

## Chapter 471: Full Attendance

“Four hundred thousand only. It does not include the one hundred thousand as surgery fees,” Lu Xingzhi explained.

Jiang Yao inhaled sharply. She did not expect that from Lu Xingzhi.

“You deserve the money for your efforts, okay?” Lu Xingzhi patted her head. “Weiqi does have some savings with him, he’s not penniless. With the Zhou family around though, he did not have a chance to spend them.”

Even though he was not as well-off as the rest of his buddies, he was not in want.

They sat talking and left as the sun set. However, Jiang Yao did not know how they made their way out.

They were deep in conversation and sat in each other’s embrace. It was sometime later when Jiang Yao fell asleep and found herself in the car when she woke up. The car was entering Kin City as she opened her eyes; the soft glaze of sunset shining down on her face.

Lu Xingzhi, once again, was the cook for tonight’s dinner. Jiang Yao had plenty of snacks in the afternoon and had no appetite for dinner. After a few spoonfuls of food, she left for the shower while Lu Xingzhi washed the dishes.

It was only a little over eight o’clock at night. Jiang Yao did not expect Lu Xingzhi to have any funny ideas tonight as they went a little too much last night. She moved toward the inside of the bed, making some space for Lu Xingzhi to lie on while casually asking what time they were leaving the next morning.

“The recognition ceremony is to begin at half past nine in the morning, so I’ll have to reach the platoon no later than nine o’clock. We’ll have to give Colonel Lin and Mrs. Lin a ride too. So, we should be out by seven in the morning.” Lu Xingzhi briefly thought about it, before adding, “Colonel Lin and I are coming back to Jindo City later in the afternoon for a memorial service for all personnels who were sacrificed. If you’re too tired, you can wait at home in the platoon instead.”

“Will Mrs. Lin be there?” Jiang Yao asked.

“I think so, all family members of the people who participated in the rescue mission will be there as well.” Lu Xingzhi was worried that Jiang Yao could not handle too much travelling over a few days. “If you want to be at the memorial service, you should stay back in the morning. We’ll return to Jin City together after that.”

“Who do you think I am? A frail and weak woman?” Jiang Yao chuckled. “I want to be there for the memorial service and your recognition ceremony.”

Of course, Lu Xingzhi saw Jiang Yao as a genteel and soft woman. However, he was also reminded of the woman who matched his energy and physical outburst that night at the hotel in Nanjing City.

Since they needed to wake up early the next morning, Jiang Yao thought, they should get some sleep soon.

She did not expect Lu Xingzhi to push her under his body right after they finished talking.

There was no way Jiang Yao could resist a man who had his will set on her.

Fortunately, Lu Xingzhi still knew the right thing to do. Knowing that they were going to have a busy day the next day, he cuddled her and went right to sleep after only two sessions.

Jiang Yao was mad, he ignored the doctor's advice, again!

The next morning, Jiang Yao offered to be the driver. They went to the hospital first, fetching Colonel Lin and Mrs. Lin before departing for Jin City.

The journey was smooth without any hiccups and they reached the platoon right on time at nine o'clock.

### **Chapter 472: Recognition Ceremony**

Entering the barracks, they saw plenty of soldiers working in and around the huge center field, laid with red carpet, decorating and setting up the venue for the recognition ceremony. This was obviously an important event; having it at the center field meant that everyone present was expected to attend.

Lu Xingzhi and Colonel Lin were immediately caught up with business and excused themselves from the ladies. Jiang Yao and Mrs. Lin, on the other hand, went back to their respective houses and did some tidying and cleaning up. They kept busy with their own tasks until the privates came with news that the ceremony was starting soon.

Quickly changing into a set of appropriate clothing, Jiang Yao left the house immediately after, met up with Mrs. Lin who was already waiting downstairs and hurried toward the center field together.

They arrived late. The center field was already packed with a big crowd. Jiang Yao stood at the side and could immediately see Lu Xingzhi and Colonel Lin on stage, both wearing a large wreath of flowers on their chest. She thought they looked ridiculous; although Lu Xingzhi seemed to be in a better spirit than Colonel Lin, who was in crutches.

It was a funny sight to behold, and yet, the more she looked, the more solemn everything seemed to be.

The two soldiers stood on stage receiving admiration and praise from the audience, their flower wreaths an honor the rest could only ever dream of. Yet, to achieve the glory, Lu Xingzhi and Colonel Lin almost lost their lives.

Both Jiang Yao and Mrs. Lin stood at an inconspicuous spot. She saw Mrs. Lin smiling, albeit with tears in her eyes.

The General was on stage giving out the medals. Pinned on to their breast pocket, it shined a shade brighter than the blazing afternoon sun.

Lu Xingzhi stood on stage but kept looking down at the audience, even when the General was fastening his medal, much to the General's chagrin.

"Attention! Is not seeing your wife for a few minutes going to kill you?" The General berated Lu Xingzhi, to the audience's amusement. Laughter soon erupted across the field.

Turning his attention back toward the general, Lu Xingzhi saluted.

The ceremony was a brief affair, particularly due to the honoree's injuries. The General gave a short speech after awarding the medals and the ceremony was adjourned.

As the crowd dispersed, Lu Xingzhi finally found Jiang Yao, he waved at her.

"Darling! Do I look handsome today?" Colonel Lin was even more blatant than Lu Xingzhi as he called out to Mrs. Lin.

"Yes! Colonel Lin looks hotter than Sergeant Lu!" The crowd replied.

"Shoo! Nobody asked for your opinion!" In crutches, Colonel Lin hobbled over wanting to approach Mrs. Lin.

Both Jiang Yao and Mrs. Lin immediately jogged toward the men. Mrs. Lin steadied Colonel Lin while Jiang Yao stood in front of Lu Xingzhi and touched the big flower wreath hanging from his neck. "You look like a groom from the olden days."

Lu Xingzhi chuckled. "You want to be the bride again tonight?"

Jiang Yao pretended not to hear Lu Xingzhi's remark. Whatever she replied, he would tease her regardless, might as well stay quiet and ignore him.

### **Chapter 473: Memorial Service**

With their prolonged departure and subsequent perilous experience, Lu Xingzhi and Colonel Lin were swarmed on their way out by a big crowd of people.

Both were awarded the First-Class Merit Medal for their heroics. This was an honor many people might never ever receive.

"Colonel, Captain, many soldiers sacrificed their lives for this rescue mission. The platoon started a fund-raising campaign, do you want to donate?" Zhou Junmin asked.

Even though the Jin City platoon sent Colonel Lin and Lu Xingzhi for the rescue mission, the other platoons were hit with many casualties. The fund-raising campaign was started to ensure that the family members of the sacrificed soldiers were taken care of.

"Of course." Colonel Lin stated the amount he wanted to donate after learning how much his superiors and subordinates gave.

Before Lu Xingzhi could ask, Zhou Junmin said, "The captains of other squads donated amounts between thirty thousand and a hundred thousand."

"I'll donate a hundred thousand then." Lu Xingzhi replied and left with Jiang Yao.

He had the means to donate more, but he knew better than to upset the unwritten rules and social etiquette in the military.

Yes, Lu Xingzhi was well-off. However, he was only a captain in the platoon. If he suddenly contributed a large amount of money to the campaign, his popularity would rise but his superiors would not be happy about it.

There were many ways to shine and make yourself known; this was not one of them.

The platoons prepared buses to transport all involved people to the memorial service at Jindo City. The service was held at the Martyrs' Cemetery, located right at the outskirts of the city. All sacrificed soldiers whose body was not sent back to their respective hometowns were interred here.

It was here that Jiang Yao saw Zhou Weiqi's crush again.

The people beside Zhan Qiuhe must be her parents. Mrs. Zhan looked extremely frail, with her bones showing through her skin; the pain of losing her sons must have been too much for her to deal with.

"According to Weiqi, Zhan Qiuhe's elder brother was buried here a few years ago, her parents were a mess and actually fainted during the service then. Her younger brother joined half a month ago; she cried until she could not even speak." Jiang Yao looked at the Zhan family sympathetically. Not everyone could handle the painful blow of a double tragedy happening so quickly.

Jiang Yao understood the pain of seeing a loved one laid to rest forever underground. It was an urge, a massive impulse, to dig up the soil with one's own bare hands and wake the deceased up.

"I'll say this again, Lu Xingzhi, no matter how dangerous your future missions are, you have to return alive," Jiang Yao said, emphasizing each and every word.

Lu Xingzhi looked at Jiang Yao in silence. Finally, he replied with a firm and forceful nod.

Before the memorial service began, Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao walked up to the Zhan family.

#### **Chapter 474: Military Title**

Zhan Qiuhe recognized the approaching couple. She wiped her tears away and greeted them puffy-eyed, "Hello Mr. Lu and Mrs. Lu."

"Just call me Brother Lu like how Weiqi does it," Lu Xingzhi said matter-of-factly.

Noticing Zhan Qiuhe's surprised expression and both her parents puzzled looks, he quickly added, "Your uncle is my mentor, we're not that distant, right?"

Mr. and Mrs. Zhan nodded, not putting any more thought into what Lu Xingzhi just said.

"My deepest condolences to you. The dead have passed, the living must move on. Mr. and Mrs. Zhan, you still have a daughter with you, please take care of your health." Lu Xingzhi looked away toward the horizon, his voice deep yet distant. "Your sons are national heroes. They do not lay here alone for they have the companionship of many more heroes just like them."

Lu Xingzhi was not great at comforting people but the words he spoke were genuine and sincere, soothing the distressed mind of his listeners.

Perhaps because his expression was solemn and his eyes betrayed the pain he was feeling or perhaps because he was wearing the same military uniform as the sons they lost.

The memorial service was attended by a lot of people. The top brass of the country's government and all individuals rescued were present, including Old General Liang and General Chen.

The service ended two and a half hours later. Even though the bodies of the soldiers were interred days before, with some immediately buried when they were transported here from the battlefield, the time since then was not enough to soothe the pain and agony among their loved ones. Sobs and weeps were heard throughout the duration of the memorial service.

Old General Liang had a private conversation with Lu Xingzhi after the service ended. From what Jiang Yao could hear, Lu Xingzhi would receive a promotion regardless of the formation of the special forces unit.

Curious, she looked at his rank insignia pinned on the sleeves of his uniform but could not gather any information out of it. Only when they arrived home did she ask.

“What’s your current ranking?” Jiang Yao remembered that Lu Xingzhi was only a captain even till the day he died.

“I graduated as a First Lieutenant,” Lu Xingzhi answered as he undressed and changed into a more comfortable pair of t-shirt and shorts, preparing himself to do some house chores.

With his injuries and Jiang Yao’s explicit restriction on any physical training, he could only expend his pent-up energy on Jiang Yao or by keeping the house clean.

“Old General Liang said you will be promoted by year end. What will you be then?”

Lu Xingzhi thought briefly before answering, “I suppose you’ll be the wife of a Senior Captain.”

It was not easy to rise through the ranks in the platoon, particularly for a person like Lu Xingzhi who graduated military school as a First Lieutenant. The higher the ranking, the harder it was to be promoted. Even with the Liang family’s backing, without any combat success or a stellar military record, the chance to get promoted was slim to none.

“What’s my ranking before you came back? Did I at least become a Major?” Lu Xingzhi liked asking questions about his future.

Jiang Yao pretended not to hear him. She dared not tell him the truth where he ended his own future because of her and stayed a Captain for the rest of his life.

## **Chapter 475: Regrets**

Lu Xingzhi knew better than to pursue Jiang Yao for answers. He was a very observant person and by noticing Jiang Yao’s expression, he knew the answer was not as positive as he wanted it to be.

As they just returned, there was not much food at home. After cleaning the house, they went to the canteen together for dinner. Coincidentally, Colonel Lin and Mrs. Lin were there too. Mrs. Lin waved at them and motioned for them to have their meals together.

“I’ll go get us food; you go wait over there.” Lu Xingzhi pushed Jiang Yao toward Mrs. Lin and waited in line.

“Hard at work?” Mrs. Lin asked cheerily. “Things are very dusty back at our place after our prolonged absence.”

“Do you need any help, Mrs. Lin?” Jiang Yao had Lu Xingzhi to help around with the cleaning. Since Colonel Lin was not able to help yet, she offered her assistance.

“Don’t worry, Mrs. Lin can manage it, she got it under control,” Colonel Lin replied.

Mrs. Lin thought the same too. Instead, she asked Jiang Yao if she wanted to do some grocery shopping at the farmer’s market the next morning. Eating out at the canteen every day was not preferred as there was a patient at home now.

As Lu Xingzhi came back with their food, Jiang Yao told Mrs. Lin that she just had her own driver’s license. They could go shopping using Lu Xingzhi’s car, making it a more convenient option than asking for rides from the soldiers in the platoon.

“I heard from Zhou Junmin that Sergeant Ge was transferred back to his local hospital a few days ago?” Lu Xingzhi looked at Colonel Lin. “Did you know?”

“I did.” Colonel Lin’s got a little dejected talking about Sergeant Ge. “His mother stayed at Jin City for two days and said she needed to go back home to take care of her grandchildren, and that there was a lot of farming work to be done, before leaving just like that. Apparently, Sergeant Ge refused to adopt his brother’s son and was reprimanded by his mother. She kept complaining about how Sergeant Ge ruined his career and did not give that man any peace at all. He’s under the care of the nurses over there.”

“And they say mothers love their child unconditionally,” Jiang Yao exclaimed.

“It’s such a pity. Sergeant Ge did very well during the mission before National Day. If not for Sun Cuimei, he would have been promoted next year.” Mrs. Lin shook her head. A wonderful man and a capable soldier; his future completely destroyed by his wife.

#### **Chapter 476: Her Opinion**

Lu Xingzhi was silent. After all, he did everything he could for Sergeant Ge.

They went back home after the dinner at the canteen. Lu Xingzhi closed the windows right after he entered the house. Since heating was centralized here at the platoon, he was worried that Jiang Yao would get chilly.

The night was still young. Lu Xingzhi sat in his study listening to the radio broadcast while reading a book. Jiang Yao sat beside him and fixed her gaze onto him.

She broke into a smile only when he looked up and met her gaze.

“Come here.” Lu Xingzhi was in a jovial mood. He knew that Jiang Yao was looking at him all this time and he felt really good about it.

She got closer and was pulled into his embrace. She sat on his lap.

Jiang Yao was very candid about it. There was no one else around them, they could do whatever they wanted. She nuzzled on his chest a little bit before saying, “I have an idea, do you want to hear it? It’s about the soldiers in your platoon.”

Lu Xingzhi was a little surprised. "Sure."

He did not expect her to talk about his work.

"The soldiers in your platoon, I suppose only a few of them actually graduated from military schools?" Jiang Yao said. "There aren't many specialized military academies in our country. Plus, there's a group of people who, including Weiqi and Xuyao, choose not to enlist in the military after graduation."

"That's right." Lu Xingzhi nodded. Most of the soldiers in the military were not highly educated. Most of them, just as Sergeant Ge was, enlisted in the military once of age and were transferred to various platoons stationed all over the country.

"Only the few of you learned emergency first aid in school, and since most other soldiers were not of a privileged background and did not go to university, I don't think they know how to do first aid. So, I suggest the platoon teach and train the soldiers a set of first aid skills, apart from daily training. It's a really important skill to have, perhaps it can be used to save their lives."

Jiang Yao came up with the idea after the memorial service. It was the least she could do for the soldiers.

"Some first aid is going to help the doctors tremendously down the line by prolonging the soldiers' live." Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi. His eyes twitched, signifying that he was listening intently. "We can teach them how to recognize some herbs and plants commonly found, taking advantage of the environment to save themselves."

Jiang Yao knew that the soldiers would often conduct missions or trainings in the wild. Having knowledge of some medicinal herbs and plants was advantageous as it allowed them to identify which plant could be used to stop bleeding, which plant could be used to reduce swelling and etc.

"Once I return to Nanjiang City, I plan to start a pharmaceutical manufacturing company. I will prepare a manufacturing line just for the military." Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi after she stopped talking.

#### **Chapter 477: Can I?**

"Is it the medicine you gave me the last time I was out on a mission?" Lu Xingzhi remembered how useful they were.

Jiang Yao nodded. "That's the least I can do. I don't want to see more bodies buried in the Martyrs' Cemetery. Even if they lose a limb, it's still better than dying."

Lu Xingzhi, after a long silence, gently caressed Jiang Yao's hair and smiled.

"Alright! I will submit the training report tomorrow, this is an excellent suggestion!" Lu Xingzhi continued, "Once it's approved, you'll oversee the training. I don't trust any other doctor but you."

"Can I?" Jiang Yao's eyes widened. "I'm only a freshman in medical school!"

"Don't worry, you'll be fine." Lu Xingzhi was adamant. "You know your stuff. Plus, I believe you'll put in more effort than the others."

Not forgetting that if she took charge of the training program, she would have to stay in the platoon for at least a week or two. That meant she would be with him often.

Jiang Yao's capabilities were well-known by Colonel Lin and the Liang family; Lu Xingzhi's recommendation for Jiang Yao to oversee the training program would be approved.

"Go ahead with the pharmaceutical company. Talk to me or Brother Liang if you need any help. Once the medicine is mass-produced, I'll take care of the rest." Lu Xingzhi loved the woman in his arms to bits.

"Alright!" Jiang Yao nodded in earnest. "However, if your superior rejects me as the person-in-charge of the training program, you cannot get yourself into a fight with them, okay? It's fine for others to take over."

"Silly!" Lu Xingzhi pinched Jiang Yao's nose. Who would disagree when the Liang family has got his back?

The next morning, Jiang Yao gave Mrs. Lin a ride to the farmer's market in Jin City. They were both in a good mood and had a good time talking to each other on the way. On their way back home, they stopped by Mrs. Lin's house to fetch her son.

Back in the platoon, Lu Xingzhi went straight to his office and prepared the report immediately for submission to Colonel Lin. Knowing Colonel Lin, he could not stay still at home. The moment Mrs. Lin left, he hobbled over to his office downstairs.

Seeing Lu Xingzhi, the two men locked eyes in unison.

"Hoho, Captain Lu's working sick?" Colonel Lin teased.

Lu Xingzhi grinned. He put the report on Colonel Lin's desk and retorted, "Not as much a workaholic like Colonel Lin."

Colonel Lin knew full well how ridiculous he looked. Seeing what Lu Xingzhi put on his desk though, he was intrigued.

"I don't know who's more of a workaholic here. I just arrived and yet Captain Lu already had his report done and dusted." Colonel Lin joked as he opened the report.

At first, he was still full of smiles, but as he read, the smile disappeared, giving way to an expression of pleasant surprise.

#### **Chapter 478: Ample Gratitude**

"My wife said she's going to start a pharmaceutical manufacturing company when she returns to Nanjing City. Along with that, she'll have a production line ready just for the military." Lu Xingzhi spoke with immense pride.

Colonel Lin raised his head and observed Lu Xingzhi. Not surprisingly, even as he was bragging, his face remained emotionless. His eyes, however, betrayed a certain gentleness, only seen when the words "my wife" were mentioned.

"She's a good one." Colonel Lin suddenly found himself in an awkward situation, not being able to come up with words to describe Lu Xingzhi's wife.



Instead of being stingy with his words, Colonel Lin realized he was not able to come up with a suitable description for Jiang Yao. He owed his life to her, without whom he would have been a crippled former soldier.

“We’ll have to thank your wife one way or the other.” Colonel Lin hobbled out in crutches with Lu Xingzhi’s report in his hands. He was clearly in a hurry to submit the report to the higher-ups, as it was something he had great expectations on.

Lu Xingzhi was very pleased. He tucked his hands into the pockets of his trousers, he wanted to thank his wife too.

How should he go about it?

By showing his gratitude on bed, she would probably like it very much.

Lu Xingzhi went for a long walk around the huge center field after leaving Colonel Lin’s office. This was his only way to keep fit and get some exercise under his belt. Without it, he would have to expend all his pent-up energy onto someone else, whom he believed, would not be pleased at all.

His return to the platoon did not mean that he was back to his usual grind as he was still nursing his injuries. With plenty of time to spare, he took a detour to the canteen and had a talk with the chef since he wanted to cook some dishes up for lunch later.

Jiang Yao took a little over two hours to finish her grocery trip. She was on her way upstairs when Lu Xingzhi returned.

“I’ll take it.” Lu Xingzhi quickly seized the bag of groceries from Jiang Yao’s hand, ignoring her feeble attempts at wrestling it back.

After entering the house, Jiang Yao took a long hard look at Lu Xingzhi. “Are you alright? Don’t force yourself!” The much cooler weather now meant that the vegetables and fruits could be kept longer than usual, hence Jiang Yao bought quite a lot of produce.

Lu Xingzhi ignored Jiang Yao; was she doubting his masculinity? Instead he carried everything into the kitchen.

His cell phone started ringing as he entered the kitchen, with his hands full, he turned his body toward Jiang Yao and said, “My phone’s in this pocket, can you help me answer it?”

Everyone in the platoon knew he was on medical leave, so it could not be anything from work, which meant that it could only be one of his buddies or the Zhou and Du family calling.

Jiang Yao’s hand was a little icy. As she inserted her fingers into his pocket, they brushed his skin through the thin barrier of fabric. Lu Xingzhi let out a small yelp.

“HA!” Amused, Jiang Yao inserted her entire hand into the pocket and rubbed his thigh, only retrieving the cell phone after seeing his face twisted in agony.

“It’s Xuyao, pick it up.” Lu Xingzhi saw the caller ID, and looked at Jiang Yao, giving her a solemn look before putting his attention into organizing the just-bought products.

Even though Chen Xuyao was calling Lu Xingzhi, he was not at all surprised to hear Jiang Yao on the other end of the line.

### **Chapter 479: Horrible Scheme**

“Jiang Yao, do you remember that the Zhou family wanted to force Zhang Lanxiang onto Weiqi?” Chen Xuyao spoke quickly. “Mrs. Zhou, Mr. and Mrs. Du went over to the Li family this morning. They wanted to push forward Zhou Changkang and Li Tianxin’s engagement to tomorrow night.”

“Do you think it’s due to Weiqi’s plan to cut ties with the Zhou family?” That was the only reason Jiang Yao could come up with. “They wanted the Divine Doctor to mend Du Chen’s leg. Plus, they realized yesterday that Weiqi was treated very well by the lot of you, unlike their previous assumptions, and recognized his importance in the role he can play to further the Zhou family’s cause. They’re not willing to let him go.”

Jiang Yao chuckled. “In my humble opinion, Zhou Changkang wanted to get engaged to Li Tianxin hastily not only because the Zhou family wanted to confirm their ties with the Li family as soon as possible, they also wanted to create an opportunity to scheme against Weiqi.”

“Brilliant! You’ve got it all right!” Chen Xuyao exclaimed. “This is what they wanted to do: look for a hooker, have her accompany Weiqi for the entire duration of Zhou Changkang’s engagement night, she will then drug Weiqi and have her way with him before switching her place with Zhang Lanxiang after everything is done.”

“Then, everyone from the Zhous to the Dus to the Zhangs would burst in and catch Weiqi red-handed. They will then force the marriage, with Zhang Lanxiang marrying Weiqi. Let’s not forget she’s now pregnant with Zhou Changkang’s son. Even with Weiqi cutting ties with the Zhou family, they still have Zhang Lanxiang to monitor everything that Weiqi does. I’m telling you; this is an awful idea!” Jiang Yao could not believe how low people could stoop to achieve their goals.

“That’s it.” Chen Xuyao almost laughed his jaws off. “The Zhou family is foolish. If Weiqi wanted to cut ties with the Zhou family, what can Zhang Lanxiang do? Does she actually have the ability to keep tabs on Weiqi?”

Once out of the Zhou family’s grasp, Zhou Weiqi could divorce Zhang Lanxiang at any moment he saw fit.

What a naïve bunch of people, the Zhou family!

“They are betting on Zhang Lanxiang’s baby, what if Weiqi believed him to be his own son? What if Weiqi stays because of the baby?” Jiang Yao guessed.

“Well, what if it is? A baby not wanted can easily be aborted.” Chen Xuyao’s statement sounded cruel and cold-blooded, yet it was the truth.

A child conceived not out of true love, but out of devious schemes and conspiracies; what could the woman do if the man did not want it?

Moreover, Zhou Weiqi had a lady he was in love with. Chen Xuyao was very sure that without the shackles that was the Zhou family, Zhou Weiqi would absolutely go after Zhan Qiuhe.

“You’re right,” Jiang Yao admitted. She then asked if Chen Xuyao had a plan of action.

He could not hold his laughter in anymore. “I told Brother Liang about this and he immediately had people escort Zhang Lanxiang to the Li family together with her pregnancy test results. Weiqi was with Brother Liang, it’s so funny to see his reaction!”

#### **Chapter 480: The Li Family Will Break Off the Engagement**

Jiang Yao was not familiar with the Li family and was not sure what they would do after knowing Zhang Lanxiang’s relationship with Zhou Changkang.

Just as Chen Xuyao mentioned, for the interest of the Zhou family and with the Li family’s approval, Zhou Changkang had no qualms terminating Zhang Lanxiang’s pregnancy.

Without the child though, it meant that they had lost their bargaining power. Without that, they could not do anything to Zhou Weiqi.

“I bet that the Li family will break off the engagement,” Chen Xuyao said. “Mr. Zhou was released by the disciplinary committee only twenty-four hours after he met them. The fact that the Zhou family insulted Brother Lu was common news in the circle. Brother Liang’s involvement in Zhang Lanxiang’s matter clearly illustrated to the Li family that we are all targeting the Zhou family. If they want to be safe from all the chaos, the only way to do so is to get as far away from the Zhou family as possible.”

After hanging up the phone call, Jiang Yao reported to Lu Xingzhi everything Chen Xuyao said. He nodded his head in acknowledgement, his expression emotionless as ever.

A few seconds later, he mentioned, “We may have to go to Jindo City tomorrow.”

“Sure, it’s just a short drive away. Plus, you don’t have anything to do in the platoon, it doesn’t matter where you go.” Jiang Yao shrugged her shoulders; wherever he went, she would follow.

It seemed like Jiang Yao’s return trip to Nanjiang City would have to wait.

Aside from Du Chen’s matter, she would still have to stay for a couple of weeks for the training program. If she were appointed as the instructor, she would like to teach as much as she could.

The couple were deep in thought figuring out when to go to Jindo City, while over at the Zhou family, Mr. Zhou returned home with his tail between his legs. He threw a big tantrum at every member of the family before contemplating his best course of action, one that would be the most beneficial to him and the Zhou family.

Lu Xingzhi was in a much better mood here at Jin City in a house that reminded him of Jiang Yao.

Everywhere he looked, he could see traces of Jiang Yao’s presence: the curtains she bought, the wardrobe she purchased. Tonight, Lu Xingzhi would show his appreciation personally by thanking her in bed; demonstrating his gratitude and showing her how much she was loved by putting his words into action.

He received a phone call from Mr. Zhou a little over ten the next morning; he had Mr. Zhou visit the Liang family at two in the afternoon. After hanging up the phone call, he turned toward Jiang Yao, who was still fast asleep.

Jiang Yao did not like the cold. If she could, she would have wrapped herself in a thick and cozy blanket all day.

Something good came from it though, as Lu Xingzhi did not have to be the one initiating a cuddle. Every night as they lay in bed getting ready to sleep, Jiang Yao would attach herself to Lu Xingzhi's body, hugging him tightly trying to leech some of his warmth.

"You're awake?" Seeing the sudden quivering of the blanket on bed, Lu Xingzhi gently flipped it open, and moved his face closer into the void.

Jiang Yao answered, her voice a little hoarse.

Seeing Lu Xingzhi's lively and energetic state, she added, "You can go for a morning run, or an evening one if you wish. A slow jog for an hour is fine."

By expending his energy elsewhere, Jiang Yao would be spared the nightly physical exertion.

"Sure." He did not mind. "Get up, I'll cook something up for breakfast. We'll go to Jindo City after that. Mr. Zhou called me just now, I asked him to meet us at the Liang family's at two o'clock."