

Chapter 71: The Gap Between You and I

“Freeze!” yelled the soldiers. Doctor Zhou, drenched in cold sweat, leaned against the wall and sat on the cold floor slowly.

Wind was blowing out from the room without a door. Ye Jian, who was previously relieved, became slightly nervous. Why was the night wind blowing from the room with its windows closed?

As if something had occurred to her, she screamed, “Xia Jinyuan! Downstairs!!” Meanwhile, she dashed towards the first floor like a flying arrow.

She was acting so fast that Xia Jinyuan couldn’t find a chance to speak.

While he was chasing after Ye Jian, he pressed his earpiece to hear his comrades deployed at the back of the building reporting the situations. He instructed them in a deep voice, “Control the targets and escort them out of here tonight! Battalion Commander Yang, inform the power supply bureau to resume the power.”

Within ten seconds after his instruction, following a transient flickering of the electric lamps, the power was restored to the entire Fujun Town.

Xia Jinyuan slowed down his chasing pace as he arrived at the brightly lit hotel lobby. Quietly, he looked at the slender figure standing at the entrance to the hotel.

He didn’t start walking slowly towards her until a while later. Smiling, he said, “Weren’t you brilliant just now? Why are you upset all of a sudden?”

Alas, she was just a little girl. Amazing as she was, she was still a child after all.

And her emotions were as mercurial and unpredictable as the sky in June.

Ye Jian had recognized his footsteps as he chased her to the first floor.

She remained silent for a while. Sighing gently, she raised her black and bright eyes to gaze at him, “I’ve seen the gap. The gap between you and me.”

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“How old am I? And how old are you?” Xia Jinyuan, shocked by her, gave a wry smile. Seeing the serious look on her face, he had to stop smiling. He coughed and comforted her, “You are incredibly amazing already. My comrades and I are impressed by your ventriloquism.”

How old am I? The answer will terrify you!

Seeing Xia Jinyuan turning into an empathetic soldier, Ye Jian pursed her lips. After a light twinkled in her eyes, a smile gradually appeared on her bright and pretty little face. "It has nothing to do with age. It's the environment that matters."

No matter what she had learned, without receiving the systematic command education, she was not as good as other soldiers. That was why she panicked when she discovered the targets had escaped by jumping out the windows.

What kind of person was Xia Jinyuan? Was it possible that he had made no arrangements?

"Environment?" Xia Jinyuan raised his eyebrows. He didn't nod with approval until he had pondered for a while. Smiling, he looked at the girl who could reflect upon her failure and answered her seriously, "It does have something to do with the environment. But at the end of the day, it depends on personal efforts."

"Currently, a Class A Master Sergeant and a world-class sniper are educating you. Your environment is superior to that of numerous people in this world! Since your tutors have created the environment for you, all you need to do is to try harder."

"You must cherish their painstaking efforts!" His voice became especially stern as he spoke. "One more thing. If you want to become a soldier, I have to remind you, the first thing you need to learn is obedience!"

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He was going to discipline Ye Jian now that the clash was over. However, the moment Ye Jian moved a step, trying to escape quietly, Xia Jinyuan grabbed her shoulder using his big hand. "Trying to flee?"

His fake smiling tone made Ye Jian feel a bit embarrassed. Straightening her back, she turned around and looked at him, apologizing swiftly, "Sorry, my bad! But I don't think I will make the same mistake next time!"

Chapter 72: If You Were My Soldier

Her willingness to admit to her mistakes was nice. Nevertheless, it didn't work for him.

"You rushed down hurriedly because you were worried that the targets would escape. I can understand your intentions," said Xia Jinyuan, smiling. As he looked at the girl whose eyes were as resplendent as stars, his gentle smile contained a hint of teasing. "And you have a very good apologetic attitude. Are you afraid that I might scold you?"

"What am I afraid of? I'm not your soldier," said Ye Jian with a cold and indifferent look in her eyes. Smiling lightly, she said, "Besides, I did go out to see my classmate. I just happened to encounter Auntie Zhou on my way."

Xia Jinyuan had deployed his troops properly. Even if Brother Fei jumped out of the window, there was no way that he could escape. Ye Jian was just overreacting.

Her reply made Xia Jinyuan raise his eyebrows. Subsequently, his dark and chilly eyes became gloomier.

“Ye Jian, if you were my soldier, you would face miserable consequences,” said Xia Jinyuan plainly. His smile became fainter while he was looking at her.

“As stipulated by the military law, and based on the gravity of the soldiers’ offenses, punishments such as a warning, a serious warning, a demerit, and a major demerit will be given to the soldiers who have defied orders.”

His facial expression became inevitably stern and fierce at the mention of military law.

After finishing his words, Xia Jinyuan, who had been observing Ye Jian’s face, slowly smiled again. “So, Ye Jian, if you want to be a qualified soldier, the first thing you need to learn is to obey orders.”

As he smiled, he seemed more handsome, adding the elegance of a prince to his chill temperament.

The military uniform could not conceal his nobility. He must have come from an unusual background. As the saying goes, we are what we eat. That is how significant the environment is.

“I see. Thank you for your guidance.” Ye Jian nodded gently, bearing his advice into her mind.

“It is a soldier’s duty to obey orders.” both Principal Chen and Grandpa Gen had told her. Putting emphasis on improving her abilities, she had discarded this most basic awareness which she should be equipped with.

Footsteps were heard. The soldier upstairs approached them, “Sir, the second floor is all clear!”

“Inform the police to cordon off the area.” said Xia Jinyuan, restraining his smile and showing a stern and chill look on his handsome face. As he turned around, his tall and straight back possessed the formidable energy of a soldier. “Assemble the team.”

His clear and cold voice contained infinite authority. Across his shoulder, Ye Jian saw the tough look on the face of the soldier standing in front of him. From the serious and scrupulous attitude of the soldier, Ye Jian could tell that he would absolutely obey any direction of Xia Jinyuan.

Ye Jian slightly pursed her lips. It was a soldier’s duty to obey orders... Perhaps she had understood it.

Gazing at Xia Jinyuan’s back which was as towering as a mountain, Ye Jian slightly tightened her black eyes. Not only were this man’s capabilities convincing, but he could make his own soldiers trust every aspect of him.

Xia Jinyuan didn’t tell Ye Jian and Doctor Zhou to come out from the hotel until everything was settled.

“So sorry to startle you two tonight due to our ill management,” he said sincerely while escorting them to the roadside. His deep and restrained voice indicated his apology. “We have controlled all the targets. To avoid any potential problems, we are going to block the information involving this issue from you guys, so as not to cause you trouble in the future.”

Chapter 73: A Man Who Was Not That Simple

The mature Doctor Zhou answered quickly, "Rest assured. We won't tell anyone about this thing."

"Doctor Zhou, you are a doctor with noble and professional ethics, of course, we trust you," said Xia Jinyuan gently. In front of the citizens, he was as tender as a breeze rather than display his tough-as-steel attitude. "I'm going to say goodbye from here. Again, I'm very sorry."

He asked a soldier to send Doctor Zhou away. As she walked further away, all of a sudden, Xia Jinyuan raised his hand to flick lightly on Ye Jian's forehead. "I didn't have time to praise you just now. Well done, girl."

"Ouch!" caught off guard, Ye Jian covered her forehead which was slightly in pain. A subtle emotion started to appear in her previously calm and indifferent eyes. "What do you even mean? You praised me moments ago, and punished me in the next second."

Xia Jinyuan started to grin. He was a man who knew how to restrain himself. Even his pleasant smile seemed very light. In the night, with his refreshing smile, he said, "You are only fourteen years old, not forty. Loosen up and don't have too much coldness in your eyes. The age of fourteen is a dreamy and wonderful time."

"Captain Xia, I assume that it was a dreamy and wonderful time for you when you were fourteen. There was no chilly look in your eyes, but at least you seemed unapproachable." Ye Jian paid back the extremely mysterious man in the same coin. He had become a Major at the age of twenty, was it possible that he had a wonderful time at fourteen years old?

Was it possible?

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Thinking back to when he was fourteen years old, Xia Jinyuan knew better than to keep talking.

He was facing an intelligent girl. The less he spoke, the better. Otherwise, her words might upset him, giving him a headache.

"Come here." He waved at a soldier who was waiting for his instructions beside him. "Send this student to the New Recruit Camp."

No wonder his old man and his grandpa complained that he was a pain in the neck when he was fourteen years old!

At the age of twenty, he encountered the fourteen-year-old Ye Jian, who also gave him a headache.

But alas, he suddenly felt like calling his old man to greet him and apologize to him.

After he got on the vehicle escorting the criminal suspects back to the city, Xia Jinyuan made a phone call to Beijing.

In a heavily guarded, old and simple military yard, of which the exterior was surrounded by Boston ivy, a security guard answered the phone.

After exchanging pleasantries, he trotted upstairs and knocked on the door gently.

“Commander-in-Chief, it’s a call from the Major, he says he has something urgent to report to you.”

Usually, Commander Xia was already in bed at half past ten in the evening. As he heard the news, he got up abruptly from his bed. The boy seldom called him. Did something happen to him in the army?

“What’s wrong?!” the moment he spoke, he heard an unexpected speech from the other side, “Sorry, old man, I suddenly feel that I was a headache to you when I was fourteen.”

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Commander Xia restrained his impulse to smash the phone. The boy made him worry for no reason!

“You brat! Just you wait!”

“Old man, say hello to grandpa for me. One more thing, good night!” Xia Jinyuan hung up the phone with a smile on his face. Judging from Commander Xia’s energetic voice, he must be in good shape.

What a brat! Was he suffering insomnia? I should make a phone call to increase his workload and cure his silliness!

Beep. Beep. As the busy tone was heard from the phone, Commander Xia cursed him again, but with a smile on his face.

Chapter 74: Don’t Mess With Me

Xia Jinyuan, who liked asking tough questions, had always been a headache to his family since he was a child.

Everyone in his family thought Xia Jinyuan was a little monster. Nevertheless, the little monster passed the military school entrance exam in the first try and made various contributions several times. Thus, he had become a Major at the age of twenty, the youngest Major in his whole family.

With such a brilliant son, Commander Xia didn’t feel dispirited any longer. To this day, Commander Xia had been very proud and elated since Xia Jinyuan was fourteen.

He was so proud of his son that he showed no sign of anger when Xia Jinyuan surprised him with an unexpected phone call.

“Contact Political Commissar Zhang of the Nanguang Military District,” Commander Xia turned around and went into his room to put on his military overcoat. And then, he headed to the study.

The military unit stationed deep inside the mountain of Fujun Town was subordinate to the Nanguang Military District.

It was getting late. After midnight, it became foggy.

Ye Jian had been standing in front of the window for so long that she lost track of the time. She didn't come to herself until she felt a bit wet. As she raised her eyes, she found a vague gray-white lining upon the horizon far away.

It was five o'clock in the morning...

Although she had been awake all night, Ye Jian didn't feel sleepy at all. While the bugle in the New Recruit Camp was blowing, she washed her face and rinsed her mouth swiftly. Two minutes later, Ye Jian, who had packed her textbooks, appeared in the cafeteria in time.

All Ye Jian needed to do was to help the cooking team wash vegetables and do some cleaning. With her help, the cooking team could get breakfast and dinner prepared for the whole week.

Ye Jian had been here for two weeks. Thanks to her diligence, agility, and hardworking attitude, every soldier in the New Recruit Camp had known about her.

"Morning."

"Morning."

"You are awake so early? Come and enjoy these delicious fresh steamed buns stuffed with pickles. We also have eggs and steamed buns. So, please help yourself." The leader—a Northeastern—of the cooking team asked Ye Jian to have more breakfast as soon as he saw her entering the cafeteria.

Every soldier in the cooking team thought that Ye Jian was a bit short and slim, and believed that she could become taller and stronger if she consumed more cooked wheaten food.

Perhaps she had been eating more nutritious food in the past two weeks, Ye Jian did feel she had grown much taller. After greeting the soldiers, she started to have breakfast and cleaned up the kitchen at the same time.

She would keep tidying up the kitchen until 6:30 AM when she would head to school.

She liked trotting to school. In that way, she could get some exercise and enhance her physical ability.

Gao Yiyang, who was riding a bicycle, saw Ye Jian running alongside the national road once again. After a momentary hesitation, with a tough look on his handsome face, he pursed his lips, pedaling his bicycle to chase after Ye Jian.

First, he surpassed Ye Jian. Later, he stopped abruptly, turning around with both hands twisting the bicycle head, thus blocking Ye Jian's way.

He completed a series of actions so fast that he didn't consider whether he would startle others or not. Just like that, he unexpectedly obstructed Ye Jian from her trotting.

Thinking about what happened last night, Ye Jian gave a rather tough response. Automatically, she raised her foot and kicked violently towards the crossbar in the middle of the bicycle.

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Gao Yiyang had no idea that Ye Jian would kick his bike. Dumbstruck, he watched Ye Jian, with a cold and tough look on her face, raising her foot as quick as a streak of lightning and kicking his bike without any hesitation.

Clang! Bang! Gao Yiyang, who was knocked onto the ground along with his bike, still hadn't realized what was going on.

Astounded, he stared at Ye Jian with the usual cold look on his naive and handsome face. Moments later, gritting his teeth, he questioned Ye Jian, "What are you doing?!"

Chapter 75: Get Out of My Way

"What am I doing?" Ye Jian showed no intention to apologize on her face. Retracting her left leg indifferently, she said with a menacing smile. "What are you doing? Were it not for my quick reaction, I would be the one lying on the floor."

Ye Jian didn't like the people related to Ye Ying at all. Not to mention that Gao Yiyang was too complacent.

Disheveled, Gao Yiyang crawled up furiously. While dusting off the dirt on himself, he gasped in horror.

As he pulled up his sleeve, he found that his elbow was scratched, oozing small streaks of blood.

Seeing his wound, he raised his head, glaring at Ye Jian, "You are really..."

"What? What are you trying to say?" Ye Jian calmly raised her voice to interrupt him. "Are you complaining that I didn't kick you hard enough?"

Her tone, which contained a subtle hint of disgust against Gao Yiyang, made his complexion become paler with anger. As he saw the cold and indifferent black eyes of Ye Jian, his heart shivered in fear, and he stopped talking.

Closely tightening his mouth, he lifted his bike. As if he were a generous person, he said, "Where did Ye Ying go during the May Day holiday? I went to Shuikou Village and couldn't find her."

What did Ye Jian loath the most? People like Gao Yiyang! As if you should feel honored and grateful if they were willing to talk to you.

She grinned sarcastically. Without looking at him, Ye Jian walked past him.

"Unbelievable! Ye Jian, stop right here!" Gao Yiyang, who assumed Ye Jian would give him some answers, couldn't restrain his fury anymore now that Ye Jian ignored him. Walking his bike with his left hand, he reached out his right hand, trying to grab Ye Jian's arm.

Ye Jian's facial expression was thoroughly cold as the boy chased after her again. When he tried to grab her, a cold glint flashed in her pitch-black pupils. Perhaps Ye Jian didn't kick him hard enough to make him learn a lesson!

Almost running out of patience, she tightened her eyes with a icy look on her bright face. The instant she turned around, she used one hand to grasp the right hand of Gao Yiyang, one of the most handsome boys in school, twisting it harshly.

“Ah!” yelled the boy in pain.

“As always, my patience has its limits. Gao Yiyang, you have been testing my limits time and again. Do you think I am such a pushover that anyone can bully me?” She pinched Gao Yiyang’s hand harder. One could see that the muscles in his arm were twisting outside.

Gao Yiyang was in so much pain that cold sweat burst out on his back. However, the pain didn’t diminish his arrogance at all.

“Ye Jian! Let go of me!” he screamed coldly.

“Apologize!” using one hand to clasp his wrist, Ye Jian used the other hand to push his arm towards his shoulder. “It’s a piece of cake for me to remove your arm.”

Her facial expression was especially cold that even her eyes were flickering with seemingly metallic icy rays. But indicating from her calm tone, she definitely was not joking.

Heart racing, Gao Yiyang realized immediately that every word she said, she meant it.

“I apologize!” with that awareness, Gao Yiyang had no other option but to apologize, despite his fury. “I’m sorry that I offended you! Please forgive me.”

Smiling gently, Ye Jian gradually loosened up her hands that were grasping the boy. She raised her eyebrows and got rid of her indifferent complexion. Later, she said languidly, “You are somewhat realistic. Gao Yiyang, let me remind you, do not ask me about Ye Ying again. Otherwise, I’m not sure what kind of unpleasant things I will do to you.”

“And one more thing. I am different from Ye Ying, and I want nothing to do with her!”

After that, she carried her schoolbag, trotting leisurely again as if nothing had happened.

Gao Yiyang, whose wrist was aching faintly, stood there for a long time before leaving, walking his bike.

Chapter 76: Walking Out of the Mountains

Surrounded by mountains, Fujun Town, though a bit poor, had a picturesque landscape with beautiful hills and clear waters.

Ye Jian, who ran alongside the national road early every morning, felt especially peaceful when she saw the hills and rivers of the town. Even the incident involving Gao Yiyang didn’t affect her mood.

Hair dampened by the fog, Ye Jian saw Liao Jian, who was always late for school, sitting in the classroom and being unusually quiet.

Hearing the footsteps of someone entering the classroom, he raised his head with a vague light twinkling in his gloomy eyes. Like a shooting star, that light vanished instantly when he saw that the person was Ye Jian.

He got up, looking at the direction behind Ye Jian. Through this action only, Ye Jian had figured out what he was up to.

He was waiting for the arrival of Ye Ying. Since his dad was arrested, it was normal for him to feel scared, nervous and unsettled, hoping to find someone to help him.

Not to mention that Ye Ying's father was the deputy town mayor. It was quite normal that Liao Jian wanted to see her.

But what's odd was that since when were he and Ye Ying friendly enough that he could ask her for help whenever he was in trouble?

"Ye Jian, this way, this way, I have good news to tell you!" her classmates waved at her. Ye Jian stopped looking at Liao Jian and walked over to her classmates, smiling. "What kind of good news would make you so exhilarated in the early morning?"

It was the students who were good at studying that would arrive early in the classroom. Right now, both the No.1 Scholar in liberal arts and science were in the classroom.

Before Ye Jian could sit down, Zhang Na, the No.1 scholar in liberal arts, said excitedly, "The competition of the Provincial Experimental No.1 Middle School! Which subject will you sign up for? Math? Chinese? Physics? Chemistry? Oh, there is also English."

"This is the Extra Bonus Competition in which every Eighth Grader and Ninth Grader in the province can participate! We are going to register later, and the staff from the No.1 Middle School will come to our school next Saturday!" Zhou Liao, the very best student in science, was also in high spirits. He was incredibly enthusiastic about math and was about to register for the math competition.

Zhang Na glanced at him and then looked at Ye Jian. Eyes twinkling, she smiled and said, "Ye Jian, how about you? Physics? Chemistry? You've done pretty well in physics in the two quizzes recently."

Her speech put pressure on the boy who intended to register for the chemistry competition. "Ye Jian is quite good at Chinese!"

In less than a month, the reborn Ye Jian was qualified enough to challenge the best students in her class!

The top three students in this round of competition could receive extra bonuses, which would be a huge advantage for anyone who wanted to enter the Provincial Experimental No.1 Middle School through the high school entrance exam!

These innocent students could not conceal their thoughts at all. Ye Jian thought while reading the competition registration form. She raised her head and smiled, "Hand me the pen."

As she bent over to write, a string of beautiful English words, which could be used in advertisements, appeared on the Test Subject column of the registration form.

“Eng... English? Can you do this? We didn’t learn English until we were at Grade Seven!” said Zhang Na, dumbfounded.

“I’m registering for English first. According to the instructions, a candidate can register for several subjects at the same time; and not all the exams will be held concurrently, they are going to be conducted throughout several sessions.” Ye Jian put down the pen, smiling. She seemed very confident and calm. “I will take the exams after you guys.”

Her undertone made these top students a bit embarrassed.

Frowning, Zhou Liao glanced at Zhang Na and said in a deep voice, “What matters in exams is your own capabilities. If Ye Jian doesn’t compete, are you certain that you will be one of the Top Three?”

“No need to concern. Everyone can show their talents!” he said sternly to Ye Jian, who was giving way to her classmates.

Zhang Na was about to cry. Ye Jian patted on her shoulders and said with a wry smile, “I’m not backing off or anything. I want to try English because fewer students register for it. If I don’t make it in English, I will try other subjects!”

“That’s right. Who cares we will be the Top Three or not, at least we will all participate in the competition!” Zhang Na, who was being a bit selfish previously, felt relieved after straightening things out in her mind.

Chapter 77: So What if She Was A Teacher

The thing that matters in the competition is their talent. Ye Jian was not bad, so she had nothing to fear.

Ye Jian took away her registration form and went back to her seat. She wrote her name in every subject of the Test Subject column, except Chinese.

Since her goal was to enroll in the Provincial Experimental No.1 Middle School, she should participate in more exams in this kind of competition!

Ten minutes before the morning study session began, Liao Jian, who had been nervous all morning, stood up abruptly and rushed outside. His actions were so violent that his desk and chair clanged.

Ye Ying has appeared at the entrance to the classroom.

Were it not for the clanging noise of the desk and the chair made by Liao Jian, Ye Jian would not have raised her head from her politics textbook to look in their direction.

As soon as they met at the classroom door, a hint of panic flickered in Ye Ying’s eyes. “Let’s go outside,” said Ye Ying with her lips pursed. She turned around and left the classroom immediately as if she was afraid that someone might see them.

Compared with the Ye Ying who became the wife of a government official in her past life, the facial expressions of the Ye Ying at this moment were much more predictable.

Ye Jian slightly tightened her lips. In her past life, she was a junior high school graduate, while Ye Ying studied abroad in the USA, becoming the pride of Fujun Town.

That was why when she returned to Fujun Town in the old days, she had to leave the town again. To survive, she must live cautiously and vigilantly.

Now that she had passed the biggest turning point in this lifetime, she was waiting to see who would be the winner of their feud!

“They are being sneaky. What are they up to? Since when had the bad student and the good student become friends?” An Jiaxin, who happened to run into them, sat on Zhang Bin’s seat. Restraining her voice, she said, “I also saw Liao Jian grabbing Ye Ying’s wrist, and he seemed very emotional.”

Ye Jian had also sensed the fishy business between them. Nevertheless, that was none of her concern.

“Why do you care about them? Have you filled in the form? The Provincial Experimental No.1 Middle School has a competition which might give you extra bonuses in the senior high school entrance exam. Just go and talk with Zhou Liao and others about it,” said Ye Jian without lifting her head. She had been turning her book from page one to page eleven.

In less than two minutes after An Jiaxin sitting down, she had turned to another page.

Ye Jian flipped a page casually. Glancing at the page from top to bottom, she then turned to another page. Bewildered, An Jiaxin asked, “Are you reading this to pass the time?”

It’s uncommon to read or recite a book in this way, for she only spent a couple of minutes on one page.

“I’m not killing time this way. I’m just reviewing,” Ye Jian smiled and looked at her, without any explanation. She added, “Have you finished reciting the book? It’s a bit hard to recite the several chapters of The Constitution. I would recommend reciting them a few more times if you haven’t memorized them by heart. Probably they will be in the exams this time.”

An Jiaxin, who was a top student in math, lacked interest in liberal arts.

“I’m not going to recite them,” she yawned languidly and stood up. “And Ye Ying and Liao Jian must be up to no good now that they are becoming close. You should be careful.”

Ye Ying had always been bullying Ye Jian. And a few weeks ago, the narrow-minded Liao Jian was humiliated by Ye Jian.

Now that the two of them had become friends, Ye Jian should better watch out.

“I see. Don’t worry,” Ye Jian smiled, shrugging off the warning. As the bell of the study session rang, their small talk came to an end.

In the Municipal Detention Center, Xia Jinyuan took over the report handed to him by a policeman. After staring at one sentence of Liao Youde's statement for a long time, he said in a deep voice, "How true is it?"

"More than 95% of it is true. According to the statements from several others, it is confirmed that Liao Youde possessed guns illegally. Another criminal suspect also confessed that Liao Youde said he was returning to the township public health center to take something."

Chapter 78: Farewell, Teacher

Waving the testimony in his hands, Xia Jinyuan tightened his mouth. With a sharp look on his face, he said in a deep voice, "I need a copy of this testimony. Do not inform the local police station about the lost pistol for the time being. Wait for my news."

In his testimony, Liao Youde mentioned that he had his pistol with him when he looked for Doctor Zhou at the public health center, but he accidentally lost it on his way to the Chunyang Grand Hotel.

An important note was that when An Jiaxin was running over to them, she bumped against him.

At that night, it was Ye Jian who assumed all kinds of roles by imitating their voices, meaning that it was Ye Jian who knocked into him.

It seemed that he had to go back to find the girl.

The Municipal Police Station approved Xia Jinyuan's request, but he must give them a response as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

After all, it was a big deal that a pistol loaded with 15 bullets went missing.

After coming out of the police station, Xia Jinyuan drove the army jeep, heading back to Fujun Town.

While waiting for the green light at a crossroad, he looked across the street inadvertently. A subtle smile appeared on his handsome face that had always been covered by an icy look. He then turned around and parked the jeep alongside the curb across the street.

He got off the jeep. Within ten minutes, he walked out of the building, carrying a bag. Then, he continued driving to Fujun Town.

At this moment, Ye Jian was standing in the teacher's office. With a bit of a icy look in her eyes, she looked at the head teacher of her class indifferently. As her teacher finished talking her nonsense, she said with a sarcastic smile, "Rest assured, Mrs. Ke, young as I may be, I know that I should do what I am capable of."

"Since I have registered for those exams, it means I am confident of passing them. You are my teacher, shouldn't you have more confidence in your student?"

Mrs. Ke scoffed at Ye Jian as she handed in her registration form of the competition of the Provincial Experimental No.1 Middle School.

“Physics, Chemistry, Math, and English. Do you think you are a genius? You are registering for all of them?!” said Mrs. Ke contemptuously. She was furious at Ye Jian’s composure. “You are already a disgrace in our school! Do not let other schools know that you are a shame!”

To Mrs. Ke, Ye Jian was like a fish bone stuck in her throat. She could neither swallow it nor spit it out! It was so uncomfortable to face this obstacle every day!

“Even if I embarrass myself, it’s my business. What does it have anything to do with you?” said Ye Jian, smiling and gazing at her teacher. The bright and optimistic look on her face made her seem more poised than her teacher. Her neither haughty nor humble attitude also won her the affections from the teachers of other classes.

Ye Jian was hoping that she could be the Top Three in one of the subjects. Now that Mrs. Ke was deliberately making things difficult for her, Ye Jian made up her mind that she would excel in every single exam!

She started to like slapping others in the face.

Tossing her registration form into a drawer, Mrs. Ke said scornfully with a straight face, “You never listen to your teachers’ advice. If you are conceited enough to embarrass yourself among other schools, what else can I say?”

Laughing, other teachers responded one by one. “Mrs. Ke, I would be more than grateful if I had such an audacious student in my class! You must be very happy in your mind.”

“That’s right. It’s a good thing for students to have ambition. And as teachers, we must support them. If she does well in the exams, isn’t she bringing honor to you and our school as well?”

The speeches of her colleagues made Mrs. Ke swallow her bitterness in silence. She would have been elated if any other student was so ambitious!

However, that student must not be Ye Jian!

What Mrs. Ke didn’t know was that the more obstacles Ye Jian encountered, the stronger she would become. If anyone tried to give her a hard time, she would toughen herself.

Chapter 79: Here Comes the Dangerous Guy

Ye Jian was not affected by her at all. Carrying her schoolbag, she walked leisurely out of her school. Just as she was about to trot for half an hour to the New Recruit Camp, she heard several honking sounds of a car.

One honk meant hurry; two honks indicated urgency. What the ordinary people didn’t know was that it was how the military vehicles greeted the soldiers. Ye Jian immediately looked around to find the car.

“Get in,” Xia Jinyuan probed his head out of the car window, waving at Ye Jian, who was standing still. “Why are you standing still? I can send you home.”

You even know the greeting methods of the driving team. Girl, have you learned all the methods of communication of every soldier in the army?

Automatically, Ye Jian wanted to refuse this elegant and dangerous man. Noticing the fake smile, which made him seem very understanding of everything, on his face, Ye Jian sighed gently and walked over to him with a natural facial expression.

She pulled open the door to the passenger seat, hopping onto the car deftly. As she smiled and looked at him, she seemed rather poised.

Her look made Xia Jinyuan smile wryly. "You really don't know what I am here for, do you?"

She's a calm girl. But I don't believe that she doesn't know why I am here.

"No, I do not. But I assume it's something important now that Captain Xia wants to see me in person," Ye Jian curled her lips, forming a refreshing and intelligent smile. "But if you don't tell me, I don't know what it is about."

Xia Jinyuan's smile became more obvious. His handsome face was as pure and bright as the moon. "Ye Jian, you are having very bad manners. You know exactly what this is about," he said in a languid tone.

"I believe that I just need to keep something to myself only and it's unnecessary to speculate what's in others' minds," said Ye Jian calmly. She could even maintain her composure in front of the formidable military authority. "One should stay still if his enemy has not taken any actions. Isn't it one of the military strategies?"

The girl had progressed significantly overnight. She even knew how to reason with him using military strategies.

While Xia Jinyuan was driving, he glanced at her, smiling. "Where have you put the thing? It's a dangerous item. Besides, you aren't qualified to wield it or possess it. Despite your good intention, you'd better hand it in and let us take care of it."

"I'm not carrying it. It's in my dormitory," since he had put it that way, Ye Jian had no need to play dumb. She confessed frankly, "I didn't use it. I've been keeping it properly, waiting for you guys to fetch it."

He was right. Without a qualified identity, it was no use to occupy the gun. Grandpa Gen and Principal Chen didn't instruct her painstakingly so that she would become a deliberate lawbreaker.

Besides, she didn't give a care in the world about that pistol.

She went to her dormitory, taking the pistol out of the lowest level of the shoe cabinet. In less than three minutes, she returned.

The car was parked outside. Xia Jinyuan, who was sitting in the car before, was currently having a conversation with Principal Chen.

Under the setting sun, the tall and strong man who was as elegant and handsome as a prince smiled gently. Nodding at Principal Chen, who had said something to him, he said, "We will try to come back by tomorrow afternoon."

"Good. I will put my mind at ease if she goes with you," hearing the sounds of running behind him, Principal Chen turned around as he finished his words. Smiling amiably at the approaching Ye Jian, he said, "Captain Xia is taking you into the city. Now that you have registered for the competition, you might as well go to the municipal library to buy some sets of mock exams as practice."

Chapter 80: It's A Moral to Show Respect

Buying a couple of mock exams in the city? Staying in the town for the night and coming back tomorrow afternoon? Wasn't this a bit exaggerated?

Most importantly, she didn't want to travel with Xia Jinyuan at all.

She was exerting all her might to turn him down. Of course, Xia Jinyuan, who had always been keen and sensitive, had noticed her reluctance.

Nevertheless, it was necessary for them to go to the city because he had to take her to the police station to identify the suspects.

"I have been driving for nine years since I was eleven years old. So, you can trust me, Ye Jian." Raising his eyebrows slightly, he showed a bit of a mischievous smile. But as he turned to talk to Principal Chen, he replaced his playful look with a serious one. "Uncle Chen, rest assured, I promise that I will send Ye Jian back safe and sound tomorrow afternoon."

The car had been driving for tens of kilometers, but Ye Jian was still angry.

Sitting in her seat indifferently, she didn't glance at Xia Jinyuan at all. But Xia Jinyuan was not upset. Instead, he looked at her from time to time.

The car drove out of the national road meandering in the deep mountains. Xia Jinyuan didn't speak until he had driven onto the highway leading to the city, "Looks like I have offended you again. Your face is as tense as a bullet chain."

"I'm not upset. I just don't want to talk to you," said Ye Jian with a cold look on her face, rubbing her forehead and leaning against the back cushion. "Here is the pistol. Why do you have to take me to the city? And you didn't ask me whether I agreed to this or not."

That's why she was unhappy. Xia Jinyuan apologized to her, "I need to take you to the city in the first place. I am very sorry that I didn't tell you in advance. But..."

"Captain Xia, I don't like anyone making decisions for me while I am being kept in the dark," Ye Jian interrupted him bluntly. She tilted her head, looking at him coldly. "I hate it very much!"

...

It was not until this moment did Xia Jinyuan realize that he had crossed the bottom line of the girl.

He slightly restrained the smile on his handsome face. When he spoke again, his clear and gentle voice definitely contained respect towards Ye Jian. "Ye Jian, I'm very sorry. I made the decision from my standpoint only and didn't consider your feelings."

That's right. He shouldn't have treated this girl like a kid. He needed to treat her like an adult, just like himself.

"You need to go to the municipal police station with me because of the pistol. Relax, you won't be involved in anything. It's the police station that needs to record the whereabouts of this pistol."

"The municipal police station has given me 24 hours only, that's why I must take you there tonight," explained Xia Jinyuan seriously and thoroughly.

His apology, along with the respect he showed, made Ye Jian understand his position. Despite her icy facial expression, the conversation between them started to become normal. "I need to say sorry as well. I should have handed in the pistol in time."

Ye Jian was not an unreasonable person. Instead, she was very thoughtful and considerate.

She was so intelligent that she had figured out the purpose of this trip when she heard that they were heading to the city.

The indifference she had been displaying was to let Xia Jinyuan know what principles she stuck to!

In her past life, she suffered disastrous losses because she didn't uphold her principles.

In this lifetime, she must let every acquaintance realize that she had her own persistence and principles that no one could change!

Now that she had attained her goal, she didn't say much about the topic anymore.