

THE REAL PROTEGE

#Chapter 72: THE BATTALLION RUN - Read THE REAL PROTEGE Chapter 72: THE BATTALLION RUN

Chapter 72: THE BATTALLION RUN

Meanwhile, Ling Li checked on the twins, her heart heavy with worry. She hoped that this confrontation would finally make Nina understand the gravity of her actions. As she tucked the twins into bed, she couldn't help but think about the fragile peace within their family. The soft glow of the nightlight cast gentle shadows on the walls, and she whispered a lullaby, her voice trembling with unspoken fears.

Four Eyes returned, his face still tense. Ling Li met his gaze, offering a small, reassuring smile. "Let's hope this is the end of it," she said softly, her voice barely above a whisper.

Four Eyes nodded, wrapping an arm around her shoulders. "I hope so, too," Four Eyes replied, his voice filled with a mixture of determination and fatigue. They stood there for a moment, drawing strength from each other, before heading to bed, their minds restless with the weight of the day's events.

The following day, Camp Blaze was alive with the early morning hustle. The crisp air was filled with the sounds of soldiers preparing for the battalion run, which usually started at six. The sky was painted with the first hues of dawn, a serene contrast to the tension that lingered in the air.

Four Eyes couldn't recognize Ling Li in full-gear uniform. She moved with grace and confidence. Only Four Eyes, Fatty, Chatty, and Shun were not carrying anything on their backs except for their rifles, bullets, first aid kits, and water on their waists. The rest of the battalion was laden with heavy packs, with rifles in their hand, their faces set with determination.

"Chu Yan, Shun, join me in my group; Quan Ye, join Reginalds' group; Murphy, Pharsa will join you in the third group," Ling Li instructed them, her voice clear and authoritative. "Let's go find your positions," Ling Li added, her eyes scanning the group with a mixture of pride and concern.

Four Eyes and Shun followed Ling Li, but Four Eyes grabbed her hand, stopping her. He tried to pull the bags off her back, his face a mask of frustration. "What do you think you're doing?" he asked her angrily, his voice low but intense.

"Honey, do you think this is my first time doing this? Come on, we are running late," Ling Li replied, her tone firm but gentle. She pulled Four Eyes back instead, her eyes meeting his with a steely resolve.

Shi Min was already waiting for them upfront, his silhouette outlined against the rising sun. The battalion began to form up, the air buzzing with anticipation. As they prepared to start the run, Ling Li took a deep breath, hoping that today would bring them one step closer to peace.

"F O R M A T I O N...!" Shi Min roared, his voice echoing through the camp as the soldiers snapped to attention.

"Camp Blaze, this is the seventh run this year, and I'm greatly honored to join you today! Are you ready?" His voice was filled with pride and energy.

"Sir, Yes, Sir!" The battalion responded in unison, their voices strong and determined.

"Camp Blaze... forward, march!" Shi Min commanded, and the battalion moved as one, their footsteps creating a rhythmic thud against the ground.

The early morning air was crisp, and the forest terrain was challenging but familiar. Group A, led by Shi Min and Ling Li, set a brisk pace, their movements synchronized and efficient. The forest was alive with the sounds of nature, the rustling leaves, and the distant calls of birds providing a serene backdrop to their exertion.

Less than an hour later, Group A arrived at the designated spot, their faces flushed with effort but triumphant. Group B, with Reginald and Fatty, followed closely, coming in an hour and twenty minutes. Group C, bringing up the rear, took nearly two hours, their faces showing the strain of the run.

"Have some water," Ling Li said to Four Eyes, noticing the fatigue etched on his face. She handed him a canteen, her eyes filled with concern.

"Um," Four Eyes grunted, taking a long drink.

Ling Li began to put down her gear, her movements fluid and practiced.

"How do you do it?" Four Eyes asked, his voice tinged with awe.

"You will learn it in the future, Honey. The main key is breathing technique," Ling Li explained, a gentle smile playing on her lips. "I will teach you."

"Um," Four Eyes replied, his admiration for his wife growing.

As they rested, Chatty approached, his face a mask of exaggerated distress. "Help, help. I can't breathe," he gasped, collapsing dramatically. Fatty walked beside him, chuckling at his antics.

"Where is Shun?" Ling Li asked, her eyes scanning the area.

"He is with Shi Min," Fatty replied, still amused with Chatty.

Ling Li noticed Chatty lying on the ground. "Chatty, get up. It is not good for you to lie down," she reprimanded him. "Sit up."

"I can't! I really can't breathe," Chatty insisted, holding his chest and catching his breath. His voice filled with panic.

Ling Li's concern deepened. She grabbed Chatty's wrist, checking his pulse.

"Dammit!" Ling Li muttered, instantly pulling out her phone. "Bring oxygen and a stretcher to my office now!" she barked into the phone.

In less than a minute, Pharsa arrived with her subordinates, carrying an oxygen tank and stretcher. "What happened?" Pharsa asked anxiously.

"Hook him up! Faster!" Ling Li ordered. "Take him to the infirmary, get an ECG. Go!"

Shi Min and Shun arrived just as Chatty was being wheeled away. "What is wrong with Chatty?" Shi Min asked, his face creased with worry.

"Let's go. I'm not sure, but I think he has a heart attack," Ling Li said, her voice steady but urgent as she walked briskly to the infirmary.

"What?!" Four Eyes and Fatty exclaimed simultaneously, their faces pale with shock.

"Paps, brother-in-law, don't worry. Mom can handle it," Shi Min assured them, his voice calm and confident.

Despite Fatty's shock and nervousness upon learning that his friend Murphy was having a heart attack, his face flushed when he heard Shi Min calling him brother-in-law.

At the infirmary, Pharsa handed Ling Li the ECG results. "Just as I have thought. Prepare the operating room. Shi Min and Mushu, assist me. Pharsa, roll him in. We have no time to spare," Ling Li commanded, her voice filled with authority and urgency.

Chapter 73: I CAN'T BREATHE

The team moved quickly, their actions precise and coordinated.

After thirty tense minutes, Pharsa emerged from the room, her face pale and her hands trembling slightly.

"Why are you here? Is Tong Xue alright?" Fatty asked, his voice laced with worry. "What is going on?"

Pharsa took a deep breath, her voice barely above a whisper. "He is suffering from a heart attack. He is lucky he is with Madam. He has several clots in his heart."

Fatty's eyes widened in shock. "You mean Madam is operating on him?" he asked again, his voice rising.

Pharsa's eyes flashed with a hint of irritation. "Are you doubting Madam's ability?"

"How dare I!" Fatty could only shut his mouth, realizing the gravity of the situation.

After almost six grueling hours, Ling Li and Shi Min exited the room, their faces etched with exhaustion, followed closely by Mushu.

"How is he?" Four Eyes implored, his voice trembling with concern.

Ling Li smiled reassuringly. "He is now in a sterile room. He won't wake up until tomorrow. You can see him by then."

Four Eyes nodded, relief washing over his features. "Um."

Ling Li's expression turned serious as she turned to Pharsa. "Pharsa, how would you like to reflect on your shortcomings today?"

Pharsa bowed her head, her voice filled with remorse. "I will receive my punishment accordingly."

"Did you realize your mistake?" Ling Li pressed.

"Yes, Madam," Pharsa replied obediently.

"Mushu, since you are her superior, I will leave her to you," Ling Li said, her tone firm.

Mushu nodded. "Pharsa, you know the protocol."

"Yes, Chief," Pharsa replied and left the infirmary, her steps heavy with the weight of her failure.

"Come on, let's go home and rest," Ling Li invited them all, her voice softening.

When they arrived home, Lily's curiosity got the better of her. "Where is your other friend?" she asked Fatty.

"He had a heart attack. Your Mom operated on him," Fatty explained.

Lily's eyes widened in surprise. "Mom, is that true? You performed the heart surgery?"

Ling Li nodded. "Your brother and I did."

Ren, who had been listening quietly, finally spoke up. "Is that why Pharsa is not here? Is she taking care of her other half?"

"No, not really," Shun replied, shaking his head. "I don't know what exactly happened, though."

"Mushu, where is Pharsa?" Ren asked, his voice tinged with concern.

"Running 120 miles in the forest in full gear," Mushu answered, his tone sour.

"Mushu, did you punish her?" Ren asked, his eyebrows furrowing.

"She deserves it. How could she be rattled during the surgery and end up not doing anything to help us? Why should I not punish her?" Mushu retorted, his voice filled with frustration.

Ren understood why Pharsa had been punished. 'Pharsa got nervous? How could she? She's always fierce and focused. Perhaps she has developed her feelings for Chatty?' Ren pondered silently.

After three days at the infirmary, Chatty was bored and restless. Ling Li allowed him to rest at home but insisted he needed to stay in bed for another week.

"How could you not know you have a heart problem?" Pharsa reprimanded him, her voice a mix of anger and concern.

"I really didn't know," Chatty replied weakly, his eyes downcast.

"How could you not know? Don't you ever go to a medical check-up?" Pharsa pressed, her frustration evident.

Just as she spoke, Ling Li entered the room with Four Eyes and Fatty. "Easy there, sister, ha ha ha. Don't be too hard on him. It was our fault as well. We didn't let them undergo the procedure or have them medically checked before allowing them to train. It was our recklessness. We all assumed them to be in good health and capable," Ling Li said, her tone apologetic.

I've already instructed Mushu to let the other three gentlemen undergo full body check-ups before they resume tomorrow's training.

"Anyway, the operation was successful, and his heart is as good as brand new," she added with a reassuring smile.

"Don't let him go back to training," Pharsa insisted, her voice firm.

"It's Murphy's choice. He can go back to training at the camp or focus on training his driving skills with you in Germany. We will just provide him with all the securities in the future," Ling Li replied, her tone calm and measured.

"No, I will go back and train," Chatty responded, determination in his voice.

"You can't even run ten miles. You can't hold a gun properly," Pharsa pressed, her voice rising.

"Because I was sick. I will do better when I get back," Chatty insisted, his eyes blazing with determination.

"What does your heart problem have to do with your clumsiness?" Pharsa asked, her voice softening slightly.

"I was always catching my breath," Chatty explained.

"That makes sense," Ling Li said, cutting into their discussion. "Don't let Murphy be too tired for now; He needs a lot of rest to recover. He can slowly go back to training after ten weeks and will fully recover in 12 weeks," she instructed, her voice gentle but firm.

After hearing Ling Li, Pharsa could only remain silent, her mind racing with thoughts of how she could better support Chatty in his recovery.

The next few days were a whirlwind of activity for Ling Li, Mushu, and Shi Min as they meticulously prepared for the grand celebration of the twins' birthday. The air was thick with anticipation and the scent of exotic spices as the trio worked tirelessly in the opulent halls of Ling Li's Russian estate. The estate itself was a marvel, with its grand chandeliers, intricate tapestries, and a garden that seemed to stretch into infinity, filled with rare flowers and ancient trees.

Ling Li had summoned her son Shi Min from China, knowing that his expertise was indispensable. Together, they crafted a plan that was as intricate as it was formidable. Invitations were sent out to an eclectic mix of guests, including Ling Li's political and business partners and her more shadowy allies from the underworld. El Padre and El Capitan, notorious figures from the Mafia cluster, were among the first to confirm their attendance. Their presence alone was enough to send a shiver down the spine of anyone who dared to cross Ling Li.

Chapter 74: TWINS CELEBRATION

The preparations were not just about celebration; they were a statement. Ling Li had consulted the heavens and received a troubling vision of her camp being compromised. This celebration was the perfect opportunity to send a clear message to her enemies. The grand ballroom was transformed into a fortress of elegance and power, with hidden security measures and strategically placed guards.

Tonight marked the momentous seventh-month celebration of the twins; the estate was bathed in a golden glow. Guests arrived in a procession of luxury cars. Inside, the atmosphere was electric. Ling Li greeted guests with a smile that did not reach her eyes. Four Eyes stood beside her while Mushu and Shi Min moved through the crowd, ensuring everything was in place.

The atmosphere was vibrant, with a dessert bar, music, and cocktail hour creating an unforgettable experience. Amidst the lively chatter and laughter, Ling Li proudly presented Chu Yan to her friends; they both cradled each of their twins.

As the evening progressed, the grand hall was bathed in the soft glow of chandeliers, casting intricate patterns on the marble floor. The air was filled with the delicate scent of jasmine and sandalwood, mingling with the low hum of excited conversations. Guests, adorned in their finest attire, moved gracefully through the room, their laughter and chatter creating a symphony of anticipation.

Ling Li, dressed in an elegant red cheongsam embroidered with golden dragons symbolizing power and prosperity, took to the stage. The intricate embroidery shimmered under the chandelier's light, drawing everyone's attention. The room fell silent, all eyes on her as she began to speak, her voice calm but carrying an undeniable edge of authority and warmth.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Ling Li began, her voice resonating through the hall, "I am deeply honored to welcome you all tonight. Your presence here means the world to our family."

She paused, allowing her words to sink in, before continuing, "Tonight, we celebrate not just a birthday but the joy and love that Kim Kim and Chin Chin have brought into our lives."

At her cue, the grand doors at the back of the hall opened, and Kim Kim and Chin Chin, her twins, entered. They were dressed in matching traditional outfits, their faces glowing with happiness. The guests erupted into applause as the twins made their way to the stage, escorted by Four Eyes, Ling Li's husband and the celebrants' father. His nickname, a playful nod to his glasses, brought a smile to many faces in the crowd.

As the family stood together on the stage, Ling Li continued, "Kim Kim and Chin Chin, you are the light of our lives. Your laughter, your kindness, and your spirit inspire us every day. Tonight, we celebrate you and the incredible journey ahead."

The seven-month-old twins giggle while happily kicking their feet in their parent's arms. The room was filled with a sense of unity and joy as everyone raised their glasses in a toast to the celebrants.

The evening continued with music, dancing, and a feast of exquisite dishes, each one a testament to the family's heritage and love for their guests. The grand hall, with its chandeliers casting a magical glow, became a place of celebration and cherished memories.

When Ling Li and Four Eyes came down the stage, "Chu Yan, I told you to keep an eye on Fatty. How is he?" Ling Li's voice was barely above a whisper, yet it commanded attention.

Chu Yan, standing at the edge of the stage, shifted uncomfortably. "He just told me he needs to return to his room; he doesn't feel well."

Ling Li's eyes narrowed slightly. "Please, go and check on him." Her tone left no room for argument, and Chu Yan nodded, sensing the gravity of the situation.

Ling Li turned to Four Eyes. "This matter is far more complex than it appears," she said, her voice firm. Four Eyes, a tall man with a sharp gaze behind his glasses, understood the unspoken urgency. He handed Kim Kim to the Nanny, who followed them before returning to the mansion.

The mansion's corridors were dimly lit, the shadows dancing on the walls as Four Eyes made his way to Fatty's room. The air was thick with tension, each step echoing ominously. As he approached the door, he heard muffled voices from within. A surge of anger coursed through him; those voices were unmistakable.

"Lily, I need you. Please hold me." Fatty said.

"I'm here."

"Lily, don't leave me. My body is scorching."

"I won't leave you; I'm here, I'm here."

"Lily, my body really needs you now. Please help me."

"Let me help you, Quan Ye."

Without hesitation, Four Eyes pushed the door open. The room was dimly lit, and Fatty was seated on the edge of the bed, his face pale and sweaty. Beside him is Nina, her expressions a mix of surprise and defiance. Four Eyes recognized his sister immediately.

"Who do you think you are, laying your hands on Quan Ye and causing a mess again?" Four Eyes' voice boomed through the dimly lit room, his eyes blazing with fury. He lunged at Nina, his fingers tangling in her hair, yanking her out of the room with a force that made her stumble. The frantic beeping of his phone punctuated the chaos of the moment as he dialed with his free hand.

"Mushu, Quan Ye is in deep trouble! And please, find someone to get rid of Nina!" His voice was a mix of desperation and command, echoing through the hallway.

Mushu, who was in charge of the party's security, felt a jolt of urgency as he received the call. He knew the gravity of the situation. Without wasting a second, he dashed out of the security room. He needed to find Ling Li, who was entertaining their guests in the grand hall.

Ling Li was in the middle of a conversation, her laughter mingling with the soft music playing in the background when Mushu approached her. The urgency in his eyes told her everything she needed to know.

"Fatty's in trouble," Mushu whispered to Ling Li.

Ling Li nodded, excusing herself from the guests with a forced smile.

"Please, enjoy the evening. I need to attend to something urgent," Ling Li said, her voice steady despite the turmoil inside her.

Chapter 75: FATTY WAS DRUGGED

Lily, who was beside her mother, looked up, her eyes wide with confusion. She could sense the tension in the air, the unspoken dread that hung over her mother and Mushu. She hurried and followed Ling Li.

They found Four Eyes ruthlessly striking Nina one after the other outside Fatty's door.

"Oh, Chu Yan! Hold on! She's going to die!" Ling Li urgently called his attention.

"That is precisely what I want!" "Eyes declared, he said with great emphasis.

"Please, I need to know what happened." Ling Li insisted.

"Quan Ye was drugged!" With a menacing glare, Four Eyes viciously struck Nina again, his anger boiling over.

"Nina, where on earth did you acquire that substance? What is the name of it? I demand to know!" Ling Li's voice was firm, her eyes blazing with anger.

"I might spare you if you reveal the truth!" she added, her tone leaving no room for negotiation.

"I don't know. I purchased it quite some time ago from home," Nina whispered, her voice barely audible through her swollen, bleeding mouth, several teeth missing.

At that moment, Mushu urgently approached Fatty, his subordinates trailing behind him, carrying the supplies he had requested from the infirmary. The tension in the room was palpable, everyone on edge.

"Mom, I want to see Quan Ye," Lily cried, tugging at her mother's arm, her eyes brimming with tears.

"Lily, he will only suffer more if he sees you now," Ling Li explained gently, her heart aching at the sight of her daughter's distress. She stoops to Lily's level, brushing a tear from her cheek. "We need to be strong for him, okay?"

Just then, Ren arrived with Shun and Chatty in tow. "Lily, I just heard from Chatty. Be strong; Quan Ye will be alright," Ren said, wrapping her arms around her sister in a comforting embrace. The warmth of her hug provided a small measure of comfort amidst the chaos.

Moments later, Mr. and Mrs. Xu entered the room, their faces hardening as they took in Nina's chaotic state. The air grew thick with unspoken tension, their presence adding another layer of gravity to the situation.

Ling Li turned to Chu Yan, who stood nearby, his expression conflicted. "Chu Yan, your parents are here," she said softly.

"Nina, you need to tell us everything," Mr. Xu said, his voice cold and authoritative. "This is your last chance to come clean."

Nina looked up, her eyes filled with a mix of fear and defiance. "I already said, I don't know. I just bought it from someone back home," she said, her voice cracking.

Mrs. Xu stepped forward, her gaze piercing. "You have no idea what you've done, do you? This isn't just about you anymore. It's about all of us."

As the room fell silent, the weight of their words hung heavily in the air. Each person grappled with their thoughts and fears, the enormity of the situation sinking in.

Ling Li took a deep breath, her resolve hardening. "We need to get to the bottom of this. For Quan Ye, for all of us," she said, her voice steady. "Nina, if there's anything else you know, now is the time to speak."

However, Nina said nothing and even turned to look at Lily with a vicious smirk.

"Reginald! Get rid of this woman! Kill her if you must!" Four Eyes barked, his voice cold and unyielding, after seeing her sister's arrogance after causing so much trouble.

"Chu Yan," Ling Li called his attention. However, Mr. Xu cut her words.

"Ling, she's truly wicked. The decision is in Chu Yan's hands. We have the most precious grandchildren to care for, and you will bless us with more. We shall return to our duties at the party. Your parents could be looking for us," Mr. Xu declared, decisively clutching Mrs. Xu's hand tightly as they made their way back to the grand hall without giving Mrs. Xu any chance to retort.

Ling Li took a deep breath, her mind racing. "Chu Yan, Shun, and Murphy, please observe Mushu as he handles Quan Ye's challenging situations. You will need these skills to handle a similar crisis in the future," she instructed, her voice firm and authoritative.

The three gentlemen silently oblige and enter Fatty's room, understanding this is an essential part of their training.

With a serious expression, Ling Li pulled out her phone and urgently dialed a number. "Come to the main house," she commanded before abruptly ending the call. Almost immediately, another call came through.

"Mom, do you need me there?" It was Shi Min; his voice filled with concern.

"No, son, stay with the guests. I shall return shortly," Ling Li replied, her tone reassuring.

Not long after, El Padre arrived at the main house, his presence commanding and calm.

"Madam, what can I do for you?" El Padred asked.

"My husband wants her dead. Give her the taste of her own medicine first and throw her to the wolves," Ling Li commanded, her voice cold and resolute. Ling Li gestured towards Nina, her eyes conveying the gravity of the situation. "Take care of her," Ling Li said simply, knowing that El Padre would understand the unspoken implications.

El Padre chuckled darkly, a gleeful expression spreading across his face. "Ha ha ha, many wolves will be pleased tonight!" he responded, motioning for his men to drag Nina

away.

Meanwhile, in a brightly lit bathroom, Fatty shivered in an ice-cold bathtub, his skin pale and clammy. An IV drip was attached to his arm, slowly hydrating him. Mushu, with a look of intense concentration, collected blood samples from Fatty, hoping the tests would reveal the antidote they desperately needed. If not, Fatty would have to endure the night in the tub, feeling the full brunt of the potent drug coursing through his veins.

"If you find yourself in a scenario like this, where the drug's potency is overwhelming, and your suffering is unbearable, you have the assurance that help will arrive in time. You may consider taking drastic measures. Letting blood flow could reduce the medication's impact on your system," Mushu explained to Four Eyes, Shun, and Chatty, his tone serious and instructive.

"Your physical condition must be solid. Otherwise, your body won't be able to handle it," Mushu added, emphasizing the importance of resilience.