

The 80s 871

Chapter 871: She Doesn't Owe Him Anything

As soon as Mother Qi spoke, it was Father Qi who first reacted.

"Work in an office? He's just a farmer who hasn't even finished middle school. What makes him think he can work in an office? This current job as a decorator is quite decent. The Thai wife said before that if he did well, he could eventually venture out on his own, but he doesn't appreciate it. And now he wants to dream of working in an office? Bah!" Father Qi said coldly, "Wear a hat that fits your head. If he continues to have these wild dreams, he'll end up empty-handed. He'll regret it!"

Scolding Zhang Jisheng was tantamount to scolding Qi Fenglian, making Qi Fenglian's face red with embarrassment.

Mother Qi, after being chastised, said, "I was just talking casually. Why are you getting so worked up?"

"You keep coming up with these lousy ideas!" Father Qi glared at her.

Mother Qi pouted, "Mine are lousy ideas, then why don't you come up with a good one!"

Father Qi looked at Qi Fenglian and said, "Fenglian, a person needs to know contentment, understand their own capabilities, and live within their means. He needs to know the difference between good and bad; otherwise, he won't achieve anything."

"Dad, I..."

"The Thai wife has already been decent to you. You remember what she did when you gave birth to Baobao, right? She doesn't approve of the Zhang family's ways or Jisheng, but if it weren't for your sake, would she help Jisheng find a job?" Father Qi got straight to the point.

Qi Fenglian's face paled slightly, her lips trembling because he was right. If not for her sake, why would someone help Zhang Jisheng secure a job?

"She clearly doesn't approve of Jisheng, but she still helped him find a job. Why is that? It's all for your sake. But if Jisheng keeps complaining, do you think she'll keep helping him?" Father Qi snorted coldly. "Your sister-in-law isn't someone to be pushed around. She's already helped as relatives would; she doesn't owe him anything."

"Dad, I know." Qi Fenglian felt utterly ashamed.

Father Qi glanced at her, sighed, and took out his pipe, rolling some tobacco into a cigarette.

The daughter-in-law was willing to help out this elder sister mainly for the Thai connection, and also because she genuinely knew Qi Fenglian had a tough time.

But if they couldn't appreciate it and left people cold, this goodwill would be lost in vain.

"Fenglian, Jisheng may be clueless, but don't be confused like him. Goodwill is hard to come by. If you do something to destroy it, no one will be able to help you in the future!" Father Qi lit the cigarette and blew out a puff of smoke as he spoke.

Qi Fenglian lowered her head.

Mother Qi listened on the side, feeling completely at a loss, thinking this old man was exaggerating things.

She couldn't understand; everyone is family, helping each other makes sense, so why was it being talked up like some major ordeal?

In Mother Qi's mind, if one son was doing well, he should naturally help out the siblings who weren't, which was normal. But what Father Qi said seemed to contradict this reasoning.

"Go back and tell Jisheng to work hard and not overthink. If he really feels tired, let him come back home to work!" Father Qi said, "But don't you dare find the Thai wife and ask to change his job."

Qi Fenglian nodded.

"Fenglian, don't feel that I'm being dictatorial, as if I'm siding with your sister-in-law. I'm saying this for your own good. If you follow Jisheng's muddled path, who would dare lend you a hand?"

"Dad, I understand, I really do!" Qi Fenglian immediately replied, thinking fortunately she hadn't told her parents about Zhang Jisheng's desire to get into purchasing; otherwise, she'd be utterly humiliated.

Chapter 872: Jungle Combat

Qi Fenglian couldn't get what she wanted from her family, and when she returned to her in-laws, naturally Zhang Jisheng pursued her with questions. Qi Fenglian recounted Father Qi's words, and as expected, it caused quite a stir, leaving her so distressed that she cried, ruining the festive day.

Meanwhile, in Qing City, Cheng Su was home alone during the festival, feeling lonely. She refused the invitation from Chunhua and Guiying, and decided to spend the holiday at a restaurant with the others.

Mid-Autumn Festival reunion, thousands of homes lit up, with children joyfully running around with lanterns, laughter echoing from every household.

Cheng Su watched the flickering lights in the darkness and the huge, round moon hanging in the sky, feeling intensely lonely!

It's said that one feels the loneliest during festive times, and it's true. Usually, she didn't feel it, but now she indeed felt very solitary.

Really missing that guy!

Wondering if he's eaten mooncakes, thinking of her!

At this moment, Qi Taiguo wasn't thinking of her. Beneath the massive round moon, he was seated by a pool, biting the end of a blood-stopping band, while using his hands to wrap the other end around his hand.

Just now, he had experienced a fight.

The day's arrangement was combat tactics, with a five-person team. Ren Yang was the commander of his squad, while Qi Taiguo played the role of an assault soldier responsible for eliminating breakthrough disruptions.

The opposing squad, led by a deputy camp commander, faced them. It seemed to be a deliberate arrangement by the instructor; the opponent's assault soldier was Yao Qingjun.

On Mid-Autumn Festival night, the bright moonlight was actually quite disadvantageous to the battle plan, as excessive brightness hindered concealment, but what was disadvantageous to one side was equally disadvantageous to the other.

Just moments ago, Qi Taiguo disrupted the enemy's trap mechanism but ended up with a knife wound on his arm.

This kind of confrontation battle involved real weapons to simulate the real cruelty of going to war, though everyone wore bulletproof vests.

Rustle, rustle.

Qi Taiguo paused his biting on the band, instinctively put it down, and picked up the pistol beside him, looking around alertly.

Suddenly, he turned sharply, aiming the pistol at the opponent's forehead.

"Let's see if your knife is quicker or my gun," Qi Taiguo loaded the trigger coldly, glaring at the opponent.

Yao Qingjun's knife was pressed against Qi Taiguo's main artery, taking a glance around.

"Don't worry, no one's here. It's your chance to strike, enough to leave no trace behind!" Qi Taiguo sneered.

Yao Qingjun's gaze sharpened.

"What benefits did Jiang Conghe offer you? To make you willing to be his dog, repeatedly seeking chances to kill me," Qi Taiguo squinted, asking, "Commander? Regiment leader?"

"Would I rely on a regiment leader position? What a joke," Yao Qingjun sneered, "Guangcheng's military commissioner."

"No wonder," Qi Taiguo's tone shifted, "Do it then!"

Yao Qingjun's eyes turned fierce, but before he could fully react, Qi Taiguo spun around, kicking his dagger away.

Yao Qingjun felt a numbness in his hand, and the weapon was no longer within grasp, so he resorted to bare-handed fighting, engaging in a melee with Qi Taiguo.

After exchanging thirty to forty moves, Qi Taiguo exposed his center chest, and Yao Qingjun immediately leaped in mid-air, aiming chain kicks at Qi Taiguo.

His chain kicks had been taught by a renowned master, gaining fame, and securing a championship with this move in prior battles.

Qi Taiguo didn't retreat but advanced, stepping forward two steps, quickly grabbing Yao Qingjun's foot with both hands, pulling forward fiercely, then forcefully snapping.

Crack, the sound of bone fracturing, followed by Yao Qingjun's anguished scream reverberating through the forest.

"Opportunity missed is indeed missed, your commissioner position is gone!" Qi Taiguo looked down at Yao Qingjun sprawled on the ground, speaking coldly.

Yao Qingjun glared at him with eyes full of resentment, drenched in cold sweat.

Chapter 873: From Foes to Friends

Qi Taiguo left Yao Qingjun behind, he wanted his own life, while he only crippled Yao's leg, which was already merciful enough. After all, this duel agreed on ignoring disabilities.

Yao Qingjun's chain kicks, he had watched many times. To counter this move, he had practiced countless times under the unnoticed night, eventually distilled into a key tactic: Speed!

Many martial arts maneuvers are undefeated in speed.

Therefore, he had to be faster than Yao Qingjun's legs. He deliberately showed a weakness to lure him into the trap.

Qi Taiguo kept a stern look, let out a light snort, his lip line pressed into a straight line—swapping a human life for a political commissar, Jiang Conghe dared to such extents.

Does this reflect the corruption of some officials within, not rising through the ranks with strength but through plotting and darkness?

As he was lost in thought, suddenly a sound of something piercing through the air approached, Qi Taiguo instantly dodged and used a nearby large tree for cover.

However, the person behind did not relent, continuing to shoot bullets his way.

Qi Taiguo looked on both sides, gritted his teeth, pulled out a handgun, fired twice backward, and took the chance to roll into the more obscured brush on the side.

Through the moonlight, he gazed outwards. In front of him to the left, the shadows of trees intertwined, indistinguishable where it was a person and where a tree.

Yet Qi Taiguo calmed down. As the wind blew, the shadows remained motionless, making it clear to Qi Taiguo.

Raising his hand, aiming, pulling the trigger—smooth execution, he shot towards the shadow that showed no signs of movement.

Disguises can differentiate stillness and movement, clearly with wind, surrounding shadows swayed, yet you remained unmoving. Isn't that revealing your disguise?

The person seemed surprised that Qi Taiguo knew his hiding spot, without hesitation fired back towards them.

Yet, his bullet was intercepted mid-air, getting shot down by another, the two bullets collided, sparking slight flashes.

The person was shocked, realizing no advantage, hurriedly fled.

Qi Taiguo also looked up, under the moonlight, Wan Zhisen as the sniper surprisingly crouched in a tree without his notice.

If Wan Zhisen had shared Yao Qingjun's lethal intentions, he himself would likely have been dead by now, underestimated the situation.

Wan Zhisen jumped down the tree, Qi Taiguo stepped out, saying: "Thanks!"

Wan Zhisen snorted: "I wasn't helping you, but didn't want to lower the whole team's score, don't flatter yourself."

Qi Taiguo raised an eyebrow: "Yes!" However, the corner of his mouth slightly lifted, this shot had turned adversaries into allies.

"That guy should be the one who framed me last time." Wan Zhisen looked towards the direction the person fled.

"It was sniper Cai Zhengyan." Qi Taiguo said.

He's an inconspicuous member of the opposing squad, having small eyes, small nose, usually doesn't speak much, very low-key, blending into a crowd makes little impression.

But it's said, he's a deputy company commander of that squad.

"Who told you to offend the ones you shouldn't have! Hmph!" Wan Zhisen spoke while firing rounds around.

"Yao Qingjun for the sake of a political commissar, how about you?" Qi Taiguo suddenly asked.

Wan Zhisen looked at him in surprise.

"An ideal match for a son-in-law?" Qi Taiguo said.

Wan Zhisen was even more surprised, quickly angered: "Shut up! Who cares about any ideal match? What I want, I'll earn myself." Paused and added: "But you, attracted admiration, wouldn't it have settled if you agreed?"

Qi Taiguo coldly snorted: "I have a wife!"

Wan Zhisen raised an eyebrow, just about to say something, Qi Taiguo hushed him, both stepped aside, exchanged glances.

Qi Taiguo waited until the person came closer, pounced first, when engaged in scuffle, Wan Zhisen assisted decisively, the teamwork impeccable.

The opponent captured!

Chapter 874: Scouting the University

After the Mid-Autumn Festival, Cheng Su prepared for enrollment in September, gathering all the necessary identification, and went to Guicheng College with Ying Xiaoya to check out the campus.

On the way, Cheng Su learned a lot from Ying Xiaoya about attending university these days.

Nowadays, getting into college is not easy. In a class of dozens of people, it's like a thousand troops crossing a single-log bridge. If ten or so can get in, that's already considered high output. So, it was quite surprising for many that a repeat student like Cheng Su managed to get into college.

And now, being a college student is much better than in the 21st century; students don't have to worry about anything. The total cost for college is less than fifty yuan a month. The school doesn't charge tuition and even provides meal subsidies. The state also gives money, and accommodation doesn't require payment; you can just bring your luggage and go.

After four years of college, you're guaranteed job assignments, with several companies competing to hire you. There's no worry about not finding a job, and all of them are secure jobs. Of course, if you mess up and get penalized, that's another story; otherwise, you'll have a decent job.

As for choosing a major, humanities are more relaxed compared to sciences. Those in literature have it the easiest, especially in English. As long as you have a good memory, you can easily pass with a sixty, and it feels like just having fun in university for a few years. The learning environment is relatively relaxed.

So, for someone like Cheng Su, who is already married, choosing humanities is the right choice.

"Anyway, there aren't many classes. You have a good memory, so just attend one or two classes now and then, and pass the exams. It doesn't really matter whether you live on campus or not," said Ying Xiaoya.

Cheng Su sighed inwardly. In her day, university fees were quite expensive. Many families, despite having no money, were determined to send their children to college, even willing to sell everything to afford it. Who would have thought it's this good now? It's so much happier.

"So, you skipped quite a few classes, didn't you?" Cheng Su teased Ying Xiaoya with a smile. She was a humanities student too.

Ying Xiaoya touched her nose and said, "No way, I was a good student. I just skipped when I felt lazy sometimes."

Cheng Su covered her mouth and chuckled.

Chatting and laughing all the way, they arrived at Guicheng College. The campus was quite old, and at the entrance was a big iron gate, locked. An old man was guarding it; he seemed to be the school's watchman.

Cheng Su and the others explained their purpose for being there, and the watchman said, "It's not the registration period yet; come back later."

"Sir, we just want to look around the campus. We came from far away, so can't we just have a look? See, I have the admission notice," Cheng Su said.

Cheng Su handed over the notice.

The watchman squinted at it and still seemed a bit hesitant.

"Old Liang, what's the matter?" a deep male voice asked.

"Ah, this is our President Ou. If he agrees, you can go in!" Old Liang quickly explained Cheng Su's reason for being there to the newcomer.

Cheng Su looked over and saw that President Ou appeared to be about sixty years old, with a very kind face. He wore gold-rimmed glasses, looking just like a scholarly gentleman.

Both Cheng Su and Ying Xiaoya quickly bowed and greeted him. President Ou took the notice and glanced at it, smiling, "Ah, a new student for our college this year, congratulations. Since the new student registration is coming up soon and you're already here, go on in."

Old Liang opened the gate, and Cheng Su and Ying Xiaoya thanked them repeatedly as they followed President Ou inside. Along the way, they answered many of President Ou's questions, like their age, where they were from, and where they lived. When they reached the teaching building, he let them wander around as they pleased, while he went into the building himself.

Chapter 875: Xiao Ya's Troubles

Cheng Su and Ying Xiaoya wandered around the academy for half a day. The academy was quite old, so the facilities were a bit outdated, but it still couldn't hide its strong cultural ambiance. There were green trees everywhere, and a small lakeside, with some bulletin boards displaying famous quotes.

They also saw some people carrying books walking by, probably students staying over the break, or those who had just returned from summer vacation, their young faces bearing cheerful yet shy smiles.

Cheng Su watched curiously and quickly stopped to ask Ying Xiaoya, "Tell me, do I look very old?"

Ying Xiaoya was startled and said, "How are you old? Girl, you're only twenty-one, okay?"

"Really? But I just feel so much older than them." Cheng Su looked at those young faces, feeling that her own face could never bear such innocent and shy smiles.

Is it because she considers herself married, or because she's lived two lifetimes?

"It's an illusion. I think you still look young, and as for your dressing style, isn't it more beautiful and youthful than others? Look, that guy's looking your way again, right? Oh, I really worry for Big Brother Qi, having such a beautiful wife going to college, it's bound to attract a swarm of admirers!" Ying Xiaoya pretended to sigh.

Cheng Su joked, "Please, I'm a married woman."

Ying Xiaoya said, "If you don't say it, who would know?"

"Can't you see, I'm wearing a ring." Cheng Su raised her left ring finger, where there was a gold wedding ring, declaring her married status.

Ying Xiaoya pouted.

"And you? Anything going on with Xiao Pinshan?" Cheng Su suddenly asked.

Ying Xiaoya was shocked, stopped and asked, "What are you talking about?"

Her eyes dodged, making her seem even more guilty.

Cheng Su squinted her eyes and said, "Don't play dumb with me, I know you two have some feelings going on, I can see it."

These two sometimes exchanged glances but hadn't yet confessed, just lingering in that ambiguous stage.

Ying Xiaoya realized she couldn't avoid it. She indeed had been troubled recently, so she simply sat down on a long wooden bench by the lakeside, resting her cheeks in her hands.

"What's wrong? Not going well?" Cheng Su sat down beside her.

"You know, he's been married and has a daughter with him. My parents, they won't agree." Ying Xiaoya sighed.

Which was understandable, being their precious daughter, how could they let her become someone else's stepmother? It's not like there aren't good options available.

"What do you like about him?"

A look of confusion appeared in Ying Xiaoya's eyes as she said, "I don't know either, I just feel he's really steady, takes care of people, understands them, and he's considerate in every aspect, very mature. Anyway, I just feel a sense of security being with him."

"And what about him, has he confessed to you?" Cheng Su asked.

Ying Xiaoya shook her head, looking frustrated, "Actually, I don't even know what he's thinking, maybe it's just my unrequited affection!"

"You need to think clearly about this, being a stepmother is tough, that child must be eight or nine, right? A girl that age would remember her mother. If you don't get along well, even if you get married, life wouldn't be easy," said Cheng Su.

"I know. It's precisely for this reason that my parents won't agree," Ying Xiaoya replied.

"Don't blame your parents, they love you and don't want you to suffer. As long as you communicate well, I think they're reasonable people!" Cheng Su said.

"Ah, who knows, we'll just take it one step at a time," Ying Xiaoya leaned back on the bench and watched the ripples on the lakeside.

Cheng Su didn't say anything, sitting quietly with her, her mind already wandering to Qi Taiguo far away.

Chapter 876: Not Worthy for Elder Sister

After coming out of the academy, Cheng Su and Ying Xiaoya returned to the city and parted ways to go home. Just as she reached the courtyard gate, she saw Third Uncle Cheng hesitantly standing there.

"Third Uncle, you're back? Why aren't you going in?" Cheng Su was quite surprised.

"The gatekeeper said you went out and haven't come back, Taiguo isn't here either, so there was no way to get in, I just thought I'd wait here!" Third Uncle Cheng replied with a smile.

"If I didn't come back, would you have waited until it got dark?" Cheng Su playfully scolded, taking the things from his hands: "Why so many things?"

"They're all prepared by your mom and your Third Aunt, worried you might miss the taste of home. They made some pastries and brought some homemade preserves." Third Uncle Cheng replied.

"It's so far, there's no need to bring these, come in quickly." Cheng Su led the way in front.

These days Guiying was about to give birth, so she didn't go to work. She carried a large belly and took a pot to the kitchen. Upon seeing Cheng Su, she greeted and curiously glanced at the man behind her.

"This is my Third Uncle." Cheng Su introduced.

Guiying promptly greeted him.

Third Uncle Cheng smilingly responded, "Hello, hello."

Once inside, Cheng Su served him tea, sat down, and said, "I thought you might stay at home for a few more days, didn't expect you'd be down here so quickly!"

"There's work in the renovation crew, the boss giving three days off is already generous, can't make it hard for others, right?" Third Uncle Cheng explained.

Which made sense, Cheng Su nodded, smiled, and said, "Dazhi praised you in front of me, saying you do a good job, picking things up quickly, and that once you get skilled enough, you'll definitely be able to make it on your own!"

"Really?" Third Uncle Cheng rubbed his hands.

Cheng Su smiled and nodded, "Would I joke with you?"

Third Uncle Cheng felt a bit embarrassed and said, "I'm just learning."

"Third Uncle, you're doing great, first learn the craft well, then you can do things on your own. Don't mind the hard work or low pay, unlike that..." Cheng Su paused.

Third Uncle Cheng saw the anger on her face and said, "Are you talking about Zhang Jisheng not being good?"

"He's so capable, always complaining, but doesn't see his own limits. If not for considering my Elder Sister, I wouldn't bother with him." Cheng Su, having started, just continued speaking.

Third Uncle Cheng thought for a while and said, "His thinking has changed, it wasn't like this in the beginning, but later on it just..."

"Third Uncle, who does he usually hang out with? In your renovation crew, there are a few not-so-proper ones, right?" Cheng Su recalled Zhang Jisheng going to prostitutes; they say you become like those you associate with, so how could he do such things if he wasn't influenced?

"There are some, but in the renovation crew, there's always one or two like that. Jisheng usually hangs out with them, drinking and eating, once I even saw them whistling and teasing little girls passing by. Sigh." Third Uncle Cheng hesitated before saying.

"Really a bunch of scoundrels, such disgrace." Cheng Su was furious, thinking maybe Dazhi should fire him, let him go back to his hometown, that'd be better than causing trouble here.

"Su Girl, don't concern yourself with his issues, just remind your Elder Sister to keep an eye on the money." Third Uncle Cheng cautiously said, "After all, you're just a sister-in-law, meddling with your Elder Sister's matters might upset people."

"I know, I'm merely feeling it's unfair for my Elder Sister." To have a man like that, really unlucky.

Third Uncle Cheng was about to say something more when suddenly there was a loud crash outside, startling the two of them.

Chapter 877: She's Going Into Labor

Bang!

A huge crash interrupted Cheng Su and Third Uncle Cheng's conversation, followed by a piercing scream.

"What's going on?"

Cheng Su recognized the scream and knew something was wrong, immediately standing up from the chair and rushing out.

"Sister-in-law Qi, Cheng Su, Cheng Su!" Guiying shouted Cheng Su's name.

Cheng Su raced to the kitchen and was stunned by the scene before her. She saw Guiying sitting on the ground, behind her was the staircase to the toilet, and next to her was the iron pot she was holding, with water spilled everywhere.

"It hurts, hurry, Sister-in-law Qi, I..." Guiying's face was pale, one hand bracing the ground, the other clutching her belly, tears streaming down.

"Heaven, this, this is." Third Uncle Cheng, upon seeing the scene, immediately gave Cheng Su a push: "Su Girl, quickly, help her up."

Cheng Su snapped back to reality, hurriedly responding with a couple of "Oh, oh" and, with trembling legs, moved forward.

"I can't do it, Sister-in-law Qi. My, my water broke, wuuu." Guiying burst into tears.

"Oh dear, dear sister-in-law, don't cry, save your strength. Once the water breaks, you'll have to give birth. What if you don't have the strength later?" Third Uncle Cheng, whose two kids were born at home, remembered the midwife's advice clearly.

Guiying's crying abruptly stopped, looking at him with grievance.

Cheng Su's hands were restless, what to do, she's going to give birth?

"First help her up and take her back to the room, then go call for help." Third Uncle Cheng said.

Cheng Su quickly, along with him, hurriedly helped Guiying up and into their house, placing her on the bed.

"Shouldn't we go to the hospital?" Cheng Su was extremely anxious, having no experience with this.

"I'm in so much pain. Sister-in-law Qi, you have to help me." Guiying held her big belly, both afraid to cry and scared.

She was young too, facing such a situation, how could she not panic?

"The hospital is too far from here, afraid we won't make it, Su Girl, quickly go call someone!" Third Uncle Cheng, older and more composed than Cheng Su, said.

Finally, Cheng Su hurriedly ran out and called for neighbors, soon gathering the sister-in-laws around from next door and across the street.

They were all women, and he, a grown man, felt awkward standing around, so Third Uncle Cheng exited to the hall.

"Water broke, too late for the hospital, let's have the baby at home!"

"Who will help boil water?"

"Go notify the Health Camp at the military base and have them come to help."

"Don't forget to notify Wan Dahe."

These experienced sister-in-laws quickly checked Guiying's condition: her water broke, the baby needs to be delivered soon, or else with no water, the baby can't sustain for long.

And going to the hospital from here would take at least half a bus ride.

Cheng Su watched them coming in and out, standing in the living room with Third Uncle Cheng, saying: "Third Uncle, I was going to keep you for a meal, but it looks like that won't happen now. Things are chaotic here!"

"Oh, it's okay, you help them, I'll head out first. As neighbors, lending a hand is the right thing to do." Third Uncle Cheng said.

Cheng Su agreed, sending Third Uncle off, then asking the already experienced sister-in-laws what to do next, hearing Guiying hadn't eaten anything, she quickly cooked a bowl of thick soup with three eggs to bring in.

Hualing came home after work and, seeing her flat like a market with people coming and going, couldn't help but ask: "What happened?"

Cheng Su grabbed her and pushed her into Guiying's house, saying: "You came back just in time, Guiying is going to give birth, no time for the hospital, you're a nurse, quickly help check her condition."

"What?" Delivering at home, Hualing looked bewildered as she was pushed into the makeshift delivery room.

Chapter 878: Soaking Up the Joy of New Life

Listening to the cries of pain from inside the room, Cheng Su felt a chill run through her body, making her soft and trembling.

"Scared? Women giving birth is always like this. You'll experience it in the future too; consider it a rehearsal." Beside her, someone noticed Cheng Su's fear and laughed.

What, a rehearsal?

No, just listening to it made all her bones ache. If it were her, wouldn't it be a heart-wrenching pain?

She was most afraid of pain. What should she do in the future? No, the current technology for caesarean sections should be quite advanced, right?

"Guiying, how's Guiying?" Wan Dahe rushed in from outside, wanting to dash into the room.

Several sisters-in-law quickly pulled him back, saying, "Dahe, you can't go in. Look, you're all sweaty. Go wash up quickly. Once the baby is born, you'll have to take mother and child to the hospital."

Wan Dahe's face turned pale from hearing the cries, like he had lost his soul, and he was pushed out by others.

Cheng Su watched, feeling even more scared.

Not long after, Hualing came out as well, face pale and drenched with sweat.

"Still not born yet?" Cheng Su grabbed her and asked.

Hualing shook her head, "No."

"Then why are you out here? How can you not be inside helping?" Cheng Su was anxious.

"I'm not a midwife; I've never experienced such a scene. I, I'm scared!" Hualing said with a pale face.

Cheng Su glared at her, truly, a nurse afraid of childbirth.

"Don't glare at me, aren't you the same?" Hualing weakly retorted.

"I'm not a nurse." Cheng Su shot back.

Hualing, hit by her words, glared at her several times.

Fortunately, there were nurses from the Health Camp inside helping, along with sisters-in-law who had given birth before, so she wasn't entirely without help.

After what seemed like an eternity or perhaps just an instant, Cheng Su heard a cry like that of a kitten.

"It's born, it's born!" She exclaimed in delight, grabbing Hualing's hand and shouting.

Hualing was also very pleased, gripping her hand back. Realizing, they both let out a "hum" and awkwardly let go of each other's hands.

"Is it born?" Wan Dahe's eyes lit up, "How's Guiying? Is she okay?"

Someone came out with the good news, "It's a big healthy boy, mother and child are safe."

Hualing's smiling face froze for a moment; it was a son. Her eyes showed indescribable envy and her expression turned a bit forlorn as she gently touched her belly.

Cheng Su caught a glimpse from the corner of her eye and teased, "Tonight, have a good time with Chen Shouwang, soak in the newborn's happiness, and who knows, you might just hit the jackpot."

Hualing blushed and glared, "Pfft! Shameless!"

Cheng Su rolled her eyes, "You don't believe it? I'm going to hold this newborn in a moment, hmpf."

Hualing looked at her with a half-smile.

After a while, the baby was wrapped tightly in a towel and carried out, and Cheng Su really rushed forward, shouting, "Let me hold him first!"

Everyone was taken aback, then someone burst out laughing, "Let her hold him, may she have a big healthy son in the future too!"

The sister-in-law smiled and handed the baby to Cheng Su, saying, "Then go ahead, hold him, and may you also have a big healthy boy next year."

"Thank you for your kind words." Cheng Su took the baby, looking at his plump, fair face, and rosy little mouth. Her heart melted into a tender mess, but also felt a bit sour.

Hualing watched from the side, feeling secretly annoyed. To think that this person went right for it when she said she would hold the baby, and she actually managed to get ahead, how infuriating.

Cheng Su played with the baby a little, seeing Hualing longingly watching, she handed the baby over to her, "You hold him too!"

Everyone burst out laughing. Hualing, both angry and shy, yet firmly cradled the baby, looking at the baby's smiling face, her heart softened, and a smile crept up the corners of her mouth.

Chapter 879: Softening

Although Guiying and her son delivered safely, they still needed to go to the hospital for a check-up to ensure there were no other infection issues, so they were cleaned up and sent to the hospital.

When Chunhua returned and learned that Guiying had given birth to a big chubby son, she was both envious and happy. She helped Cheng Su cook a soup and rice meal, and the two of them brought it over together to see the newborn.

Hualing did not go with them. She tidied herself up, stared blankly at the cold room, pursed her lips, took her bag, and went out. After a while, she returned with a bag of meat and vegetables.

She moved swiftly, washed the rice and put it in the pot, washed and stir-fried the vegetables. Before long, she had prepared a simple meal with three dishes and a soup and placed it on the dining table.

When Chen Shouwang returned home, he smelled the aroma of food as soon as he entered the door, and he couldn't help but be taken aback.

Ever since he and Hualing had the cold war, the house hadn't smelled of food for a long time. Even during the Mid-Autumn Festival, they both just brought food back from the cafeteria to eat. What was happening tonight?

He was a bit puzzled. As he entered, he saw Hualing wearing a floral long dress, her hair let down and brushed to one side, obviously tidied up.

In this appearance, Chen Shouwang felt like he was back to when he first saw Hualing. She was also like a flower back then, immediately catching his eye. Her well-off family and being a college graduate made her look like an ideal wife.

So, he mustered all his effort to pursue her, to please her, and even to win the favor of her family. It took all his strength and effort to win her over, to get her parents to agree to let Hualing marry him.

After marriage, they lived apart in different places. He longed for his lovely wife so much that he nearly wore out his tongue pleading until Hualing agreed to transfer her job to Qing City, and their long-distance marriage finally ended.

He had thought that once they were together, they would be inseparable, but who would have known it would be the start of quarrels, the beginning of changes in their relationship...

When did they start arguing day and night?

How did they end up in this situation step by step?

Chen Shouwang was lost in thought staring at the food on the table until Hualing waved her hand in front of him to bring him back to reality.

"What's wrong with you? I made a few dishes, let's eat, okay?" Hualing's tone carried an unprecedented softness.

Chen Shouwang wanted to say he had already eaten at the cafeteria, but seeing the expectation in Hualing's eyes, he couldn't bring himself to say it, so he just nodded in agreement.

Hualing's lips curled slightly upwards, and she said, "Then go wash your hands, I'll serve the rice."

Chen Shouwang nodded mechanically, went to wash his hands, then sat down mechanically at the table and picked up the bowl.

Hualing kept talking, mentioning that Guiying had given birth to a big chubby son and that she helped with the delivery. She said the child was soft and very cute.

Chen Shouwang didn't understand the intention behind her words, he just looked at her.

Hualing's eyes reddened, and she pressed her lips together, saying, "Old Chen, why do you think we still don't have a child? Is there something wrong with me?" "Don't say that. Didn't the doctors say that we're both fine? It's just a matter of time for the child to come." Chen Shouwang immediately interrupted her, seeing the redness in her eyes, and felt a slight ache in his heart.

"But I want a child, I want to be a mom." Hualing put down her bowl and started to cry.

Listening to her crying, Chen Shouwang's inner defenses suddenly broke, and he silently put down his bowl, pulled her into his arms, patting her back, saying, "It will happen, it will happen." Not sure if he was comforting her or himself.

Hualing, feeling his response, cried even harder, for all the grievances she had endured these days...

Chapter 880: Coming in Person

Hualing and Chen Shouwang had a good night together, and the next day, she smiled and saw Chen Shouwang out the door, saying, "Come back early tonight, I'll make you the pork knuckles you like."

Chen Shouwang smiled and agreed.

Hualing turned around with a smile, only to see Cheng Su leaning against the door with a knowing look, watching her, causing her face to blush.

"Oh, look at that rosy glow, you had a good time last night, didn't you?" Cheng Su teased deliberately.

Hualing's face turned red: "You're so shameless, hmpf."

Cheng Su chuckled, genuinely happy for her. Now that the couple had reconciled, it felt like the clouds had parted to reveal the moon, like a bright new day.

Guiying and her son stayed at the hospital for two days before being brought home. Along with them came Guiying's mother-in-law and mother. Both elderly women were from the countryside, spirited and radiant, perhaps because joyous events bring energy, smiling at everyone they met, they were very cheerful.

Because Guiying was in her postpartum confinement, people came to their home to take care of her, making it lively among the few households on their floor.

A few days after the Mid-Autumn Festival, Qi Fenglian and her husband also returned. Cheng Su was reminded of the previous conversation with her third uncle about Zhang Jisheng. She wanted to talk to Qi Fenglian about it several times but held back each time, only showing disdain whenever she saw Zhang Jisheng.

Qi Fenglian noticed the disgust in Cheng Su's eyes, while Zhang Jisheng, pretending to be oblivious, kept thinking about how he would discuss the procurement issue with Cheng Su.

And wouldn't you know, Zhang Jisheng found an opportunity.

He heard it from Qi Fenglian. One day, the pork delivered by Song Xiaojang to the fast food restaurant was found to be rotten, which led him to believe it was negligence and that someone must have swapped the good with the bad, pocketing the money.

Though it was after the Mid-Autumn Festival, the weather was still very hot. The autumn heat hadn't passed, and temperatures were still high, so meat spoiling was quite common.

As soon as this happened, Song Qingbo immediately took the pork back and got a new batch from the supplier, reporting everything to Cheng Su first hand.

"...It's really because of a lack of attention, not surprising. Outsiders might have little tricks up their sleeves, it's normal," Zhang Jisheng said while observing Cheng Su's expression.

"Brother-in-law, what exactly are you trying to say?" Cheng Su already had an inkling of Zhang Jisheng's intentions, and her expression darkened.

Zhang Jisheng replied, "There's nothing much, just thought this procurement position should be handled by someone from within the family, more reliable and trustworthy, don't you think?"

Cheng Su's face turned cold: "So according to you, brother-in-law, you're recommending someone reliable for the procurement position?"

Zhang Jisheng was delighted and immediately said, "Well, it's not just anyone... How about me? If you can trust me, I could surely do better than Song Xiaojang."

Cheng Su stood up abruptly, her eyes fixed on him.

Finally, she understood that her sister-in-law's previous probing about procurement wasn't just her imagination, thinking she was overly suspicious.

Turns out, she wasn't overthinking. They were indeed eyeing the procurement position in her family, not to recommend capable people, but for Zhang Jisheng himself to take it, even coming directly to ask.

But Zhang Jisheng, a man ambitious beyond his means, who hadn't even assessed his own abilities, irresponsible at home, unfaithful to his wife, dared to covet their family's procurement position?

Ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous, where did he get the nerve?