

The 80s 1271

Chapter 1271: Defeat in Battle

Old Master Loo awoke from his sleep, surrounded by darkness, as if a giant beast was hiding in the shadows, suffocating him.

He turned on the lamp on the bedside table and glanced at the clock. Four in the morning. That matter should be settled, right?

Since there's no news, that must be good news, right?

Old Master Loo slowly raised the corners of his mouth, took a sip from the tea cup on the bedside, and stood up.

Urgent footsteps approached, and the door was opened. Old Master Loo looked up to see Lu Zhenhua standing at the doorway.

"Dad, something's happened!"

Old Master Loo's face darkened, and the tea cup fell from his hand, spilling water all over the blanket.

No use crying over spilled milk.

At the Gui River, Qi Taiguo and others were in a standoff with the sand boat loaded with goods from the Loo Family.

They were just one step away from a successful transaction.

Luckily, they arrived in time.

Qi Taiguo watched as his men surrounded both sand boats, a cold smile playing on his lips.

"Watch out for desperate acts. The boats are full of illegal goods; be careful of accidental explosions," Qi Taiguo instructed the special forces preparing to board the ship.

"Yes!"

"Get me a diving suit," Qi Taiguo added.

"Deputy Battalion Commander Qi..."

"Hurry!" Qi Taiguo commanded sternly, ignoring the disapproval of the others.

There were some newcomers boarding this time, which made him uneasy, and he'd promised Ning Ge that he wouldn't let his blood be shed in vain. Those who caused him suffering would pay.

He wanted to personally capture these people and seize this batch of illegal goods!

...

Old Master Loo listened to Old Luh over the phone, his face turning ashen. "Do you know who led the team?" he asked.

"Qi Taiguo!"

"It's him!"

Old Master Loo's face shifted, and a strange thought suddenly surfaced in his mind, leaving him incredulous.

For years, the Loo Family had never been blundered in this matter. Why are there so many issues these past two years? Why?

And all these incidents seem to revolve around this Qi Taiguo. Because Qingqing favored him, it led to a series of troubles. Is it possible that Qi Taiguo also has a grudge against the Loo Family, causing everything to go awry?

And tonight, despite the arrangements, they were still discovered. No, they must have been discovered earlier, but held back from acting.

Could there be a mole?

Thinking of Qi Taiguo, with old and new grievances, he said, "If he wants to die, let him die. We won't go down alone. Old Luh, inform everyone that the Loo Family will take care of the aftermath..."

They cannot be caught like this. If the deal fails, then destroy it.

After hanging up, Old Master Loo felt a heavy cloud looming over his head, a cloud unfavorable to the Loo Family.

"Zhenhua, get Shaojun out of here immediately. Whether it's the United States or the United Kingdom, whichever flight is the fastest, take it and leave at once!" Old Master Loo instructed his son.

Lu Zhenhua's face changed: "Dad!"

Arranging for his son to go abroad means the situation is already so dire?

"Hurry!"

Lu Zhenhua stumbled out to make arrangements.

Old Master Loo paced a few more steps in the study, thinking of ways to respond. Even if they were caught this time, they must remain steady. Yes, traces must be erased, and everyone must be mobilized.

As this thought ran through his mind, Old Master Loo called Jiang Conghe, but no one answered.

What happened?

After putting down the phone, Old Master Loo felt uneasy. Suddenly, the phone rang, and he grabbed it: "Hello!"

"Dad, Old Chiang has been taken away!" Lu Shufen's sobbing voice came through the phone.

The receiver slipped from Old Master Loo's hand...

Chapter 1272: The Loo Family's Madman

Qi Taiguo anticipated that the Loo Family would act out of desperation, but he hadn't expected them to become so deranged as to attempt to blow up an entire ship's worth of explosive cargo and perish together.

If not for the quick reflexes of his men, they might all have died here.

But an accident still occurred; a soldier shielded the reckless Ning Le and took a bullet for him, hitting the shoulder. Fortunately, it was just the shoulder — if it had been the heart, there would have been no saving him.

Everyone on the ship had been subdued. Qi Taiguo eyed them coldly, a motley crew turned so deranged, treating lives so carelessly. The Loo Family must have paid them handsomely, right?

But is money really more important than life? If you're dead, what use is the money?

"Has everyone been subdued? Are they all here?" Qi Taiguo asked, "Have you checked the lower deck?"

"Ning Le is conducting the final sweep."

Qi Taiguo nodded, "Who's in charge here?"

The people pressed to the ground looked at each other and shook their heads.

Qi Taiguo frowned.

A gunshot echoed from the bottom deck, and Qi Taiguo's expression changed as he dashed down furiously.

Reaching the bottom of the hold, he saw a person convulsing on the ground, blood streaming from his neck. Not far away, Ning Le held up a gun, his foot pressing down on something round.

Qi Taiguo's expression altered.

That was...

"This damn crook thought he could cook us all in one pot, no way." Ning Le laughed, but his smile looked terrible.

He's so young, just graduated, on his first mission, yet now he's stepping on a bomb. If he lifts his foot, he's dead for sure.

When he first boarded, he was rash and reckless. His comrades had to take a bullet for him, all in his haste to perform. Careless, he didn't notice the sly old thief and now has stepped on this trick mine.

"Shut up!" Qi Taiguo barked coldly.

"Vice Captain, you must tell my dad to give me a first-class merit. Make sure my gravestone is spotless in the future. I hate dirt; I can't stand even a bit of it," Ning Le chuckled lightheartedly.

"If you don't open your mouth, no one would think you're mute," Qi Taiguo scolded.

He squatted down, looking at the trick mine under Ning Le's foot, while instructing through the earpiece to clear the area immediately, remove the explosive cargo quickly, and evacuate everyone.

"Vice Captain, am I the unluckiest one, on my first mission about to sacrifice?"

"If you're scared, just say it, don't spout nonsense. You're still very much alive!" Qi Taiguo retorted without looking up.

Ning Le choked, then stubbornly said, "Who's scared, not me!"

Qi Taiguo ignored him, surveying the bottom hold. At the bottom of the ship, this trick mine placed here — if it detonates, along with the explosive cargo, it would surely blow up the entire ship, reducing everyone to ashes.

Damn it, Loo Family maniacs!

The ship is certainly going to explode, now it's a matter of escaping this calamity.

He opened the window at the bottom of the hold, looked out, and smashed it open. The river wind immediately blew in, mixed with moisture.

Ning Le was somewhat at a loss, just watching Qi Taiguo's actions. His previously fearful heart gradually calmed as he saw him busily moving about.

"Report, the area is fully cleared."

Qi Taiguo acknowledged, gauging the distance and nodding secretly. He removed his military vest, leaving just a tight-fitting undershirt.

"Listen to me." Qi Taiguo pressed Ning Le's shoulder firmly, speaking with force, "Move your foot away slowly, bit by bit. I'll step on it."

Hearing this, Ning Le looked at Qi Taiguo in shock.

Chapter 1273: What Are You Afraid Of

Watching Qi Taiguo's composed expression, Ning Le's heart was uneasy. He didn't move his feet and only said, "Commander Qi, even though my dad is Ning Gang, you really don't have to do this. Since I've enlisted and can be sent on missions, naturally I've anticipated sacrifices; nobody is an exception. So, even if I sacrifice myself, my dad definitely wouldn't blame you in the slightest, you..."

"Shut up! Why so much talk?" Qi Taiguo glared at him: "On a mission outside, orders from superiors are absolutely followed. You don't know this military rule? I am your superior; my orders are not for rebuttal! Listen to me, move your foot, inch by inch."

Ning Le felt a tremor inside, pressed his lips tightly, stared at him for a while, and eventually backed down.

His foot felt as heavy as a thousand pounds and trembled slightly, wanting to move but feeling immobile.

"What are you afraid of?" Qi Taiguo pressed down on his shoulder, saying, "Remember what you learned in military school, what does sniper training require? Heart must be calm, eyes steady, ears alert."

Ning Le took a deep breath and let it out, slowly moving his foot that was planted on the trick mine.

Qi Taiguo followed his movements, slowly trodding over.

It was just a shift, but upon completion, both were drenched in sweat.

Ning Le relaxed his foot, contrary to expectation, there wasn't an explosion, he instantly grew limp and sat on the ground.

"Don't daze out, get moving." Qi Taiguo said in a deep voice.

Ning Le quickly climbed up, looked at him: "Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, you..."

"Go!" Qi Taiguo shouted: "Make them steer the other boat a hundred meters away, if something seems off, keep going further, the farther the better."

Ning Le bit his lip and said, "I'll wait for you to come back. You must come back!"

As he walked forward, Qi Taiguo called him again: "If... tell my wife..."

Ning Le steadily gazed at him.

"Forget it, I'll tell her myself when I return!" Qi Taiguo coldly said: "Go!"

No final words, something to say to her personally!

This is his promise to her.

Ning Le ran out, wiping a tear resolutely from the corner of his eye after exiting the hull.

Qi Taiguo quietly waited, until the sound of safe docking came from the intercom, only then did he breathe a sigh of relief.

A trick mine is bound to explode, fortunately, this is in the heart of the river, even if it triggers a large explosion, it wouldn't cause significant damage, as for himself...

We'll see if King Yama wants him dead today!

Qi Taiguo looked at the window he had widened with a chisel, silently made a prayer in his heart, and took another deep breath.

Drawing in all his strength, foot braced, Qi Taiguo ran with all his might, leaping towards that window...

From action to leap out, the entire process took just two or three seconds.

As he leaped out, the sand boat behind him detonated with a boom, the enormous fireball hit him, and he fell into the water.

Nearby people saw everything clearly, each gripping the boat pole tightly.

"Get the boat over there, floodlight fully on, divers ready, immediately dive, search for Deputy Battalion Commander Qi with all your might!" Battalion Commander Jiang shouted.

"Yes!"

The sand boat steered towards the burning wrecked ship, while simultaneously, divers jumped like dumplings into the water, swimming towards where Qi Taiguo had just sunk.

Ning Le didn't just watch, he stripped off his military uniform and all cumbersome items, and dove in.

This was supposed to be his burden, now Deputy Battalion Commander Qi has taken his place, no matter dead or alive, he must bring him back, refusing to let him become a ghost in the water.

Chapter 1274: As Long as I'm Alive

In her sleep, Cheng Su felt her body shaking. Could it be another earthquake? Groggily opening her eyes, she saw Xiao Yun looking at her worriedly. It turned out Xiao Yun was shaking her, and she couldn't help but ask, "What's the matter?"

She sat up, feeling weak and exhausted, glancing out the window to see that dawn was already breaking.

"Aunt, why are you crying? Did you have a nightmare?" Xiao Yun asked, concerned.

Was she crying?

Cheng Su touched her cheek, indeed wet and sticky, and she was taken aback. Why was she crying?

"You were just crying softly, and I called you but you didn't hear me," Xiao Yun said. "Did you have a scary dream?"

Cheng Su smiled, saying, "Perhaps I did. Fortunately, Xiao Yun woke me. Did Aunt scare you, Xiao Yun?"

She had already forgotten what dream she had just had, unclear as if seen through a haze, and without a trace of memory.

"Xiao Yun isn't afraid." Xiao Yun approached and hugged her waist, saying, "Aunt doesn't need to be scared either. Xiao Yun is here!"

"Yes, Aunt isn't afraid." Cheng Su felt comforted; after living together for several days, this child's attachment to her had grown deeper, showing concern for her. It wasn't in vain.

She glanced at the sky and said, "It's morning. Do you want to sleep more, Xiao Yun? If not, get up, and Aunt will teach you how to make dumplings today."

"Okay!"

Cheng Su got up to dress, looking at the faintly brightening sky, but her heart was racing, feeling anxious and fearful.

Qi Taiguo, are you okay? When will you come back?

As Cheng Su thought of Qi Taiguo, he was sinking into water in a coma, being very tired and in pain, finding the water comforting to the point of not wanting to get up.

But he seemed to hear Cheng Su's cry, hearing her calling.

Cheng Su, his Su, his beloved, the treasure he holds dearly.

Don't cry, because he would be sad and heartbroken.

"Here, found him!" Someone seemed to shout in his ear, and another person held him from behind, dragging him upwards.

"Hurry, lift him up."

People on the boat hastily raised Qi Taiguo up. Someone knelt beside him, crossed hands, pressing rhythmically on his chest, occasionally performing artificial respiration.

Air, fresh air.

Qi Taiguo greedily breathed in, his chest hurting, very painful.

Soon, he spit out some dirty river water, coughing several times.

"Alright, he's fine now!"

Ning Le sat down heavily on the ground, finally relieved. If anything had happened to Qi Taiguo here, he'd never have a peaceful life.

"Look at Commander Qi's back!" Someone pointed at Qi Taiguo's turned side and exclaimed.

Ning Le looked over, gasped, the vest he was wearing had already burned to tatters, and the entire back was bloodied and mutilated from the explosion.

"Immediately send him to the hospital," Battalion Commander Jiang saw this and ordered solemnly.

Extensive blast injuries aren't a joke; if not handled well, they can get infected and then become fatal.

Therefore, they must not take it lightly.

Qi Taiguo slightly opened his eyes amid shocked cries, feeling his body rocking, hot and cold, in pain, people were conversing, but he couldn't hear anything, rolled his eyes, and fainted again.

It's good to feel pain; knowing you're in pain means you're still alive.

Being alive is good!

He at least can return to his wife and tell her he loves her.

Chapter 1275: Watching the Tower Collapse

A few decorative watches.

Yanjing, it seemed like overnight, a storm had abruptly risen.

Old Master Loo never expected that his family would fall so quickly. It seemed like in just a few short hours, everything had dramatically changed, so fast that it left people unable to react.

First, there was a call from his subordinates saying that a batch of smuggled goods was intercepted, and the transaction failed. Then he heard from his youngest daughter that Jiang Conghe had been detained.

Jiang Conghe detained? Such a high-ranking official being detained, even if it hasn't been publicized, it's definitely to avoid too much impact.

But he was the most capable connection of the Loo Family. If even he was detained and couldn't lend a hand, what future did the Loo Family have?

Before Old Master Loo could come up with a response, the prosecutors and anti-smuggling officers came to the door. Even before dawn, they were impatient.

No need for flashy charges, just suspicion of smuggling and selling black market goods was enough to bring him down in defeat.

Old Master Loo sat on the sofa in his house's hall, wearing a well-fitted Tang suit, both hands resting on his usual dragon-headed cane, his face full of authority.

He was still thinking about where the family's downfall started, why it happened so quickly, as if they had been waiting for this day all along.

Indeed, they were waiting for this day. Many people, it seems, had been waiting for such a day, haven't they?

"Old Master Loo, please." The anti-smuggling officer stood coldly in front of Old Master Loo and said, "Considering your age, please don't make things difficult for us."

Old Master Loo said nothing, stood up, and followed them out of the Loo Family residence.

Outside, the sky was already bright, the sunlight glaring, mildly stinging his eyes, causing him to stumble slightly.

A person involved in interrogation supported him: "Be careful, old master!"

Be careful, can there still be any caution?

Old Master Loo walked down the steps, then stopped again, one hand behind his back, the other holding the cane, looking back.

The wide-open gate vaguely showed people moving around inside the house; those were the evidence collectors.

Looking at the entrance again, a large "Loo" character, marking the past glory of the Loo Family, also demonstrating his meticulous management over the years, a lifetime of effort.

And so, it's all ended here!

Old Master Loo suddenly felt like laughing, but only felt a wave of desolation in his heart. He was born into poverty, relying on his own efforts to build the Loo Family up to what it was today. He thought it could prosper for a few generations, but wealth and prosperity have come only so far!

The Loo Family, begun with him, and ended with him.

"Let go of me! What right do you have to arrest me? What crime have I committed?" Lu Zhenhua's voice came from the door: "I know nothing, don't arrest me!"

Old Master Loo looked at his panicked son and sighed inwardly.

Perhaps it was precisely because his descendants weren't as astute and decisive as he was, there was no promising heir to support the family, leading to today's downfall.

"Dad, quickly tell them that I know nothing. Dad!" Lu Zhenhua's eyes brightened when he saw the old master.

"Why panic? The government will give us justice." Old Master Loo glanced at him indifferently, turned and got into the car, looking out again, seeing the neighbors pointing at them.

Back then, when the family moved into this grand mansion, guests filled the house; wasn't it the subject of envy and admiration?

Now, they watch as the tower rises, watch as guests are entertained, watch as the tower collapses!

Old Master Loo slowly closed his eyes, afraid that he might never be able to return and see this home again!

Chapter 1276: The Collapse of the Mountain

The Old Master Loo never anticipated his family's rapid downfall, and neither did Jiang Conghe expect that while he was soundly asleep in bed, he would be abruptly awakened.

What was happening?

Were there allegations of shielding corruption and abusing power for personal gain, paving an easy path for the Loo Family?

Jiang Conghe was dumbfounded. As the investigators opened the safe in his study, his pupils narrowed, his body weakened, and he nearly collapsed to his knees.

How could this be? How could they know the contents of the safe? The family is already in trouble, what about the office?

Jiang Conghe felt weak, and even when brought into the disciplinary investigation room, he remained in a daze.

"What do you want? Do you know who I am? Let me go at once! There are still many military affairs waiting for me to handle. Can you bear the responsibility for this delay?" Jiang Conghe said with a weak bravado.

But who would be afraid?

The person in charge of interrogation stated, "Rest assured, as long as it's confirmed that you're not involved, you'll naturally be released. As for now, someone is temporarily handling your affairs, and to the outside world, it's only being said that you're secretly resting due to illness. Don't worry!"

Jiang Conghe's heart sank, "I want to see Director Wang, I request to speak with Director Wang!"

"Director Wang has stated that the investigation will be impartial, thoroughly examining all acts of power abuse for personal gain. Let's begin the questioning!" The head of the investigation team said, sitting down.

Jiang Conghe sat dejectedly on the chair, his expression vacant, his fingers trembling slightly.

With Jiang Conghe taken away, Lu Shufen lost her backbone and rushed to the Loo Family, only to find it being sealed off, causing her heart to jump with shock.

Something has happened!

Lu Shufen was no fool. Although she wasn't clear on the Loo Family's business, she knew enough minor details to realize something had gone wrong upon witnessing the situation!

It seemed her family was about to collapse.

"Sister-in-law, where are Dad and my older brother?" Lu Shufen asked Mrs. Lu when she got inside.

Mrs. Lu was wiping her tears, and upon seeing her enter, quickly grabbed her hand, saying, "Arrested, they've all been taken away! What are we going to do now?"

"And Shaojun?"

Mrs. Lu paused for a moment, whispering, "Old Master let him leave."

Lu Shufen's breath quickened upon hearing this, and she couldn't sit still. If Dad had allowed Shaojun to leave, what did that signify? It meant things were very bad, otherwise, would he have gone?

Hastily bidding farewell to her sister-in-law, she returned to her workplace. Before she could ask for leave, her superiors told her to rest for a few days. Shortly after, she received a notice of a travel ban, which further confirmed impending trouble!

Lu Shufen, leaving aside her family and Jiang Conghe, hurriedly packed up and instructed her son, Chiang Tian, to leave immediately, go to the United States to find Chiang Qing, or anywhere, just not to stay in the country.

Chiang Tian, who had just returned home deeply drunk and had barely shut his eyes when all this chaos unfolded, was truly frightened.

Hearing his mother's instructions, he said nothing superfluous, took money and left, not even asking about Jiang Conghe, showing his ruthlessness.

Lu Shufen felt a chill in her heart but had no time to care, urging him to leave quickly.

After Chiang Tian left, she slumped on the sofa at home, feeling only chaos and panic, her heart racing desperately.

She quickly swallowed two heart-strengthening pills, then sat in the living room, making call after call, starting with her eldest sister for advice.

Little did she know, even at her eldest sister's place, people were checking every financial transaction, overwhelmed themselves.

"How could this have happened? What are we going to do?" Lu Shufen hung up the phone in a daze and began to cry.

Chapter 1277: Brothers in Hardship

Over in Guicheng, the severely injured Qi Taiguo managed to hold on, but since the injury was to his back and he was close to the explosion, his internal organs were also a bit shaken, making it hard to move him, so he could only recuperate quietly.

But with the injury on his back, he could only lie prone. Upon waking, he started coughing violently due to the lung injury.

Cheng Jiasheng woke up with a start and quickly walked over. "Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, you're awake?"

Qi Taiguo was in a lot of discomfort, yet he was still concerned about Ning Ge. "How is Ning Ge?"

"He's well, Ning Le is keeping watch over him," Cheng Jiasheng replied. "Would you like some water?"

Qi Taiguo nodded, feeling a tickle in his throat.

Cheng Jiasheng took a water cup from the side, inserted a straw, and let him sip a couple of mouthfuls, then said, "Drink slowly, don't choke, it's uncomfortable!"

Qi Taiguo drank a little and stopped, then asked, "How is the mission? Is it wrapped up? How long was I unconscious?"

"You've been unconscious for two days. The mission was successfully completed. Battalion Commander Jiang is writing a report, and I heard over in Guangcheng, they managed to seize a shipment meant to cross the border, packed with firearms and ammunition," Cheng Jiasheng said excitedly.

Qi Taiguo's lips curled up. "Not bad, your first time on a mission, and you've merited some credit."

"You're too kind, Deputy Battalion Commander!" Cheng Jiasheng stood tall.

"You're doing well, steady enough, strong in reconnaissance. Keep honing your skills, and someday aim for a major general position!" Qi Taiguo said, then started coughing again.

"Perhaps you shouldn't speak? I'll go get a doctor to check on you!" Cheng Jiasheng quickly suggested.

Qi Taiguo also felt extremely fatigued, his eyes half-closed.

Cheng Jiasheng left the room, and soon there was movement at the door, followed by someone coughing.

Qi Taiguo thought he returned and looked over, but it was Ning Ge, sitting in a wheelchair, pushed in by Ning Le.

His face was pale, with an IV in his hand, looking much thinner. Qi Taiguo wanted to get up, but Ning Ge's dry, pale lips said, "Don't bother, just lie down."

The voice was hoarse, the demeanor frail, the smile weak, yet the eyes remained bright and clear.

"Indeed, Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, it's great you're awake!" Ning Le said with a smile, pushing Ning Ge to Qi Taiguo's bedside, then checking the nearly depleted IV drip that needed changing.

He stepped outside, leaving the space for the two to talk.

Qi Taiguo extended his hand, forming a fist. Ning Ge understood and gently touched it with his own.

"Look at us now, don't we seem like a pair of woeful brothers?" Qi Taiguo managed a smile.

"Quite a fitting description," Ning Ge also smiled.

The two exchanged a look, suddenly and simultaneously whispering thanks.

"Thanks for what?" Qi Taiguo asked.

"Thank you for saving Ning Le. Without your stepping in for him, he might not even be luckier to be lying here on this hospital bed," Ning Ge replied.

Qi Taiguo said, "There's nothing to thank me for. He's my soldier. Taking them out, I naturally have to bring them back! But as for you, I need to thank you. If it wasn't for striking the Loo Family and Jiang Conghe, you wouldn't have to endure such hardship. How have you managed these past days?"

He looked at the bandages wrapped around his hospital attire, feeling a pang of sympathy. Had he been just a step or two late...

"This wasn't for you, it was for the country!" Ning Ge said, "In our line of work, we have to be prepared to sacrifice for the nation at any moment."

Qi Taiguo nodded, "Now, it seems like dawn has come."

"Yeah!" Ning Ge sighed, "Finally, we've taken down the big tiger!"

The two shared a glance, a burden-lifting smile appearing on their faces.

"It's a shame that us woeful brothers look like this now, otherwise I'd really go for a bottle!"

"Once we're better, won't we get the chance? Don't come back until we're drunk!"

"It's a deal!"

Chapter 1278: Ning Gang's Gratitude

Ning Ge and Qi Taiguo were both seriously injured. Although there was no danger to their lives, they needed careful treatment and rest. Considering that the medical facilities in Guicheng are still relatively underdeveloped and cannot compare to the advanced ones in the Capital, the two of them were transferred to the Army General Hospital in Yanjing for treatment.

As for the follow-up matters of the mission, naturally, someone would wrap things up, so Qi Taiguo need not worry. During the mission, none of our side died, just a few were injured, and Qi Taiguo himself was the most severely wounded.

Casualties are inevitable in missions, and to have completed the mission so smoothly, seizing such a large batch of contraband, and destroying a secret weapons factory, is indeed a great achievement, and future commendations will undoubtedly be rewarded.

But as for merits and honors, they can be discussed later. The most critical thing now is to recuperate and heal, as the country still needs brave and swift individuals like them!

So Qi Taiguo and the others had no objections and were carried onto the special plane sent by the Capital, transferred to the Capital's general hospital.

Qi Taiguo was worried that Cheng Su might be concerned, so he checked the calendar and realized that it was the day Cheng Su and her family were returning to their hometown, so he hurriedly made a call back home.

But no one answered at home; they were probably already on the road. Qi Taiguo had no choice but to set this matter aside, planning to call her again once she was back in the hometown.

Ning Ge saw this and smiled, a bit envious; having someone to care about is truly nice.

He pulled out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket, lit one, but before he could take a puff, someone snatched it away.

Upon turning around, he saw a woman with a cold expression glaring at him, snatching the cigarette from his hand, and coldly said, "This is a hospital, no smoking allowed." She then looked him up and down and added, "Patients, especially, shouldn't smoke!"

With that, she walked away, her high heels clicking, without waiting for Ning Ge to respond.

Ning Ge was stunned until the woman disappeared, then he reacted, "My cigarette, damn, who was that!"

Qi Taiguo looked at him with a rare smile, feeling in good spirits.

"Let's go, it's really not a good time for you to smoke now." Qi Taiguo moved along with his IV stand, speaking to the side.

"I've never seen such a domineering woman." Ning Ge said furiously, "If I find out who she is, just wait, cough, cough."

The two shared the same hospital room, and upon returning to it, they saw the visitor waiting inside!

"Big Brother."

"Commander!"

Qi Taiguo wanted to salute, but Ning Gang said, "Alright, cut the formalities, focus on resting, just lie down!"

In Ning Gang's eyes, he looked at Qi Taiguo with appreciation, and now there was a hint of gratitude too. After all, he's aware of what happened during the mission and naturally knew that Qi Taiguo took the blame for his own son.

It's not that Ning Gang was selfish, but hearing such circumstances, he couldn't help feeling a tug at his heart. His son was his only child; if something happened to him, the next generation's backbone would be gone.

So, now as he looked at Qi Taiguo, he felt grateful, he hadn't misjudged him.

"How's your condition? Why are you running around instead of resting properly?" Ning Gang spoke with a hint of reproach.

Qi Taiguo felt a bit embarrassed and stammered, "Just wanted to let my family know I'm safe!"

Ning Gang understood, a warmth flashed in his eyes, a man can fight at the front, but once off the front line, he still cares for his family, which is enough to prove this man's character.

Ning Ge, seeing Qi Taiguo's awkwardness, tried to change the subject, "Big Brother, so tell us, how's the situation in the Capital now?"

Ning Gang had come both to visit them and to deliver news, to put their minds at ease, and he slowly began talking about the Loo Family and Jiang Conghe's situation.

Chapter 1279: He Who Brings Trouble on Himself Deserves No Sympathy

The Loo Family and Jiang Conghe are naturally overwhelmed with their own troubles. However, both possess significant influence, especially Jiang Conghe, whose position is sensitive. Many interrogations cannot be conducted openly, so even to the public, it's only said that he is unwell and recuperating.

But no matter how you look at it, with the Loo Family involved in such a massive black market case, with both evidence and witnesses, they can't escape the charges. Now, it all depends on how deeply Jiang Conghe is implicated.

"... No matter how deep his involvement is, the Loo Family is his in-laws, and there are already traces of their dealings. Stripping him of his military uniform is inevitable; just the negligence itself is enough to bring him down," Ning Gang said with a smile.

Qi Taiguo and Ning Ge exchanged a glance and both let out a sigh of relief.

Only after hearing the news relayed by Ning Gang did they realize that the Loo Family's situation was more complicated than they had imagined. Their network of connections was deeply entangled. Now, they were caught off guard. If Old Master Loo realized this, it might not be so easy.

It was pure luck and quick decision-making, and of course, the assistance of the Cheng family played a crucial role. Without their help, information in Guangcheng might not have flowed so smoothly.

Therefore, to bring down this great tiger, the right time, place, and people were all indispensable, and they had seized it all.

"Take a good rest. It's likely that the Old Master will come to see you tomorrow," Ning Gang said to Ning Ge. "The Old Master got slightly ill with worry when he didn't hear from you."

Ning Ge pursed his lips and awkwardly replied, "What could happen to me? You're all overreacting. At his age, you shouldn't have told him."

Ning Gang glared at him and said, "Let's go!"

Ning Ge lay down, staring at the ceiling, and said, "It's really strange. We brought down this tiger, but why does it feel like there's nothing to do now?"

Qi Taiguo also lay down. With his serious injuries, the lengthy conversation with Ning Gang made him feel exhausted. He said, "If you're bored, find someone to marry!"

"It's about time; everyone else has paired off," Ning Ge murmured.

Qi Taiguo smiled with pursed lips, half-closing his eyes to rest, and suddenly asked, "With the Jiang and Loo families like this, what about Chiang Qing?"

Ning Ge was startled, then sneered, "She's in there, so she's escaped a disaster. But well, I guess no one would remember her now; everyone's struggling to save themselves!"

Qi Taiguo's heart relaxed as he closed his eyes and began to meditate.

Chiang Qing naturally didn't know the Loo Family was in trouble, nor did she know her father was about to fall. She was dazed, staring blankly at her little space, unaware of the world.

Though she didn't know, it didn't mean others didn't. Just like the person in front of her, her so-called brother, who was gradually telling her about their family affairs.

"You're actually safer here. Everyone thinks you've gone to the United States, so you won't have to face a prison sentence," Jiang Dafang said.

A glimmer of light finally appeared in Chiang Qing's dazed eyes. Like a puppet, she turned her head to look at him, "Was it you?"

Remembering Ning Ge's words, Jiang Dafang said, "Do I have that kind of ability?"

Chiang Qing sneered and turned away, saying, "If you came to mock me, you've seen it, now get out!"

"The Loo Family, and Jiang Conghe, they brought this upon themselves. It's better to stay here in the mental institution than in a prison," Jiang Dafang said as he walked out without looking back.

Chiang Qing pressed her lips together, and her hands, hanging by her side, clenched into fists. The family had fallen, so must she stay here forever? He's lying to her, right!

Chapter 1280: The Impertinent Little Sister-in-Law

The last time I came back to the old house was about eight or nine months ago, when I stood by Qi Fenglian. Returning to the in-laws now feels like a lifetime ago.

For the banquet to celebrate Qi Jianguo getting into college, many round tables have already been borrowed and stacked in the yard, along with long benches and baskets filled with big bowls and chopsticks.

In the countryside, this is how banquets are set up. They are mostly held at home for the liveliness, and more importantly, to save money, as hosting at home costs much less than at a big restaurant.

This is why whenever there's a happy event, most families borrow bowls, chopsticks, and plates from each household, just like the Qi family is doing now.

"Dad, Mom, we're back!" Qi Fenglian called out.

Father Qi and the others came out of the main room, and upon seeing Cheng Su and the group, their faces immediately lit up with smiles.

Mother Qi glanced behind them and asked, "Taiguo didn't come back with you?"

"He's on a mission and hasn't returned yet!" Cheng Su replied, and then greeted Father Qi.

Mother Qi pursed her lips but brightened up at the sight of the things Cheng Su was carrying.

"Come on in, you must be tired," Father Qi said, smiling as he took the items from Qi Fenglian and the others.

The group walked into the main room, and Qi Fengping came out of a side room, yawning. She looked a bit stunned to see them.

"Big sister." She first called out to Qi Fenglian, then, somewhat reluctantly looking at Cheng Su, she said, "Sister-in-law!"

Cheng Su was startled when she saw Qi Fengping, wondering how she had grown so round in just eight or nine months.

Her hair was a bit messy, her face resembling a bun, her body plump, her waist hardly visible, and her chest quite full.

Yet her plumpness didn't seem youthful but gave her the mature look of a young matron.

Qi Fengping caught Cheng Su's gaze and knew what she was thinking, furiously glaring back at her.

Cheng Su quickly averted her eyes, catching a glimpse of her own furrowed brows.

Qi Fenglian, on the other hand, seeing her roundness, directly asked, "Fengping, when I came back last month, you weren't this chubby. How did you grow like this in just one month?"

A round face and a round body, like a pregnant lady.

"Don't mention her. This lazy girl does nothing but eat and sleep all day, eating two big bowls of rice per meal and still claiming to be hungry. How can she not get fat?" Mother Qi complained about her younger daughter, "Ask her to do some work, and she's lazier than a snake, unwilling to move, so lazy she could fly to the sky!"

Qi Fengping, a bit embarrassed and annoyed, retorted, "Mom, why do you talk like that? Eating two bowls of rice can't harm anyone. I'm going through a growth spurt, so of course, I'm eating a lot!"

"Little sister-in-law, typically during growth spurts, you're around Xiao Yun's age. You're eighteen; you should be settling down, not really growing anymore!" Cheng Su reminded her with a smile.

"You think you know everything. Who says you stop growing at eighteen?" Qi Fengping countered, "Besides, I'm not eating your food, so why do you care how fat I am?"

Alright, I have said too much.

Cheng Su didn't argue back, she turned to Father Qi and said, "Dad, I'll go put the luggage in the room first."

"Go ahead, go ahead!" Father Qi waved with a cheerful smile.

Cheng Su took the luggage and walked out of the main room, and as she turned a corner, she heard Father Qi scolding Qi Fenglian: "Why argue back with what your sister-in-law says? Show some respect."

"Dad, I'm your daughter. Whose side are you on? I know you all think I eat too much, didn't get into college, didn't make you proud. Fine, I won't come out and embarrass myself anymore."

Then came the sound of a door slamming, and Cheng Su shook her head.