

The 80s 851

Chapter 851: Celebratory Feast and Drunkenness

When Ning Ge returned to the factory with the competition team, they were welcomed with lined-up employees and enthusiastic applause, and the words "you've worked hard" made the whole team feel honored.

The celebration banquet was set up in the factory's cafeteria, with a rich variety of dishes and drinks on every table.

The trophy gleaming in gold, representing honor, was placed on the keynote stage, engraved with the date and type of the gold award competition.

Xiao Pinshan hosted the opening, and then Cheng Su and Ning Ge took turns to give speeches.

What Cheng Su said was full of gratitude and encouragement: "...This award doesn't belong to me alone; it belongs to everyone, to all of us at Joy Soon Loy. Because of everyone's concerted efforts and unity, we, as a company that's been open for less than a year, have won this gold award. In the future, I hope everyone will continue to strive, and work together to carry forward our company's spirit of unity."

With these words, the whole place erupted in loud applause.

"Additionally, since we've won the award, to encourage everyone, a certain bonus will be issued this month. I hope no one finds it too little, and we'll aim for more honors and earn more bonuses." Cheng Su continued.

"Great!"

"Thank you, President Cheng!"

"We will definitely work hard!"

Cheers, screams, and whistles resounded; is there anything happier than earning a bonus? After all, isn't work all for the money?

Cheng Su handed the microphone to Ning Ge: "Say a few words as well."

Ning Ge took it, glanced at her, and said: "Everything I wanted to say, President Cheng has already covered, so I won't repeat. What President Cheng didn't mention, I'll add just one thing; this award was fully dependent on President Cheng taking the field personally, so let's give some applause to President Cheng."

With that, he led the way in clapping, and thunderous applause echoed around.

Cheng Su, feeling helpless, took the microphone again to say thank you, and said: "If applause is to be given, it should be to our technicians, who delved day and night to develop this jam recipe. Let's appreciate their spirit of dedication to the company."

Xiao Zhu and Old Liu stood up with a bit of embarrassment, modestly saying it wasn't them.

This time in the competition, they fell for a trick, completely becoming spectators instead!

Cheng Su shared a few more good news, such as how many new orders the company had received and how many franchisees there would be, and this celebration banquet only then truly began.

Glasses clinked back and forth.

As the big bosses, naturally, Cheng Su and Ning Ge were taken turns toasts by the employees. And this time, it was all white spirits, even if Cheng Su had a high tolerance, she couldn't withstand it.

She had hurt her body previously due to a miscarriage and wasn't as robust as before, and soon her face was flushed red in patches.

Those in the know, like Ning Ge, Ying Xiaoya, and others, automatically stepped in to help fend off drinks, including Xiao Pinshan. But as the alcohol kicked in, once the celebration banquet ended, Cheng Su was drunk.

Ying Xiaoya, who wasn't a heavy drinker herself, was also a bit tipsy and could only be escorted home by Xiao Pinshan.

As for Cheng Su, luckily Chunhua was going the same way, and Ning Ge, not at ease, decided to join Chunhua in helping Cheng Su back home.

Upon arrival, Chunhua went to wring a towel, remembering there was honey at home, and told Ning Ge to watch over her first while she went to prepare honey water.

Cheng Su vomited endlessly, and Ning Ge was exasperated: "I told you not to drink, yet you insisted. Serves you right."

Cheng Su was scolded but unaware, she just giggled foolishly, holding Ning Ge's face, squinting and saying: "Who are you? Are you our Old Qi?"

Ning Ge had never seen her drunk before; her face was flushed, and she pouted her lips, looking particularly silly, yet incredibly charming.

With her hands holding his face, Ning Ge only needed to lower his head to kiss her.

With a surge of emotions inside, he heard footsteps approaching and quickly pushed her away.

Cheng Su fell to the ground, crying out: "You hit me!"

Chapter 852: Didn't Expect You to Be Like This

Waking up with a hangover, Cheng Su felt like her head was about to explode. She rubbed her temples, looked around the room, and felt a bit dazed.

Drunk again?

Struggling out of the room to wash up, her mouth tasted bland. The entire house seemed filled with a sour and stinky smell, which was quite unpleasant.

Cheng Su decided to cook herself a bowl of plain porridge, fetched some rice to wash in the kitchen. Hualing was there freshening up, and seeing her, Hualing said with a smirk, "You were quite a riot last night."

Hearing the sarcastic words, Cheng Su's eyelid twitched, and she asked in return, "What did I do?"

"You actually don't remember?" Hualing looked shocked.

"Drunk people never remember what they did, so tell me, how did I act up?" Cheng Su feigned indifference as she asked.

Hualing said, "How else could you act up? You said people pushed you and hit you, laughed and cried, and then forcefully hugged Ning Ge, insisting he was Qi Taiguo. I think you've gone mad missing your husband!"

Cheng Su's face turned dark. No way?

Seeing Cheng Su's dumbfounded look, Hualing felt secretly pleased, hummed a tune, and went back to her room, but her face dropped when she saw Chen Shouwang, who just returned from the night shift.

Although the factory won the competition, there was still a lot of work to coordinate and complete. So Cheng Su didn't stay at home, and after breakfast, she returned to the factory.

As soon as she entered the factory gate, she saw Ning Ge coming towards her, but as soon as he saw her, he turned around back to his office.

"Stop right there!" Cheng Su chased after him, grabbing hold of him, and said, "Why are you avoiding me?"

Ning Ge, seeing there was no escape, laughed awkwardly and raised his hand to greet her, "You're here? I thought you would take the day off at home!"

"Why should I rest at home? Tell me, what did I do after I got drunk last night?" Cheng Su asked.

Ning Ge immediately shouted, "You have the nerve to ask? You threw up all over me, cried and shouted, claiming people hit you. I truly never expected that you'd behave like this when drunk. So embarrassing, you..."

As he was speaking, he dared not continue because Cheng Su's face looked so scary, with a murderous glare, truly terrifying!

"Go on, why not finish?" Cheng Su squinted her eyes.

Ning Ge scratched his nose and said, "What I'm saying is true, your drinking behavior is actually quite bad."

Cheng Su's eyes widened further. She knew her alcohol tolerance was not great, Luh Wei had reminded her more than once in her past life to be mindful when drinking outside; otherwise, she'd act out embarrassingly when drunk.

Unexpectedly, her drinking habits were still embarrassing in this life.

"Lucky that it was us yesterday; if it had been others, would you still be able to face them?" Ning Ge clicked his tongue and said, "Also, don't easily drink in the future. Even if you do, don't get dead drunk because it's really disgraceful!"

Cheng Su was stunned, how come this sounded so much like what Luh Wei used to say?

Ning Ge felt uncomfortable under her gaze and said, "Why are you looking at me like that? If you don't like hearing it, I won't say anything more." That gaze was quite frightening.

"It's nothing!" Cheng Su snapped back, realizing the person in front of her was Ning Ge, not her best friend Luh Wei.

Ning Ge keenly sensed her mood, suddenly feeling down, hoping she wasn't angry already?

"Actually, it wasn't that embarrassing. It was rather cute, like a little kid—quite amusing." Ning Ge thought for a moment and deliberately teased her.

Cheng Su glared at him, "Don't ever say that again, go to the meeting!"

Ning Ge watched her angrily rush through the door, feeling frustrated. Why do women change their moods so quickly?

Chapter 853: Missing Him

Proving that the decision to participate in this jam competition was wise, especially after winning, the benefits it brings are quite significant.

As soon as the news of the award came out, the existing distributors immediately placed orders for over a thousand pounds, along with the orders received at the trade fair.

As for other local distribution points, Cheng Su also decided to send salespeople to promote this new type of jam.

Thus, the Joy Soon Loy Jam factory will be very busy because it has to produce both old and new jams, along with various marketing strategies to ensure sales.

Therefore, Cheng Su almost holds regular meetings every two or three days to discuss the company's direction and development. Sometimes, she's so busy that she doesn't even have time for a sip of water.

And many interested franchisees came along after the competition, wanting to collaborate with Joy Soon Loy, with some large companies even wanting to acquire the entire Joy Soon Loy.

But Cheng Su didn't agree, for she has poured much effort into this Jam Company, as have the employees, and such sacrifice cannot be discarded easily.

Although it's just a jam factory, Cheng Su is incredibly busy. Fortunately, the effort is worthwhile, because the exposure is unlocked, and the business is thriving, which is quite pleasing.

With the business doing well, Xiao Pinshan proposed hiring more personnel, gradually distinguishing departments and steadily transitioning the company to a corporate model, to which Cheng Su and Ning Ge did not object.

Days passed in busyness, and in the blink of an eye, the bustling July was over, and the factory gradually got on track, allowing for a sigh of relief.

In the past July, Cheng Su was busy, but it was also fulfilling, which reduced the amount of time she missed Qi Taiguo, though at night the longing would wash over her like a tide, engulfing her.

In August, the vast full moon hung high, Cheng Su poured herself a glass of red wine, sipping while gazing at the moon, thinking of Qi Taiguo.

She wondered how that guy was doing.

How is Qi Taiguo?

At this moment, he was under a full disguise, with thick face paint, holding a sniper rifle and lying motionless in the woods.

There were many mosquitoes in the woods, which he could not move against, so several mosquitoes had already feasted on his blood on his face.

This past month, he and others came to the secret base for intensive training, learning various weapons knowledge, theories, repairs, and more importantly, skills and tactics.

Ning Gang said this elite team is the elite among elites, and he was completely correct.

Those who came for training were extremely talented, and each skill training was rigorous and high-difficulty, which greatly improved Qi Taiguo's past knowledge and learning within a mere month.

Of course, because of someone speaking for him, the challenges he faced were not few.

Qi Taiguo's gaze fell on the new scar on the back of his hand, the skin rolling back, a result of a close knife fight with someone called Yao Qingjun.

Instructor Wang Hua suggested using knives, which Instructor Fu rejected, but Wang Hua retorted, "If enemies use knives, why would you fight barehanded if you have a knife?"—and thus won the argument.

That time, Yao Qingjun fought with full force, every move ruthless, but despite his own caution, he injured his hand, though he hurt the other's foot, leading to a lasting grudge, and he didn't forget Wang Hua's vicious and cold gaze.

And tonight, it was a sniping and stealth hiding challenge, facing off against Wan Zhisen, competing in endurance, reconnaissance, sniper skills, etc.

Chapter 854: Taking a Potshot

A swarm of mosquitoes buzzed around Qi Taiguo, his face painfully itchy and swollen from bites, yet he still endured it without moving, lying prone in the bushes, eyes fixed ahead.

Ssshhh.

Whether it was the sound of leaves blown by the wind or something else, Qi Taiguo's gaze suddenly sharpened. Through the night vision goggles, with the lightest of movements, he pulled the trigger toward a big tree.

The training exercise used mock bullets; they couldn't kill, but getting hit on the body would still hurt.

A barely audible curse sounded, and Qi Taiguo's lips curled slightly; he had hit the target.

The opponent seemed unwilling to fall behind and fired two shots back in his direction, but they missed Qi Taiguo.

However, Qi Taiguo dared not take it lightly. Everyone said Wan Zhisen was a skilled sniper; if he was feigning weakness to draw him out, wouldn't he be falling into a trap?

Sure enough, after two shots, there was no more movement, but Qi Taiguo remained motionless on the ground.

After waiting for about a quarter of an hour, the rustling sound appeared again, and a branch moved slightly; it was indeed a decoy.

Qi Taiguo fired two more shots in that direction.

"Bastard!" This time, the curse was clearly audible.

Three shots hit; the person was 'dead,' and he had lost.

Qi Taiguo sighed in relief. After the opponent left, he lay prone for a while longer, then stood up, preparing to return to camp.

After just two steps, Qi Taiguo's ears twitched, a sharp sound of wind came from his right, multiple missions and battlefield experience told him danger was near!

Qi Taiguo quickly dodged forward, diving as a bullet grazed the edge of his arm, and he rolled back into the bushes to find cover, his eyes alert.

He subtly touched his arm where the bullet passed; the sleeve was hot and had a hole, his expression instantly hardened.

Mock bullets and real bullets are different, the one that just flew by was definitely a real bullet.

Someone had fired a cold shot at him.

Who was it, who wanted to kill him, was it Wang Zhiseng or someone else?

Qi Taiguo didn't dare to breathe heavily, he had no live bullets, and couldn't confront the enemy head-on, or he'd surely die.

Hidden in the bushes, Qi Taiguo stayed motionless, the one who fired the cold shot didn't move either, both sides were testing who had more endurance.

Time passed unknowingly, camp lights shone this way, and Qi Taiguo quickly looked in the direction of the cold shot, a silhouette swiftly ran away.

Qi Taiguo wiped the sweat off his forehead, then from where he was shot, squatted there feeling the ground.

He finally found a bullet, squinted to carefully inspect it, then held it in his palm, and quietly headed back to camp.

"Why are you back now, it's been over two hours!" Instructor Wang scolded sternly.

"Report. Someone took a cold shot with a real bullet." Qi Taiguo stood at attention, speaking coldly, and extended his hand to show the bullet head in his palm.

Wang Hua's expression slightly changed, just as he was about to reach for it, Instructor Fu quickly took the bullet in his hand, looked it over, and said, "We need to check the bullet inventory records later."

Wang Hua pursed his lips and nodded, but his brow furrowed.

Instructor Fu directed Qi Taiguo back to the camp to rejoin the team.

Qi Taiguo glanced at Wan Zhisen, who darkened his face and said, "It wasn't me!"

"I know it wasn't you." He coldly glanced at the team that came out for the sniper mission this time, feeling like a jar had been knocked over inside him.

Could there be a hidden hand belonging to Jiang Conghe infiltrated in this team, unknown to both him and Ning Ge? Who could it be?

Chapter 855: The More They Want Me Dead, the Less They'll Get Their Way

Qi Taiguo returned to the dormitory, and Gao Linbing followed him in, asking quietly, "What happened? Did you just get shot at?"

"Yeah." Qi Taiguo pointed to the hole in his clothes on his arm to show him. "It's nothing, I dodged quickly."

Gao Linbing's face changed dramatically and he said, "Wasn't this exercise supposed to be with blank bullets? How could..."

Qi Taiguo sneered coldly and said, "That depends on the results of the investigation from above!"

Gao Linbing saw his calm demeanor, as if used to such occurrences, and then saw the scars on his hands, asking, "Was it him?"

Qi Taiguo followed his gaze, noticing Yao Qingjun seemed to have felt something and was looking over with a mocking smile.

Qi Taiguo withdrew his gaze, took off his camouflage jacket, and said, "Hard to say, you better not meddle in this!"

"But anyone with eyes can see you're being messed with by Instructor Wang. Even that time with Boge, I've truly not seen Boge use a knife." Gao Linbing said, incensed.

"Be cautious with your words!" Qi Taiguo reprimanded lightly, saying, "This is the officer elite reserve class. Just because you haven't seen it before doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

Gao Linbing pursed his lips.

Seeing this, Qi Taiguo patted his shoulder and said, "Don't worry, the more someone wants me dead, the less I can let them have their way."

Gao Linbing nodded, saying, "Then be careful yourself."

Qi Taiguo nodded slightly, catching Wan Zhisen approaching quickly out of the corner of his eye, so he ceased speaking.

"What's the matter?" Qi Taiguo asked calmly.

"This shot, was it taken after I left?" Wan Zhisen asked with a serious expression.

Qi Taiguo deliberately said, "Could it be you didn't leave? Was it actually you who fired?"

"Nonsense, we were all issued the same bullets, they're all blanks, how could I have a live round?" Wan Zhisen said angrily.

Qi Taiguo remembered what Ning Ge said, that this person was a bit arrogant and might not follow Jiang Conghe's orders, his eyes flickered, and he said, "You should ask the one with the live rounds. But considering how close the timing is, if it wasn't you, who was it?"

"I told you it wasn't me!" Wan Zhisen grabbed Qi Taiguo by the collar: "Someone's trying to frame me!"

Earlier, he was called for talks by two instructors separately, and their probing words clearly showed they suspected him of shooting Qi Taiguo, which was utterly insulting.

"Framing you but trying to kill me, then who have we so deeply offended?" Qi Taiguo brushed his hand aside, straightened his collar, and said coolly.

Regardless of whether Wan Zhisen was Jiang Conghe's person, it's best to sow some discord first, at least to solve one problem.

Wan Zhisen's eyes were unreadable; he snorted, looked him up and down, and switched the topic, saying, "You're quite something, managing to stay hidden for so long and evade my sniping."

"Just luck, can't compare to you, a sniper with a special forces background," Qi Taiguo lowered his eyes.

Hearing this, Wan Zhisen's eyes flickered again and he said, "Take care of yourself." Before striding away.

Gao Linbing saw his arrogant demeanor, getting irritated, and said, "This kid, I remember he's just a deputy platoon leader, look at him strutting around, tsk."

Qi Taiguo, however, knew that after this conversation, Wan Zhisen wouldn't trip him up again, which was good, saving him from constant vigilance.

"When you joined the training, you forgot, everyone's status is the same, you're all rookies. Besides, it's normal for young people to be a bit arrogant, and he has the capability to be arrogant," Qi Taiguo said.

Meanwhile, Instructor Wang hung up the phone, slammed the table hard, his face livid with anger.

He had just probed Commander Chiang about this matter, but Commander Chiang said not to worry, just do his job. Doesn't he know that Fu Heng is still watching like a hawk?

Chapter 856: Winning People's Support

As August arrived, seeing that the factory stabilized over there, Cheng Su found some free time and went to inspect the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, preparing gifts for the Mid-Autumn Festival for various households.

Mooncakes have long been sold by bakeries. The packaging this era naturally doesn't compare to the 21st-century standards, and using a paper box for packaging is considered high-end. Mostly, they are wrapped in wax paper, four in a barrel, tied with string, and a sheet of red paper printed with "Mid-Autumn mooncake" is pasted on the outside. When the oil from the mooncakes seeps out, the red paper gets infused with a layer of oil, seemingly scented with that sweet aroma, which appears more traditional.

Old Song suggested whether they should also stock some products for sale to match the season since most restaurants sell their homemade products.

Cheng Su replied, "Better not. If we sell, we should make them ourselves. This year it's too late, but I'm thinking next year we'll make Joy Soon Loy's mooncakes ourselves."

Currently, Joy Soon Loy isn't large, and the place is small, making mooncakes would be troublesome.

Her intention is to expand the floors of Joy Soon Loy, and then set up a pastry section. When conditions are met, it would be easy to make house-brand pastries.

She recalled that some famous Cantonese restaurants she saw in her previous life had shops selling pastries and their own brand products. When the scale grows, they could have one too.

Old Song listened, then said, "It's rare for you not to make money when you can!"

Cheng Su gave a faint smile and said, "It's not that I don't want to make money, I just don't want other items tagged with our restaurant's brand. Old Song, you should know, building a brand is indeed not easy. If we sell now and it doesn't go well, will people trust us someday when we truly make our own products?"

Old Song was taken aback, it seemed to be the truth.

"Alright! I'm really getting old!" Old Song self-mockingly smiled.

Cheng Su said, "You're just considering the restaurant's benefits. We won't sell mooncakes, but I'll list some items that Xiao Jiang will purchase, and our employees should receive a Mid-Autumn Festival gift!"

During holidays and festivals, giving some pastries to employees makes everyone feel heartfelt.

Old Song quite agreed with her method of winning hearts and secretly admired it, because a barrel of mooncakes, while not costly, accumulates into a substantial expenditure, and she can give them to the fast food staff, factory workers too!

Therefore, Cheng Su as a boss is indeed quite generous, and it's no wonder that for so long, there hasn't been talk of employees wanting to switch jobs, but rather there are people wanting to join and work here.

"Moreover, now that it's August, I plan to add two floors above before the year ends, what do you think?" Cheng Su shared her thoughts with Old Song.

Old Song was delighted, saying, "Adding floors? Great, if we can make it, we may make huge business during the New Year."

"Yes, building is troublesome, and the bungalow can't be used temporarily, otherwise with all the coming and going, and dust everywhere, it'll be greatly affected. This kitchen remains here, you see?" Cheng Su looked at the bungalow and kitchen in front of her, thinking of construction with skies filled with dust, wouldn't the dishes be covered in dust too?

"This is indeed a problem." Old Song pondered but there's only one kitchen, what to do?

"Do you think the place next door could be cleared to set up a temporary kitchen? Set up stoves and pots for cooking, would that work?" Cheng Su thought for a while and asked.

Chapter 857: Bringing in Investors

The Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, only the current bungalow with a large courtyard is Joy Soon Loy's own property, while the two neighboring ones on both sides are rented.

"But where is there room to set up a kitchen next door? There's a lot of stuff here too, and even if we barely squeeze in a kitchen, it would look out of place," Old Song said with a glance.

Cheng Su also felt a headache. When they renovated at first, they intended the next door to be used just for private rooms and didn't leave space for a kitchen at all. So, even if they moved next door, there'd be no place for the stove.

"Mr. Luh has arrived," Old Song stood up and said to Cheng Su.

Cheng Su turned her head. Luh Kai came over with a briefcase and couldn't help but smile and ask, "What a rare guest, how do you have time to come by?"

Luh Kai glanced at the watch on his wrist and said, "It's already twelve o'clock. We all need to eat, right? Passing by your place, I thought I'd come and grab a meal." He nodded towards Old Song as a greeting.

Old Song said, "You guys chat, I'll go back to work."

Cheng Su nodded, instructed the little girl to bring some tea, and invited Luh Kai to sit down.

"So, have you encountered any problems that you can't solve? I see your brow is knitted tightly," Luh Kai asked with a smile.

Cheng Su said, "You came at the right time, help me think of an idea. I want to expand this restaurant..."

She talked about the issues with expanding the restaurant, including the business problems, expansion issues, the impacts, and so on.

"Right now, I'm just so troubled. If I close the restaurant in the middle, where do I move this kitchen?" Cheng Su was extremely troubled.

"Shall I take a look around?" Luh Kai stood up.

"Please," Cheng Su stood up with him, looking inside and out, and even went around to the back to see.

Behind the restaurant, there's a vacant lot. Luh Kai asked, "Whose land is this? Do you have any idea?"

Cheng Su was taken aback for a moment and shook her head.

"I see your building is also quite old. Maybe you should consider tearing it down, and then ask if this land has an owner, buy it all together, temporarily close and build a new restaurant?" Luh Kai pointed to the empty land and said, "This land could completely house a new kitchen."

Cheng Su hadn't thought about it this way. She looked at it, and it seemed to make sense, but tearing down and rebuilding would cost a lot.

Luh Kai seemed to see her thoughts and said, "This restaurant is your main shop, right? It should have its own characteristics. Adding on isn't impossible, but over time, the contrast between old and new becomes very clear. Instead of that, why not demolish and rebuild once, expanding the space? If two floors aren't enough, make it three or four floors, maybe even save on those next-door rents. And over time, this could also become a signature old store."

What he said, Cheng Su knew very well, but the cost is just...

"I know what you mean, but building a big restaurant also takes quite a bit of time. Most importantly, my capital isn't enough!" Cheng Su said with some embarrassment.

Luh Kai smiled and said, "I remember your Jam Company has two owners, right? So this restaurant of yours could completely find someone to invest shares in, just share some stock! To do business bigger, isn't it all about financing or whatnot?"

Finding someone to invest?

Cheng Su was momentarily stunned; right now, this shop is entirely hers, and the profit and risk bearing are all hers. If someone invests, she'd have to share the stock profit and also bear a certain amount of risk.

But how much money is appropriate for investment?

Chapter 858: Do You Think It's Worthwhile?

Cheng Su had never evaluated the current value of the restaurant, nor had she thought about bringing in a partner someday, so when Luh Kai mentioned it, she didn't know how to react at first.

"Actually, this restaurant has only been open for a little over a year, a place like this is good for making some pocket change. You say it can make a lot of money, but who would have confidence in such a small restaurant? Even if you're looking to invest, wouldn't you go for something bigger?" Cheng Su said, smiling.

"You're too modest, your restaurant is doing quite well. Of course, whether the business is good or not, I think you know in your heart. You should have some plans for what scale you want to reach. I'm just suggesting because I feel the opportunity is rare, and it would be a pity to miss it. Isn't the government encouraging entrepreneurship now?" Luh Kai said with a faint smile.

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, "So you're thinking of starting a business too?"

"Starting a business, maybe after I can revive my supply and marketing cooperative!" Luh Kai's expression was somewhat forlorn.

Cheng Su tentatively asked, "Is business really not doing well now?"

"With the current reforms, lots of businesses are doing well. Some items can now be bought elsewhere, not just at the supply and marketing cooperative!" Luh Kai said, "So it's become much harder to run."

Cheng Su pursed her lips, thinking, it will only get harder in the future, but how could she say that?

"So, you must seize the opportunity to grow and develop!" Luh Kai changed his tone.

Cheng Su laughed, "It's not that easy to just say someone will invest. I have to think it over. I need to write a comprehensive plan, and as for the land you mentioned, I need to look into it."

Luh Kai nodded.

An idea stirred in Cheng Su's mind, and she asked, as if joking, "If I really were to look for a partner, would you be interested in this little shop?"

Luh Kai was taken aback, "Me?"

"Yes. But it's only to hold shares, not for decision-making rights, unless it's for major reforms that you'd have a say in." Cheng Su smiled.

Luh Kai said, "Alright then. If you really plan to expand, I'd join in for fun. I heard your Jam Company is quite famous now. Following you, I'm sure there will be money to make, and if my cooperative really goes under, at least I'd have dividends to live on."

"Are you serious?"

Luh Kai retorted, "Ah, are you just joking?"

"No, of course I'm serious." Cheng Su laughed, thoughtfully considering the possibility.

Overturning and rebuilding, this is also a major decision. It means stopping operations, essentially not doing business for a few months. Right now, business is stable, and stopping operations would risk losing customers, so it must be carefully considered.

Qi Taiguo had gone for training, leaving no one to discuss with, so Cheng Su had to find Ning Ge to consult and ask for his opinion.

After listening, Ning Ge said, "This restaurant has only been open for a year, and it's the time to accumulate customers. Wouldn't it be a pity to stop operations now?"

"I thought of that too, so I feel conflicted and torn. But according to my plan, it's necessary for Joy Soon Loy to expand and refine its operation towards a restaurant business model." Cheng Su said, "I want it to grow into a proper dining establishment, not just remain a small fast-food joint."

"Then you must think it through, whether you can bear the risks involved." Ning Ge said.

Cheng Su pressed her lips together and after a while, said, "Doing business inherently has the risk of crashing. If it turns out that success is not in my destiny, I'll accept it."

Ning Ge raised an eyebrow, gazing deeply at her.

Chapter 859: Should I Discuss It with Taiguo?

Seeing that Cheng Su had her own ideas, Ning Ge didn't say anything. He knew that her ambitions were far beyond just running a small restaurant or a small tavern. Therefore, he couldn't bring himself to tell her to simply stick to managing a few businesses.

However, during the more than a year that they've known each other, it seemed as though her steps had never stopped.

In contrast, he seemed to be at a standstill.

Cheng Su was scribbling away on a plan when she noticed Ning Ge staring blankly. She couldn't help but knock on his desk, "What are you thinking about?"

"Nothing much, I might have to go back to Beijing for a bit, there's something I need to take care of," Ning Ge said. "If you finish your plan, let me have a look. If it's feasible, I might invest in some shares?"

"Sure! Oh, right, if you go back, could you also take a holiday gift to your dad for me? The Mid-Autumn Festival is coming up soon!" Cheng Su remembered the gifts and said.

"Alright." Ning Ge nodded, then asked, "Are you going back to Flower County for the Mid-Autumn Festival?"

Cheng Su paused her writing, frowning.

Should she go back?

With Qi Taiguo not around, she didn't want to go back, nor did she want to face her in-laws' expressions alone.

Even if she's not going back, the holiday gifts definitely needed to be sent back. So Cheng Su prepared some mooncakes and other items, one set for her in-laws and one for her own family. Then she asked her Elder Sister when she'd be going back, planning to entrust her to take the gifts back.

When Qi Fenglian heard that she wasn't going home, she furrowed her brows and said, "Taiguo is off studying. During a time like this, what's the point of being here alone? You might as well go home to celebrate!"

"No, going back for just a day or two only to return, plus there's a lot to do here. I also need to prepare for enrolling. When you go back, don't you still need to look after the fast food place?" Cheng Su said with a smile.

Qi Fenglian slightly pursed her lips and tentatively asked, "Is it because of Mom that you don't want to go back? Are you still upset with her?"

"No, I'm really busy. Besides, I'm thinking about demolishing and rebuilding the main shop, maybe adding a few floors. There's a lot to prepare and plan for!" Cheng Su replied.

Upon hearing this, Qi Fenglian said, "Demolish and rebuild? That must cost a lot of money, right? Shouldn't you wait for Taiguo to come back and discuss it together?"

Cheng Su glanced at her upon hearing this.

Qi Fenglian hurriedly said, "What I mean is, it's always better for you two to discuss such a big matter together rather than figuring it out on your own, right?"

"I'm planning to have it ready for reopening before the New Year. Then during the New Year, we might even make some money since a lot of people eat out then, right?" Cheng Su said. "If we wait for him, it will be October; who knows if it'll be done in time. Plus, deciding to build isn't as simple as just talking about it; there are many preparations to make. If we don't speed up the progress, Taiguo might return and find it hasn't even been put into action yet."

Qi Fenglian made an 'oh' sound, not daring to say more, though she secretly felt it was inappropriate. Such a big decision, she's just going to demolish and rebuild without consulting her husband? Shouldn't they discuss it together?

Cheng Su wasn't unwilling to discuss it with Qi Taiguo. He just wasn't around, and actually, she had only added this to the agenda and hadn't officially put it into action yet. She said this to her Elder Sister just to block her persuasion to go home for the Mid-Autumn Festival, not expecting her to think she was being presumptuous.

But it wouldn't hurt to wait a bit. She could think it over more carefully and make some calculations.

Qi Taiguo, when will you finally come back?

Chapter 860: Targeting the Procurement Position

In the evening, Qi Fenglian and Zhang Jisheng talked about Cheng Su's proposal to tear down and rebuild the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, with a hint of displeasure in their words.

"You see, for such a big matter, she should at least inform Taiguo and discuss it before making a decision, right? It's so hard to get the restaurant up and running, and now they want to tear it down just like that. Hey, once it's rebuilt, will the business be as good? Anyway, I feel her idea this time is inappropriate." Qi Fenglian felt very sorry about Joy Soon Loy's impending closure.

A restaurant with such good business, saying it needs to be torn down and rebuilt, in her opinion, crudely speaking, is just like farting after taking off your pants.

Isn't it possible to do business now? It's just that the space is a bit small!

Zhang Jisheng smirked and said, "Are you only realizing how assertive your sister-in-law is now? If she wasn't so assertive, could things have turned out this way with your family?"

"I know she has a strong will, and I haven't opposed it, but speaking of this matter, I just feel it's inappropriate." Qi Fenglian sighed.

"Stop worrying about others. If she has this idea, she must have a plan in her mind and money as well." Zhang Jisheng smacked his lips, secretly making calculations.

Tearing down a shop and rebuilding it with several floors, how much would that cost? At least ten thousand, probably even more.

Tsk tsk, how come it's so easy for others to make money, while I'm exhausting myself every day, earning only two to thirty yuan a month, not even as much as a procurement officer.

Thinking about procurement, Zhang Jisheng said, "Hey, let me tell you something."

"What?" Qi Fenglian was worried.

"That procurement officer at the restaurant, what's his name? Xiao Jiang or Xiao He?"

"Song Xiaojang, what's going on?" Qi Fenglian looked at him.

"I heard the other day that the cafeteria expenses for the industries under your sister-in-law's name are all purchased by him, right?" Zhang Jisheng asked.

"Yeah, they say it's convenient for accounting, and with large quantities, the price is a bit discounted too. Why?" Qi Fenglian asked.

"Look, why don't you talk to your big brother and sister-in-law, let me handle this procurement?" Zhang Jisheng's eyes were gleaming.

Qi Fenglian suddenly sat up from the bed, "What are you saying? You want to be that procurement officer?"

"What's wrong with that?" Zhang Jisheng also sat up and said, "Look, isn't Song Xiaojang an outsider? With such large procurement, how many kickbacks are there? Can you not figure it out? How much can he earn in a day from procurement? In a month, it would be more than his salary, right? Instead of letting outsiders do it, why not let it be done by family? Family, isn't it more trustworthy than outsiders?"

"You're crazy, how could you do this? Besides, Xiao Jiang isn't..."

Zhang Jisheng sneered, "Don't say that guy is so noble. I think that guy is really shrewd, I don't believe he's not getting any benefits from this."

Qi Fenglian fell silent, saying nothing. She didn't fully believe there was nothing, but since Cheng Su said nothing, she trusted it, so what could she say?

"Being a decorator is too tiring, and there's no money, exhausting every day. Procurement is different, three cafeterias need so many things purchased, with every penny as kickback, it would be enough for a salary." Zhang Jisheng said, "You always wish to have your own business and house, don't you? If I become the procurement officer, the money will come quickly, what do you say? Surely I wouldn't get more kickbacks there than that guy!"

Qi Fenglian was stunned, thinking of the possibility, shaking her head, "No, it can't be like this!"

"You!" Zhang Jisheng became enraged, "Then just work yourself to death for the rest of your life, humph!"

Qi Fenglian saw him angrily lie back down, biting her lip; procurement!