

## The 80s 981

### Chapter 981: It's All My Fault

Seeing that Hualing didn't react at all to his words, Chen Shouwang couldn't help feeling uneasy, his lips pressed together.

Ever since that incident happened, he had been waiting on her like a grandson, not even daring to breathe too loudly, terrified of doing something that would annoy her. It's been so long, yet she still didn't show him a good face.

What else did he have to do to please her?

Thinking of Qi Taiguo and his wife going out together, he felt envious and said, "There's a social gathering at the barracks today, do you want to go see it? I heard there are a lot of programs prepared."

How could he even have the audacity to suggest going to the gathering!

Hualing snorted coldly, throwing out a stiff response: "Go for what? Isn't it embarrassing enough? Instead of hiding yourself, you want to flaunt it? Do you think you're doing well?"

As soon as she spoke, Chen Shouwang's face turned pale, his lips pressed tightly together.

Hualing herself felt a bit annoyed after saying that. She had tried to persuade herself to let go, but seeing Chen Shouwang's apologetic behavior irritated her. She would think about why he was being so apologetic and would think of that woman.

Chen Shouwang lowered his head: "If you don't want to go, then we won't go."

Seeing this, Hualing became even angrier; why not argue back or resist?

What was this? It was like hitting a cotton ball, what did it mean?

"Do you feel wronged?" Hualing asked coldly, "Do you feel particularly wronged by the way I treat you?"

Chen Shouwang gave a bitter smile and said, "I brought this on myself, didn't I? Whatever you do is right, the wrong is all mine."

Hualing's face was as dark as ink, and she said, "Of course, it's all your fault. Is it my fault? Was I the one messing around outside?"

"It's me, it's all me, so you're right." Chen Shouwang lifted his head and looked at her steadily, saying, "The fault lies with me, but for me being with someone else outside, don't you bear any responsibility at all?"

"What do you mean?" Hualing gritted her teeth, "Did I tell you to cheat?"

She was so angry that her chest heaved; here it was, finally here, the argument was happening, to pin the blame!

Chen Shouwang's eyes were a bit evasive, looking at her, and it was as if he was looking past her to see something else.

He spoke in a calm voice, "I know that I'm not good enough for you, marrying you was the greatest blessing of my life, so I was determined to satisfy you, to treat you well, and do whatever I could for you. When you said you wanted a fan, my allowance was only so much, not enough, so I borrowed from a loan shark, afraid that you would be unhappy. Later, when I couldn't repay, I sold my blood, that was my fault, my pride. Let's forget about it this time, later, you had other demands, it wasn't that I didn't want to fulfill them, I just had limited ability. I hoped you would understand me, but you didn't, you just thought I was useless. So, we started arguing, and we argued nonstop, later I was afraid to be at home, afraid of arguing with you, afraid that if you wanted something and I couldn't do it, you'd make a scene. So, I went out, and met Liu Li's tavern, and met her..."

"Stop it!" Hualing gritted, tears flowing fiercely, angrily said, "These are not reasons, they're not!"

"Indeed, they are not. It's my lack of willpower, drawn to a little gentle understanding, all my fault, it's my fault that we ended up like this, I don't blame you, I only blame myself." Chen Shouwang looked at

her, and tears silently flowed down, "It's just, I was wrong, I want to make it up, but are you really not willing to give me any chance? Not willing to trust me one more time?"

Hualing covered her face and sobbed uncontrollably.

### Chapter 982: The Mixer Begins

At Hualing's household, the air was somber, but Cheng Su was unaware of this. She was full of enthusiasm as she accompanied Qi Taiguo, observing everything the military had prepared for this social event.

To show importance, a banner was hung, reading something like "Saluting the Troops and Welcoming the New Year Military-Civilian Social Gathering," with red silk and yellow characters, exuding a strong festive atmosphere.

The soldiers then appeared, each one vigorous and spirited, standing or walking with impressive posture.

Cheng Su pursed her lips and chuckled softly.

"What are you laughing at?" Qi Taiguo saw her smiling eyes and couldn't help but feel uplifted himself.

Cheng Su replied, "Nothing, just that these soldiers are so adorable, with such good spirits."

Upon hearing this, Qi Taiguo proudly raised his head, patted his chest, and said, "Of course, just see who trained them!"

Cheng Su scoffed lightly, rolled her eyes at him, and said, "Watch it, we're still in the military base. Acting so cocky like this, the young soldiers below might think you're lacking in authority."

Qi Taiguo coughed twice and promptly composed his demeanor.

Since the social event started at noon, they were to have lunch together first, then move to the auditorium for various performances.

The two walked towards the canteen, and along the way, many soldiers saluted and greeted them. Cheng Su naturally received the title of Wife of the Deputy Battalion Commander.

After hearing this, Qi Taiguo whispered, "I'll strive to remove that 'Deputy' for you someday; 'Battalion Commander's Wife' sounds much better!"

Cheng Su laughed and replied, "I'll hold you to that!"

Upon arriving at the canteen, they found the vast space had long rectangular tables arranged together, with dishes and cutlery set on both sides. The seats were empty, waiting for people to arrive.

"We're not here; we're over there," Qi Taiguo pointed towards the circle for families, a space designated for married couples.

Cheng Su nodded with a smile and went over, greeted by many family members standing up to welcome her, to which Cheng Su cheerfully responded one by one.

"It's about to start. The girls you helped register are all here, except one," Sister-in-law Gao caught Cheng Su's attention and asked.

Cheng Su replied, "She had an urgent matter come up at the last minute, and there's no helping it; let her be!"

Sister-in-law Gao nodded.

After exchanging pleasantries for a while, they suddenly heard a burst of commotion, and Sister-in-law Gao remarked, "They're here."

Cheng Su glanced over, and indeed, one young face after another, wearing shy and barely contained excited smiles, entered and took their seats, sitting upright with hands on their laps, backs straight as can be.

Cheng Su stretched her neck to look; this was a rare gathering, and she naturally didn't want to miss it.

Once all the soldiers were seated, silence ensued, and a soldier responsible for emceeing took the microphone and announced, "Now we welcome our lovely ladies to enter the venue, and let's hear some applause."

Clap, clap, clap.

Uniform applause resounded like an organized chant, without a trace of disorder, as if they had rehearsed countless times.

Cheng Su listened to the deafening applause, watched the soldiers, and felt a surge of emotion in her heart.

They all gazed at the entrance until the first girl walked in with a shy, blushing face, which seemed to provoke even more vehement applause.

Each young woman urged the others to enter the canteen, all dressed beautifully and neatly, some with makeup and lipstick, wearing vibrant attire that added a distinct pop of color to the uniform military green.

Cheng Su watched with a broader smile, her lips curving upward. Such an event was truly delightful and entertaining.

#### Chapter 983: I Won't Make You Wait That Long

Once all the girls who signed up were seated across from the soldiers, the applause subsided, and the Emcee began a speech, followed by a speech from the regiment commander.

Cheng Su glanced around and whispered to Sister-in-law Gao: "Too many monks and too little porridge!"

There were not that many girls who signed up, about thirty or so, yet the number of single soldiers was twice as many. Of course, not all were there; some were single but had arranged partners through their families and were just waiting for the right moment to go home and marry, so they didn't sit down.

"There's no other way; it's not like it used to be. Not everyone wants to marry a soldier," Sister-in-law Gao whispered back.

Cheng Su nodded; it was just as Qi Taiguo said, considering all sorts of factors.

She sighed inwardly; soldiers defending the country have hard marriages, no wonder military marriages are protected, their service alone makes it worthwhile.

Once the regiment commander finished speaking, the gathering began, and Cheng Su and the others chatted and laughed, but her focus remained on those checking each other out.

These days, things are slowly becoming more open, but still comparatively conservative, so everyone didn't dare speak much, and merely ate quietly, not even daring to lift their heads to look at each other.

No one knows who started the conversation, but soon people were speaking to those sitting across from them, albeit with flushed faces.

Cheng Su found it amusing, and the smile on her lips didn't fade.

Sister-in-law Gao noticed and asked why she was laughing; Cheng Su truthfully said, "Just find their shy and embarrassed look really funny."

Sister-in-law Gao glanced at her and said, "I think you're here just for the fun."

Cheng Su stuck out her tongue, indeed, she was just here for the fun.

Suddenly feeling someone's eyes on her, Cheng Su looked over and saw Qi Taiguo staring at her, she couldn't help but flash a big smile.

After a lively meal, everyone moved to the auditorium, where a temporary stage was set up, with rows of chairs for people to sit.

Unlike meal time where they were seated apart, this time Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo sat together, enjoying the performances they had arranged.

The program was varied, featuring martial arts performances, solo singing, choral singing, skits, and small plays.

The play depicted a newlywed couple, the husband went to battle because the country was at war, with an indefinite return date. Before parting, they promised to tie red ribbons under the tree by their house; if the husband saw the ribbons upon return, he would know his wife was still waiting for him. Despite the ribbons being tied one by one, the husband never returned, while the wife became pregnant, raised their child alone, as the husband fought without news of life or death. Years later, someone came looking; the husband had been overseas, with a crippled leg, only returning once their son reached adulthood. The family reunited under the tree with fluttering red ribbons.

Cheng Su watched with tears in her eyes, gripping Qi Taiguo's hand tightly.

Qi Taiguo wiped the tears from her face, saying, "Silly, I won't make you wait for years!" He couldn't bear to.

Cheng Su nodded; if it weren't for the crowd, she might have thrown herself into his arms and had a good cry.

When the soldiers' performances ended, it was the girls' turn. However, none of them had rehearsed, so they did solo acts, mostly singing, except for Xiaoying, Cheng Su's employee, who performed a comedic skit, garnering thunderous applause.

Cheng Su pulled Qi Taiguo's hand, quietly leaving the venue.

## Chapter 984: What Authority Deputy Battalion Commander Qi Has

Qi Taiguo accompanied Cheng Su to the playground. Since everyone else had gone to the auditorium to enjoy the excitement, the playground was empty, leaving only the two of them.

"What's wrong? Wasn't the show good?" Qi Taiguo asked.

"It was good. It's just that the drama made me feel uneasy," Cheng Su said.

"Silly, it's all fictional, isn't it? It's fake, and you took it seriously?" Qi Taiguo laughed.

"But you can't rule out that these things didn't happen, can you? During wartime, things like this were probably quite common, right? The drama even had a happy ending. In reality, the wife might never see her husband come home in a lifetime!" Cheng Su said, kicking the snow beneath her feet.

Qi Taiguo felt a pang in his heart and quickly said, "Alright, alright, it's a happy occasion, why bring this up? It's a time of peace now."

Cheng Su stopped walking, looked at him, and said, "Even though it's a time of peace, there will still be wars, and there will be places where you need to exert effort, take on missions, or even risk your life, right?"

Qi Taiguo furrowed his brows.

"Qi Taiguo, promise me, no matter what mission you take on, you have to stay alive, don't make me wait in vain," Cheng Su said, looking into his eyes.

Qi Taiguo nodded and said, "I promise you. I've been on so many missions, when have I ever broken my word?"

Cheng Su pursed her lips and said, "I don't care, just remember always."

"Alright, alright, I've remembered, okay, my queen."

Only then did Cheng Su smile, playfully hitting him lightly.

"Are we going back to watch the performance or not? If not, let's go home. Don't just stand here; in a bit, you'll complain about being too cold again," Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su felt a bit tired and cold, so she said, "Then let's go home!"

The two of them walked out of the playground and suddenly stopped.

Smack!

The crisp sound of a slap echoed, and Qi Taiguo's face turned cold as he walked over.

"Deputy Battalion Commander Dong, if the orderly has done something wrong, they should write a reflection. Hitting someone is private punishment," Qi Taiguo said coldly, looking at Dong Jun.

He had just directly slapped the young soldier.

The young soldier saluted Qi Taiguo and then bowed his head silently.

"I wondered who it was, turns out to be Deputy Battalion Commander Qi!" Dong Jun raised an eyebrow, looking at Qi Taiguo with a flash of resentment in his eyes.

Cheng Su saw it clearly and frowned.

"I disciplined him because he doesn't understand military rules and let people in casually, disrupting military order," Dong Jun said, then looked at the soldier, "Tell me, was I wrong to discipline you?"

"Reporting officer, no!"

"You see," Dong Jun said smugly, glancing at Qi Taiguo.

"Even so, it should be done in private, some guidance and criticism, writing a reflection. How can you hit someone?" Qi Taiguo said discontentedly.

Dong Jun's lips curved coldly. He took a step closer and said, "What, Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, are you going to discipline me or teach me how to be an officer? Really exuding military authority, aren't you? You just got promoted, didn't you? It's not your place to reprimand me!"

Qi Taiguo looked steadily at him, exuding a fierce energy that was murderous intent.

Dong Jun felt a shock at heart. When did Qi Taiguo develop such a potent presence?

Thinking about the training he had just attended, Dong Jun's expression darkened further. He also wanted to go to that training camp. He knew that after attending, there was a high chance of getting promoted. He had long wanted to remove that 'deputy' title.

But the regiment commander didn't recommend him to go; instead, Qi Taiguo was sent. Sure enough, as soon as he returned, he was promoted to Deputy Battalion Commander, equaling him, while he himself didn't get promoted this time. Really hateful.

#### Chapter 985: I Will Hold This Position Steadily

Dong Jun saw Qi Taiguo, and again thought of Chiang Qing from the past. He had made all kinds of efforts to please her, but she showed disdain for him and even humiliated him in public, all because of this man in front of him.

She didn't want his kindness, deliberately chose to be disgraceful, and the most hateful was Qi Taiguo, always competing with him. Without him, everything would have been fine.

Later, when Chiang Qing caused such a big scene, he was shocked, yet there was a sense of schadenfreude, hoping Qi Taiguo would face misfortune since such an impact was quite significant.

But that kid had good luck, it's as if nothing happened, playing the victim, hmpf!

Dong Jun both hated and envied Qi Taiguo, his eyes slightly shifting, seeing Cheng Su, his gaze narrowed.

Qi Taiguo's wife, he knew, was said to be a very capable woman, managing her business with great success. She's now a university student, and in the military, countless people envied Qi Taiguo.

He got a promotion and wealth, and his wife was capable and talented, quite decent looking too, not embarrassing to be seen with outside, being a university student and all.

Dong Jun almost heard the sour bubbles coming from his stomach. He was truly the one with power and wealth.

Looking at himself, after his father-in-law stepped down, he lost his advantage, unable to rise in office, his wife? Just a shrew, somehow learned about his past courting of Chiang Qing, always quarrelling with him day in and day out.

Just now, it was his wife who came looking for him, the orderly directly brought her to start a fight. That woman was crazy, pointing at his face and scolding him publicly, disgracing him, so that's why he disciplined the orderly.

Looking at Qi Taiguo, pondering his own situation, Dong Jun felt deeply unjust, why does that kid have such luck, why does he reap all the benefits, while his own circumstances are so poor?

His gaze twisted in all directions, Qi Taiguo noticed it, and his own gaze grew colder, subtly blocking Dong Jun's view of Cheng Su.

Dong Jun snorted, catching the small soldier in the corner of his eye, and barked, "Go back and write a self-criticism to submit."

"Yes!" The orderly stood at attention, saluted, and left.

Only then did Dong Jun look at Qi Taiguo and say, "Are you satisfied now, Deputy Battalion Commander Qi?"

Qi Taiguo said, "The country has its laws, and the military has its regulations. It's not about my satisfaction, it's about Deputy Battalion Commander Dong adhering to military rules."

Dong Jun let out a cold laugh: "I don't need you to teach me." Saying this, he shoulder-bumped Qi Taiguo intending to leave, then stopped and added, "Deputy Battalion Commander Qi, you've just taken your position, don't overstep. You haven't even warmed your seat yet; if you get too smug, you'll fall off your horse."

Qi Taiguo's expression turned cold, firing back: "Thanks, Deputy Battalion Commander Dong. I will certainly hold this position firmly. Hopefully, I won't surpass Deputy Battalion Commander Dong's lead."

Dong Jun's gaze sharpened, the two locked eyes, seeming to see sparks crackling in the air between them.

After a moment of eye combat, they finally broke contact as Dong Jun walked away with a cold face.

Qi Taiguo watched his back, his expression colder, until Cheng Su tugged at his sleeve.

"Are you okay?" Cheng Su's eyes showed some worry.

"It's fine, let's go." Qi Taiguo turned and smiled at her, the two walked away arm in arm.

Neither of them realized that Dong Jun, now distant, turned back, looking coldly at the two, especially Qi Taiguo's back, with a malevolent glint flashing in his eyes.

#### Chapter 986: Beware of the Mad Dog Biting

Cheng Su and Qi Taiguo returned home, and Cheng Su couldn't rest until she dragged him to talk about Dong Jun.

"This Deputy Battalion Commander Dong, is he the one who fought with Commander Zhou for the position last year?"

Qi Taiguo nodded, feeling burdened as he picked up the now cold tea and drank it.

Cheng Su frowned and said, "You should pay more attention to this guy. He doesn't seem like any good bird to me."

Qi Taiguo spat out a mouthful of water.

Cheng Su looked at him with disdain.

Qi Taiguo coughed twice and said, "Why do you talk like that?" Such vulgarity, not any good bird, uh, though it's fitting, coming from her mouth, it feels a bit odd.

"Didn't I say the truth? Didn't you see his look just now? He looked at you as if poisoned, quite creepy." Cheng Su handed him a handkerchief to wipe his mouth.

Qi Taiguo said, "He's taking his anger out on others. He wasn't nominated for Battalion Commander this time."

"Not getting promoted is his own issue; who can he blame? Besides, he was just promoted to Deputy Commander last year and already wants an upgrade this year; does he think he's an elevator?" Cheng Su snorted with disdain.

"Everyone's temperament is different. He is indeed anxious. Moreover, he's not been having a good time lately either. I heard he was called by the leadership several times for talks due to family conflicts!"

Cheng Su heard gossip and her eyes immediately lit up.

"Come on, what's the story? Tell me; how is he having a hard time? Let me have some fun."

Qi Taiguo gave in to her, thinking there was no harm in sharing, so he told her.

"...Back when he was courting Chiang Qing, it was all hidden and tucked away, but in the end, it reached his wife's ears. I heard his wife isn't someone easy to deal with, naturally she caused trouble, their conflict escalated, and of course their superiors found out, it's all affecting things. Plus, his wife personally approached the superiors to report, so..." Qi Taiguo shrugged.

Cheng Su listened and laughed heartily, saying, "So that's it, the trouble's because of a fire in the backyard!"

Alright, that description is quite accurate, so Qi Taiguo said, "You could say so."

"That's really funny; he dared betray his own heart, trying to reach higher branches, and still thought nobody would cause a fuss. Relying on women to climb higher, I say that Dong Jun is not only not a good bird but also a lapdog." Cheng Su's disdain deepened, "If he keeps relying on these connections, he's not going any further; in the future, he surely can't outdo you."

Qi Taiguo said nothing, but he agreed with Cheng Su's words, especially considering that Dong Jun privately slapped soldiers, indicating his morals and mindset.

"But no matter what, you still need to be careful of him. There's a saying: beware of petty people. He might not harm you openly, but secretly trip you up with ease. You've just got this position; it's not fully stable yet!" Cheng Su seriously cautioned, "Beware of mad dogs biting."

"Got it, you sound like a housekeeper!" Qi Taiguo laughed at her.

Cheng Su lunged over to scratch him.

Qi Taiguo caught her and then asked about her plans for tomorrow.

"In a few days, the factory will be on holiday, some things need to be arranged, plus Ning Ge is not around, so everything falls on me; I'll be busy at the factory." Cheng Su wrinkled her nose, complaining,

"The company is clearly a joint venture, but Ning Ge is always absent, no idea what he's up to, all secretive, humph!"

Qi Taiguo flashed his eyes, said a few good words about Ning Ge, and changed the subject with a smile.

### Chapter 987: Do You Want to Step Into the Light

In Beijing, Ning Ge sneezed twice, wiped his nose, and stared directly at an elderly man with graying hair sitting opposite him.

"What did you just say? Stop the investigation?" Ning Ge pressed his lips together, looking at him.

This was his immediate superior, Pan Gongnian, who had initially recruited him to the Special Service Faction.

Pan Gongnian took a sip of tea and said, "Stop the investigation, the case ends here."

"Why?" Ning Ge gritted his teeth, his hands clenched tightly under the table, almost shouting in questioning: "There are already clues, why stop investigating? Why?"

"No reason. The case already has a result. Cang Lang and the others sacrificed themselves. Do not investigate further!" Pan Gongnian said with a stern face.

"What result? Just the word 'sacrifice' is the result? They clearly died in vain, and you know it too, don't you? Why stop now? Have you been assimilated too? Or are you afraid?" Ning Ge glared at him.

"Thousand Foxes!" Bai Ying, sitting beside, rebuked, shaking his head slightly.

"Are you questioning my words?" Pan Gongnian's lips pressed slightly as the wrinkles on his aged face deepened when he frowned.

"Cang Lang and the others were trained by you, and that mission was in your hands. We were about to obtain the intelligence, yet... For years, haven't you wanted to unravel this mystery too? Now that there are finally some clues, you give up, you accept it, but I refuse!" Ning Ge spoke through gritted teeth.

"It's no longer important. This matter is over." Pan Gongnian closed his eyes briefly and said.

Ning Ge was just about to argue when Bai Ying kicked him under the table again.

"Are you shelving this because you're retiring?" Ning Ge ignored Bai Ying's expression and said coldly.

"Thousand Foxes!"

"You're being insolent!" Pan Gongnian harshly scolded before looking around and said, "I said this matter is over."

Before Ning Ge could speak, he added: "This is an order!"

Ning Ge's face darkened slightly, full of reluctance.

"Let it go. Cang Lang and the others won't blame you. This matter is too involved, and continuing will be of no benefit. Listen to me, let it go!" Pan Gongnian said.

Ning Ge lowered his head and said nothing.

Seeing him like this, Pan Gongnian knew Ning Ge was resentful, sighed, and said, "Xiao Ge, if you still consider me your superior, listen to me and let it go. Don't investigate further."

Ning Ge pressed his lips together, not replying.

Pan Gongnian stood up, looked at him, and asked, "Xiao Ge, do you want to come into the open?"

Ning Ge shuddered, barely believing his ears. Come into the open, does that mean they're done with him?

"If you do, come to me anytime, while I'm still here." Pan Gongnian looked at him faintly, "I hear you're also doing business. If you sincerely want to focus on that, I can erase your record too."

Ning Ge clenched his hand.

"Think about it." Pan Gongnian left him with these words, walking away without looking back.

Bai Ying said, "Look at you, what are you rushing for? Is that how you talk to the boss?"

"He said not to investigate."

"That means you've hit an untouchable line. If someone like the boss stops, what does that tell you?" Bai Ying said coldly, "You're smarter than me. Can't you figure it out?"

Ning Ge frowned, thought for a bit, then asked, "Did you manage to track Cang Ying's whereabouts?"

Bai Ying hesitated for a moment, then took out paper and pen, jotted down an address, handed it over, and left quickly.

Ning Ge looked at the address, then crumpled the paper into a ball.

#### Chapter 988: Don't Pursue the Truth

Ning Ge never thought Cang Ying would be hiding in such a place, the back kitchen of a bar. Watching him come out from the back door wearing a baseball cap and apron, carrying two bags of trash, Ning Ge couldn't imagine this was the sharpshooter who was so accurate.

Seeing Ning Ge leaning on the wall of the back alley with a cigarette in his mouth, Cang Ying furrowed his brows, glanced around, then walked towards him.

"How did you find this place?" Cang Ying's face was stern.

Ning Ge sneered, threw the cigarette to the ground, and crushed it under his foot, tauntingly said, "The sharpshooter from back then, taking out trash here, did I see wrong!"

Cang Ying's face darkened, he said, "If there's nothing else, leave quickly, I have to get back to work!"

After speaking, he turned to leave.

"Cang Ying, brothers born into life and death together, enduring hardships together multiple times, can you bear to see them suffer injustice?" Ning Ge said behind him.

Cang Ying's body trembled slightly, he turned around: "What do you want to say?"

"I just want the truth."

"What truth, is it important? People have been dead for so many years, and that matter has long been buried underground. Everyone is fine now, why pursue it?" Cang Ying said with a stern face.

"To you, it may not be important, but it matters to me. Even if it's buried, I will dig it up and tell them!" Ning Ge said.

"You're alone, naturally it's nothing to you, but I..." Cang Ying gritted his teeth, "My son is only eight months old."

Ning Ge was startled: "You're married!" So you've returned to a peaceful life?

"It's none of your business."

"Tell me what you know, and I won't bother you again." Ning Ge grabbed his arm that was about to turn, and added, "This is what you owe the brothers."

Cang Ying stared at him, their eyes met, finally he asked, "Got a cigarette?"

Ning Ge knew he was about to speak, so he handed him a cigarette and lit it for him.

Cang Ying took two puffs before slowly opening his mouth, "In fact, the intel from the Japanese-funded Underground was only really seen by Cang Lang and the others. Although I entered the core too, I was the leader managing the situation from outside. The real contact with the core was Cang Lang and the others."

"Cang Lang and the others took photos and found a list, but I didn't receive the detailed information. And just as we were preparing to withdraw, Cang Lang and the others were discovered. It was very chaotic inside, I was in the main monitoring room and heard the people monitoring say orders from above came to raze the entire Secret Division. And the one who gave the order, was your brother Ning Gang."

"Impossible, my brother wouldn't do that, he's an upright person!" Ning Ge defended without hesitation.

"How your brother is, you'll have to dig that out yourself, all I know is this." Cang Ying glanced at him contemptuously.

"But everyone says you betrayed."

"You always find a scapegoat. I've been hiding in Tibet all these years. Just settled down and have a son, please don't come find me again, all I know is this much." Cang Ying said.

Ning Ge clenched his lips.

Cang Ying then said, "If your brother has no issues, then there is certainly a big problem with this Secret Division, it can't be exposed. Before the explosion, Cang Lang mentioned the Poison Room was full of Poisoned People, guarded by the military. But before he finished speaking, the explosion happened. I don't know what exactly happened, just know I was also hunted down, so I simply faked my death, and these years I still have to keep hiding. So I advise you, just let this matter go, don't pursue it."

Ning Ge looked at him: "I can't do that."

"Suit yourself. All I know is this, don't come back!" Cang Ying threw away the cigarette butt and entered the back kitchen door.

In the back alley, the north wind howled, and Ning Ge's heart was frozen.

#### Chapter 989: The Fourth Young Master's Temptation

Ning Ge returned home absent-mindedly, with laughter echoing throughout the house, giving off an air of harmony and happiness.

As he stepped in, someone called out to him, "Fourth one is back!"

Ning Ge looked up, a carefree smile on his face: "Third sister, you're back."

"Where have you been wandering? I heard you've been in the Capital lately, but sister-in-law said you haven't been home much." Ning Zhen walked over to him, handing the child in her arms to him: "Here, hold your nephew."

Ning Ge's arms sagged, and he quickly held onto the bundle tightly, exclaiming, "Third sister, what kind of mom are you? What if I didn't catch him and he fell?"

"I trust you won't drop this little rascal!" Ning Zhen patted his shoulder.

Ning Ge gave her a sideways glance.

This third sister had gotten married last year, quickly had a child, and now, even though the baby is two months old, she was still so carefree. Female officers are really something.

"You better hold him yourself. If he falls, he might not hold on." Ning Gang snorted.

"Come here, let me hold him!" Sister-in-law laughed as she walked over, taking the bundle from Ning Ge's hands while cooing tenderly.

Ning Ge glanced at his elder brother, who was sitting on the sofa, a newspaper in his hands, his demeanor much softer than when he was in the military, yet still retaining a sense of authority.

This kind of big brother, no matter how you look at him, doesn't seem like a ruthless person. What could have made him give the order to raze the Secret Division? He didn't even hesitate to annihilate all life.

Thinking about those comrades, a dull ache throbbed in Ning Ge's heart, and his hand hanging by his side clenched tightly.

Ning Gang wasn't clueless. When Ning Ge stared at him blankly, he immediately sensed it and shifted his gaze from the newspaper to him: "What are you daydreaming about? Why are you staring at me? Did you cause trouble outside again?"

As soon as he said this, everyone stopped talking, and all eyes turned to Ning Ge.

Ning Ge laughed, pretending to be bold, saying: "What trouble could I get into? I'm honestly doing business now! How could there be trouble!"

Ning Gang sneered, asking: "Don't play dumb, how come I heard that you've been associating with Jiang Conghe's eldest son, Jiang Dafang?"

Ning Ge's heart skipped a beat, acting surprised: "Big brother, you're amazing; you even know about this?"

The meetings between him and Jiang Dafang were quite secretive, yet his big brother even knew about this. What else didn't he know?

"Tell me, what's going on between you two?" Ning Gang disregarded his feigned ignorance.

Ning Ge shrugged, saying: "It's nothing. I just can't stand Jiang Conghe and want to help you bring him down. As for Jiang Dafang, an enemy's enemy is a friend. Seeing as he also wants to bring down Jiang Conghe, we just teamed up!"

Ning Gang frowned.

"So, the current chaos within the Chiang Family is your doing?" Ning Zhen raised an eyebrow and interjected.

Ning Gang looked at her.

Ning Zhen smiled and said: "I heard that Jiang Conghe wants to set up a room for Jiang Dafang at home and have him return to live there! Lu Shufen causes a ruckus every day; the Chiang Family is quite lively now."

"Elder sister, your news is quite something too." Ning Ge chuckled and said, "The Jiang and Lu families complement each other, and Jiang Dafang is the one disrupting the balance. Having him act as Lu Shufen's adversary is perfect."

"Impressive! You're meddling in the intrigues of wealthy households now!" Ning Zhen poked his forehead, "When will you find me a sister-in-law? Only then will I say you've really achieved something!"

"Exactly! I'll find someone for you later." Sister-in-law chimed in.

"No, this is an open conspiracy, not a hidden one!" Ning Ge grinned cheekily to brush it off. In a place where they couldn't see, he glanced at his big brother again, his heart filled with doubts, and then smiled again.

## Chapter 990: Not Going Home for the New Year

After the networking event, Cheng Su found out that several pairs had hit it off. She asked several of her own employees who had signed up; only Xiaoying and an assistant class leader had some interest in each other, while the other two said they hadn't found anyone appealing.

Cheng Su immediately went to Qi Taiguo to learn more about the assistant class leader's situation.

"...Wu Lin, right?" Qi Taiguo thought for a moment and said, "He's in the third company, only got promoted this year. Quite a spirited young man."

"Isn't everyone in the army spirited? What about his character? What is his family like?" Cheng Su made a clicking sound.

"His character is pretty good, quite optimistic and ambitious. As for his family, I haven't looked into it closely," Qi Taiguo said.

Cheng Su then said, "Then check it out, comprehensively."

Qi Taiguo glanced at her and said, "You're quite eager about this!"

Cheng Su chuckled twice, "Because she's my employee! Xiaoying is quite capable; I plan to employ her, so naturally I'd want her to have a good match!"

Qi Taiguo ruffled her hair and laughed, "I know, you're like the housekeeper!"

"I'm not a housekeeper; I just have a heart for making people's lives better." Cheng Su snorted.

Qi Taiguo laughed and shook his head, remembering the holiday plans, said, "The New Year's holiday schedule has been set. I took leave earlier, so I won't be off. Some have longer breaks because their families are far away, like Old Gao—they're going home for fifteen days."

"So during New Year's, you'll have to be on duty every day?" Cheng Su asked.

"Yeah, on New Year's Day, I'm still on night shift."

Cheng Su thought for a moment, looked at him, and said, "Then you won't be able to go home, so I won't go back either. I'll stay here with you!"

Qi Taiguo pulled her down onto the sofa and asked, "Do you really want to stay with me, or you just don't want to go home for New Year's?"

Cheng Su lowered her head, pouted, and said, "A bit of both. For New Year, I naturally want to celebrate with you. What's the point of going home by myself? There are so many people at home, but here, it's just me!"

Qi Taiguo felt both sweet and warm inside but thought of her reluctance and said, "Are you still uncomfortable inside? Susu, let bygones be bygones, don't dwell on it too much; it only makes you feel bad."

Cheng Su knew what he was talking about; it was nothing more than her relationship with his mother. She leaned her head on his shoulder, playing with his fingers, and said, "I know, and I haven't thought much about it. Just, Old Qi, daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law have been mortal enemies since ancient times. Things might be better when you're around to mediate as long as you're fair and impartial. But if you're not there and something happens, it might just lead to another mess. So why should I bother being a thorn in her side?"

Qi Taiguo remained silent.

"I married you, because you are the most important, for the New Year and all, I want to spend it together," Cheng Su said, hugging his neck. "Let's have our own world, just the two of us."

"Anyway, you just don't want to go back, but you've put it so nicely," Qi Taiguo said with a grin.

Cheng Su started to act coy.

"Not going back is fine, anyway, it's not that far from home; we can always go back when we have time later," Qi Taiguo had already given up hope that Cheng Su would go home alone to spend the New Year with her family, so he didn't force her.

Cheng Su instantly beamed with joy and said sweetly, "Then we'll spend New Year's here this year. Tomorrow I'll go shopping and make our place festive."

"Alright!"

"On New Year's Day, let's go to Ling Shan Temple to pray!" Cheng Su continued.

"Okay, whatever you say!" Qi Taiguo looked at her smiling eyes and thought, it's priceless to buy her happiness. Not going back is fine; being together is good too.