

MEI MEI

So you're not even going to fight this? You're the Pro-Consul for the Florida province, yet you're arguing as though your removal is a foregone conclusion. You offer no solutions. No plans, initiatives. Just whining.

ZEDONG

Mei Mei, it's already happening. The Central Committee is sending my wife here next week. To discuss our future. That's the step that happens right before they pack you up and send you home. So right now, let's just document through a series of bullet points why none of this was my fault.

MEI MEI

You need a more muscular response.

ZEDONG

And I'm telling you: frowny bullet points are muscular.

MEI MEI

The army will pin the stalemate on you. They'll say you're losing them the war...

ZEDONG

*(opens the drawer and pulls out some Cognac)*

They've already said that. It's the second sentence of the executive summary.

MEI MEI

So what happens if you go home having lost a war- do you think there's any future for you if you go down without a fight?

ZEDONG

At this point, I'm just trying to avoid prison.

MEI MEI

Defeatist. Why not look for alternatives?

ZEDONG

Like what?

MEI MEI

What about this: three weeks ago the military police caught ten soldiers hoarding contraband?

*ZEDONG (pouring himself some Cognac)*

Despicable.

MEI MEI

They were selling alcohol, marijuana, and pornography to the People's Liberation Army.

ZEDONG

Which we confiscated. You want some?

MEI MEI

Z. Couldn't it be argued that by damaging China's military they represent a direct threat to China herself?

ZEDONG

I suppose. Direct-ish.

MEI MEI

So execute them.

ZEDONG

Excuse me?

MEI MEI

Make it about military discipline. Make the army the problem.

ZEDONG

Hang ten men for beer, weed, and Hustler magazine?

MEI MEI

Move the goal posts. You're not the guy who's losing the war. You're the guy who's fixing the army.

ZEDONG

I don't think so.