

The 80s 941

Chapter 941: You Are Not the Fish

Qi Taiguo and Cheng Su consoled Qi Fenglian for a long time before they finally returned home. They had barely sat down when Cheng Su immediately grabbed a bottle of white vinegar, diluted it with water, and called Qi Taiguo to wash his hands and face.

It's not that she despised anyone, but since Qi Fenglian contracted that illness, it must have been passed from Zhang Jisheng. Both of them carried the germs, so what about the stuff in their home?

Although the disease is sexually transmitted, it's always better to be cautious just in case.

Seeing this, Qi Taiguo's face turned even more sullen, his lips pressed into a thin line.

Cheng Su thought he might find her overly dramatic, so she said, "We've been to the hospital and to big sister's house. Even if it won't be transmitted that easily, normal disinfection is still necessary."

Qi Taiguo knew she was overthinking, so he said, "I understand, it's just that I feel uneasy. Thinking of big sister like this makes me want to kill that Zhang Jisheng."

Cheng Su's heart trembled, she grasped his hand and softly called, "Taiguo..."

"It's okay, I was just angry for a moment." Qi Taiguo knew he had scared her, and quickly patted her hand to comfort her.

After washing their hands and faces, neither of them felt like cooking, so they asked a sentry to bring back two meals from the cafeteria, and they ate them just casually.

"Taiguo, after all this, what will happen to big sister in the future?" Cheng Su suddenly asked while lying in bed.

In fact, what she wanted to ask was whether they would divorce.

Qi Taiguo placed his hands behind his head, resting it on them, and stared at the ceiling, saying, "I don't know either. You know big sister's character, she... sigh."

"What do you mean by that?" Cheng Su half sat up, supporting her head with one hand as she asked.

"I naturally want them to divorce." Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su remained silent, and after a while said, "Would big sister think the same?"

"I don't know!" Qi Taiguo shook his head and said, "You know the situation with the Zhang family too. Ever since big sister married into the Zhang family, I haven't seen her have a single comfortable day. In the past, Zhang Jisheng was just a bit timid and weak, but at least he was devoted to big sister. But now? Hmph. What's the point of staying in that family? Life like that is hopeless, it's just a bitter struggle. Big sister is only in her thirties, she still has a long life ahead of her."

Cheng Su said, "This world is full of temptations. He came from a small town, experiencing this dazzling world and its temptations, which awakened his inner desires. Or maybe he had such desires all along, but they only grew bigger."

Qi Taiguo said nothing.

"It takes three years to learn good habits, but only three days to learn bad ones. Zhang Jisheng is such a person. Perhaps it was a gradual influence, or maybe the temptations were too great, so he changed." Cheng Su added.

"Can a person really change that much?" Qi Taiguo muttered.

Cheng Su gently patted his arm to comfort him, saying, "He changed because he wasn't strong-minded, which is why things are like this today."

As a person's knowledge and experience grow, they will change, for better or worse. Some become better, while others begin to decline. It all depends on a person's character and determination.

Clearly, Zhang Jisheng is not all that smart.

"This is why I'd rather big sister leave him, leave that family. Perhaps it would be a new start." Qi Taiguo said.

"That depends on big sister's own choice. We're not the ones involved; everyone has to walk their own path and make their own decisions. What seems good to us may not be the same for others. Taiguo, if you're not a fish, how do you know if a fish is happy? You need to remember this principle." Cheng Su said quietly.

Qi Taiguo let out a long sigh.

Chapter 942: Crab Trapped in a Cage

Qi Fenglian contracted that kind of shameful disease and needs treatment. She can't work at the fast food restaurant for the time being, and with such an incident, she isn't in the mood to work either.

So Cheng Su suggested she take a temporary leave and return to work once she's fully recovered. Qi Fenglian also knows her own health situation and had nothing to say.

Qi Taiguo was worried that his sister would overthink and do something foolish, so he asked Cheng Su to spend more time talking to her, to guide and console her.

"I know I'm troubling you, but big sister doesn't really have close friends here. She used to be on good terms with you. You're good with words, so please spend more time talking with her." Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su nodded in agreement, but she also had her studies, so she could only visit Qi Fenglian when she was free from classes or after school.

Qi Fenglian was already troubled, and after the incident with Zhang Jisheng, her heart was even heavier and harder to resolve. Coupled with her illness, she quickly became thin and withered. In just a few days, she seemed to have aged ten years, like an old woman.

Cheng Su felt heartache when she saw her, yet there was nothing she could do.

Qi Fenglian pursed her lips, her gaze somewhat empty, and said, "I thought that this year, finally coming out from my in-laws' house to work would mean leaving them behind. With the hard work of us as a couple, our days, even if not extravagant, would be much better than before."

Knowing she needed to release her pent-up emotions, Cheng Su remained silent, listening quietly to her words.

"All I wanted was a somewhat comfortable life. I didn't expect Zhang Jisheng to be very capable, nor was I afraid to endure hardships with him. After all, haven't many couples made it through that way? This year, I saw hope. His wages, even though given to his family, I was saving up mine. I was reluctant to spend on clothes or food, and why? Wasn't it just to save up for a stable household, to bring the kids out for a better life as soon as possible?"

"Pinched every penny to stretch each cent, thinking that once we saved enough, we'd start some business of our own, and life would improve. But it turns out, it was all just a daydream of mine, my own unrealistic hopes. Here I am, working myself to death, while Zhang Jisheng takes the money and indulges with those little sluts. Haha, look at this, this is what my efforts have earned me, how laughable." As Qi Fenglian spoke, tears fell down her face, but she stubbornly wiped them away.

"Big sister, why are you crying? Zhang Jisheng isn't worth it." Cheng Su handed her a tissue.

"Yeah, he's not worth it. I'm crying because of how foolish I am, how blind I was to marry a man like him. Why is my life so bitter? I truly regret it, regret it so much!" Qi Fenglian said in a wretched voice, "I'm just like a crab, all I wanted was to crawl out of that cage, but Zhang Jisheng wouldn't allow it. Just as I was about to make it, to break free, he used his claws to grip my back leg and pulled me right back down. I can't escape this cage."

Hearing the defeat in her words, Cheng Su felt a pang in her heart and said, "Big sister, what's done is done. Getting hung up on it won't change anything. You still have two children. You need to think carefully about how to live in the future. Just for the sake of your kids, you can't wallow in self-pity forever."

Qi Fenglian looked up, her face gaunt, and after a long pause, she said, "Do I even have a choice?"

"Of course, you do, it's just a matter of how you view it." Cheng Su said, "You're only in your early thirties. There's still a long road ahead. Are you going to live the next decades filled with resentment? If Zhang Jisheng doesn't want to leave this cage, don't you think you can find your own way out? In this world, no one is indispensable."

Qi Fenglian bit her lip, bowed her head lost in thought.

Chapter 943: We're Getting Divorced

Day by day passed, Qi Fenglian gradually calmed down from her initial self-pity, took her medication on time, actively cooperated with the therapy, and even took the initiative to go out. She even found Qi Taiguo and asked him to release Zhang Jisheng, who was held in detention.

"Sister, do you know what might happen if we let him go?" Qi Taiguo looked at her and asked, "He could repeat his old tricks, and he may not have reflected on his behavior yet."

"I know, Taiguo, the lesson you gave him is enough. Let him out. We need to resolve our issues; don't drag it out any longer." Qi Fenglian's face was very calm.

Qi Taiguo looked at her for a long while and asked, "Sister, have you decided?"

Qi Fenglian nodded.

Seeing this, Qi Taiguo agreed, releasing Zhang Jisheng was merely a matter of a phone call.

So, Zhang Jisheng soon came out of that detention place he regarded as hell. He had stayed there for over ten days, unable to sleep well or eat well, in constant pain, completely defeated by fear and panic.

At present, Zhang Jisheng's eyes were full of panic, avoiding everyone, fearful they might harm him. The days of being beaten and deprived of sunlight in the detention center had truly terrified him.

Returning to the rented room he shared with Qi Fenglian, seeing Qi Fenglian and Qi Taiguo waiting there, Zhang Jisheng's pupils shrank, and his whole body trembled.

As soon as Qi Fenglian saw him, her eyes flared with anger, and she lunged at him, hitting, scratching, and cursing him.

Qi Taiguo knew his sister needed to vent and did not intervene, while Zhang Jisheng dared not fight back, afraid of the watchful Qi Taiguo.

Zhang Jisheng's lifelong nightmare was of Qi Taiguo choking his neck, trying to kill him.

That scene was deeply etched in his mind, so much so that later on, he would shiver and tremble at the mere mention of Qi Taiguo's name.

Because this was the person who wanted to kill him, even though Qi Taiguo didn't, it was enough to terrify him.

"What have I done to you? I worked tirelessly without complaints; how have I wronged you, Zhang Jisheng? You bastard, scum, son of a bitch..." Qi Fenglian clawed and scratched at him, "It's bad enough you messed around outside, but how could you bring back such a dirty disease to harm me? Why don't you just die, why won't you die!"

Zhang Jisheng's head buzzed, dirty disease? Does she mean...

His already pale face turned even whiter as he fell to his knees with a thud, saying, "Fenglian, I was out of my mind, it's my fault. I'm wrong; I won't dare again!"

He slapped his face over and over, taking slaps back-to-back, and Qi Fenglian stepped back.

"I'm sorry, it's my fault. I won't dare again in the future. Please forgive me this once, and I will always listen to you after this. Please forgive me this once!" Zhang Jisheng pleaded repeatedly, "If you want me to go back, then I'll go back. Fenglian, I will listen to you, listen to everything you say."

Qi Fenglian looked at the unkempt, thin, filthy man in front of her. His eyes were evasive, and his expression was fearful, clearly showing that this incident had terrified him into submission.

Indeed, he was cowardly and timid, and naturally, after such an event, he would be even more scared.

Qi Fenglian suddenly felt disheartened. What was she holding onto? What meaning was there to her persistence?

Cheng Su's words resurfaced in her mind, you still have a choice.

Qi Fenglian closed her eyes, turned her back, and said: "Zhang Jisheng, let's get a divorce!"

Chapter 944: Hateful Face

After Zhang Jisheng was caught with a yellow-foot chicken and almost killed by Qi Taiguo, and then spent a few days in the detention center, he already realized this matter would not be easily resolved. He had made up his mind to prepare for the worst, so when he returned, he admitted his mistakes without saying a word, hoping to change the worst-case scenario he imagined.

But Qi Fenglian remained unsympathetic and still voiced the dire plan he feared.

Zhang Jisheng panicked and without thinking, said he absolutely would not agree and did not want a divorce.

Qi Fenglian made up her mind and didn't care whether he agreed or not. Cheng Su was right; if Zhang Jisheng did not want to escape from the crab cage, she would leave herself.

"After everything you've done, do you think I can still live with you calmly?" Qi Fenglian sneered.

Zhang Jisheng's expression changed multiple times, and he pleaded and admitted his mistakes, even trying to use the children to soften her heart.

However, Qi Fenglian had no intention of changing her mind at all.

Seeing her being so resolute, Zhang Jisheng clenched his teeth and asked, "Are you really this heartless?"

"You forced me," Qi Fenglian replied.

Zhang Jisheng said, "If you insist on divorcing, then you leave by yourself, and the children must stay with the Zhang family." He didn't believe Qi Fenglian would really be willing to leave the two children.

Sure enough, Qi Fenglian's expression changed drastically and said, "I will take the children with me."

"They are the Zhang family's kids; there's no way you can take them. If you want a divorce, leave by yourself, and the children stay." Zhang Jisheng's tone was firm, and his attitude was infuriating.

Qi Fenglian was furious: "Zhang Jisheng, are you even a human? After doing such disgraceful things, you still dare fight me for the kids? Do you want them to live in shame all their lives?"

Zhang Jisheng didn't respond to that, he just said, "Anyway, I won't give you the children."

He thought it was logical; as long as he held onto the children, he could control Qi Fenglian. This made him slightly smug.

He forgot about Qi Taiguo, who was standing right there in the room.

Qi Taiguo stepped forward, grabbed Zhang Jisheng by the collar, and raised his fist to strike.

"Taiguo..." Qi Fenglian screamed, pulling him back.

Zhang Jisheng shrank his neck, still pretending to be calm and said, "Even if you beat me to death, I still say it, they are the Zhang family's kids."

"You..."

"Sister, don't say anymore. If he doesn't agree to divorce, take it to court. Sue him; with his character, how is he fit to raise children? The judge would never award them to him. Especially Xiao Bao, being so young, would never be separated from the mother. If he refuses, we hire the best lawyer to fight. We have plenty of money," Qi Taiguo said coldly, glaring at him with a gaze as if overlooking the world.

Upon hearing this, Zhang Jisheng's face changed dramatically, his eyes flickered, and he dared not speak again, his mind racing rapidly.

What to do, if this really goes to court, I probably won't win.

He had neither money nor power, and after such an incident, how could he fight?

The Qi family was different; they had everything. He was no match at all.

"Zhang Jisheng, after being a couple, I don't want to take it to court. Let's write an agreement later, I will take the children with me. You're a man, in the future, you can remarry and have more children," Qi Fenglian said coldly.

Zhang Jisheng said nothing; anything he said now was useless, so he simply stayed silent, thinking about how to close this matter.

Qi Fenglian looked at his eyes rolling with calculation, combined with his skinny, dark appearance, and thinking about him using the children to threaten her, he increasingly became more repulsive in her eyes, and she couldn't help but look away.

Divorce is the right choice, the children cannot grow up influenced by such a father.

For myself, and for the children, this marriage should end.

Chapter 945: Fourth Young Master Ning's Favor

Qi Fenglian never expected that Zhang Jisheng would run away. That's right, he ran away, and he took several dozen yuan of her money with him.

Qi Fenglian was furious. She never thought he would do such a cowardly thing.

"He can run, but he can't hide forever. Where can he go? He'll just come back to the hometown," Qi Taiguo said. "In the meantime, let's focus on getting well. We can deal with him slowly once we return."

However, Cheng Su didn't see it that way. Divorce is something that requires going all out. Maybe if it's dragged out like this, it'll just fizzle out in the end, but she didn't voice her thoughts. If that really happens, it just proves that Qi Fenglian wasn't determined, and an impulsive divorce would eventually lead to a remarriage for the sake of the child.

After all, the child is a bond connecting the two people.

They didn't anticipate that while they were thinking optimistically, back in their hometown, a storm was brewing.

Zhang Jisheng ran away, but Qi Fenglian still had to live her life. Her top priority now was to get better.

With this mindset and her positive attitude, Cheng Su and the others felt relieved. They didn't need to worry about her doing anything foolish.

Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo both breathed a sigh of relief and temporarily freed up their minds to deal with their own family matters.

Ning Ge noticed that Cheng Su was almost never around and naturally asked about it. Cheng Su certainly wouldn't spread around her elder sister's affairs, only saying that she had to help a family relative.

She was obviously reluctant to say more, and Ning Ge didn't push it, just saying to let him know if she needed help.

Grateful, Cheng Su agreed and mentioned that the construction of Joy Soon Loy Restaurant was in full swing. According to the schedule, it should open after the New Year, so it's time to start preparing. Otherwise, people will go on vacation, and the opening after the New Year might be delayed if things aren't ready, impacting the opening.

Therefore, she planned to hold a shareholders' meeting so everyone could meet and settle the details.

Ning Ge was a bit surprised and asked, "Didn't the stock contract say shareholders have the right to participate but not make decisions? As the boss, can't you just decide this, do you really need to have a meeting?"

"I know, but you haven't officially met the other shareholders since you returned. I wanted to take this opportunity for you to meet them, and I also want to discuss the future direction of our restaurant," Cheng Su said.

Ning Ge shrugged indifferently and said, "Alright, you handle it."

Cheng Su responded with a hum.

"Are you feeling unwell?" Ning Ge suddenly asked.

Cheng Su was taken aback, "What makes you say that?"

"I've always smelled a strong medicinal scent from you, very bitter. Are you ill?" Ning Ge frowned.

Uh...

"Not exactly ill, just that it's gotten colder and my hands and feet are too cold, so I went to the doctor for some treatment," Cheng Su smiled.

"I didn't see you being so sensitive to cold last year," Ning Ge said, noticing she was bundled up like a bear. Suddenly thinking of something, he asked, "Is it because of that thing this year?"

Cheng Su's complexion changed slightly; it was something she didn't want to recall. But since he asked, she forced a smile and nodded, "Am I very useless?"

"Nonsense," Ning Ge widened his eyes. "Most women feel like this. I know an old Chinese medicine doctor in Tongji Hospital in the Capital through the old man, she's good with women's issues. I'll ask the old man, and we can find her to see if she can give you a prescription or medicine. The doctors here aren't that good."

Cheng Su laughed and agreed, thinking he was just saying it. Who would have known that a few days later, he actually brought her a big bag of medicine pills, all made from herbs, with a strong medicinal fragrance.

Qi Taiguo found out, looked at the pills, smelled them and said, "Since it's someone the old man knows, they should be good. Once you finish the Chinese medicine you have, switch to eating these."

Cheng Su thought the same.

Qi Taiguo hugged her and said, "This guy, we owe him another favor."

Indeed, it's hardest to repay favors, particularly ones like this that are hard to refuse.

Chapter 946: The First Shareholders' Meeting

Cheng Su specially chose a weekend to hold a shareholders meeting, setting the venue in a small private room at Joy Soon Loy, so everyone could get to know each other anew.

Ning Ge was also meeting that Luh Kai for the first time, though he had long heard about this person from Cheng Su. That fast food shop at the train station originally belonged to his uncle's business, and he acted as the middleman to sell it to Cheng Su.

And now, the cashier in the restaurant, Li Dan, is also Luh Kai's cousin. He had heard about this person from Cheng Su a few times, and now, he's earnestly scrutinizing him.

Around thirty years old, wearing a pair of golden spectacles, dressed in casual suit pants, a thin white sweater, and a casual jacket, he wore a gentle smile and looked refined and mild-mannered.

However, no matter how Ning Ge saw it, he found him unpleasant, always feeling as if there were many thoughts hidden behind those golden spectacles, making it hard to see through him.

"Mr. Luh, nice to meet you." Ning Ge extended his hand and shook Luh Kai's hand. This person should have a pair of beautiful hands, just by looking at the one he's shaking, it's beautifully slender and very pleasing.

"Hello, Fourth Young Master Ning." Luh Kai smiled at the corner of his mouth, a trace of doubt flashing in his eyes. He couldn't understand why this Fourth Young Master Ning had a hint of hostility towards him.

"This meeting today is our first face-to-face encounter as shareholders, just to get to know each other again. We're all familiar friends, so no need for lengthy introductions. Let's make the best use of our time and officially start the meeting, shall we?" Cheng Su sat in the main seat, smiling as he spoke.

"Let's start." Old Song nodded, "Otherwise, it'll be time to start the market soon."

"Alright. The reason for gathering everyone today is to discuss the future development of the restaurant. The construction of the restaurant is already more than halfway done, and if there are no unexpected issues, we estimate it will be completed by mid-December. As for renovation, I've communicated with the renovation team, and they will work overtime to finish it for us first. Therefore, I anticipate that our restaurant could reopen around mid-to-late January next year." Cheng Su opened his notebook and talked about the first point: "Since we're reopening, the preparations need to start now, as the kitchen will be larger post-reconstruction, we will have to replace some more professional kitchen equipment..."

Cheng Su was talking about the pre-opening preparations, needing to purchase kitchen equipment, as well as tables, chairs, pots, bowls, and dishes, all of which need to be ordered in advance.

"Upon reopening, I want Joy Soon Loy to be renamed Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, what does everyone think?" Cheng Su shared his decision.

Restaurant and restaurant, they are basically the same, but a restaurant implies a higher class, so naturally, nobody had any objections.

"...Since we're renaming it to Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, the management model in the future cannot be like the current restaurant. I will revise the management model, running it according to the management style of a fine dining restaurant, raising the standard of the establishment. This is the set of rules I've drafted for now, please take a look, and if there's anything lacking, we'll improve on it." Cheng Su handed over several copies of the printed proposal, saying, "In the future, if we make the business successful and grow it, regardless of how it changes or how many branches we open, or whether they become bigger than here, I want the flagship store to always be here, what does everyone think?"

Luh Kai had already looked through that proposal thoroughly, smiling as he said, "I have no objections, the proposal is perfect. I believe under President Cheng's leadership, Joy Soon Loy will reach new heights."

Cheng Su smiled humbly.

Ning Ge watched from the side, curling his lips, thinking how flattering that was.

Chapter 947: The Feud Is Set

The meeting proceeded harmoniously. Through Cheng Su's introduction, everyone clearly understood the future direction and trend of Joy Soon Loy, which would inevitably rise higher and higher.

What surprised the crowd was Cheng Su's thinking, which was very forward-thinking and open-minded.

She's only twenty-one, yet her thoughts are so mature and full of wisdom, making everyone feel astonished and admire her, and further believe that investing in this is correct. In the future, Joy Soon Loy is bound to become a top-notch renowned restaurant with thriving business.

What they didn't know was that Cheng Su's forward-thinking ideas were because she had experienced another lifetime, gone through historical changes, and also because she used to run hotels in her past life, naturally knowing better how a restaurant should develop.

Since everyone had no objections, the meeting ended smoothly. As for other decisions, Cheng Su would arrange them herself, such as when to procure supplies, which doesn't need the involvement of the shareholders.

"You made me see you in a new light today, I really look forward to next year's dividend, how much I'll get!" Luh Kai said to Cheng Su with a smile.

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow, "They all say it takes three years to establish a shop, and you want returns in one year? Is that thinking too highly of me or just too ambitious?"

"As I've said, I believe under your leadership, our Joy Soon Loy will develop smoothly and quickly recoup the costs." Luh Kai chuckled lightly.

Hearing this, Ning Ge interjected, "What if there's a loss? Mr. Luh wouldn't blame, would he?"

"Business always has profits and losses, investments are the same, inherently risky. I certainly have already budgeted for possible risks, naturally, I won't blame." Luh Kai raised an eyebrow, glancing at him again, "Fourth Young Master Ning, are you saying you don't trust Cheng Su, or are not confident in our Joy Soon Loy?"

Cheng Su glared over. This guy, can he speak properly? Can't he say something pleasant? The business hasn't even reopened yet, and he's already talking about losses. Hmph!

Ning Ge shrank his head under Cheng Su's glare, saying, "Of course, I trust her and our Joy Soon Loy, I'm just worried Mr. Luh can't afford to lose!"

Luh Kai laughed again, "Then Fourth Young Master Ning will have to get to know me better. The words 'can't afford to lose' aren't in my dictionary."

Ning Ge pouted.

Luh Kai stopped looking at him, only looked at Cheng Su and said, "I will leave now, call me if anything, or let Dandan notify me."

Cheng Su nodded, "Take care on the road."

"Hmm!"

Luh Kai turned and walked, then suddenly stopped, turning back to look at Fourth Young Master Ning.

Ning Ge glanced over, what are you looking at?

"Fourth Young Master Ning, I don't think I've offended you, right?" Luh Kai couldn't help but ask.

"Huh?"

"Seems like you're somewhat hostile towards me, is there something I didn't do well that upset you? If so, I apologize and ask for your forgiveness." Luh Kai smiled warmly.

"Don't mind him; he simply has a childish temper." Cheng Su quickly interjected.

Ning Ge's face turned green.

Only then did Luh Kai leave, before leaving, he gave Ning Ge another deep look.

"What's that look? What does it mean? I think he's trying to mess with me!" Ning Ge shouted angrily with a darkened face.

Cheng Su tapped his forehead, saying, "I think you're the strange one, always targeting others. How did he offend you?"

"I didn't!"

"Still saying you didn't, during the meeting, I saw you glance at him several times. Let me tell you, Luh Kai is a good person. Don't look at him with tinted glasses!" Cheng Su snorted and walked away.

Ning Ge was furious, thinking inwardly, Luh Kai, this grudge is settled!

Chapter 948: Social Mixer

After the shareholders meeting, Cheng Su had another meeting with Song Xiaojang and Old Song. They needed to procure items for the restaurant, and everyone had to work together to finalize the list.

Procurement is not a simple task; you have to compare three different suppliers, consider prices, and weigh all options. You can't just buy low-quality goods because they're cheap and end up broken every few days. And you can't buy expensive ones that are over the budget because everything needs to be controlled within limits.

Therefore, Cheng Su asked Song Xiaojang to visit the market frequently and compare prices.

Song Xiaojang, a member of Joy Soon Loy and also a shareholder's son, naturally cared about costs. The lower the cost, the higher the future dividends, so he happily agreed.

After discussing other trivial matters with Old Song, Cheng Su finally went home. It was rare to have a weekend off, and she wanted to rest at home, given the seemingly endless affairs before.

Before going home, she bought some meat, vegetables, and fruits, planning to cook a good meal. When she arrived at the courtyard, she saw the community director gathering everyone for a talk.

The community director is actually just an unofficial title, chosen from those recognized as friendly and well-organized, to lead the family collective in case of any activity, taking the helm and flying the flag.

The current community director, who was also on good terms with Cheng Su, was Sister-in-law Gao, Gao Linbing's wife. She was wearing a bright red puffer coat, speaking passionately and enthusiastically.

Cheng Su was a bit curious. Was there an event happening?

Thinking this, she walked over and asked what was going on.

She had just returned and was catching the end of the conversation. Seeing that it was her, people laughed and explained.

It turned out that as the year-end approached, there were many eligible bachelors in the military without partners. So, the military decided to organize a matchmaking event to solve the lifelong matters for the bachelors.

The bachelors were there, but where would the partners come from? This responsibility fell to the family courtyard. If any family had eligible daughters or friends, they could sign up. Whether sparks flew or not was another matter, but having the opportunity was good.

In this era, most families had more than one child, with sisters surely being more than one. Take Li Qiumei upstairs; she had a sister, Qiulan, who was still single.

Therefore, the community director suggested everyone actively sign up their relatives or friends. If things worked out, it would be great. If not, they could just laugh it off and have a good time.

In such matchmaking events, the bachelors from the military could perform group martial arts or drills, while the girls could showcase some of their talents to liven up the atmosphere.

Cheng Su listened with bright eyes, thinking these events were really good and could easily be called Rescue the Single Unmarried Youth activities.

"So, is there an age requirement? And do they have to be unmarried?" Cheng Su asked.

"Our military bachelors are all unmarried, so the requirement is naturally that the women must be unmarried as well. There's no age limit," Sister-in-law Gao replied with a smile.

"I'll sign up our Qiulan," Li Qiumei was in the crowd, smiling as she spoke.

Hearing this, everyone said Qiulan was capable and beautiful, and anyone who married her would be blessed. They feared all the bachelors would be drawn to her.

Li Qiumei was very proud; many people had asked about her sister.

Cheng Su's mind started turning. She had some staff, all good girls, and Xiao Ya as well. She would have to ask them if they were interested later.

Chapter 949: Military Men Are Hard to Marry

During dinner, Cheng Su asked Qi Taiguo about the details of the upcoming matchmaking event.

Qi Taiguo was a bit taken aback and said, "Wow, news travels fast! The decision was just made yesterday."

Cheng Su placed a piece of braised ribs in his bowl and said, "You forgot, our residential compound has a life director. How could such a big event not be involved? When I came back today, Sister-in-law Gao called everyone together and told us."

"Oh, well, you can't participate anyway." Qi Taiguo rarely grinned mischievously, "You're my Old Qi's person."

Cheng Su shot him a playful glare, "I can't participate, but I can at least watch the fun, right?"

"Of course you can!" Qi Taiguo laughed, "I'll take you there. Dress up nicely. You won't lose to those young girls."

Cheng Su widened her eyes, "Do you see me as an old woman already? I'm only twenty-one, or at most twenty-two or three."

Qi Taiguo coughed, grabbed his chopsticks, and ate, "No, you're the youngest and prettiest girl."

"Saying one thing and meaning another!" Cheng Su huffed playfully.

But honestly, she's twenty-one now, but in her heart, she feels old. Adding up her previous life's age, she's already a middle-aged woman in her forties.

Seeing others around her age, she always feels old; they're all young girls.

Thinking about this, Cheng Su couldn't help but laugh at herself for shamelessly claiming to be a young girl!

"What's so funny?" Qi Taiguo also put a rib on her plate and said, "These ribs are good, eat more."

Cheng Su picked it up and put it back, saying, "I won't eat meat tonight. I'm on a diet. It's easiest to gain weight in winter."

"Nonsense, I think you're thinner. Eat up, don't be stubborn. I like you with a bit of meat." Qi Taiguo put it back again.

Cheng Su pouted, took a small bite, and said, "What do you think about signing Xiao Ya up? There are plenty of single girls over there!"

"You want to play matchmaker now?" Qi Taiguo said, "I advise you to take it easy. Military men are great, but not everyone wants to marry one."

"Why not?" Cheng Su didn't quite understand.

Qi Taiguo explained, "The single guys now are mostly soldiers without ranks. Although they serve in the army, they can be sent anywhere anytime for tasks or stationed in places. In such cases, couples are bound to be separated, and not everyone can endure that loneliness. Military marriages are protected. If the woman commits adultery, she'd face punishment. So, not everyone wants to marry a military man, which is why many soldiers remain single."

Cheng Su hadn't thought of this before. Now that he mentioned it, it did make sense. Even Qi Taiguo, with an officer's post, still goes on missions often.

When he's away for ten days, half a month, or even months, she misses him terribly and sometimes complains. Imagine those servicemen gone for years, how would their wives cope with missing them and the loneliness?

"I hadn't thought of that." Cheng Su felt a bit embarrassed, her enthusiasm dampened.

"So, if you want to sign someone up, it's best to be clear-headed. You don't want someone reluctantly participating and unable to refuse the boss's face." Qi Taiguo said.

"Got it!" Cheng Su felt a bit deflated, not expecting her excitement to be doused like this by a cold splash of water.

Chapter 950: Testing the Waters

The registration for the matchmaking event was in full swing, and even Qiulan couldn't escape her elder sister's enthusiasm and was forced to sign up. However, she looked a bit listless and not too happy.

Seeing this, Cheng Su thought, could it be that Qiulan is still thinking about that kid Ning Ge?

Ning Ge's background is right there, and he hasn't done anything for Qiulan, so this girl's thoughts are likely just wishful thinking.

Cheng Su thought about it and said to her, "Actually, signing up and having some fun is fine too. I've heard that among this batch of young men, there are quite a few good ones. Apparently, there are even some platoon leaders and squad leaders who aren't married yet. If you fancy one of them, it wouldn't be a bad match."

Qiulan forced a smile and said, "I haven't thought about getting married yet."

Cheng Su understood this but said, "You're twenty now, right? Even if you don't want to get married, you should find someone. Our youth is limited, so don't miss out on a good man."

Qiulan kept her head down and said nothing.

Cheng Su continued, "When a woman marries, she wants clothes, food, and someone who understands her. If you want to marry someone you like, it's not impossible, but it will undoubtedly be difficult, and you never know if he truly has a place for you in his heart. We women are most afraid of unrequited love. So why waste your youth?"

Qiulan's face turned a little pale.

"Go and have a look; maybe you'll meet your destined one there!" Cheng Su patted her shoulder and said, "It's just for fun, not like you have to marry the first one you see."

Qiulan didn't know what to think, only murmured a low agreement.

Cheng Su was also thinking about Ying Xiaoya, wondering about her progress with Xiao Pinshan, so she went over to the factory.

Ying Xiaoya was happy to see her; it had been a while since she last saw Cheng Su, and she had a lot to tell her!

Seeing Xiao Pinshan there too, Cheng Su's mind turned, and she smiled, saying, "I have some good news for you, but I don't know if you'd be interested."

"What good news?" Ying Xiaoya's eyes widened.

"Well, not exactly big news, but Qi Taiguo's unit is holding a matchmaking event for bachelors. If we family members have any single and familiar girls, we can sign them up to join in. If you hit it off, it's a good thing. So, I'm asking if you're interested in joining, and if so, I'll sign you up!" Cheng Su said while watching her, not forgetting to glance at Xiao Pinshan from the corner of her eye.

As expected, their faces changed as soon as she finished speaking.

Ying Xiaoya instinctively looked at Xiao Pinshan, whose smile froze slightly and whose brow furrowed.

"Manager Xiao, what do you think about this event?" Cheng Su probed with a smile.

Xiao Pinshan smiled and said, "Oh, it sounds nice. Xiao Ya should sign up too; you're not getting any younger!"

Ying Xiaoya's face turned slightly pale; she pressed her lips together and said, "Alright, Susu, help me sign up; I'm going to find a partner!"

The remark was clearly made in anger.

But Xiao Pinshan just smiled, and that smile was exceedingly stiff.

"There should be a lot of girls signing up, right?" Ying Xiaoya asked Cheng Su, and seeing her nod, she then turned to Xiao Pinshan and jokingly asked, "Brother Xiao, what type do you like? I'll also find you a good girl to snatch from those soldiers."

Xiao Pinshan forced a smile and said, "No need, my family has introduced someone for me!"

Ying Xiaoya's smile froze immediately, staring blankly at him, tears gradually welling up in her eyes.

Xiao Pinshan avoided her gaze, saying, "I need to get back to work!"

Ying Xiaoya watched his rapidly departing back, unable to keep the tears from falling.

Cheng Su watched and couldn't help but sigh, "Why bother!"