

My Dreamy Old Husband

Chapter 56

Sophia could tell at first glance that Bayside University was dead serious.

The stony-faced drill instructors marched in step as they lined up in teams. One could tell at first glance that they were no ordinary soldiers, for they were identically tough and muscular in build, and their identically expressionless faces carried a seemingly replicated air of intimidation and sternness.

Contrary to the military training in high schools, which usually had ordinary two-year conscripts or military school students as their drill instructors, Bayside University's drill instructors were all special forces.

Bayside University's military training was notorious for its uncompromising strictness, for many students of the university failed their military training every year. If a freshman failed the military training, he or she would lose a lot of credit and end up having to redouble efforts over the next four years to make up for it.

Intimidated by the oppressive atmosphere in the military training, the freshmen trembled with fear, whereas the sophomores threw them gloating looks as they passed by.

Even though a year had passed since their military training, the sophomores still had a terrified look in their eyes when they saw the campus being covered in olive-drab, for the scene conjured up their fear of being dominated by the color.

All freshmen of the university must go for military training except for students of Junior Class. However, Nathan volunteered to attend the military training.

Since the campus was in complete chaos, Sophia kept the little Nathan by her side lest he wandered off. Gary had told Michael's men in the military training camp beforehand about Nathan, so they would pay him special attention.

The military power of Bayside City was in the hands of the Fletcher Family, which was also the family who was in direct charge of this military training. Sophia had long been suspecting that Michael was related to the Fletcher Family, so she believed she didn't have to worry much about Nathan, who would be on his home turf by joining the military training camp.

As Sophia led Nathan in search of their troop, they saw Richard and the few others. Xyla, who was wearing an army uniform that failed to conceal the diamond watch on her wrist and the partly visible diamond necklace on her chest, seemed extremely reluctant to part with Richard as she threw herself into his arms while sobbing. Kayla stood aside with her hands full of bags as if she wanted to go camping in the woods.

Contrary to Sophia's expectations, Kayla was also dressed in army uniform.

The university would send some lecturers and sophomore students to chaperone the freshmen at every military training. These lecturers and sophomore students were responsible for dealing with the unforeseen circumstances involving students of their own faculties, such as buying drinks after the end of training sessions and sending collapsed girls to the infirmary.

Richard saw Sophia at a glance as the latter walked past them with Nathan. He called in a friendly voice, "Sophia!"

Sophia paused in her tracks and asked in reply, "Is there something, Richard?"

Richard's eyes brightened at the sight of Sophia in army uniform. "The military training is harsh. Did you bring enough things with you? I have a lot of medications for heatstroke here..."

“Thank you, but I have no need for that,” replied Sophia before leaving with Nathan.

Richard had a wistful look in his eyes as he stared at her back.

After Sophia and Nathan had walked away, Nathan, who had been silent, suddenly said, “He’s disgusting…”

Sophia nodded. “Yeah, he’s quite disgusting.”

All the freshmen assembled in the several playing fields of the campus. After they lined up according to their classes, they were divided into groups.

The number of students in most of Bayside University’s classes was limited to forty. Each class was a company, and over ten companies constituted a battalion, whereas several battalions formed a regiment.

The students undergoing military training were divided into several regiments headed by their respective company commanders, battalion commanders, and regimental commanders, whereas the regimental commanders were subordinate to the commanding general.

It was said that the commanding general held the military rank of Senior Colonel, and he was a Fletcher, as in the Fletchers of Bayside City’s Four Great Families.

Sophia learned these from Hale in advance so that she wouldn’t cause trouble during her military training.

Sophia took Nathan with her as she stood in line with her classmates. The entire field was occupied by her faculty, which had a few hundred students of several different majors. When the time came for the speeches, the faculty’s leaders lectured the students to mobilize them and explain some must-knows about the military training.

After the speeches ended, the leaders began assigning the drill instructors to the groups.

Everyone watched in both fear and awe as a full team of drill instructors entered the field. Countless students craned their necks to peek at them with their eyes full of fear and wonder.

Those selected as the students' drill instructors at Bayside University's military training were all military elites. Not only were they taller than the average person, but they were also burly, and all of them appeared smart and attractive. As expected, most of the good-looking and masculine men had devoted themselves to the country.

Sophia's class was designated as Company 49 of the Second Battalion of the Third Regiment, and the drill instructor assigned to them had the surname Ford. Having a standard height of 180 centimeters, he had chiseled features and a flinty, grave expression.

He wasn't old, but the look in his eyes was as fierce as wolves and tigers. One could tell at first glance that he wasn't an ordinary two-year conscript, for he had an unusually loud voice and tremendous inner strength.

Students in Sophia's class were mostly ladies; out of 41 people in the class, only four were male, including Nathan. Company Commander Ford looked unusually tall and robust as he stood in front of a group of ladies, and he held the military rank of Second Lieutenant.

Sophia had done her homework before she came, so she knew that the military training had stringent scoring criteria. Since she always sought after good scores, she would, of course, strive for good scores without ever letting her guard down. Therefore, she stood at attention in the standard military posture from the very beginning.

Commander Ford's eyes were filled with nothing but disdain as his frosty gaze swept over the company of 41 people.

Some of these students didn't wear their uniforms properly; some wore their belts loose, and some didn't straighten up while standing. Furthermore, a few students even had makeup and wore high-heeled sandals without having their army caps on.

Finally, he saw a lady who stood decently and was dressed up to standard, but she had a kid with her!

Commander Ford couldn't care less about the fact that these students were a bunch of delicate ladies. He scolded right away, "Just take a look at yourselves. What the heck are you all wearing? The one who has a piece of sh*t on her head—fall out!"

Everyone exchanged glances with each other before turning to look at the only lady among them who didn't wear an army cap. She couldn't wear her army cap at all since she wore her hair in a bun.

The lady seemed to have powerful backing, for she didn't give a d*mn about the Second Lieutenant. She stepped out of the ranks and said haughtily, "That's not a piece of sh*t, but a bun on my head!"

Commander Ford neither looked at nor responded to her; instead, he called out several other people. "Those who wear makeup—fall out! Those who wear heels—fall out! Those who changed their belts to Anima—fall out! The one who has a kid with her—fall out!"

The few ladies moved out of line at Commander Ford's command, including Sophia, who sighed in resignation as she stepped forward with Nathan.

As soon as she stepped forward, a young man wearing a spotless white shirt and a pair of sports shoes immediately emerged from the side.

Wearing a pair of glasses on his refined and handsome face, he hurriedly said, "This kid is a new student of the Junior Class, and his sister is in the class, so he came with her. You don't have to pay attention to him, Commander Ford."

Commander Ford's eyes flickered as he seemed to have remembered something. Then, he pointed at Sophia and Nathan, saying, "Fall in, both of you."

Sophia promptly got back in line with Nathan as she couldn't help casting her eyes upon the man who spoke up just now.

The man seemed to be less than 30 years old, and he looked unreasonably good-looking with his sharp and artistic facial features, including the pair of thin lips and a pair of attractive eyes. His skin was as creamy-white as milk, and his casually combed hair hung loosely above the tip of his brows.

The female students' eyes sparkled with infatuation when they saw him coming out.

The man was Quinton Clark, a lecturer in intermediate-level financial accounting who could have sold his breathtakingly handsome face for a living but instead chose to teach at university.

For this reason, not only did nobody ever skip his classes, but so many students attended his classes that no classroom could seat so many of them. The students had to save seats in advance whenever they attended his class, for they would have to stand in class if they were late.

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Quinton greeted the crowd as he said, “I’m the lecturer in charge of looking after our faculty’s students this time, and I’ll join you in the army. Everyone, please do your best in your training, obey your instructors’ commands, and tell me in time if something happens.”

The ladies were elated, and one of them asked, “Does that mean we’re going to see you every day, Mr. Clark?”

“Oh my god, I’m so happy!” said another.

However, before the ladies could get carried away with their infatuation, they were interrupted by Commander Ford, who snapped, “Silence!”

Everyone at the scene fell silent at once. Glancing frostily at everyone, Commander Ford said, “From now on, you’re my soldiers, and I’m your superior. Tell me, what is a soldier’s bound duty?”

Intimidated by their company commander’s imposing manner, the group of ladies didn’t dare to speak. Sophia was the only person who answered in a sonorous voice, “To obey orders, Sir!”

“That’s right—to obey orders!” said Commander Ford as he glanced in exasperation at the few ladies who stepped out of the ranks. “Right now, I’m ordering you to put down the sh*t on your head, put on your army caps, take off your heels, and remove your makeup! Put your Chanel, Dior, and Hermès away; these things aren’t needed in military camps!”

Some of the ladies tremblingly did as they were told and got back in line after that. However, the ladies with powerful backing rebelled.

A lady who had exquisite makeup and wore a pair of heels noticed that Quinton was still over there, and she sneaked glances around her for a moment. Then, she suddenly cried out, "Ah!"

After that, she collapsed in a graceful fashion.

"Someone fainted from a heatstroke!" cried the students.

"Hurry and send her to the infirmary!" said a shocked Quinton, who quickly dashed forward and bent down under the envious eye of the ladies. However, as he was about to carry the seemingly unconscious lady to the infirmary, Commander Ford suddenly snapped, "Step back!"

Quinton didn't know why Commander Ford said so, but now that the military training had started, it was inappropriate for him to step in. Therefore, he could only step aside.

Commander Ford then called two big and burly soldiers over. He ordered coldly, "Drag her away."

With that, the two soldiers pulled the lady's feet, dragging her away as if they were dragging a dead dog. The lady wasn't unconscious, of course; she faked a blackout to bluff herself out of the training and have Quinton carry her in his arms while she was at it. However, little did she expect Commander Ford to have her dragged away like a dead dog!

"Aaaaah! Get your hands off me!" screamed the lady in an ear-piercing voice as she was dragged away in a deeply embarrassing manner until her hair was in a mess. In an instant, she became the laughing stock of the entire field.

The air suddenly became tense; all that remained was the lady's hysterical screams ringing in everyone's ears. "Do you know who my Dad and Grandpa are? My Grandpa is..."

Commander Ford ordered, "Pull her heels out while you're at it!"

The two soldiers obediently stripped the lady of her heels at Commander Ford's command. Then, they continued dragging her away, ignoring not only her struggles and screeches but also the raised eyebrows of the entire regiment, battalion, and company.

Everyone got quite a scare, for the lady who had been dragged away just now seemed to have strong backing; even Commander Ford's military rank of Second Lieutenant would pale in comparison with her family background.

The lady with a bun, who had stepped out of the ranks together with the other ladies, flushed angrily as she pointed her finger at Commander Ford in disbelief. "How dare you! You're merely a Second Lieutenant, whereas her maternal grandfather is Major General Leicester! Who gave you the nerve and authority to touch her?"

Sophia shook her head as well. So she's Major General Leicester's granddaughter. It seems that this Second Lieutenant is finished, she thought to herself.

However, when she sneaked a glance at Quinton, she found that he seemed content with being an onlooker despite the kindness that filled his eyes. Moreover, the faculty leaders seemed to be accustomed to such an incident; they also noticed what was happening here, but no one came to diffuse the situation.

Suddenly, a voice answered from the side, "I did."

A figure dressed in a well-ironed olive-drab military uniform approached them from a distance. Looking enigmatic and mysterious, the man exuded an air of boundless menace and authority with his youthful and distant-looking yet elegant

face. He took every step with firmness and solidity as if he wanted to leave deep footprints in the grass, and the military insignia on his shoulders indicated his identity—he was a Senior Colonel!

The Senior Colonel stood still while looking coldly at the farce before his eyes. Despite his expressionless face, he had a murderous look in his eyes.

Upon seeing the man, the girl with ‘the piece of sh*t on her head’ who had been speaking harshly just a moment ago suddenly turned as white as a sheet. She held her tongue in fright, and her widened almond-shaped eyes were filled with immense fear.

Seizing the opportunity, Sophia stood on tiptoe to take a peek at the man. Since there was only one Senior Colonel among the military training commanders, he must have been the Chief Commander of this military training!

He was a Senior Colonel, whereas the maternal grandfather of the lady just now held the higher military rank of Major General. However, it was apparent that this Senior Colonel was even more powerful than the Major General. He was Joel Fletcher, a member of the Fletcher Family!

The Fletcher Family was the number one military family not only in Bayside City but also throughout Cethos. One should never mess with a Fletcher if he or she came across one in the army!

As the youngest Senior Colonel in Cethos, Joel Fletcher, the son of the head of the Fletcher Family of Bayside City, was only a step away from becoming a Major General. Only an event like Bayside University’s military training was major enough to be graced with the presence of such an important character like him.

Even the fiercest and most unreasonable lot of the prestigious families didn’t dare to make a sound in his presence. Therefore, Major General Leicester’s granddaughter—who had been screaming like a tortured hen just now—held her tongue as well.

Joel Fletcher looked frostily at everyone before withdrawing his gaze. Then, he gave Commander Ford a slight nod of approval and left.

For some reason, Sophia had a feeling that Joel Fletcher had just taken a glance in her direction. Was Michael actually related to the Fletcher Family of Bayside City? Also, did Joel know her in person?

She had dug for information about the Fletcher Family before, but there was pathetically little information about them on the Internet. All she could find were names, and there weren't even photos of them available. According to the information Hale had obtained, there really wasn't a person named Michael in the Fletcher Family, and nor was Nathan's name listed among the Fletchers.

The lady with a bun trembled all over with fright. Commander Ford stared coldly at the several defiant ladies from rich families as he said, "I'm giving you two choices right now: either get out of my troops or do as I say!"

Expulsion from the troops would mean that they failed to complete their military training. Not only would their academic results over the next four years at university be affected directly, but they might even be unable to obtain their degrees.

The lady with a bun glanced at Major General Leicester's granddaughter, who was being dragged away. Then, with great reluctance, she untied her bun while shedding tears of grievance.

Commander Ford didn't take pity on her at all though. He ordered, "Get back in line in a minute!"

The lady wore her untied hair in a ponytail with a pout before putting on her military training cap and getting back in the line. Soon after that, the lady who had been dragged away was released back into the ranks while sobbing. With that, the bunch of rich ladies was finally silenced; they did as they should since they didn't dare to stir up troubles again.

The students numbered off before they were repositioned according to their heights. Since Sophia was taller among the ladies, she was positioned at the head of the row. Nathan, on the other hand, was positioned at the end.

Commander Ford pointed at Sophia, saying, “You—the one who brought a kid with you—fall out. You’ll be the pacesetter from now, and you’ll be in charge of gathering the troops on time for training every day.”

“Yes, Commander!” Sophia was very pleased; little did she expect that she would become the pacesetter on the first day of her training.

After the troops were put in order, everyone lined up and boarded the bus one after another to head to the military camp. Nathan kept dozing off as he sat next to Sophia, who kept her eyes open to stare at the scenery outside the bus window since she actually looked forward to the military training.

The buses passed through Bayside City’s main street in a grandeur akin to the procession of a royal princess making an inspection tour as somebody even cleared the way for them. After about three hours, they finally reached the suburbs. Sophia, who was feeling sleepy, was startled as soon as she opened her eyes. Is there still such a desolate place in the suburbs of Bayside City?

All she could see outside the bus window was a continuous stretch of barren mountains and untamed rivers. Not a sign of human habitation was in sight, and there weren’t any modern things available other than the asphalt road under their feet.

The students on the bus were stunned. They felt as if they were trafficked deep into the mountains, for it wasn’t quite possible for them to sneak out of this place!

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The buses rode deep into the mountains for about another hour before they finally saw signs of human presence. A majestic olive-drab gate that stood concealed among the mountains opened before their eyes, revealing rows after rows of simple yet neatly arranged barracks inside.

This place was where they would spend a month.

As Sophia looked at the surrounding mountains and rivers, she suddenly recognized this place. This place was Audistin's hunting ground!

This hunting ground was the only actual hunting ground in Bayside City, and many beasts were raised inside for the hunting pleasure of the scions of noble families. In other words, there were lots of wild animals nearby.

Quinton was the lecturer in charge of accompanying the students on their military training. He had probably chaperoned the students many times, for he knew a lot about the military training camp. He kindly reminded everyone, "The military training camp is just next to the hunting ground, so please be careful and don't wander around. Some students were bitten to death by tigers a few years ago when they sneaked out by climbing over the wall."

Sh*t, this is going to be serious! thought Sophia to herself. She had thought of climbing over the wall at midnight to wander nearby, but who would dare to sneak out under such circumstances?

Luckily, the military camp was situated next to Audistin's ground, which was her home turf.

Sophia led Nathan into the military training camp in the best of spirits. Everything seemed very new to her, including the spacious training ground, the rows of barracks, and the olive-drab color that came and went around them. However, Nathan seemed to be unhappy; perhaps it was because he had not gotten enough sleep on the bus, for he kept pouting his lips.

Sophia soon found her barracks, which accommodated twenty people. Inside the barracks were bunk beds and two rows of desks with a desk for each person. On each desk was a tooth mug with toothpaste inside, whereas below each desk was a thermos bottle. Instead of being air-conditioned, the barracks had only a few large fans.

The ladies were still complaining about the barracks' poor living conditions. Even the civilian students, who mostly came from well-to-do middle-class families, had never borne such hardships, let alone children of wealthy families.

Nathan should have been staying in a male dormitory, but for some reason, he was assigned to the same barracks as Sophia's; he took the bunk above hers.

As Sophia put her stuff in their proper places, she muttered to herself, "Does Michael really have no qualms about putting his son in here?"

After putting her stuff in place, Sophia went out to have a look. There were many barracks here, for every barracks could accommodate twenty people, and there were at least four thousand new students in this batch. Therefore, the barracks covered an extensive area.

They had half a day to rest, recuperate, and get used to the place. Wearing a pair of slippers, Sophia took Nathan for a leisurely stroll around the military training camp.

However, she didn't expect the military shoes she placed under her desk in the barracks to have a few nails put into them after she left.

Nathan seemed to be very familiar with the military training camp as he guided Sophia around the place with ease and introduced every place they came to.

“That’s the infirmary. Your husband’s men are inside, so you can have them do me a favor by writing a sick note for you to skip military training.”

“Don’t lose your way. This place is big, so follow me closely.”

They strolled around for a while before arriving at the back door of the military training camp. This military training camp was heavily guarded and strongly fortified, so it was almost impossible to climb over the wall. Besides, this place was easily guarded but difficult to attack; people could only get in and out through the front gate and the back door.

One must swipe his or her ID card in order to enter or leave the military training camp. Nathan took a card off his neck and swiped it.

With that, the wicket gate opened with a beeping sound, and Nathan went out through the gate calmly while still holding Sophia’s hand.

The group of special forces guarding the gate with live ammunition stayed perfectly still as though they didn’t know that a kid was swiping his card to leave the camp.

After they exited the camp, a Second Lieutenant came riding a military tricycle and took them for a ride.

The tricycle rode on the deserted road for about more than ten minutes before it arrived at a stretch of open land, which seemed to be a large vegetable farm equipped with polytunnels.

Is this the military training camp’s vegetable farm? Sophia thought to herself.

The military camp was too far away from residential areas since it was situated in a barren mountain. Therefore, it was only natural that the troops cleared out a plot of land to plant some vegetable crops for daily consumption.

As she had expected, there were soldiers growing vegetables on the farm while dressed in olive-drab.

Nathan brought Sophia into one of the polytunnels without saying a word. Sophia was puzzled as to why he did so, but on second thought, she realized it wouldn't be possible for her to be kidnapped and sold by a little brat. Therefore, she entered the polytunnel after him.

As she entered the polytunnel, she was suddenly overwhelmed by the sight of countless big watermelons before her eyes. As it turned out, this place was used to grow watermelons.

The ground inside the polytunnel was covered in sandy soil, and heat lamps were used to resemble the environment best-suited for growing watermelons. As a result, the watermelons here were especially huge in size.

As it turned out, they were here to pick watermelons.

Nathan entered the watermelon field and looked around before picking a small watermelon that he could carry just fine. Sophia picked a few big watermelons as well. She was quite an expert at picking watermelons, for her maternal grandfather's family used to grow watermelons in their hometown village.

After they finished picking watermelons, somebody helped them load the watermelons into the car and even drove them back to the military training camp.

Sophia was now even more certain that Nathan was related to the Fletcher Family of Bayside City.

The car drove straight into the military training camp when it arrived and dropped them off at the camp's cookhouse. After the cooks cut all the watermelons into

halves, Sophia and Nathan ate one half of a watermelon each, whereas the remaining watermelons were wrapped in cling film and stored in the refrigerator.

Sophia, who had been thirsty, felt refreshed all over after eating the watermelon. She wiped her mouth and asked Nathan, "Tell me, kid, how did you know there's a vegetable farm over there? Also, who gave you that card?"

Sophia had thought that the card was an amulet since Nathan wore it around his neck all the time; little did she expect that it was actually a card.

Nathan nibbled at his watermelon as he replied coldly, "Shut up and eat your watermelon."

Since he didn't answer her question, Sophia didn't ask him again. After finishing off her watermelon, she committed this place to memory lest she couldn't find it when they came to eat watermelons next time.

Nathan finished off his watermelon and wiped his hands. After that, he said, "Be careful; someone put nails in your shoes."

"Huh?" Sophia asked, "How did you know that?"

"Somebody told me about that, of course!" answered Nathan.

Someone actually put nails in her shoes? It seemed that those people would never stop until she was dead!

If she unknowingly stepped on the nails, she would be unable to undergo her military training. Not only would she lose her credits for military training, but she might also end up being crippled!

Sophia felt refreshed all over after eating her watermelon. Suddenly, an idea came into her mind, and she said, "I have a plan."

She rushed to the infirmary with Nathan after leaving the cookhouse. On their way to the infirmary, she saw a military vehicle passing by in front of them. She immediately moved back to make way for the vehicle; to her surprise, however, the vehicle stopped in front of them.

The military vehicle's door opened, and a pair of polished military boots came into her sight. Then, the wearer of the boots also walked straight up to them.

Sophia looked at the man who shone with a glaring olive-drab brilliance.

He was Joel Fletcher, the eldest son of the Fletcher Family of Bayside City. It could be said that he was the wealthiest of the wealthy and the most powerful among the princelings in Bayside City. Moreover, his whole body exuded an intimidating aura, causing Sophia to have difficulty breathing in his overwhelming presence.

As Joel walked straight up to them, Nathan suddenly hid behind Sophia; he seemed to be very afraid of Joel.

However, Joel suddenly crouched down to be on a similar level with Nathan. In contrast to the stern look he adopted during the admonitory speeches just now, he had a smile on his face as he extended his hand to Nathan at this moment. He asked, "Do you still remember your uncle, Nathan? I'm your mother's brother. I even cuddled you before!"

Sophia was startled by his words. Uncle? So is Joel Nathan's uncle? Doesn't that mean Nathan's mother is a Fletcher? Isn't Michael his Dad?

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Sophia was perplexed, but Nathan seemed to be scared of this man, for he kept hiding behind her without speaking.

Joel stretched out his hand to pat Nathan's head, asking, "I heard that you went picking some watermelons in the vegetable farm just now?"

Nathan didn't answer Joel though, for he seemed to be truly terrified of the latter. Despite his commanding presence at home, he looked like a dog with its tail between its legs in front of Joel on this day.

Joel was indeed very intimidating, for all ladies in the military training camp probably admired and feared him at the same time.

They wanted to get noticed by the person who was both the Fletcher Family's eldest son and the youngest Senior Colonel of Cethos; at the same time, however, they were afraid of the suffocating and intimidating aura that emanated from him. Only those who had steeled themselves in actual battlefields would have such an imposing manner.

Sophia quickly shielded Nathan with her body as she eased the tension in the air by saying, "Hello, General. This kid is a little shy, and he doesn't like to speak."

Joel stopped embarrassing Nathan further; he slowly rose to his feet, standing before her and looking like an immeasurably high mountain with his height of 190 centimeters. Then, as a probing look flickered in his eyes, Sophia felt like she was treading on thin ice. She was so frightened that her back was covered in sweat.

Joel looked her up and down with a stern face before he suddenly broke into a smile. "You must be Sophia, right? I'm Michael's cousin, Joel."

Oh my god, so Michael really is a direct descendant of the Fletcher Family! I never expected him to come from such an influential background as he seems so inconspicuous and unassuming. Besides, why would Joel know my name?

Why is Nate so terrified of him? Since Michael is a Fletcher, why couldn't his name be found among the Fetters? Things are so complicated in an influential family! Sophia thought to herself.

Having decided to speak less, she answered reverently, "I'm Sophia Edwards, General."

Joel nodded as he said in a relaxed tone, "I never expected Michael to marry earlier than I do. It's too bad that he didn't tell me about his wedding, or I would have given you two a great present."

Sophia complained in her mind, There wasn't a f*cking wedding at all, for we merely registered for marriage!

She answered simple-mindedly, "I'll make sure to tell you next time!"

Joel was dumbstruck for a moment before he laughed. "You two should go back quickly, for the military training will start officially in an hour. We're a family, so let me know if you have any difficulties."

Sophia replied with a nod, "Thank you, General."

With that, Joel got back into the military vehicle and left, whereas Sophia headed off in the infirmary's direction with Nathan.

As she was on her way, she recalled and pondered over the conversation she had with Joel just now. It's so miraculous that the cool and distant commanding general spoke to me in such a mild manner, she thought to herself.

“Hmph!” Nathan, who had clung to her thigh while huddling up in fright a while ago, was aloof again as usual. He warned Sophia with a snort, “Joel is not an easy person to deal with. Stay away from him in the future, but if you meet him by chance, just play the fool like what you did just now.”

“Huh? Did I look like a fool just now?”

“Yeah, you looked so silly that I can’t even bring myself to look at you.”

“You looked even sillier than I did!”

The two of them argued with each other without a pause as they headed for the infirmary...

Sophia went back to her dorm in her slippers and sat down before changing into her military shoes. As soon as she set her feet on the ground, she screamed, “Aaah!”

Startled, the ladies in the barracks looked in her direction, only to see her lying on the floor and clinging to her foot as she screamed. Her olive-drab socks were stained red with blood, and the shoes she had just worn had a few nails and broken bits of glass in them. Not only that, but the shoes were also soaked in blood all over!

Everyone turned pale with fright at the sight of the scene. Who would have been so cruel as to put such vicious things in her shoes?

She might have her leg crippled from such severe bleeding!

The ladies discussed it among themselves as they carried her to the infirmary, whereas Nathan followed closely behind them all the way.

As she was carried away, her blood-stained shoes were left in their place. The ladies discussed the incident with each other, but no one knew who the person that did this to Sophia was. Since everyone had either been discussing the

military training or catching up on sleep in their beds just now, no one actually noticed what had happened.

The incident soon startled Commander Ford, who came over and checked out the scene of the incident before going to the infirmary to check on Sophia.

Sophia's entire foot was bandaged with gauze. She lay on the infirmary bed with a look of agony, whereas Nathan sat silently at her bedside.

The medical officer said that the injury in her foot was too severe. Even though her bones weren't affected by the injury, she would likely be unable to undergo training as normal.

If she couldn't join the training, she would get zero credit for military training, which would widen the gap between her and everybody else. If she wanted to graduate from university smoothly, she had to redouble her efforts. Furthermore, she would have to win national awards every year to make up for her zero credit for military training.

Commander Ford's face was as black as thunder, for he didn't expect such an incident to happen within the ranks of his company on the first day of military training.

Just as he was getting all distressed, Sophia struggled out of her sickbed with her face as pale as a sheet. She pleaded, "Please let me carry on with the training, Commander. I can do it!"

Commander Ford immediately refused her insistence, saying, "No. Your injury is too severe, so you can't go on with the training!"

The medical officer chimed in, "It's only a flesh wound, so she can carry on with her training. It's just that she'll be in agony."

Sophia immediately said, "I'm not afraid of pain! Commander, please let me carry on with the training!"

With that, she slowly stood up as Juliette Sanders helped her by the arm. As she set her foot on the ground, she hissed in pain with her face looking deathly pale, yet she gritted her teeth and managed to hang in there. After she managed to keep her feet, she gave Commander Ford a weak, pale smile as she said, “Look! Didn’t I manage to stand up?”

Commander Ford looked at her face—which was covered in beads of sweat because of the pain—before shifting his gaze to her bleeding foot. In the end, however, he agreed to let her carry on with the training.

He knew how important the credits for military training were to a student. If she couldn’t get credits for military training, she would most likely be unable to graduate. As the number one university of Cethos, Bayside University imposed harsh requirements on its students. Batches of students couldn’t graduate from the university every year as they failed to obtain enough credits.

I’ll let her carry on with the training as long as she can endure the pain!
Commander Ford thought to himself.

With that, Sophia hobbled out of the infirmary. Not only did she attend the military training’s opening ceremony on time in the afternoon, but she also stood more upright than everyone else.

Commander Ford kept complimenting her since she had risen very much in his opinion.

The next day after they arrived at the military training camp, the training officially started under the scorching hot sun.

The military training went on in the morning as usual despite the temperature approaching 35 degrees Celsius. The group of delicate ladies sweated profusely as even the best sunscreen couldn’t prevent the sun from making their skins go sallow.

Many ladies fainted on the first day of training. All the fainted ladies received the same treatment in the military training camp—they got dragged away and must rejoin their units immediately after regaining consciousness.

The students complained incessantly in the face of such harsh military training. However, all they could do was complain, for they didn't dare to stand up to Commander Ford at all. If he told them to head east, no one would dare to head west.

As the training was in full swing at the training field, the lecturers and sophomore students in charge of chaperoning the freshmen stayed out of the sun in a shady spot at a side.

The actual role of these lecturers and sophomore students was to prepare iced drinking water along with other things that served to relieve the summer heat. Moreover, they had to act promptly upon noticing someone suffering from heatstroke lest he or she was dragged away by the officers of the military training camp in an utterly embarrassing manner. After all, these students had a sense of shame; it would be bad if they had psychological scars after being dragged away so embarrassingly.

Since it was officially the first day of their military training, all the students learned were the most basic drill commands, such as standing at attention, standing at ease, and crouching down.

It took only a morning before the students began feeling indescribably miserable. The case was especially true when they stood at attention, which required them to stand for nearly an hour with their bodies tensed up all over. Under the hot weather and high temperature, many ladies fainted as they stood. Furthermore, Commander Ford was behind them, literally kicking those who didn't stand up to standard out of the ranks. However, no one dared to speak up against him.

As they were standing at attention under the sun, Nathan ate iced watermelon at a shady spot at a side.

At this very moment, Sophia finally realized what a cruel thing it was when Gary said lightly back then that Nathan would be eating watermelon at one side while they had military training.

My Dreamy Old Husband

Chapter 60

Nathan somehow found a floor mat as he came over and sat on it, holding a slice of watermelon in each hand. Next to him was half a watermelon wrapped in a plastic wrap that Sophia had selected herself on the previous day.

The watermelon looked fresh and sweet, and she could imagine it being as cold as a smoothie, melting right in her mouth when she bit into it; just the mere imagination of it had Sophia almost drooling as she looked at him.

A company was doing laps and when they passed by Nathan, everyone looked over as the drill instructor waved his belt and said, "Look at you. You look as if you're as hungry as a bear!"

Although Sophia's leg was injured, she performed really well. She was a quick learner and excelled in every formation, so halfway through the training, Commander Ford gave her a break.

Sophia ran toward Nathan speedily and she snatched over a piece of watermelon before she started eating like a horse.

All eyes on the training field were on her and her watermelon, and the watermelon had never looked so appealing and delicious.

It was ten thirty in the morning and the students who had trained all morning finally got a twenty minutes break. All of them flocked to the huge umbrella that was set up by their respective seniors and teachers to hide from the sun, and drank water.

Company 45 to Company 50 belonged to the Second Battalion, and the students from the Second Battalion were all from the School of Economics and Business Administration, which was led by Quinton Clark.

The troop ran toward Quinton for water, as he had prepared a large container of ice water in advance. In that moment, every single one of them—regardless of whether they came from rich or poor families—downed the water; they never realized that a small bottle of water could taste so nice.

Everyone was resting under the shade, drinking water and fanning themselves. After quenching their thirst, they looked at Sophia and Nathan eagerly who was eating the watermelon; they really wanted the watermelon themselves, but they were afraid to ask because they were shy, and they felt their relationship with Sophia wasn't that close.

The look of the two eating watermelons attracted a lot of attention.

Finally, someone built up the courage to ask Sophia for a piece of watermelon.

Richard was in his military uniform just like everyone else as he walked over slowly. He majored in financial management, and he was the leader of the School of Financial Management. However, he was always in the School of Cinematography because Kayla and Xyla were from there.

At that moment, Richard brought along Xyla and Kayla to ask Sophia if they could have some watermelon.

“Sophia, can you share some of your watermelon with us?” Richard sounded sincere, but the words seemed to carry a hint of arrogance, as if he was doing Sophia a charity.

Not only had he trained with everyone for the entire morning, but he also had to look after the two ‘princesses’. Hence, the expression on his handsome face was replaced with sullenness, and the edges of his sharp jawline were covered with a layer of sweat droplets.

He felt extremely uncomfortable at the moment. He was too embarrassed to ask, but he really wanted to have a piece of the watermelon.

Sophia would definitely be willing to share it with him.

At that moment, everyone was watching them from the side, guessing if Sophia would give him a piece of her watermelon.

After all, they thought Sophia loved Richard deeply. Someone probably spread the rumor intentionally, so the love triangle between Sophia, Richard and Xyla had become everyone's gossip in school.

The most widely circulated version of the story was no more than something along the lines of the commoner Cinderella who fell in love with the noble Prince, but they were forced to be separated because of her status. Although the Prince had already found his Princess, his love toward Cinderella remained. However, Cinderella, who was abandoned, began to take revenge angrily, and she had thought of everything to get her sweet vengeance on the Prince. Nevertheless, she couldn't let go of her love toward the Prince, so she constantly wanted to draw his attention.

This was the perfect timing for Cinderella to impress the Prince! Would Cinderella grab the chance?

Nathan thought Sophia would agree, so he grabbed hold of his watermelon tightly, as he was determined to not let Sophia give it to the others.

Sophia elegantly revealed a smile in front of everyone, and said, "I'm sorry. This is not my watermelon. You may ask the handsome boy here. It's all his."

Richard felt the kindness in Sophia's smile and his heart softened. He knew she was his girl; no matter how far he went, she would always wait for him and she wouldn't let him suffer.

Xyla felt greatly irritated when she looked at the way Richard spoke to Sophia, but she wanted to eat the watermelon more than anything. Sophia is so much in love with Richard, so she will definitely share a piece of watermelon with us. A piece of watermelon doesn't mean anything!

Kayla thought the same too. Although she thought asking a piece of watermelon from Sophia was very embarrassing, she was extremely thirsty at that moment. She no longer wanted any ice water; she just wanted to eat the watermelon.

Richard was already bending over and asking Nathan sincerely, "Hi, I wanted to..."

"What do you want? Don't even think about it!" Nathan 'protected' the watermelon in his arms cautiously and rejected him with a glare.

Richard cracked a smile, licking his chapped lips and feeling impatient, but he remained elegant and polite on the outside.

Somehow, the boy was able to get hold of the watermelon. Their personal belongings were all confiscated when they entered the barracks, and it was even more impossible to send something in. It was probably because this boy was the youngest student in that year to join the military, so the barracks gave him special care. The piece of watermelon in his hands had become the centre of attention, and in order to get a piece of it, Richard had to pretend to smile. "Boy, I have many fun things to play with. Why don't we trade?"

He presented a watch, which was a Vacheron Constantin limited edition men's watch that was worth a house in a third-tier city. "Look, with this watch, I can trade a lot of watermelons. How about I use it to trade with yours?"

The others thought this kid would definitely agree if he could recognize the goods.

This kid probably came from an ordinary family. Bayside University occasionally would take in geniuses to join the Junior Class. If this kid was a member of the

aristocracy, his name would be known among the aristocrats by now, but Richard had never heard of him, so he was probably only a genius kid with an ordinary background, and he would definitely trade for his watch.

However, Nathan glanced at the watch and he was unaffected as he gave a sharp and decisive reply. "Not trading."

In order to express his determination for not trading his watermelon, he tore off the plastic wrap from the last piece of watermelon and took a giant bite. His face was all covered in watermelon juice.

Sophia laughed as she helped him to wipe off the watermelon juice from his face. "Don't eat too much. You will get diarrhea."

Richard's facial muscles twitched as he smiled awkwardly, then he walked back dejectedly. Although he still walked like a gentleman as usual, there was obvious embarrassment written on his face.

Kayla, who was not far away, was so annoyed that she almost stomped her feet. "That d*mn little kid! He couldn't even recognize Vacheron Constantin! Which village did he come from?!"

Xyla glared at Sophia and left.

I actually let Richard and Sophia talk to each other over a piece of watermelon?! What a massive joke! Those commoners who don't even know chalk from cheese!

Richard was forced to give in and he was extremely humiliated as he walked away from everyone's gaze with a sullen face.

Unexpectedly, he suddenly heard someone screaming excitedly from behind when he had only taken a few steps. "Students from the Second Battalion, Sophia from Company 49 is giving everyone free watermelon!"