

The 80s 921

Chapter 921: Hiding Secret Stash?

Both Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo were excited and delighted about the great opportunity for a promotion to deputy battalion commander, but since things weren't finalized yet, to avoid looking arrogant if word got out, Qi Taiguo told Cheng Su not to talk about it until it was official.

Cheng Su didn't even need his instructions; announcing it now would be satisfying, but if it didn't happen, wouldn't they become a laughingstock?

However, she believed in Qi Taiguo and that he would get promoted. It might be a strong sixth sense. Maybe Ning Gang would help him rise too!

After chatting for a while, Qi Taiguo took off his military uniform to take a shower.

Cheng Su took his clothes, which needed washing, and, out of habit, started checking the pockets, finding an envelope inside.

"What's this?" Cheng Su asked, holding the clothes in one hand while opening the envelope with the other.

Qi Taiguo was already at the bathroom door. He turned his head and said, "This month's allowance. Just keep it."

Cheng Su replied with an 'oh' and took out several bills from the envelope, counting six Great Unity RMB notes.

She casually rolled them up and walked to the bedroom to put the money in the box.

After they started their business and their income improved, she hadn't paid much attention to Qi Taiguo's allowance. She would just take it and put it in the box, using it when needed.

Just as she opened the box, Cheng Su suddenly felt something was wrong.

She counted again—six notes. This isn't right. Qi Taiguo's allowance was ninety yuan last year, and it increased by twenty this year. Why was she only getting sixty?

Cheng Su thought again. It seemed like since she came to live here last year, Qi Taiguo had been giving her sixty. Where did the rest go?

This guy, was he saving some private money?

Cheng Su squinted. He smoked, so it's okay to save some money for cigarettes, but he rarely drank and didn't have much socializing that required money. Was he really hiding some private money?

As for whether men become bad if they have money and whether they should hand over all their salary, Cheng Su didn't have that concept. Since she had her own money, she didn't care about his allowance and would never control his spending.

She thought it was appropriate for a man to have some money in his pocket. Otherwise, how could he buy something or surprise his wife with a gift? Money was necessary, right?

But being unconcerned was one thing; she still needed to know where the money went.

Cheng Su glanced at the wedding ring on her hand. He had bought that without asking for money. Could it be used for that?

Qi Taiguo came out of the bathroom and didn't see her. As he dried his hair, he leaned against the doorway, watching her staring at the money in a daze, and asked, "What are you daydreaming about?"

Cheng Su raised her hand and said, "Isn't your allowance supposed to be one hundred and ten yuan this year? Why is it just sixty?"

Qi Taiguo's hand pause as he dried his hair, a flash of panic quickly passing through his eyes.

Cheng Su noticed closely, her eyes narrowing like a cat's as she said, "Old Qi, our family rule is that honesty is the best policy."

Qi Taiguo chuckled awkwardly, "Didn't I tell you? I lent some to a comrade."

"Which comrade? You lend it every month? You always only bring back sixty each month, right?" Cheng Su interrogated lightly.

Qi Taiguo walked over, hugged her, and said, "Well, I need money for cigarettes sometimes. I save a little. Also, I send some to my family. You know, my parents don't have an income, and Jianguo and them need living expenses for school. As a man, I can't always ask you for money, right? Even though I don't earn as much as you, give me some dignity."

Cheng Su glanced at him with amusement, "Look at you, all nervous. I'm not saying anything. If you want to keep some, keep it. I won't say you can't. But, I don't want to hear that the money is spent on things it shouldn't be, like keeping a Fox Spirit, or supporting... mmph."

"I wouldn't dare!" Qi Taiguo sealed Cheng Su's words with a kiss, and soon, the room became filled with soft, intimate sounds.

Chapter 922: The Fourth Young Master Returns

In the midst of busyness and various disturbances, autumn passed in the blink of an eye, reaching its end, and early winter quietly arrived. People changed into sweaters and coats, and another year was about to pass.

As the saying goes, some families are happy while others are sad. Hualing's family experienced a major upheaval and still hasn't returned. As for Cheng Su's family, it's all calm and peaceful.

Qi Taiguo returned from training, appearing unchanged, but the perceptive could instantly see that he had changed. His authority had shifted; he started to slowly take charge of matters he previously couldn't, and he seemed more stable, commanding respect without anger.

Regarding Cheng Su herself, she was the busiest. She attended university; whenever there were classes, she attended them. After classes, she returned home. Sometimes, when there were no classes, she had to inspect and take charge of various businesses.

Joy Soon Loy Jam's business is now steadily rising, and the management team is expanding. Cheng Su is busy, and with Ning Ge often absent, more authority, including management and business negotiations, was given to Xiao Pinshan.

As for the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, construction is already underway. Since it needs clearing and rebuilding, Cheng Su calculated that to completely finish everything, including good ventilation for decoration, it could only reopen after the New Year.

The business that required the least managerial worry was the fast food shop at the train station. The store is small, and the staff is adequate, with trusted people managing it, so Cheng Su focused her attention on the jam and restaurant.

Ning Ge disappeared for over a month before reappearing in front of Cheng Su.

"Did you go mining or something? How did you get so tanned?" Cheng Su looked at Ning Ge with disdain.

He looked tanned, with slightly messy hair and a small beard, carrying a big bag on his back, almost like a vagabond.

"Don't mention it. I traveled around, couldn't eat well or sleep well. Can you make some dumplings for me? I haven't had your dumplings for a long time. I'm waiting for Big Brother Qi to come back and talk." Ning Ge said.

Cheng Su felt sorry for him and, hearing this request, told him to wait while she grabbed her bag and money to go buy the ingredients.

Ning Ge sprawled on the sofa in Cheng Su's home, rubbing his temples.

This time, he was ordered to investigate some matters related to things from a few years ago, but halfway through, the clues disappeared, leaving him very frustrated.

However, it wasn't entirely fruitless. Unexpectedly, this mission revealed some shady practices in the Loo Family's business that were not quite righteous.

Specifically, the Loo Family's business profits should exceed those of the current business. He was certain there were things that couldn't be brought to light, and as for what those were, further investigation was needed.

He also wondered if Jiang Dafang had received any advice and whether his relationship with that fellow Jiang Conghe had progressed any further.

If he were the stubborn type who didn't know how to adapt, collaboration wouldn't be interesting, because sometimes a stubborn person might not succeed, whereas someone flexible has a higher chance of success.

Ning Ge suddenly flipped up, looking at the door.

Qi Taiguo also looked at him, retracted all his energy.

"Why is it you?" He closed the door. When he opened it just now, he sensed the presence of outsiders, so his aura expanded, not expecting it to be Ning Ge.

Ning Ge raised an eyebrow, sizing up Qi Taiguo and said, "The results of this training are quite impressive!"

A sharp sword becomes sharper, but its edge no longer reveals itself, instead lying hidden in its sheath, ready to burst forth when needed. It seems many stories have unfolded during this training session.

Chapter 923: Take Them Down All at Once

Qi Taiguo sat down and handed Ning Ge a cigarette. The two of them took a few puffs in silence before starting to talk about matters within the training program.

"I know you crippled Yao Qingjun's leg, but I didn't realize there was also Cai Zhengyan as a hidden pawn. Jiang Conghe sure hides deeply." Ning Ge squinted his eyes, with a flicker of sharp and cold light in them occasionally.

Actually, you've hidden quite deeply yourself. How come I never noticed before? Qi Taiguo thought to himself.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Ning Ge looked at Qi Taiguo warily.

Qi Taiguo directly voiced what was on his mind.

Ning Ge let out a smug hum and said, "With identities like ours, if we don't hide deeply, wouldn't everyone be able to see through us? I've had specialized training for this."

Qi Taiguo looked away, thinking this guy shouldn't be praised too much.

"So, did Jiang Conghe suffer another silent loss this time? Surely he wants to get rid of you even more now," Ning Ge said.

"He wants me dead, but I insist on living well, even rising up," Qi Taiguo replied, a sharp gleam in his eyes.

"Anyway, it's good that this training session went through without major issues. As such, your promotion this time shouldn't be a big problem," Ning Ge stated.

Qi Taiguo nodded and said, "My big brother said it shouldn't be a problem."

"Congratulations in advance then."

Qi Taiguo shrugged indifferently and asked, "And what about you this month, any tasks?" He noticed Ning Ge's look that seemed to say, how could I tell you classified intelligence?

"But there's an unexpected gain." Ning Ge revealed his discovery. The matter of the Loo Family was an unexpected gain, something he could talk about.

Qi Taiguo sat up slightly, hands crossed, and said, "Actually, it's not surprising. The Loo Family has been doing business for so long, even before liberation, they've gone through many ups and downs and gotten many opportunities. It's understandable to think they have some unspeakable dealings. After all, the opportunity is there, and fortunes favor those who take risks."

"If they're exposed again, the Loo Family could be in trouble," Ning Ge said excitedly.

Qi Taiguo, however, turned grim and said, "Lu Shufen has now become a civilian official."

Ning Ge saw his hands clench into fists so tightly that his knuckles cracked, understanding that his anger was surging. He said, "Jiang Conghe remains a commander, and the Loo Family's connections are no joke, so it's not surprising she can make a comeback. No rush, as they say, when the tree falls, the monkeys scatter. Once Jiang and Lu's families become disjointed, can she really stand alone? If we're going to do it, we must take them all down in one go, leaving none behind!"

Qi Taiguo exhaled and nodded, "I understand."

No rush, don't rush. Cutting meat with a dull knife, slicing bit by bit, hurts more.

Qi Taiguo moved on from thinking about Lu Shufen and only asked Ning Ge, "When will you reveal your identity to the family? Jiang Conghe is Chief Ning's competitor. If Chief Ning knows your identity, you and your brother joining forces, I think the odds of success will be better. You can't carry this concealed identity forever!"

"It's not too bad like this; do what I want, isn't it quite interesting?" Ning Ge shrugged indifferently.

Qi Taiguo's expression turned serious, "A real man should aim for great achievements and stand proudly in the sunlight."

Ning Ge, seeing how earnest he was, looked like he would be lectured if he said no, quickly said, "I'll wait for the right time. Once the timing is right, everyone will naturally know."

Qi Taiguo wanted to say more, but Ning Ge hushed him, pointing at the door as Cheng Su returned.

She certainly came back just in time!

Chapter 924: Heaven's Arrangement

Ning Ge returned, and Cheng Su signed the stock ownership document belonging to him. Ning Ge laughed heartily while holding the document: "I'm a small shareholder now. You better flatter me well, or I'll give this stock ownership document to other shareholders, and your position as the major director will be in jeopardy."

Cheng Su snorted coldly and said, "Go ahead, give it to whoever you want. I still firmly hold 51% of the shares."

She had planned it long ago. The shares distributed only accounted for 49% among the three families; her family held the majority, so she wasn't afraid of them joining forces against her.

It's not because she had a petty mind. In business, especially in a shareholding system like this, friendship is one thing, but it's better to be clear-cut in terms of interests since no one can guarantee what might happen in the future.

Ning Ge awkwardly rubbed his nose and said, "You really can't joke around."

Cheng Su glanced at him and asked, "The Jam Company over there has been open for a year now. Do you think we should organize some kind of annual party or something? Invite some peers and colleagues for networking or exchange?"

Ning Ge thought for a moment and said, "I still have things to handle, you're going back to university, the restaurant is still under construction, and there's no free hand for the jam side. Besides, it's a stable period now, maybe next year we can hold a two-year anniversary party instead?"

"Why do you have so many things to do?" Cheng Su glanced at him suspiciously. He just got back and he's saying he has things to handle.

Ning Ge scratched his head, "There's something going on in Beijing."

Cheng Su didn't think much and said, "In that case, let's not organize it." Besides, there really are too many affairs now and not enough energy.

Ning Ge breathed a sigh of relief and thought of another shareholder, someone named Luh Kai, and asked about him.

"Old Song is the head chef of the restaurant, so it's normal for him to buy shares, but who is this Luh Kai? When did you get to know such a person?" Ning Ge asked.

"I've known him for a long time; he's part of the supply and marketing cooperative and also a friend."

"Be careful not to be deceived!" Ning Ge snorted lightly.

Cheng Su laughed, pointed at him, and said, "Back then, you were lying in the bushes covered in blood when we saved you. We could trust you and take you in even though your origins were unclear, so why can't I trust Luh Kai with his clean background?"

Trust between people is built slowly through interaction. Her trust in Luh Kai is somewhat inexplicable. Perhaps it's because he has a face strikingly similar to her close friend Luh Wei from a past life, or maybe because of his repeated help.

In general, this is likely what people call affinity. Like Luh Kai and Ning Ge, who had no prior connections, yet earned her trust.

While some people, despite being relatives or having some semblance of connection, she preferred to keep at a distance, just like certain relatives.

Therefore, it could be said that there's an emphasis on destiny in human relationships.

"Can you compare me with him? The facts prove that our families have a deep connection. Our old man met you a long time ago, followed by me, and that signifies a profound relationship. Can Luh Kai compare to that?" Ning Ge retorted, dissatisfied.

"He and I also have a kind of connection." Cheng Su chuckled softly.

"What do you mean?" Ning Ge squinted his eyes, "Are you really defending him?"

"Not exactly." Cheng Su shook her head, saying, "It's just that I feel every encounter we have with someone is arranged by fate, including you, me, and him—they are all arranged in the unknown."

Otherwise, in this vast world, how could she coincidentally meet Luh Kai, who has almost the same face as her cherished friend from the past life? If not arranged by fate, then what? And her inexplicable arrival here, doesn't that also serve the same principle?

"All this mystical nonsense, I'm too lazy to deal with you." Ning Ge snorted and left.

Chapter 925: I Told Them to Fire Him

The days were hectic and fulfilling, and Hualing still hadn't returned. It was a weekend, and Cheng Su was finally at home resting, only to be met with the arrival of her Elder Sister.

Her eyes were red, her face haggard, and her complexion a bit pale. Upon inquiry, it turned out Qi Fenglian only then learned that Zhang Jisheng had long been dismissed.

"...I just found it strange. In the past, he would rush off to work in the morning, but lately, even when I've left, he hasn't gone out. It was only after a few days of asking that I found out he'd been let go," Qi Fenglian sobbed.

Upon hearing that Zhang Jisheng had been dismissed, it felt to Qi Fenglian like a thunderbolt had crashed over her head, leaving her mind buzzing.

Such a good job, with such high pay—although Zhang Jisheng's salary was handed over to the family, at least it kept her mother-in-law's mouth shut. But now it's gone, where would she find money to silence her mother-in-law?

Should she ask for it from her side? No, Qi Fenglian persevered through the hardship of leaving her two children to work, just to become independent sooner. Her money could only be saved for her own family; how could she give it to her mother-in-law?

She couldn't accept it!

How could he be dismissed out of nowhere? When pressed, Zhang Jisheng got angry, saying something about asking her good sister-in-law, leaving her completely bewildered.

Upon hearing this, Cheng Su felt her anger rising and said, "He really said that? That you should ask me?"

Qi Fenglian's heart pounded—could there be more to it?

Cheng Su curled up her lips coldly and said, "Elder Sister, it was I who asked the renovation team boss to fire Zhang Jisheng."

What?

Qi Fenglian was wide-eyed. Why?

"Do you know how he behaved at the renovation team, Elder Sister? He picked the easy tasks, complained about the low wages, whined about the hard work, and griped about everything. Is Zhang Jisheng a college graduate or something? What qualifications or confidence does he have to be so picky?" Cheng Su mercilessly mocked and said, "If he's going to complain about this and that, fine, but he even dared to confront the boss. What's that about? He's just an employee. Did he suffer any injustice or something? How dare he confront his boss? Pray tell, which boss can tolerate such behavior?"

Qi Fenglian was stunned; she had no idea about the confrontation, although she knew Jisheng complained about the hard work.

"Elder Sister, when hiring someone to work for themselves, it's not about hiring an ancestor to serve. With Zhang Jisheng's attitude, it's not just others—even I can't stand it," Cheng Su said coldly.

"He... he wouldn't..." Qi Fenglian found it hard to believe that Zhang Jisheng would confront the boss; what nerve he had!

"Elder Sister, don't say he wouldn't. In fact, he's bolder than you think in many ways." Cheng Su leaned forward slightly, took a deep breath, and swallowed back those unfortunate matters, saying, "The scene where he confronted the boss wasn't fabricated, but rather witnessed by Qi Taiguo firsthand."

"What, Taiguo?" This time Qi Fenglian was truly shocked.

"It was Taiguo who suggested his dismissal. If you don't believe it, Elder Sister, you can call Taiguo back and ask him clearly."

"No need, I'm back." Qi Taiguo walked in from the doorway. Cheng Su stood up, took the military uniform from his hand, and went to pour a glass of water for him.

Qi Taiguo took a sip and said, "Susu didn't say anything wrong. I instructed her to ask the boss to fire Zhang Jisheng. Elder Sister, go back and tell Zhang Jisheng to return to his old home and stop working here!"

Qi Fenglian was dumbfounded. Why?

Chapter 926: Too Many Temptations

Why?

Qi Fenglian asked, looking at Qi Taiguo, not understanding where her younger brother's anger came from. But they shared the same blood, and she knew he was truly angry.

"Zhang Jisheng is not suited to be here, and both of you being out together means no one is watching the two kids at home. It's better for him to go back, whether he works a part-time job or does some business, it's better than staying here." Qi Taiguo said blandly.

Qi Fenglian glanced at Cheng Su. Had she said something in front of Taiguo?

Cheng Su's face darkened slightly, and she sat off to the side.

Qi Taiguo noticed too and said, "Elder Sister, listen to me, let Zhang Jisheng go back."

Qi Fenglian didn't speak. A separation would do more harm than good for the couple. Besides, what could he do back home? The salary is low. How can she make a breakthrough all by herself?

Yet Taiguo insisted on sending Jisheng back...

Qi Fenglian lowered her head and scratched herself again, feeling incredibly anxious.

Cheng Su caught it and momentarily froze, turning her eyes away in embarrassment. This Elder Sister was somewhat oblivious to the occasion. Performing such actions was rather unseemly.

"Taiguo, even if Jisheng doesn't work in the renovation team, he can find work elsewhere," Qi Fenglian said with difficulty.

She really didn't want Zhang Jisheng to go back. If he returned, it would mean she would have to go back eventually too.

Qi Taiguo understood that separating the couple was not ideal, but Zhang Jisheng was a worry here, and he was afraid that the consequences might outweigh the benefits.

"Elder Sister..." Qi Taiguo's face darkened, and an intimidating aura burst forth immediately.

Qi Fenglian recoiled instantly, her face turning slightly pale.

Cheng Su gave him a gentle tug and shook her head.

She could tell that Qi Fenglian really didn't want Zhang Jisheng to go back, regardless of the reasons.

But should they spill Zhang Jisheng's business? It would be easy to say, but how would Qi Fenglian react?

"Elder Sister, I can't speak on your matters, but I think letting Zhang Jisheng go back to the hometown is the right choice." Qi Taiguo reined in his aura, left one final statement, and went into the room.

Qi Fenglian's face was filled with anxiety. She could see her younger brother was angry, but why did he insist on Zhang Jisheng going back?

"Elder Sister, originally, I was also supportive of you both coming out together, but seeing this past year, I feel Zhang Jisheng has changed a lot. Or maybe it's just that this world is too tempting, and with many temptations, his resolve weakened and he changed." Cheng Su could only tactfully advise.

Qi Fenglian's face changed slightly.

Too many temptations?

"Elder Sister, Zhang Jisheng has changed a lot. Don't you think? Not long ago, he even came to find me, wanting to take over purchasing for these cafeterias." Cheng Su said, "In the past, he wouldn't have had the guts."

"What?" Qi Fenglian was shocked. That dead man dared to approach Cheng Su himself, and she didn't know a thing.

Now, Qi Fenglian truly felt ashamed.

She had kept that matter hidden with all her thoughts, fearing it would come out, not realizing Cheng Su already knew but hadn't spoken.

And she knew because of Zhang Jisheng's own boldness, his growing audacity.

"Taiguo's wife, your brother-in-law was just out of his mind for a moment. Don't listen to his nonsense. How could he possibly do it, he..." Qi Fenglian was a bit incoherent, face flushed with urgency.

Cheng Su said, "Elder Sister, I know everything. The purchasing position involves many things, and it goes to whoever is capable. That's what I advocated, regardless of whether it's a relative or not. If Zhang Jisheng had the capability and integrity, I would let him do it. But..."

Qi Fenglian's face turned beet red with shame. The unspoken words she knew in her heart—that Zhang Jisheng lacked ability and integrity, and it was wishful thinking.

Thinking of this, her face felt hot, burning, her whole body itching and aching. She couldn't help but scratch; it was truly embarrassing!

Chapter 927: Ignorance Is Bliss

Qi Fenglian practically fled from Cheng Su's family. She originally came to find out the truth and to plead.

But this truth slapped her hard several times, leaving her utterly humiliated.

Qi Fenglian returned home with immense embarrassment, wanting to ask Zhang Jisheng how he could do such a thing. Where was he placing her dignity?

Cheng Su walked into the room. Qi Taiguo had his hands behind his head, eyes fixed on the top of the mosquito net, his mouth pressed into a straight line.

He was angry!

Having shared a bed for more than a year, Cheng Su had come to understand him well. Although he seemed calm, he was actually angry.

Cheng Su sat down on the edge of the bed and said, "Still angry?"

Qi Taiguo snorted.

"In this world of countless couples, which pairing willingly chooses to live apart? It's all out of necessity. Look at it this way; if you and I were living apart, could you handle it?" Cheng Su sighed.

Qi Taiguo hesitated, saying, "We wouldn't live apart."

"Nothing in life is absolute. I mean if it really happened, it would be out of necessity. So, it's only natural Fenglian doesn't want Zhang Jisheng to go back. After all, two people earning money is better than one, and you know how much Fenglian wants to break free from that family." Cheng Su pulled his hand over and patted it, "That's why, a couple working together achieves things faster than one person going at it alone."

She could understand Qi Fenglian's mindset, wanting to live an independent life, free from her in-laws' control. That kind of life requires strength, and a couple striving together makes progress faster.

"I know, but you also know what Zhang Jisheng is like, he..." Qi Taiguo ground his teeth in anger, "I really felt like telling her all the disgusting things he's done. Then she'd have no reason to let him stay here."

Cheng Su sighed and said, "If you say it, do you think she would divorce him?"

"Then let them divorce. What's the use of such a man?" Qi Taiguo sneered, "Besides, with the disgraceful things he's done, why should the two children suffer from it too?"

"That's true, but what about the children's custody? Do you think the Zhang family will give Fenglian the children? Those two kids are Fenglian's life." Cheng Su understood people of this era too well. Take for example Chen Shouwang's affair; even though Hualing hasn't expressed her thoughts, her parents already represent her stance. Their marriage is unlikely to end.

Divorce is too shameful and complicated for people of this era.

Last year, when Fenglian gave birth, she merely mentioned divorce, and her mother-in-law lashed out at her, saying divorce might as well take her life. So, if Fenglian ever talked about divorce, no one would agree with that decision.

And since divorce isn't an option, bringing up Zhang Jisheng's dirty deeds would only be like stabbing her heart, adding unnecessary trouble.

Sometimes, remaining in the dark and knowing nothing can be a kind of happiness, though it's an illusion.

But isn't that how most people are? Ignorance is bliss!

"I don't know if I can keep holding it in," Qi Taiguo said, aware of his own temper.

"Who wouldn't feel that way?" Cheng Su was also suppressing her feelings, many words reached the tip of her tongue but were swallowed back down, but does hiding it make everything alright?

Cheng Su murmured, "Keeping such things hidden, watching Zhang Jisheng deceive her, is that really for her own good? Is such a marriage meaningful?" She genuinely felt conflicted.

Qi Taiguo's body stiffened, lips pressed together in silence.

Chapter 928: Squandering a Winning Hand

Qi Fenglian returned home and pulled Zhang Jisheng out of bed. Poor Zhang Jisheng, he was in the middle of a good dream and was rudely awakened, full of displeasure.

"What are you doing?" Zhang Jisheng yawned and glared at Qi Fenglian.

"I want to ask you, did you confront your boss?" Qi Fenglian stared into his eyes, not letting him dodge the question.

Zhang Jisheng was startled, his eyes flickered, and he said, "What do you mean by confrontation? I just said a couple of things, so what?"

"No wonder, no wonder they don't want you. How can you be so foolish? That's the boss. Do you think you're some kind of ancestor?" Qi Fenglian was trembling with anger. She thought Cheng Su and the others were lying to her; little did she know it was true. He really did have the guts of a tiger and a leopard.

This man is going to drive her crazy.

Zhang Jisheng shrank his head and said, "I didn't say anything much, just a couple of words, and he said he would fire me. Does he think I don't know? He actually wanted to kick me out long ago and just used this as an excuse to act on it."

"How dare you say that?" Qi Fenglian could hardly believe her eyes. How had he become like this, stubbornly refusing to admit his mistake?

"Did you also go ask Cheng Su for that purchasing position?"

Zhang Jisheng was a bit terrified and said, "Did she tell you about that?" Would she have told her about his other matter?

"Are you scared now? Feel ashamed? If you had any decency, you wouldn't have gone to her with this matter." Qi Fenglian sat down in tears.

Zhang Jisheng waited for a while, seeing she didn't say anything more, he realized Cheng Su and the others hadn't mentioned his other matter, and he breathed a sigh of relief.

"Alright, stop crying. So what if I said it? Your sister-in-law is so high-minded, she wouldn't use me anyway." Zhang Jisheng snorted.

Qi Fenglian, extremely angry, laughed instead: "Use you? Why don't you see how much you weigh? People would tell you to check yourself in a basin of water."

Zhang Jisheng, greatly annoyed, glared at her angrily.

Qi Fenglian was very disappointed, she started to consider her big brother's suggestion and said through clenched teeth, "You should go back!"

Anyway, there's nothing for him to accomplish here, might as well go back, at least he can look after the two children.

"What did you say? Go back where?" Zhang Jisheng was stunned.

"Go back to the hometown."

"Why?" Zhang Jisheng frowned.

"What else would you do here? You're not working, just messing around? Taiguo also said, you should go back." Qi Fenglian sneered and said, "Cheng Su said, if you go to the fast food restaurant to eat in the future, you have to pay, everything here costs money, what are you doing here?"

Cheng Su didn't say that, she did. Wouldn't such words make this man have a bit of self-awareness?

"If I don't go, I don't go, who cares about eating there." Zhang Jisheng was immediately a bit embarrassed and enraged: "She doesn't consider kinship at all, I don't care for such relatives either."

Listen, even now, he stubbornly refuses to repent.

Qi Fenglian was feeling a bit desperate.

"Besides, whether I go back or not is none of your business, this Qing City isn't Taiguo's. If one boss doesn't hire me, another will. He's not the only renovation team." Zhang Jisheng stubbornly retorted.

Qi Fenglian looked at him with a face full of indifference, feeling only sadness.

A good job, a good family relationship, all ruined by him like this.

And at this moment, Cheng Su said to Qi Taiguo: "Zhang Jisheng, this person, really played a good hand badly."

The opportunity was given to him, if he had any sense, would he really think he could only be a renovation worker all his life? Yet he insisted on digging his own grave, playing a good hand badly, it's tragic to watch.

Chapter 929: The Joy of Promotion

Zhang Jisheng never returned; a few days later, Qi Fenglian told Cheng Su that in just two months it would be the New Year, and it was the farming off-season at home. Going back would be doing nothing, so it was better to find a temporary job. Therefore, he found a job helping with loading goods at the train station.

Cheng Su didn't mind Qi Fenglian's reasoning and didn't express any opinions, but seeing her reaction only made Qi Fenglian feel more embarrassed.

Even she felt that her reasoning was rather feeble. How could anyone believe it?

Cheng Su truly didn't care much. When she heard that Zhang Jisheng went to load goods, she found it even funnier. He complained about the tough work with the renovation team, and now doing manual labor was even more unbearable.

She wasn't wrong. Zhang Jisheng only lasted a few days before contemplating quitting, because the loading job was all hard labor, extremely exhausting and tiring, and the pay was notably low, incomparable to before.

As a result, Zhang Jisheng hinted to Qi Fenglian to find Cheng Su and others to use their connections to get another job. Unfortunately, that song couldn't be sung again. Qi Fenglian blocked him back with one phrase, leaving Zhang Jisheng furious.

Naturally, Cheng Su and the others didn't know about this, and even if they did, they wouldn't rely on personal favors again.

In November, two big joyous events occurred. The first was that Joy Soon Loy Jam got a super large order, with profits of over ten thousand yuan. Cheng Su, delighted, promised that the year-end bonus for employees would be very generous.

The second was that Qi Taiguo passed the investigation organized by higher-ups and was officially promoted to the deputy battalion commander level, granted the rank of captain. Gao Linbing was promoted alongside him, and even Old Liang from Chunhua's Household was promoted to squad leader.

As the saying goes, when people encounter happy events, they feel refreshed. Cheng Su was smiling all day, especially when she saw Qi Taiguo change into a uniform with one bar and three stars, her eyes almost closed with laughter.

Seeing her so delighted, Qi Taiguo couldn't help but tease her, saying: "You're this happy with just one bar and three stars. If I get one with tassels and stars for you in the future, won't you be overjoyed?"

Cheng Su's eyes lit up slightly. With tassels and stars, it would be at the rank of major general or above.

"If you really get that, I'd definitely jump for joy." Cheng Su said with a smile.

At a rank of major general or above, one would be respectfully called 'Chief'. Indeed, that would be a cause for great happiness.

"Look at how happy you are." Qi Taiguo pinched her nose and said: "Having been promoted to deputy battalion, at most I can be promoted to full battalion. Beyond that, it won't be easy. I need to work harder. Besides that, I also have to choose professional studies, which means I'll be busier."

"That's great, learn as long as you live; I'm going to college too, let's do it together." Cheng Su shrugged unconcernedly.

"Aren't you worried that I won't have time to accompany you!" Qi Taiguo rubbed her hair and said: "By the way, Gao Linbing and they said they want to celebrate with a few comrades, just at an outside restaurant. It's a pity your restaurant has fewer seats now, so we plan to book the old Li Ji place."

Cheng Su expressed some regret, but since space didn't permit, she had no choice but to say: "It's now called Li Ji. Does taking so many of you have any impact?"

"No problem, we'll just pool our money for a simple meal. Family members can also join; you come too." Qi Taiguo said with a smile.

Cheng Su agreed repeatedly, then added: "Shouldn't we also share the good news with the family? It's a promotion after all!"

"Yeah, I'll call the family later," Qi Taiguo replied, acknowledging that such good news should indeed be shared with the family.

Chapter 930: The Mothers-in-Law Trade Barbs

At the old home, when Father Qi and the others heard that Qi Taiguo had been promoted, they were naturally overjoyed. Mother Qi was smiling so broadly that her eyes could barely be seen, her back was as straight as a rod, and she told everyone that Qi Taiguo was promoted, and now people had to call him Chief.

When people admired and praised her for having such a good son, Mother Qi's chin was almost pointing to the sky.

For this reason, she organized chicken and duck offerings to all gods, bursting with excitement.

Seeing her pride, Father Qi, though pleased, advised her to keep a lower profile.

Mother Qi said, "Why should we keep a low profile? Our Taiguo has achieved so much, why hide it? If Taiguo wasn't too busy to come back, I'd have bought a string of big firecrackers to celebrate."

In her view, a promotion was a time for celebration, not something disgraceful, so why hide it?

Father Qi, seeing her like this, could only shake his head.

"In-law."

Outside the courtyard, someone called out.

Father Qi and the others looked out and saw that it was Cheng Su's parents, their in-laws.

"Oh, in-laws, what brings you here?" Father Qi hurried over to greet them.

Mother Qi pursed her lips but also went over, thinking they had finally come here.

"We got the call that Taiguo had been promoted in the military, and thinking this was a happy occasion, my wife and I came over to prepare some dishes, so that our families could celebrate together." Father Cheng lifted his hand, revealing the liquor he brought with a triumphant look: "The finest Five Grain liquor, I've kept it for years."

Father Qi's eyes lit up, and he said with a smile, "Great, tonight let's have a drink or two with joy."

Father Cheng nodded with a smile.

"In-law, I specially prepared a piece of roast pork from the village entrance, cooked with scallions and garlic, shall we use it to complement the drinks?" Mother Cheng also held up the large piece of meat in her hand.

Mother Qi glanced at it, not too enthusiastic, but still politely smiled: "You shouldn't have gone to the expense." Thinking, if not for Taiguo's promotion, they probably wouldn't even see them, let alone any meat.

Indeed, having a successful son is different, the backbone is sturdier, and everyone must fawn over them.

Mother Cheng noticed Mother Qi's thoughts and complimented, "Oh come on, we're all family, why split hairs? Our Taiguo is accomplished, it deserves celebration, what's a piece of meat worth?"

Mother Qi snorted softly inside, glanced again at the large piece of roast pork, quite a bit of money, and managed to smile reluctantly.

The group bustled inside, the women arranged the food, and the men chatted inside, inevitably discussing the younger generation's accomplishments.

Father Cheng naturally praised the son-in-law, and Father Qi, not being unappreciative, of course, praised the daughter-in-law vigorously too.

As for the women in the kitchen, Mother Qi praised her son repeatedly, saying, "When he was little, people said our Taiguo would have great accomplishments, whoever marries him would have three lifetimes of good fortune, smoke rising from their ancestors' graves. See, isn't it true? In our Flower County, who else has a high-ranking officer like him? Your daughter marrying our Taiguo, that's great fortune."

Although Mother Cheng was happy about her son-in-law's promotion, hearing Mother Qi demean her daughter a bit annoyed her, so she said, "Exactly, the son-in-law is fortunate, and our Susu is too, when she was little, people said she would bring prosperity to her husband and children. Indeed, since she married into your Qi family, the son-in-law got promoted, what a blessing!"

Mother Qi's face turned a little green at the retort, unable to refute. After all, it was indeed after Cheng Su came into their home that the promotion happened!

So infuriating!