

Chapter 41: Relax, Girl

“It’s not good for you to know too many secrets,” said Xia Jinyuan while taking off his military cap. The smile on his elegant face became more visible. “How did you understand that gesture? Who taught you?”

As gentle and tender his handsome face may seem, it had wound up Ye Jian’s nerves.

Even when he was smiling, his eyes looked extremely sharp, like a pair of swords revealing their chilly glints, which could split a human’s soul in half.

Instead of sitting at the seat that Xia Jinyuan had designated for her, Ye Jian chose the chair closest to the door and faced him sideways. She replied plainly, “No one taught me. I just happened to notice your action.”

“Oh? Are you saying you knew what it meant once you saw it? That’s impressive.” Xia Jinyuan said and raised his eyebrows. His pitch-black eyes became darker. He said calmly, “You have changed a lot, but Grandpa Gen spares no effort to stand up for you.”

He remembered that Grandpa Gen, the 70-year-old Class A Master Sergeant said to the regimental commander in a deep and strong voice, “Jian is absolutely innocent!”

The girl had gained the admiration from a world-class sniper and the support from a Class A Master Sergeant. What other surprises would the girl bring Xia Jinyuan?

Grandpa Gen? Ye Jian moved her fingers. Determination condensed in her calm eyes. Staring at Xia Jinyuan, she said coldly, “Are you suspecting me because I am connected with Grandpa Gen?”

A slightly bad-tempered girl.

Smiling at her, Xia Jinyuan pondered for a moment before he said, “Relax. No need to be nervous. We will never offend our respected Grandpa Gen. I’m not suspecting you of anything. Just trying to warn you.”

“As for Liao Jian, you can treat him like you usually do.”

This was the reason Xia Jinyuan asked Ye Jian to the office. To remind her not to show her knowledge easily, which might cause herself troubles.

Young as she may be, Xia Jinyuan believed that she was mature enough to keep secrets.

Ye Jian didn’t expect that he would warn her directly. Her facial expression became more serious. Looking at Xia Jinyuan in silence with her black and bright eyes, she asked, “Is he connected to the criminals you arrested in the mountain the other day?”

“As far as we know, they are connected in some way. But that’s none of your concern.” Xia Jinyuan had revealed more information to her. “What you should care about is your studies.”

“I was investigating Liao Jian’s file when I inadvertently found the score sheets of your class,” Xia Jinyuan smiled brighter and looked at Ye Jian with teasing in his eyes. “Ye Jian, you need to work harder.”

It’s not a secret. Almost everyone in the school knew about Ye Jian’s disastrous academic performance.

Ye Jian accepted his ridicule peacefully. She pursed her lips and replied nonchalantly, “That’s nothing. I just haven’t shown my actual strength.”

Facing Xia Jinyuan who seemed like a noble prince, Ye Jian didn’t avoid making eye contact with him. Smiling, she stood up, “Well, I should head back to the classroom if you don’t have anything else to say to me. I need to prepare for the quiz that is coming up later.”

She was a girl with a bad temper. Xia Jinyuan was just trying to figure out what information she had possessed, but she immediately set up her shield. Eventually, he couldn’t melt the chillness in her eyes through his friendly teasing.

After seeing her off, Xia Jinyuan leaned back in his chair to relax his back, forming an exquisite and sensual profile from his forehead to his neck.

Chapter 42: Who Dares to Underestimate Her

Being taken care of by a Class A Master Sergeant and appreciated by a world-class sniper, Ye Jian would have had a promising future if she stayed on the right track.

How many generations of people from modest backgrounds had dreamt about raising children who could go to college? Sadly, Ye Jian’s uncle, the deputy town mayor never cared about this.

As the bell rang, the first session began. Accompanied by Principal Chen, Xia Jinyuan and his soldiers sat in a jeep, which was heading to the army.

Meanwhile, Ye Jian was answering the first question of her math quiz.

It was a quiz to determine how much the students had learned in the past month. The invigilator was the math teacher of this class. She was a female teacher who dressed formally with a pair of black-rimmed glasses.

As soon as Ye Jian started to write her answers on the paper, the teacher came towards her. Mrs. Ke had reminded her to pay special attention to Ye Jian.

Mrs. Ke was the head teacher of this class. If she put it that way, wasn’t she implying that this student might cheat in the exam?

The teacher took this matter seriously. It only took her several steps before she arrived beside Ye Jian. But during that time, Ye Jian had answered five questions at least!

While other students were still calculating on the scratch paper!

Mrs. Yang hated to see students cheat in exams. Restraining her anger, she stood in silence, staring at Ye Jian's exam paper with a straight face.

A few seconds later, the serious look in her eyes swayed and she looked at Ye Jian in surprise. Without using the scratch paper, Ye Jian had written the correct answers on her exam paper.

Was she calculating in her head?

Ye Jian raised her head to look at Mrs. Yang who was standing beside her. She smiled as if she had understood something. And then, she lowered her head and continued writing.

"Good for you that you can count in your head. But you might want to be more careful in the exam." Mrs. Yang bent over slightly to caution this student who had a pure smile in a whisper, "When you finish, you'd better review all your answers."

At this moment, Ye Jian had completed the quiz. Mrs. Yang, who had remembered every correct answer, had given her the full credit in her mind already.

She collected Ye Jian's exam paper and asked Ye Jian for a conversation outside the classroom.

Xie Sifeng smiled with contempt on her face. So what Ye Jian had changed? She was still an idiot who couldn't pass any exams. Tut! Who gave her the right to be cocky?

The whole class had been used to Ye Jian's handing in her exam paper in advance. Everyone pretty much had the same idea that Ye Jian would end in the last place, as usual.

The two math sessions were taken up by the quiz. After speaking to Mrs. Yang, Ye Jian returned to her dormitory to relax.

In the afternoon, the PE session was canceled. Mrs. Yang came into the classroom, holding the exam paper of the math quiz this morning. The students looked at her nervously. She asked the students to collect their exam paper one by one when their names were called.

"Old rule. I will only read aloud your scores if you have full marks," said Mrs. Yang. Strict as she may be, she was also considerate about the students' feelings. "Zhang Wenjin, 100; An Jiabin, 100..."

Those were the students who were usually excellent in math. When Ye Jian's name was mentioned, everyone seemed calm because they thought it was a mistake.

Ye Jian was the last one to collect her exam paper. Mrs. Yang required her to stay beside the podium.

Pushing her glasses upward from her nose bridge, Mrs. Yang looked at the students seriously and said in a deep voice, "This time, I'm going to praise Ye Jian in particular. She has scored the full mark. I saw with my own eyes that she finished all the answers within 30 minutes."

"Now get rid of that incredulous looks on your faces. Don't assume Ye Jian can't accomplish the things that are beyond your capacities. She has been working hard when you don't notice her diligence."

She tilted her head and said to Ye Jian, "Lend me your math course book and notebook."

Chapter 43: Becoming A Role Model Overnight

Every teacher believed that the diligent students would work very hard by taking notes during class and practicing after class, making their study plans according to what the teachers had taught.

That was also Mrs. Yang's assumption.

However, Ye Jian could not deliver a single notebook, except for her math course book.

Ye Jian, who hated to lie about even such trivial matters, shook her head. The whole class was gazing at her with mixed feelings. She smiled and said calmly, "Sorry, Mrs. Yang, I don't have the habit of taking notes."

Her honesty made the class burst into laughter. But they were not ridiculing her.

Sometimes, the relationships between people were as delicate as that.

Because Ye Jian had embarrassed the teacher in front of everyone, she had gained the affection of many classmates who hated and loved teachers at the same time.

Strict as she may seem, Mrs. Yang was a very tolerant teacher. A hint of a vague smile appeared on her straight face. She said, "You are honest. And you leave me with no excuse to discipline those students who never take down notes."

With a sense of humor, this session was surprisingly better than any session before.

When the class was over, some students tried to talk with Ye Jian.

"How I wish you could have been like this in the old days. Although we've been in the same class for two years, I've never realized that this is your true personality." such icebreakers worked quite well because these students held no grudges against Ye Jian.

Several girls were surrounding Ye Jian and talking to her one after another.

As for Ye Jian, she was cherishing her time as a student after rebirth.

She had engraved in her mind who had hurt her, but she would remain friends with these students who had done nothing evil to her.

"I have figured out a lot of aspects of my life after waking up. It is as if I have been enlightened during my dream," she answered their questions, smiling. Yes, to everyone's surprise, she had changed quite a bit.

But it didn't change the fact that she was still Ye Jian!

The astonishment of others had nothing to do with Ye Jian herself.

The math course representative An Jiaxin was a straightforward girl. She was also the first classmate to be friendly towards Ye Jian.

After hearing what Ye Jian had said, An Jiaxin said with a smile on her dignified face, "Good for you. You have finally become a bit normal. Congratulations, Ye Jian."

"Congratulations to you, too. You don't have to guess who is going to bully me every day from now on, so you won't have to worry about losing the bet and packing meals for your classmates for a week," said Ye Jian while raising her eyebrows and blinking mischievously. Those incidents in the past were facilitating their friendship now.

"Ha-ha. You knew about that! I lost twice in the last semester!" An Jiaxin burst into laughter. "It was in winter! I had to pack breakfast for them for two weeks consecutively!"

As the girls were surrounding Ye Jian like she was a celebrity, Xie Sifeng felt utterly resentful.

Bam. She threw her math course book on the desk and walked towards Ye Jian, gritting her teeth. "Don't be cocky after scoring full marks in one quiz! It's nothing! Who knows whether you had cheated! Tut! Yingying can get full marks in every exam!"

Ye Jian felt that Xie Sifeng was ridiculous as she was defending Ye Ying with all her might. She stood up and looked askance at Xie Sifeng, smiling, "It's not impressive. But I'm still better than you."

Chapter 44: Who the Hell Are You?

"Xie Sifeng, you are being unreasonable!" frowning, An Jiaxin spoke up. She could never stand these girls for bullying Ye Jian, and she had criticized them several times. She didn't stop interfering until she realized that Ye Jian tolerated their mistreatment.

Irritated, Xie Sifeng glared at An Jiaxin and shoved her violently for blocking her way, "None of your own business. Get out of my way!"

Xie Sifeng pushed her a bit too hard. Caught off guard, An Jiaxin fell backward.

As she was about to bump into the desk, a pair of slim hands supported her steadily.

"Go back to your seat. I will take care of this," said Ye Jian while holding An Jiaxin. Ye Jian's face was completely frosty. Standing in front of the furious Xie Sifeng, she said in a cold voice, "You haven't learned from the lesson last night, have you? Do you think the school is your home?"

Xie Sifeng's dad was a labor contractor. Just because she came from a wealthy family, she looked down on others. She could do anything to make herself happy, regardless of the consequences.

Now that Ye Jian had come forward, Xie Sifeng withdrew by a step automatically.

An eye for an eye. When Xie Sifeng was about to draw back again, Ye Jian raised her hands to give her a shove, just as the way Xie Sifeng had pushed An Jiaxin.

Splash! Bang!

Xie Sifeng staggered and tried to grab onto a desk and a chair to balance herself. Even so, she fell to the ground while her classmates watched on.

...

Stupefied, Xie Sifeng stared at Ye Jian incredulously. S... she even dared to shove her in front of their classmates!

“Ye Jian!” screamed Xie Sifeng, embarrassed. She got on her feet and lunged at Ye Jian insanely.

But what kind of job had Ye Jian done before? She worked at a security company for several years. Xie Sifeng was just embarrassing herself by trying to clash against her.

Xie Sifeng had lost her mind, but Ye Jian would not.

Ye Jian moved sideways and helped An Jiaxin, who was behind her, get on her feet. Smiling, she watched Xie Sifeng fall forward.

Ye Jian couldn't bear to look at her anymore...

She closed her eyes. *Bam!* She didn't open her eyes until she heard a loud crashing sound. An extremely cold glint flickered in her pitch-black eyes.

Xie Sifeng, who was humiliated repeatedly, buried her face under her arms on the desk and cried non-stop until the class was over.

“That was awesome! I didn't expect you to shove her,” An Jiaxin said cheerfully. She put her arms around Ye Jian's shoulders as if they were good friends. “To be honest, if you had not pushed her, I would have got up and pushed her myself.”

She was candid. No wonder she didn't like Ye Ying.

Pursing her lips, Ye Jian smiled, “There's no reason for us to tolerate her. We should stand up for ourselves when it is necessary.”

“Is that why you upset your sister?” a hostile and cold voice of a boy interrupted their conversation, “She's still being hospitalized at the public health center while you are having your moment.”

This boy, as well as his voice, was strange to Ye Jian.

Ye Jian squinted and observed him. His hands were placed in the pockets of his pants. The look in his eyes was cold. And his clothes were different from other students. *Oh!* Ye Jian thought to herself and remembered who he was.

Gao Yiyang, the number one student from Class One Grade Nine, who was transferred to this middle school last semester. It was said that a special vehicle dropped him off on the first day of school.

Ye Jian was not aware if he came from a wealthy background. But she knew that the boy had a crush on Ye Ying.

Chapter 45: He Is Molesting Me!

Unlike the boys in town, Gao Yiyang, who was from the provincial capital, looked extremely handsome, with a tinge of arrogance on his face.

He liked wearing T-shirts or sports jackets with jeans in all kinds of colors, issuing a haughty and indifferent vibe which other boys didn't have.

Usually, he had a cold facial expression. Even when he encountered teachers, he would at most nod at them as a greeting.

"Are you numb?" he frowned impatiently. A hint of disgust flashed in his eyes as he looked at Ye Jian. He turned his head away and said coldly, "I'm going to visit Ye Ying. And you are coming with me."

"If the school had not forbidden puppy love among students, I would have thought that you have considered yourself as her boyfriend." Ye Jian raised her eyebrows and said with a faint smile on her face.

"Stop it. Aren't you afraid that you might get yourself into trouble?" said An Jiaxin, terrified. She was shocked by Ye Jian's boldness. How dare she speak out loud the words 'puppy love' and 'boyfriend'?

To put An Jiaxin's mind at ease, Ye Jian smiled at her and said gently, "Relax. Just listen to me."

"You are in no position to judge my relationship with Ye Ying," said Gao Yiyang in a higher pitch with his lips pursed. He did not conceal his disgust against Ye Jian in his eyes anymore. Since he was experiencing the period of sound change, his voice became a bit hoarse as he increased his volume.

Realizing such a change, he lowered his voice immediately, "She has been crying. You are her elder sister. Aren't you supposed to visit her?"

"You are Gao Yiyang, right? Why do you care whether I visit her or not? And you are in no position to judge me if I don't visit her." Ye Jian retorted him, smiling. She had no interest in Gao Yiyang.

But anyway, Ye Ying did have a myriad of admirers at school, and Gao Yiyang was one of them.

Perhaps Gao Yiyang was not accustomed to Ye Jian's transformation, his handsome face became gloomy due to her retort. He reached out his hand to stop Ye Jian from leaving, "Stop!"

"If you stand in my way, believe it or not, I will scream, saying that you are molesting me!" said Ye Jian coldly. She raised her head and glared at him fiercely, "Gao Yiyang, you are from the provincial capital, then you should know what molestation is!"

An Jiaxin shuddered from head to toe out of fear...

Having noticed the terrifyingly gloomy face of the boy, An Jiaxin grabbed the hand of the audacious Ye Jian, and moved away from the boy hastily, leaning her back against the wall.

“You scared the hell out of me.” said the pale-faced An Jiaxin, patting her chest and staring blankly at Ye Jian. She was normally a brave girl. But now, her heart was racing because such taboo words as ‘boyfriend’, ‘puppy love’ and ‘molestation’ were shooting out from Ye Jian’s mouth.

She was nothing more than a middle school student who could hide her secrets quite well. In private, she usually just gossiped with her friends about others’ appearances and scores.

She was different from Ye Jian, who dared to say ‘molestation’ out loud!

“He’s not going to molest you. Gao Yiyang is essentially still a boy,” said Ye Jian while patting An Jiaxin’s shoulders. Her smile was as comforting as breezes stroking the leaves, and her picturesque brows and eyes seemed peaceful.

Shocked by Ye Jian’s appalling speech, the girl, who had barely recovered from her astonishment, coughed loudly, “Ye Jian, stop talking. Let me take a break.”

If she couldn’t take a break, An Jiaxin feared that she might die from fright.

“What are you afraid of if you understood what I meant?” the smiles in Ye Jian’s eyes were as transparent as water. “You know pretty well the distinction between a boy and a man.”

An Jiaxin rolled her eyes at Ye Jian. “I do, but don’t say it out loud!” And then, she burst into laughter.

Establishing friendships were as simple as that.

Chapter 46: The Four-Year Plan

On the fourth floor of the school’s office building, Principal Chen was walking out of his office with an elderly whose hair had turned gray. He said, “Grandpa, rest assured, I will take care of Ye Jian.”

Wearing a uniform from the 1970s, the elderly walked as intimidatingly as a soldier, despite his advanced age.

Principal Chen, a world-class sniper, accompanied Grandpa Gen and treated him with the utmost respect. Grandpa Gen was a Class A Master Sergeant that enjoyed lifelong special allowance from the country.

“I feel sorry for her, and I hope you can teach her more.” sighed Grandpa Gen emotionally. “She is intelligent. You instruct her from Mondays to Fridays, and I will teach her when she’s back home. This way, her life will be easier in the future.”

At least, it would be much easier than that of Ye Jian’s mom.

They were walking downstairs. Principal Chen’s right foot, which was about to step on a flight of stairs, paused lightly in the air. Pleasantly, he said, “You read my mind. The thing is, I’m a bit concerned about her current academic performance. But as I heard from Mrs. Yang, she got the full credits in her math quiz today. Perhaps I don’t need to worry about that too much.”

At this moment, Principal Chen's face became a bit gloomy. "Ye Zhifan and his family are outrageously unreasonable. Have you considered warning them? While enjoying the glory brought by Sun Dongqing's sister, they have been treating Ye Jian so badly!"

"What goes around comes around. I don't want to meddle with others' business now that I have aged. I just want to educate Ye Jian, hoping for her to become a useful person."

Ye Jian, who was playing badminton with her classmates, had no idea that Grandpa Gen had come into town for her. During their conversation that lasted for two hours, Principal Chen and Grandpa Gen had established a very strict training program for her.

After the evening study session, Ye Jian was called to the principal's office again.

Mrs. Ke, who delivered this message to Ye Jian, had run out of energy and looked at Ye Jian with a bit of fear.

Why did the principal want to talk to her repeatedly? What if she complained about me in front of Principal Chen?

Although she was only holding two sheets of paper in her hands, Ye Jian felt like they were extremely heavy. After staring at the several large characters on the cover for a while, she raised her head and said with a bitter smile, "Principal, I appreciate that you think so highly of me."

The Four-Year Plan was designed specifically for her. She would be very much indebted to Principal Chen.

As tears began to well up in her eyes, she said in a slightly hoarse voice, "You value me so much. I... I am really..."

"Girl, you don't need to thank me. Like your Grandpa Gen, I have no children. If you learn well, you will live up to our expectations."

Smiling, Principal Chen patted Ye Jian's shoulder and instructed her as a teacher, a friend, and a senior, "We humans should strive to be upstanding and virtuous."

"Neither men nor women should do anything immoral to let themselves down."

"You are a good kid. Leave those unpleasant episodes behind you and focus on your future. Smile when you are happy; and when you are sad, look around you, look at the sky, look at this world. You should fight for your future and be responsible for your life. Do you understand?"

Tears were dropping down from her eyes. Even in tears, Ye Jian still had an incredibly determined look in her eyes, which were reflecting rays as resplendent as that of diamonds. "Yes. I will bear your words in mind and live up to your expectations!"

Chapter 47: Live Up to Your Expectations

Ye Jian had no idea what she would achieve in the future. All she hoped for was that she could bear the two seniors' instructions in mind and live up to their expectations.

"Go back to your dorm and rest well tonight. Tomorrow, when your evening study session is over, go to the back entrance of the school and I will send you out," said Principal Chen. He admired Ye Jian who feared no obstacles.

This kid knew well that she could only rely on herself if she were to achieve success.

Principal Chen also appreciated the perseverance and composure of Ye Jian. Judging from how well she had handled the incident involving Ye Ying, he could see that Ye Jian was a reasonable person.

Ye Jian commenced her training on Tuesday evening.

"Ye Jian, I am a sniper. What I can teach you are all the experiences I have accumulated during my career as a sniper. I will give you one minute to consider whether you want to learn from me."

Standing in the dark training room with only one dim light on, Principal Chen seemed like a nocturnal leopard. Although you could tell from his voice that he had aged, you could never ignore the lethal energy he had been hiding.

A sniper...

Under the dim light, Ye Jian shivered subtly. As it turned out, the seemingly amiable and kind Principal Chen was a sniper!

No wonder he had been displaying a killing and intimidating temperament.

Ye Jian pursed her lips and controlled her trembling. Her eyes were as calm as an ancient well that had no ripples on its surface. She said calmly, "I have no other options. I will go forward with no regrets!"

"Fair enough! There is no way back from now on!" said Principal Chen in a serious and deep voice. He nodded and placed his hands behind his back. The first training session thus began.

"Snipers are the embodiment of death in the eyes of our enemies, but our comrades deem us as heroes and the most excellent soldiers! We attack our enemies' camps on our own and gain an upper hand for our army using our guns."

"Ye Jian, you must get prepared! The snipers trained by me are not going to stay in peaceful countries. You are going to the frontlines of the battlefields of any region and complete the assignments our country has given to you!"

Since Principal Chen had decided to train this girl into an elite soldier, the training program formulated by him was so harsh that an ordinary soldier would have cold feet.

While listening to Principal Chen carefully, Ye Jian adjusted her breathing and kept her mouth closed and her back straight.

“Apart from shooting precisely, a sniper must have a strong and healthy physique and unyielding willpower as strong as steel,” said Principal Chen. In the New Recruit Camp in town, he started to implement the first step of Ye Jian’s Four-Year Plan.

He was a sniper. Hence, apart from teaching Ye Jian how to use all kinds of sniper rifles, he must also train her willpower and improve her physical performance.

“You have much more to learn during this professional sniping training, in addition to mastering the weapon system and carrying out the concept of sniping. You must stick to the end unless you literally collapse during the training!”

“I will obey your orders and never flinch!” Ye Jian nodded solemnly. Her heart was filled with excitement, despite the calm look on her face.

“Get up at 5:00 every morning and jog eight kilometers, which will be increased slowly. You will receive willpower training for two hours every night and return to your school to rest by 10:30,” said Principal Chen grimly. At this moment, he was not a scholarly-looking principal anymore but a ruthless sniper. “You still have one year and a half before you graduate from junior high school. I hope you can make the most of your time!”

Chapter 48: Training from Hell

“Understand?” shouted Principal Chen sternly. His voice sounded like it came from an emotionless metal.

“Yes, sir!” answered Ye Jian immediately in a loud and steady voice, holding her head high.

To start a new chapter of her life, Ye Jian had experienced the most difficult day of her life thus far. She had to receive training from hell, conducted by a world-class sniper. After ten minutes of warm-up, she was told to stand still.

Moreover, while she was standing, she must read out the numbers randomly flashing on the board in the training field.

And she must not move while giving her answers. If she moved, even just a little bit, an ant would be placed on her neck...

“34, 27, 870, 994...” controlled by computers, the numbers would appear on the screen for only three seconds. Usually, four or five numbers would occur at the same time. At most, seven different numbers would be displayed simultaneously.

The numbers ranged from one-digit to three-digits. And Ye Jian was required to state them correctly in the blink of an eye.

This training was designed to help Ye Jian enhance her ability to concentrate, as well as her observation and reaction to her surroundings!

“Usually, it takes 0.022 seconds to fire a bullet from a sniper rifle. After 0.022 seconds, either your bullet has put a hole between the eyes of your enemy, or his bullet is about to take away your soul. If you want to survive, receiving basic training is your first step.”

Considering that Ye Jian was still a child, Principal Chen withheld some of his extremely tough training from her on her first day. Putting ants on Ye Jian’s neck was a piece of cake because soldiers would encounter ants when they were hiding in certain places during battles.

Ye Jian had been standing still for one hour. As time went by, she became increasingly concentrated.

“Left, 187; ... Right, 591. Over!” Ye Jian was so focused that she could say the numbers correctly the moment they appeared on the board.

Not only was she highly concentrated, but her reaction speed had also reached an excellent level.

Starting from a certain moment, Principal Chen had been holding a folder and recording the training performance of Ye Jian on her first day.

The basic training and sniper training would be held simultaneously. And after two months of reinforced basic training, he would let Ye Jian touch authentic rifles, which would be loaded!

From Tuesday to Friday, Ye Jian was an ordinary student during the day.

But at night, she would turn into a sniper trainee, who have been receiving instructions to improve herself continuously.

In only a few days, her transformation had been apparent from the inside. The innocent and fragile features had been washed away from her face. She was no longer a budding flower. She had turned into a pine on the edge of a cliff that could withstand all kinds of adversities.

Such changes were subtle and gradual. People would have gotten used to the new Ye Jian by the time they realized she was different.

On the weekend, Ye Jian swiftly ran down from the mountain and back to her village. She slowed her pace gradually and walked step by step until she arrived before Grandpa Gen.

“Three minutes faster than last week. Not bad,” said Grandpa Gen while smoking from a water pipe. He placed his stopwatch into his chest pocket and looked at this hard-working girl who could bear hardships. He said in a hoarse and amiable voice, “Take your time. You will make progress gradually.”

After her exercise, her black eyes, which seemed like black obsidians that had been washed by water, were more resplendent than stars. Wiping away her sweat, Ye Jian said, “I’m patient, Grandpa. I will try my best to learn everything you and Principal Chen have been teaching me.”

Chapter 49: Strict Teachers Produce Outstanding Students

“You’ve got it. That’s good. You should learn from Principal Chen, who is a knowledgeable person. As for me, I don’t have much to teach you since I have become old.” said Grandpa Gen while putting his

hookah onto his waist. With a smile on his face, he looked at Ye Jian who was wiping her sweat. "Come on, I'm going to take you to a good place which you will like."

"Where are we going, Grandpa? You haven't had breakfast yet. Should we go home and cook some noodles first?" Hastily, Ye Jian placed her towel on her neck and carried a water-filled wooden bucket, following Grandpa Gen at a steady pace. As she laughed, her voice sounded clearer and more melodious than that of the birds in the bamboo forest.

"No need. We will have food when we get there. Put down the bucket. You may carry it home when we come back tonight." said Grandpa Gen, smiling. As a 70-year-old senior, he was walking at a fast and steady pace which would outdo a young lad.

Behind the mountain was an extensive bamboo forest. Blanketed by the morning mist, it seemed like a wonderland.

Grandpa Gen stopped in front of a cave. Every household in the village had this kind of cave to store yams and the like. He told Ye Jian, "Open the door, girl."

Ever since Ye Jian could remember, she has known of the existence of the cave at her home. But it had never occurred to her that this cave led to somewhere else!

"Watch your step. Don't be afraid. Just follow me." said Grandpa Gen. Ye Jian touched the dry stone-walls with both her hands while walking in the pitch-black passage, which was leading her to a place deep underground. Her astonishment at this moment was no less than that of the moment when she was brought back to life.

And it was not until now did she realize how those soldiers had appeared at her home every so often!

As it turned out, they have walked through this long passage in the mountain to enter the village, without alarming any villagers.

The tunnel was rather long. After walking for nearly half an hour, Ye Jian finally saw a faint light, which meant that the entrance to the cave was not far away.

Half an hour... The tunnel must be several kilometers long. And none of the villagers had noticed such a gigantic project!

"Keep your eyes closed. Don't let the sun burn them." Grandpa Gen reminded Ye Jian amiably. Standing at the entrance to the cave, he turned his back to the sun. "Open your eyes three minutes later."

Ye Jian didn't open her eyes until they had adjusted to the light. She saw that the military camp hidden deep in the mountain was close at hand.

After they exited the cave, they walked down the mountain. Another half an hour later, they arrived at an asphalt-paved road. Alongside the road stood a white-base sign with red characters on it, which read, "RESTRICTED MILITARY AREA".

There was a stretch of barbed wire fence 400 meters away. Behind the fence was a barbed wire gate. In total, four soldiers were holding guns and standing guard.

Ye Jian looked further into the woods on the mountain and saw the observation post hidden deep in the forest.

This was a heavily guarded area. And led by Grandpa Gen, she could enter it so easily!

An armed soldier walked towards them. After saluting Grandpa Gen, he verified their identities.

An ordinary-looking vehicle drove past them. Then, it stopped in front of the guard post.

The left and the right door to the car opened at the same time. As the soldier who was driving the car handed his identification document to the guard, a young soldier jumped from the passenger seat and strode towards Ye Jian's direction.

"Grandpa, you are here." said the young soldier with a smile on his elegant and handsome face. His military uniform was neat and well-ironed. He saluted Grandpa Gen and said, "I'm afraid I have to postpone my appointment with you. The school has made an emergency phone call and I need to check it out. Maybe next time."

Grandpa Gen laughed and said, "A soldier's duty is to obey orders. Captain Xia, we can arrange another appointment when you're back."

Chapter 50: Stay Away from Dangerous Men

While Xia Jinyuan was walking towards her, Ye Jian lowered her pitch-black eyes, standing in silence.

While speaking to Grandpa Gen, Xia Jinyuan glanced at Ye Jian furtively. With little indication of it, his exquisite eyebrows twisted.

Why is the girl hiding from me? Did I scare her at school that day?

"Sure, I will!" with a faint smile on his handsome face, Xia Jinyuan answered Grandpa Gen. His unfathomable black eyes glanced at Ye Jian again. Politely, he said to Grandpa Gen, "May I have a few words with Ye Jian? Alone?"

Grandpa Gen was not surprised that Xia Jinyuan knew Ye Jian. When Xia Jinyuan arrested the three criminals the other day, it was Ye Jian who had helped him.

Grandpa Gen smiled. Xia Jinyuan noticed that Ye Jian was glaring at him coldly because of what he said. His thin lips curled a bit, forming a smile.

"Ye Jian, about what happened at your school, there are a few things I would like to remind you of. This way, please," said Xia Jinyuan. Shone on by the morning sunlight, his face under the military cap seemed more brilliant, adding a bit of a cozy vibe to his smile.

"Go, girl."

Since Grandpa Gen had agreed, Ye Jian could say nothing. She raised her feet and walked to the place where Xia Jinyuan was pointing at.

She didn't like to have too much contact with such a dangerous man.

He was a bit mysterious. And it was a habit of Ye Jian's to keep her distance away from people that she couldn't understand thoroughly.

"My apologies for testing you at school the other day. I hope you can understand our position," he explained in a low voice, which sounded like it was from a rare and luxurious instrument. "And you don't have to fear that I will do anything to you. I won't put you under surveillance."

Fear? It seemed like this major had misunderstood her.

Ye Jian raised her head and looked at him, fearlessly. With a gentle smile, she said calmly, "Captain Xia, you have misunderstood me. I'm not afraid. I just don't want to get in touch with you too often. I'm leaving if you don't have anything else to say to me."

She turned away and was about to leave, without waiting for his reply.

"Girl, you have a hot temper." Xia Jinyuan clasped his long and strong hand onto Ye Jian's fragile shoulder to stop her from leaving. "Which is different from what Grandpa Gen has told me."

Smiling resignedly, he said, "Grandpa Gen is watching us. Are you sure you want to turn your back to me while listening to me?"

At this moment, there was only one idea in Ye Jian's mind. She's going to knock down this major onto the ground!

On second thought, she knew that it was a mission impossible for her for the time being.

But she could give it a try in the future!

"Captain Xia, just finish your words all at once, thank you." As she turned around, she shook her shoulders skillfully. Like a fish, she swam away from Xia Jinyuan's control.

She had been receiving training for nearly half a month, plus with her talent, she had progressed significantly.

Her dexterity made Xia Jinyuan raise his eyebrows. After a slick smile, he looked at Ye Jian quietly with his pitch-black eyes. With a serious and chilly look on his face, he said, "Listen up, Ye Jian. We have confirmed that Liao Jian, as well as his parents, are problematic. Please pay attention to his whereabouts at school for us."

"I was going to find you and tell you about this issue on my trip today. I didn't expect we would have met at the entrance to our military camp," said Xia Jinyuan. His black eyes contained boundless chill as long as he was getting down to business. "All you need to do is to keep an eye on him, to see if he has been doing anything fishy. If you notice any problems, you can report to Principal Chen directly!"