

The 80s 891

Chapter 891: Leaving Things Unspoken

Chen Shouwang managed to persuade Liu Li to go back, but when he said that they couldn't keep the child, Liu Li became too emotional and even started crying, causing people to look their way.

He was still in his military uniform, feeling like those people saw through his relationship with Liu Li, making him extremely uneasy.

So he could only calm her down; this matter needs careful consideration before making any plans.

After sending Liu Li off on the car to return to the tavern, Chen Shouwang felt deflated, like a balloon losing air, suddenly seeming ten years older.

Liu Li was pregnant. He always wanted to be a father but didn't expect it to turn out this way.

What should he do?

Chen Shouwang returned to the base in a daze, his eyes empty.

...

Guiying's house was bustling with activity. Cheng Su had brought the fruits she bought and also gifted the prepared red envelope and a set of children's clothes, as a full-month gift.

Even if hosting an event at home, space must be made, with each household lending some tableware and furniture, all gathering to help and celebrate lively.

Cheng Su also joined in to help cook and chatted with everyone. Having gone to college and started a business to earn money, she was inevitably the subject of everyone's praise.

"Commander Qi should be coming back soon, right?" someone asked.

Cheng Su showed a gentle smile and replied, "Yes, he should be back in a few days." Hoping he would return smoothly without any trouble.

"Look at her, missing her husband," one of the sisters teased, nudging Cheng Su's arm amiably.

Cheng Su chuckled.

"Do you need help with anything?" Hualing's voice came from the kitchen door as she rolled up her sleeves.

"You're off work?"

"Mm-hmm."

Seeing Hualing with her radiant, cheerful appearance, Cheng Su couldn't help but recall the scene where she saw Chen Shouwang pushing a woman into a car.

What kind of relationship do they have?

"Why are you staring at me?" Hualing touched her face as she noticed Cheng Su gazing at her.

"Nothing, seeing your face almost blossom, you've been quite radiant lately, making people envious," Cheng Su joked intentionally, causing everyone to chuckle with ambiguity.

Hualing blushed and retorted, "I knew you wouldn't say anything nice, so shameless!"

Cheng Su laughed too, but felt slightly relieved inside.

If she's laughing so happily, she must be getting along well with Chen Shouwang, right?

Maybe they are relatives, Cheng Su thought, deciding to keep what she saw to herself, as if she hadn't seen anything.

At this moment, she completely forgot how Hualing had warned her earlier!

After Cancan's full-month banquet was attended by one group after another, Cheng Su saw Chen Shouwang returning to eat, noticing his calm demeanor, her heart was completely at ease.

Avoiding more complications, especially with no foundation and unknown aspects, particularly sensitive topics, it's better not to bring it up; who knows if others are aware of things!

What she didn't know was that Chen Shouwang was merely putting on a facade of normalcy, but inside he was extremely bitter, looking at Hualing's playful face, he was at a loss for words.

Moreover, he didn't dare speak about it, not knowing what consequences might follow if this was exposed.

Chen Shouwang could only secretly pray that Liu Li would think it through and decide not to have the child. But he didn't realize that the time bomb he planted would eventually explode, and often many things don't go as planned, especially those breeding calamities.

Chapter 892: Something's Not Right

In two separate locations, Cheng Su's side was tangled in family affairs, while Qi Taiguo's side was risking his life for the country.

The two teams went their separate ways; Qi Taiguo's Tackle Hawks Team faced challenges much greater than Gao Linbing's Fulang Team.

The jungle at the Bagui border was steep and complex, with a Dahe River crossing the border. To cross, they had to go over the river first, and if they wanted to tackle hawks, all smugglers and hostages must be across the river.

Even after crossing, they couldn't relax. Any sudden action would alert the smugglers, who would jump into the river with the drugs and the people, ending the operation. The river was fast-flowing, with a large waterfall downstream and entering it meant certain death for anyone not adept at swimming.

Therefore, Qi Taiguo watched helplessly as they slowly crossed the river, unable to move hastily. Instead, he quietly informed his teammates through a hidden communicator.

Qi Taiguo's scouting position was very high. He wore grass green camouflage, a wreath of grass on his head with tree branches, and his minimal movement made him hard to detect.

From his vantage point, he saw hostages—men, women, children, and even a pregnant woman—looking alarmed, with ropes tied around their waists, like a string of zongzi, pulling a safety rope across the river.

There were nine hostages in total, but Qi Taiguo found it strange. Weren't there supposed to be dozens of kilos of drugs? These people seemed lightly equipped, and when crossing the river, how were they keeping them safe?

But it wasn't what Qi Taiguo needed to focus on; his priority was that they all got across the river.

Suddenly, a man in the front staggered and fell into the water, swallowing a few mouthfuls. The smuggler beside him with a rifle immediately cursed him, pulled him up, and struck him with the gunstock a few times.

The man wailed, and Qi Taiguo almost sprang out—those were his country's compatriots.

After a few more reprimands from a smuggler behind, the one who had been hitting stopped, pushing the man and others forward while warily watching for any movement around. The hostages followed, faces full of horror, trembling.

Qi Taiguo watched, his face dark and solemn.

It was the end of September; the jungle temperatures were already low. They had crossed the river at dawn—how could they not be cold?

Qi Taiguo held on until the last smuggler got ashore, then he softly reported via the walkie-talkie and silently leaped down, heading for the ambush site.

Just now, from his elevated position, he saw clearly. Whether it was to ensure their own safety or what, the smugglers valued the hostages highly, almost surrounding them as they crossed the river.

This meant that to smoothly reach the rendezvous point with the Green Eagle Hall, they would certainly continue to surround the hostages.

However, with the hostages being young and old, they would inevitably slow down.

Qi Taiguo stopped in his tracks, sensing something was amiss. He found a high point to look again. The figures were sparse, but from there, he could still see they indeed surrounded the hostages as he thought.

Why did they value mere hostages so much?

As desperados, they shouldn't be slowed by such burdens unless they had to, or these people were carrying something immensely important that they had to protect.

What could it be?

Qi Taiguo's mind raced. These people were lightly packed, but the intelligence reported dozens of pounds of drugs. Where could they have hidden these things?

Chapter 893: Human Containers

Qi Taiguo's mind was like a high-speed machine, spinning rapidly.

Light load, drugs, hostages.

Qi Taiguo squinted his eyes, a flash of light crossed his mind, a pale face, suddenly, a monstrous wave surged in his eyes, his face turned livid.

He knew where these people's drugs went, they were with the hostages, inside their bodies, so they could travel light, without carrying too many burdens, as long as these hostages remained safe...

No, not just hostages, containers.

They were all human containers for drug trafficking, so the child's face was ghostly pale, likely due to the drugs being unsettled inside.

A person can only hold a limited amount of drugs, so they split it up, or perhaps these traffickers themselves were containers, dozens of people, each carrying a portion, just enough.

Qi Taiguo looked very unpleasant, immediately used his communicator to relay the information he had investigated, also reported his location, and started tracking those people's tail.

On the other side, all team members felt terribly upset and heavy-hearted after hearing Qi Taiguo's news, yet they were even more alert and spirited.

Human body trafficking, if anything goes wrong, and a bullet penetrates those drugs inside, that person would die for sure.

These scum traffickers, if they die they die, but those compatriots from our nation cannot die in vain like this.

The mission became increasingly arduous, even shooting required thorough caution and care because their bodies were filled with drugs.

If it's a siege, it has to be broken, to defeat them one by one.

So once Qi Taiguo reached the tail end, he planned to start breaking it from there.

Watching as these people entered the ambush circle they had set, Qi Taiguo had already sneaked behind them, just when he was about to act, a sudden change occurred.

The child walking in the middle suddenly fell to the ground, foaming at the mouth.

The sudden shock threw everyone into panic, the woman even cried out, the traffickers babbled in Taiguo, appearing somewhat exasperated.

The hostages started moving frantically, some cried, some were panicked, the child continued foaming at the mouth, limbs convulsing, everyone understood what was happening, surely one bag of drugs had ruptured.

Bam!

A trafficker shot directly at the boy's head, Qi Taiguo's eyes nearly bulged, almost rushing out.

After the shot, the child stopped moving, the shooter took out a dagger and walked toward him, crouching down to tear open the child's clothes, clearly preparing for disembowelment.

The containers finally lost it upon seeing this scene, a man suddenly knocked down a nearby trafficker and ran deeper into the jungle, two traffickers immediately gave chase.

The siege circle was instantly broken and scrambled.

"Take action!" The captain's voice came through the intercom.

Qi Taiguo had already recovered from his shock, diving at the nearest trafficker, and at this movement, the remaining traffickers also reacted, firing wildly.

Gunshots and screams rang out.

Qi Taiguo fiercely swung his fist at the trafficker he had knocked down, the person immediately fainted.

Just then, some traffickers started shooting at Qi Taiguo, while others pulled hostages to flee or were shot down by snipers.

Whizz, whizz, whizz!

Qi Taiguo dodged swiftly, bullets fell beside him, oh boy, the guy he knocked out turned into a sieve, only twitching a few times before falling silent.

No time to think too much, Qi Taiguo just intended to chase the fleeing traffickers and hostages when another bullet flew at him.

Chapter 894: Shot

Listening to the wind to determine the position, the bullet headed straight for Qi Taiguo's heart, and almost instantly, he turned and dodged at incredible speed.

Poof!

The sound of the bullet entering flesh was clear to Qi Taiguo; he dodged behind a tree and turned his head slightly to look back.

The direction the bullet came from, and the speed, was definitely not from those smuggler hands, and he remembered clearly, that was where Cai Zhengyan was lurking.

"Bastard!"

Qi Taiguo's face was ashen as he saw blood seeping from his shoulder armor; he immediately pulled a tourniquet from his pocket and quickly tied it tightly.

He was angry, not because Cai Zhengyan wanted him dead, but because in this situation, he didn't prioritize and still thought to take advantage of the chaos to deal with him first.

Asshole!

Didn't he know that sometimes, such battles can be wrecked by a small self-interest, leading to a complete defeat?

From being shot to bandaging, it only took Qi Taiguo less than two minutes. He knew Cai Zhengyan missed his chance this time; he wouldn't get another chance to shoot, and Qi Taiguo wouldn't give him the opportunity!

Not far away, gunfire was still sounding. Following the battle plan, Qi Taiguo turned and slipped into the jungle, continuing the pursuit.

Meanwhile, on the other side, the Fulang Team had already engaged in the battle.

Orders were given one by one, and the confrontation happened repeatedly. As people fell, the mission reached a fever pitch.

Qi Taiguo took down two traffickers in succession and continued tracking into the dense mountains, entering a maze-like area. These smugglers weren't fools; they were prepared for smuggling and knew the retreat points well. They were familiar with the terrain, so they quickly disappeared.

But at the same time, they had weaknesses; even when exposed, they wouldn't let the hostages go, and taking someone with them, how far could they get?

So, Qi Taiguo quickly caught up with the smuggler carrying a pregnant woman.

The pregnant woman's face was ghastly pale, being dragged by someone with a gun pointed at her head, crying and begging, "Save me, don't kill me, sob sob."

Qi Taiguo also pointed his gun at the smuggler.

The smuggler babbled something unintelligible, probably telling Qi Taiguo to drop his weapon.

The pregnant woman kept crying.

Qi Taiguo hesitated upon seeing the bulging belly, recalling his own unborn child with Cheng Su.

Through the hidden earpiece, he heard the commander's voice saying the southern ambush succeeded, the northern interception succeeded...

This was their encirclement; the eastern side was now the only escape point. They couldn't let them get away.

"Drop your gun, you can't escape anymore; we've already surrounded the withdrawal point," Qi Taiguo purposely said, not for the smuggler, but for his comrades.

He held the gun, feeling a faint pain in the shoulder armor above his right arm where he was just shot.

As expected, he heard in his earpiece the command's notice of support arriving for him.

Qi Taiguo moved step by step closer with his gun raised.

The smuggler saw Qi Taiguo not listening and shouted louder, first raising the gun toward Qi Taiguo, then at the pregnant woman's head, and pulled the trigger, making her cry loudly in fear.

Qi Taiguo immediately raised his gun, said "Ok" twice, and then tossed the gun at his feet, thinking about why support hadn't arrived yet.

The smuggler, seeing him drop the gun, gave a sinister smile, dragged the pregnant woman two steps closer, and raised the gun again at Qi Taiguo.

Swoosh.

Qi Taiguo leaped, twisting in mid-air like a gymnast, swiftly drawing a dagger from his back and aiming it at the man's leg.

Chapter 895: An Eye for an Eye

The dagger shot into the man's leg like an arrow, and he let out a howl, taking two steps back. The pregnant woman he was dragging fell to the ground, and he himself fell as well, his gun firing at Qi Taiguo.

Was Qi Taiguo going to give him a chance?

With a leap, he pounced forward like an eagle, his leg flying up, kicking the gun from the man's hand. Almost in one swift motion, he twisted and lunged at the smuggler on the ground, twisting his arm and raising his fist to wrestle with him.

The smuggler had already been stabbed in the thigh by Qi Taiguo's dagger, blood gushing out, hindering his movements. How could he be a match for Qi Taiguo? In no time, Qi Taiguo knocked him out, tying his hands and feet.

However, despite this, Qi Taiguo's shoulder was deeply affected by the gunshot, and this bout reopened the wound, causing blood to seep through the bandage.

"It's okay." Qi Taiguo lifted his head and smiled at the pregnant woman, only to see her face change drastically, staring past him.

Bad, danger!

Qi Taiguo's alertness surged and, without thinking, he lunged forward. A bullet grazed the top of his head, flying past and embedding itself in a tree trunk ahead.

Bam bam!

Two consecutive gunshots rang out, followed by Wan Zhisen's angry roar.

Qi Taiguo turned his head to see Wan Zhisen pointing a gun at Cai Zhengyan, the two facing off against each other.

He glanced at the bullet hole in the tree trunk ahead, furious. Having narrowly escaped death, he hadn't anticipated that Cai Zhengyan, this snake, was so fixated on killing him.

Even a Buddha would get angry!

Qi Taiguo saw the two in a standoff, his mind quickly clearing, spotting a handgun on the smuggler's waist and seeing the terrified pregnant woman watching the scene. He shouted for her to turn around.

As he spoke, he had already placed the gun in the smuggler's hand, securing his grip on the man's hand, aiming, shooting, directly targeting Cai Zhengyan's wrist in confrontation with Wan Zhisen, all in one fluid motion.

This mission was reaching its conclusion, and Cai Zhengyan's attack on Qi Taiguo had failed once again. Now caught in the act, he was furious, pondering a response, not noticing Qi Taiguo, typically seen as righteous, suddenly take action.

Cai Zhengyan felt a numbness in his wrist, losing all sensation. He looked in shock at his right hand, the bullet having pierced through, sapping his strength, and the sniper rifle drooped.

Seizing the moment, Wan Zhisen swung his leg, kicking the gun from Cai Zhengyan's hand, causing him to fall to the ground.

Qi Taiguo was already striding over.

Through the earpiece, came the voice of the captain asking for updates. Before Wan Zhisen could respond, Qi Taiguo jumped in: "Hostage is safe, smuggler ambushed. Also, Cai Zhengyan has betrayed."

At his words, Cai Zhengyan and Wan Zhisen stared at him.

Qi Taiguo forcefully stomped on Cai Zhengyan's face, rendering him unconscious.

Violence for violence, an eye for an eye, framing and incrimination? You think only you and Jiang Conghe can do that? I can too!

"You..." Wan Zhisen looked at him in fear.

Qi Taiguo slightly curved the corner of his mouth: "Thanks a lot!"

Wan Zhisen snorted, turning his head away, saying, "Isn't it too simple to frame someone without evidence?"

Qi Taiguo shrugged, saying, "You and I are the evidence." He pointed at his bloodstained shoulder armor: "This bullet inside is the evidence."

Wan Zhisen froze, looking at his shoulder, mouth agape in shock.

Chapter 896: Biting Back

Ning Family of Yanjing.

Ning Gang received a call, and his face instantly turned dark with anger. He couldn't believe that during a mission, such self-inflicted injuries and killings would occur among soldiers.

This was simply shocking!

He also couldn't believe that some people, for their selfish desires, would go to such extremes.

"What's wrong?" Old Master Ning saw Ning Gang's face drastically change and furrowed his brows.

"Qi Taiguo was shot during the mission but is not in life-threatening danger. He and a sniper from the team pointed out that an officer betrayed them," Ning Gang explained concisely.

Old Master Ning's expression hardened, and he asked, "Was it Jiang Conghe?"

"The one who targeted Qi Taiguo was a deputy company commander named Cai Zhengyan. We don't yet know his connection with Jiang Conghe, but he is probably Jiang's man," Ning Gang said, "The hostage and sniper named Wan Zhisen identified him on the spot. They witnessed Cai Zhengyan shooting at Qi Taiguo from behind, and it was Wan Zhisen who diverted his aim; otherwise, Qi would have surely died."

Old Master Ning remained silent, then asked, "What about the mission? Was it completed?"

Ning Gang nodded and said, "The hostages, used as human containers for drug trafficking, were all rescued except for a twelve-year-old boy who had an accident. Those drug traffickers were captured, and six died, each with drugs concealed inside. Qi Taiguo fell into the trap because he was trying to save a pregnant woman."

Old Master Ning nodded subtly upon hearing this and said, "Write a thorough report on this, and Qi deserves full honors. Justice must be served, so we do not dishearten the soldiers."

"Yes, sir!"

"Such scum in the army must be weeded out. Soldiers fighting soldiers, what a joke," Old Master Ning said, and slammed the table heavily.

Ning Gang recognized the old master's anger and said, "Don't worry, Father. I know what to do."

"Good. Qi is someone you recommended. This justice is not only for him but also for yourself, so people won't look down on you," Old Master Ning added.

Ning Gang's face grew solemn, nodding to signify his understanding. Those who attacked Qi Taiguo were indeed challenging him.

Old Master Ning waved his hand, "Go now!"

"Yes, sir!" Ning Gang nodded heavily and departed with large strides, as he had many arrangements to make.

Meanwhile, Jiang Conghe also received the news. He was so furious that he slammed the phone down and swept everything off the desk to the floor.

Qi Taiguo, this brat has such incredible luck; even this couldn't kill him. Instead, it turned on him.

Accusing Cai Zhengyan of treachery, what courage, what skill. And that Wan Zhisen, refusing the carrot and taking the stick, huh!

Jiang Conghe was so angry his eyes almost popped out, wishing he could rush over and tear Qi Taiguo to pieces.

The people he had arranged were first crippled by Yao Qingjun, and now Cai Zhengyan was also incapacitated. Moreover, the situation with Cai was worse as he was caught red-handed, what a fool.

The more Jiang Conghe thought about it, the angrier he became, but he also grew more apprehensive of Qi Taiguo. This was a Poisonous Snake, and he must eliminate him swiftly.

The urgent matter is to deal with Cai Zhengyan, ensuring he doesn't implicate Jiang Conghe; otherwise, it would be a huge problem.

Jiang Conghe picked up the phone again, ready to make a call, but just then received another call, and the news on the other end completely changed his facial expression.

Ning Gang had already taken action and traced the lead to Cai Zhengyan, and the superiors demanded him to cooperate with the thorough investigation!

Breathtaking speed!

"Damn it!" Jiang Conghe roared in fury.

Chapter 897: Earning Merit

Qi Taiguo really has to thank the bullet lodged in his shoulder armor, clearly it was a bullet from their own sniper, and with someone identifying it, he straightforwardly declared Cai Zhengyan as a traitor.

Killing one's own, regardless of the reason, the organization has to investigate, has to give him an explanation.

But whether he gets an explanation or not, Qi Taiguo no longer cares. His greatest counterattack is already complete, what more explanation does he need?

That's right, didn't Jiang Conghe just want him dead? Didn't he arrange for people to bring about his death? But he survived and well, overturned all his scheming, even made trouble for him, isn't this his most successful counterattack?

Qi Taiguo showed a smile.

Someone slapped him on his shoulder armor, making him grit his teeth in pain.

Turning slightly, it was Wan Zhisen, who had obviously already had a conversation!

"Surprised you can still smile." Wan Zhisen, as cocky as ever, said: "If that bullet stays too long, your arm could become useless."

For someone whose arm is useless, they can't handle a gun, the outcome is only retirement. If they're lucky, maybe they can settle as a coach at a base or something, otherwise they'd have to change careers and retire!

"Relax, I'm blessed with great luck!" Qi Taiguo smiled slightly, pursed his lips at him: "But you, do you have any issues?"

"What issues?" Wan Zhisen raised an eyebrow in retort.

"Your testimony, will it become a thorn in someone's side?" Qi Taiguo was quite hesitant, with a hint of worry.

After all, such training and exercises are rare, making it to the end is even rarer. If he becomes resented because of himself, losing a chance for promotion, that would indeed be guilt-inducing.

Wan Zhisen snorted and said: "Who have I, Wan Zhisen, ever feared? I'm just telling it as it is, as for becoming a thorn in someone's side, spare me the worry, better worry about yourself!" Pausing, he added: "I've already been selected to join the special sniper elite team, no longer under Jiang's command."

Qi Taiguo was surprised, said: "Congratulations!"

Wan Zhisen said proudly: "It was expected!"

Qi Taiguo smiled, extended his hand: "They say those who've been through missions are brothers, how about being friends?"

"Pah! Who's interested!" Wan Zhisen disdainfully spat, yet also extended his hand to shake with him, said: "I, Wan Zhisen, admire resilient and tough people. Qi Taiguo, you've got potential, you've caught my eye, let's see how far you can go."

"Then keep your eyes peeled!" Qi Taiguo raised an eyebrow, smiling lightly.

Their hands clasped tightly, in the future, fighting side by side, they would still be brothers.

As the successful completion of this mission marked the end of this final assessment task, all matters regarding ratings, commendations, and awarding would take place back at the Yanjing Military Region.

Standing on the training ground where they had arrived, listening to the commander report the results of the mission, the number of hostages rescued, kilograms of drugs seized, actions against those involved in crimes...

Immediately following, individuals were awarded medals of merit and scores and commendations for the training were given.

Qi Taiguo watched as a First Class Merit Medal was pinned on his chest, unable to suppress a small upward curve of his lips, his heart surged with pride as he rendered a steady military salute to the one presenting the award.

For this mission, he had also earned a first-class merit, and his assessment score was high. These achievements rounded off a period of training and exercises marked by several near-death experiences with a satisfactory conclusion.

As the commendation ceremony dispersed, Gao Linbing wrapped an arm around Qi Taiguo's neck, face full of excitement, said: "Brother, we can finally go home!"

A trace of tenderness flashed in Qi Taiguo's eyes, nodding, indeed, he could now go home to see her!

Chapter 898: Officially Joining the Ning Family Camp

Old Master Ning and Ning Gang both had not expected that in just three months, someone could be transformed into this.

Dressed in a righteous, solemn military uniform, with a freshly awarded medal pinned to his chest, his eyes sharp, lips lightly pursed, standing at the gates of the Ning Family, exuding an aura of intense intimidation and awe.

It's the unique iron-blooded presence of a soldier, the chilling severity that has endured through bloodshed and life-and-death moments, akin to a sword yearning to be drawn, sharp and cold.

Old Master Ning stroked his beard with satisfaction and smiled; he had judged correctly after all.

This is a piece of steel, and given time, he will be forged into pure steel, not easily broken.

Ning Gang was also very pleased. Compared to the impulsive manner Qi Taiguo displayed three months ago, he now appears more restrained, stable, and composed.

This is an excellent sign. After all, this also counts as his subordinate, and when the subordinate succeeds, it brings glory to the superior.

Qi Taiguo nodded slightly when he saw the two, his mouth curving into a subtle smile.

"Come in." Old Master Ning beckoned warmly and turned to enter the house.

This meeting was not held in the Ning Family living room but within Old Master Ning's study.

As Qi Taiguo stepped into that antiquated study, he knew that this step symbolized formally entering the Ning Family's fold, henceforth aligning with them; their fortunes will be shared.

"You did well, didn't let us down." Ning Gang looked steadily at Qi Taiguo for a moment and said, "Tell us about this training session."

"Yes!"

Qi Taiguo then chose to recount the key events during the training session, including his experiences of being ambushed, harassed, and harmed, as well as his counterattacks, describing them all regardless of their size.

"Aggrieved?" Old Master Ning asked.

Qi Taiguo stood tall, his eyes firm and replied, "Not aggrieved. I thank him!"

If Jiang Conghe hadn't been intent on wanting him dead, he might not have exerted all his efforts; in a way, he owed his 'motivations' to him.

Old Master Ning and Ning Gang exchanged a glance, a satisfied smile appearing in their eyes.

"Even though you've passed this training and assessment, you must still guard against arrogance and rashness, especially as an officer with a military rank, who must remain composed even amidst the collapse of the highest mountain." Ning Gang instructed.

"Yes!" Qi Taiguo stiffened.

Old Master Ning chuckled and said, "Here, it's no harm to be a bit complacent, as the old saying goes, 'In the spring breeze, a gallant horse gallops with pride.' You are still young, always remember to remain cautious."

Qi Taiguo exhaled and affirmed once more.

"Jiang Conghe failed to get rid of you this time; surely you will be even more feared by him in the future. Your path will be equally challenging, be mindful." Ning Gang noted.

Qi Taiguo pursed his lips and suddenly raised his head, "Does the Chief want to oust Jiang Conghe?"

Ning Gang's expression flickered briefly, and he replied, "There's no talk of ousting anyone; it's just that the military cannot allow officers who only seek personal gain."

The implication is indeed that Jiang Conghe will be pulled down.

Thinking about Ning Ge, Qi Taiguo faintly felt a sense of mystery, wondering why the kid didn't reveal his identity to his family.

Thinking he was worried, Ning Gang said, "Yanjing and Qing City are distant from each other; after this incident, Jiang Conghe is busy dealing with his own troubles, even if he wants to do something against you, he can't manage it for now, so don't worry too much!"

He wasn't lying; at present, Jiang Conghe was busy trying to clean up his mess!

"I know, let him come; I'm not afraid!" Qi Taiguo said confidently, curling up his lips.

Without fear, he wasn't afraid. If this time Jiang Conghe couldn't kill him, it was akin to releasing a tiger back into the mountain; when his wings are fully grown and his claws sharp, Jiang Conghe will be the one who should be afraid.

Chapter 899: Watch His Tower Collapse

Jiang Conghe was indeed busy cleaning up the mess; Cai Zhengyan truly was a liability rather than an asset, as dumb as a pig, along with Wang Hua, all of them idiots, all useless good-for-nothings.

Thinking of Director Wang's words with hidden meaning, Jiang Conghe felt a chill climbing up his back, about how one must be magnanimous as a superior, not to mix personal vendettas with public duties, obviously saying he was airing private grievances.

Luckily, Cai Zhengyan didn't say anything reckless, only insisted that it was just grudges with Qi Taiguo, otherwise he wouldn't have gotten off so easily, though he didn't gain any advantage either.

Leaving a bad impression with the boss meant he was one step further from that position.

"Damn it!" Jiang Conghe fumed.

As if that wasn't enough, he was also reprimanded by Old Master Loo, again saying he failed more than he succeeded, that he tried to steal a chicken and ended up covered in crap, it really infuriated him.

The car carrying Jiang Conghe was about to enter the military compound when he unintentionally looked over and hurriedly called for a stop.

The car stopped, Jiang Conghe rolled down the window and looked at Jiang Dafang standing hesitantly at the gate of the compound, frowned, and said, "Dafang, why are you standing here? Why not go on home."

Over the past year, his relationship with Jiang Dafang had gotten a bit closer, no longer as cold as before, although he still hasn't called him 'Dad'.

Jiang Dafang saw him and reluctantly said, "I thought your birthday is coming and it's not like I can celebrate it with you, so I came to bring a small token."

Jiang Conghe felt a bit of joy in his heart upon hearing this, as if the resentment he had previously felt had vanished, he smiled and said, "You still remember!" then added, "Then you should've gone inside, come on, get in the car!"

"That's not my home, and no one would welcome me there!" Jiang Dafang said indifferently, handing over the bag in his hand, "A gift for you, if you don't like it, just throw it away."

Saying this, he turned around and walked away, not looking at Jiang Conghe's expression at all.

What does he mean, no one would welcome him, Jiang Conghe's face darkened, and he said, "Stop right there!"

He got out of the car himself, pulled him into the car, and said, "What nonsense are you talking about, you're my son, who would dare not welcome you? Come, have a cup of tea with me, have a meal before you leave!"

Jiang Dafang said nothing, only lowered his head, concealing the cold gleam that flashed in his eyes.

He suddenly remembered that young man who previously came to find him, who straightforwardly asked if he wanted revenge, if he wanted to bring down this deadbeat Jiang Conghe who abandoned his family, and that Loo Family who caused families to break up and people to perish.

Want to, how could he not want to?

It was Jiang Dafang's lifelong wish; ever since he thought of his mother silently washing her face with tears in secret every night, dying early from long-standing grief, he wished he could devour the people of both the Jiang and Loo families alive.

If it weren't for them, how could his mother have passed away in her fifties?

And what did that young man say, he said he wanted to disrupt the balance between the two families, wanted him to actively approach Jiang Conghe, preferably gain his trust.

He didn't need the reminder to know how to prick that woman's heart, but the young man said it wasn't enough, that he needed to infiltrate, to upset the balance, wasn't it enough...

Jiang Dafang raised his head, his eyes looking outward, at the rows of red houses, beneath the green woodland.

Back then, they only lived in a leaky tiled house, struggling like ants, while that woman who snatched someone else's husband enjoyed a life of comfort for years.

Ha-ha, how could that be, how could he endure?

Seeing him build a towering building, watching him have it collapse.

The Jiang and Loo families, should it not be the same for them, too?

Jiang Dafang turned back, looked at Jiang Conghe, and for the first time in years uttered, "Dad."

Chapter 900: Commander Qi Really Didn't Let Me Down

Chiang Qing gazed at Qi Taiguo with infatuation. How long had it been since she last saw him? Half a year? Or even longer?

She couldn't remember!

He was even more handsome now. The months of training had bestowed upon him an aura of solemn majesty, like a black gemstone; its light not overwhelmingly bright, yet striking and attention-grabbing.

She didn't know what his comrade had said to him, she only saw him clench his fist and give the person a playful punch, a slight smile playing at the corners of his lips.

Chiang Qing knew that this man would not die easily; his abilities went far beyond this. Indeed, he hadn't disappointed her.

However...

The smile on Chiang Qing's lips turned cold.

What use was it? He didn't belong to her; he didn't love her. He would rather die than have her; he was that woman Cheng Su's.

Jealousy surged through her chest, raging in every limb. Chiang Qing pressed her hand tightly against her chest, her teeth clenching.

Obsession stems from deep affection, difficult to control.

Qi Taiguo was bidding farewell to the comrades he had trained with this time. Once parted, who knew if there would be a chance to meet again, so they all cherished this final moment of farewell.

However, he felt someone watching him. This feeling of being scrutinized was like a thorn in his back, making him extremely uneasy.

Qi Taiguo's eyes sharply scanned the direction of the gaze, yet there was nothing.

He furrowed his brows, looked around, and still saw nothing.

Chiang Qing hid behind a pillar, letting out a long breath. What a keen sense.

But why hide? Didn't she come just to see him?

Chiang Qing bit her lip, rubbing her left arm as if she could feel the scars beneath her sleeve through the fabric.

To see him, just to see him!

It was precisely this yearning that drove her here, to come see him.

Chiang Qing took a deep breath, put on her sunglasses, and walked towards Qi Taiguo.

"Feel free to come to Xiangyang for a drink anytime." Wan Zhisen called out to Qi Taiguo.

Qi Taiguo nodded, "For sure, you..."

Suddenly, his expression changed drastically. The relaxed atmosphere immediately turned icy cold, his gaze sharp and full of murderous intent, staring intently behind Wan Zhisen, lips pressed tightly into a line.

Wan Zhisen, curious, turned around and saw, oh, this woman?

As he watched that short-haired woman in sunglasses walk over in high heels and stop, taking off her sunglasses, Wan Zhisen raised an eyebrow, looking at Qi Taiguo with a half-smiling expression.

"Commander Qi, long time no see." Chiang Qing smiled, extending a hand as if she were just an ordinary old friend greeting Qi Taiguo.

Qi Taiguo coldly stared at her, suppressing the boiling anger within him.

Seeing that he didn't respond, Chiang Qing didn't mind, still smiling lightly, she said to Wan Zhisen, "Sorry, Commander Qi and I have some old matters to discuss."

The implication was clear: you can get lost!

Wan Zhisen chuckled and walked away.

Everyone was watching this scene.

"Congratulations on your commendation." Chiang Qing said with a smile. "Commander Qi, as always, never disappoints. I'm really happy for you."

"Am I?" Qi Taiguo said coldly, "I would never let Jiang Conghe down. You can go back and tell him that." With that, he turned back to his comrades, said goodbye, and left with Gao Linbing.

Chiang Qing kept smiling as she watched Qi Taiguo leave, seemingly indifferent to his harsh words, until he completely disappeared from sight. Only then did she put on her sunglasses and leave with a composed smile.

Wan Zhisen watched Chiang Qing's eerie smile, a shiver running down his spine. He thought, Thank God I didn't get bewitched back then; this woman is terrifying!