

## The 80s 1131

### Chapter 1131: Never Offend a Woman

Ning Ge hasn't been in Qing City lately, who knows where he's gone off to. Cheng Su made a call to the Ning Family, and it was Old Master Ning who picked up. Hearing it was her, he was very pleased and chatted with her for about twenty minutes before realizing to ask what was the matter.

Cheng Su asked if Ning Ge was home, saying there were some decisions at the company she needed to consult him about.

"Has the fourth one come back to the Capital? He's not at home, and I haven't seen him come back these past few days!" Old Master Ning responded in surprise.

Cheng Su was taken aback too, sensing the old man's doubts, she said, "Ah, I vaguely remember him saying he was going to the Capital for some matters. Could it be I misheard?"

What's going on, didn't that rascal say he was going to the Capital? Why isn't he there, and not coming back to the Ning family either!

Did he lie to her?

Cheng Su frowned, feeling a little uneasy at heart.

"Maybe he's off somewhere playing again, don't worry, when he returns, I'll have a good word with him, make him give you a call. This boy, he's too unreliable!" Old Master Ning said.

"Yes, please give him a good scolding, Old Master. I think he's getting more and more wayward. Maybe he needs a partner to settle him down!" Cheng Su couldn't help but tattletale.

Qi Taiguo, sitting beside her, silently sympathized with Ning Ge. See, that's why you should avoid offending a woman!

After hanging up the call, Cheng Su said, "Ning Ge is not in the Capital; he lied to me, saying he was going there for something. Hmph!"

"Maybe something came up. You know his whereabouts are always erratic," Qi Taiguo replied.

"He's acting like a secret agent. You didn't hear it from me, but he's probably off doing something shady!" Cheng Su huffed.

Qi Taiguo nearly spat out his drink, saying, "Alright, he's just playful like that, let him be. We're not in a rush anyway, we'll talk about it when he gets back!"

Cheng Su nodded in frustration.

Meanwhile, Old Master Ning frowned deeply after hanging up the phone.

"Dad, I'm back!" Ning Gang walked in and greeted the old man.

"Oh, you're back just in time!"

"Dad, what's going on?" Ning Gang noticed the old man's frown and sat down.

"Cheng Su just called looking for the fourth one, saying he's been back in the Capital for several days, have you seen him around? He hasn't been home, has he!" Old Master Ning asked.

Ning Gang was stunned: "He came back?"

Seeing Ning Gang's expression, Old Master Ning realized Ning Ge definitely hadn't come back, but if not, then where had he gone?

That boy came back to the Capital and didn't come home, what's he up to?

"Could something have happened?" the old man expressed some worry.

"No way, what could have happened to him?" Ning Gang reassured, "Don't worry, maybe he went to the second brother's or third sister's place. I'll call and check."

The second brother of the Ning family doesn't live with them, sometimes Ning Ge would stay with him.

Ning Gang made two calls; both siblings said Ning Ge hadn't gone to them. When asked what was up, Ning Gang explained: "Dad's a bit worried, if you see him, tell him to get his butt back home right away!"

After putting down the phone, Ning Gang shook his head toward the old man.

Old Master Ning's expression darkened even more, after a long pause he said quietly, "Let him be, he'll appear when he wants to." With that, he went upstairs.

Ning Gang knew the old man was upset, likely thinking about how the fourth one doesn't like to stay at home, probably angry at heart, dialed a few numbers trying to find Ning Ge that rascal, he dared return to the Capital and not come home, how bold of him!

#### Chapter 1132: Fourth Young Master's Night of Pleasure

Ning Ge had no idea that because of a phone call from Cheng Su, he was 'wanted' all over the city. At this time, he was in a nightclub, wearing a very bright pink suit, holding a '小姐' in a qipao, occasionally whispering sweet nothings, but his eyes were on the man in the opposite booth.

Seeing the man stand up with a woman in his arms, Ning Ge kissed the girl next to him and whispered something in her ear, looking every bit the playboy.

He had just taken two steps when someone patted him on the shoulder.

Ning Ge turned around and saw a familiar face. The other person burst out laughing upon seeing him, "It really is you! I thought I was mistaken! No wonder nobody could find you, Fourth Young Master. So you've been hiding here, enjoying the fun!"

The person spoke while giving an ambiguous glance at the woman in Ning Ge's arms.

As Ning Ge turned his head, the man had already reached the doorway. He hurried to follow but was held back by the first person.

A trace of anger flashed in Ning Ge's eyes but quickly vanished. When he looked over again, he was all smiles, "Xiao Rui, I'll hang out with you later. Right now, I've got something urgent."

"Don't leave, huh? In a hurry to let off steam? The woman won't run, will she? She's right here in your arms." Xiao Rui laughed loudly.

Ning Ge saw that the man had already disappeared at the door but couldn't break free, so he patted the woman's waist and said, "You go wait for me first!"

The woman obediently smiled, gave Xiao Rui a playful yet annoyed glance, and quickly walked out.

"Oh dear, I've made another beauty angry!" Xiao Rui raised his hands, pretending to surrender.

"Stop messing around. How come you're here today? Let's have a drink some other day, I gotta go!" Ning Ge handed him a cigarette.

"If I weren't here, I wouldn't have found you. When did you come back to Beijing? Haven't even gone home yet? Do you know your big brother put out a 'wanted' notice for you?" Xiao Rui spoke, lighting his cigarette with a click from an exquisite lighter.

Ning Ge was stunned, "My big brother is looking for me?"

"Isn't he? Everyone thought you disappeared, but you've been hiding in this gentle realm of pleasure!"  
Xiao Rui laughed ambiguously.

Why is Big Brother looking for him?

"Not sure what it's about. But judging by your brother's face, he seems pretty angry. You'd better call home soon!"

Ning Ge said, "Thanks, buddy. I'm off then!"

Xiao Rui waved his hand, finally letting him go freely.

Ning Ge walked briskly out the door. He saw the woman he had been holding earlier waiting outside, and he quickly went over, holding her waist, smiling as he whispered, "Where is he?" His eyes scanning the surroundings.

The woman, his partner Bai Ying, playfully twisted her body and said, "Lost him!"

"What? Damn it!" Ning Ge's expression changed.

"It's all because of that annoying kid," a flash of viciousness passed through Bai Ying's eyes.

Ning Ge was also a bit frustrated. They had been tailing this person for days and finally saw him act a bit 'suspicious', only to lose him.

"Over there." Bai Ying's eyes suddenly brightened as she casually pointed at a car passing by them.

"Let's go, follow it!"

Ning Ge quickly hailed a taxi, pulling Bai Ying in. Bai Ying noticed someone glancing over, so she giggled coquettishly, saying, "Oh, you're so annoying!"

Ning Ge looked eager and impatient, while she played coy and hesitant.

### Chapter 1133: Everything Goes Wrong

Ning Ge never expected that following someone this time would eventually face so many obstacles. He glanced at his second brother, Ning Li, whose face was livid, and lowered his head guiltily, feeling both patient and extremely restless.

He truly didn't expect that his second brother would come to this hotel for a social engagement at a time like this.

"What the hell are you wearing? Go home right now!" Ning Li glared at his troublesome younger brother. The whole world was looking for him, and here he was, holding a flamboyant woman, coming to the hotel.

Although it's a hotel, this one is quite famous in the Capital. The lower floors are for dining, with meeting rooms on some higher floors, and above that are guest rooms. Many meetings in the Capital are often hosted here.

Ning Li was here tonight also because a last-minute meeting was held here. He was at home earlier, otherwise, how could he have received a call from their eldest brother and found out this rascal was in the Capital but not at home.

But what is happening now?

Instead of having a proper relationship, he chose to be with a woman who blatantly looks inappropriate at the hotel, even an idiot knows what's going on!

Ning Li's face grew colder with anger as he looked at Bai Ying with increasing hostility.

Bai Ying was extremely uncomfortable. She never expected to meet Ning Ge's second brother at this time and place.

It's said that his second brother is a cold-faced demon, even more troublesome than his eldest brother, and certainly not someone to be easily dismissed like that little brat just now!

But having followed this far, having reached the floor, should she let it all go to waste?

"Fourth Young Master, I'll go up and wait for you." Bai Ying quickly threw a coquettish look at Ning Ge, and cast one to Ning Li as well, then swayed her hips and went up.

Who asked you to be so troublesome, you deserve to be uncomfortable, humph!

Sure enough, Ning Li's face turned as black as the bottom of a pot!

Ning Ge lamented inwardly, thinking Bai Ying, you ungrateful wretch, how could you pull this on me?

"Look at what you've done," Ning Li gritted his teeth, resisting the urge to punch Ning Ge as he snapped, "Go home, go home immediately!"

"Second Brother..." Ning Ge wore a bitter face.

Ning Li glared back with a fierce look that said, dare say one more word, and see what happens.

"Okay, okay, I'm going back now!" Ning Ge surrendered, turned around, and thought today really was unlucky.

The person he was following is an honest man, working as the chief financial officer for the Loo Family. Ning Ge had been watching him for a long time. How could someone who manages finances not know the Loo Family's financial status? So he'd been watching him!

After watching for a few days, he finally discovered an 'untruthful' side of this chief, just the right time to follow him.

But who could have imagined that just when he was about to reach a breakthrough, he encountered his second brother at this critical moment.

As Ning Ge walked back, a sudden scream and commotion came from behind.

Ning Ge felt a foreboding sense of premonition, turned around, and saw the lady who was with the honest man wrapping herself in a bath towel and running out in panic, shouting, "There's a dead body, there's a dead body!"

Ning Ge and Ning Li's faces changed. This hotel, which is quite famous and upscale, having a dead body here, what is happening!

"Second Brother, I'll go take a look." Ning Ge dashed away.

"Little Four!" Ning Li roared.

Ning Ge didn't listen, he swiftly ran towards the honest man's room, and along the way, he bumped into someone. That person lowered their hat brim and hurried away.

Ning Ge didn't pay attention and rushed to the room's entrance, where Bai Ying came out with a stern face. Seeing him, she angrily said, "Someone's dead!"

"Fuck!" Ning Ge swore.

#### Chapter 1134: Sharp Questioning

The Ning Family was holding a family interrogation meeting late at night. Naturally, the ones doing the interrogation were the eldest, the second, and the head of the Ning Family, while the one being interrogated was, of course, the most troublesome one, Ning Lao Si.

"Look at what you're wearing, what kind of mess is this? You come from a military family, not a street thug, and certainly not some gigolo in a dance hall. What nonsense!" Ning Gang shouted at Ning Ge.

Ning Ge bowed his head, seemingly accepting the lesson humbly, but in his heart, he couldn't stop thinking about who killed the honest man. Bai Ying had said it was a poisoned needle piercing through his forehead, causing instant death.

The honest man lay on the floor not far from the door, which was wide open. It seemed someone opened the door, and he was attacked and fell to the ground.

Why kill him? Was it because he knew some secret? Could the Loo Family have done it?

If that's the case, then the Loo Family is truly a big bomb waiting to be diffused!

Ning Ge pressed his lips together and closed his eyes slightly, carefully recalling the scene back then.

Suddenly, a person wearing a cap appeared in his memory—someone he had bumped into while running. Could that man in the cap be the murderer?

Ning Ge furrowed his brows.

"Why don't you speak up! What have you been doing these days?" Ning Gang was furious seeing him not respond with a single word.

"Talk it out properly; maybe Lao Si has his reasons, right, Xiao Si?" The sister-in-law gently patted Ning Ge's shoulder, saying, "Apologize to your big brother quickly."

Ning Ge belatedly responded with an "ah" and with a mischievous grin said, "Big brother, I'm sorry!"

Ning Gang got even angrier: "Look at your attitude, are you ignoring me, your second brother, and even Dad?"

"He's still young..." the sister-in-law interjected.

"Young? Only you treat him like a child. He's nearly thirty and still doesn't know his mind. You should listen to what the second has to say—he was caught hugging a dancer at a restaurant! Can that be a proper job!" Ning Gang cut her off.

"If it weren't for Cheng Su calling, we wouldn't have even known he returned to Beijing. He came back but didn't inform us and didn't come home. What are you thinking? Do you even consider this family?"

Ning Ge caught something crucial and asked, "What, Cheng Su called?" No wonder, it turned out to be that girl's revelation.

"Xiao Cheng called today; it seemed she had something to discuss with you. If you have time, give her a call back and ask what it's about; it seems to be work-related," the elder who hadn't spoken yet said.

Ning Ge responded with an "oh."

"You've been back in Beijing for several days; where have you been fooling around?" Ning Li asked with a stern face.

"Second brother, I wasn't fooling around, just hanging out with friends in the suburbs of the Capital City for a few days and didn't have time to come back," Ning Ge laughed.

But in this family, no one is a fool; who would believe such a flimsy lie?

"I see you're getting more unruly. We thought you became sensible after starting a business, but it was all an illusion. We have no idea what you're doing behind our backs!" Ning Gang squinted his eyes at him: "Tell us, how many things are you hiding from us!"

"And what about you, big brother? Is what you do behind our backs the same as what we see upfront?" Ning Ge retorted without thinking, his words sharp and questioning.

"What do you mean by this?" Ning Gang's face darkened: "Are you questioning me?"

The elder and Ning Li furrowed their brows, their eyes scrutinizing Ning Ge. Even the sister-in-law appeared a bit astonished.

However, Ning Ge just shrugged with a smile and said, "I'm just saying, you don't know my work, and I don't know yours. It's not like we have to talk about everything!"

He smiled mischievously as always, as if the sharpness just now was merely an illusion for everyone.

#### Chapter 1135: Nighttime Visit to the Study

The inquiry into Ning Ge concluded without any results. After all, nothing could be disclosed, and it was getting late, so they decided to call it a night.

The night was deep and silent, but Ning Ge tossed and turned in bed, unable to sleep. One moment she wondered why Cheng Su approached her, the next she pondered if that honest person tonight had been harmed by the Loo Family, and soon her thoughts shifted, questioning whether her brother was tied to past events.

Surrounded by chaos, Ning Ge sat up in bed, scratched her head, and went out to pour herself a glass of water.

As she walked past her brother's study, she stopped, thought for a moment, took a flashlight from the room, and sneaked into the study.

With the flashlight on, she began searching around the file cabinet. Were the documents she had seen before still there?

Row after row of files was illuminated as Ning Ge bit down on the flashlight, browsing through the documents one by one and placing them back.

No, there was no trace of that document, nor was there any useful information.

Ning Ge's face turned grim; had they already been destroyed?

Her gaze landed on another bookshelf. Unlike the file cabinet, this shelf housed books on military knowledge, magazines, weapons knowledge, and various subjects.

Ning Ge pulled out each book and then replaced it, until suddenly her eyes fell on a thick book of cultural knowledge. Among the row of military knowledge titles, it seemed both ordinary and out of place.

She pulled it out, and behind the book on the shelf, she discovered a small button. She paused for a moment and pressed it instinctively.

With a press, the bookshelf split apart.

Her brother's study had this hidden feature.

Ning Ge's heart pounded wildly.

She suddenly sensed that the answers to the things she had burrowed deep in her heart over the years might be found here.

The separated bookshelf revealed another shelf behind it, but this one stored documents whose titles alone were shocking.

Casually grabbing a document and skimming it, she closed it quickly. They contained highly confidential secrets not meant for ordinary eyes; leaking them could cause national damage.

She closed the document and placed it back, casting her flashlight over the row of documents until her gaze halted.

The document she had seen in her brother's study before was right there, in the middle of the upper shelf.

Feeling a bit hesitant, Ning Ge still reached out, took the document down, and held the flashlight in her mouth to shed light.

With trembling hands, she took a deep breath and opened the document. The first page read XX Neurotoxin...

Her breath caught. Turning another page, she read the introduction: On a certain year, month, and day, joined the Secret Division, and on another date, the neurotoxin was developed.

Her hands quivered as she flipped to the next page, her eyes widened in shock. The page held not words, but photographs; people receiving injections, images of various skin erosions, frenzied scenes, someone breaking their own arm apart—flesh and blood indistinguishable.

Horrific!

The document slipped from Ning Ge's hand, and the photos scattered across the floor.

Heaven, these were all Poisoned People, and they were clearly from their own country.

Why, why were these people being injected? How could this happen?

The room suddenly lit up, Ning Ge turned around.

"What are you doing here?" A cold voice came from her highly respected brother's mouth, chilling like sharp ice in winter.

#### Chapter 1136: Laying Cards on the Table

Ning Gang watched his younger brother with a livid expression, from his astonished face to the things on the ground. The photos had scattered, and a slight change crossed his complexion as his gaze suddenly became sharp.

He closed the door and walked in step by step, looking coldly at Ning Ge, angrily questioning, "I'm asking you, what are you doing!"

This younger brother, whom he regarded as his son, what was he doing, rummaging through his study in the dead of night, what was he up to?

What is his identity, why is he doing this?

Only a few steps away, but for Ning Gang, it felt as long as a lifetime, his eyes never leaving Ning Ge.

Ning Ge took the flashlight out of his mouth and suddenly felt there was no need to hide anything anymore, what he sought would also find its answer tonight, here.

He picked up the file from the ground, including those photos, held them up coldly, and asked, "Big Brother, this should be my question to you, ask your people in charge, what are you doing? Is this your motto of defending the homeland and protecting the country? Colluding with the enemy and betraying the country?"

Ning Gang's eyes glowed, a majestic aura growing.

"I never knew, that the supposedly righteous superior organization would have such a face, using our own countrymen for experiments, making them guinea pigs. Are the weapons you have been developing traded in this manner? It's simply disgusting!" Ning Ge sneered.

Slap!

Ning Gang rushed forward with all his strength, slapping Ning Ge across the face: "Do you know who you are talking to? Do you know what you are saying!"

"I know, of course, I know! You are the dignified Commander, with overwhelming power, maintaining peace in your domain. Anyone who dares to defy you, a burst of your bullets is enough." Ning Ge mocked, "Human lives are utterly insignificant compared to your interests."

"Insolent!" Ning Gang raised his hand again.

Ning Ge lifted his face, did not dodge, facing him with cold detachment.

Ning Gang suddenly hesitated to land his hand, feeling that the younger brother before him was not the one he was familiar with.

The younger brother he knew was a bit rascal, a bit roguish, a bit lacking respect, seemingly always immature.

But the one before him now, was cold, fierce, sharp, with a hatred for evil like a treasured sword, having hidden for years, suddenly drawn, emitting a chilling gleam.

Gone was the frivolous demeanor, replaced by gravity, faintly carrying an aura, that kind of aura...

Ning Gang was shocked. He was a soldier, he knew well what that aura represented; every country has many shadowy organizations, Xiao Si, he...

"Who exactly are you?" Ning Gang pressed down his astonishment, asking Ning Ge.

"Before answering that question, can Big Brother first explain to me, what is the deal with these photos? Why are there people from our country in this Japanese-funded Underground? Why is it our country's military guarding them? These Poisoned People, they are clearly our countrymen, why, are they ours?" Ning Ge gritted his teeth asking, "And why did you order the destruction of this Secret Division back then, did you know that there were members of our country's intelligence organization inside? Did you know and still did it intentionally!"

Ning Gang was utterly astonished, looking at him, mumbling, "You, are a member of the Special Service Organization?"

Ning Ge took a breath, slightly closed his eyes, then opened them again, laying his cards on the table, "That's right, I am a special agent."

Ning Gang gasped, retreating repeatedly, collapsing onto the sofa behind him.

### Chapter 1137: The Truth

Ning Gang finally recovered from the shock and calmed down. He looked at his brother, who was still standing there angrily waiting for an explanation, and snorted in annoyance.

"Sit down and talk!"

Ning Ge didn't hesitate and sat down.

"Tell me about your mission this time, what you know," Ning Gang stared at him for a while before speaking.

Ning Ge remained silent, as if hesitating, this was confidential information.

Seeing this, Ning Gang sneered and said, "You already know that it was me who ordered the Secret Division to be bombed, so what is there that you can't say? What is there to hide? Do you think I don't know?"

Ning Ge pressed his lips together before finally speaking, "Originally, we received intelligence that this Japanese-funded Underground was unusual, we..."

His voice was slow, his gaze seemed to pass through Ning Gang to gaze elsewhere as he slowly explained how their small team investigated the Underground.

How they infiltrated the organization, obtained the intelligence, and then retreated, but during the retreat, due to someone's order, everything was destroyed, including their comrades, all lost in that explosion, buried in the ruins.

"...I know Cang Lang got the classified information, but before they could pass it on... it was you, why did you give such an order? What was the truth back then, was it really like we assumed, that high-level officials were involved with that Underground, long connected to it, was it true..." Ning Ge gritted his teeth, but dared not say the word 'you'.

Ning Gang closed his eyes slightly and said, "Things aren't as you thought, with high-level involvement. Instead, this Japanese-funded Underground had already been controlled by us above, meaning, this underground organization, was already ours."

Ning Ge was stunned and clenched his fists.

"This Underground, conducting toxin research, involved not only Japanese personnel but also ours. Before our superiors gained control, the Japanese side had already researched toxins targeting the constitution of our nationals, and if such things were spread, the consequences would be unimaginable."

"These photos are of people who were injected with toxins. To develop serum and antibodies, we did not destroy them, but rather used them for experiments." Ning Gang pursed his lips and said, "Don't find this so shameless. In the face of national interest, some sacrifices are inevitable."

"But they are living people!"

"All of these are death row criminals! Some are homicidal maniacs, some are major drug lords, some are gang leaders," Ning Gang shouted.

Ning Ge lowered his head.

"The serum and antibodies have been developed, but a traitor has leaked the toxins. You guessed correctly, one of your intelligence agents was bought by the Japanese side. If the situation inside gets out to the public, what kind of major unrest would it cause?" Ning Gang said.

Ning Ge stood up in disbelief, "Impossible, this is impossible, how could they?"

How could it be like this, the betrayal, how could it be their people, not Cang Ying, but one of the insiders.

"Otherwise why do you think Cang Ying is still alive now? It's because it was verified that the traitor wasn't him!" Ning Gang sneered and said, "Such an underground organization was never meant to exist, but we were too lagging behind, therefore... later, we had no choice but to destroy it for the greater good."

"Xiao Si, the country needs stability now, to bide its time and build a foundation to become a strong nation, we all strive for this, even if it means sacrificing individuals," Ning Gang said solemnly.

### Chapter 1138: Cruelty

Ning Ge's face turned deathly pale; he couldn't believe that this was the truth.

The truth that he had been painstakingly investigating, is it just like this? So the boss stopped him from pursuing further because he already knew, and also knew the decision from above?

But just because one person betrayed, must they all die because of him, weren't the others innocent?

"Even if that's the case, why not just capture the traitor? Why destroy everything, there are innocent people in there!" Ning Ge pressed.

Ning Gang replied, "At the time, the situation was urgent. To facilitate the contact person in smoothly taking out the data, those few controlled Japanese released poison gas, and those Poisoned People had already gone completely mad."

Ning Ge was full of disbelief.

"As for your group, the higher-ups were not sure if it was just one person who betrayed or everyone, so for safety, they could only sacrifice them all," Ning Gang said solemnly.

Ning Ge slumped his shoulders in despair, painfully covering his face.

Ning Gang took the dossier, opened to a certain page, handed it over, and said, "This is the decision of all the leaders, not my personal decision. I am merely the one executing the orders. Xiao Si, this actually

shouldn't be for you to see, nor be something you should know, but since you've investigated up to this point, you must understand the greater good."

"In the face of national interest, all personal emotions or personal interests are negligible. There is an old saying, 'Victory of one general has countless bones bleached,' still generals and commanders' successes are bought with the lives of countless people, let alone the interests of a nation?" Ning Gang continued.

Ning Ge took it, looking at the familiar signatures, unsure of what to say.

"Was the toxin also destroyed?"

"Before the operation was carried out, all those who needed to retreat had already done so, and naturally, both the toxin and its antibody serum were brought along in the retreat," Ning Gang replied.

So all those who didn't know the truth were buried there, so innocently?

"In matters involving national interest and such secret cases, no one is innocent. If you and I were involved, it would be inevitable," Ning Gang said awkwardly.

As he spoke these words, there was a touch of pain, but in his heart, there was a hint of relief, relief that his brother wasn't among them.

One never knows the pain until feeling the needle in the flesh; after all, everyone has a hint of self-interest.

But Ning Gang dared not speak it out loud.

Ning Ge snorted, suddenly feeling somewhat ironic; the truth is like this, what have his years of investigation been? His persistence and doubt had all become a joke.

Yet he breathed a sigh of relief, it was not his brother who gave the order privately; he wasn't treacherous.

But he had suspected him, Ning Ge looked at Ning Gang, said, "Brother, I'm sorry, I always thought..."

"Thought the higher-ups were cooperating with the Japanese side?" Ning Gang looked over.

Ning Ge lowered his head in shame.

"Call it cooperation if you like, after all, it involved using people from the Japanese side, but it was not the higher-ups, but rather the whole upper echelon," Ning Gang said. "We need these data, and we also need to ensure our national interests."

Ning Ge thought for a long time, then asked, "Brother, who exactly betrayed?"

Those brothers with whom he had once gone through life and death, who among them became the enemy's dog, didn't they understand that their side and the Japanese side are irreconcilable?

Why would anyone do such a thing?

"Xiao Si, this matter is already past, even the files are sealed, buried within. Why pursue it further? Even if you find out, what then? It would only bring you pain. You only need to know there was such a person, and if he did this, surely he had his reasons. As for what those are, with death, the lamp is extinguished; there's no need to pursue it," Ning Gang empathetically looked at him.

#### Chapter 1139: The Ning Family Doesn't Produce Cowards

In the study, the two brothers sat facing each other. Ning Ge wanted to reach for a cigarette, but realized he was in his pajamas.

Ning Gang, as if reading his mind, got up and took out a pack of cigarettes and matches from the desk drawer, handed him one, and lit one for himself too.

"Big brother, you're hiding cigarettes, aren't you afraid sister-in-law will find out?" Ning Ge said belatedly after taking the cigarette.

Ning Gang paused as he struck a match, but still lit it, saying, "I've had too many scares tonight; I need one to calm me down."

Ning Ge heard the sarcasm in his tone and couldn't help but feel a bit sheepish. Seeing him bringing the flame over, he lit his cigarette.

"Go ahead, how did you end up joining the Special Service Organization? When did it start?" Ning Gang asked after taking a drag.

This kid must've hidden it deep; he managed to keep it from the family without showing a hint.

If I hadn't come out late at night to get some water and seen the faint light in the study, I wouldn't have discovered this secret.

Ning Ge coughed, realizing there was no point in hiding it anymore, and recounted honestly when he joined the organization.

"So, Pan Gongnian is your leader?" Ning Gang asked.

Ning Ge nodded.

"And you've been involved in these recent missions?" Ning Gang mentioned several tasks.

Ning Ge nodded again, feeling a bit uneasy inside.

A glimmer of admiration flashed in Ning Gang's eyes as he said, "Not bad, the intelligence from these missions is very useful to our superiors."

Ning Ge exhaled, about to modestly say a few words, but Ning Gang spoke again.

"But just limit it to these few times. Later, tell Pan Gongnian you're quitting the organization!"

Ning Ge's face changed: "Why?"

"Xiao Si, spies live without identity. Even if they sacrifice themselves, they won't be publicly acknowledged, just deeply buried in archives, sometimes without anything left. Take your former colleague as an example; when they died, their files were destroyed, and now they're just considered missing persons. This kind of disappearance will remain missing forever," Ning Gang said. "I don't want you to end up like that. If you're willing, you can come out into the open, join National Security openly. People from the Ning Family aren't cowards; they can stand proudly and openly."

Even as he said this, deep down Ning Gang felt a bit of joy and pride.

Previously, Ning Ge's performance had always been mediocre, just like a spoiled playboy: harmless, achieving nothing, and in others' eyes, just a disobedient brat.

But in fact, he had more accomplishments than anyone, truly living up to being a member of the Ning Family.

Since he has the skills and ability, why bury them? Better to come out openly and let everyone know the Ning Family doesn't produce weaklings.

"Big brother, I don't want to." Ning Ge thought for a moment and said, "I feel things are fine as they are now, and I like this identity."

Ning Gang's face darkened: "What nonsense, who likes living like a shadow? Don't worry, just quit, leave the rest to me, join the Party."

Ning Ge said, "Big brother, it's not that I don't want to join, but for now, at least, I don't want to."

"Reason?"

"Big brother, the Ning Family is already thriving; there's no need to showcase all the strength openly. Someone like me, who seems inconsequential but harmless, won't attract attention, making actions more convenient," Ning Ge pressed his lips and said. "Later on, at least when you take the position of Director Wang, I'll make a move, but not before."

#### Chapter 1140: I'm Proud

Listening to Ning Ge's words, a trace of contemplation flashed in Ning Gang's eyes. Just as he was about to speak, there was an exclamation from outside: "Dad, why are you standing here? And not even turning on the light."

Ning Gang and Ning Ge were startled and stood up simultaneously to exchange a glance. Outside, the elder sister-in-law's concerned question echoed, along with Old Master's response.

"Hmm, why is the study light on?" The sister-in-law twisted the doorknob as she spoke, and upon entering, she paused upon seeing the two brothers and asked, "What are you two brothers doing here not sleeping, ah, smoking as well. Ning Gang, you've started smoking again!"

Fumbling, Ning Gang pressed the cigarette butt into the ashtray on the table, pointing at Ning Ge: "Xiao Si couldn't sleep and dragged me to talk, he's the one who got me smoking!"

Ning Ge was taken aback, looking at his elder brother. Wasn't this shameless? He was clearly the one who gave it to me!

Ning Gang guiltily avoided Ning Ge's gaze, turning instead to look at a piece of calligraphy on the wall. Hmm, it's really well-written.

"Xiao Si!" The sister-in-law frowned, prepared to walk over, when Ning Ge quickly noticed the dossiers on the table and hurriedly collected them, sitting down on the sofa.

"Sister-in-law, I don't smoke often," Ning Ge grinned sheepishly.

"I've told you not to smoke so much. Confiscated!" The sister-in-law took the cigarettes from the table, and Ning Gang looked heartbroken. It was only this one pack.

Ning Ge watched him with a faint smile, deserved it.

"Alright, eldest son's wife, it's almost dawn. Go make some breakfast, I'm hungry," Old Master Ning said.

"Oh, okay." The sister-in-law quickly agreed and went out.

It was only then that Ning Gang and the others noticed outside. Indeed, the early summer night was short, and before they knew it, the sky was already a little bright.

So, how much had Old Master Ning heard while standing at the door?

Ning Ge felt a bit uneasy, not daring to look at Old Master Ning. Ning Gang, on the other hand, went over to support the old master, cautiously asking, "Dad, did we wake you?"

Old Master Ning's room was right opposite the study. Since the elderly slept lightly, they might have woken him up earlier.

Old Master Ning sat down, his gaze complex as he looked at Ning Ge.

Ning Gang saw this and knew that Old Master had heard everything. So, he called out, "Dad, Xiao Si he..."

Old Master Ning raised his hand and said, "No need to explain, I've heard it all!"

He hadn't expected that this seemingly unrestrained youngest son was actually like this inside. He knew it, how could his son Ning Zhengguang be useless?

Great, that's what a son of the Ning Family should be. No matter his status, contributing to the country, loyal to the country, loyal to the Party, he is his good son.

Old Master Ning felt relieved. Now he could rest assured that this child, who had everything calculated, was in no way inferior to his two older brothers. Even if he passed away in the future, he wouldn't worry that he needed to rely on anyone to live; there was no need to be concerned for him.

Good, very good!

Old Master Ning's eyes glistened with tears, his emotions slightly stirred.

"Dad, don't blame Xiao Si. He... he is just disobedient, doing things on his own," Ning Gang thought the old man was shocked, feeling deceived, so he defended Ning Ge: "He didn't intentionally hide it from us, just afraid of us worrying. Dad, you... Xiao Si, kneel down now."

Kneel then. It's not the first time kneeling, anyway now that big brother knows, surely everyone will know too. It spares him from hiding, it's better.

Ning Ge knelt down, bowed his head, and said, "Old Master, I was wrong."

"Get up, why kneel!" Old Master Ning personally helped him up, looking at him, "You did nothing wrong. Dad is happy, you are excellent, your old man is proud."

Hmm...

Ning Ge and Ning Gang were both slightly surprised, looking at Old Master Ning.

"Sit down and talk," Old Master Ning turned his back to wipe the corner of his eye, then asked, "Tell me, what are your plans next?"