texture. If it's still warm, the taste will be far inferior, so the cooling process is actually the most critical step.

"It's the same for everyone. If you take time for pitting, the overall time is bound to extend," Ning Ge remarked.

Cheng Su nodded and said, "Fortunately, this time it's just a competition, not mass production, so the time spent pitting is relatively less."

"Boiling four pounds is not insignificant either."

Just as Cheng Su was about to speak, someone greeted them.

"President Cheng, President Ning, it really is you."

They looked over and saw Wan Fuyu with a big belly, wearing dress pants and a white shirt with sweat rings in the armpits, accompanied by a man with a fair complexion. This was Boss Wan.

"Boss Wan, long time no see!" Cheng Su extended a hand.

"Indeed, long time no see. I never expected our reunion would be at such a venue!" Wan Fuyu looked at Cheng Su with a smile, a complex expression flickering in his eyes.

"I've always hoped Boss Wan would come for an exchange and learning session, yet you never showed up. Perhaps Boss Wan considers our little company, Joy Soon Loy, beneath notice!" Cheng Su said with a smile.

"Not at all. To chase your company's ranking in jam production, we've been laboring hard in research. Without any results, how would I dare to approach for an exchange?" Wan Fuyu chuckled.

"So, does that mean your company has achieved good results now?" Cheng Su raised an eyebrow.

"Results, yes, we have them, but whether we can surpass your Joy Soon Loy depends on tomorrow's competition!" Wan Fuyu smirked insincerely and said, "I too am looking forward to it!"

"In that case, let's see each other's skills in tomorrow's competition." Cheng Su remained composed, flashing a slightly amused smile.

Chapter 827: Don't Worry Too Much About Success or Failure

Watching Wan Fuyu leave, Cheng Su and Ning Ge sat down again. Ning Ge said, "That Wan Fuyu, he's quite calculating, can endure, and is adaptable—a real old fox."

Cheng Su made a noise, looking at him with a half-smile.

"What? Did I say something wrong?" Ning Ge exclaimed.

"Since when did our Fourth Young Master become so good at judging people? I thought all our Fourth Young Master could do was eat, drink, and have fun!" Cheng Su teased, ruffling Ning Ge's hair like a big sister.

"Cheng Su, don't treat me like a child; I'm five years older than you!" Ning Ge brushed her hand away.

"So petty!" Cheng Su snorted. "If Wan Fuyu wasn't calculating, how could he have brought Friendly to where it is today? Even though he did rely on the Yue family's foundation, after all these years, if he

didn't have some guts, how could he develop Friendly to this extent? Never underestimate your opponents!"

"So you really consider him your primary rival?" Ning Ge raised an eyebrow.

Cheng Su shook her head and said, "It's not that I underestimate Friendly, but I pay more attention to this company."

Ning Ge looked, "Jam Company?"

"It's a local company. I've tasted their jams, and they're very delicious. Their sales are the highest among several local brands. Besides, they've already launched Cherry Jam!" Cheng Su's expression was a bit tense.

Sometimes, people tend to favor the first comer. They say the first to try crabs... Their pineapple jam and strawberry jam sell well because they were first on the market, so any company that follows is, more or less, just imitating.

And this Good Taste Company launched Cherry Jam first. Once people try it, they'll naturally find it fresh and good.

They also have the advantage of local presence, and since the competition is organized by the authorities, they are bound to get ranked, right? Otherwise, how would it look?

Ning Ge noticed her concern and comforted, "When we first talked about the competition, the idea was to promote the company through it. We've achieved that. Now some people are paying attention to our company. As for winning an award, it's nice if we get it, but if not, we shouldn't be too concerned. Sometimes, focusing too much on success or failure can actually tie us down."

Cheng Su smiled, "You're quite good at comforting people!"

Ning Ge coughed, "I'm just afraid that if you don't win, you'll cry."

Cheng Su scoffed lightly, "You're right, focusing too much on rankings can tie us down. Nerves can often ruin things, so let's just enjoy the experience. Winning isn't crucial; participating is what matters. Who knows, we might even get a surprise!"

No expectations, no disappointments. When you don't expect anything, you're often pleasantly surprised. Stressing too much over success or failure leads to overthinking.

A trace of admiration flashed in Ning Ge's eyes. He really appreciated Cheng Su's clear perspective. Working with her is truly enjoyable, though it's a pity because eventually, he'll have to spread his wings and leave.

"Don't worry too much; I've looked into it. At least two judges are fair—gourmet Mr. Cai and the president of the Tourism and Culture Association, Yang Yuehua. Both are top-notch foodies with very discerning taste buds." Ning Ge added another piece of information.

"When did you find that out? Why didn't I know!" Cheng Su was a bit surprised.

Ning Ge smugly curled his lips, insinuating, "There are plenty of things you don't know!"

After setting up their accommodations, Cheng Su and the team went to eat, then held a meeting to discuss the next day's schedule and possible situations they might encounter. They also rehearsed the competition process to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Chapter 828: Remember How Happy You Were When She Married You

With his wife gone for the competition, Qi Taiguo could only settle dinner in the canteen. Summer had long set in, and after dining, returning alone would just mean facing four walls, so he might as well wander around the base.

Walking circles around the playground, Qi Taiguo saw Chen Shouwang sitting on the steps smoking, with an iron lunchbox beside him.

Qi Taiguo paused, thought for a moment, and walked over.

Chen Shouwang saw him coming, stood up, nodded, then sat down again, looking troubled.

Qi Taiguo saw that the lunchbox had only half the rice eaten, and some meat and vegetables still left.

"How come you're eating out here in this heat?" Qi Taiguo sat beside him, took out a cigarette, and handed it to him.

Chen Shouwang took it and tucked it behind his ear, saying, "It's even hotter indoors, too stuffy, at least there's a breeze here."

"Got something on your mind?" Qi Taiguo asked after taking a few puffs.

Chen Shouwang turned his head slightly, glanced at him, and said, "Not really, just feeling irritated."

"Arguing with Hualing?"

Chen Shouwang frowned, unwilling to talk.

Seeing this, Qi Taiguo said, "What's been going on with you two this year? Quarreling every other day, all the love's being argued away; do you not want to be with her or what?"

"It's not that I want to argue, she's constantly comparing with others, competing with me, wanting me to measure up. I know she just looks down on me, a country bumpkin, for not bringing her any glory." Chen Shouwang sneered, "Sometimes I think it'd be better to just divorce."

"You need to think clearly, divorce requires a report, needs to be recorded." Qi Taiguo frowned, "Between a couple, trust and communication are the most important; have you talked to her?"

"I have nothing to talk to her about." Chen Shouwang was very irritated.

Qi Taiguo frowned and said, "If you don't talk, how do you solve the problem? Both sit down calmly, talk it through, solve it rather than stewing in annoyance?"

Chen Shouwang smiled bitterly, "What's the use? We've talked, and it only stays good for a couple of days before she pulls the same tricks again. I'm really tired."

Qi Taiguo fell silent, his heart heavy. Unlike before, this time Chen Shouwang truly seemed inclined towards divorce.

"Back then, I don't even know why I was so out of my head insisting on marrying her. Looking at it now, there's no point in this life. I should've never married if I had known." Chen Shouwang continued.

"Chen Shouwang." Qi Taiguo called softly, "You know why you were so insistent on marrying her back then. Deep down, you know. Wasn't it because you fancied her? So, what about these years, what have you been doing? Why not like before? Have you noticed what's changed?"

Chen Shouwang's expression shifted slightly.

"Divorce is possible, but think about whether it's worth it. You climbed from being a cook soldier to a private, became a squad leader, and now a platoon leader. If heaven doesn't mistreat you, you might soon be promoted to deputy company commander. If you divorce now, do you think it won't have an impact?" Qi Taiguo said coldly, "Don't just blame Hualing; it takes two to tango. She may have faults, but surely you have some too."

Chen Shouwang pursed his lips, his face looking very troubled.

"I still stand by what I said, you've been through so much to come together, don't give up until the last step, try to salvage it, remember how happy you were when she married you." Qi Taiguo added.

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Chapter 829: Who Is That Woman?

Chen Shouwang watched Qi Taiguo leave, his gaze deeply inscrutable, showing no hint of emotion, only his lips, tightly pressed into a thin line.

Qi Taiguo felt an indescribable disappointment towards Chen Shouwang, thinking he used to be quite concerned about Hualing, how did he change so suddenly?

Oh well, it's a matter between the couple, closed doors will keep outsiders out, and he has advised as much as he could. Everyone should be responsible for their own life, whatever choice Chen Shouwang makes, it's up to him.

Just as he was about to head home, a sentry ran over and saluted: "Report to the company commander, there is a call for you."

A call, who could it be at this time? Could it be Susu?

Qi Taiguo felt a surge of joy in his heart and quickly ran to the office to answer the call; he really did miss her a bit.

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"Sister Hualing, are you on night shift again today?" At Qing City Hospital, a young nurse asked Hualing, who was also in a nurse's uniform.

"Yes, you all can finish for the day!" Hualing smiled.

"You've done quite a few night shifts this month. Is your husband okay with it?" The young nurse teased.

Hualing's smile faded, and her face immediately darkened.

The young nurse was only joking, but seeing her expression, her heart skipped a beat, and her smile froze.

Someone tugged at her: "Come on, didn't you say you would go shopping for a dress with me after work?" It was another young nurse.

"Ah, oh!"

The nurse pulled her away quickly, saying, "Are you dumb? Don't you know she's been fighting with her husband lately? Otherwise, why would she be on night shifts?"

"Ah..."

Upon hearing this, Hualing's face grew even darker, and she heavily placed the tray containing medicine, cotton balls, and needles on the table, glaring angrily.

She and Chen Shouwang had never completely reconciled, and their relationship had plummeted to an all-time low. To cool off and avoid unpleasant encounters, she had signed up for multiple night shifts this month, not wanting the awkward face-to-face cold war.

Who knew her colleagues would talk about her like this, who spread such rumors?

Hualing was indignant and also felt terribly wronged; a home that she had to avoid herself, what was the point of it?

"Miss, nurse, it's time to remove the needle for bed eighteen, please come over!" Someone called loudly in the corridor.

Hualing took a breath and said, "Coming."

After handling various matters for the patients and making rounds, Hualing removed her mask and walked to the garden, sitting down and pondering blankly about this marriage.

How did she and Chen Shouwang reach such a point today?

Hualing stared dazedly at a flower in front of her, what should she do, should she truly divorce him?

At her age, if they divorced, could she find someone better? It was said that Doctor Chen in the hospital divorced and found a man who was a widower with a child, no better than before.

Hualing sighed, and when she inadvertently looked up, she suddenly made a sound of surprise and stood up.

Isn't that Qi Taiguo? What's he doing here, huh, who is the woman standing opposite him?

Seeing Qi Taiguo's serious expression as he patted the woman's shoulder, Hualing widened her eyes in astonishment, as if discovering a new world.

Who is she? Could it be that Qi Taiguo has someone else in mind?

Hualing took a couple of steps, intent on walking around to see the woman's face, when suddenly a sharp sound of a car's emergency brake echoed from the entrance. She looked over and saw someone jump out from the backseat, shouting for a nurse, while carrying a woman covered in blood from inside.

Saving lives was urgent, so Hualing had no choice but to run over. But when she turned back to look, Qi Taiguo was already gone.

Chapter 830: Capsized in the Gutter

In front of two floral clocks, in the city of Green City, the first Cherry Food Competition was about to begin. Cheng Su and her group were about to head to the venue, but they had been waiting in the lobby for a long time, and Old Liu and Xiao Zhu had yet to show up.

Cheng Su glanced at the time on her wrist and instructed Wang Bo, "Go check on them and see what's taking them so long, why aren't they here yet?"

Wang Bo nodded and had just taken a step when he saw the two of them approaching. But seeing their faces and the way they walked, Wang Bo's expression changed.

"President Cheng!" Wang Bo's face turned pale as he looked at Cheng Su.

Cheng Su looked over, and her expression changed drastically too. Ning Ge, not understanding, followed her gaze and his face fell.

The two walked unsteadily, their faces pale green, something was clearly wrong; if you said nothing was the matter, no one would believe it.

"What's going on with you?" Cheng Su noticed them clutching their stomachs and immediately began to suspect something.

Xiao Zhu said with a mournful face, "Diarrhea. I've had it since last night, all the way till this morning."

Cheng Su's expression turned very unpleasant. Now, at this moment, they say they have diarrhea?

"Last night we had dinner together, how come only the two of you got diarrhea? What did you eat?" Wang Bo asked through gritted teeth.

Old Liu's face was filled with guilt as he said, "We went out to have a late-night snack last night."

So that's what happened.

"We've already taken medicine, and we can hold on," Xiao Zhu said through chattering teeth.

Their legs were shaky and faces pale, what could they possibly hold on to?

Ning Ge and Cheng Su exchanged a look, both seeing the seriousness in each other's eyes.

How could it be such a coincidence that just the two of them got diarrhea after a midnight snack?

"President Cheng, this..." Wang Bo was extremely anxious.

After preparing for so long, could it all fall apart at the crucial moment?

"Let's go, head to the competition venue first. If we don't check in on time, it'll be considered forfeiting," Cheng Su said through gritted teeth.

Wang Bo and Zhao Da had no choice but to pick up their things and help Old Liu and the others on their way.

"What do you think?" Ning Ge asked, looking at Cheng Su.

"I didn't expect our company's influence to be so significant that people would be so apprehensive," Cheng Su said coldly.

She wasn't a fool. Reaching this point, right before the competition, it just so happened they both went out for a midnight snack and got diarrhea?

Surely, when they went out, someone had targeted them.

"This hotel was booked by the hosts, most of the people here are participants, it's hard to find out who did it now," Ning Ge said equally coldly.

Cheng Su snorted and said, "Even if we find out, what can we do? Who's to blame? Diarrhea doesn't kill you; it just makes competing impossible. If you're not careful and hit a snag, you can't blame others. Besides, now isn't the time to pursue this."

Ning Ge heard the anger in her voice and asked, "What should we do now? I don't think they'll be able to hold up during the competition."

Cheng Su glanced at him, "Did you forget about me?"

"You're going personally?" Ning Ge was taken aback and said, "How can you manage on your own?"

"There are seven of us here. Even if we weren't all deeply involved in the sauce simmering process, we know how it goes. I was part of it, so I'll handle the sauce simmering myself. I just need to find someone to assist me," Cheng Su said.

Cheng Su was also very angry, but there was no way around it. Getting upset now wouldn't solve the problem.

"Yanmei is a woman, she's more meticulous, so it'll just be Yanmei and me up there," Cheng Su said, looking at Mai Yanmei.

"No. Both of you are women; I'll go with you. If you don't have enough strength while stirring the sauce, I can step in, I'm a man, I've got more strength," Ning Ge said, "Besides, I can handle a knife too."

Cheng Su was momentarily stunned, and seeing the determination in his eyes, she nodded.