

Chapter 281: Don't Indulge

Jiang Yao could not react for a few seconds, and she watched as Mrs. Ge reprimand Ge Wenwen loudly. She felt that Mrs. Ge was doing this intentionally for her to witness.

"Mrs. Ge! Mrs. Ge! Stop beating the child." Jiang Yao tried to stop her, and thought deep down that if she wanted to discipline her child, she should do it at home, why would she do it in front of her? If she did not know any better, she would say that such an adult deliberately planned this with a six-year-old child.

Besides, she did not know whether the child was hungry for real or not, but the fact that the things the girl thought about her which was the same as her mother's, that was definitely real.

"Ay, children. The older they get, the more disobedient they are. Don't indulge her too much, just give her some biscuits or candy to send her away. If she takes more than that, it will only make this little lass more spoilt." Mrs. Ge gave her a helpless look as she gave Gu Wenwen a little kick, and turned around to give Jiang Yao an embarrassed smile. "I don't really have much at home to give her to eat, and she may not have eaten fully during lunch time."

"..." Jiang Yao really did not know what to say.

What did she mean by just giving her some biscuits or candy? Was this not called indulging the child?

Mrs. Ge was definitely the first person that Jiang Yao had met in her entire life that rendered her so speechless.

"Mrs. Ge, it's not that I'm being stingy or anything, but I really don't have anything in the house." Jiang Yao said, "I rushed to board the plane after my class, and I only grabbed my clothes and necessities for the trip. Once I got off the plane, I came straight here. I wouldn't have anything like snacks in the house."

Disregarding the fact that there really was not anything in the house at the moment, even if they did have anything, Jiang Yao was not willing to give it to these kinds of people. Even if it was only a six year old child, she would not indulge them!

"I don't believe it! Unless you show me your bag!" Gu Wenwen stomped her feet as she pointed to Jiang Yao's backpack that was on the chair.

"You little brat! She already said that she has nothing to give you, why do you keep insisting!" Mrs. Ge brought down her hand quite hard this time, and the sound was loud, Jiang Yao flinched slightly, it sounded quite painful. Seeing the red mark on the tanned skin of the child's arm, Jiang Yao felt a sense of uneasiness and unhappiness in her heart.

Thinking about the fact that this was her neighbour for the foreseeable future, she could not help but feel bitter inside.

"Mrs. Ge, it seems like it's already quite late, and the child is also hungry. Why don't you take her home and prepare dinner." Jiang Yao was not in the mood to deal with the pair of mother and daughter. The older one unpleasant, and the younger was not any better. She even demanded that Jiang Yao turn over her bag?

The sky had indeed started to darken, and Jiang Yao had arrived a little late to the base. At this hour, those who ate early would have probably finished dinner already.

“Don’t worry, we’re not in a hurry!” Mrs. Ge did not have any plans to return home, and she ignored Wenwen who was crying, sitting down in one of the chairs. “Recently, it’s only been me and Wenwen at home, and we’re not in a hurry to eat. Children like to cause trouble, and you shouldn’t indulge them. You’ve just arrived at the base, and you’re probably not accustomed to being alone. I can wait with you until your husband returns home.”

Jiang Yao glanced at Mrs. Ge, who had an eager expression on her face as though expecting her to ask about her family affairs, making Jiang Yao even more reluctant to speak.

Although she was curious why Platoon Leader Ge was not at home, she guessed that by the way Mrs. Ge was raising the topic, there had to be something lying in wait for her.

“Mrs. Ge, as you can see, I was also preparing to do the laundry. You really can’t let a child go hungry, and having a chat isn’t really that urgent. You should return home first.” Jiang Yao said as she pointed to the clothes lines on the balcony which had Lu Xingzhi’s clothes on it.

Chapter 282: Impatient

“Mmm, it really is such a blessing that Sergeant Lu married you, you’re so diligent!” It seemed that Mrs. Ge did not understand Jiang Yao’s intention of making her leave, and had breached the topic herself, “That’s right, my husband is also a platoon leader under Sergeant Lu’s command, did you know that? My husband isn’t at home these days, not because he’s gone somewhere, but he’s lying in the hospital. Say, my husband went out with Sergeant Lu together, why did he get injured so badly? Looking at Sergeant Lu, he only had light injuries. Sergeant Lu is, in the end, my husband’s leader. I heard that your husband was also in charge of directing the platoon this time, and I’m not sure why, it was just my husband that had suffered such heavy injuries to the point where he needs to be lying in the hospital.”

Jiang Yao listened to Mrs. Ge’s blabbering, her eyes twitching violently in annoyance, and she laughed coldly, “If Mr. Ge is in the hospital, why are you not there taking care of him, Mrs. Ge? I understand that Mr. Ge really loves you, and isn’t willing to have you suffer at his side in the hospital. However, Mrs. Ge, as military spouses, we should be aware of the suffering that they go through. Although Mr. Ge will say that he doesn’t want you to take care of him, there are times when men put on a strong front and pretend. If you were to take care of him in the hospital, I’m sure he would be even happier.”

Seeing Mrs. Ge’s rapidly paling face and her expression, Jiang Yao felt indescribable satisfaction swelling inside her heart.

Mrs. Ge’s previous remarks were getting more and more excessive, she was crossing the line. The only thing she did not do was directly come out and say the words that she had implied with her words, which was why did Lu Xingzhi allow Mr. Ge, who had gone along with him on the mission to sustain heavy injuries, while he himself was fine?

The implication of Mrs. Ge’s words was that Mr. Ge’s injuries were due to Lu Xingzhi’s mistakes, and so Lu Xingzhi needed to be responsible for Mr. Ge’s injuries!

That was just absurd and crazy!

Why should her husband be wronged by others like this!

If she did not understand the relationship between Lu Xingzhi and Platoon Leader Ge, and for the sake of not wanting to cause any problems with Lu Xingzhi and his underling, she would really like to give Mrs. Ge a piece of her mind by saying 'Is Platoon Leader Ge Lu Xingzhi's son? Does he need to be protected by Lu Xingzhi everytime he goes out on a mission?'

"I'm really busy, Mrs. Ge." Jiang Yao said impatiently. Not wanting to deal with her anymore, Jiang Yao went to the balcony to turn on the faucet and started to wash the clothes.

If this were not the base, Jiang Yao really would have just driven them out of the door.

To be neighbours with these kinds of people was like having rotten luck for eight lifetimes.

Also, what kind of person was Platoon Leader Ge, to have married such a wife. He could not be someone with the same mindset as Mrs. Ge, thinking that since he went out on a mission with Lu Xingzhi, that Lu Xingzhi was responsible for his injuries, right?

Mrs. Ge did not expect that Jiang Yao, who had a kind and gentle smile, would give her an expression like the one she had on now. Seeing that Jiang Yao had really started to wash the clothes, she could only take Wenwen's hand and leave, her other hand still holding the vegetables that she had brought over. She left the same way that she had arrived.

After Mrs. Ge left, Jiang Yao watched the door opposite her close tightly, and she locked her own door without a moment's delay.

It was dark when Lu Xingzhi came to pick up Jiang Yao, but it did not hinder his sight as the lights on the fifth floor's balcony was turned on, and he could see Jiang Yao drying his clothes.

The light that came from the bulbs was a yellowish-orange color, shining on the small figure, it sent a wave of warmth through Lu Xingzhi's heart at the sight.

That was his and Jiang Yao's home, his wife had washed the dirty clothes that he had changed out of yesterday, and was drying them on the balcony.

After the petite woman had finished hanging up the laundry, she realized that the man was standing in a daze on the ground floor, looking up at her. Jiang Yao waved at him from her position on the balcony, a bright smile on her face, the warmth radiating from it was even warmer than the light that shone on her.

Chapter 283: Lacking in Common Sense

"Why were you standing in a daze just now before coming upstairs?" Jiang Yao asked as she opened the door for Lu Xingzhi.

"You're very beautiful," he answered sincerely, then only he noticed her hairstyle that she had set up meticulously. He stroked her head gently and said, "Your hair has grown longer now. I bet it will be longer than it is now during New Year's Eve."

“You said you like me with long hair, so I’m letting it grow.” Jiang Yao chuckled. She was a little surprised that Lu Xingzhi would say such a sweet thing. It was as sweet as honey even though it was just a simple ‘You’re very beautiful’.

Lu Xingzhi nodded earnestly, then asked her to put on her shoes. They were going to the cafeteria for dinner.

Before going out, he pressed her against the door and kissed her passionately for a while. But as soon as they were out the door, he did not even have the intention to walk with her hand in hand.

Jiang Yao was finally able to grasp Lu Xingzhi’s behavior. He was automatically in the ascetic mode whenever he was wearing his military uniform, but behind closed doors, he would instantly switch to the rogue mode.

However, he was reluctant to leave his wife in the cold. Although he did not hold her hand, he was walking side by side with her, their hands would brush against each other occasionally.

There was some distance between the family building to the cafeteria. As they were walking, Jiang Yao told him about Mrs. Ge’s visit.

“Honestly, I don’t like her. She’s greedy, selfish, and petty.”

Jiang Yao expressed her displeasure frankly as she felt that there was nothing she should hide or keep secret from Lu Xingzhi. She was able to state her real thoughts and opinions to him because she was absolutely certain that he would not see her as a narrow-minded person at all.

“She is somewhat lacking in common sense. You don’t have to mingle with her, just be polite and diplomatic, that’ll suffice.” Lu Xingzhi furrowed his eyebrows in annoyance upon the mention of Mrs. Ge.

“Just now, she came to our house with a handful of vegetables, saying that she was worried that I have nothing to eat tonight since I had just arrived, so I told her about the welcome feast. Do you know what was her response? She whined about not having a party for her and Wenwen when they first came here right in front of me.”

Jiang Yao continued, “Do you think she will be so petty that she complains to her husband later?”

“Not all army wives get to have a welcome feast,” Lu Xingzhi sneered in disdain. “The expenses for tonight’s party is from the Head’s own pocket money, and also because I have a great relationship with him.”

As for the vegetables, Lu Xingzhi found it very amusing and he was bewildered.

“The whole base knows that I don’t even have a bowl in my house and I never cook, how can she not know? She just went to you with the vegetables as a prop, she knew you wouldn’t take it,” he blurted without hesitation.

Jiang Yao was glad that Lu Xingzhi did not mind her whining, and that she did not stir up the hornets’ nest the moment she got here. Nonetheless, she grimaced in agitation when she learned about Mrs. Ge’s behavior of using vegetables as a prop.

“Head will just ignore her even if she throws a tantrum at her husband.” Lu Xingzhi squinted his eyes into a frown as he continued, “When she first came here, she had already caused a scene because she insisted that she wanted the farmhouse for her family’s accommodation. She liked it there with its large yard and a plot of land to do some farming, and also they didn’t have to climb the stairs all day long. But the problem was, the houses were fully occupied at the time. Eventually, she stopped her nonsensical shenanigans when the leader came forward and said that they would vacate a plot of land for those of us who are staying in the apartment building to do some farming.”

Jiang Yao was slightly taken aback. It seemed that Mrs. Ge’s combat power was really powerful.

“Oh yes, Mr. Ge is still at the hospital, isn’t he? How’s his injury? Is it serious? Why doesn’t his wife go take care of him at the hospital? Is there a reason I’m not aware of?” Jiang Yao was concerned about this. What kind of wife would stay at home and enjoy her life like nothing had happened when her husband had been hospitalized?

Upon mentioning the matter, Jiang Yao clearly felt a metaphorical cyclone slowly forming around Lu Xingzhi that was drastically lowering the pressure in their surroundings.

Chapter 284: Our Children

“Huh, what else? She’s the problem!” Lu Xingzhi growled, “First, she complained that taking care of her husband at the hospital would cost her more money on top of their mediocre financial capabilities. Then, she complained that she couldn’t leave her daughter in the house alone. The truth is, she can’t stand the smell of the hospital ward and feels that it is an exhaustive task to take care of her man for the whole day.”

Jiang Yao nodded, grasping the information. “You’re right. A six-year-old kid is not really an excuse for her to not go see her husband. If she really has no time, there are so many families in the base, they can look after the girl for a while. Besides, she’s already six years old, you just have to find someone to give her three meals a day, you don’t even have to watch her that closely.”

“Wenwen attends the kindergarten in the base, she doesn’t need anyone to look after her during the day.” Lu Xingzhi’s face turned into an ugly shade of grey when he talked about the girl. “Ge Wenwen is spoiled rotten by her mother. Mrs. Ge was at the hospital taking care of Mr. Ge on the first two days of his hospitalization, so she asked the neighbors downstairs to look after the girl. Just after two days, the two families had a big fight because of that girl, and now they’re not on speaking terms anymore.”

Jiang Yao watched as Lu Xingzhi’s face looked thunderous. For someone like Lu Xingzhi who eagerly wanted a child of his own, the girl must be very unpleasant and obnoxious to irritate him to this point.

She shook her head when she recalled Ge Wenwen stomping her feet stubbornly, demanding to check her bag for food. “Children’s early education is very important. Huang Chenchen, who is only three years old, is more sensible than the six-year-old Wenwen.”

Lu Xingzhi snorted as Jiang Yao mentioned Huang Chenchen once again. He also realized that she might really like children.

Hence, after pondering for a while, he decided to tell her about what Ge Wenwen did. He described the mother and daughter as a pair of willful chewing gums that they should avoid at all costs. It was also a reminder for her not to be too friendly to Ge Wenwen.

“Ge Wenwen was very rude and disrespectful when she stayed at the neighbor’s house. She went through their stuff without permission—wardrobe, drawers, closets, you name it. Some food that the family kept away because they wanted to ration them out were all eaten by her. She demanded scrambled eggs for lunch and meat for dinner. That day, when Mrs. Ge came back from the hospital, she witnessed the scene where Ge Wenwen was wailing because she couldn’t snatch food away from the neighbor’s children. Do you know what she did? She pointed her fingers at the neighbor, accusing them of bullying her child because of discrimination and that they were from the countryside. She accused them of not feeding her daughter. Next thing you know, they had a big fight and everything fell apart, they have not talked to each other ever since, and Mrs. Ge has not gone to the hospital since.”

Lu Xingzhi heaved a heavy sigh after the long explanation, not sure if the sigh was meant for Mrs. Ge and Ge Wenwen, or for Mr. Ge.

Jiang Yao, on the other hand, recoiled in shock, her eyes bulging out. Mrs. Ge was the nasty shrew that was unheard of.

“Lu Xingzhi, don’t worry, I promise you I will teach our children to be obedient and well-behaved in the future!” Jiang Yao uttered with determination.

Lu Xingzhi felt the gloomy cloud that was hovering above his head suddenly disperse, and it was replaced with a sunny sky.

“Okay, I know I can count on you when it comes to our children.”

He was genuinely surprised and overjoyed when he realized that she was serious in wanting to have children with him. She was not coaxing or comforting him about what she said before school started. In her heart, she really wanted to have children with him.

After hearing Lu Xingzhi’s response, Jiang Yao gasped inaudibly, realizing that she had blurted the thing about disciplining their children in the future without even thinking about it.

She blushed timidly and was trying to clarify that she was not so anxious about wanting a child, yet, the blossoming smile in Lu Xingzhi’s eyes made her curl her lips softly and lovingly.

“We’ll have a baby when I graduate. Do you like boys or girls?” Jiang Yao glanced at Lu Xingzhi coyly.

Chapter 285: I Want a Boy

Lu Xingzhi scrunched up his eyebrows, seriously pondering upon the question before answering her.

“I want a boy. I’ll raise him to be a selfless and confident man, so when he grows up, we can make a tag team to protect you and take care of you. If we get a girl, I’m just afraid we’re going to worry about her forever.”

This was his answer after serious consideration.

Then, he paused. It was not entirely up to them to decide whether they get a girl or a boy, worrying that Jiang Yao might overthink it, he added, "Actually, a girl is not bad too. Imagine, our little girl as beautiful as you. We spoil her rotten, pamper her, shower her with love. What if we have to worry about her forever? So be it."

A very straightforward answer, no exaggerated elaboration; honest and truthful thoughts from him.

He did not want Jiang Yao to worry about their daughter all their life, but he also loved the idea of having a daughter as beautiful as Jiang Yao.

"Fraternal twins will be the best solution, boy as the elder one and girl as the younger one," Jiang Yao said as she chuckled lightly, but her lips and eyes were filled with happiness and love.

Lu Xingzhi nodded at her suggestion, thinking that it was a great idea, and said, "I'll try my best."

Jiang Yao's face blushed reddish instantly. She reached over and pinched the flesh on Lu Xingzhi's waist. His low chuckle indicated that he was seeing this as a flirtatious move.

"Sergeant Ge is a great guy, but it's a pity that he has such a woman as his wife and a spoiled and willful daughter." There was a dash of regretfulness on his expression as he said it.

"Mrs. Ge is quite cold-hearted too. Her husband is lying in the hospital right now, how can she still stay at home so leisurely?"

Jiang Yao stumbled into silence all of a sudden. Thinking about herself before rebirth, she was no better than Mrs. Ge in the relationship department.

Reflexively, she looked at the wound on Lu Xingzhi's belly. She rubbed her nose timidly and said, "After dinner, show me the wound. I brought some medicine, maybe some will work."

Seeing Lu Xingzhi open his mouth, wanting to deny about the injury, Jiang Yao rolled her eyes and chided, "Go on! Pretend as if nothing happened! Lie to me! If you want me to ignore you, that is!"

She was genuinely worried and also very angry when she found out about Lu Xingzhi's injury. She blamed herself for knowing too little about him before her rebirth. She did not know whenever he had a mission, what kind of missions he had, and what the situations and outcomes of the mission were. She was angry at herself!

Lu Xingzhi realized that he could not hide it from her anymore so he nodded to her request. "Okay, we'll do as you say." He then quickly added, "It's just a tiny scratch on the flesh that looks quite scary. Don't you weep like a child after seeing it!"

It was a kind of a forewarning to his wife. He would be very frustrated if she really did cry because he did not know how to comfort a crying woman.

"I study medicine, you don't have to tell me how minor or serious your injury is, I can see it with my own eyes!" Jiang Yao looked askance at him.

"You have only studied for a month," he answered back.

“How dare you talk back to me! Huh! I know how to poison you even after only a month!” Jiang Yao glared at the man standing beside her and huffed in dismay. He was getting braver and braver now, he could even talk back to her!

The threat that sounded mushy and fluffy literally induced a deeper smile in Lu Xingzhi’s eyes. He truly believed that his wife would never actually poison him.

Time flew by rapidly while they were chatting, it felt like they had not talked much and they were already at the cafeteria. Before entering, he told her about the people they would be having dinner with.

“It is called a welcome feast, but it’s actually just a get-together organized by the colonel to have dinner together,” Lu Xingzhi uttered, “There will be Colonel Lin and his family, Major Zhu and his family, Captain Yang, of the third battalion, and his family, and some others. It’s basically an ice-breaking session for you to get to know them.”

Jiang Yao nodded. She also knew that the people she would see at dinner had a pleasant relationship with one another personally.

Chapter 286: Get-Together at the Cafeteria

It was not the common dinnertime for the soldiers at this time of the day, so when Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi went it, it was quite vacant.

“There you are! Come here, come! Take a seat!”

Colonel Lin waved his hand at them enthusiastically the minute they walked in. He and the attendees were taken aback when they laid eyes on Jiang Yao.

They knew that Lu Xingzhi married his wife when she was only eighteen years old, the wedding seemed to be held in a rush too. Now that they finally saw her face, they were stunned in surprise. The girl looked very charming and sweet, people would buy it if she claimed herself to be a minor.

“Xingzhi, you’re the man! No wonder you have to marry her fast!” Colonel Lin was thirty seven years old, he was the youngest colonel in the base. Since he shared a close friendship with Lu Xingzhi, he talked to him in a casual and leisure tone.

Upon the remark, Mrs. Lin withdrew her gaze from Jiang Yao and chuckled, “That’s right. If I’m a man and I stumble upon such a fine lady, I would have married her quick too.”

Mrs. Lin led Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao to their seats. After settling in, Mrs. Lin introduced the people around her to Jiang Yao. The slightly shorter and chubbier woman was Deng Meihua, Major Zhu’s wife, Jiang Yao addressed her as Mrs. Zhu. Sitting beside Mrs. Zhu was a skinny woman, Jiang Liping, Captain Yang’s wife.

“Did you take a stroll around Jin City this afternoon? How was it? What’s the difference between our city and the southern city?” Mrs. Lin was local. She had never been to the southern region before, hence she was curious about the place.

“Sergeant Lu went to fetch you after lunch. I thought that you would arrive later in the afternoon, but who knew you’d be back in the evening.” Colonel Lin shot a cheeky glance at Lu Xingzhi before speaking

to Jiang Yao again, "Just now, I asked him whether your train would arrive at around 1 pm since he was going to pick you up after lunch. Only then did I find out that your flight was at 1.30 pm. You hadn't even taken off yet when he went out!"

The minute Colonel Lin finished talking, everyone at the table laughed happily.

At the side, Jiang Yao pursed her lips tight, trying to muffle a laugh. After landing, she asked how long he had been waiting for her, and he answered that he had just arrived. Well, the man definitely lied without batting an eye. He was clearly there at the airport for a long time. No wonder his shirt felt cold and moist.

Lu Xingzhi lowered his gaze at the young lady who was snickering with her lips curled mischievously. He did not feel even the slightest embarrassment after being exposed.

He dearly anticipated for the day's arrival. In the morning, as soon as the sun rose, he was not able to focus on the training nor his duty at the base as he thought about Jiang Yao who would arrive in the evening. Thus, he took half a day off and rushed to the airport to wait for her arrival.

He waited for hours at the airport, but it was very pleasant and delightful. Every minute passed indicated that she was coming to him soon.

Looking at the dishes on the table, Jiang Yao knew that they had first inquired about her taste from Lu Xingzhi. Almost all the dishes were lightly flavored and stews that were not that spicy.

It was actually a get-together between the comrades and their families in the name of a welcome feast. During Lu Xingzhi's wedding, no one from the base could attend because of the distance. This was the first time they were seeing Lu Xingzhi's wife after being married for more than a year. In order to make a good impression on the base, Colonel Lin sponsored tonight's dinner.

Chapter 287: Mrs. Zhu's Probing

Colonel Lin had previously gained some insights about Jiang Yao from Zhou Weiqi and Chen Xuyao. He remembered when he first heard about Jiang Yao from Zhou Weiqi, there was a faint disdain and dismay in his tone. Whenever he talked about her, it sounded more like complaints about her as a person. Only then, Colonel Lin found out that Lu Xingzhi had some marital problems with his newlywed wife, although his information was scarce.

However, recently, when Zhou Weiqi and Chen Xuyao came to the base, they talked about Jiang Yao more, and there were obvious changes in their attitude and tone.

When Colonel Lin learned that Lu Xingzhi's wife would be visiting him at the base during the National Day holiday and was even staying for a few days, he was very delighted.

Jiang Yao willing to visit her husband at the base indicated that she had accepted her status as a military dependent, or rather, an army wife. Lu Xingzhi was a soldier with a promising future. Thinking that she might come to live on base in the future, Colonel Lin wished to leave a good impression on Jiang Yao so that she would not feel awkward and uncomfortable about living here.

Colonel Lin had been observing the interaction between Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao since they came into the cafeteria. When he teased Lu Xingzhi, Jiang Yao glanced at her husband with a smile on her face,

while Lu Xingzhi's eyes never left her. Truth be told, their relationship was not as bad as he imagined, instead, they were so sweet together, like a pair of lovebirds.

At the table, the men were eating and drinking while the women were chatting.

From the conversations they were having, Jiang Yao learned that Mrs. Lin did not stay on base. She worked as a teacher in an elementary school in the city. On the weekends, she would bring their children to visit Colonel Lin at the base. Mrs. Zhu was the teacher in the kindergarten in the base. Her two children also attended the kindergarten.

Captain Yang and his family lived one level below Lu Xingzhi's quarters. Mrs. Yang was the person who took care of Ge Wenwen when Mrs. Ge was at the hospital. Now, Mrs. Yang and Mrs. Ge did not even greet each other anymore, Mrs. Yang went to the extent of forbidding her daughter from playing with Ge Wenwen.

However, throughout dinner, Mrs. Yang did not badmouth Mrs. Ge. She simply blurted a simple remark and brushed off the discord with Mrs. Ge casually. Frankly speaking, if Jiang Yao had not heard about it from Lu Xingzhi earlier, she would not have figured out that such a nasty thing had happened between the two Madams. It seemed that Mrs. Yang was not the kind of person who would badmouth someone behind their backs.

"Oh yes, Jiang Yao, I heard many people saying that you are studying at a university in the south. What major are you in?" Mrs. Zhu asked out of the blue. "Sergeant Lu once mentioned that you plan to come here and live on base after graduation, am I right? Have you ever thought about what you will do? What do you think of the kindergarten in our base?"

Jiang Yao was eating. She listened to her while digesting her series of questions, finding some peculiarities in her questions.

After the series of questions, Mrs. Lin quickly answered, diverting the inquisitive questioning.

"Meihua, Jiang Yao is still a freshman, isn't it a little too early for you to ask her this?" Mrs. Lin said, "Besides, she is in one of the national universities, don't you think it's such a waste of talent for her to become a kindergarten teacher in the base after graduation?"

Although Mrs. Lin was not sure what Jiang Yao's major was, she reckoned that a kindergarten teacher would be an overkill to her educational background.

Chapter 288: Say Nice Things

As soon as Deng Meihua, Major Zhu's wife, asked Jiang Yao the questions, Mrs. Lin could tell what her real intention was. At the moment, she felt that Deng Meihua was being rather narrow-minded, assuming that everyone coveted her job as the kindergarten teacher just like how she craved to hold on to the job.

The military would arrange jobs for the military dependents according to their qualifications. Mrs. Lin graduated from an educational university in Jin City. She was able to get a job right after her graduation so the military did not have to make any arrangements. Captain Yang's wife worked as a sales personnel off-base. Among them, Deng Meihua was the only one whose job was arranged by the military.

There was a kindergarten in the base for the children living on base. There were only less than twenty children in total under the care of three teachers. However, the job as a teacher was selling like hotcakes among the army wives because the job was in the base with a decent salary package.

Honestly speaking, Mrs. Lin looked down on the kindergarten because their teachers were poorly educated whereby the best out of them had only finished elementary school. What could they teach the children anyway? It was just a daycare center in disguise.

Mrs. Lin found it amusing and she was bewildered when she heard Mrs. Zhu asking Jiang Yao about her future work.

Yet, Jiang Yao did not see all the twists and turns in the questions. She figured that there was nothing to hide, so she said, "I'm studying medicine, and I will definitely work in the hospital after graduation. When I come to the base, I think I will work at a nearby hospital. As for the kindergarten, I'm still new here, I don't really know the drill, but I bet the kindergarten is very excellent under the military's establishment."

Jiang Yao was really good with her words, she did not say anything bad about the military.

Mrs. Lin took a second glance at Jiang Yao after hearing her answers. One could tell that she was impressed by Jiang Yao, thinking that she was very smart and sharp for her age.

"Wow, a hospital! That's great! Being a doctor means a stable and lifelong income!" Mrs. Zhu exclaimed in astonishment and delight with a tinge of envy when she heard Jiang Yao's answer. "Wow, saving lives, it is so admirable and impressive. It's great for girls like you to have a good educational background, you'll be spoiled with job opportunities after graduation. Unlike me, I went through the five-year elementary school system, and that's it. I can't find a satisfactory job in the society. Thankfully, the military set up the kindergarten in the base, so I followed their arrangement and became a teacher to watch the children. In the future, when you and Sergeant Lu have a baby, send them to us, I'll take care of them with all my heart."

"I'm still studying, it's not the time to have babies yet. We plan to have children after I graduate, so, it's still a long way to go, it's a little too early to say anything now," Jiang Yao blurted half-heartedly.

She finally fathomed the feeling of oddity upon Mrs. Zhu's earlier questions. Was Mrs. Zhu afraid that Jiang Yao would become her rival after her arrival at the base?

"Yes, you're right!" Mrs. Zhu nodded vigorously. "Besides, Sergeant Lu is rich, I bet he can support you even if you don't work." Then, she turned to Lu Xingzhi and said loudly, "Sergeant Lu, am I right?"

Lu Xingzhi did not pay any attention to the women as he was drinking with Colonel Lin and the guys. When Mrs. Zhu suddenly shouted his name, his hand froze midair with the glass in his hand. He looked at Mrs. Zhu, and then Jiang Yao, in confusion as if trying to ask Jiang Yao with his eyes, 'What are you talking about?'

Mrs. Lin giggled when she saw the tiny signals between Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi. She said, "Mrs. Zhu was asking you, after your wife graduates from college, will you spoil her by making her stay at home and be a carefree and wealthy wife?"

Chapter 289: Worried

Mrs. Lin had a way with her words. Even though her words carried similar meanings with that of Mrs. Zhu's, she presented it in a way that was more polite and considerate.

Hearing that, Lu Xingzhi's expression lightened. He nodded. "Well, if she is fine with it, I do not mind her being a stay-at-home wife."

However, Lu Xingzhi knew Jiang Yao all too well. She would not be able to deal with the boredom that came with it.

"Haha! Such a loving husband!" Mrs. Lin laughed. "You guys continue on with your drinking. We ladies will have our own little discussion here."

Beckoning Lu Xingzhi to continue the conversation with the men, Mrs. Lin started an exchange herself, shifting the limelight away from Jiang Yao.

The crowd drank until it was almost eight o'clock. Jiang Yao did not know how much Lu Xingzhi had drunk. She caught the strong whiff of alcohol as he walked past her. However, he did not seem to be drunk, as he strolled along in a steady pace.

Mrs. Zhu and Mrs. Yang did not leave with Jiang Yao and Mrs. Lin, as they both lived in the Old Quarters which was situated at the far end of the compound.

Walking out, Jiang Yao could feel the chills in the wind even though she had a coat on herself. When she arrived two hours ago, it was much warmer, needing only a single coat to keep herself warm.

"Are you going to Jindo City tomorrow? I think you need more layers on you, Jiang Yao. Go and buy a couple of thick jackets when you are there. It does not seem that way during daytime, but it gets especially cold at night over here. Compared to your city in the south, winter here arrives much earlier," Mrs. Lin mentioned, after seeing Jiang Yao shiver.

Lu Xingzhi was walking in the front with Colonel Lin. Hearing Mrs. Lin's remark, he turned and looked at Jiang Yao.

"Look at that, Sergeant Lu is worried." Mrs. Lin teased.

"I'm fine, it will get warmer once I start walking." Jiang Yao smiled back at Lu Xingzhi.

Knowing that Jiang Yao was still not used to the weather here, the gang picked up their pace and walked faster. Along the way, Mrs. Lin started talking to Jiang Yao concerning Mrs. Zhu and Mrs. Yang.

"Both Mrs. Zhu and Mrs. Yang have good intentions, but they also have their own flaws. Who does not have flaws, am I right? Our men are very close to each other, so try to be more understanding in the future, yeah? Mrs. Zhu and Mrs. Yang are usually very friendly. Whenever anybody needs help, they are always the first ones to arrive."

"I understand, nobody is perfect. Look at me, I have plenty of flaws too." Jiang Yao nodded, knowing that Mrs. Lin was referring to what Mrs. Zhu said before.

Mrs. Lin met Jiang Yao for the first time tonight and she was already discussing such profound matters with her. It seemed that both Colonel Lin and Lu Xingzhi had an extremely strong rapport.

Arriving at the Family building, the two couples parted. Colonel Lin lived on the third floor of a building behind theirs, so they had to walk further in. Even when Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi had arrived at their place, they could see both Colonel Lin and Mrs. Lin from their windows.

The first thing Lu Xingzhi did after closing the door was to take his jacket off and put it on Jiang Yao. He turned and looked at the clothes hanging on the balcony, feeling all warm and fuzzy knowing that they were all washed by her. Nonetheless, he said, "Do not wash my clothes in the future. The clothes are quite filthy since I wear them for training, let me do it myself."

He went off to heat up some water for Jiang Yao's bath.

Back then, instead of having an electric heater, water was heated using a heating rod. Not as efficient, but it still got the job done.

Chapter 290: Good Ties

After plugging in the heating rod, Lu Xingzhi took off his jacket and grabbed a red packet deep in the pockets. Handing it over to Jiang Yao, he said, "Colonel Lin asked me to give Brother Liang this when I see him tomorrow, it is a gift from him. Let me keep it in your bag lest I forget."

Jiang Yao could feel the bulging red packet when she took it from Lu Xingzhi. Surely there was quite a sum of cash inside it.

"Oh? Does Colonel Lin know Brother Liang too?" Jiang Yao asked nonchalantly.

"Yeah, they have a good relationship. Plus, they are distantly related to each other." Lu Xingzhi nodded. "Here in the platoon, Colonel Lin is a great man, and Mrs. Lin is trustable as well. They are really good people, do not worry."

Lu Xingzhi knew both Colonel Lin and Mrs. Lin very well. "Mrs. Lin is from Jin City. Both her parents are important officers in the Jin City governmental institution unit."

Jiang Yao was a little surprised. Mrs. Lin was a kind and friendly character, who knew she came from a family with such a powerful background.

Giving it a little more thought though, Jiang Yao began to piece the information together. Liang Yueze also came from an influential family. Since Colonel Lin was Liang Yueze's distant relative, it made perfect sense that both Colonel Lin and Mrs. Lin were married to each other.

"As for Mrs. Zhu." Lu Xingzhi held Jiang Yao's hands and rubbed them. Feeling her warmth, he sat her down and continued, "Major Zhu spoke to me some days ago, expressing his decision to transfer back to the countryside. He feels his body is not up to the rigorousness of the platoon anymore. With his military title here, he can arrange for a comfortable position if he moves to the countryside. Since he does not want to stay in the platoon any longer, you do not have to see Mrs. Zhu anymore."

Lu Xingzhi was a keen observer. Even though he was drinking a lot during dinner, his focus was always on Jiang Yao. Naturally, he heard the entirety of the ladies' conversation, although he pretended not to.

Hearing Mrs. Zhu's questions toward Jiang Yao, he was concerned, worrying if Jiang Yao would feel uncomfortable with her questioning.

He knew extremely well how important Jiang Yao's visit to the platoon was. If her stay here was unpleasant, she would not come back again for any visits. Hence, it was crucial that she had a good time during her stay here in the platoon.

"That is fine, let's not talk about it anymore." Jiang Yao waved her hand, indicating her intention to stop the conversation. Ever since she arrived and had met Mrs. Ge, she had been talking non-stop for quite some time.

She moved her chair and shifted closer to Lu Xingzhi, wanting to lift his shirt up. He extended his hand out, trying to stop her from doing it. Seeing this, she stomped her feet, throwing a light tantrum and glared at him. Only then, did she manage to lift his shirt up.

Seeing his wound, Jiang Yao sighed. Although she knew that it was only an external injury, she could not help but feel pain piercing through her heart.

"Let me get the medicine." Shaking her head in disapproval, she loosened her grip on his shirt.

Lu Xingzhi sat there rigidly, observing Jiang Yao's expressions. He was relieved seeing that she did not cry.

He remembered the time when Mrs. Ge, seeing Major Ge wheeled out from the operating room after a big surgery, broke down and wailed like there was no tomorrow. No one could do anything about it.

And now seeing Jiang Yao's composed reaction, he was convinced that he chose the right woman to be his spouse.