

BOOT CAMP 121

Chapter 121: The Mischievousness of Major Xia

She lowered her head, disinfecting the wound carefully and softly. Looking at the girl with fine and smooth skin under the headlamp, Xia Jinyuan couldn't help but smile more gently. "Was it so serious? You seemed very frightened just now, didn't you?"

Lifting her head, Ye Jian rolled her eyes at him and said calmly, "A timid girl would have passed out due to fear!"

"Hum. Luckily, it was you, right?" As expected, the girl was still mad at him. Alas, the girl didn't like him very much in the beginning; and now, he had pissed her off... How long will it take for him to pacify her? With a gentle smile in his deep and black eyes, he said, "Lucky for me that you didn't scream, or else I would have faced miserable outcomes."

After using medical alcohol to disinfect the wound, Ye Jian applied a layer of iodine to it. "I'm still angry. Do not talk to me!" mumbled Ye Jian a bit coldly while packing up the medical products.

...

Hearing this, Xia Jinyuan laughed. Of course, she was just a girl. He would try his best to soothe her.

Nevertheless, he must make something clear to her!

He reached out his hand, rubbing her hair on the top of her head. "That's why I called you an ungrateful girl. Have you forgotten what I told you? You are 14, Ye Jian, not a little kid anymore."

Suddenly, his warning occurred to Ye Jian. She must not straddle a man's waist randomly... Ye Jian sensed that her face had turned red. But how could she pay attention to so many details during their battle?

She must not touch a man's body... But she only patted him once when she was happy, didn't she?

She must not tell a man about her feelings! Bullsh*t; that's because he had misinterpreted her words!

The more Ye Jian thought about this matter, the angrier she became. Glaring at him, Ye Jian said spitefully, "About my feelings, it's not what you think it is! I mean it feels really awesome to win! What the hell are you thinking about?"

"Come here, have some water, don't be upset." Watching this increasingly charming little face, Xia Jinyuan felt very comfortable, just like treading in spring water on a hot day.

He took out his military canteen, handing it over to the girl. "It's clean. I haven't taken a sip." When the girl lost her temper, her resplendent-as-star eyes became so intelligent that he wanted to touch them.

But if he did, he might get a bite mark on his left hand tonight.

Looking at the canteen handed over by him, Ye Jian rubbed her temples as if she was having a headache.

One moment he was cold and intimidating, and the next he would conceal his real feelings; sometimes he was chic, but sometimes she felt that he was extremely close to her... That's why she wanted to stay away from this mysterious and dangerous man.

Nevertheless, he had this kind of charisma that made her want to approach him and learn from him!

Ye Jian didn't take his water container. Instead, with grudges, she rolled her eyes at him. Ye Jian didn't wish to continue such an inappropriate topic with him, so she said in a calm tone, "I am not angry. I fully understand what you said, so you are not allowed to mention it again! I will be careful!"

Indeed, she should be cautious. Today, the lesson from Xia Jinyuan was so impressive that she still wanted to punch him!

Gradually, she soothed her embarrassment and fury. But in the eyes of Xia Jinyuan, it seemed that she was still shy.

After the struggle in her mind, the girl resumed her poker face. As she tightened her mouth, a sexy curve occurred between her lips. At this moment, an unusual color appeared in her eyes, which usually had an indifferent look. It was a refreshingly bright color, similar to that of the lotus and the peach blossoms.

As she dispelled the faint isolation aura from herself, her indifferent eyes brightened up, which became more eye-catching.

It seemed that Xia Jinyuan had gazed at her for too long... Poised and calm, he looked away and diverted the subject. "What's your plan for the summer vacation? Stay in the army?"

Chapter 122: So Many Similarities

Not a bad idea if this audacious girl spent time in the army. When he returned from his business trips, he could tease her.

Now that the subject had changed, Ye Jian got rid of her embarrassment very soon. She pondered for a moment before she replied with composure, "No. I have taken an exam, and if I pass that, I will go to Australia. I won't come back until August 6th or 7th."

She participated in an exam and might go to Australia?

"The World Science Olympiad?" Although she didn't say it, he had made the correct speculation.

Meanwhile, there was a smile flowing in his unfathomable eyes. As chance would have it, he had also participated in the World Science Olympiad.

"A soldier even cares about this?" Ye Jian looked at him, bewildered at his correct guess.

Did he need to tell her that she was walking on the path which he had walked before?

It was a surprise to him that they were so similar to each other at the age of 14.

However, he sensed that she was not very interested in this meaningful contest.

“Perform well in this test, it is very beneficial for widening your perspectives. You will meet a group of elites, whose manners and talents are worth learning from.” The girl had always been an independent thinker. If she showed little interest in the contest, she would not fully dedicate herself to it.

Subtle static sounds were heard from his earpiece. Xia Jinyuan raised his hands to press it. Instantly, he restrained his relaxed facial expressions, showing a stern and chill look. “This is Q Wang. Please respond.”

“Latest information about the Crushing Stone Operation has been heard from abroad...” The voice of the regimental commander came from the earpiece. After a few sentences, Xia Jinyuan suddenly looked at Ye Jian. A smile flashed across his cold eyes.

The communication was cut off. Xia Jinyuan stood up, looking at Ye Jian with a meaningful expression in his eyes. “Come on, let me send you down the mountain. Grandpa Gen and Uncle Chen are waiting for you down there.”

It was already midnight before Ye Jian knew it. She stood up hurriedly when she saw the time. “Why is it so late?! Let’s go, let’s go! I need to go to school tomorrow.”

They made contact with the other five soldiers. Together, they went down from the mountain with the light from the moon and the stars. Xia Jinyuan escorted Ye Jian to the outermost sentry post of the army. Looking at Ye Jian who didn’t seem sleepy at all, he said with a smile, “Let me remind you, do remember every word I told you before. And I...”

Ye Jian had warned him not to mention it again!!

Ye Jian didn’t want to bring up this subject at all. Staring at the man who had wiped the war paint off his good-looking face, Ye Jian jumped into a car before he could finish his words. Bang! She closed the door harshly. The automobile soldier was going to send her back to the village, where she would join Grandpa Gen and Principal Chen.

With a sunny smile on his handsome face, Xia Jinyuan watched the car as it drove away. He stood for a while before he said softly, “What should I do? I seem to... enjoy watching her face when she gets pissed off by me...”

Again, the voice of the regimental commander was heard from his earpiece. Xia Jinyuan turned around, with an elegant yet intimidating forcible pace, he stepped onto a military vehicle, heading to the regimental commander’s office.

When everything was settled, the sun was about to rise. He went back to his dormitory, taking off his combat uniform and revealing his muscular upper body. He entered the bathroom. The cold water was running down his extremely sexy body which had perfectly sculpted muscles. As he lifted his hand, he saw the teeth marks on his wrist.

It was not until then did he realize that he had not gotten the immunization shot, which he should receive within 24 hours... He went to the infirmary before nine o’clock.

Lying in bed, he recalled the girl who fled like a bunny. The dormitory was lit up by the sunlight. The elegant and dangerous man pursed his lips, closed his eyes, falling into a restful sleep.

Ye Jian received special education taught by a man using his body. In the next few days, she waved her fists in the middle of the night, because she was punching Xia Jinyuan in her dreams.

Chapter 123: Stand out from Her Home Province

This impressive lesson had made her realize that when it comes to dealing with men, both her words and actions should have certain boundaries!

Two weeks later, the final exams, which marked the end of a semester, arrived in Fujun Town.

After the finals, the 18 students, Ye Jian included, would go to the Provincial No.1 Middle School to take the trial exam after resting for two days. They departed at seven on the morning of June 29th and arrived at the provincial capital city 18 hours later.

Over 200 students, including the students from Fujun Town Middle School, participated in the provincial-level trial.

Among these 200 or so students, only 12 of them could attend the national trial exam which would be held in Beijing.

After the national trial, only 12 candidates would represent the country to attend the World Science Olympiad. They were the best of the elites!

Comprised of junior high and senior high division, the Provincial No.1 Middle School was the largest, strictest school with the best quality of education in this province.

Ye Jian, who rested well last night, walked into this school which she couldn't attend in her past life. The scorchingly hot sun didn't affect her good mood.

Principal Chen, who came here with his students, was standing on the fifth floor of the boys' dormitory building. As he noticed Ye Jian taking a walk in the garden, he smiled and said to Principal Cao, "This girl is mentally stronger than other students. The rest of the students are making use of this day to study. Good for her. She is wandering around."

"The exam is also psychological warfare. What she is doing is very nice," Principal Cao laughed. From his words and facial expressions, he held great expectations of Ye Jian. "Usually, over half of the 12 candidates come from the capital city. If a student from our province can go abroad on behalf of our country, he/she will be the proof of the quality of education of our province."

Hence, if Ye Jian could be selected, she would represent her home province as well as her home country.

Principal Chen, who had identified the implications in Principal Cao's words, had little interest in fame or fortune. He said plainly, "We just hope that it won't influence her life. Things such as interviews and appearances on the news are unnecessary."

"This is what I hope for, which is also her request before she agreed to attend the competition. Old Cao, please understand our concerns."

"She wants neither fame nor gain. Alas, she sure is your student, Old Chen." Principal Cao patted his longtime colleague on his shoulder with admiration. "Let's see if she can stand out from the trial and become one of the 12 students."

In this regard, Principal Chen was 100% certain about Ye Jian, but... He contemplated for a while, sighing, "Ye Jian has little interest in this competition. You need to make greater efforts to persuade her to try hard in the exam so that she can become one of the 12 students nationwide..."

Hearing this, Principal Cao burst into laughter. "I believe that someone, who you know as well, can convince her to try her best! Come, let me take you to a place."

When Principal Chen saw who that person was, a concerned look appeared in his eyes. After Principal Cao left, he looked at the young Major who had noble manners and said in a deep voice, "I have a bad feeling about this."

Principal Chen sensed a rush of chill, despite the hot weather.

Leisurely, Ye Jian walked out of the library, reading the original edition of an English classic that she borrowed. She started taking a walk from nine in the morning. She kept strolling around the Swan Lake of the Provincial No.1 Middle School until over 11 o'clock before noon.

The Swan Lake was an old-time landscape which had survived warfare. Fish were swimming in the clear lake, of which the surface was sparkling in the sun. Alongside the river bank, the green willow leaves were swaying along with the breezes.

Chapter 124: She Does Not Care!

A bird flew across the lake, causing ripples on its surface, and then landed gracefully on the other side.

Sitting on a stone bench, Ye Jian watched this picturesque landscape. Leisurely, she lifted her head, enjoying the breezes by the Swan Lake, covering her face with a book to block the sun rays scattering through the willow leaves. There was nothing but tranquility in her mind.

"Ye Jian?"

A voice broke the silence. Ye Jian did not respond. She closed her eyes, refusing to be disturbed.

Gao Yiyang used to be a student of the Provincial No.1 Middle School. This time, he came back here to keep Ye Ying company.

While they were walking alongside the lake bank, they saw someone sitting leisurely under the willows. That slender figure had also become a scenery within the picturesque landscape.

Biting her lower lip quietly, Ye Ying didn't say a word. She was waiting for the reaction of Gao Yiyang.

"We are going to the cafeteria. Care to join us?" Perhaps Gao Yiyang had become accustomed to the Ye Jian's nonchalance. A trace of discouragement flashed across his eyes. Again, he spoke up plainly, "The cafeteria is a bit far. Let's go there together."

It would be rude if she didn't respond, though she didn't mind being a bit rude in front of him.

Taking off the sun-blocking thick and heavy English classic, she opened her pitch-black eyes, which contained a faint indifferent look. "Oh, I know how to go there." She patted the hardcover of the book. "You guys go first. I need to read for a while."

"Read?" Ye Ying giggled as if she had heard some kind of a joke. Looking at that English classic, she said, "I wonder if you can understand it."

Gao Yiyang glanced at the book. It was *A Farewell to Arms*. Hailed as a classic of modern literature, it was a representative work of the early career of Ernest Hemingway, the renowned American novelist.

Based on Hemingway's experience in the army, this book described a beautiful tragedy which was mainly about war and love.

"There are a lot of high-quality collections in the library of Provincial No.1 Middle School. And you are reading the original edition of *A Farewell to Arms*. The more you read, the more you can improve your English." Gao Yiyang, who could speak standard American English, did not doubt whether Ye Jian could understand the book. He had witnessed her level of English skill at the English exam last time.

Ye Ying intended to embarrass Ye Jian. Instead, Gao Yiyang gave her practical advice. Uncomfortable, Ye Ying smiled and said, "Then you should join us. If you have any questions, you can consult Gao Yiyang, right?"

"Ye Jian, we are from the same school. Is it so difficult for you to have dinner with us at the cafeteria and discuss the exam tomorrow?"

"It's not hard. I just don't want to join you." They were not her friends. What else did they expect her to say? Smiling at Ye Ying, whose words were sarcastic, Ye Jian said slowly, "Besides, we all know that we have nothing to talk about. Why do we have to pretend?"

"Sorry for being so blunt. Unlike Ye Ying who likes to pretend that everything is going well, I speak my mind honestly." How she wished she could label "hypocrite" on Ye Ying's forehead.

Alas, if she were to have meals at the cafeteria with the two people who she hated, she would vomit her food while eating it.

"Ye Jian!" Infuriated, Ye Ying yelled at Ye Jian in a low voice for mocking her of being a hypocrite. Flustered, she tilted her head to look at the boy beside her.

When she saw that Gao Yiyang was also unhappy, she suppressed her panic. Smiling, she said, "Then we can't be on friendly terms anymore. Remember, Ye Jian, it is you who have turned down our friendship. Next time, you'd better explain this to others!"

Till this day, whenever she recalled what Principal Chen had said about her, she would get furious!

Chapter 125: Soldiers Should Not Be Scared

"I'm not turning you down, it's just that..." Ye Jian paused intentionally. The look on Ye Ying's face became awkward.

She looked at Ye Jian vigilantly, for fear that she might say something detrimental to her.

Since Ye Jian gave him a cold shoulder, Gao Yiyang grabbed Ye Ying's wrist and glanced at Ye Jian. He said in a cold and stiff tone, "Let's go."

Now that she didn't want to see him, he might as well leave!

After their encounter at noon, the couple became much quieter when they ran into Ye Jian again in the afternoon.

The rest of the students were studying for the exams in the classrooms of the Provincial No.1 Middle School. Ye Jian, who had been resting during the day, did not enter the classroom.

At half past five, the rays of the setting sun filled the sky. In the golden setting sun, she walked out of the school entrance at a brisk pace.

Tonight, she was going to receive the moving target training at the shooting range. The training field, which was a one-hour driving distance from the Provincial No.1 Middle School, belonged to the troops stationed at the provincial capital city.

An ordinary-looking black sedan of the domestic Hongqi brand parked at the entrance. Although the style of the sedan was normal, its license plate was eye-catching.

The plate number belonged to the Military District of the Southern Province.

Through the rear-view mirror inside the car, Xia Jinyuan saw Ye Jian looking around. With a smile on his handsome face, he opened the door and got off the car gracefully. "Over here, Ye Jian."

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Dressed in casual clothes, Xia Jinyuan seemed more relaxed and leisure, and less intimidating than a soldier. But his distinguished disposition was as impressive as usual. As soon as Ye Jian saw Xia Jinyuan, her automatic response was to run!

"Girl, get in the car." Principal Chen leaned out from the car, smiling and waving at Ye Jian, gesturing for her to come over.

Ye Jian, who was about to retreat back to the school gate, took one step forward, walking over to them calmly.

Xia Jinyuan found the situation both funny and annoying. He was in trouble now because the girl was running away from him like he was a snake or scorpion.

The air conditioner was very cool in the car. However, Ye Jian didn't feel cold at all after hearing Xia Jinyuan's words.

Her eyes, as resplendent as stars, kept gazing at Xia Jinyuan without blinking. Despite her excitement, she said calmly, "How can I assist you? What do I need to do throughout the whole process?"

This was the fearless young girl who dared cooperate with him on a rainy night and confront the criminals on her own!

"Ye Jian, if you agree to this... do you realize that you will face danger anytime?" With a subtle smile on his thin lips, Xia Jinyuan gazed at her with a meaningful look in his eyes. "And we might not be able to aid you right away when you are in danger."

When it came to business, she stopped trying to escape from him. But alas... he had to admit that the daring girl was very reassuring because she was adventurous but not impulsive.

Ye Jian did not answer him immediately. Instead, she kept looking at Xia Jinyuan with a faint smile on her face until he became a bit awkward and slightly narrowed his eyes. Slowly, she said, "Captain Xia, in addition to your faith in me, you also believe that I am the best option, don't you? That's why you are reaching out to me."

Principal Chen burst into laughter. "Captain Xia, Ye Jian is trained by me and a Class A Master Sergeant. You are asking the wrong person about whether she is afraid of danger."

And then he said to Ye Jian, "Girl, everything is fraught with danger. But what's important is for you to resolve the dangers."

"Cooperating with the army and making contact with the international police is a rather nice opportunity for practice, which I don't want you to miss."

"With all that said, I am concerned as well, girl! Nevertheless, fear and dread are nothing more than stones on the ground, you can overcome them by stepping on them under your feet!"

As soldiers, they must march forward despite the most perilous of circumstances!

Chapter 126: Outshining Everyone

In this exam, Ye Jian must try her best to become one of the 12 students who could participate in the contest on behalf of the country.

Xia Jinyuan used to compete in the World Science Olympiad held in England. Although that was nearly six years ago, he could more or less share some of his experience.

It took an hour from the school to the shooting range. During this trip, Ye Jian concentrated in talking with him about the competition.

Occasionally, they looked at each other in the eye. Every time they did this, Principal Chen found it hard to join their conversation.

On the next day, over 200 students went through an inspection, which was stricter than that of the college entrance exam, before they entered the exam room.

This time, the students of the eighth grade and the ninth grade took the exams in separate rooms. As Ye Jian walked slowly to the exam room, she saw Gao Yiyang and Ye Ying standing at the door and talking about something. Gao Yiyang was lowering his head, while Ye Ying held her head high.

“Excuse me,” said Ye Jian plainly. The door was blocked by them. “Or you can talk outside, thanks.”

Ye Ying glanced at her with a trace of contempt in her eyes. Instead of going away, she said to Gao Yiyang, “Go to your exam room. I will be fine. Thank you for coaching me every night during this period of time. Anyway, I will do my best!”

Ah. Unlike someone who thought highly of herself and did not study in the classroom in the evenings.

“Uh-huh. Meet me in front of the flowerbeds of this building after the exams.” Gao Yiyang moved sideways, letting Ye Jian enter the classroom from the space between them.

Gently and intentionally, he glanced at the girl. He saw a nearly perfect profile passing by his eyes.

Ye Jian stared coldly forward without looking around. She walked into the classroom.

She was so cold and detached that she could ignore others...

After glancing at Ye Jian’s face, Gao Yiyang slightly lowered his eyes. As he tightened his lips, he turned around, leaving the exam room of the eighth grade.

“Just you wait, Ye Jian! I will humiliate you to the extent that you will be too embarrassed to show up in school!” When the boy was gone, Ye Ying caught up with Ye Jian. As she passed by Ye Jian, she whispered in a gloomy tone with a smile on her face, “I will make you regret completely!”

Ye Jian curled her lips, glancing at Ye Ying. She didn’t bother to reply to her. And then, she sat on the seat where her name was written.

Looking at Ye Ying’s face, which became gloomy in an instant, she was aware that ignorance was more infuriating than response.

As the math exam paper was handed out, some students gasped in astonishment. Difficult! The exam questions were rather difficult!

Ye Jian looked at the teachers who entered the room with chalk boxes and laser pens. She slightly narrowed her pitch-black eyes.

It seemed that... this exam was not that easy. It wouldn't be conducted like an ordinary exam.

Her hunches had always been correct. About ten minutes later, Ye Jian finished the questions on Page A and Page B of the exam paper. "Please listen to the questions," said the supervisors abruptly.

Without giving any time for the examinees to prepare, the teachers had read aloud a group of questions.

While the rest of the students were still thinking about the questions on the exam paper, Ye Jian put down her pen, stood up and gave the correct answers.

"Answers are correct." The teachers looked at Ye Jian with admiration. She sat down and continued answering the questions on Page C and Page D of the exam paper.

It was not until she sat down did the other students realized what had happened.

Indeed, this was a rather special examination. Not only did they need to write answers on paper, but they also had to be aware of the oral questions from the teachers from time to time.

The oral questions, which were conducted every two minutes, had completely disrupted the attention of many students. They were so nervous that they could barely hold their pens steadily, let alone answering the questions.

Ye Jian did not give Ye Ying a chance to stand up, or rather, she did not give any chance to the students in the entire exam room. The pen in her hand did not stop writing while she was answering the questions asked by the teachers.

Unconsciously, the presence of Ye Jian had brought tremendous pressure to all the students.

Chapter 127: Jealousy Is Driving Her Crazy

When the math exam was over, several girls walked out of the classroom in tears. Looking at them, Ye Jian sighed gently in her heart.

Only 12 students would be selected nationwide. Hence, she must pass the test!

As the two subjects in the morning were finished, the broadcast announced the names and scores of the top ten students.

All of the top ten students gained full marks in the exams!

But in regards to the time of finishing the exams, Ye Jian was way ahead.

Click. A ballpoint pen was snapped into two pieces by the gloomy Ye Ying. She tightened her lips. Her previously gorgeous eyes were covered by a shadow.

"It's said that Ye Jian is a student from a township middle school... Damn it, the students of the Provincial No.1 Middle School are inferior to her."

“She handed in the exam paper so quickly. I sat on the left-hand side of her. She had handed in the paper before I could answer the questions on one page.”

A few students walked past Ye Ying, and their emotional remarks tormented her harshly. Hatred and resentment had twisted her beautiful face.

“What are you thinking about?” Holding a bottle of mineral water in his hands, Gao Yiyang walked over to Ye Ying. From a far distance, he saw her standing still as if pondering some questions and not knowing that she was being toasted by the scorching sun.

Ye Ying shrugged slightly. She turned around with a subtle disappointed look on her pretty face. “Ye Jian won and I lost. What should I do, Gao Yiyang? I let you down.”

She was not as confident as before. And the sadness she was showing made Gao Yiyang believe that the girl in front of him was very sincere, and was not a so-called... hypocrite.

“Not a big deal, Ye Ying. If this world is a pyramid, some people are bound to stand on the top, while some are standing at the bottom level,” said Gao Yiyang in a realistic way. His intention was to hope Ye Ying to care less about this issue.

Unexpectedly, Ye Ying could barely control the look on her face after hearing his words.

Did he mean that Ye Jian was a person on the top of the pyramid while she was merely at the bottom of it?

“Besides, you did not lose, so, you did not let me down. Come on, Ye Ying.” Gao Yiyang did not lower his head to observe the facial expressions of the girl beside him. His mind was not calmer than that of Ye Ying. It was correct to say that no students could maintain their composure after hearing Ye Jian’s scores and the time it took her to finish the exams.

Unfortunately, Ye Ying did not hear any of his words. After saying goodbye to Gao Yiyang, she threw away the snapped ballpoint pen into a trash can. Instead of going to the dormitory right away, she headed to the grocery store of the school with a violent look on her gloomy face.

Just wait and see. Never would she allow that wicked girl to keep on shining!

The students, as well as the teachers from every city, were astonished by the amazing performance of Ye Jian.

Xia Jinyuan, who had been paying attention to the performance of Ye Jian, heard her scores from the broadcast for two days. Looking at this poised and confident girl in front of him, he smiled both with his mouth and his unfathomable black eyes. “No wonder Principal Chen said that you don’t need to attend the closed study sessions in the following 15 nights.”

Ye Jian was not aware of it. Her black eyes brightened up a bit, looking at this dangerous man who appeared before her for two days consecutively. Vigilantly, she said, “Why do you know about it before I do?”

What she cared about... were always so intriguing. And her tiny face seemed very alert. He couldn't help but want to tease her.

Chapter 128: Understanding Derives From Contacts

"You want to know why?" He raised the corners of his lips. Without the restraint of his military uniform, his extraordinarily elegant and noble dispositions were displayed by his gentle smiles.

The contour of his side profile was perfect. As he smiled, the corners of his eyes rose upward, revealing a hint of vague mischievousness. It was a masculine charm which would make women palpitate and look at him involuntarily.

Perhaps Xia Jinyuan had also realized this. So, he only smiled gently with his mouth, while the look in his deep eyes remained stationary.

Nevertheless, in front of Ye Jian, he had always indulged himself with exceptions. As long as he was not conducting missions, he would not restrain any of his charms. Instead, he communicated with her in a natural and sincere way.

Ye Jian frowned slightly. And then, with a scornful smile, she said, "I don't want to know. Anyway, I've known what I want to know."

Her reply made him smile harder. A trace of dim light flashed across his black eyes, of which the corners were raising upward. Moments later, he quelled his movement.

Although he liked teasing her, he knew he should stop when he saw the vivid expressions on her face.

"Principal Chen said that he hopes you can participate in more actual combats, but he is a bit concerned." This girl always hid behind layers of shields when she sensed that something was wrong. What he could do was to be more patient with her. "I will be waiting for you at the school entrance at six o'clock. I will train with you in the next week."

Hearing this, Ye Jian inhaled deeply and quietly. And then, she said, "I hope I didn't cause trouble to you." So, he would be her instructor for the following seven nights.

"Not at all. On the contrary, I have a great interest in this," said Xia Jinyuan, leisurely enjoying the changing facial expressions of Ye Jian. His eyes, as black as an ancient well, did not hide his interest in tutoring her.

His mischievous tone gave Ye Jian a major headache. It sounded like there were insinuations behind his words. However, there wasn't any. She just thought too much.

Xia Jinyuan restrained his smile when he saw her frowning. There was an undeniable fierceness in his casual posture. "You can have dinner at the cafeteria first. If you do not show up at the school entrance at six o'clock sharp, you should take a ride to the shooting range on your own."

Just when Ye Jian was about to speak, she suddenly felt someone staring at her gloomily. As she nodded to answer Xia Jinyuan, she moved sideways, seeking the direction of the stare with the corner of her eyes.

“Someone is behind a tree at the twelve o’clock direction to your right-hand side. She’s a student from the township middle school with long hair resting on her shoulders.” Xia Jinyuan lifted his long hands, placing them on Ye Jian’s shoulders. He was creating an illusion that he was pushing Ye Jian away, making her turn around to return to school.

In doing so, he made Ye Jian face directly toward the sycamore tree.

At one glance, Ye Jian knew who that girl hiding stealthily behind the tree was. Who else could it be other than Ye Ying?

Hiding behind the tree, and without blinking, Ye Ying stared at the man who seemed intimate with Ye Jian. The smile on her face was vicious and gloomy.

Too bad that she did not have a camera. Otherwise, she would photograph them and paste their photos onto the blackboard wall of the school. Oh. In this way, not even Principal Chen could explain why Ye Jian was so close to a man!

Chapter 129: Men, the Natural Predators

At six o’clock, the setting sun withdrew its last sunlight. The flaming light was overwhelmed by layers of clouds.

As the summer vacation began, the Provincial No.1 Middle School seemed especially quiet in the setting sun. By the bank of the Swan Lake, two pairs of ducks stayed among the water plants, cuddling each other with their necks and enjoying the tranquil time.

Ye Jian walked out the school, opened the car door and sat in the car... It was precisely six o’clock.

Xia Jinyuan had a mixed feeling about her punctuality.

She arrived neither earlier nor later than six o’clock. Was she so reluctant to spend one more minute with him?

“You arrived precisely on time. Aren’t you afraid that we might be delayed by something on our way there?” Xia Jinyuan started the car, smiling. He asked Ye Jian, who was still wearing her school uniform, “Ye Jian, you have arrived on time for three consecutive days. Do you hate me so much that you don’t want to spend one more minute with me?”

Likewise, she only said “thank you and goodbye” to him when they came back. As she alighted the car, she left chicly without looking back.

On the first day, he expected that she would turn around and wave at him after she entered the school gate. On the second day, he expected she would show up ten minutes earlier. On the third day... he held no expectation.

He would have suffered a heartache if he disputed with this insensitive girl.

Sometimes, Xia Jinyuan's smiles were as faintly indiscernible as a subtle ripple but also mysterious like a deep and unfathomable ancient well.

Every time this extremely handsome and elegant man smiled at her, Ye Jian felt that... the surrounding air would become so thin that every breath she drew was filled with the faint smell of mint from him.

She was always calm and poised when she was with others. However, in front of Xia Jinyuan, she felt awkward.

Hearing this, she curled her lips to assume her usual composure. Calmly, she said, "I am very punctual. Captain Xia, you can arrive at six o'clock sharp every day so that you don't need to wait for too long. I will keep my promise, even if I might be delayed by something."

"But what if I want to arrive earlier to wait for you?" Xia Jinyuan stopped the car before the pedestrian crossing, waiting for the green traffic light. He tilted his head. As he saw the calm look on Ye Jian's face, he slightly raised his eyebrows. "Do you want to turn the air-conditioner a bit cooler? You seem... very hot."

Of course, she was hot! To arrive on time, she ran all the way here. The weather was still hot, even after the sunset!

Not to mention that the man sitting next to her always said something that could lead to misunderstandings. As a grown woman, wasn't it normal for her to feel awkward?

Ye Jian could not get rid of her awkward feeling—which would occur to her every time they met—until she reminded herself several times that the man was 20 years of age.

As she calmed down, her facial expressions became brighter. The instant the green traffic light lit up, Ye Jian turned around to smile at Xia Jinyuan, who was releasing his masculine charms. "Of course, I feel hot because I ran all the way here. What can I do? I can't let you leave without me, Captain Xia."

Her smile was gorgeous and refreshing as a blooming flower. The beauty in her black eyes dwarfed the rosy clouds in the sky.

Xia Jinyuan was caught off guard. Her smile, along with her "What can I do" jumped into his eyes. They even seemed to have imprinted in his mind.

"Captain Xia, if you don't drive, the traffic police might come over." His bewilderment made Ye Jian smile. There was a subtle smile in her black eyes. Tut! She could play using his tricks, all right?!

Chapter 130: Who Becomes The Prey

From her slightly cocky smile, Xia Jinyuan realized that she was launching an attack on him... Tut, tut, tut. She was indeed a little fox. She had learned how to stage a counterattack so soon.

"Interesting, Ye Jian," replied Xia Jinyuan, raising his eyebrows and smiling complicatedly. Urged by a series of drivers behind him, he started his car.

The girl was smart. But she wasn't aware that men were natural predators.

And Xia Jinyuan was such an elite predator. The wittier and foxier she was, the more interest he had in her.

Ye Jian did not understand the so-called 'predation' of men. But she had realized that the implications behind his words were beyond the range of ordinary communication.

For her, dealing with an elegant yet dangerous man was indeed... a bit interesting.

She raised her black eyebrows, tilting her head, and resting her elbow on the car window. Smiling, she glanced at the exquisite side profile of the noble and proud man. "What should I do? I also find this a bit interesting," she said slowly.

"Captain Xia, tell me, who is more interested in the other person?"

Who was more interested in the other person? It's hard to tell, at least from the current moment... Xia Jinyuan smiled leisurely. "Ye Jian, you are 14 while I am a 20-year-old adult man. And you want to discuss this topic with me? What do you think? Who is more interested in the other person?"

Languages were profound. A sentence, uttered by different people, could bear different meanings.

Ye Jian slightly narrowed her eyes. She was a grown woman rather than a 14-year-old girl. Previously, she didn't realize what Xia Jinyuan truly meant by saying "interesting."

But at this moment, by looking into his eyes that were as vast and resplendent as the starry night, she understood what this elegant man was interested in her.

If this was a hunting game, she wouldn't mind giving it a try. Just wait and see who would become the prey!

She sat up, leaning towards the man who was driving. It seemed that starlights were scattered in her watery eyes. Smiling, she gazed at him without blinking.

"Captain Xia, unlike you, I know nothing. After all, I'm only 14. What do you mean by saying 'who is more interested in the other person?' Can you enlighten me?"

She was so close to him that her orchid-like smell was swaying around his nose tip.

Her pretty eyes, with black and white sharply contrasted, were pure as stars, but also contained the allure of a woman.

It was this unique kind of beauty that made him unknowingly forget that she was a 14-year-old teenage girl.

Did he have a crush on her?

No, he was clear that what he said had nothing to do with “having a crush.” It’s just that, as a man, he had a bit of interest in a woman.

At the same time, he was aware that the woman he was interested in was only 14. Hence, his interest in her was pure and was not about desire. He just wanted to take care of her, waiting for her to grow up.

“Don’t be silly, girl.” Xia Jinyuan raised his hand, gently squeezing her pretty nose tip. With 30% seriousness and 70% casualness in his clear voice, he said, “I have interest in you, but not that kind of interest in your mind. Don’t think too much, girl.”

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