

The 80s 841

Chapter 841: Looking Down on Me

Qi Fenglian returned home, feeling more and more that something was wrong. She rushed to the bathroom and pushed the door open, catching Zhang Jisheng in a fluster as he hurriedly stuffed a book behind him.

"What are you doing? Don't you know I'm in here?" Zhang Jisheng roared angrily.

"What are you sneakily hiding behind you?" Qi Fenglian spotted a corner of a book peeking out from behind him.

"What could it be, just a couple of books, now get out," Zhang Jisheng urged her.

"Then hurry up and come out, I have something to ask you," Qi Fenglian said, frowning.

Zhang Jisheng glared at her, waiting for her to leave and close the door again, thinking to himself how reckless she was to barge in like that.

After waiting for a while and confirming she wouldn't come back in, he retrieved the book again and, full of interest, began to flip through it. It was a book he had bought from a street vendor, filled with captivating content.

Qi Fenglian urged him two more times before Zhang Jisheng finally came out sluggishly and asked, "What is it?"

"Were you about to fall in the toilet? You've been in there for half an hour," Qi Fenglian glared at him.

"Can't I be constipated?" Zhang Jisheng's face flushed red, asking, "What do you want to talk about?"

"I want to ask you, what's going on with you and Taiguo? Are you hiding something from me?" Qi Fenglian stared intently at his expression.

Zhang Jisheng's heart skipped a beat, his eyes a bit evasive, he said, "What could I be hiding from you? We eat and live together every day, what could I possibly keep from you?"

Qi Fenglian eyed him slowly and said, "But Taiguo said..."

"What did he say?" Zhang Jisheng immediately inquired.

Qi Fenglian squinted her eyes and said, "He didn't say much, but why are you so nervous? Come on, tell me, do you have some unresolved issue that I'm not aware of?"

Zhang Jisheng stiffened his neck, his face red as he said, "What could it be, you know Taiguo's temper well enough, don't you? He's always been dissatisfied with me, he looks down on me!" Thinking of Cheng Su's coldness towards him today, he added, "Both of them look down on me, they think you married below your station by being with me!"

"Nonsense, they're not like that!" Qi Fenglian defended, "There must be something you did wrong that made them dissatisfied with you!"

Hearing that, Zhang Jisheng spoke back more intensely, "What do you know about it? You just keep siding with those two, don't you ever think that I'm your husband? You don't even trust me!"

"Taiguo has said countless times to treat you better, saying you got a raw deal marrying me. You weren't there, how would you know? You've been married into the family for over ten years, he's looked down on me for over ten years, blaming me for not giving you a better life!"

Seeing his anger, Qi Fenglian said, "I'm just asking you, why are you getting so worked up? We're all straightforward relatives, if there are misunderstandings, they should be cleared up, right? What's the point in holding a grudge? Taiguo and the others are reasonable, they won't make a fuss over nothing."

"It doesn't matter how they see me. If you think being with me is no good, then just go!" Zhang Jisheng snorted and headed straight back to the room.

Hearing this disheartening comment, Qi Fenglian was really infuriated and shouted from behind him, "I'm just discussing an issue with you, where did you veer off to? If I didn't still care for you, would I have stuck it out with you for all these years? You are so ungrateful."

Zhang Jisheng paused for a moment, grunted, and went into the room.

Fuming, Qi Fenglian thought about how unreasonable he was becoming, then she pondered for a moment and walked into the bathroom.

She rummaged through the whole room and finally retrieved a magazine from a hidden pipe. Upon seeing the cover of a flamboyant, scantily clad woman, she immediately exclaimed, then opened the magazine to find it filled with all sorts of trashy, erotic stories.

"This deadbeat, when did he start reading this kind of trash?" Qi Fenglian blushed deeply, hurriedly stuffing it back where it was.

Chapter 842: Susu Teaching Her Husband

Love is about the union of spirit and flesh, both are indispensable. So, whether lovers or married couples, a passionate and satisfying romance is essential.

After the intimacy, Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo lay side by side on the bed speaking.

"Why don't you ask me how the competition went?" Cheng Su suddenly rolled over, lying on the bed, turned her head and asked him.

Qi Taiguo said: "If you want to say, surely you would tell me, right? So, how did it go?"

"Guess!"

Qi Taiguo pretended to think for a while, then said: "I guess you got third place?"

Cheng Su pouted, displeased: "Is that all my ability amounts to in your mind?"

Oh come on, third place, that's just too bad!

Qi Taiguo laughed, pinched her nose, and said: "Just teasing you. My wife is so smart and beautiful, her cooking is so delicious; of course, she's the big winner!"

Cheng Su became a bit embarrassed, covered her warm face, and said shyly: "I'm not as good as you say!"

Qi Taiguo laughed heartily.

Cheng Su sensed it later, stared, and said: "Oh, I know. You actually knew for a while didn't you? Did Ning Ge tell you? You're just teasing me on purpose, want to see me laugh, humph!"

"Why would I dare! I'm just genuinely happy." Qi Taiguo leaned over, pecked her lips, and praised: "Big winner, my wife is awesome!"

He indeed heard from Ning Ge that their company won the championship, hadn't told Cheng Su, just wanted to let her share the joy.

"I heard that you personally took the field?" Qi Taiguo asked.

Cheng Su nodded, then spoke of how their company's technician had been sabotaged.

Qi Taiguo listened, eyebrows furrowed, saying: "How could someone be plotted against like this, just for a competition."

Cheng Su scoffed slightly and said: "You don't understand, so-called industry competition, business and battlefield are just as intense. When interests and honors are involved, what means aren't used? Like drugging technicians so they can't compete and lose a game, that's child's play, there's even more extreme cases. Like before, our jam was adulterated by the Friendly side, there are many similar things."

Qi Taiguo pursed his lips, not having thought of this.

"This is how the world is, fierce competition, fast-paced. If you're not strong, you'll be done for. The so-called law of the jungle applies here. If a company can't thrive, eventually it will be acquired by some large institution. Acquisition is good; the worst is directly driving it to bankruptcy." Cheng Su said: "Competition is everywhere."

"Hearing you say this, I really felt it is so, every industry has competition!" Qi Taiguo sighed.

Cheng Su nodded emphatically and sat up, looking seriously at him, saying: "So when you go for closed training and study at that place, you must not be careless. Carelessness can lose crucial opportunities; you should've heard this! Being able to go for training is already competitive. Don't underestimate anyone; underestimating others means underestimating yourself, and the result is failure, got it?"

Qi Taiguo said: "Don't worry, I understand."

Underestimating leads to a series of failures, he knows.

"Taiguo, standing out draws problems; when you go for training, set aside your captain position, just be a new recruit. Your only goal is to learn skills, learn how to become strong, but don't show off." Cheng Su seriously added.

Qi Taiguo gravely agreed, said: "Alright, I'll listen to you. It's late, shall we sleep?"

The two lay down, turned off the lights, chatted for a while longer, then each fell asleep.

Chapter 843: Pinky Promise, Sealed Forever

The day before Qi Taiguo's departure, he specifically took a day off. Cheng Su also didn't go to work, spending the entire day inseparable from him. They didn't go out; they stayed home all day, talking, reading, cooking together, enjoying their peaceful time together.

In the evening, to celebrate Party Founding Day, a movie was shown at the military base. Qi Taiguo took Cheng Su to watch it. When they got home, they were passionately intertwined, as if wanting to become one.

"I really can't bear to see you go." Cheng Su tightly hugged his strong waist, her voice choked with emotion.

"In three months, I'll be back. At the latest, you'll see me in October." Qi Taiguo comforted her, saying, "Take good care of yourself while I'm not around. Don't mess around or be capricious. Eat on time and don't get sick."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Su's tears welled up, and she nodded haphazardly.

Qi Taiguo looked down at her and laughed, "It's not that big of a deal, and you're already crying like a kid?"

"You're so annoying!" Cheng Su cried and laughed, pouting, "Can't I feel a little sentimental?"

"No, it's bad for your health!"

"So you can just leave me then?" Cheng Su quipped back.

"I can't bear to! I'd like to shrink you and carry you in my pocket!" Qi Taiguo said, "But unfortunately, I don't have that magic."

Cheng Su laughed, "You mean like Thumbelina!"

"What's Thumbelina?" Qi Taiguo was confused.

Cheng Su briefly told him the fairy tale of Thumbelina, and Qi Taiguo said, "That's fake, right? There's no such person."

Cheng Su burst out laughing, hoping for his fairytale romance; it was all in vain.

"I'm serious, you can miss me, but not too much, and no crying at night." Qi Taiguo said earnestly, "Take good care of yourself so I can have peace of mind over there."

"Don't worry, I can take care of myself. There are so many people here—friends, neighbors, and family. But you, over there, are on your own during training and need to be very careful." Cheng Su cautioned him, "Even though Gao Linbing is going too, he's in a low position and easily overlooked. Without evidence, he can only suffer in silence if something happens."

In terms of safety, her side was certainly safer than his, especially after the incident with Jiang Conghe. Who knows if there's an undercover threat lurking inside.

Even if Cheng Su didn't understand the hidden intricacies of the military camp, she knew the meaning of bearing grudges and seeking revenge.

"Mm. I'll be careful. I'll make sure to come back to see you with good results!" Qi Taiguo said determinedly. He wanted to return with achievements, to climb higher, to make her not regret marrying him.

Cheng Su buried her face in his chest and said, "I don't care about the results; I just want you to come back."

Picking up on the worry and reluctance in her words, Qi Taiguo gently patted her back, saying, "Don't worry. Don't you have confidence in me? Who am I? I'm the husband of a big champion."

Cheng Su chuckled at his words, holding him tight without saying anything.

Qi Taiguo asked again, "Susu, do you regret marrying me? Like this, constantly having to go on missions, unable to frequently accompany you, and not earning much money."

"I've said it before, I don't need you to earn money. I'll handle that. You just need to pamper me and love me," Cheng Su replied.

Qi Taiguo tightened his embrace and said, "Susu, let's have a baby next year!"

"Okay!" Cheng Su lifted her head, her eyes sparkling as she looked at him, "If we have a baby, you must absolutely guarantee you'll come back alive!"

"It's a promise!" Qi Taiguo extended his pinky finger.

Cheng Su stretched out her pinky, hooking it with his.

Sealing the promise, never changing for a hundred years.

Chapter 844: Farewell Kiss on the Train

Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo talked almost the whole night, and it was nearly dawn when they fell asleep. When she opened her eyes again, she reached out beside her, and he was already gone.

Cheng Su immediately sat up straight like a carp flipping, looked at the bed next to her, panicked, got off the bed, and ran out of the room barefoot.

"Qi Taiguo!"

There was no one in the living room, and no one in the bathroom, so she sat on the ground and started crying.

He left without saying a word to her.

The key sounded at the door lock suddenly. Someone came in, and upon seeing Cheng Su crying on the floor, was surprised: "What's wrong with you?"

Hearing the voice, Cheng Su turned her head, immediately got up and rushed over: "Where did you go? I thought you left. Wah!"

Qi Taiguo couldn't help laughing and said, "Morning training is a must. Even if I leave, you shouldn't cry. Just look at you, where are your shoes?"

"In the room." Cheng Su snuggled into his embrace like a cat.

"Alright, alright. Here I am, sit down, I'll go get your shoes." Qi Taiguo patted her back, helped her sit on the sofa, and went to get her slippers, advising as he put them on her feet, "The floor is cold, don't be willful, you'll catch a chill if you don't wear shoes."

"I thought you'd leave without telling me, that's why I ran out in a hurry." Cheng Su wiped her tears and sniffled.

"We're not leaving until eleven!" Qi Taiguo pinched her nose.

Feeling a bit embarrassed, Cheng Su said, "It's just me being anxious!" She glanced at the clock and added, "I'll cook something for you, we can eat before you go. You check your luggage one more time."

"Okay!" Qi Taiguo didn't want her to overthink, so keeping busy was better for her to keep her mind from wandering.

Cheng Su was quick and agile, she soon prepared several dishes. After they finished eating and tidied up, the guard came to inform them it was time to leave.

Since the training was for an extended time, Cheng Su insisted on sending him off. Qi Taiguo had no choice but to let her, and fortunately, when they reached the unit, Gao Linbing and their wives had also brought their children to see them off.

The regiment commander gave some encouraging words, and they boarded the vehicle to depart.

A group of them rode the military vehicle to the train station and walked onto the platform.

Cheng Su's eyes were red, holding Qi Taiguo's hand tightly, full of reluctance.

"Enough, go back now. Look, the sisters-in-law are going to laugh at you!" Qi Taiguo didn't expect her to be so clingy.

"I'll leave after you go." Cheng Su wiped her overflowing tears, looking pitiful.

Qi Taiguo had no choice but to hug her. Cheng Su couldn't hold back anymore and burst into tears.

"Taiguo, it's time to go!" Gao Linbing and the others urged.

The train conductor was already waving the flag.

Qi Taiguo could only say, "Wait for me to come back!"

Cheng Su nodded hastily, crying as she watched him board the train. Gao Linbing's wife came over, patted her hand, and said, "Sister, don't cry, it's not auspicious."

Hearing this, Cheng Su quickly wiped her tears and chased after their compartment.

Qi Taiguo put down his luggage bag and looked out the window, seeing Cheng Su standing outside staring at him longingly, looking as pitiful as a rabbit.

Feeling a pang in his heart, Qi Taiguo said to his two comrades, "Give me a hand."

Gao Linbing and the others didn't understand until they saw him hanging his whole body out of the train window. They hurriedly grabbed his legs to prevent him from falling, thinking, this guy's crazy enough.

Qi Taiguo reached Cheng Su, cupped her face, and kissed her lips...

All around, there were screams, and everyone applauded.

Which soldier is leaving, sharing a goodbye kiss with his love!

Chapter 845: Waiting for You

Cheng Su was surprised by Qi Taiguo's move. Before she knew it, Qi Taiguo had already let go of her. The whistle of the train sounded, the wheels rumbled, and the train started moving.

"Wait for my return!" Qi Taiguo shouted, waving his hand from the window.

Cheng Su ran a few steps, but the train got faster and finally, it carried her beloved away to a distant place.

Cheng Su squatted on the ground and began to cry.

Sister-in-law Gao's eyes reddened as she watched, knowing that this journey would last several months. How could a couple bear such separation?

She had been married to her own husband for many years, and they were considered an old couple, yet they couldn't bear it either. Let alone Cheng Su and her husband, who had been married for just over a year.

Still, their relationship was truly moving and enviable. Even after everything that happened earlier, it didn't affect them. People have to go through experiences to learn, to grow, and to cherish, right?

"Sister, stop crying, it's time to go." Sister-in-law Gao went over to help Cheng Su up.

Cheng Su was just momentarily reluctant. After crying for a while, she felt she was being melodramatic and bashfully said, "Made a laughingstock for you all!"

"No, not at all. You haven't been married long, so it's natural to feel reluctant. But your Old Qi, he's really quite a man, isn't he? Is this called, romantic?" said Sister-in-law Qiu, also the Commander's Wife, as she chuckled with her mouth covered.

"Exactly, exactly. Our Old Gao wouldn't be able to do something like this!" Sister-in-law Gao intentionally teased Cheng Su.

Cheng Su's face flushed, and she lowered her head shyly, dispersing much of the sadness.

She looked in the direction where the train had disappeared and prayed silently: Heaven bless you, have a safe journey, return safely, I'll wait for you.

The group left the train station, and the army vehicle was still waiting for them. Seeing that it was already past twelve o'clock, Cheng Su decided not to go back to the compound with them. Instead, she took another ride to handle matters at the factory, saving herself the trouble of overthinking at home.

Sister-in-law Gao and the others knew she had a career and didn't insist, so they parted ways.

Over at the factory, her company had already won an award, and when Cheng Su arrived at the office, Xiao Pinshan and the team congratulated her.

"Once President Ning and the others return, we'll hold a celebration banquet in the cafeteria to reward everyone for their hard work these days. Manager Xiao, please make the arrangements." Cheng Su said with a smile.

"Alright!" Xiao Pinshan noted it down and added, "The local newspaper covered the competition. I specifically bought two copies of the newspaper and had Xiao Ya cut out the report. I think, since it's our company's first competition and we won the championship, should we frame it as a memento? It's both our company's honor and a commemoration."

Cheng Su agreed with the idea. A company's honor is a rare achievement, benefiting future developments and business. If potential collaborators see that the company has won awards, it boosts their confidence.

"Since you have the idea, let's implement it. I think we should hang it in the business office area to inspire everyone." Cheng Su said happily.

Xiao Pinshan nodded, quickly jotting it down, and said, "The competition is over, the report is out, and now quite a few calls are coming in about distributors."

Cheng Su raised an eyebrow; it was expected but came unexpectedly soon. Indeed, even in this era, newspapers are the quickest way of transmitting information.

"Then let's get ready. We're going to be busy!" Cheng Su smiled.

"Yes!"

Chapter 846: Hualing's Warning

Cheng Su never expected that the moment she and Qi Taiguo kissed goodbye on the train would be photographed and published in the newspaper, accompanied by sentimental words like soldiers leaving to defend the country and kissing their lovers goodbye.

She found it a bit amusing yet exasperating, but looking at that black-and-white photo of Qi Taiguo leaning out of the window to gently kiss her, her heart felt as if it was filled with honey, sickeningly sweet.

Caressing that image, Cheng Su took out scissors and carefully cut out that small piece of the report, then took it to the photo studio to have it laminated as a keepsake.

She went to the same Yanfang Photo Studio, whose display window featured a large photo product showcasing the wedding photo of Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo.

When they initially came to collect the photos, the shop owner had said the artistic effect of their wedding photos was particularly good, and asked if they could keep one or two for store promotion.

Qi Taiguo was naturally reluctant, as this belonged to their privacy. The shop owner pleaded again and again, and it was only after Cheng Su relented that they reluctantly agreed to leave a side profile shot.

The two gazed deeply into each other's eyes, affectionate smiles on their lips, and one could almost feel the love between them flowing from the photo.

Cheng Su touched the photo in the window, her eyes slightly red, yet her mouth maintained a soft curve.

She missed him; they had just parted and she already longed for him!

"Oh, it's you, what are you standing there for, come on in." The shop owner saw Cheng Su and quickly invited her in.

Cheng Su explained her purpose, and the shop owner responded, "That's simple, I'll laminate it for you free of charge. You have no idea how much my business has improved since your wedding photos were used for promotions. Plus, with your previous poses, now I shoot accordingly, and everyone says they look great!"

Cheng Su pursed her lips and smiled.

After taking the laminated newspaper photo, Cheng Su insisted on paying and exchanged a few words before leaving.

Back at the compound, some people pointed at her, while others directly stopped her, talking about the report.

"You two are truly in love, huh."

"Yeah, I didn't expect Commander Qi to be so passionate."

Cheng Su merely smiled in response, feeling both satisfied and slightly vain inside.

Returning home, she put the photo away carefully and felt quite cheerful as she took a pot to wash rice for cooking.

"You seem to be in a good mood," Hualing leaned against the doorway, watching Cheng Su coming out of her room.

Cheng Su said, "Yeah, not bad."

Hualing squinted at her and said, "Has Commander Qi been treating you well lately?"

"Not bad," Cheng Su didn't want to say much, knowing that Hualing and Chen Shouwang had been having disputes recently, so why say anything to provoke her!

"You should be careful. Normally, if a man suddenly treats you too well, there's definitely something fishy. Don't wait until you're silly counting money while he sells you out!" Hualing warned sharply, not forgetting the scene she witnessed in the hospital last time, though she didn't know who that woman was.

If she's not a normal woman, huh, then there really would be drama to see!

"What do you mean by that?" Cheng Su heard a hint and squinted her eyes to ask.

Hualing shrugged, "Nothing, just saying, just keep an eye on your man."

"Based on what you're saying, are you suggesting Old Qi's good intentions towards me have ulterior motives, and he's done something outside to betray me?" Cheng Su asked blandly.

"I never said that!" Hualing wouldn't jump into that trap, lacking any evidence, she said, "Better safe than sorry!"

Cheng Su sneered, "Now I know why you and Chen Shouwang argue every day!"

Chapter 847: The Aggressive Provocation Strategy

The relationship between Chen Shouwang and Hualing is a taboo in Hualing's heart; whoever touches it is doomed to suffer.

But Cheng Su not only touched it but even started picking at it, instantly turning Hualing into a live porcupine with all her spikes standing up, glaring at her: "What do you mean by that?"

"There's no trust between you and Chen Shouwang, right? In your view, if a man is a bit nicer to you, you suspect he has wronged you and is feeling guilty. Do you think you're not worth his kindness? You don't trust him, don't trust any man, no matter how he acts, how he tries to please you, you pick on him, remain dissatisfied, how can there be no arguments?" Cheng Su said coldly.

Hualing's voice was sharp: "Bullshit, what do you know? You know nothing, what's the point of blabbering here?"

"Did I say anything wrong? Hualing, you treat yourself like a princess and yet don't trust the other person, how can your relationship be harmonious and sweet?" Cheng Su stepped closer, pressing aggressively.

Hualing stepped back, sneering: "You're so naive, think you're so happy? Do you know what he's been doing behind your back? Fool, you deserve being deceived! I was kindly warning you, and instead you pick on me, fine, I'll just be a dog biting Lv Dongbin."

"How was I deceived, who deceived me?" Cheng Su narrowed her eyes.

"Who else? Your Old Qi, the other day when you weren't home, he was at our hospital, whispering sweetly with some woman, don't know what they were talking about!" Hualing blurted out.

As soon as she said it, her face changed, and she pressed her lips together.

It's over, she fell right into Cheng Su's provocation.

But whatever, at least this woman won't think she's so lucky, being kept in the dark, hum!

"Did you see it yourself? What were they whispering sweetly about?" Cheng Su looked at her and asked coolly.

Her face remained calm, but inside, her heart was surging like a wave; what's going on, Qi Taiguo knows other women she doesn't know?

"Didn't I see it with my own eyes? Can I make things up blindly? I saw it, the woman was about to lean on him." Hualing said.

She hadn't exaggerated although she wasn't very sure. But facing off against each other, she clearly saw Qi Taiguo pat that person's shoulder.

"Oh? You saw it at the hospital?"

Hualing nodded.

Cheng Su laughed.

"What are you laughing at?" Hualing frowned, thinking maybe she's gone mad.

"Hualing, have you ever seen men and women secretly meet at hospitals? If Qi Taiguo has someone and wants to whisper sweetly, would it happen in a hospital?" Cheng Su asked.

Hualing was stumped.

Cheng Su continued: "Since it happened at a hospital, surely there's something going on, maybe the woman is ill and needs help, so Old Qi went over? How did you turn it into whispering sweetly? In your eyes, men and women standing together is problematic?"

"You, you... I was merely being helpful, believe it or not it's up to you." Hualing was infuriated by her irony.

Cheng Su lowered her gaze and said, "Then I thank you. But I trust our Old Qi. Previously, there was someone called Chiang Qing, and he was unmoved, how could another woman affect him?"

"Since you say so, I hope I was wrong!" Hualing sneered.

"Hualing, I advise you to communicate more with Chen Shouwang, give each other more trust, consider things from each other's viewpoint, and there will be fewer arguments!" Cheng Su said blandly.

"Mind your own business! Take care of yourself!" Hualing slammed the door angrily.

Cheng Su frowned, Qi Taiguo, you'd better have a good explanation when you come back.

Chapter 848: Make Sure He Doesn't Leave the Training Camp

Cheng Su was somewhat concerned about Hualing's statement, she searched her mind and couldn't find any close connections Qi Taiguo had with any men she didn't know.

"Damn guy, choosing this time to make me uneasy." Cheng Su poked at Qi Taiguo's photo and snorted.

Far away in Yanjing, Qi Taiguo sneezed continuously and sniffed, wondering who was cursing him?

"Isn't it your wife missing you?" Gao Linbing chuckled quietly on the side.

"Go away!" Qi Taiguo glared at him.

"Shh, someone's coming!" Qiu Dahai said.

The few people, along with many soldiers who came for training, immediately stood straight, solemn-faced.

After arriving in Yanjing, they were taken to the military district, first gathered together, then transferred to a secret base for training, where they would be completely isolated from the outside world.

A group of over thirty elite soldiers, drawn from all over the country, were highly valued by their superiors and all at ranks above platoon level. As long as they passed the assessment, they would definitely be heavily utilized when they returned.

The person who came was an instructor, possessing a daunting presence, sharp eyes, and a burly physique. A sweep of his gaze conveyed a terrifying aura.

"Here, you are all rookies. Whether you're a platoon leader or company commander, or part of the Second Generation of Red military third generation, temporarily discard your identities. My requirement is only one: absolute obedience to higher command. Military orders are paramount. Anyone who doesn't comply, pack up and get out. The country doesn't need disorganized and undisciplined soldiers. Did you hear me?" the instructor shouted fiercely.

"Understood."

Qi Taiguo felt a surge of excitement, puffing his chest up as if he had returned to his initial days of military training.

He had come step by step, walking slowly forward.

Suddenly, Qi Taiguo sensed a fierce gaze. Following its direction, he saw someone flash past the window in a nearby tall building.

He pursed his lips and heightened his vigilance.

"It's him. Once at the base, you know what to do?" Jiang Conghe asked the man standing in front of his desk.

The man showed authority and said, "Rest assured, I will definitely give Commander Chiang a satisfactory report."

"Hmm, make sure you eliminate him without anyone knowing, or else my hatred will be unresolved!" Jiang Conghe said coldly.

That brat Qi Taiguo had previously put him in such a difficult situation, waited so long, and now the opportunity finally came!

Humph, joining the training camp is not that simple? Even as a company commander, don't think you can escape from hell-style training.

"Commander, after this matter..."

"Don't worry, once it's done, I will surely promote you to the position of chief. But I want him to never leave this training camp." Jiang Conghe said lightly.

"Yes!" The man hesitated for a moment, then said, "But Commander, you know, I'm not the only instructor, some things can't be done openly."

Jiang Conghe was annoyed. That damn Ning Gang had to oppose him.

"I know, but you're justified at every turn, what can they say? Don't you have that skill?" Jiang Conghe scolded him.

"Alright."

"Remember, what I want is a report showing he's unable to leave the camp. If he completes the training successfully and leaves, then you shouldn't even think about the chief's position!" Jiang Conghe added.

The man frowned, saluted, and said, "I will strictly follow the commander's orders!"

Jiang Conghe was satisfied, nodding and waving him out, his eyes full of vindictive poison.

Chapter 849: Received by the Old Chief

That evening, Qi Taiguo dined with the main troops. Just halfway through, someone called him away, but no one knew who it was.

The person picking up Qi Taiguo came in a military vehicle, which inevitably sparked discussions among onlookers. Even Qiu Dahai, who came along, quietly asked Gao Linbing who the person was.

Gao Linbing said, "Don't ask. Some things we're not supposed to know, just pretend you don't know." He vaguely guessed who it was but didn't say more, only feeling a bit envious.

Seeing Gao Linbing remain silent, Qiu Dahai stopped asking.

Qi Taiguo was taken to a large residence in a military district; it was the Ning Family's home.

Entering the mansion, he met Old Master Ning and Ning Gang, quickly snapping to attention and saluting them: "Greetings, Old Chief! Greetings, Chief!"

"Alright, no need for formalities. I heard you're here for training. We haven't seen you in a while, so I called you over for a cup of tea. Have you eaten?" Old Master Ning asked with a smile.

"Reporting to the Old Chief, I've eaten!" Qi Taiguo replied immediately.

"Alright then, come and sit!" Old Master Ning gestured towards the sofa.

Ning Gang gave him a glance and also sat down.

Qi Taiguo was a bit tense but sat down, legs together, back straight.

"We're all family here, no need to be so tense. Speak freely." Old Master Ning chuckled as he observed.

Qi Taiguo acknowledged but continued to sit upright, slightly facing the Old Master.

Ning Gang nodded subtly, acknowledging his manners.

"Do you have confidence in the upcoming training?" The Old Master asked first.

"Reporting to the Old Chief, I am confident." Qi Taiguo replied immediately.

"Alright, no need to be so formal all the time." Ning Gang noted his consistent deference. He then changed his tone: "Don't be overly confident in what you say. This training is an elite officer training session, the best of the best. It's much harder than any previous training or leading experience you've had, with potential life risks."

"Chief, I'm aware of all that." Qi Taiguo looked at him, speaking neither subserviently nor arrogantly, "But I'm not afraid."

Ning Gang sneered, "It's not about whether you're afraid or not, it's about whether you're capable enough."

"If the Chief didn't think I was capable, I wouldn't have been recommended to join the training, right?" Qi Taiguo retorted.

Ning Gang was momentarily speechless. What a kid, he knows how to counter!

"Therefore, not to disappoint the Chief's support and guidance, even if I lack the ability, I must become capable and not let the Chief down," Qi Taiguo added.

Ning Gang let out a snort, "Don't overestimate yourself. This training prioritizes ability, but if you're too self-centered, no matter how capable, you can't avoid other's hidden pitfalls."

Qi Taiguo's expression turned serious, his eyes emitting a sharp light: "I understand what you mean, Chief."

Ning Gang noticed his determination and said nothing further.

"The Chief is right, vigilance is necessary, but don't become like a startled bird, overly constrained. Taiguo, you're one of the rare promising talents I've seen in recent years. The country needs upright seedlings like you. I hope you won't let the country down," Old Master Ning chimed in.

Qi Taiguo felt a surge of righteous fervor, and with a composed and resolute expression, he said: "I will devote myself to the country with all my heart, willing to sacrifice my life for it. I will never let you down, Old Chief."

"Good! Then this old man will be waiting to see your performance!" Old Master Ning laughed heartily.

Chapter 850: Provocation or Testing the Waters?

Qi Taiguo didn't stay long at the Ning Family. After all, discipline was paramount, and even though he was taken by a superior, to avoid too much gossip, after receiving guidance from two Chiefs, Qi Taiguo was sent back.

"Father, what do you think of this young man?" As soon as Qi Taiguo left, Ning Gang couldn't wait to ask Old Master Ning, "Is he promising?"

"People must inevitably experience setbacks and lows to grow. In my opinion, compared to the last meeting, he is more reserved and stable now." Old Master Ning took the tea cup, and Ning Gang pressed his hand. The old man's age had caught up, and drinking tea at night made it harder to sleep. So he switched to a cup of warm water.

Seeing his son's insistence, Old Master Ning went along and said, "When I met him before, he seemed like an extremely sharp sword, beneficial but also prone to harm oneself with the sword's aura while injuring others. Now it seems he has retracted much of his sharpness and knows how to bide his time and energy. Let's observe this training; if he can learn well, he should also become a sharp, reserved sword."

Ning Gang said, "Father, do you value him so much just because his wife and Xiao Si are partners?"

"As for you, you are too upright. Being fair and strict is good, but the officialdom is like a battlefield; without nurturing your personnel, how can you compete with others? I value him not just because of his wife but because of his capability. Eldest Son, a ruler's first principle is to know how to use people. No king would complain about having too many capable people around. If so, they're a fool. There's no fear in having too many competent ministers; the key is knowing how to use them," said Old Master Ning. "Qi Taiguo is not yet thirty this year, and he has a long road ahead. As for you, you're nearing fifty. Cultivate him now, and in the future, he will be a good aide to you and a strong support for Xiao Le."

Ning Gang was taken aback. Xiao Le was his only child, now twenty-two, studying at the military academy and set to graduate next year.

"Xiao Le, at the latest by next year, should enter the army. You'll be able to oversee him for a few years, but what about ten years later? Twenty years later?" said Old Master Ning. "You must understand, in a family, relationships and connections are most important. It's better to teach someone to fish than to give them fish. Helping Qi Taiguo now means he can assist future generations of the Ning Family later!"

"But..."

"But if he lacks talent, it's no one's fault but his own. However, if he is capable, wouldn't it be a waste not to nurture him? So, help as much as you can within your power!" Old Master Ning stood up, saying, "I hope I haven't misjudged him either. I'm old and don't know how many more years I can keep a watch over things for you. Eldest Son, you need to work even harder!"

Ning Gang felt embarrassed, "Yes!"

"Help me upstairs!" Old Master Ning extended his hand.

Father and son went upstairs together, continuing their discussion, the echoes still lingering.

Meanwhile, when Qi Taiguo returned to the camp, Gao Linbing and the others pulled him aside for questioning, "Everything okay?"

"Everything's fine, just met with an old friend." Qi Taiguo smiled.

At this moment, a young man walked over, deliberately glanced at Qi Taiguo as he passed by, and sneered, "Hmph, such a big parachute!"

The term "parachute" implied being dropped in from above, indicating Qi Taiguo was parachuted in.

Gao Linbing couldn't hold back, "You..."

Qi Taiguo quickly pulled him, shook his head, and Gao Linbing had to stop, glaring at the man.

That man showed no concern, only deeply looked at Qi Taiguo, sneered, and left.

As for Qi Taiguo, his gaze was shadowed; he knew this person was valued by Jiang Conghe, named Wan Zhisen. Was this a deliberate provocation or merely testing the waters?