

The 80s 1261

Chapter 1261: Fleeing in Disgrace

Lai Jinlan had heard that Zhang Jisheng's ex-wife was a pushover, but she didn't expect her to be so quick with her words. Hearing her biting sarcasm, she found herself unable to retort.

She swallowed and said, "Don't act like you're so noble. If you didn't have wandering thoughts, would Zhang Jisheng have ended up like that?"

"He's shameless, but I still have my pride. Who's getting cozy with him? I was married to him for over ten years, working hard without complaint—what did I get for it? That swamp of a Zhang family, I climbed out, and there's no way I'm stepping back in. Do you think the Zhang family is a goldmine, that Zhang Jisheng is a golden lump that everyone is after? I eat well, live well, sleep soundly, with a son and a daughter—why would I be eager to return to that swamp?" Qi Fenglian sneered, "If you want to jump in, I'm not stopping you. Do as you please, but don't drag me into it."

Lai Jinlan was stunned.

"Please leave. I'm about to start working, and if you continue to make a scene, I'll report you to the authorities for intentionally causing trouble!" Qi Fenglian said coldly.

Hearing the threat of the police, Lai Jinlan's overweight body shrank with fear.

Cheng Su's lips curled slightly as she looked at her Sister-in-law with approval for the first time.

This is what a woman should be like—clear-headed at crucial moments. You shouldn't rely on others whenever something happens. Relying on yourself is more reliable than depending on anyone else.

Someone rushed in and grabbed Lai Jinlan: "You, come back with me!"

Everyone looked, and who else could it be but Zhang Jisheng?

No one knew how long he had been listening at the door or how long he had been waiting. He looked utterly embarrassed and humiliated, not daring to look at Cheng Su and Qi Fenglian.

"You're just in time." Qi Fenglian said to Zhang Jisheng as soon as she saw him, "Let's clear things up face-to-face in front of your wife."

Zhang Jisheng's expression was complex. He moved his lips but said nothing.

"You and I are done. Don't bring up getting back together again. I won't reconcile with you. I'll take good care of the kids. You have a new family now and a child on the way. Your family should live well. Don't bother us again." Qi Fenglian said with a heavy voice.

Lai Jinlan looked at her strong and resolute attitude, then at Zhang Jisheng, who seemed to want to shrink his head into his chest, feeling a surge of anger.

"Are you mute? Say something!" she slapped Zhang Jisheng's head. The others had already made their stance clear. What else did he want—did he really want to remarry? What would happen to her and their child then?

"What else is there to say? Aren't you ashamed enough? Hurry up and leave with me!" Zhang Jisheng exerted himself to drag her away.

Lai Jinlan suddenly felt furious. Perhaps Qi Fenglian was right: the Zhang family is not a goldmine, and Zhang Jisheng is not a golden lump. Who would want him in this sorry state?

"Look at you, coward!" She pushed him away in rage and stormed off.

Zhang Jisheng stood there, unable to lift his head. Seeing this, Qi Fenglian couldn't hold back a cold laugh and returned to sit behind the counter.

Zhang Jisheng wanted to say something but realized he had nothing to say. Biting his lip, he left too.

Cheng Su had enjoyed the show, and although it was much ado about nothing, she was very satisfied.

She was pleased that Qi Fenglian could finally stand up for herself and solve problems rather than always relying on others to shield her.

If she could continue like this, she would become stronger. After all, a mother becomes strong for her children.

Turning around, she saw Qi Fenglian silently crying, tears streaming down her face. Cheng Su sighed and walked over to pat her shoulder.

Chapter 1262: Being Parents Is No Easy Task

Qi Fenglian was truly aggrieved. Who had she provoked to deserve this? Ever since she found out Zhang Jisheng was dating through matchmaking, she no longer wanted to see him and had completely given up. Yet, he kept bothering her relentlessly, and now she was being insulted like this, accused of stealing someone else's husband—how ridiculous!

Who was really shameless here!

"Stop crying. This kind of shrew is just making a fuss over nothing. You're taking her seriously, and it's not worth it!" Cheng Su handed over a stack of tissues and said.

"I know, I'm just so mad. Isn't this a wrong accusation? Is Zhang Jisheng a 'golden lump' or a 'golden pineapple'? Saying I'm seducing him, how shameless!" Qi Fenglian exclaimed angrily.

"Just treat it as nonsense, would a rabid dog bite you back?" Cheng Su said, "You've said it before, the shrew matches the lazy man, they're made for each other. Let's just let them have their own dog-eat-dog drama, lively and noisy!"

Qi Fenglian gave a small laugh, looked at the attic, but her face turned gloomy again, "It's just hard on the two kids."

"Don't talk about hardship. Give them your best upbringing, and they'll know manners and sensibility. Besides, Xiao Yun is studying here now!" Cheng Su comforted with a few words.

Qi Fenglian nodded.

The sky turned dark, and Cheng Su took Xiao Yun home. All the way, the little girl was unusually silent, her face tightly drawn.

Cheng Su pulled her to sit on the sofa and asked, "Xiao Yun, do you have something on your mind?"

Xiao Yun said nothing.

Cheng Su took her hand and said, "Won't you tell your aunt, won't you share with me?"

Xiao Yun quickly shook her head, her eyes reddened, and tears flowed down, "I, I hate that woman of Dad's. She took Dad away and broke up our family. I hate her so much!"

"That's not it." Cheng Su gently wiped away her tears and said, "Dad and Mom parted because they don't have feelings for each other anymore, and that aunt got together with Dad afterwards. Xiao Yun shouldn't hate her. Adult emotions, Xiao Yun doesn't understand now, don't think about it."

Xiao Yun lowered her head.

"Hating someone is exhausting, and Aunt doesn't want Xiao Yun to be so tired. Dad and Mom are separated, living their own lives, and we should wish them happiness. Isn't that right? Because they're Xiao Yun's parents, and that fact will never change!" Cheng Su continued.

Xiao Yun raised her head, seeming to understand a little, and nodded.

"Go take a bath. How about sleeping with Aunt tonight? Uncle isn't here, and Aunt is a bit scared!" Cheng Su deliberately said.

Xiao Yun immediately said, "Then I'll sleep with you!"

Cheng Su smiled and nodded, patted her head, and sent her off to bathe.

She herself sat on the sofa, sighed deeply. Being a parent isn't easy, for such a twelve or thirteen-year-old girl, in this confused adolescent rebellious phase. If it goes wrong, she could quickly go astray.

Now she's just acting as an aunt, and it's so tiring to guide a child of this age. When it comes to her own children, wouldn't it require even more effort?

Speaking of children...

Cheng Su touched her abdomen. Qi Taiguo had gone on assignment again, and she'd been at her hometown during her ovulation period. It seemed she would miss it again.

The thought of her future children hadn't even surfaced, yet she was already worrying about their teenage rebellious phase. Was she overthinking things!

Cheng Su laughed at her own thoughts, then saw the photo frame on the shelf, her and Qi Taiguo's photo, picked it up, touched Qi Taiguo's face, and murmured, "Are you okay? Is the assignment completed? I've been missing you!"

Chapter 1263: Factory Within a Factory

Qi Taiguo's task was not going smoothly in Guicheng, as the secret military factory had yet to be uncovered. To avoid alarming the enemy, everyone was lying low.

The people from the Guicheng Military Region could wait, but Qi Taiguo could not because there's still no news about Ning Ge.

Qi Taiguo's mood worsened further, and his temper grew violent with a murderous intent. His aura became increasingly dark and cold, oozing a soldiers' unique bloodthirsty temperament, sending chills deep into people's hearts.

Normally, Qi Taiguo was quite composed and calm, making this anomaly seem inappropriate. Why did it feel like he couldn't keep his composure?

Only Qi Taiguo knew the reason. If Ning Ge was really captured, she would either be dead, or if not, every day spent in captivity was dangerous. How could he remain calm under such circumstances?

The people secretly dispatched had also failed to find any trace of Ning Ge, and as for the military factory, it had yet to be found.

Qi Taiguo looked at the large map, realizing the military factory was deeply hidden. It hadn't been discovered for so long, and still, whereabouts remained unknown. Where could it be hidden?

He scrutinized the dense forest on the map; indeed, if retreating was necessary, the mountainous forest was ideal. If the military factory was built here, any mishap would not easily be detected.

However, there was one problem: If it was hidden deep in the mountains, how would they transport goods?

Each discussion was dismissed, with the final location remaining elusive.

That Jiang Dafang, hasn't he confirmed the shipping location by now?

Qi Taiguo's face turned very grim.

The longer the mission dragged on, the worse it was, increasing the risk of exposure. Could it be that they've already leaked the information, alarming the enemy?

Feeling anxious, Qi Taiguo threw down his pen and began doing push-ups on the floor.

One push-up after another, beads of sweat dripped down, while his mind whirled like gears.

If it were him, how would he design this military factory to ensure easy access for supplies, facilitate swift retreat, and conceal its operations?

Easy accessibility for goods required allowing vehicles, while ensuring prompt retreat in case of emergencies. In this county, apart from the deep mountains and wild forests, there was no better retreat path.

Factory, deep mountains and wild forests.

Qi Taiguo observed the freshly fallen sweat, gaining a sudden insight.

He quickly rose from the ground, grabbed his pen again, and started sketching on the South County map, focusing on the Jingui Cannery.

His pen circled a spot on the map and drew a line to the forest, then marked it with a question mark.

How could such a long passage to the forest be made without commotion?

"Old Qi, any discoveries?" The Guicheng Military Region's Commander Jiang entered holding a cup.

"Is this factory still operational?"

Commander Jiang leaned closer: "It's been checked. It really is a cannery, with proper documentation!"

"I heard that South County participated in the Vietnam War and had dug many air raid tunnels at the time," Qi Taiguo said slowly.

Commander Jiang froze for a moment: "You mean..."

"Only this way can ensure easy access for operations and swift retreat," Qi Taiguo pointed at the red line.

"But it's a cannery!"

"On the surface, it's a cannery. Could there be a hidden factory within the factory?" Qi Taiguo's eyes narrowed.

Commander Jiang's face slightly tensed as they both looked at that red dot.

"There's news!"

Chapter 1264: Stealthily Transferring Goods

"... There's news!"

Qi Taiguo's spirits lifted, and he quickly looked over. It was an information reconnaissance soldier: "We just found out that in the past few days, the number of people entering and leaving Jingui Cannery is unusually high and suspicious. They're also frequently dispatching trucks."

Battalion Commander Jiang was startled and exchanged a glance with Qi Taiguo.

"Report!"

Another communication soldier came in, carrying a phone for action, holding the receiver: "Report, the higher-ups request a call."

Battalion Commander Jiang immediately took it, stated his name, and listened to the instructions inside. His eyes focused, and he said, "Yes, I guarantee the task will be completed!"

After hanging up the phone, Battalion Commander Jiang urgently called for the soldiers to assemble.

"How is it?" Qi Taiguo was a bit anxious.

"The higher-ups indeed reported suspicious activity at Jingui Cannery. They have a shipment going out tonight, scheduled for 4 AM, heading straight to Zhu City's border for departure. We need to immediately deploy an operation to wipe out this smuggling gang in one fell swoop."

Qi Taiguo glanced at the time on his watch. It was ten o'clock, six hours left.

Outside, the assembly whistle sounded. Qi Taiguo calmed himself and walked out as well.

Yanjing.

In an elegantly decorated, antique-style study, someone was speaking softly.

"So? Is everything arranged?" an elderly voice asked.

"Dad, everything is already arranged. By the time they find out, all our goods will have been shipped!"

Upon closer look, weren't these the father and son, Old Master Loo and Lu Zhenhua?

Old Master Loo lay on a rocking chair, raising his eyelids at the words, and said, "Are you sure there won't be any mistakes?"

"Old Luh personally followed up. By now, the goods are probably already on the ship!" Lu Zhenhua glanced at the antique clock on the corner of the wall and said.

Old Master Loo's eyelids drooped again.

Lu Zhenhua looked at his father with some admiration, saying, "That Jiang kid would never have expected that what he's helping to transport is real canned goods and toy guns. Dad, your stratagem of 'underhanded concealment' is truly brilliant!"

On the surface, they were transporting via land route to Zhu City, with real canned goods and toy firearms. In reality, they took the water route, directly connecting at the Guicheng border.

As long as the sand boat passes through customs unnoticed, there won't be a problem. Now, we just wait for the message to come through!

Lu Zhenhua, unable to contain his joy, opened a bottle of whiskey and poured himself a drink.

Old Master Loo shook his head and said, "No deal is settled until the last moment; never be careless. That's a huge taboo in business."

"Dad, when have you ever slipped up all these years?" Lu Zhenhua laughed indifferently.

Old Master Loo sighed, recalling his years of cautious steps and careful efforts to attain the current family business. Now, he had to let go.

"I still feel uneasy in my heart!" Old Master Loo pressed his chest and said, "We've been running this business for years smoothly. Why suddenly this year has someone taken notice?"

If Shenglong of Guangcheng hadn't mentioned something odd, he wouldn't have realized someone noticed Shenglong's transport, which alarmed him. The more he thought about it, the less coincidental it seemed.

Coincidentally, Jiang Conghe sought favor with their Loo Family, wanting to raise his son by letting him take over the business. Since they've earned enough, having a scapegoat isn't bad; letting go would be fine!

But why, now that everything is arranged, does the unease still linger?

"Dad, perhaps you're just too tired lately? Get some rest first. I'll inform you once there's news!" Lu Zhenhua still appeared indifferent.

Old Master Loo nodded and closed his eyes, yet his feelings remained unsettled.

Chapter 1265: Fallen Into a Trap

The entire Jingui Cannery was quietly surrounded, Qi Taiguo stood at a high place, watching the time on his watch; there were three hours left until the shipment time.

He looked at the cannery hidden in the darkness, always feeling a bit unreal.

"Is the information Jiang Dafang sent accurate? Do the Loo Family and Jiang Conghe trust him like this? No, even if Jiang Conghe trusts him, the Loo Family may not. They are arch-enemies."

Yet somehow, he was arranged to transport the shipment!

This doesn't make sense. For the Loo Family to reach where they are today, the head of the family must not be such a reckless person!

Qi Taiguo pondered for a moment and called over Cheng Jiasheng and the others.

He walked down the small hillside, Cheng Jiasheng had already come over, dressed in camouflage, youthful face full of energy.

"You've learned reconnaissance, if I send you to gather intelligence now, do you have confidence?" Qi Taiguo felt uneasy; their actions were too large-scale, making him feel something wasn't quite right.

Cheng Jiasheng was stunned, stood straight, and replied, "Yes, Deputy Battalion Commander!"

Qi Taiguo nodded and pointed to another scout, ordering them to sneak in to investigate, while also instructing Ning Le and another sniper to cover them.

He really didn't want to wait for the so-called shipment time; if the goods were here, then the time was irrelevant—they should go all in, dig three feet, and surely find the goods.

But if the goods weren't here... wouldn't they have been busy in vain?

Qi Taiguo's heart sank, his lips pressed together.

Cheng Jiasheng and the others stealthily snuck in, Qi Taiguo clasped his hands near his mouth, the anxiety inside him did not lessen by half; this was unprecedented for him.

"Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, what's going on, why did your people go in?" Battalion Commander Jiang's voice came through the earpiece, somewhat agitated.

Qi Taiguo explained: "I felt something was off; our actions were too loud, seeming somewhat like an attempt to cover up. I'm not assured."

Battalion Commander Jiang's voice sounded hesitant, he said nothing.

"Battalion Commander Jiang, capturing the criminal with the goods is correct, but our goal is to eliminate this military factory; I think we should act in advance," Qi Taiguo thought for a moment and suggested.

Battalion Commander Jiang seemed to take a sharp breath, saying, "Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, the operation wasn't planned this way."

"Battalion Commander Jiang, this is also unexpected..." Qi Taiguo was about to speak when Cheng Jiasheng's voice came from the other side of the radio.

"Reporting, no firearms or ammunition found here, only cans."

Qi Taiguo immediately asked, "Have you found any secret rooms?"

"Reporting, discovered large quantities of realistic toy pistols, with an imitation degree of eighty percent." Another scout responded before Cheng Jiasheng could.

Qi Taiguo's heart sank; not good, they've been tricked.

"Battalion Commander Jiang, I request an immediate thorough investigation, act now," Qi Taiguo said coldly to Battalion Commander Jiang without hesitation.

"What toy replicas? This is an international joke; they must be used by the enemy to distract us."

Battalion Commander Jiang also heard Cheng Jiasheng and the others' words, breathing rapidly with anger, saying: "All personnel, take your positions, move."

Qi Taiguo no longer stayed on the hillside and rushed toward the cannery.

Suddenly, the slightly remote cannery became chaotic and noisy, startling birds in the nearby forest into flapping their wings and flying around noisily.

Chapter 1266: The People in the Water Prison

An hour ago.

At the military factory below the canning plant, entrusted aides sent by the Loo Family, under the command of Old Luh, were swiftly transferring the arranged assortment of firearms, ammunition, and nuclear materials out of the facility.

"I thought you had all given up on them," said Master Tie, the head of the military factory, with a cigarette dangling from his mouth as he looked sideways at Old Luh.

Old Luh replied, "How could we give up? It's just that they're watching us closely outside, so we had to come up with a new route."

Master Tie snorted.

Old Luh's eyes shifted as he said, "Our old master says the wisp of rumors outside is a bit tight right now, so we might not place any orders for a while."

Upon hearing this, Master Tie squinted slightly and asked, "What do you mean, you're saying the Loo Family is done with this business?"

"I'm not sure what the old master means. The wisp of rumors is indeed tight, and there are many matters at home. Whether we'll continue in the future is uncertain, but for now, it probably won't happen for a while." Old Luh added, "Even this batch of goods, isn't it quite a hassle? And it made you go to such great lengths."

Saying that, he took out a wad of cash from his pocket and placed it in Master Tie's hand, saying, "This is a token from our old master for Master Tie to enjoy some tea, to thank you for negotiating this time."

Master Tie weighed it in his hand and tossed it to a subordinate beside him, saying, "Your old master is playing 'diversion tactics,' but I don't care. Now that the goods have been handed over, we're even. If there's any trouble, sorry, friendship is one thing, but survival is another. We will certainly protect our own lives first."

"Yes, yes, yes." Old Luh nodded and bowed.

Only then did Master Tie leave.

Old Luh breathed a sigh of relief and shouted sternly, "Move quickly." As long as they could transfer all these goods and successfully deliver them to the buyers' hands, this mission would be considered completed.

Master Tie watched from a distance, as a subordinate approached him and said, "Master Tie, could there be any problems? If it implicates us..."

Master Tie raised a hand, saying, "There are rules on the street. Once the goods are gone, we're settled; the transaction is considered complete."

"Master Tie, that's precisely the issue. If they successfully move the goods, it's resolved for them, but our base is here!" The subordinate spoke softly, "If nothing happens, good. But if something does, our base could be wiped out entirely!"

Master Tie was slightly stunned and took a couple of puffs from his cigarette, "No, what benefit do they get from taking us down? Business needs to be sustainable. We've had years without issues, and the transaction records are still with me. Isn't the Loo Family afraid?"

The subordinate's eyes flashed upon hearing this and he said, a bit sheepishly, "Master Tie, you always think things through!"

Master Tie didn't speak. Though he said so, his brows remained furrowed.

The Loo Family shouldn't be so stupid, right? If his side is exposed, isn't he, as the middleman, afraid these transactions will be exposed too!

Forget it, if the Loo Family doesn't want to do it anymore, I'll just look for buyers directly in the future and avoid all these complications.

"Have those two in the water dungeon confessed anything yet?" Master Tie asked again, "How did they get here? What's their origin?"

Compared to the Loo Family, what he cared more about were the captured people. If they managed to get into this place, could it also have been discovered by outsiders?

The subordinate's expression darkened, saying, "Not yet, their bones are tough."

Upon hearing this, Master Tie's face turned very grim, "Tough bones? Are they tougher than the gun and knife in my hand? Continue the interrogation, and if nothing comes out, send them to meet their ancestors!"

"Yes!" The subordinate left.

Master Tie looked down at the ruckus below, his brows deeply furrowed, and spit on the ground in disdain.

Chapter 1267: Destroying the Lair

Seeing the Loo Family had moved all the goods, Master Tie sat deeply in his office, opened the safe, which was full of money and various ledgers.

In the illicit goods business, there's no cash on delivery. What if I was ready, and you suddenly said there's no war, you don't want it anymore, then who counts the loss?

So, the money was already given, here and elsewhere. The Loo Family, over the years, had cooperated with him for many years, they had good transportation channels and really never had any trouble.

Lucky bastards!

It's really a pity, without the Loo Family, he had to find buyers himself in the future and also find his own smuggling routes.

Suddenly, the back of his head was pressed by something cold. Even without turning around, Master Tie knew what it was after years of dealing with illicit goods.

So, he wisely raised his hands and slowly turned around.

Seeing the person with the gun now pointing at his forehead, Master Tie's face slightly changed: "Mouse, what do you mean by this?"

"Where's the ledger for the Loo Family deal?" The one called Mouse, who just reminded Master Tie to be careful of a raid, asked.

Master Tie pointed at the safe and asked, "Are you working for the Loo Family or someone else? Mouse, you've followed me for so many years!"

Mouse remained unmoved and said, "Take out the ledger." He moved the trigger slightly.

Master Tie's face turned serious: "How much did the Loo Family give you? Is it worth being a traitor for them? Even if you leave this room, aren't you afraid of being hunted by your brothers later?" He thought, what is the Loo Family planning, taking the ledger, destroying all evidence traces? Withdrawing?

"Enough nonsense, hurry up and get the ledger!" Mouse pushed him with the gun, if he handed over the ledger, he could flee far away, go abroad!

Master Tie had no choice but to turn around to get it, but his eyes flashed with shrewdness. In the instant he turned, he kicked backward quickly, ducked his body, and managed to dodge the gun at his head.

Mouse was kicked squarely, his finger was already on the trigger, and the gun fired.

Master Tie dodged, pounced quickly, and wrestled with him.

"How dare you betray me. Tell me, was it the Loo Family who ordered you?" Master Tie, who was naturally larger than Mouse, punched him repeatedly, the gun was also kicked away by him.

Mouse fought back with one hand and scrambled with the other, not knowing where the gun was kicked to.

Suddenly, he grabbed it and fired a shot at Master Tie's abdomen.

"You..."

"Cops!"

"Police are coming!"

Gunshots suddenly erupted, chaos everywhere.

Master Tie and Mouse were shocked - cops, meant the hideout was indeed being raided.

Mouse didn't care about anything, fired several times, Master Tie finally stopped moving, and he hurriedly pushed him away to search the safe.

But in the safe, there were several ledgers, not knowing which one was the Loo Family's, what to do?

Mouse hastily took all the ledgers, grabbed a submachine gun from the wall, saw it was fully loaded, and frantically tried to escape, firing randomly, wanting to escape through the secret passage downstairs.

Bang! Bang!

"Sniper!" Qi Taiguo shouted when he saw the person running down from the building.

Bang!

Mouse was shot in the leg and immediately went limp, tumbling down the stairs, the ledgers in his hand scattering all over the floor.

Ning Le blew the smoke from his gun, full of pride, while Qi Taiguo gave him a fierce glare, his eyes searching everywhere for something, his expression urgent.

Chapter 1268: Feint in the East, Attack in the West

"Report, no finished firearms or ammunition were found."

"Report, a large amount of cash and gold bars were found..."

"Report..."

Qi Taiguo listened to the reports coming in one by one, but there was no news of a large batch of contraband. His brow furrowed as he saw the person lying under the stairs. With a sharp look in his eyes, he walked over.

The Mouse was still groaning as he clutched his leg. Qi Taiguo came over, grabbed him by the collar: "Tell me, were you planning to ship tonight? Was it the Loo Family's goods?"

Mouse's eyes flickered, and Qi Taiguo caught it, pressing him further: "Where is that batch of goods?"

"What goods, I don't know."

Battalion Commander Jiang approached. He had already investigated outside and found that the items being loaded onto the truck were just some canned goods and toys. Those people claimed the toy guns were also there on consignment; it was simply ridiculous.

"We've already got everyone under control, but we haven't found that batch of goods," Battalion Commander Jiang said.

They had taken control of the people and busted this factory, but without a large amount of finished goods, just some scattered components—they might get sentenced, but the crime wouldn't be deemed too severe since the stolen goods weren't there.

"Speak." Qi Taiguo punched him, then thought of something and asked, "Did you capture two people?"

Mouse paused, not saying anything, but Qi Taiguo kept his focus and asked, "Where are they? Speak, where are they?" He stomped on the spot where Mouse had been shot, grinding mercilessly.

"Dead, they're all dead!" Mouse howled.

Qi Taiguo's face grew darker, and he applied more pressure: "Speak or not!"

Battalion Commander Jiang watched and said, "Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, he's a witness!" meaning not to kill him, but he also felt puzzled about who these people were and something felt odd.

At this moment, someone brought over the sorted account book from the ground, handing it to Battalion Commander Jiang. He flipped through it, face changing slightly, and passed it to Qi Taiguo.

Qi Taiguo glanced at it and became more determined. It was the transaction record between this military factory and the Loo Family. With this, even if the Loo Family didn't go down, they wouldn't escape unscathed.

"We still need to find that batch of goods..." Battalion Commander Jiang said. To convict thoroughly, they needed to catch them in the act with the evidence.

After all, to catch a thief, you need the stolen goods.

But Qi Taiguo's mind was on Ning Ge, as he clutched Mouse's throat: "Tell me, where are those people? Where are the goods?"

Battalion Commander Jiang's brow tightened; Deputy Battalion Commander Qi seemed a bit mad!

"Shuishui..." Mouse finally couldn't endure anymore, and as he was about to faint, said, "In the water dungeon, don't know if they're dead!"

"Where's the water dungeon?"

"The underground basement."

"And the goods?"

"Don't know. We only make them. How they're transported is their own business!" Mouse saw Qi Taiguo raise his fist and hurriedly shouted: "They took it two hours ago!"

Battalion Commander Jiang's face changed; two hours ago, no vehicles had been seen coming or going on the main road.

"Battalion Commander Jiang, we must immediately notify all outposts to seal off all exits of Guicheng and thoroughly check every vehicle," Qi Taiguo said.

Battalion Commander Jiang nodded.

Qi Taiguo thought for a moment, if the goods were taken hours ago, but Jiang Dafang was notified at four a.m., it was a diversion to mislead them. But if they're planning long-distance transport, there's always a risk; momentary confusion is of no use as inspections at checkpoints still carry risk.

But what if they're not taking the road?

"Where's the map?" Qi Taiguo got a map of Guicheng and studied it carefully, his eyes narrowing again: "The waterways, Battalion Commander Jiang, they might be taking the waterways. Notify the navy to assist immediately."

Battalion Commander Jiang looked at the map he was pointing to, quickly understanding the key points, and swiftly went to make arrangements.

Chapter 1269: Still Alive

Qi Taiguo dragged Mouse by the collar, pressing him to lead the way to the basement. Mouse approached an inconspicuous wooden cabinet. Qi Taiguo immediately had it moved aside, revealing a button on the wall. Pressing it, the wall opened up, exposing a hidden staircase.

"Ning Le." Qi Taiguo didn't rush forward but signaled a few people to follow him up.

Walking down, they entered a vast dark room filled with racks, storing many grenades and such.

Everyone held their breath.

"Don't shoot easily." Qi Taiguo immediately said, "Be careful."

To find so many hidden things here was worth the trip. Everyone felt a bit excited.

Qi Taiguo, however, pushed Mouse, "Move!"

Mouse staggered, trembling, and pointed ahead.

Qi Taiguo couldn't wait any longer. He handed Mouse over to a soldier to be controlled and quickly ran in the direction Mouse pointed.

Ning Le and the others were puzzled and hurriedly followed.

The basement lighting wasn't very bright. The design was somewhat outdated, with dust everywhere. It seemed like an old abandoned armory that the black-market trader had reused.

As Qi Taiguo inspected, he heard water sounds and rushed over.

It was a large water dungeon, surrounded by an iron cage. The origin of the murky water was unknown, and something seemed to be moving inside. Under the orange lighting, someone was hanging by their hands, their head lowered, upper body covered in welts, all soaked, with two leeches attached to the abdomen. It was unclear if they were alive or dead.

Qi Taiguo's expression changed. He knelt by the cage, looking down, and called with a trembling voice, "Ning Ge?"

Not far behind him, Ning Le, curious about this person, suddenly understood why Deputy Battalion Commander Qi seemed anxious when he heard the name, his face changing color.

Ning Ge? Fourth Uncle?

Ning Le rushed over to look, "Fourth Uncle?"

The iron door was locked. Qi Taiguo grabbed the gun from Ning Le's hand and said, "Stand back!"

Everyone retreated slightly as Qi Taiguo aimed at the lock and fired precisely. It took four shots to break the lock.

Opening the iron door, he jumped in but hesitated to approach closely, softly calling, "Ning Ge? Ning Ge."

Ning Ge showed no reaction. Qi Taiguo went forward, trembling fingers reaching under his nose. The breath was weak. He checked the carotid artery; it was still beating. He was alive!

Qi Taiguo's tense heart finally relaxed.

Seeing that Ning Ge's hands were cuffed, Qi Taiguo hurriedly retrieved his pistol from his belt and shot at the handcuffs. Before long, Ning Ge's hands were free, and he began to fall forward.

Qi Taiguo quickly caught him, and as Ning Ge lay on his shoulder, he saw more leeches clinging to his back.

"Is he alive?" Ning Le's voice trembled. He had never expected to find his Fourth Uncle here, of all places. Why was he here, and why was he tied up?

"Alive!" Qi Taiguo lifted him up, asking someone to carry him out.

Ning Le and his companions clumsily took Ning Ge, realizing he wore only a pair of shorts, with more leeches on his legs.

Ning Le's eyes reddened, reaching to pull off those disgusting creatures but failing to remove them.

Qi Taiguo jumped out, carrying a few leeches on himself, though his clothes prevented them from sticking.

"We need to burn them off." Someone said, seeing Ning Le struggled to remove them by hand.

"We'll deal with it outside. We can't use fire here!" Qi Taiguo remained rational, glancing at the flammable and explosive items piled around, thinking fire couldn't be used here.

Chapter 1270: Your Blood Will Not Be Shed in Vain

Carrying Ning Ge out of the basement, Ning Le's heart was filled with pain. Someone who used to be so robust was now so light, skin and bones, holding him was effortless. Just how many days had Fourth Uncle been imprisoned?

Qi Taiguo was pained too, but more overwhelmed with fury.

Once out of the basement, they retrieved fire to remove the leeches attached to Ning Ge's body. Then they saw the scars all over him, knife wounds and others, his skin had been soaking in water for so long that the wounds were pale and rotting, it was a harrowing sight.

Ning Le's eyes instantly reddened. His Fourth Uncle, who used to be clean and handsome, was now more dead than alive.

Qi Taiguo's eyes reddened as well. Turning his gaze, he saw Mouse who was getting his leg gunshot wound bandaged. He walked over, forcefully pulled away the soldier helping with the bandages, then stomped on Mouse's wounded leg again, and that wasn't enough; he dislocated Mouse's arms and snapped his wrists.

Mouse fainted from the pain.

The soldier witnessing Qi Taiguo's madness was too terrified to make a sound, just staring blankly.

"No one is allowed to bandage him or put him back together!" Qi Taiguo was still not satisfied, furiously stomping Mouse's ankle, jolting him awake from the pain.

Battalion Commander Jiang walked in and his expression changed several times. "Deputy Battalion Commander Qi..."

"Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle." Ning Le cried out, "Quick, call the doctor."

Qi Taiguo immediately rushed over, knelt on one knee, "Ning Ge!"

Ning Ge, extremely weak, coughed twice, blood spitting from his mouth, but he still managed a smile at Qi Taiguo and spoke intermittently, "You...you were...so slow."

"It's my fault," Qi Taiguo's eyes were red.

"Loo Family, the goods are going through Gui River, hurry, hurry and go..." With that said, Ning Ge tilted his head and passed out.

"Fourth Uncle!" Ning Le shouted anxiously.

Qi Taiguo quickly checked his pulse and said, "He's just fainted. Get him to the hospital immediately."

Battalion Commander Jiang, seeing Ning Ge, was full of confusion as he looked at Qi Taiguo, waiting for his explanation. Who was this person and what was his background?

"This raid was possible due to the information he provided. He says the batch of goods that got away is heading through Gui River, Battalion Commander Jiang, we must pursue immediately." Qi Taiguo explained succinctly.

Battalion Commander Jiang understood at once, assuming Ning Ge was probably from an intelligence department, and responded hastily, "Customs and Navy have been notified to assist in interception."

"That's not enough, both the people and goods escaped from us, we need to recover them, at least regain them in our hands." Qi Taiguo said, "It's stolen property and evidence from this military factory."

Battalion Commander Jiang thought for a moment and agreed, "You're right, let's act immediately, leave a team to clear the scene." If Navy Customs catches them, the credit will be theirs, but such a large operation here with only minor gains was unacceptable.

Qi Taiguo didn't care about his thoughts, turned and said, "Ning Le, assemble!"

"But Fourth Uncle..." Ning Le was worried.

"The mission isn't over yet." Qi Taiguo commanded, glancing again at Ning Ge lying on the ground, "Someone will take him to the hospital for proper treatment."

Ning Le pursed his lips, clenched his teeth, stood up from the ground.

Military orders are absolute, no matter the cost, mission comes first.

Qi Taiguo assigned a team to wrap up, then instructed others to escort Ning Ge to the hospital, leaning close to his ear and whispered, "Rest assured, I will make sure your blood doesn't spill in vain, will not let your suffering be in vain."

The Loo Family must pay the price for the suffering and blood Ning Ge endured.