

## Beautiful 271

### Chapter 271: Training [4]

The next phase began seeing Ling Qingyu's training results, Tang Ziyi picked up the standard rifle QBU-192 and handed it over to Ling Qingyu.

Grasping the rifle and toughing the metallic touch, Ling Qingyu checked everything while listening to Tang Ziyi's introduction of its specs.

A relatively domestic assault rifle type, which Ling Qingyu had some trust issues, but upon hearing Athena's capability, her worries were gone.

Tang Ziyi also held another similar rifle and guided Ling Qingyu. Although she already knew the terminology, practical experience still must be done because nothing could replace this process.

Ling Qingyu watched as Tang Ziyi explained the components in detail. Despite the same purpose, the rifle's parts consisted of more separate components.

After Tang Ziyi fired a couple of rounds as an example, Ling Qingyu made her first try. Aiming down her sight, Ling Qingyu felt a little heavier than she was used to.

The muscles, solely for shooting guns hadn't been developed to the limit yet and the tiny strain began to appear.

As she squeezed the trigger, because she wasn't prepared, she didn't expect the recoil to shake her body. Ling Qingyu even wondered if the two planets on her chest trembled violently.

Tang Ziyi's eyes also captured the movement and she clicked her tongue. Of course, Tang Ziyi's reaction didn't go unnoticed by Ling Qingyu, who humphed and smiled.

"The difference is great though. The kickback force is incomparable." Ling Qingyu muttered.

"Naturally. Stronger penetration power and its weight comes at a cost and meant a great difference." Tang Ziyi said.

Ling Qingyu nodded. She used to see those special force members firing the larger caliber without losing control and withstanding huge recoil forces. Now that she experienced it personally, the feeling she attained from recoil rushed her adrenaline.

She became more excited and went through the same process as using her pistol. Tang Ziyi watched patiently from the side, sometimes making appropriate remarks to fix small errors.

Different postures, transitioning smoothly and reloading drills. The difference was Ling Qingyu had to tuck in the buttstock underneath her armpit so that the magazine's position was at the same level as her eyes and the feet placement where one stayed a little at the front and the other behind to cope with an extra kickback force.

After several repetitions, Ling Qingyu became an expert, and her accuracy had increased incredibly, hitting nine-rings several times. Although compared to Tang Ziyi, both accuracy and speed were far away, her morale was high.

Tang Ziyi then moved the paper target further the distance to train particularly Ling Qingyu's marksmanship. The paper didn't stop until the sign above said 200 meters.

Bringing the binoculars to her eyes, Tang Ziyi said. "Shoot five rounds for every posture. Go when ready."

Ling Qingyu obliged without hesitation. As the shots rang out loud, Tang Ziyi monitored Ling Qingyu's hit.

The first two missed and she wasn't too shock because Ling Qingyu was in a standing position. Followed-on shots were accurate, creating holes in the paper but they were scattered over numerous ring.

Seeing the results, Tang Ziyi curled her lips. At least, Ling Qingyu would be hit hard soon.

With every shot Ling Qingyu fired, Tang Ziyi shouted the report. "Hit!" "Miss!"

When everything was over, both waited for the paper to come toward them. Ling Qingyu counted the number of holes. Only 27. One of them was on the white part of the target area, which meant it didn't hit. Three were missing.

Ling Qingyu sighed depressed. "Why do I feel like you're trying to crush my happiness?" She asked suspiciously.

Was she found out? Tang Ziyi felt a little guilty looking into Ling Qingyu's eyes.

"What's with your expression? You did pretty well. It's not 50 meters but 200. Although your accuracy is bad, as long as you hit the target, your shots are already excellent." Tang Ziyi diverted the topic. "Come on, unless your eyes were a magnifying glass, don't expect above seven-ring, without the help of the scope."

"Aim small, miss small, huh." Ling Qingyu said.

"Indeed, the saying fits well here than the previous occasion." Tang Ziyi agreed.

"Stop comforting me. I bet you can score higher than mine."

"Of course, practice and experience is something nothing could replace. Even someone with high talent still has to go through training." Tang Ziyi said. "Do you want to try again?"

Ling Qingyu nodded and Tang Ziyi stood by, watching her practice. Afterward, Tang Ziyi asked all of a sudden. "What are you thinking inside your mind, when you do the drills?"

"I don't know if it's a cheat but I put both my mind and body into the exercise. It increases my concentration and every gesture feels empowered by it." Ling Qingyu said. "Arnold Schwarzenegger, a famous bodybuilder and artist, once said. You must put your mind and effort together. Otherwise, a body exercising without a soul is meaningless."

Tang Ziyi agreed. "I bet he's comparing the new generation with the old one, seen in the gym. Most just complete the reps mindlessly, without full concentration. I'm glad you're aware, that the mind power is the most mysterious and powerful tool a human wields. I hope you always keep that in mind."

Ling Qingyu rolled her eyes at Tang Ziyi, who suddenly became a philosophy teacher. "I know, you don't need to remind me."

Tang Ziyi silently complimented Ling Qingyu's state of mind. Although her past life was a terrible nobody, with the current mentality, Ling Qingyu's peak success was within her reach.

"Alright, since we still have time and you aren't going to work today, let's train advanced exercise." Tang Ziyi brought the watch on her wrist to her eyes and said. She gave no means of refusal and Ling Qingyu could only nod.

When the two departed from the shooting range, her guards flashed Ling Qingyu, thumbs-ups, and she smiled back in return. From the corner of her eyes, Ling Qingyu saw small robots on wheels, cleaning the specific area, she just wasted ammo and down the range, collecting and cleaning.

The question she always wanted to ask had been answered. Why did she never see a responsible cleaner in the underground realm? Because everything was autonomous and under Athena's close system.

AI really facilitated and fastened everyday's life, though those who worked as cleaners might complain.

Tang Ziyi dragged Ling Qingyu to another training area, specifically design to test operators' response under stress, without losing control and accuracy.

Frankly, seeing Ling Qingyu's progress woke up Tang Ziyi to take in a disciple. In both martial arts and gun firing, Tang Ziyi noticed an outstanding trait of Ling Qingyu.

She was serious about learning new stuff and willing to be humble without the air of a high position. Though Tang Ziyi tried to suppress Ling Qingyu's arrogance, she must admit, it wouldn't be long before Ling Qingyu caught up with her.

Perhaps, her promise of selling herself to Ling Qingyu as a reward might be counter-productive. Who knew what this little guy was preparing to do to her once she achieved what Tang Ziyi asked for?

Fortunately, her life experience could still smother Ling Qingyu for now because there was one important factor which could never be sought or replaced—that was experience.

Chapter 272: Training [5]

Ling Qingyu entered a completely new room under Tang Ziyi's lead, unseen before when she visited the underground area under the eight-stories villa, more than a week ago.

This had to be a new room built for a special purpose because Tang Ziyi mentioned advanced training. The room was in circular shape, with walls made with protective layers of materials, capable of resisting bullet impact.

Walking to the center where Tang Ziyi stood, Ling Qingyu nodded up, asking what was going on. Tang Ziyi smiled and patted her shoulder. "You're curious, what's with this room, right? Let me introduce the facility."

"This is the circular area to test your ability to react to the situation around 270 degrees. Actually what we want is 360-degree awareness training but for safety reasons, we only focus on the former for now." Tang Ziyi explained. "Once you can train alone without requiring another's supervision, the latter becomes possible."

Ling Qingyu scratched her hair and rubbed the headset. "So, this isn't marksmanship training?"

"You can't say that. This one tests your marksmanship under a high-stress environment." Tang Ziyi shook her finger. "Look around you, see those targets tilted away from you?"

Ling Qingyu nodded. She saw numerous, estimated to be more than 2 dozen, slanted away from her sight. Puzzled, she asked. "What's wrong with the targets?"

"Well, since we've got the advantage of an autonomous system. The AI will train and record you. The targets that you must shoot and neutralize quickly will pop up from underneath or slant toward you so that you see the paper target."

Ling Qingyu understood what her tasks were. According to Tang Ziyi, these targets were adjusted spontaneously based on the algorithm. The white ones were no-shoot targets while the black ones were what she must aim for.

Receiving a strange glance from Ling Qingyu, Tang Ziyi cleared her throat. "Ahem...Don't worry, I only let you do what you're really capable of."

"I'm very much in doubt whether you're abusing me." Ling Qingyu narrowed her eyes. "These trainings are never supposed to be set for a novice like me."

Tang Ziyi choked and waved her hand. "You're just too suspicious. And stop calling yourself a novice. The results you've shown not long ago already prove your skill. We're here to find out your limits and I'll allocate a proper training routine, solely applicable to you."

"Besides, if you call yourself a novice, you're not giving others a way to survive from shame." She chided, embarrassing Ling Qingyu and making her proud at the same time.

Fortunately, no other guards heard the conversations; otherwise, they might not even care about their employer and beat the shit out of Ling Qingyu in annoyance.

"I hope I'm not thinking too much." Ling Qingyu muttered.

Tang Ziyi's face darkened upon hearing Ling Qingyu's words. "You see the red button in the center behind you. It meant you could start the exercise. As always, I'll be the first example to let you get used to the drill."

She added. "Before we start, I know you already know but as a reminder—rifle ready posture. High ready and low ready." Tang Ziyi showed different styles while Ling Qingyu copied the movement, trying to drill the memory into her muscles.

Postures preparing to shoot but didn't want the shooter to aim at unnecessary target—High port, high ready, low port, low ready, and compressed low ready which were aiming the muzzle at the sky, slanting muzzle upward, pointing it to the ground, angling it downward and shortening the length of the rifle. Tang Ziyi displayed everything without any secrets.

Ling Qingyu familiarized herself with different movements till she felt comfortable. Several minutes later, Tang Ziyi said. "Alright, you can drill them later till they become your second nature. For now, let's show you what we'll train in this room first."

With that, Tang Ziyi pressed the red button and quickly checked her weapon, spreading her legs and bending her knees a little, muzzle pointed downward.

A beep exclaimed from behind, targets spew out from random positions. Within a split second, Tang Ziyi instantly pointed the muzzle at the appearing targets and double-tapped.

Not waiting to see the results carefully, her aim moved toward another target popping up. Several targets from various angles were quickly shot and Tang Ziyi held her fire whenever she saw a white target, simulating unarmed civilians.

Like a humanoid turret, Tang Ziyi snapped her waist toward the targets' directions, exhibiting her sharp and fast reaction. Ling Qingyu gulped watching Tang Ziyi perform at extreme speed.

In her eyes, Tang Ziyi's complete shot hadn't echoed into her ears yet but she had already moved on to the next target. Of course, despite the initial shock, Ling Qingyu carefully studied Tang Ziyi's movement.

She was the importance of footwork. The secret was in the back foot. Mysteriously, it always tilted slightly to a specific degree based on the direction, Tang Ziyi turned her waist.

After Tang Ziyi ended the drill, she gestured her head toward Ling Qingyu.

Slowly breathing in and out, Ling Qingyu pressed the button, indicating the session had begun. In contrast to rigorous Tang Ziyi, Ling Qingyu was slow and methodical.

Naturally, Tang Ziyi also changed the mode to suit Ling Qingyu's ability. The targets' popping up were more sluggish.

After emptying all the bullets, Ling Qingyu checked her rifle and looked at Tang Ziyi, then asked nervously. "How did I do, Sister Tang?"

Frankly, Ling Qingyu even felt unbearable herself. Watching Tang Ziyi perform flawlessly, created an illusion, the drill wasn't hard but when she took a step herself—what a nightmare!

To coordinate both her lower and upper body together, while she must look out for new targets was harder than it appeared. Sure, Tang Ziyi's action looked cool but Ling Qingyu even suffered in a slow mode.

"Pretty well. I have nothing to say." Tang Ziyi said with a relief. At least, this girl was still a human. The exercise required the shooter to possess instinctive footwork and aiming ability. None, Ling Qingyu had at the moment.

"I know myself." Ling Qingyu swatted her hand and sighed.

Seeing Ling Qingyu depressed, Tang Ziyi was gleeful inside but hid her mood and comforted. "When I look at you, I even want you to stop working as CEO and come to my world." Tang Ziyi patted Ling Qingyu's back.

"Your world? No way in hell?!" Ling Qingyu refused without thinking twice. "Why would I work as a mercenary when I can be the boss myself?"

Tang Ziyi was speechless. Indeed, who didn't want to be the boss. "What I meant is lamenting your talent. Looking at your results, given time, you can become soldier king easily." She said with a shrug.

"Oh. Thanks for the compliment then," Ling Qingyu was embarrassed. "But I don't think the possibility is high with my busy schedule and work to cope with my future plans. Not to mention, don't praise me too much, I understand my willpower and mindset is simply a moth against fire, compared to special force member."

"Not bad to know your limits." Tang Ziyi nodded. The more she stared at Ling Qingyu, the more she was satisfied. A good seed, she thought. "Don't worry about those, I can hone your straits into invincible steel."

What was wrong with Tang Ziyi? Ling Qingyu was confused. "I'm really busy."

"Then, take those schedules aside. Until I'm satisfied with your level, don't even think about avoiding the shooting drills every day." Tang Ziyi folded her arms. The rifle was slung on the back, hitting her body every time Tang Ziyi moved.

"Wait, what?! You mean I must train every morning before I go to work." Ling Qingyu exclaimed.

"What are you quibbling? You have Sister Zhao to manage your company. Athena is also there. These details don't require you. What your role is for strategic vision." Tang Ziyi poked Ling Qingyu's shoulder.

Chapter 273: Ling Qingyu leaving a handle

Hearing Tang Ziyi's scolding, Ling Qingyu went speechless for a moment. Although her words contained the truth, training daily in both martial arts and firearms in the morning might exhaust her body and spirit before going to work.

"Listen, I'm not saying you must train throughout the year daily. It's just one month. Heck, with your skills, you complete the crash course with half a month." Tang Ziyi said.

"I have you and the others. It's not necessary right?" Ling Qingyu argued.

"The sooner the better. You have to know, the world might not be peaceful for us in the future." Tang Ziyi confessed her premonition.

"Huh! What's with your words?" Ling Qingyu stared at a pair of firm eyes, opposite to her.

"What would you do, if you see your loved ones about to disappear from the world, but you can't do a single thing, helpless and powerless to watch. Think about those scenes—"

"Impossible to happen. Because I have you, many other sisters and the guards, not to mention I would never let myself be in that position." Ling Qingyu interrupted since she dared not even imagine the desperate scenes. Even hearing from Tang Ziyi made her knees weak.

"I'm just telling what if. Sometimes, life is full of unexpected. What if someone tries to capture the leader to destroy us? At least, you already learn martial arts and I'm relieved you can defend yourself but what about firearms? Isn't it good for you to excel in both martial and civil ways?" Tang Ziyi replied. "Be good, train with me for a month or so; based on your talent, it might be lesser."

"Okay." Ling Qingyu sighed. Tang Ziyi was right. To protect her loved ones, she also needed skills and mustn't rely on others too much. What if her guards and the other sisters were too busy taking care of themselves? The last line of defense must always be herself.

She would also regret if she faced those dire situations in the future that she didn't train hard enough. Instead of regret, why not agree? Ling Qingyu thought.

Even when the worst situation happened, she had the means to fight back and never left regret. Of course, she would never such a situation to occur to her group and to her family.

"But I'm still not working in your line of work." Ling Qingyu said sternly.

Tang Ziyi's mouth twitched. "Are you sure to stay far away from thrilling moments, bloodrushing and fierce situations?"

"When you say more, my heart to refuse becomes stronger." Ling Qingyu replied.

"It's good to hear you agree on training. Believe me, it might not even take a week, if your learning ability is like a god."

"I hope so. I have much stuff left to do for the peace of the world." Ling Qingyu declared with arrogance.

Tang Ziyi rolled her eyes at Ling Qingyu having some brain blockages. "First please complete my exercise before you compete for the world. Remember our vision of mercenary. I know many are already convinced to be your subordinates, why not raise your prestige higher by then?"

"We'll talk about that later. First, bring the entire Province N under our control before we make other plans." Ling Qingyu said.

"Well, indeed things are far away. Cooperation with Yang Qingyue is a trial and it looks like success." Tang Ziyi said and paused. "Speaking of Yang Qingyue, what were you two doing that night."

Tang Ziyi's face showed curiosity as if she was genuinely wanting to find information from her. How could Ling Qingyu not see through her performance? Among her confidantes, she might trust the girls without any extra vigilance other than the despicable old playwright actress in front of her.

Ling Qingyu had the desire to replace a fresh magazine and pour all the ammo at Tang Ziyi. Dare to give her such a face, Ling Qingyu swore luckily her self-control was very strong.

"Really, me and Xiao Yue are curious. I know we must have some privacy, but you know we received an urgent message from Athena at that time that you, two, are fighting, and you're being suppressed." Tang Ziyi shrugged.

Ling Qingyu almost spurted out blood. Her cheeks reddened. Whether the real cause was due to powerful shame or anger remained unclear. Now even if her magazine was empty, her burning heart told her to strike at Tang Ziyi with the rifle and slap hard on the head.

After satisfactorily smashing Tang Ziyi into pieces in her mind, Ling Qingyu cleared her throat. She never expected the number one traitor was her cheap daughter. Considering Athena was still innocent regarding human affairs, Ling Qingyu gave up.

"Don't talk nonsense. It's just a play between the two girls while we joked around." Ling Qingyu explained, controlling her expression. Anyway, apart from Athena, no one was there to see the full picture.

Even the suspicious two female guards who checked on her car knew what they had to do. As long as she denied everything, the evidence didn't exist.

As an old timer, Tang Ziyi knew what Ling Qingyu was thinking. She rubbed her chin in amusement, contemplating the pros and cons of divulging everything—your cheap daughter, Athena already revealed everything. Even the video was saved and archived by her.

"Really? Pinching balloons and rubbing each other is merely a play. Then, you're playing the sport a little too deep, Sister Ling." Tang Ziyi teased.

Ling Qingyu blushed, understanding the meaning of Tang Ziyi's words. "What's with your expression as if you've seen it personally."

Somehow, the palpation of misfortune about to occur to her rang in her mind repeatedly.

"In fact, if you kept refusing to train, I plan to release your love experience video footage to your confidantes." Tang Ziyi said.

"Wait, wait! Hold on! What are you trying to say?" Ling Qingyu said, her face in disbelief. From Tang Ziyi's tone, it seemed she caught her red-handed.

She saw Tang Ziyi reach into the pockets of her trousers, and took out the phone, tapped on the screen, then turned it around to show Ling Qingyu.

From the play icon, Ling Qingyu knew it was the video, but the frozen picture was what caused Ling Qingyu to be dumbfounded.

Two women were entangled inside the interior of the car. From the camera angle, the source came from the dashcam. Some areas of the clothing were lifted up, revealing charming skin. One was over the other, kissing passionately.

No need to doubt, Ling Qingyu immediately knew it was the picture of her and Yang Qingyue. Her cheeks reddened and steam fumed out of her head.

Ling Qingyu felt the worst nightmare—social death. Her embarrassing moment was captured by her confidantes and the culprit was her daughter. Although Tang Ziyi explained Athena was worried and asked for help, Ling Qingyu rather not receive such assistance.

This was a real pig teammate, cheating her allies. Poor Athena's worried actions misinterpreted the situation, now becoming a handle for her enemy.

Ling Qingyu leaped forward to rob the phone out of Tang Ziyi's hand. But who was Tang Ziyi? Both reaction and experience stood at the pinnacle of human physique, dodging Ling Qingyu's attack with ease by a mere margin. Not even a piece of her clothing was touched.

Chapter 274: Becoming Tang Ziyi's disciple

Trying to grab Tang Ziyi's phone out of her hand seemed harder than it looked. Ling Qingyu tried numerous times and failed.

The scene played like a famous Kung Fu Panda robbing one steam bun from his master. Two women scuffled around with extreme agility and flexibility as if the added weight of the rifles were nothing to their bodies.

They weren't ordinary women. Ling Qingyu's physique had been upgraded by Miss System while Tang Ziyi played martial arts at the age of 6. The conditioned bones and reformed muscles already allowed them in extreme intensity exercise.

While Ling Qingyu was rushing to get a hold of the phone, Tang Ziyi merely smiled as if she found a new way to play.

Perhaps already realizing it was impossible to fight Tang Ziyi fairly, Ling Qingyu decided to rush in and wrestle.

Tang Ziyi was indeed surprised and tackled down to the floor. Because she had one hand holding the phone, she wasn't prepared to resist too much. The two fell to the ground.

Clack! Clack!

The phone in Tang Ziyi's hand dropped, stunning both of them as they heard a voice emitting out of the device speaker. It seemed during the wrestling, someone or something accidentally pressed the play button.

The voices coming out raced the hearts of both women, who were blushing at the moment. The rustle of cloths along with the beautiful soprano of the two passionate women in the video.

Against the quiet hall, moans of blissful joy coming out of Ling Qingyu's mouth from the video made the two women, who were currently pressed together ashamed.

Tang Ziyi felt her throat dry and coughed unsightly, removing herself from the restraint. Ling Qingyu's high-pitched tone raced Tang Ziyi's mind to think deeply about weird stuff.

On the other hand, Ling Qingyu, witnessing from the third-person perspective, never knew her voice could be so enchanting. She now knew why Yang Qingyue was so passionate during that night.

Blushing from shame, her movement froze as the video kept playing on. She didn't know what to do next since her most shameful appearance was unveiled.

Tang Ziyi, as soon as she was freed, picked up the phone and closed the video. Ling Qingyu also realized the gaffe and looked around.

Fortunately, they were alone inside the room and no other person heard the embarrassment.

Ling Qingyu sighed in relief and glanced bitterly at Tang Ziyi, who walked outside to see if anyone was around or had heard, and came back.

Standing up, Ling Qingyu frowned and said. "Sister Tang, you really know how to mess me up."

Tang Ziyi chuckled nervously. "Don't worry. Nobody will know. A few minutes ago was an accident. I swear, I just want to show you my plan."

"Please delete the video. I swear I'll do anything you said. If you say left, I'll never turn my face right."  
Ling Qingyu begged with puppy eyes.

"Nope." Tang Ziyi sternly refused. If Ling Qingyu still desired to slip out of the training, she must have enough handle. As for Ling Qingyu's begging eyes, had she not seen enough of Ling Qingyu's acting skills?

"You, damn it." Ling Qingyu cursed, her puppy eyes replaced by ferociousness. "You better delete it or you know me."

"Or else, what are you going to do?" Tang Ziyi wasn't afraid.

"Don't make me angry." Ling Qingyu pursed her lips. "Your stoic expression annoys me the most. I might not be able to control myself."

"Come on," Tang Ziyi replied as she beckoned Ling Qingyu for a fight with her hand.

In this world, apart from Xiao Yue, she dared say she had no fears. Ling Qingyu's terrifying expression was like an angry kitty to her.

If Ling Qingyu knew Tang Ziyi compared her to a kitty, her outbursts might increase. Seeing Tang Ziyi's nonchalance, Ling Qingyu immediately wilted, but she didn't want to lose her momentum. "One day I'll press you down and rub you on the floor till you beg for mercy."

Tang Ziyi raised her eyebrows. "Oh! It seems you have great confidence in yourself. We'll see, I'm always ready for your challenge." Tang Ziyi replied and shrugged.

Despite saying pretentious words, Ling Qingyu found it definitely hard to win against Tang Ziyi, whether in the future or now. She suspected even male protagonists like Lin Fan must call Tang Ziyi, an ancestor.

"I'll ask Athena to delete the videos." Ling Qingyu regained her composure, remembering one of Athena's advantages.

"Oh! Now you have your brain back." Tang Ziyi mocked. "Too bad, I also know Athena's capability. So, don't worry, I have an archived version where Athena's hand couldn't reach."

She knew this would be her answer. Ling Qingyu's lips twitched and sighed helplessly. It didn't matter if Tang Ziyi had one because she was definitely trustworthy.

If not for her forceful approach, letting Tang Ziyi drop the phone and play the video accidentally, risking someone to hear her shame, Tang Ziyi's possession would be safer.

Thinking of her heated moment, Ling Qingyu couldn't bear to imagine her coquettish figure in the video based on the enchanting voice. Her bone felt crisped, listening to herself.

"Alright, forget about it." Ling Qingyu surrendered. "Just promise me you don't show it to others. Hmph!"

"Of course, how could I display explicitly my beloved to the public." Tang Ziyi said.

"Eh! Your beloved?" Ling Qingyu was stunned. When did she become hers? Why didn't she know?

"It's just an expression. Why are you taking it seriously?" Tang Ziyi shook her hand and said.

Anything coming out of her mouth must be noted and seriously considered, Ling Qingyu thought. Tang Ziyi never spoke nonsense since her first appearance. That was the trait she had seen.

Or had Tang Ziyi already fallen for her? Ling Qingyu chuckled inwardly. After all, with her goddess figure and fairy-like face, no mortal could stand firm.

"Okay, I get it. As long as I follow your training obediently, right?" Ling Qingyu asked.

Tang Ziyi nodded. "To be honest, I hope you don't delete this, and neither do I want to because these are the rarest moments of yours."

Rarest my foot, Ling Qingyu swore and greeted Tang Ziyi's ancestor in her heart. Anything coming out of Tang Ziyi's mouth sounded like a curse.

Tang Ziyi added: "Honestly, watching your firearm training for the first time, I even want to accept you as a disciple—"

"Disciple!" Ling Qingyu was shocked. "Why all of a sudden?"

"You don't want to?" Tang Ziyi asked suspiciously. "I really thought about teaching you all my inheritance. It would be a pity with your learning skills and talents, which you should also notice yourself these days."

Indeed as Tang Ziyi spoke, Ling Qingyu was aware of her advantages. She learned faster than others, not too fast, in her opinion.

"It's not like I don't want to but you know from close sisterhood to a serious one again." Ling Qingyu fidgeted with her T-shirt.

"Close sisterhood." Tang Ziyi brightened her smile and nodded; indeed, she was happier in this world than in her own. "Do you have any idea, how many people want to be students of mine in my world?"

Ling Qingyu shook her head. Given Tang Ziyi's skillsets, too many wanted to right?

"The line could even revolve around the earth once." Tang Ziyi raised her chest, hands tugged on the waist.

Ling Qingyu coughed. Too exaggerated. Even 6 billions people shouldn't be able to form a complete line. Wait a moment! Hmm, Earth's circumference was 40,075 km.

Imagine people standing shoulder to shoulder in a single file, the average person took up 0.5 meters of space. 6 billion multiplied by 0.5 equals 3 billion meters. Heck, it even exceeded.

Ling Qingyu made a mistake and coughed even more, choked by her own thoughts. Luckily, Tang Ziyi didn't hear her inner retort; else, she would have been embarrassed by Tang Ziyi's mathematical concepts again and taught a lesson. Or maybe Tang Ziyi might ask her to go back to the university again.

Noting Ling Qingyu's expression, Tang Ziyi's cheeks reddened. Well, she understood what she said was a bit too much, but she already declared proudly and couldn't take it back with her face.

Otherwise, Ling Qingyu might always bring up this moment whenever she suffered a loss. Tang Ziyi cleared her throat: "I'm just giving you a picture of my charm. Back in the day, people shouted Instructor Tang this and Instructor that. How I miss them somehow?"

Chapter 275: Master-disciple relationship

Perhaps, Ling Qingyu should listen to their stories every now and then, to understand them better. They weren't mere characters summoned from the card.

They were living beings, with strong emotions and interests. From several interactions, Ling Qingyu speculated a deal might have made between them and the system but their memories about the agreement was likely to be sealed, because Ling Qingyu had tried to ask but not one could answer.

They were also puzzled. However, one thing calmed their mind. The timeline in their world had been frozen and only after finishing the task, could they return.

Thinking of their possible departure in the future, Ling Qingyu felt reluctant but she was hopeful, world traveling might be a thing too.

Worrying too much about what she couldn't deal or control was meaningless; focusing on the present was better.

To Ling Qingyu's inquiry, Tang Ziyi shook her head. "I have students or so being hired by a party to guide several personnels. There is not one in the list of my personal disciple."

"Why not?" Ling Qingyu asked curiously. "I mean disciple is the same as having students, right?"

"Not exactly." Tang Ziyi looked away as she explained. "They didn't inherit my everything but I only guide and correct their mistakes, while when I ask for you, it meant my inheritance, the lessons that I learned from a lifetime to be exposed to you."

"Well, thanks. I don't know what to say next." Ling Qingyu was puzzled. "Yet, I'll say again, I don't want to be your disciple."

"Okay, why are you so adamant about refusing me?" Tang Ziyi asked helplessly.

"Can I not say the reason?" Ling Qingyu's eyes wandered around as she played with her hair.

Narrowing her eyes, Tang Ziyi pressured Ling Qingyu with a glance. Usually, Tang Ziyi didn't bother to deeply study others' privacy and secrets, since everyone had something to hide.

However, Ling Qingyu's repeated refusal of her good offer and weird behavior raised Tang Ziyi's interest instead. "Come on; spill everything out."

"Why are you so scary all of a sudden?" Ling Qingyu shivered.

"It's not me being scary. It's your guilty conscience at work." Tang Ziyi rebutted.

"Wouldn't our relation becomes more estranged whenever I have to address you as master instead of Sister Tang?" Ling Qingyu asked and shook Tang Ziyi's arms.

"I think your reason is far-fetched from the real truth." Tang Ziyi doubted what was inside Ling Qingyu's mind. "Besides, being a master doesn't mean you have to call me one, right?"

"Then, wouldn't our relationship be messed up?" Ling Qingyu said. "Although it's exciting to take down master, people might talk about our messy master-disciple relationship."

Tang Ziyi furrowed her brows and the corner of her lips twitched in anger. Now, she would be a fool if she didn't realize why Ling Qingyu refused to be her disciple, even as the condition of the two's relationship by a mere name.

She unscrupulously slapped the back of Ling Qingyu's head, controlling her force to just slam her down to the ground, instead of injuring her.

"Ah!" Ling Qingyu was thrown to the ground from the huge momentum behind her.

"I was generous to give you all my inheritance and you are still thinking of my body?" Tang Ziyi said with a gritted teeth. "Huh! What is your brain using its energy?"

Ling Qingyu chuckled and stood up, patting the clothes. Though Tang Ziyi's force looked strong, the impact wasn't too much apart from throwing her body around.

From appearance, it was deadly but a stronger pat in reality.

"Don't you give me a promise. Once I can defeat you, then you'll consider." Ling Qingyu reminded Tang Ziyi.

"So, you're practicing hard to conquer me, instead of protecting others without having any regrets?" Tang Ziyi asked.

"Of course not. The number one factor is to protect but my motivation came from your promise." Ling Qingyu said firmly.

"Forget about it. You don't need to be my disciple. Just be a good sister." Tang Ziyi said helplessly.

"Aw! Too bad, I thought we're going to have an exciting drama in the future." Ling Qingyu clicked her tongue, pretending to be regretful.

Clutching her fist, Tang Ziyi meditated hard to stop her impulse. Well, it seemed the future wasn't bad with Ling Qingyu's perfect figure and appearance.

Who belonged to whom, was still in Tang Ziyi's hand. Poor Ling Qingyu didn't know she might be entering other's trap.

"From now on, you won't leave for work after eating lunch in the manor." Tang Ziyi collected her thoughts and said the training plan. "From early morning to 10 a.m, you'll be training with me daily from bodybuilding exercise, martial arts, and firearms."

"What! I'm gonna be late for work then." Ling Qingyu expressed her objection.

"You're the boss. What's the matter with being late for this month? It's not like I'm forcing you later on." Tang Ziyi replied. "Then, what's the use of your subordinates and Sister Zhao's help, if you can't have a free time as a boss."

Although what Tang Ziyi said was the truth, Ling Qingyu still had many plans but had to agree under Tang Ziyi's piercing gaze.

"Alright, you're driving me to work like a cow." Ling Qingyu complained.

"Believe me if you build your fighting instinct within a shorter time period, the daily routine will be over soon." Tang Ziyi gave hope.

"I'll try then. After all, the morning firearm training results are impressive." Ling Qingyu praised herself.

"It's not impressive; it's only not bad."

"Hmph. You just don't want to admit my talent."

"Well, now I change my mind. I must add another training method." Tang Ziyi said with a gleam in her eyes.

Ling Qingyu instinctively shuddered but retorted forcefully, refusing to give in to other's momentum. She could lose but she must never lose in terms of aura. She was also the queen in business world. "What method?! I can show you, just let me experience once, I can follow at least 60 percent."

"I hope so." Tang Ziyi grinned. "Remember this circular room training."

Seeing Ling Qingyu nodded, Tang Ziyi continued: "This will be the first part. Starting from tomorrow, there will be an additional session. While you fire your gun, I'll throw flashbang under your feet."

Ling Qingyu's eyes almost darkened. This wasn't a training; this was naked revenge. Hmph, you must be jealous of my talent and suppress my arrogance, Ling Qingyu told herself.

Despite raising her self-confidence, after hearing Tang Ziyi's words, her body betrayed her inner thought. Ling Qingyu trembled and her skin paled.

"Don't worry. These flashbang training won't have any side-effect or damages because I've controlled the variables and produced these items with Athena's help." Tang Ziyi comforted. "Apart from uncomfortable experience, your health wouldn't be impacted."

"Of course, it's okay for someone working in the same field as yours. But I'm suppose to be the boss, pulling strings while leisurely sitting on the chair." Ling Qingyu muttered and glared at Tang Ziyi's figure, leaving the room.

"What? You're staying?" Tang Ziyi asked. "Do you like to experience flashbang on the first day?"

Although Tang Ziyi sounded very gentle, Ling Qingyu felt sharpness in her words. Rolling her eyes, Ling Qingyu replied. "Coming."

Chapter 276: Benefits from Tang Ziyi's innovation

Ling Qingyu and Tang Ziyi walked out of the room. Today's training had been finished. Ling Qingyu performed miraculously under Tang Ziyi's guidance. In spite of Tang Ziyi's threat of flashbang usage, Ling Qingyu was looking forward to experiencing herself.

Would she be blind like in the video games or be disoriented into doing nonsense comical behaviors?

Or would she piss herself and embarrassed her dignity? Well, the latter was what she wanted to avoid most.

The elite Special Air Service during the 1980s had described some of their training routines vaguely, which included the use of flashbangs.

What Tang Ziyi decided to implement exactly resembled one of these SAS drill. Resistance to flashbang and stun grenade.

Ling Qingyu already imagined the wild thrilling scenes of her heroically standing still calmly, in the face of multiple violent explosions, bursting out extremely accurate shots on the targets. Nothing outside of her world affected her concentration, as if the world collapsed she remained stoic like a Valkyrie.

Wiping off the saliva with the back of her hand, Ling Qingyu came into the present again. She wasn't as frightened as before. Since SAS operators accomplished them, why couldn't she?

She had asked Tang Ziyi if the guards were also undergoing such training but received Tang Ziyi's gaze of looking at an idiot.

"Of course not until I try it out first with the best physique among us." That was Tang Ziyi's words.

Ling Qingyu didn't know if they were supposed to be praising her worth or treating her as a guinea pig. She almost cried out her desolation

But she remembered Tang Ziyi was the one who cared deeply about her even without showing too obviously. Perhaps, this training hadn't been tried yet but Tang Ziyi must have experienced them herself first.

Well, technically, Ling Qingyu was correct in her guess. Tang Ziyi had toughened her ears' and eyes' sensors to abrupt dire changes in the surroundings. She had trained with real flashbangs but not too often.

However, Ling Qingyu's was incomparable with hers because training flashbang was designed to care for the well-being of the recipient.

While the two walked back, Ling Qingyu glanced through the thick window and saw her guards training inside the cleanhouse. Her face looked stunned.

Cleanhouse served as a simulated room to train close-quarter battle. Usually, Ling Qingyu wouldn't be too surprised. She had seen many videos shown online and her personal guards training once before.

This time she saw several guards in formation wearing tactical clothing and vests. Two columns paving the way.

Each had three guards, one with the large ballistic shield at the forefront, followed by two others peeking out their rifles on both sides, firing at the practice targets.

Shield training drill. This was the first time Ling Qingyu saw. With common knowledge, she knew it was hard for women to hold the heavyweight with the given upper body strength. How on earth were her

guards able to achieve easily without burden? Were the shields fake? No way, no one in the right mind would simulate the battlefield with fake ones.

Tang Ziyi also stopped her footsteps when she saw Ling Qingyu interested in the training below. She walked to the window and leaned her arms on.

Noting Ling Qingyu's astonished expression and her eyes mostly drawn to the shield, Tang Ziyi understood. "It seems you have questions."

Ling Qingyu nodded. The guards advanced with shield protections, their tactics resembling Russian national guards' slow and methodical approach.

With sufficient protection, there weren't any worries, regarding spray and pray behaviors from the enemies.

For instance, the enemy could merely put the rifles outward without exposing their bodies and pull the trigger recklessly. Without shields, this made the operators difficult to advance forward, especially in law enforcement environments where grenades and other violent methods were supervised and restricted.

"I thought you only liked the American one. Here, I saw you teaching them Russian." Ling Qingyu teased.

"When did I say I like Americans?" Tang Ziyi humphed. "It's just their methods are based on experiences and several real tests. They are definitely more reliable in terms of combat strategy and tactics."

Ling Qingyu nodded. Country A in this world also resembled America. Some might consider them as warmongering but which superpower wasn't accused of such titles?

With power came great responsibility and these drew the country to wage war, regardless of national interest or out for its survival.

Right now, most in her past world were eager for their country to stay completely out of conflicts. Although it might upgrade the image, in Ling Qingyu's opinion, the result would be disastrous and the country wasn't far from collapse.

Staying out meant an isolation policy, which never worked when one studied any nation's history. Only stupid people believed, that focusing on oneself completely would be beneficial in the long term.

Of course, stretching everywhere without solving internal issues was also a problem. The conflict between the two strategies became too overwhelming even for the global superpower.

Now, based on a news outlet, Ling Qingyu also discovered Country A has the same problem. As for Country R in the Bear continent, she had no idea because she found no resemblance at all.

The autocratic government remained the same but the ruling party wasn't a political party. The country was ruled by a monarch after slowly encroaching away the powers of various parties.

These cases were too far away for Ling Qingyu to intervene and contemplate. Even the City N wasn't under her influence yet.

The Russian methods displayed by her guards were extremely effective in the scenario likely played out in the future in Province N. The exchange of fires between the parties, likely the situation fighting against criminals, under the cover of shields gave them an additional edge. (There is no bazooka or RPG)

"Well, how about Russian?" Ling Qingyu asked.

"Although most of their logic and plans seem feasible, it is very hard in reality. Except for show effect and propaganda, their tactics are mostly hmm." Tang Ziyi showed a difficult expression, which Ling Qingyu could guess. "However, coins always have two sides, including a rusted damaged one.

In terms of shield tactics, their national guards are more experienced compared to other units around the world."

"So, our Sister Tang only brings out the advantages. I must thank you for your thoughts." Ling Qingyu said with a sigh. "Let's forget about the tactics. I'm curious how in the world can my guards, especially females bear the weight of the shield. If I'm not wrong and I remember correctly, the shield weighs 20 kg at least."

"18 kg to be exact." Tang Ziyi corrected.

"Yeah, but it's still heavy. Soldiers are trained to carry around 27 kg. In my opinion, don't get me wrong, it must be hard for our female guards." Ling Qingyu expressed her doubt.

The shields Ling Qingyu's guard used were similar to the Russian version, only slightly wider and taller, covering more angles. The rest remained the same in terms of design.

"What you meant is impossible, right?" Tang Ziyi wasn't angry. Ling Qingyu nodded, beckoning for more explanation.

Tang Ziyi added: "I also know the problems. Even among Russian elite units, very few were capable or eligible for long combat with shields. But you have to know, it's not the upper body's strength, like the style used by the West. Look carefully at their waists."

Tang Ziyi pointed at the shield-bearer figure and Ling Qingyu's eyes followed. Indeed, the shield was lifted up by one arm while there was another connection to the tactical belt.

In other words, even without the use of arms' strength, the shield was attached to a person's waist.

A look of understanding flashed on Ling Qingyu's face. In this way, even females could lift the shields, without burden on their upper body weight.

Of course, the theory wasn't new because Ling Qingyu had seen, some SWAT members experimenting on the shields.

"I see. The old fashion." Ling Qingyu said. The old fashion sacrificed maneuverability for protection.

"Russian way works." Tang Ziyi said with a smirk. "But my shield is different. You already knew the special ballistic protection clothing, worn by your subordinates. They were light yet extremely resistant to impact. There are other benefits but they aren't important in our context."

"So..." Ling Qingyu guessed what Tang Ziyi wanted to say next but she wasn't sure.

"Since I can manufacture light bulletproof armor clothing, what makes you think I cannot do the same for Kevlar-like vests, shields, and helmets." Tang Ziyi smiled and spread her hands.

F\*\*k. Ling Qingyu already felt like Tang Ziyi was too cheating!

Chapter 277: Tang Ziyi forgot

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With Athena's existence, they could take over the world, even without her control. Ling Qingyu felt lucky the two were allies instead of her opponents. She really sweated for her enemies.

"God damnit." Ling Qingyu cursed under her breath. "I'm really happy and scared at the same time. This dichotomy of two emotions is the first time I ever experienced."

"Do you wanna listen to the details?"

"Sure, I'm all ears. Any new technology raises my interest. Too bad, I can't use them for business yet." Ling Qingyu replied with regret.

The technologies Tang Ziyi and Athena discovered together in mere weeks could shock the entire world. Any of their products could easily suppress the opponents, which was what most businesspeople sought after.

Ling Qingyu hadn't consolidated her position and prestige, despite her economic strength in Province N yet. Where would she have the opportunity to freely engage in the defense industry—the number one driver of every country's economy, especially for powerful countries?

Before she had time to sell her products and gain profits, her industry was likely to be eaten by others at the top of the food chains.

Until she could hurt them, she better not engage in those industries and make a delicious meal for others instead.

But Tang Ziyi's and Athena's success reminded Ling Qingyu of the enormous research capability she possessed, in terms of calculations, simulation and testing.

If there was a talented scientist under her arms, the progress might be faster than theirs. Ling Qingyu kept the option of searching for a possible talent in the future in her mind.

Hearing Ling Qingyu's idea to endeavor, Tang Ziyi smiled. "You'll have your own show soon. I've talked about the armor clothing last time but haven't explained in detail."

Ling Qingyu listened to Tang Ziyi speaking about the products, she and Athena produced. Having known the armored clothing during the chaos last time to affirm her decision to send her guards to help Yang Qingyue, which had opened Ling Qingyu's eyes, the other products didn't cause too much ripple in her heart. But she remained shocked as she listened more.

Tang Ziyi's mission in the past world obtained secret data of a special soft type of clothing, which was resilient and tough enough to resist explosion and high-velocity shrapnel impact, capable of defending against bullet rounds.

Even in the current world, the resources to synthesize a new metal element were expensive and time-consuming. However, the nano-advanced printer Athena possessed solved everything.

Although it couldn't be called mass productions, synthesizing them in larger numbers to suit the needs of her guards didn't seem like a daunting task. Despite harsh requirements and stringent constrictions to produce one, the nano printer served its maximum role.

Instead of directly manufacturing the products, nano printers could produce raw materials as long as the materials' properties and variables were known.

According to Tang Ziyi's description, the black special tactical clothing, worn by her guards, resembled the prototypes, envisioned by many superpowers in their concepts for future soldiers. Even Russians in her past world had tested out similar frag-suits.

Ling Qingyu was stunned to see, that her guards had equipment exceeding the state of the arts of all nations. "By the way, you said fragsuits?" Ling Qingyu inquired.

"Yes, it's fragsuit. You should have seen their videos, flaunting the success, which is probably propaganda—a fully armed person walking through minefields of explosions and trails of bullets." Tang Ziyi described the scene with a shrug.

Ling Qingyu nodded doubtfully. She seemed to have seen the same scenes but she wasn't too sure, because Tang Ziyi's description also depicted the exact scenes she had seen in the drone footage during the fierce combat last week with her guards fighting against the gangs.

In any case, while countries were still facing blockades and shortages of data, her team of Tang Ziyi and Athena had succeeded in a breakthrough. But Tang Ziyi still reminded without Athena's nano printer, the production was still incapable, which meant they had yet to succeed.

So, mass production and sales for them to the national defense force were miles away from the shore. Nonetheless, equipping for themselves was enough, without costing anything.

Only a week had passed, and the special clothing had been upgraded to a newer version. With an addition of 2 kg weight, the clothing was more resistant and contained the spreading of force concept, seen in the movie of Marvel Black Panther.

Although Ling Qingyu had no idea how the concept worked, Tang Ziyi and Athena managed to design them and included them in the clothing through a woven thin fiber network inside.

The special fiber, despite its tiny size made from a new element, when combined together into clothing could now even resist armor-piercing calibers, including 50-caliber rounds without causing damage to the wearer's body through shock.

The result totally contrasted the first prototypes' features. Having stronger protection raised Ling Qingyu's guards' confidence.

But, Ling Qingyu asked: "What's the use of shields then if your clothing can resist? I think it's unnecessary, right?"

Tang Ziyi nodded. "Yes, you're correct. Yet, you don't put importance to hiding the secrets. What if others know about our products? It's better to hide as much as we can till we display to the public."

"Are you sure that's the reason?" Ling Qingyu eyed Tang Ziyi beside her suspiciously. "Come on, tell me the truth."

Tang Ziyi slapped her forehead and clicked her tongue. "At least, direct impact can be avoided through shield protection. There would be no pain unlike the clothing resisting the damage. After all, warriors will be in trouble during the period they suffer sudden pain."

Ling Qingyu's brows twitched. Soldiers were afraid of pain. What nonsense explanation? Perhaps, Ling Qingyu's expression was too obvious, Tang Ziyi immediately retorted.

"Don't underestimate the degree pain can affect the battlefield. During the fierce exchange, a soldier might be stunned for a few seconds when extreme pain impacted his or her brain." Tang Ziyi explained. "Although it's only a short period of time, in battle, everything can change even in a second. The enemies might exploit the gap."

Ling Qingyu nodded, controlling herself from smiling at Tang Ziyi's forceful explanation. Even though Tang Ziyi's depiction of the situation had some points, but usage of a shield to prevent pain was pure nonsense.

"Who in the right mind would shoot above a 50-Caliber machine gun portable, without a stable position? Maneuverability is more important than shield protecting limiting mobility." Ling Qingyu retorted. "Are you going to stand against the huge guns mounted on the vehicles with shields?"

Imagining the scenes of brave soldiers using her shields against the rapidly firing armored vehicles like Bradley and BMP, Tang Ziyi collapsed mentally. The picture was too unsightly.

Chapter 278: Incorporation of exoskeleton

Hearing Ling Qingyu's description, Tang Ziyi touched her nose in embarrassment. Her focus went too far ahead on the protection level that she forgot whether her inventions and tactical application made sense.

She was really so keen on upgrading the protection level that when Ling Qingyu pointed out, Tang Ziyi's head burned in shame.

"Alright, you don't need to think too much, considering only you and Athena worked together on the project. Sometimes, people become obsessed that they forget the effectiveness." Ling Qingyu decided to change the topic. "Next time, you can include Su Ruomei and Jiang Yu to get their opinions. Having more members meant more brains. They might see something you cannot."

Although Ling Qingyu could continue to mock Tang Ziyi mercilessly, she had to restrain herself. Lest, she hadn't gotten out of Tang Ziyi's palm, especially the daily training sessions in the coming days.

There was already a flashbang; who knew what hell days might become? Tang Ziyi thought deeply about Ling Qingyu's words and agreed.

Perhaps, Tang Ziyi's logic went from when she was only focusing on the goals to upgrade the protection level and forget about effectiveness and logic.

After all, there wasn't any waste or loss in cost; so, consideration for efficiency and realism disappeared.

"You're right. From now on, I'll call them in whenever I have a new concept." Tang Ziyi said.

"So, this shield other than being lighter and more protective, is there any benefits that I don't know?" Ling Qingyu asked.

"When you say it like this, it seems no." Tang Ziyi's cheek reddened. "But at least, they protect our special clothing's weak spot."

"Weak spot?"

The special clothing didn't only mean a piece of fabric over the body. The design and concept of special clothing included gloves, shoes, kneepads, helmets and armored vests. The latter two appeared to have been made from Kevlar but they were for the public eyes to see. In fact, the entire clothes were made from new materials.

From head to toe, everything was well-protected but the face area was a weak spot, because of discomfort and unrealistic coverage over the face.

Although a hood, made of the same material, still provided protection, the eyes and nose remained vulnerable. Therefore, Tang Ziyi filled in the gap with a ballistic visor attached to the helmet.

If others heard the complaint about such weakness from Tang Ziyi's and Ling Qingyu's discussion, many researchers might commit suicide and curse—why not just become Iron Man, like in the movies?

Tang Ziyi's system saved lives. Piercing weapons, apart from large caliber used on battle tanks and heavy armored vehicles, were of no use. Even the shockwave and the remaining energy from the kinetic impact were easily solved by the fabric design.

They had reached the milestones many hoped for and were still dissatisfied. Ling Qingyu was also speechless against Tang Ziyi's pursuit but didn't say against her thought, because Tang Ziyi's eagerness also meant safer protection for her subordinates.

"But of course, that is only because we stay with the mainstream idea, regarding our guards." Tang Ziyi said with a shrug. "I'm developing a helmet, that already covers the entire head, no spot of skin would ever be shown unprotected, like you see in those futuristic sci-fi movies of infantry soldiers."

Ling Qingyu immediately envisioned cyber-punk warriors, with a soft metallic taste wrapped around her subordinates' bodies, and shouted COOL inwardly.

Menacing and deadly!

Understanding Tang Ziyi's worries about why they still weren't used yet, Ling Qingyu nodded and also felt current protection was sufficient. Ling Qingyu asked suddenly: "What if we increase the weight of the clothes, does this also increase our protection?"

"Of course, that's the theory proven not long ago." Tang Ziyi affirmed her guess. "However, increasing the weight also burdens the carrier. The compromise between maneuverability and protection isn't worth increasing. But if you want a safer level comparable to Iron Man in the movie, I have an idea, which we're also venturing together, test after test under Athena's supervision."

Ling Qingyu's eyes brightened and beckoned Tang Ziyi to continue.

Tang Ziyi: "While increasing thickness for better protection and maintaining the same weight, I have asked Athena to experiment with incorporating an exoskeleton platform into our clothing equipment.'

"Exoskeleton?!" Ling Qingyu was shocked. Coming to think carefully, since the special clothing had come out, it was only a matter of time before a successful exoskeleton came out. "Is that the thing that I know like metal rods attached to the body?"

Tang Ziyi's eyelids twitched at the way Ling Qingyu described. "No, I meant incorporating the exoskeleton concept not attaching them to our suits."

What Tang Ziyi meant was the style of clothing didn't change but the internal structures where eyes couldn't observe would be designed to produce the same benefits as the exoskeleton, which was the extent Ling Qingyu understood.

As for the logic and theories behind it, Ling Qingyu felt dizzy, listening to Tang Ziyi's explanation. She was really not born to be a scientist.

A full-body nano-suit, capable of exhibiting stronger strength beyond human limits and carrying huge loads without burden, was the theme here.

Increasing stamina, endurance, and strength facilitated warriors on the battlefield though Ling Qingyu doubted her guards need now.

"But I think it's unnecessary, right?"

"For now, Yes. Not, so likely in the future. Besides, the exoskeleton removes any biological limits. You should understand the meaning." Tang Ziyi said. "So, I hope to equip your subordinates soon."

Ling Qingyu nodded. The prevalent benefits from Tang Ziyi's words was a game-changer. However, Ling Qingyu's forehead bugged, hearing Tang Ziyi's focus solely on military developments.

She had a headache. Though the products were awesome, there wasn't any real benefits to her to upgrade her status. She should definitely search around for more talents and trustable person so that her secrets could be shared.

Would she have to let her subordinates gun around and threatened others? Well, at the minimum, in a dangerous living area of Province N, she had a big breathing space.

Her plan for forming a mercenary group seemed easy, looking at the prospects. Ling Qingyu comforted herself.

Not knowing what Ling Qingyu had in mind, Tang Ziyi spoke. "In addition, even without exoskeleton platform, ours are already light-weighted. It'll be better after a successful development because this means less damages on our subordinates' bodies."

"What damage?" Ling Qingyu was stunned and worried. She had never known how her guards suffered hidden diseases.

"It's more worrisome for us women, especially carrying heavy loads with our innately weaker upper body strength." Tang Ziyi explained. "Even men experience them. Many research and testimonies suggest veterans probably suffer heavy spinal damages. Some even have to undergo surgery for cure or erase pain."

Ling Qingyu gasped. She never really knew. And Tang Ziyi didn't blame Ling Qingyu because the public weren't really aware apart from those related to the military families.

Because the occurrence was getting higher among veterans, many governments had taken the case seriously. Of course, consideration for the simple infantryman was never priority one in many countries, except those highly developed ones with extreme care for human rights.

"Wow! I never know." Ling Qingyu said bitterly. "I now felt guilty for my guards after you tell me." Ling Qingyu sent a glance filled with blame and helplessness.

"Don't look at me." Tang Ziyi shrugged. "You don't need to feel responsible for them. Every single one of us working in the sector will encounter this problem and I'm also sorting out solutions for them."

"Fortunately, you have considered everything. Otherwise, my heart might be full of blame, after founding a mercenary group in the future." Ling Qingyu patted her chest in relief. "Include Su Ruomei and Jiang Yu in your research too. I want to see your development quicken."

Especially when Ling Qingyu knew her guards served as special police member outside with full kit, her heart ached and she felt unbearable. The sooner the problem was solved, the better.

Chapter 279: Tang Ziyi's research on physique strengthening

Actually, Ling Qingyu's worries were too superfluous. The chances of her guards suffering these damages were close to zero with Tang Ziyi equipping them prior. Especially, the materials were very lightweight.

In fact, the real damage came from long-term strain on the bodies, wearing body armor for so long during the patrol and sentry mission. A similar effect could be seen in Olympic athletes, where many

grew older than they were supposed to and their bodies' capability dropped after using their full potential.

Likewise, the long-term burden of weight from above would have impacts on the bodies, creating hidden diseases for the soldiers. As seen in astronauts, living in outer space for a longer period of time, they had problems with their backs and spines.

So, the short period of her guards working should not bring damage to their bodies. Not to mention, Tang Ziyi, who was aware of the future crisis, was searching for solutions, beginning with reducing the weight of the equipment.

Technology solved everything. With Tang Ziyi's other concept, the bridge between the male gender and the female gender became obsolete, almost non-existent.

If Tang Ziyi's future products like soft exoskeleton system suits became widespread around the world, the era where physical strength was prioritized, would be gone.

Particularly in areas, where strength was the prerequisite. Even women would have no problems, tackling the harsher occupations. True equality would suffice.

Naturally, the inner mindset was of the utmost importance than the physical strength. Without a strong mentality, no mass of external bits of help would let a woman hold half of the sky.

As for those who always sought help from others, Ling Qingyu could shake her head in dismay. Only those who deserved to be saved would be given a hand. She didn't want to blame those women, who

depended on or making use of others, as long her work reached those in need for independence themselves.

Ling Qingyu guessed that society might change again if these technologies were unveiled to the public. In fact, machinery where robots replacing areas where high strengths were required had already begun to change the work environment.

These things were far beyond the equation she currently could calculate. It was better not to affect ideology and sociology when situations were not under her control.

The results could lead to counterproductive dilemmas. Speaking of strength, Ling Qingyu remembered the items she bought from the auction.

The most indispensable one—an ancient tablet with inscribed scriptures. She had given it to Tang Ziyi to research together with Athena. She hoped they achieved some results.

Tang Ziyi: You thought too much. How could we find anything within a week? (flashing middle finger!)

Athena (coquettishly flattering): Don't listen Mom. As long as I'm here, research progress taking 1 year can be shortened to 1 second.

"Sister Tang, now that you mention about strength, how's the cultivation sutra, I ask you to investigate?" Ling Qingyu asked.

Tang Ziyi pursed her lips. "Not much had gained at the moment apart from translation. Well, not quite." Tang Ziyi paused. "I'm familiar with those secret sutras and methods; but because there's no aura or so which they described in the scriptures in this universe, the method is hopeless."

Ling Qingyu sighed. Sadness and regrets floated inside her head. "That's a pity." The bitterness after huge expectations were squashed, brought some pain.

"But—" Tang Ziyi continued.

Ling Qingyu was speechless. Why didn't she speak quicker instead of drowning her in the water? Sooner or later she would choke under Tang Ziyi's action. If not for wanting to know the latter's words, Ling Qingyu had a substantial desire to strangle Tang Ziyi.

She almost forgot Miss System might have a reason to let Tang Ziyi work on the tablet. Now the results were seen with her eyes. Sure enough, Tang Ziyi didn't disappoint her.

"Aura might be useless. But I found an inspiration to derive a specific method to strengthen physically." Tang Ziyi spoke.

"It won't include masochistic abuses, right?" Ling Qingyu sounded suspicious.

Tang Ziyi rolled her eyes and muttered. "You watch too many cultivation novels and should stop."

Ling Qingyu couldn't be blamed because any practitioners in the arts of strengthening, more or less had the same motto—no pain no gain. Well, they had even exceeded this demand, abusing their body to forge the bones and muscle to steel-like existence.

"You can't blame me. Those novels and myths are the nearest I can have reference to." Ling Qingyu said.

"You aren't completely wrong. But physical cultivation doesn't need abuse as foundations like you thought. Not always!" Tang Ziyi corrected. "Today's modern era might have technologies to assist the progress."

Tang Ziyi carried on speaking. "Let me give you an example. Imagine if someone trains their bodies to the cellular level, like we strengthen our muscles. The amount of force generated under combined work from every cell will be substantially enormous. For instance, you should know Wing Chun's one-inch punch."

Ling Qingyu nodded. Although she had no idea how the mechanism worked, within a short distance to come up with a force that could throw away a person for several meters was magnificent in Ling Qingyu's eyes.

The superb technique and control of every twist of muscles from arms, waist, wrist and finger plus the bones cooperating together in synchrony. The combination of equations till the final snap generated such an amount. Ling Qingyu, despite her endeavors in the past weeks, still hadn't mastered these precise intrinsic techniques.

Tang Ziyi's description meant in future cultivation, based on the techniques and sutras she was currently researching, a person could theoretically exert 10 times the maximum force a normal body allowed.

Can someone picture a scene where a little girl beats up a humongous figure and slaps him till he even doubts his birth? Of course, there was also a serious disadvantage.

"How about resistance to being beaten?" Ling Qingyu asked.

Even though Ling Qingyu's words turned weird, Tang Ziyi understood her meaning. "Strengthening includes physique which means resilience, endurance, and everything had increased. The only downside might be not to the level we expected and eating too much." Tang Ziyi coughed in embarrassment later.

After all, the energy consumption for an exercise to train to the cellular level must be astronomical to produce a massive force. Based on Tang Ziyi's reaction, Ling Qingyu knew she must have already tried.

"It doesn't matter. I can handle the increase in servings. With more strength means more protection." Ling Qingyu waved her hand, not caring about the future cost she must sustain. "How's the result of your new method based on your cellular-something theory."

"Combining my past experience, plus the immortal knowledge and equipped with the best simulation, it's only a matter of time before I'll release a proven successful method. For now, I'm also in a trial stage." Tang Ziyi said with a shrug.

"But won't it be dangerous if you experiment it on yourself?" Ling Qingyu asked worriedly.

"Please don't worry. I have confidence. You look down on me too much." Tang Ziyi shook her head, amused. "My old title, resounding in my world, isn't for nothing. Not mentioning, I'm the only one capable of deciphering the secrets, given my background."

"You witch doesn't want a moment without arrogance, huh?" Ling Qingyu didn't say more. Tang Ziyi wasn't someone who would risk her life arbitrarily. She had better self-control than hers.

Rapid gunshots from the Cleanhouse drew both of their eyes. While Tang Ziyi's expression remained unchanged, Ling Qingyu was horrified and cursed. "What the actual f\*\*k?"

Chapter 280: Woman are liars too!

Tang Ziyi's lips twitched at Ling Qingyu's outcry. What a fuss! Daily practice for the guards and she just upgraded to another tier.

If Ling Qingyu heard Tang Ziyi considering the training she just saw now as a mere upgrade, she would have full courage to punch Tang Ziyi in her face. Or even hung Tang Ziyi in the air and shook her brain out.

The only reason she was able to hold her emotion in was the knowledge that her guards were using practice simulated rounds, producing realistic effects and deafening sound while reducing the penetration power from a harming level.

In fact, anyone in the place of Ling Qingyu, would find the training before her outrageous. Too outrageous might be an understatement.

While both were conversing on strengthening topics, the guards finished drilling the usage of shield formation and began room-clearing drills with shields at the forefront. As soon as the team made entry, they were met with heavy fire through the threshold.

Literally, bullets flying toward the team. The forefront member of the team felt the greatest pressure. Her hands quivered from the rounds impacting the shield.

The rest of the team stayed exactly behind, away from the trails of bullets. She relayed the description of the target to her team members behind of what she saw through the tiny glass area.

A member behind peaked a little, stretching her rifle out to aim the target, displaying only a portion of the helmet and the barrel on the side of the shield. Not even wasting a second, a burst of fire spewed out of the muzzle and the incoming fire disappeared.

From above, Tang Ziyi nodded in satisfaction, seeing the guards' reaction she trained. On the other hand, Ling Qingyu was at a loss for words.

Although the bullets used were simulated training rounds, depicting very close to realities through Athena's and Tang Ziyi's innovation, shooting against each other shut down Ling Qingyu's brain.

Well, not shooting against each other but the situation was similar. Some practice targets were equipped with firearms and moved around on wheels. They were the culprits shooting around.

These were autonomous robots which made Ling Qingyu speechless—if not for Athena's reliance on her, Skynet terror was very close. She didn't know if her subordinates were aware of her high-tier technology, more advanced and sophisticated than the whole world.

Perhaps, ignorance was a gift. And Athena had designed them to not appear futuristic and suit the timeline's aesthetic. So, this might be the reason these robots didn't bring too much surprise.

Once the appropriate targets were shot, the machine spewing out fire died down, signaling the threat was neutralized.

Ling Qingyu could see clearly the guards' teamwork, trust, and discipline. Their instinctive reaction toward suppressive fire impressed her. Upon finding a threat, information was relayed quickly and processed, without needing much decision from the leadership position, every member knew what their tasks were.

The whole process didn't take more than a second, the target was downed. Room after room, there wasn't a mess. Even if the team encountered an ambush, set up by someone above, they reacted appropriately.

Frankly, Ling Qingyu had never seen such a similar exercise, allowing a realistic battle apart from Russian. But they still used balloons as targets while the 'enemy' shot at them specifically at an area designated a little away from the team. Everyone was specifically told to prevent fratricide and injuries.

Even many countries used airsoft for the simulated exercise. The downside was they were nowhere near real-live fire exchange.

Instead, her subordinates were experiencing the precious lessons and familiarity of a real gunfight. These were only because of Tang Ziyi and Athena.

Of course, Ling Qingyu's existence was also the reason.

"The projectile fired out of the barrel seemed hard when you touch them but it's actually very brittle. Upon particular impact, it collapses. So you don't need to worry about injuries." Tang Ziyi said to answer Ling Qingyu's curiosity.

"Although the impact is more painful than the airsoft matches, remember everyone is wearing protective gears; so, the feeling remains the same, if not a little bit more."

The same? Ling Qingyu smiled wryly. Even after wearing protective clothing, the pain was similar to or more than those in airsoft and paintball matches, what if there weren't any protections.

Maybe people might cry Mom and Dad and faint. Ling Qingyu shook her head, amused, thinking of her guards swearing out unbearable words, forgetting themselves as pretty women.

"I never thought the exercises can be so intense." Someone said with a sigh, interrupting Ling Qingyu's inner thought. "As expected why none of my elite members are comparable with yours."

The rattle coming from gunfire in the cleanhouse prevented Ling Qingyu from noticing another person had come in. Ling Qingyu stopped watching the training and turned her head.

She saw Yang Qingyue, within arm's reach close to her. Yang Qingyue folded her arms as she commented. Ling Qingyu's mind forgot about everything and only Yang Qingyue's figure remained in her eyes.

The policewoman she always desired, was wearing a high-ranking uniform. A blue shirt, a white braided cord on the left shoulder, and a dark blue skirt with high heels underneath. She must have been to the ceremonial event today.

The exhaustion from being forced around this morning by Tang Ziyi dissipated after seeing Yang Qingyue's presence. Ling Qingyu felt deeply healed. The yearning and lost desire from the night reignited. She wanted to hold Sister Yang in her arms and pamper her. Just when she was about to reach over, a cough shattered her impulse.

When she glanced over, Cai Ning was covering her mouth with a fist. Surely, someone was the culprit. Su Ruomei was also around but her focus was on the training underneath like Yang Qingyue.

Seeing her sneaky act being found out, Ling Qingyu was also embarrassed. But who made her have a skin as thick as a city wall? Ling Qingyu regained her strong elegance and nodded toward Cai Ning.

Afterward, Ling Qingyu patted Yang Qingyue's back, not even withdrawing her hand. "Well, what have you been up to these days?"

Cai Ning, observing on the sideline, had her lips twitched. Her suspicion had come true. Based on Ling Qingyu's courage and Yang Qingyue's momentarily daze occasionally during work, Cai Ning appeared to have discovered the truth and gasped inwardly.

Her eyes wandered between the two graceful women and sighed, mourning for the men who were still single. Although the sight was beautiful, if the news spread, many men striving to gain the attraction of Ling Qingyu and Yang Qingyue might collapse psychologically.

Tang Ziyi ignored what was going on around her and continued watching. Ling Qingyu's cheeky behavior hadn't gone unnoticed. This was nothing compared to the earlier morning's shameful event.

Once you have tasted the fruit, anyone will be reluctant to part ways. Ling Qingyu had experienced the charming night, despite being led around by Yang Qingyue and feeling embarrassed; how could she not think about love every day.

"Doing fine, meeting a lot of people which I hated." Yang Qingyue murmured.

"Hmm." Ling Qingyu uttered.

The two's interaction appeared estranged yet incredibly close. Both had a lot to say and didn't know where to start. A heartwarming silence brewed if one ignored Cai Ning, whose face was full of complaints—who was it, promising to never separate from her during childhood.

She snorted inwardly. Hmph!