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Chapter 98 Greetings

Cheng Su had finished cooking dinner and set the table by the time Qi Taiguo finally came home.

After he washed up, the two of them sat down at the dining table, and Cheng Su told him about Platoon Leader Chen moving in.

"Platoon Leader Chen and his wife have been living apart for a long time, so he has always been staying in the barracks. It wasn't until this year that he applied for his wife to come over to the city hospital. He filed a report, and only then did they move next to us," Qi Taiguo explained.

"She's finally coming to stay with him now that he's a platoon leader? Shouldn't he have been assigned quarters a long time ago? Why did he only file a report now?" Cheng Su wondered aloud, picking up a slice of roasted meat for him.

"He was assigned quarters, but originally they were not here, they were at the Southeast Ladder," Qi Taiguo said, looking at the meat in his bowl. "I can pick for myself, you eat!"

Cheng Su found it even stranger: "If he had a place at the Southeast Ladder, why move here?"

"Southeast Ladder 210 used to be lived in by Shen Zhen, a platoon leader from the previous third company. His wife got sick and passed away in that room. Hearing this, Hualing absolutely refused to live there, claiming it was bad luck. She wouldn't move in until the house was exchanged. That's why it took so long, for the housing swap to take place and for the couple to finally live together, you see?"

So there was this background story—Hualing feared the house was cursed!

Cheng Su laughed: "With the iron-blooded nature of you military folks, what sort of evil spirits could you not subdue? She's even a college graduate, and yet she clings to feudal superstitions!"

Qi Taiguo's face darkened slightly, and he chastised her gently, "Don't spread rumors. She did, after all, receive higher education, and she's a nurse working in a hospital. Not what you call feudal superstition."

His wife, always so relentless with her words.

"But you just said she received higher education and is a nurse at the hospital. She must have seen plenty of dead people, so why believe in these superstitions?" Cheng Su scoffed lightly.

Anyway, thinking about Hualing's haughty attitude and her disdainful treatment of herself, she couldn't help but feel disgruntled.

"Alright, let's eat."

Cheng Su wasn't one to stubbornly argue, and she felt it unnecessary to strain the relationship with her husband over an outsider. Thus, she changed the subject.

"Oh, I wanted to tell you—I got an order from the Huaiji Supply and Marketing Cooperative. I'm going to make and sell jam, one yuan per pound," she said brightly.

Qi Taiguo paused, "Can you handle it all by yourself?"

"I'll try my best. I'll start with the quantity for this order and see how the response is," Cheng Su shared her plan. "Tomorrow, I want to go to the glass factory to order some glass jars and also visit the food factory. I might need to stop by the kitchenware factory, so I'll be quite busy the next few days. If you come back and don't see me, just eat at the canteen."

Qi Taiguo responded with an "Oh."

Cheng Su opened her mouth to say something more when someone knocked on the door at that moment.

Qi Taiguo got up to open the door, and there stood Platoon Leader Chen and Hualing, his wife. Cheng Su walked over as well.

"Commander Qi, Sister-in-law, are you guys eating?" Platoon Leader Chen greeted them with a smile.

"Yes, we've just started. Have you eaten yet? Come on in," Qi Taiguo stepped aside, waving them in.

Platoon Leader Chen seemed ready to decline, but Hualing had already squeezed past him and walked in. Seeing this, Cheng Su washed two tea cups and poured them both some water.

"We've just moved in, and the house is a complete mess—we haven't even had time to sort things out, let alone cook. We were planning to go to the canteen, but then we thought, we're new here, we should drop by and say hello, right?" Platoon Leader Chen entered with a cheerful laugh. "From now on, we are neighbors. Commander Qi, Sister-in-law, it's good for us to visit each other more."

"We're all brothers from the same unit, what's there to talk about?" Qi Taiguo laughed heartily. Seeing Hualing eyeing their dinner table, he said, "The canteen is probably closed by now. Instead of going there, how about letting my wife cook a couple more dishes? You can join us for a simple meal here."