

Chapter 361: No Operation

"If it is lower than forty percent, do not perform the surgery!" Even though the doctor replied tactfully, and he was losing consciousness, he knew that the failure of the operation meant that he would die on the operating table, never being able to see Jiang Yao again.

If the success rate was forty percent, he would go ahead and do whatever it takes to stay alive.

However, if no matter what was done and the outcome was death, what was the point of an operation? He would rather hold out and see Jiang Yao for the last time.

"Captain Lu, we need to start the surgery soon or else you will die!" The doctor could not contain his desperation.

"If I die because of the surgery, I'd rather stay awake a little longer and see my wife! If I die, I will never see her again! Never! She is my wife; it took me so long to be with her! How can I throw it away just like that!" Lu Xingzhi was getting aggressive, and was even struggling to get down from the operating table.

"Captain Lu, take it easy, don't do anything rash!" The nurse came forward and held him down. She turned and looked at the head surgeon.

The head surgeon looked at the assistant director. Seeing Lu Xingzhi's condition, they were not sure if a ten percent success rate was even possible.

"We need to let them know!" Not waiting for the assistant director's reply, the head surgeon walked out the operating room. He called out to the nurses and doctors, "Start the blood transfusion now and do all you can to stop the bleeding!"

The people waiting outside the operating theater was surprised seeing the door open up. They huddled around the head surgeon. Seeing his grim expression, nobody dared to ask the question.

"Master Liang, Captain Lu said that if the success rate of the operation is less than forty percent, he is going to refuse to do the surgery, and instead wait until his wife arrives." The ball was now in their park, Liang Yueze and the rest had to decide, quickly.

"What is the success rate then?" Gu Haoyu asked.

"Ten percent." The head surgeon answered truthfully. "If we do not start the operation right now, he is not going to make it!"

A suffocating silence fell upon them, the answer too agonizing to process.

Right before Liang Yueze opened his mouth to speak, a female voice suddenly rang out.

"Surgery! We need to go ahead with the surgery!" The voice was adamant and uncompromising, however quivering it was.

Jiang Yao looked flustered and piteous. On her way up, she stumbled and fell, grazing her elbow and losing a slipper. Anxious and distressed, she kept on running, ignoring her awkward composure.

"We have to do it! The surgery! If we do not do it, he will die! Even if there is only a ten percent chance he will live again, we still have to risk it!" Jiang Yao bellowed.

“Doctor, can you let her enter the operating room first? With her there accompanying Xingzhi, his will to live may become stronger.” Right now, Jiang Yao looked like a drowning mouse, frantically trying to clutch at anything that would keep Lu Xingzhi alive.

Chapter 362: Shut Up

“Alright! That sounds like a good idea.” The head surgeon agreed and called for the nurse to bring a pair of sterilized scrubs over.

He ran into the operating theater and called out, “Mrs. Lu is here! Captain Lu, your wife is here! She said that we need to go ahead with the operation! With it, we have a chance, however small, to keep you alive!”

Hearing the presence of Jiang Yao calmed Lu Xingzhi down. His eyes fixated on the doors as he saw the doors of the operating theater being pushed open slowly, a woman in green scrubs came running to him with tears in her eyes.

Lu Xingzhi felt a pain even greater than the ones from his bullet wounds. His heart shredded into a thousand pieces seeing Jiang Yao’s extremely distressed state. What if he died in battle instead? He would not have to put her through this agony, nor would he have to go through the torment of seeing her in tears.

Jiang Yao looked at the man lying on top of the operation table, her tears could not stop streaming down. She kept wiping her eyes, drying them again and again.

“You have to live, Lu Xingzhi, you have to live!” Jiang Yao cried softly. She turned toward the doctors and said, “Surgery! We need to do it now!”

“Dear,” Lu Xingzhi gently held Jiang Yao’s hand and said weakly, “Don’t cry, it hurts me to see you cry.”

One sentence was all it took to break Jiang Yao’s heart into a thousand pieces.

“Shut up! Listen to me, if you die now, I will end my life right away and go with you! There will never be another Lu Xingzhi in the world! What happened to our promises of having kids? You told me you are going to live till ninety years old, retire with a big family and house full of lively grandchildren!”

She looked at the doctors standing aside doing nothing, anger boiling up inside her. She yelled, “What are you doing standing there? Are you watching a movie?! Prepare for the operation! Where is the anaesthetist? Where is your anaesthesia?”

“I don’t want a surgery...”

“Shut up!”

Jiang Yao bluntly interrupted Lu Xingzhi before he could finish his sentence.

Seeing the anaesthetist’s hesitant response, she walked over and held Lu Xingzhi down. “Come on, hurry up! What are you afraid of now? That he would stand up and hit you?”

Everyone in Jindo City knew of Lu Xingzhi and his inhospitable and frigid personality. The healthcare professionals were afraid of him and were hesitant to do anything when he had explicitly refused the operation.

Chapter 363: Meaningless

A scolding from Mrs. Lu was all it took for the anaesthetist to come back to his senses. He began preparations to administer anaesthesia on Lu Xingzhi.

“Mrs. Lu, the operation is starting soon, do you want to wait outside?” The nurse kindly asked Jiang Yao, who looked frail and small but was scary and aggressive.

“I will watch from the sidelines; it will not disturb you. Go ahead with the operation.” Jiang Yao was calm and collected right now, more so than everyone else. “There are two bullets. One is lodged three centimeters from his heart, the other...”

These were the results from a scan by the Medical System. Jiang Yao almost choked seeing the rest of the assessment.

“The other bullet grazed the heart, injuring the pericardium—double-walled sac holding the heart—in the process. The two bullets are still in his body.”

The entire room was hushed hearing Jiang Yao’s assessment.

“Grazed the heart and injured the pericardium...” The assistant director was shocked. “No wonder they were saying that it is a miracle that he is still alive!”

No one knew where Jiang Yao got this information from. Having heard it, they looked at the patient in silence.

The anaesthetist moved his syringe away and asked, “So are we still proceeding with the operation?”

In other circumstances, the patient would have died swiftly, if not instantaneously.

It was a miracle that Lu Xingzhi was able to hold on until he reached the hospital.

They knew that it was his strong will to live that kept him alive.

“Mrs. Lu, I suggest we drop the operation,” the assistant director sighed. “The success rate of the operation is close to zero, it would only be a torture even if we went ahead. At least he could still talk to you now for a few more moments.”

The assistant director had given up. An operation like this would only mean the swift death of the patient. Once the anaesthesia has entered the body, any remaining existence of life would be wiped out.

“Dear, it’s okay.” Lu Xingzhi wanted to squeeze Jiang Yao’s hand, but he realized that he could not even do it. His vision was getting blurry and his consciousness cloudy.

The surgery team left the room one after another, leaving the couple alone with each other.

The people waiting outside were horrified to see the doctors come out sighing.

“Master Liang, Captain Lu’s conditions are worse than what we thought, no surgery is able to bring him back.” The assistant director exhaled, “You should go in and say your goodbyes.”

Till now, nobody knew why Jiang Yao was so sure about Lu Xingzhi’s conditions. They were thinking that maybe she had already received the assessment report.

Chapter 364: No Necessary Credentials

Zhou Weiqi leaned against the wall and dropped to the floor. He covered his face with his hands, and faint sobs could be heard.

“Weiqi,” Chen Xuyao stood beside Zhou Weiqi and patted his shoulder. “You should go in and see Brother Lu.”

“Not yet.” Zhou Weiqi wiped the tears off his face and shook his head. “He will want to spend his last moments with Jiang Yao.”

After a brief pause, he said, “Maybe we should stand by the side and watch instead, not disturbing them.”

He was very conflicted. On one hand, he did not want to disturb the couple, on the other hand, he wanted to see Lu Xingzhi alive for the last time ever.

“Let’s go in.” Gu Haoyu nodded. “We need to take care of Jiang Yao for Lu Xingzhi.”

In the operating room, the doctors and Lu Xingzhi’s own surrender pained Jiang Yao deeply.

“How can you give up just like that!” Jiang Yao held Lu Xingzhi’s hands. She knew, however, injuring the pericardium meant a certain death.

Asking her to give up, she could not do it. How could she?

“It’s alright, Dear. After all, human beings are destined to die.” Lu Xingzhi’s voice turned weak.

Jiang Yao ignored him. She went into the Medical System and saw the System Admin, dressed in its flowery robes. This was the first time she did not judge its looks.

“Moe and you always tell me that the medical capabilities are very advanced over there. Then tell me, are your people able to mend an injured pericardium?”

Seeing Jiang Yao’s nonchalant attitude, the System Admin answered honestly, “Previously, injuring the pericardium meant a certain death. However, our revered medical experts invented a procedure to artificially mend it. As long as the heart is still in a decent condition, a timely intervention usually results in an eighty percent survival rate with no bad side effects on the body.”

“Does the Medical System have the procedure available?” Jiang Yao’s heart skipped a beat.

“For sure, yes. However, you do not have the necessary credentials to see it. Once you have activated the third level of the theoretical library, you will be able to access it. All the required equipment can be found in the lab as well,” the System Admin answered politely.

Hearing that, Jiang Yao had an adrenaline rush.

“Give me the information on the pericardium surgery procedure, this is an order!”

“I am sorry, Master, but you do not have the necessary credentials.” The System Admin was shocked.

Chapter 365

: She Dies If He Dies

Jiang Yao looked at the System Admin with a grim expression. She realized that even though she did not have the necessary credentials, he could still do it for her.

This meant that the System Admin would be able to provide her with the procedure’s information, but it refused to do so due to her lower credentials.

“System Admin, what if I say I need it now?” Jiang Yao asked coldly. “I must have it because I want to do the surgery right now!”

“Master, you do not have the necessary credentials. If a life is lost in the process of such a high-level surgery, the Medical System will activate its destruction sequence. That means you will...”

“...become an idiot?” Jiang Yao laughed coldly. “If my husband dies, it does not matter what I become. Even staying alive is a torture to me.”

Seeing the System Admin’s hesitance, she continued, “If I don’t go ahead with the surgery, he dies. And if he dies, I go with him.”

“Moe told me that if I take a life away, the Medical System will activate its destruction sequence. What about you, System Admin? If I commit suicide, will you disappear as well?”

“The Medical System is linked perpetually to all of us. If it is destroyed, I disappear. If Master dies, I disappear too.” The System Admin answered earnestly. It knew that Jiang Yao was not kidding when she mentioned suicide.

“Do you want to die with me in this world? Even before trying our bests and doing what we can? If you give me the information, at least we still have a fighting chance. If the operation is a success, my husband lives, I live, and you can continue to live as well.”

Jiang Yao admitted that it was very low of her to intimidate the System Admin, but she was desperate.

It was a few seconds later when the System Admin nodded.

“Master, get the patient to the lab,” it said.

When Jiang Yao withdrew from the Medical System, she was startled.

Coming back to her senses, she saw the rest of the buddies standing behind her. They were talking to Lu Xingzhi, assuring him that they would take care of her after his death.

“Don’t worry, Brother Lu. We will make sure that Jiang Yao lives a good life.” Chen Xuyao, with his puffy eyes, nodded at Lu Xingzhi.

“What are you doing?” Jiang Yao’s heart shuddered.

“Dear, after I leave, do not miss me too much. Burn the contents of the bottom most drawer in my bedroom. Don’t look at it, just burn it.” At this point, Lu Xingzhi did not want to explain what those things were.

“Lu Xingzhi, the doctors have already given up on you, but I have not. If no one is willing to operate on you, I will!” Jiang Yao stood up letting go of his hands, and said to Liang Yueze and the rest, “I am personally operating on Xingzhi, please wait outside.”

Chapter 366: She Can Do It

“Jiang Yao...” To say Liang Yueze was shocked was an understatement.

“Jiang Yao!” Zhou Weiqi’s face suddenly brightened up. “You said that you want to operate on Brother Lu?”

He remembered the day when he saw Jiang Yao giving acupuncture treatment to Grandmother Liang, all hope was not lost!

Not waiting for anyone, he quickly pushed Liang Yueze and Gu Haoyu out of the room, while urging Chen Xuyao to leave as well. He said to Jiang Yao, “We will be waiting outside. If you need anything, let us know!”

Jiang Yao nodded and said, “Please help me guard the door and let no one, not even the doctors, enter!”

“Yes, noted!” Zhou Weiqi nodded. He closed the door after Chen Xuyao came out and stood outside, like a guard.

In the room, Jiang Yao went through and tidied up all the necessary information in her brain. This was an extremely difficult procedure; she could only try her luck and do her best.

After everyone had left, she turned toward Lu Xingzhi. He was too weak to even talk, his breathing the only thing indicating that he was still alive.

“Lu Xingzhi, listen to me! You need to stay alive! You have to!” Jiang Yao lowered her head and gave him a little kiss on the lips. “I am begging you, please don’t die!”

Right now, this was her only hope. Nothing else mattered.

After injecting the anaesthesia into his body, she transferred him into the lab in the Medical System.

Outside, Liang Yueze was looking at Zhou Weiqi with a puzzled expression. He then looked at Gu Haoyu and Chen Xuyao. He could see hope in their eyes, much to his confusion.

“What is going on here?” Liang Yueze knew that these three were hiding something from him, something about Jiang Yao.

“You really let Jiang Yao, a freshman medical student who has only started her classes a month ago, operate on Xingzhi? What if she uses this as an excuse to force us out and do something stupid inside?” Liang Yueze was worried that Jiang Yao was planning to commit suicide. If that were the case, how could they live with the guilt of letting her die?

“No!” Zhou Weiqi stubbornly rebutted. “She is not like that! If she says she wants to do it, she will! Everyone has given up on Brother Lu except her!”

He started sobbing, “Jiang Yao is incredible, she will find a way to do it!”

He dared not imagine what would happen if Lu Xingzhi were to die? What about Jiang Yao?

Would she remarry? No, he would not allow that to happen! She would always be the wife to his Brother Lu!

Chapter 367: Keep on Living

Would she be a widow for the rest of her life? That would be too selfish and too cruel for such a young lady.

That was why Lu Xingzhi staying alive was the best scenario they could have.

“Brother Liang.” Chen Xuyao walked toward Liang Yueze. He was more composed than Zhou Weiqi and he knew that Lu Xingzhi’s death would be a huge blow to Liang Yueze.

Considering that Lu Xingzhi went on this mission to rescue Old General Liang, one could say that Old General Liang was the reason Lu Xingzhi was now lying in the operating room.

Now, Old General Liang was successfully rescued and should be home soon. The Liang family would be reunited soon, but the same could not be said for the Lu family.

It was a barter trade using human lives.

If Old General Liang knew that Lu Xingzhi had died, he would feel remorseful for the rest of his life.

“Brother Liang, we trust Jiang Yao this time,” Chen Xuyao said, “She is young but very composed and mature. I believe she will not do anything stupid to trouble everyone else.”

Zhou Weiqi turned toward the door and placed his ears on it, trying to hear the happenings in the room. He muttered, “Don’t doctors usually need a few assistants during a surgery? Can she do it all by herself?”

“If she didn’t say, that means she doesn’t need it.” Chen Xuyao scratched his head.

“All the doctors have left, even if she needed some help, nobody can offer it. Once the operation is done and successful, I am tearing this hospital down!” Zhou Weiqi turned his back toward the door and continued guarding.

On the side, Gu Haoyu started telling Liang Yueze about what Zhou Weiqi saw the other day.

Initially, they planned not to say anything to Liang Yueze as Jiang Yao had her own reservations and was silent on the matter, but now, it was better for Liang Yueze to know the whole story.

It was Jiang Yao who saved Grandmother Liang. And now, Lu Xingzhi was lying unconscious because of Old General Liang. Whatever happens, the Liang family was the benefactor and Liang Yueze had the right to know.

Gu Haoyu was also reminding Liang Yueze that the Liang family owed the Lu family much more.

Time seemed to slow down for the people waiting anxiously outside. It had since been two hours since Jiang Yao started the operation and it was getting close to dawn.

“We have another patient! Prepare operating room number three!” A flurry of footsteps could be heard from the stairwell, followed by the appearance of a small crowd.

Chapter 368: How Dare You

Operating room number three was the room next to the one Jiang Yao was in right now. It was prepared a while ago for the arrival of Colonel Lin.

He arrived long after Lu Xingzhi did because he was sent back later. However, he was in a much better shape when he arrived.

Even though he was carried in on a stretcher, his face was relatively free of blood.

That was not to say however, that Colonel Lin was safe. His left leg was twisted at a horrible angle. A woman in her late twenties was following the stretcher, sobbing all the way, and calling out to her brother. She was Colonel Lin’s sister, Miss Lin.

Colonel Lin’s face was as pale as a sheet of paper. Before entering the operating room, he saw Liang Yueze together with a few other people and asked the doctor to stop. He asked, “How is Lu Xingzhi?”

“Brother, you don’t have to ask. I heard from the doctor that he is not going to make it, do not waste your time worrying about someone else. Get into the operating room quickly!” Miss Lin kept urging the doctor to bring her brother in. She pulled at the doctor’s coat and begged him, “Doctor, please do your best! The fate of my brother’s leg is in your hands!”

“Madam, we will do our best. Please release your hand and stop wasting our time!” The doctor pulled his coat irritatedly out of her grasp. This lady had been crying the entire time they were doing examinations and checks on Colonel Lin, so much so that the doctors were very annoyed.

“We’ll leave him to you, Doctor.” Liang Yueze walked over and pulled Miss Lin away. He asked coldly, “Where is Mrs. Lin?”

“She arrived and passed out after seeing my brother in this state.” Miss Lin did not stop crying as she was talking. “My brother is an idiot! What can we do? The doctors say that they might have to amputate his leg!”

The doctors in the operating room came out right at that moment. “The family of the patient, can you sign this surgical consent form?”

Miss Lin ran over and took the document. At one glance, she started wailing, “Doctor! You cannot amputate his leg! He is a soldier! What is a soldier without his leg! Please, doctor! Please!”

She then started kneeling as if to beg the doctor. This scared the doctor as he exclaimed, “The situation is not looking good, you need to sign it immediately for us to start our surgery. If we waste our time here, his life will be in great danger!”

“You cannot amputate his leg!” It seemed like Miss Lin did not hear what the doctor was saying, she wailed, sobbed, cried, and started complaining, “How dare you treat my brother like this? Even the

helicopter was used to transport someone else before him! According to the ranks, my brother is a Colonel, Lu Xingzhi is only a Captain, why did he get to return first? Plus, Lu Xingzhi is not going to make it, why not send my brother back first? Maybe if he had arrived earlier, he would not have to undergo amputation!”

Chapter 369: Three Slaps

The doors of the first operating room were suddenly flung open. Jiang Yao stood there listening to everything that was said. It was evident that she was exhausted, yet she looked at the lady that was crying like a brat with surprise written all over her face.

“So, your brother’s life is worth saving but Lu Xingzhi’s life is not?” Jiang Yao walked toward the lady and saw the document in her hand. She grabbed it and after reading it, she knew that it was a surgical consent form.

“Since Lu Xingzhi is going to die anyway, does it matter when he dies? My brother, however, is different!” Miss Lin did not realize who the woman standing in front of her was, she kept whining that her brother was discriminated against and unfairly treated.

She never would have thought that she would receive a good tight slap on the face because of what she had just said.

Slap!

Jiang Yao raised her hand and went down hard. “This is for your brother. His life is in danger and yet you are here whining and complaining!”

Slap!

“This is for my husband!” Jiang Yao was furious. “Listen here, my husband’s life is as valuable as your brother’s! The most severely injured person is always the first one to be sent back, especially since there is only one helicopter available! If the situation were different today, my husband would do the same thing as well!”

Slap!

“This is for the doctors! You have no respect for the lives of others, only knowing how to whine and be useless. Do you know you are wasting valuable time that can be used to save more lives? You can cry however much you want but you are not going to get your brother’s leg back!”

Jiang Yao’s body trembled suddenly. Fortunately, Zhou Weiqi was observing her at the side, he swiftly caught her before she fell.

“Jiang Yao, what’s going on? How is Brother Lu?” he asked.

After spending all her energy on the three hard slaps, Jiang Yao felt weak and spoke softly when reprimanding Miss Lin. However, her imposing manner was effective in stunning and silencing Miss Lin, who stopped crying and whining.

Sometimes, a loud voice was not needed to assert dominance over an individual. Jiang Yao, whose voice was hoarse from all the crying before, stood in a fierce demeanor, wielding influence, and power.

“Make sure that nobody enters room number one! Your Brother Lu is safe now.” Jiang Yao did not know that performing an operation out of her limits was so exhausting. All she wanted to do right now was to find a place and lie down to sleep.

“Yes! I will stay here and guard the door!” Zhou Weiqi nodded.

Jiang Yao acknowledged him, and smiled at the crowd, who was shocked at her physical outburst, before entering operating room number three.

Lu Xingzhi was still in the Medical System’s lab. In case anyone were to discover the sudden disappearance of his body, she had to make sure that no one entered the room. Hearing Zhou Weiqi’s promise, Jiang Yao instinctively believed him.

“Mrs. Lu! You should not be here!” The nurse recognized Jiang Yao and tried to stop her from entering.

Jiang Yao looked at the nurse, sidestepped out of her way and walked toward the operating table.

At this moment, a few doctors were looking at the assessment report, trying to determine how best to do the amputation. They were also consoling Colonel Lin, knowing full well that an amputation was extremely difficult for a soldier to take in. Hearing the commotion outside, they were also frustrated to have met irrational family members who did not want to sign the surgical consent form.

Chapter 370: The Gamble

“Give me the form, I will sign it.” Colonel Lin did not realize that Jiang Yao had entered the room. He heard the doctors’ discussion along with the commotion started by his sister’s whining and wailing. If it were not for his injuries, he would have personally booted Miss Lin out of the hospital.

Not talking about how Lu Xingzhi had taken a bullet for him, if Lu Xingzhi’s life were in grave danger, he would pass over immediate rescue efforts without hesitation so that Lu Xingzhi could be saved first. He knew that Lu Xingzhi would do the same for him.

The doctors looked at each other after hearing Colonel Lin’s request. There was a policy in the hospital prohibiting patients from signing their own consent forms.

“There is no need to sign, you can all leave. I will handle the operation myself.” Jiang Yao grabbed the assessment report from the doctors and started reading it.

It was not an overstatement saying that Colonel Lin’s left leg was badly injured. From the assessment report, Jiang Yao guessed that Colonel Lin was captured by the enemy and tortured inhumanely. All the bones in his left leg were broken by a blunt object, one bone at a time. Every bone, including his kneecap, was found to be in a state of comminuted fracture.

Jiang Yao could not believe how Colonel Lin had managed to endure the horrible two days before being rescued and sent back home.

Right before his surgery, he still had to deal with an annoying sister and sign his own surgical consent form for amputation, a huge double-blow for Colonel Lin.

“Mrs. Lu this is the operating theater, please leave!” The doctors were made aware of the appearance of Jiang Yao. Seeing that she had snatched the assessment report away, they were irritated and visibly annoyed.

After reading the report and allowing the System Admin to scan and come up with a surgical procedure, she passed the report back to the nearest doctor.

“I said I will handle his operation, please leave now, there is no need for you to be here.” Jiang Yao was furious with these doctors who gave up on her husband. She knew that it was irrational to think that way, but she could not help it.

The man who was abandoned by the doctors was her man, her husband, the person she loved the most.

“Mrs. Lu, quit fooling around!” The head surgeon glared at the lady. “We still do not know if the surgery is going to go smoothly, what can you, a young lady, do?”

Jiang Yao did not answer but planted her hands inside her coat pocket, she then looked at the doctor who belittled and looked down on her.

She opened her hands to reveal the two bloodied bullets in her palms.

“I took these from my husband’s body. I did it myself. The person you gave up is still alive.” Jiang Yao smiled and turned toward Colonel Lin. “Colonel Lin, these doctors have to amputate your leg to keep you alive. If you want to risk it and keep your leg, do you trust me to do it?”