

Chapter 981: Loneliness Like the Snow

At that point, Zhou Weiqi sighed. "I don't know why you and Big and Brother are getting a divorce, but I feel quite sad about it. For both of you, and also for you. Ruoran, you are a woman; you don't have to pretend to be strong. If you have any difficulties, remember to look for us. You will be abroad, so it will not be easy. You'd better come back. At least we'll be here to help you."

"You finally sound like a human." Luo Ruoran patted Zhou Weiqi's shoulder with a satisfied expression. "Don't worry; don't you know my temper by now? I've suffered enough at the hands of others since I was young."

There was only one person who could make Luo Ruoran suffer so, but she had already tried to let it go.

That was also the reason she chose to leave the country. She wanted to leave Jindo City by herself and venture into the outside world. One would not have time to let their imaginations run wild when one was busy.

The atmosphere during the meal was too depressing. After the announcement about the divorce, the group chatted for a while; they did not say anything more about the divorce.

After all, it was not an interesting topic. They were sensible enough not to ask Liang Yueze and Luo Ruoran about the reason for their divorce.

They had gotten married very suddenly, but no one expected their divorce to be even more abrupt.

After dinner, Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi returned to Jin city in Zhou Weiqi's car. Zhou Weiqi sighed countless times along the way. He felt lonely when his two passengers did not reply to him.

"Third Brother, Third Sister-in-law, can you say something?" Zhou Weiqi said, "I'll go to your place this New Year. I have nowhere to go anyway. I can stay in your study."

"Grandma Liang and Auntie Liang have already said that you can go to the Liang family this year," Lu Xingzhi replied without raising his head. "Aunt Liang called me specifically and said that I'm not allowed to snatch her son from her."

Then, Lu Xingzhi ignored Zhou Weiqi. He lowered his head and looked at Jiang Yao, who leaned against his body; she looked drowsy. He knew that she had not had a good rest after their flight back to Jindo City the previous night. He said in a low voice, "You can sleep for a while. I'll wake you up when we're there."

Zhou Weiqi looked at Jiang Yao in the back seat with a bitter expression. Coincidentally, he saw her raise her head and kiss his brother's face. Then, she acknowledged him. At that moment, the chauffeur, Zhou Weiqi, felt that his life was as lonely as the snow.

"Forget it. I'll go to Jindo City; Zhan Qiuhe is there. Then, I'll go to the Zhan family's residence on the second day of the New Year." Zhou Weiqi felt provoked by the two people in his backseat. "I also want to experience the life of someone's son-in-law in advance."

After that, Zhou Weiqi nagged about something that Jiang Yao did not know as she leaned on Lu Xingzhi's body and fell asleep. Eventually, her husband woke her; they were already at the barracks.

Zhou Weiqi was in a hurry to get to work, so he did not go in with them. Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi got out of the car and watched the man leave. Then, they carried their luggage and went inside. Coincidentally, they met Colonel Lin and his wife.

They had not seen them for two months; Colonel Lin could already walk quite nimbly. The husband-and-wife pair did not see Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi, who could not hear what Mrs Lin said before she slapped Colonel Lin as the man chuckled and ran away. One would not believe that the man had suffered a severe injury from the way he ran.

Chapter 982: Thick-skinned

“Colonel Lin, Mrs Lin!” Jiang Yao smiled when she saw the two of them. She greeted the husband and wife, who seemed to be heading their way as they played.

Suddenly, Colonel Lin realized that there were two people there, and his expression changed immediately. He turned around toward his wife and said pretentiously, “This is the army; no one fools around here.”

“Fine! I’ll beat you up when I get home!” Mrs Lin said to Colonel Lin. Then, she walked toward Jiang Yao with a face full of surprise. “Oh, Sergeant Lu, you’re back so soon? And Jiang Yao is also here? Finally! I haven’t seen her in a few months, but it felt like a long time. Even my brat asks after her from time to time.”

“It seems like everyone loves me here.” Jiang Yao praised herself shamelessly.

“Yes, everyone loves you! Alright, I shall not bother you any longer. Since you have just come back, you won’t have food at home. Come to our house for dinner tonight.” Mrs Lin chuckled and waved her hand at Jiang Yao. Then, she gestured to the bag in her hand. “I just bought some fresh groceries, so you’ll have a good meal tonight.”

After they accepted Mrs Lin’s invitation, Jiang Yao followed Lu Xingzhi upstairs. As he opened the door, Jiang Yao leaned against his back like a pile of soft bones. Suddenly, she heard a sound from the opposite door, and she jumped back like a startled bird. She took two steps backward and left Lu Xingzhi’s back hurriedly. She touched the tip of her nose as she looked at the opposite door.

She thought someone would come out from the opposite door, but no one came out, not even after a few seconds.

“Get in.” Lu Xingzhi glanced at the tightly shut door before he reached out to pull Jiang Yao forward and pushed her through the door. After he entered the door, he explained, “There’s a new resident from the opposite door. He’s a major from the Third Battalion. His wife is pregnant, and his mother is here to take care of her.”

“Since I’m here, do you want me to go and greet her later?” Jiang Yao asked.

“Greetings?” Lu Xingzhi placed Jiang Yao’s luggage on the ground as he said, “The major is a nice person, and his wife is also quite timid. It is quite easy to get along with them. However, the problem is with his mother. I don’t really know how to describe her to you.”

When the major and his wife had moved across the street, Lu Xingzhi did not have any objections about that. However, when the man's mother arrived, he did not know how to describe his feelings."

"What's wrong?" Jiang Yao asked.

"I am currently only a sergeant, but the major is a battalion commander. So, he has more soldiers under his command than I do. His mother thinks that he is my leader because of this reason. She feels that anyone below his son's position should always respect her. The old woman is greedy and thick-skinned. When she wants something from others, she'll find a way to ask for it. She has only been here for less than a month, but she has caused many problems for the major. He said that he plans to send her back to the countryside after the New Year. His mother-in-law will come and look after his wife instead."

Jiang Yao finally understood why Lu Xingzhi had that expression on his face a few moments ago. It was most likely because they lived so close to each other. The major's mother must have thought that Lu Xingzhi was only a sergeant when she saw him, and she had looked down upon him.

Chapter 983: You Have to Live to be 100 Years Old

After he explained that, Lu Xingzhi took Jiang Yao's luggage and went into the bedroom. Then, he unzipped the suitcase and was ready to unpack Jiang Yao's things into the wardrobe. After all, she would have to stay there for at least half a month, so she could not keep her clothes in the suitcase.

Jiang Yao stood at the side as she watched Lu Xingzhi busied himself when she suddenly remembered something very important. She quickly pulled Lu Xingzhi up from the ground and said hurriedly, "I'll do that myself. Go clean the floor and wipe the table. It's dusty since it's been empty for a few days."

Lu Xingzhi stood up, but he did not leave. Instead, he put his hands in his pockets and looked at Jiang Yao, who got down to pick things up from the luggage bag.

"Go and get it done. Why are you just standing watch?" Jiang Yao urged Lu Xingzhi, who was standing still.

"There's plenty of time; there's no rush. I'll do it after you're done unpacking." Lu Xingzhi raised his eyebrows as if he did not know anything. He smiled and refused to leave.

Jiang Yao knew the reason for Lu Xingzhi's smile.

Lu Xingzhi must have guessed that she had hidden his birthday present in her luggage. He had tidied her luggage so diligently because he wanted to take a peek. He did not expect her to stop him in time.

What a sly fox!

Jiang Yao was so angry that she could kill Lu Xingzhi. She closed her luggage bag and pushed Lu Xingzhi out of the bedroom angrily. "I told you to go out and do your chores! I'm tidying up my luggage; what are you looking at?"

"Oh, I want to see the birthday present that my wife has prepared for me." Lu Xingzhi was unbelievably honest. "Since the present is for me, why don't you give it to me earlier? It's the same thing anyway. So why don't you give it to me now? That way, I can be happy for a few days."

“To die early is also the same as dying later. So, why don’t you die now then?” Jiang Yao retorted. After she said that, she quickly smacked her own lips. “Why am I spouting nonsense? Why am I saying such unlucky things? Let me repeat that. You have to live to be 100 years old!”

“Silly wife.” Lu Xingzhi laughed so hard that his chest pounded. When he saw Jiang Yao’s annoyed and regretful look, he pulled her into his arms and hugged her tightly. “Yes, I’ll have to live to be 100 years old. I have to live a little longer than you.”

“I’ll live to be 99 years old, and you’ll live to be 100 years old. So use that extra year to think of me!” Jiang Yao’s face was as gentle as a pool of clear spring water. The smile on her face was bright and beautiful.

She wrapped her arms around his strong waist and pressed their chests seamlessly together.

“It’s more interesting to give the gift on your birthday. It’s a surprise! The longer you look forward to it, the happier you’ll be when you receive it!” Jiang Yao muttered in a low voice. After she thought about it, she decided not to tell Lu Xingzhi that she had not finished preparing the gift yet. That was to prevent him from ambushing her every day when he found out about it; he would always think of a way to see what gift she had prepared for him.

Lu Xingzhi looked at her red lips as she spoke. Then, he lowered his head and stuck out his tongue to lick her lips gently. Then, he deepened the kiss that he had missed for a long time.

Her lips were like a deadly poison that one could never get rid of once exposed to it. However, unlike common drugs that could make one thinner day by day, her poison seemed to have a stimulating effect. It could activate all the cells in his body—it was like dry grass that had been exposed to fire. Once it was exposed to it, it would never stop.

Chapter 984: You Know Him Too

It made him fall into it willingly and pull her into that burning world together.

The kiss made their body burn with passion. Lu Xingzhi used his self-control to end the kiss. Instead, he carried her to the bed to do something else.

It had been many days since someone had stayed in that house. Unfortunately, she was a germaphobe, and the house had not been cleaned yet. The bedsheet had not been changed yet; those were the things that did not take too long to fix.

When Lu Xingzhi released Jiang Yao, his body had already reacted, so he went to the window and stood there for two minutes. It took him two minutes of standing in the cold wind before he finally calmed down. After he was done, he returned to Jiang Yao’s side. He lowered his head and planted a kiss on Jiang Yao’s forehead. “I’ll go clean up. You take your time to tidy up.”

Then, he walked out of the bedroom; he felt satisfied. He even helped Jiang Yao close the bedroom door to show that he would not peek at her.

Jiang Yao put her things away and hid those that she needed to hide. When she walked out of the bedroom, Lu Xingzhi did not do any cleaning. Instead, he sat on a chair in the living room and talked to

someone on the phone. She listened to the tone and content of his words; it was probably his old colleague, Old Liu, that he had asked her to deliver the new year's goods.

That person was from the same country as Sergeant Ge. He had helped Lu Xingzhi arrange a job for Sergeant Ge, who had retired from the army.

Old Liu must have received the New Year's goods that she had sent him, so he had called Lu Xingzhi about it.

Since Lu Xingzhi was on the phone, Jiang Yao turned around and took the mop that he had casually placed against the back of the chair. Just as she was about to walk forward, her husband pulled her back.

Lu Xingzhi was still on the phone, but his other hand, which did not cradle the phone, took the mop from Jiang Yao's hand and put it back where it stood. Then, he pulled Jiang Yao onto his lap before he wrapped his arms around her waist to prevent her from leaving.

"You're on your phone, don't mess around with me, okay?" Jiang Yao pushed Lu Xingzhi gently as she spoke to him in a low voice.

Lu Xingzhi glanced at her, but he only lowered his head and gently pecked her lips. Then, he mouthed, "Be good."

Since the person on the other end was still talking, Lu Xingzhi did not make a sound. He only mouthed the words with his lips, and Jiang Yao understood it because that was how Lu Xingzhi usually coaxed her—he treated her like a three-year-old child!

When she realized that Lu Xingzhi refused to let go, Jiang Yao could only sit on his thigh helplessly as if it was a soft sofa. Then, she deliberately put her ear close to his phone. When he looked at her, she bared her teeth arrogantly and mouthed back to him, "If you don't want me to listen, then let me mop the floor."

Lu Xingzhi curled his lips and pressed them against hers again. Then, he paused for two more seconds as if he was waiting for her to speak before he moved his lips. Then, he quickly said into the phone, "Alright, I got it. Thank you for your help. If Sister-in-law and Auntie liked the food, I'll get my wife to send you some more next time. Dried bamboo shoots are quite rare at your place, but they're common in our hometown."

After they exchanged a few more pleasantries, Lu Xingzhi put the phone away and asked with a smile, "Why can't you listen? It's only Old Liu; you know him too."

Then, he did not wait for Jiang Yao to speak before he carried her in his arms. His action came without warning. Jiang Yao had been sitting on his lap, but she was in his embrace in the next second. She was so shocked that she hugged his neck tightly.

Chapter 985: You Are Too Light

"You are too light, indeed." Lu Xingzhi frowned. "Did you not eat properly when you were home?"

"Is your hand a weighing scale?" Jiang Yao asked curiously.

She wondered why he changed his position to hug her. It turned out that he felt she was too light, so he picked her up to weigh her carefully.

Jiang Yao thought that Lu Xingzhi was an amazing man. She was only two kilograms lighter, but he could tell that she had lost weight at first glance. Then, when he had hugged her, he could feel that she was lighter, indeed. His eyes and arms were as accurate as a weighing scale.

“Didn’t you eat properly when you were home?” Lu Xingzhi sat down on the sofa and pulled Jiang Yao back onto his lap. The next second, he raised his hand and flicked her forehead. “What did I tell you before you went back?”

Jiang Yao covered her forehead where he flicked her. She stared at Lu Xingzhi with teary eyes and complained at the top of her voice, “You have treated me with less gentleness recently! First, you hit me when we were in Rong County, and now you flicked my forehead! Are you now revealing your true nature after we’re married?”

“What true nature?” Lu Xingzhi chuckled. “Don’t you know why I hit you in Rong County? And now, don’t you know the reason I flicked your forehead?”

“Domestic violence!” Jiang Yao gritted her teeth as she emphasized the words.

“I only like to use domestic violence in bed,” Lu Xingzhi replied shamelessly. One could easily tell what was on his mind.

“Hooligan!” Jiang Yao raised her hand to cover Lu Xingzhi’s face and jumped down from his lap. “I’ll mop the floor.”

“The water is too cold; let me do it.” Lu Xingzhi pulled her back again. “Go change the bedsheets, then put the dirty ones on the balcony. I’ll wash them later. You should lie down on the bed and rest for a while. We’ll go to Colonel Lin’s house around five o’clock for dinner.”

“Oh,” Jiang Yao replied. Then, she went back to the bedroom. After she changed the bedsheets, she did not want to rest. She put the bedsheets on the balcony; she knew that Lu Xingzhi would not let her touch cold water in that weather. After she was done, she sat in the living room and watched Lu Xingzhi mop the floor deftly.

Even though Lu Xingzhi was a man, he was not sloppy when it came to housework. He could mop the floor cleaner than Jiang Yao, and he could do it faster than her too.

Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi were from the south, where they had a tradition—the men would take care of external affairs while the women would do the chores. Many men would never do housework when they were at home; they thought that was a woman’s job. Some would not even return a soy sauce bottle when they saw it misplaced in the kitchen.

However, Lu Xingzhi was not like that; if he could do something, he would not let Jiang Yao do it. For example, if it were summer, he did not want Jiang Yao’s hands to get rough from washing—she would need them for her surgeries. If it were winter, he would not allow her to touch cold water.

Even though he was not a doctor, he knew that it was not good for a woman to touch cold water. It would hurt her body if she were used to cold water.

“Put your feet onto the chair,” Lu Xingzhi said without raising his head as he dragged the mop toward Jiang Yao’s place. After she put her feet onto the chair, he quickly pulled it under the chair. Then, he started to talk about Old Liu’s phone call.

“Old Liu told me that Sergeant Ge didn’t report to the police station after he was discharged from the hospital, nor did he look for him.” Lu Xingzhi did not stop his hand movements as he spoke. “Old Liu only heard about Sergeant Ge’s discharge from the hospital sometime later. He must have left because he was afraid that the medical fees would be too expensive.”

Chapter 986: To Reach An Agreement

“That sounds like him.” Jiang Yao knew that even Sergeant Ge’s mother would feel sorry for the money they needed to spend on medical fees.

“Not long after Sergeant Ge was discharged from the hospital, he disavowed his family and married the nurse who took care of him when he was hospitalized. Old Liu said that the nurse was a widow. Her husband died because he drank too much. She even has a young son. Her husband used to beat her and her son when he was drunk, so they did not feel much affection for that man. After the nurse got married to Sergeant Ge, her son took Sergeant Ge’s surname. He sees him as his father.”

“Sergeant Ge is a very nice person, someone who loves children. It is that child’s fortune that he has Sergeant Ge as his father.” Jiang Yao was sincere in her wishes; she knew that Sergeant Ge was a kind man. She was happy to hear that he had disavowed his family; they would only hold him back.

“After they got married, Sergeant Ge stayed at home for about half a month. When his injuries were almost healed, he went out to work. On the one hand, he wanted to earn money to support his family, and on the other hand, he wanted to continue looking for Ge Wenwen. Sergeant Ge planned to work and earn money while he searched for Ge Wenwen, his daughter,” Lu Xingzhi said. “Even though he has another son now, Sergeant Ge didn’t want to give up looking for Ge Wenwen.”

“Sergeant Ge has worked hard to find GE Wenwen. Who knows if she is enjoying her life with her mother or not?” Jiang Yao sighed. She hoped that Ge Wenwen was enjoying her life with her mother.

“Old Liu said that he doesn’t know what kind of work Sergeant Ge is doing to earn money. But I heard that he had sent quite a lot of money to his family not long after that. It seems that he is in business and even earned a lot of money. Perhaps he is prepared to go back for the New Year this year.”

Lu Xingzhi straightened his back and continued to say, “It’s good to do business. It’s expensive to find a missing child, and it’s even more expensive to provide for your family.”

“He would need capital to do business, right? What kind of business can earn money so quickly?” Jiang Yao was surprised by that. “Trading stocks?”

That was not possible. Sergeant Ge did not have a high education; he would not be brave enough to use his money on the stock market. He would not have traded stocks to earn a keep.

“I don’t know. Perhaps Sergeant Ge has his own ways to make money. He did not make money initially, but for the sake of his family, it is possible for him to send some money home and say that he had earned it.” Then, Lu Xingzhi took the mop and went to the balcony.

Jiang Yao curled up on the chair like a cat. She looked at her movements and suddenly remembered that Moe was still in her backpack.

She got down from the chair and returned to the bedroom hurriedly. As soon as she opened her backpack's zipper, she realized that Moe was still sound asleep in it.

"You've been sleeping since last night, oh, God of Slumber?" Jiang Yao reached into the bag to pull Moe out of it and said, "Xingzhi hasn't seen you yet. Come out and meet him."

"No!" Moe's four limbs clawed at the zipper; he shook his head violently. "Either you let me follow Zhou Weiqi for the next few days, or you let me hibernate in your bag for the time being. But you have to promise not to let anyone get close to your bag, not even your man!"

"Do cats hibernate?" Jiang Yao was doubtful about that. "Even if they do, isn't it a little too late for them to hibernate now?"

"I can hibernate whenever I want. Don't forget; I helped you in Yuan City. So when I hibernate, you'll have to take care of me!" Moe raised his head and looked at Jiang Yao. "Let's shake hands and agree on that!"

Chapter 987: Quite Suitable

"You can hibernate at any time? Does that mean you can hibernate without sleeping? I've heard of squirrels in hibernation, snakes in hibernation, but I've never heard of cats in hibernation. Didn't you claim to be a noble pet butler from the future galaxy? So, if you go into hibernation, who will be the butler?"

Jiang Yao poked the cat's head, but she did not reach out to shake his hand.

Then, Lu Xingzhi went into the room with a wet mop. He heard what Jiang Yao said, so he asked, "What hibernation?"

Lu Xingzhi walked too quickly. By the time he realized the situation, it was already too late. Lu Xingzhi's hand had already reached out to Moe; he pinched the cat's neck and lifted him.

"What a small cat! Is this the pet that Manager Sun said you kept in the dormitory for a long time?" Lu Xingzhi reached out and poked the white cat that did not even struggle against him. He knew that Jiang Yao had another cat besides Mimi, but he had never seen it.

When he looked at the small white ball in his hand, he let out a strange exclamation and turned around to ask Jiang Yao. "Is this a dumb cat? Even an animal as timid as Mimi would struggle when someone picked them up. Why is it hanging like a dead cat?"

Jiang Yao also felt that it was strange. If someone had carried Mimi like that, Mimi would have already tried to scratch them before they ran away. Even Chen Xuyao could not touch it when he saw the cat. Why was Moe so obedient in Lu Xingzhi's hands? He did not even curse; he stayed quiet. Yes, he was silent. It was as if he was a dumb cat, just as Lu Xingzhi had said.

"Don't put the cat in your backpack. They have fleas and parasites." Lu Xingzhi took Jiang Yao's bag and looked at it. Then, he asked, "Where's Mimi? Didn't you bring Mimi with you? Did you bring the cat's bed?"

“Mimi is still in Nanjiang City. I left her at Little An’s place,” Jiang Yao explained. She did not bring the cat’s bed with her.

When Lu Xingzhi learned that Jiang Yao did not bring the cat’s bed with her, he took the cat in his hand and walked around the room. Then, he walked out of the bedroom. After a while, he called out to Jiang Yao.

Jiang Yao wondered if Moe had exposed her secret to Lu Xingzhi and if she should tell her husband that Moe was different from Mimi. Then, finally, she walked out of the bedroom.

She did not expect to see Moe’s angry face the moment she entered the living room.

Jiang Yao looked at the shoes in Lu Xingzhi’s hands and then at Moe, who had been stuffed into the shoes, possibly by Lu Xingzhi. She facepalmed for a long time. “Are these your military boots?”

“No.” Lu Xingzhi shook his head earnestly. “They’re Zhou Junmin’s. He came here for a drink not too long ago. After that, he went home in a pair of my slippers and left his shoes here. I heard that cats like to stay in boots. Look! I think this pair of boots is quite suitable for your pet to use as a temporary bed.”

“Meow, Meow, Meow, Meow...how is it suitable?” Moe’s front paws rested on the edge of the boots. He looked unwilling, but when he protested with Jiang Yao, he could only meow softly.

Lu Xingzhi did not understand the cat language. When he heard the sound, he thought that the cat had liked the new nest that he had prepared for it. He even said to Jiang Yao proudly, “Look! The cat likes it very much.”

“Why would you think it likes it?” Jiang Yao wanted to cry, but she had no tears. Instead, she walked forward and saved Moe from Zhou Junmin’s military boots.

Chapter 988: A Stupid Cat

Lu Xingzhi should have stopped while he was ahead. Why did he not put Moe into his military boots to be used as the cat’s bed? Poor Zhou Junmin; he should hurry back to save his boots.

Lu Xingzhi lowered his head and looked at the white ball of fluff on Jiang Yao’s hand carefully. He asked again, “What’s it called? Does it bite?”

“This is Moe,” Jiang Yao explained. “He doesn’t bite. Just take a few old clothes and put them in the study room to make a temporary bed for him. Then, after school starts, he will follow me back to school.”

“It’s better to have a dog than a cat. A dog can look after the house, at least,” Lu Xingzhi mumbled. It was obvious that he disliked the dumb cat in his hand, but since Jiang Yao liked the pet, he would not say anything about that.

As for Jiang Yao’s suggestion to let the cat stay in the study, Lu Xingzhi immediately rejected her suggestion. “There are many important things in the study. He can stay in the living room.”

After he said that, Lu Xingzhi glanced at Moe again. When he saw the cat’s amber eyes, he was stunned. He felt as if that dumb cat had rolled his eyes at him as if he despised Lu Xingzhi.

When he took a closer look, Moe had already turned his head around. Lu Xingzhi touched the cat. Perhaps he had overthought the situation. Why would a cat look at him in contempt? A cat should not have the same emotions as humans, let alone a cat with a questionable IQ.

“Oh...” Jiang Yao nodded. Then, she watched as Lu Xingzhi returned to the bedroom to mop the floor.

Once Lu Xingzhi entered the room, Jiang Yao felt an unmistakable sense of relief. Then, Moe clawed the hands that held him and said, “Who’s he calling dumb? He’s the stupid one! I am a noble pet butler; how could he think that I am dumb?”

“Well, you sound cocky now; why didn’t you say anything before this?” Jiang Yao rolled her eyes and threw him onto the sofa.

He did not say anything. He regretted that he had rolled his eyes at that man. With just one glance, that man’s next glimpse at him made him shudder in fear. He was terrified when the man stared at him; Lu Xingzhi was like a scanner that could read all his thoughts.

Well, he could pretend to be dumb in front of that man. It was better than if he were discovered to be someone different.

He looked up at Jiang Yao again. “You are not allowed to tell your man about me!”

“Why?” Jiang Yao did not understand; she had wanted to confess.

“If I say no, then you are not allowed to do it!” The cat swung its tail unhappily. Anyway, it would never say that it was cowardly, but it was afraid of that man’s aura.

“Bully the weak and fear the strong!” Jiang Yao snorted. “If you continue to be snappish at me, then I will call for him!”

Moe stopped wagging his tail; he withdrew it quietly. Then, he curled up in the corner of the sofa and glanced at Jiang Yao without saying another word.

Jiang Yao left Moe in the living room and returned to her bedroom. She stood at the door and watched as Lu Xingzhi mopped the floor. Since the house was heated, and he was doing manual labor, the hem of his clothes had curled in the heat. It revealed the solid muscles in his lower abdomen.

He continued to work. When he heard the movement at the door, he looked up at Jiang Yao. When he finished his chore and walked past Jiang Yao, he chuckled softly and asked, “Do you want to touch it?”

Chapter 989: To Lose Face

Jiang Yao giggled. She really did reach out and touch his abdomen like a hooligan. His abdomen felt good to the touch. She lingered around for a few more pats until she thought that he seemed to react to it. Then, she quickly withdrew her hand and rushed back to the room.

“You only care about lighting the fire, not extinguishing it.” Lu Xingzhi snorted unhappily. Then, he grabbed the mop and went to the balcony. He thought about how his wife would wait for him that night!

By the time Lu Xingzhi had tidied the house, it was already past four in the afternoon. Then, he told Jiang Yao to get ready to go out.

The two of them did not expect to run into such a coincidence. However, when the couple opened the door and were about to go out, there was a person in the opposite unit.

A pregnant woman stood at the door; she looked to be four to five months along. When she saw movement, the pregnant woman turned her head to look at them. She said, "Sergeant Lu? This is your wife?"

"Yes," Lu Xingzhi replied, but he had no intention of introducing two of them.

Jiang Yao smiled at the woman. They were about to go downstairs when the woman's mother-in-law spoke in an impatient tone. "Why are you fumbling around? Don't your legs work? You're even more useless than an old woman like me!"

"Mom, I just wanted to say hello to Sergeant Lu and his wife," the woman explained in a gentle voice; she sounded a little aggrieved.

The mother-in-law walked out of the house and glanced at the two people who were headed downstairs. She pulled her daughter-in-law through the door while she scolded, "Why are you in such a hurry to say hello to someone when he doesn't even want to greet you? You're always making me lose face."

Then, the door slammed shut.

"Let's go." Lu Xingzhi was already used to it, so he was not affected in the slightest. He held Jiang Yao's hand, and they went downstairs.

Jiang Yao understood what the mother-in-law had meant. Lu Xingzhi was only a sergeant, but the major was a battalion commander. Therefore, Lu Xingzhi should have been the one who greeted the battalion commander's family first. Those with a lower status should take the initiative to welcome someone of higher status; those with higher ranks would lose their status if they were to speak first.

The older woman had put on airs like an official mother by the way she spoke and treated other people.

"I won't stay here even if I'm transferred to the Special Forces after the New Year. It doesn't matter if they want to stay here forever; we only need to endure it for a little bit more time." Lu Xingzhi was afraid that Jiang Yao would be unhappy, so he comforted her.

"It's fine. I've endured people like that. Furthermore, we're different families, so they have nothing to do with me. As long as you treat me well, and Mom and Dad treat me well!" Jiang Yao smiled lightly. Then, she moved closer to Lu Xingzhi's ear and said in a low voice, "Before I came here, Mom gave us a big red envelope."

"Yeah, I know. You are trying to remind me that I have to give you a red envelope during the New Year," Lu Xingzhi teased happily.

Jiang Yao shook her head proudly, but she did not say anything. The smile in her eyes betrayed her mood.

When they arrived at Colonel Lin's house, he was not at home yet; only his wife was home.

"Oh, you're here! My husband will be back in a short while." Mrs Lin welcomed them into her home and brought them slippers that they could wear.

"Where's Xiao Wei? He should be on winter vacation, right?" Jiang Yao asked when she did not see Xiao Wei.

Chapter 990: A Bag Of Vegetables

"He's at his grandmother's house. He didn't know you guys were coming today, so he went to his grandmother's house to play. When Old Lin is done with his business, he will go and pick Xiaowei up on his way back," Mrs Lin explained. "I just called my mother to tell Xiao Wei that you're here. Xiao Wei was so anxious that he wanted his grandmother to send him home immediately. He couldn't wait for even a moment. It was his grandmother who persuaded him to stay."

"Yes, this child is persistent." Jiang Yao smiled happily as she changed into a pair of slippers. When Mrs Lin was about to close the door, she said hurriedly, "Mrs Lin, I saw a big bag in front of your house when we came in. It seemed full. Should we bring it in?"

"A big bag? I'm home. Why would I leave something at the door?" Mrs Lin was stunned; then, she stuck her head out to take a look. "Oh, there is something here."

As she spoke, Mrs Lin bent down and opened the bag to take a look. "Oh! It's a bag of vegetables."

"There's a note inside; see what it says." Lu Xingzhi's sharp eyes saw a piece of paper in the middle of the bag.

Mrs Lin took the paper out of the bag. When she saw it, she shook her head helplessly. "The battalion commander's family sent this. They say that they have a lot of vegetables and they can't finish them. So they sent some here so that Old Lin and I don't have to spend more on vegetables."

Mrs Lin stood up and said, "Some of these look quite unique; something we can't find in our local market. They can't be grown in the north right now. Go in and wait for me; I'll go and return these vegetables. It's not easy to accept things from that family."

Mrs Lin did not want to accept those vegetables, so she sent the bag back while the vegetables were still fresh.

Jiang Yao followed Lu Xingzhi into the Lin family's living room and sat on the sofa. Lu Xingzhi poured Jiang Yao a cup of hot tea and said, "It's obvious that it was the battalion commander's mother who did that."

"Fawning over the boss," Jiang Yao concluded. "She knew that someone was home, but she didn't knock. Instead, she left it at the door. She knew that Mrs Lin would not accept it. And she put a note in the bag. She was afraid that Mrs Lin would accept it but not know who sent it."

Mrs Lin came back very quickly. When she was back, she was not in a good mood; she repeatedly sighed when she went through the door.

“When you go back later, if the battalion commander’s mother gave you a hard time, don’t endure it unnecessarily. You can just scold her back,” Mrs Lin said. “The battalion commander and his wife are good people, but his mother is too difficult.”

Mrs Lin did not say anything else. If anyone in the unit could live across Lu Xingzhi’s unit, who would not be anxious to think of a way to build a good relationship with his family?

The battalion commander was a straightforward man. He was not the kind of person who would play games. He was devoted to the army wholeheartedly. He was not the kind of person who was full of twists and turns. Lu Xingzhi did not expect the battalion commander’s mother to behave like a different person when she moved in with her son.

The battalion commander’s mother came to the army and lived opposite Lu Xingzhi. When she heard that Lu Xingzhi was only a company commander, she treated him like her son’s subordinate.

Mrs Lin had heard some things too. Once, the toilet in the battalion commander’s unit was blocked. The man was home, but his mother had called for Lu Xingzhi’s help. Lu Xingzhi thought that the woman’s son was not home, so he went to help. The two men saw each other in the battalion commander’s house, and the battalion commander was embarrassed when he learned that Lu Xingzhi was there for the problem with his toilet.