

## 48 Hours 1011

### Chapter 1011: Room 936

Zhang Heng did not know that people from the emergency response team were waiting to ambush him in the monitoring room. After all, he was not omniscient and omnipotent. Zhang Heng knew that it was pointless to check out the monitoring room after looking at the number of shots on the elevator door. Besides, the monitoring room was the most noticeable location of the hotel. So, Zhang Heng did not want to join them to have fun over there.

Unlike 0, although Zhang Heng also attached great importance to the four members of the emergency response team, and he wasn't about to change action plans because of them. The emergency response team had the advantage in strength, and if Zhang Heng stopped making a move right now, they would eventually catch up to him. The thing would worsen if they located the memory encoder before him and brought it downstairs to regroup with the federal policemen downstairs. By that time, Zhang Heng would be placed in a passive position.

So, when the four emergency response teams were nestled in the monitoring room, Zhang Heng had already begun to move.

The Four Continents Hotel was a medium-sized hotel with a total of 14 floors and 832 rooms. It would take anyone a lot of time to search each room since the surveillance system had been destroyed.

But fortunately, Zhang Heng did not need to search all the rooms.

The four members of the special operations team were all wearing exoskeleton equipment. The exoskeleton equipment provided them with great strength, speed, and combat ability. But on the other hand, they would leave behind a lot of traces when they moved.

Zhang Heng saw the potholes on the wall left by the suspected exoskeleton collision on the ninth floor. The height of it was slightly above the head of an ordinary person. The body part that caused the pothole was the exoskeleton fighter's shoulder. Other than that, Zhang Heng also noticed a patch of motor oil below the pothole. Zhang Heng then figured that one of the exoskeleton fighters suffered a very violent attack before it fled to this hotel. Although they managed to escape into the hotel, their exoskeletons were severely damaged. And it was most likely that the exoskeleton equipment had stopped functioning.

Zhang Heng continued to walk along the corridor, and soon he found the second and third patches of oil stains... oil stains that extended all the way to Room 946 at the end of the corridor.

Zhang Heng then thought for a moment, but in the end, he decided not to enter Room 936. After that, he took a few steps back and entered the linen room by elevator. Usually, all the hotels would have a linen room. It was mainly used to store some bedding items and cotton towels. Zhang Heng noticed that the linen room door was slightly opened when he passed by. It meant that someone was in there.

Immediately, Zhang Heng drew his gun, leaned his back against the outer wall, stretched out his hand to gently push the door open, and threw a smoke bomb into the linen room. He then counted ten seconds before wearing the Filter Lens to enter the linen room.

The moment he entered the linen room, Zhang Heng tried to move as fast as possible. He rolled on the ground, trying his best to avoid all the possible attacks. At the same time, he quickly looked at his surroundings. In the end, he only saw a hotel staff coughing violently.

The latter curled up at the corner of the linen room, and his body was shaking in fear.

Considering someone had just thrown a smoke bomb into his workplace, her reaction was totally understandable. However, it seemed like she had been curling up there before Zhang Heng even threw the smoke bomb. Zhang Heng only threw the bomb because he did not hear someone moving in the linen room earlier.

Then the hotel staff in the linen room felt that someone was grabbing her arm. Zhang Heng pulled her up the ground and led her out of the linen room to the corridor.

The hotel staff finally saw Zhang Heng's appearance. When she saw him wearing a set of police uniforms, the fear in her eyes dissipated. She was just about to rush into Zhang Heng's arms while crying. However, she did not expect that Zhang Heng would take a step back.

Zhang Heng then asked, "What did you see earlier?"

"Hmm?"

Zhang Heng was very patient, and he repeated, "You should've just witnessed something terrifying. That's why you hide in the corner of the linen room."

"Oh, yes," the hotel staff gulped and gestured, "I saw a man covered in metal running out of the safe passage. At that time, I was about to change the bedsheets and towels in a guest room."

"You saw only one man?" Zhang Heng frowned.

"Yes. Only one man," the hotel staff nodded affirmatively. "I was so scared that I couldn't move, and I collapsed in the corridor, but I had a good look at him." After a pause, she said again, "he doesn't look like he was in good condition. He stumbled while walking."

"Did he escape into room 936 afterward?"

"Yes. He did."

Based on what the hotel staff told him, it seemed like the exoskeleton fighter in Room 936 had left the team. Or, it was because his exoskeleton was too severely damaged, and he decided to leave the team to avoid dragging their feet. If that was the case, the memory encoder was not with him. Therefore, it was most likely that he was ready to sacrifice himself as well.

"Has anyone come to you before me?"

"No..."

"Is that right," Zhang Heng then asked the hotel staff again, "You should have strong detergent in the linen room, right?"

"Huh? Yes."

“Take a few bottles out and clean up the oil stains in the hallway.”

“Huh?” Although the hotel staff was puzzled by Zhang Heng’s request, she still obeyed his order because he was a policeman. She then turned around and walked into the linen room. She tried to look at the two bottles of detergent in a smokey environment. After that, she returned to the corridor.

Zhang Heng looked at the time and spent a few minutes with the hotel staff to clean up the grease in the hallway. Judging from what the hotel staff told him earlier, he figured out the emergency response team had not come here. So, Zhang Heng planned to set a trap for them.

0’s observation and reasoning ability were also outstanding. Although he might not be as good as Zhang Heng, the gap between him and Zhang Heng should not be too big. Zhang Heng believed that if 0 was here right now, he would draw the same conclusion similar to his. There was a high chance that 0 would not go to Room 936 first. What Zhang Heng had to do now was to disrupt his judgment.

The detergent would remove some of the oil stains, but a small amount of it could still be seen on the wall. And there were potholes on the wall. When 0 came here, he would be able to notice all the obvious signs left behind by his enemies. However, he would have a hard time figuring out what was going on in Room 936.

Of course, to achieve this goal, there was one last step for him to do.

Zhang Heng then packed the empty detergent bottles and looked at the hotel staff on the side. Then, it happened that she was spying on him too.

“Come with me.”

“Okay. Are you going to bring me in for questioning?” the hotel staff asked.

“Don’t worry about that. We can do that later. You should have the key to the guest room, right? I still need to do some investigation, and I might need your help.” Zhang Heng continued to play the role of a police officer.

## **Chapter 1012: Go Up**

Zhang Heng brought the hotel staff, a waitress on the ninth floor away, not wanting 0 to know what happened in Room 936. He didn’t mind having a guide to lead the way, especially in areas he was unsure was safe. He could always ask the staff to check whether the path was dangerous. Of course, doing so would put her in danger, but it was highly unlikely that anyone from either side would harm her.

That being said, it couldn’t hide the fact that Zhang Heng was using the waitress as a guinea pig. The waitress didn’t realize that, of course, but she soon noticed Zhang Heng pausing between steps, crouching in front of a wall, or suddenly laying down on the ground, and his actions piqued her curiosity.

After a while, she couldn’t hold back, asking, “Mr. Officer, are you investigating this matter alone?”

“Hmm... What? Why ask?”

“Nothing. It’s just that usually, at least two officers will investigate the same case...”

“There are two of us investigating this, but my partner is busy with other things,” Zhang Heng said.

“Oh... I see.”

The waitress nodded, but after a while, she asked again, “Then, Officer, can you tell me what we are looking for now?”

“Yes. You saw the guy wearing exoskeleton equipment earlier. I’m looking for his accomplices. There should be three other men that look like him.”

“There are three of them that look like him?” The hotel staff’s eyes widened. “Can you deal with them alone, Mr. Policeman, sir?”

“I shouldn’t face any problems dealing with one. Dealing with two at the same time, however, could be challenging. If three attack me simultaneously, I don’t think I’ll be able to handle them,” Zhang Heng confessed.

“Then what should we do when we meet them?”

The hotel staff was dumbfounded.

Zhang Heng did not answer her question. Then, suddenly, they heard an explosion. It came from under their feet. The blast was so violent it was audible on the twelfth floor. The entire hotel shook and rattled on its foundations.

The waitress almost lost her balance. She tried to grab Zhang Heng’s arm to stabilize herself. However, the latter dodged her again. Retracting her hand awkwardly, she asked, “What’s the matter?”

“The man in Room 936 fought with someone,” Zhang Heng said.

“Who is it? Isn’t he fighting with the police?” The hotel staff was puzzled.

“We are not from the same department.”

“...”

“Uh, is the relationship between your department and other departments so different?”

The waitress reluctantly squeezed out a smile on her face.

“No. It’s just I don’t know them well,” Zhang Heng said casually. While he spoke, he squatted down again, studying the flower pot that had been knocked over in the corridor.

He knew the man in Room 936 was prepared to sacrifice himself to eliminate his enemies, and he had deliberately allowed the emergency response team to deal with him. He never thought that O and the emergency response team would actually fall for this trap.

The special operations team couldn’t win the battle at the station when all their members were still alive, after all. There was now only one person in room 936, about to reach the end of his road. With his exoskeleton equipment severely damaged, it would be impossible for him to go against four emergency response team members. However, Zhang Heng did not expect that the latter would eventually detonate the exoskeleton equipment’s power core.

The previous frightful explosion had been caused by the detonation of the power core. Zhang Heng figured that even 0 had to be shaken up by a blast of such magnitude, something which actually bought Zhang Heng more time.

Zhang Heng had been following breadcrumbs left behind by the three special operations team members, the broken flower pots in the corridor indicating they had passed here. Although he also found the same breadcrumbs on the tenth-floor corridor, he discovered that the three switched to a different, safer route in the end.

This time around, Zhang Heng found no such a trace at the door of another safe passage. In other words, the three members of the special operations team were most likely hiding on this floor.

This outcome surprised Zhang Heng too. Initially, he thought that the three would most likely go to the rooftop. Compared to the hotel room, the roof gave them a better chance at setting up a defense line. Moreover, based on Zhang Heng's understanding of Mr. G, he suspected that it wasn't a coincidence that the remaining members of the special operations team escaped into this hotel.

It would be unsurprising if some flying equipment were prepared for them at the rooftop to help them get away from here.

However, it now appeared that the remaining three members of the special operations team would fight their enemies here. Although their courage was commendable, it also meant that their mission had failed. It was no longer possible for them to bring the memory encoder back to the first level.

"What shall we do next?" asked the hotel staff on the side. The explosion that came from downstairs gave her a good scare. Besides, Zhang Heng mentioned to her that there were three other exoskeleton fighters. Even she noticed that the threat was getting closer to them. And she finally realized that she was a guinea pig.

"There's nothing for you to do anymore. You can leave now." Zhang Heng thought for a moment and looked up.

The waitress was taken aback when she heard what Zhang Heng said. She did not expect that she could leave so easily.

After that, Zhang Heng told her again, "A fight will be breaking out here. If you stay here, it's about to get very dangerous. And you better don't go downstairs. Whether you are taking an elevator or a safe passage, it's not safe for you. There is a high possibility that you might be accidentally hurt."

"Where should I go then?"

"Go up," Zhang Heng said. "It's safer if you go to a higher floor. You can go to the fourteenth floor and stay there. I will bring you away from this place when the battle is over."

"Oh, thank you, Mr. Officer."

After thanking him, the waitress went upstairs as fast as possible. Zhang Heng, too, finally started to act accordingly after watching her leave.

He took the key the waitress left him, unlocked an empty room in the middle of the corridor, and put down his backpack.

He had found the location of the remaining three special operations team members before 0. His next step was to acquire the memory encoder. His original plan was to work with the three special operations team members to deal with the emergency response team because they were the strongest among the three parties. Thus, Zhang Heng was confident that he could convince them to work with him. After eliminating the emergency response team, the two sides could work something out to resolve their conflict.

However, for some reason, Zhang Heng knew that this plan was not going to work anymore. A chaotic fight was about to break out here, and his goals had changed as well.

### **Chapter 1013: Explosion And Fire**

0 looked at the unrecognizable room 936 in front of him that was bombed. All the furniture inside had been decimated, the halved bed frame was still burning, and the windows were blown to pieces at the moment of the explosion. In the wall was also a gaping hole, of which the wind came pouring in.

The central point of the explosion collapsed half of the roof, and under the pile of cement and bricks were broken exoskeleton equipment, with some of its parts and components blown out of the room. To be cautious, 0 wouldn't let any of his men open the door. Instead, he did the same thing that Zhang Heng did, and that was to find himself a little white mouse before the explosion to explore the way ahead of him. However, 0 employed more straightforward methods, not even bothering to tell the person that he was a policeman. All he did was point his gun at a hotel guest to make him open the door.

Needless to say, this unfortunate hotel guest was the first to bear the grunt of the explosion. He was engulfed by a wall of searing flames the moment he opened the door. Moments later, he fell to the ground and stopped breathing. Even No.5, standing about seven or eight meters away from him, suffered the effects of the explosion.

And now No.2 and No.7 were busy dealing with No.5's shoulder and chest injuries. A finger-sized piece of metal shrapnel had struck No.5's right shoulder, eventually getting lodged in his shoulder blade. No.5 was now biting his shirt hard, watching No.2 gouge out the shrapnel from his shoulder. After that, No.7, on the other side, quickly disinfected the wounds, stitched, and sprayed on some medical gel. The whole procedure was so perfectly executed that they could easily be compared to hospital surgeons. These were all thanks to the emergency surgical knowledge incorporated into their memory.

Meanwhile, 0, on the other side, had walked over the corpse in front of Room 936 and entered it.

He looked around for a while before his gaze landed on the rubble. He spotted a blackened arm poking out from under mangled steel bars and some twisted metal upper limbs. 0 looked at it for about two seconds, then moved to another spot. No other corpses were in the room, proven by the explosion at the scene. Looking at the damage caused by the explosion, 0 deduced that the blast should've been caused by a meltdown of the exoskeleton's power core. Only one power core, however, had been detonated. Room 936 would've collapsed completely otherwise.

0 quickly realized that he had been tricked.

In room 936, a special operations team member decided to leave his team after his exoskeleton suffered severe damage, the reason why he chose to stay here and make his death worthwhile. 0 never

considered this possibility before. He could see what Zhang Heng spotted on the wall but quickly noticed that the oil stains had been cleaned by some stain remover. Hence, his speculation was shaken.

If Room 936 was a death trap, then the person who set the trap had no reason to conceal his traces outside the room. That was because the other party's purpose was to attract someone to take the bait. Zhang Heng had also taken away the hotel staff, who happened to be the most important witness. That caused O to make a wrong judgment.

This was also O's second time making a wrong judgment. This time, his wrong decision caused No.5 to be injured by the explosion. Although the injuries were not life-threatening, the latter's right arm would be out of service tonight.

Alas, a rare rumble of rage ignited in O's heart. He had figured out the person that wiped away the stains on the wall. Although the special operations team members were disciplined and unafraid of death, they weren't capable of coming up with such a plan. There was only one person who could pull off such a move.

And that person was Zhang Heng.

Zhang Heng got here one step ahead of them, and he deliberately sabotaged the scene to cloud O's judgment. O's patience was almost exhausted, and he did not want to play the game with Zhang Heng anymore. He then turned around and asked No.2 beside him, "Is the thing I want here yet?"

The latter nodded.

"It's already installed on the elevator."

"Very well. Since they like to hide so much, let's allow them to continue hiding," O sneered.

...

Zhang Heng was the first to smell that strange smell in the air. After a quick sniff, he confirmed that it was the smell of gasoline. Immediately, he realized what O wanted to do. He was going to destroy the floor that they were on.

To be honest, Zhang Heng did not expect that after he tricked the emergency response team on the ninth floor, he would make O give up his search plan. Of course, O never made such a decision out of anger. Someone like him would never let his emotions cloud his judgment.

O had actually made such a decision because both the special operations team and Zhang Heng were one step ahead of him, and they must've made all necessary preparations. Also, the emergency response team that arrived last would be the most passive.

With O's plan to burn down the floor, he would force the special operations team and Zhang Heng out from hiding. After that, the emergency response team would be able to regain control of the situation.

This plan, however, wasn't without its price. Other than the special operations team and Zhang Heng, there were also other guests on the twelfth floor. Although it wasn't a large number, once the fire started, it would inevitably affect the innocent. That said, such a problem was something for the federal police downstairs to deal with.

0 proceeded to block the elevator and another safe passage before igniting the gasoline on the ground with a lighter. When they were about to retreat into another safe passage, something unexpected happened.

A figure wearing an exoskeleton suddenly emerged from 0's right. Holding a rifle, the person started shooting at the four emergency response team members. Following that, another exoskeleton abruptly appeared on No. 0's left side, partnering up with its ally to shoot at the four emergency response team members.

0 reacted to the attack immediately, rolling sideways into the safe passage, avoiding the first wave of bullets. After that, No.2 and No.5, who were behind him, also began to fire back. Both sides were fighting fiercely in the corridor. In the meantime, the fire that 0 ignited earlier had begun to spread. Eventually, it triggered the hotel's smoke alarm.

The emergency response teams' marksmanship was clearly better than the two exoskeleton fighters, but the exoskeletons withstood the bullets with ease, leaving no injuries on their bearer except for a spark. After that, No.7 picked up a sniper rifle and aimed at the control panel of one of the exoskeleton fighters.

Right before he pulled the trigger, the other party retreated into the room.

#### **Chapter 1014: Last Man**

The sudden alarm started the prelude to the battle, breaking the calm of the twelfth floor. Most of the residents on this floor were asleep, but now they were awakened from their dreams by the alarm. After realizing that there was a fire, many didn't even bother dressing up, running out of their rooms as quickly as they could. As a result, the situation in the hallway turned extremely chaotic. To make matters worse, two groups of people that came out of nowhere were shooting at each other.

Bullets flew everywhere in the corridor, accompanied by the billowing smoke. The innocent residents didn't know whether they should return to their room or exit the building.

On the other hand, the two special operations team members were clearly well prepared. They had already pushed the tables and refrigerators to the door as their line of defense before 0, and the others arrived here. Those items were used as their covers. When they wanted to pull the trigger, they would lean forward. As for the rest of the time, they would hide behind their cover, placing great importance on protecting the vital part of their exoskeleton.

Although the emergency response team members had the advantage in marksmanship and firepower, they still had a hard time getting rid of their enemies.

But even so, 0 still believed that it was only a matter of time before winning the battle, and he wasn't worried about the two opponents in front of him. On the contrary, he was more concerned about Zhang Heng, who had not shown up until now. He was also concerned about the last special operation team member.

If he was right, then the package should be with the last special operations team member. It would make no sense for his two teammates to engage in such a fierce battle with them otherwise. And he had not shown up until now. 0 believed that the other party wouldn't be holding his breath for much longer.



As the fire burned ever larger, many residents started to cough and choke. Even though bullets still rained in the corridor, some still decided to escape through the safe passage. A few stronger men attempted to push the door, but their attempt was all but futile. Since it required considerable strength to push the door, it would undoubtedly increase oxygen consumption. This made a lot of them inhale a good amount of smoke.

Seeing the men collapsing while holding onto their throats, the remaining ones became more and more frightened. Finally, some of them could no longer bear the heatwave and began to rush toward another safer door.

A woman about forty years old had not fallen asleep at such a late hour. Wearing a pair of high heels and her office suit, she looked like the rather capable sort and should be some company executive. She came to the second level on a business trip. Before the explosion happened, she was working on writing a report. She did not expect to encounter such an unfortunate event.

As she ran forward, she raised her hands, expecting that the people on both sides would cease firing after seeing civilians running past them. However, the reality was cruel, and the members from both parties were not exactly polite and kind.

None of them paid any attention to her.

No.5, No.2, and No.7 received an order that they were not supposed to let anyone live to see tomorrow on this floor. And the two special operations team members were tasked to bring the memory encoder back to the first level. Therefore, in the end, no one ceased fire.

A stray bullet hit the poor woman in her thigh. She then staggered a few steps, trying to stand straight, but the next moment, more bullets hit her chest. And finally, she fell to the ground and stopped breathing.

This brutal scene diminished the hopes of those thinking of escape. The fire, however, only grew larger, causing those who were trapped on the floor to be more anxious and frightened. On the other hand, the special operation team members were in an increasingly worse state. They were like sitting ducks in the center of the fire. Their exoskeleton could withstand bullets, but it certainly didn't protect them against a blazing inferno. Moreover, since the exoskeleton was made of an alloy, it was the perfect conductor for heat.

Eventually, their exoskeleton's temperature was higher than that of the corridor. Both of them were now sweating profusely as if they were fished out of the water.

What was more deadly than the heatwave, however, was the dense smoke that came along with the combustion. The exoskeleton did not have an air filtration system, so the two were also breathing in the poisonous air like the residents in the corridor.

Thanks to the excellent fire protection system in the city, and in order to save costs, most hotels on the second level did not have a gas mask placed in each room. Just as the battle was taking a bad turn for the two special operations teams, O received a call from a sergeant, saying that he had discovered the whereabouts of the last person of the special operations team.

The latter finally had to show up because he could not stand the heatwave. He crawled out of his room's window and proceeded to crawl downstairs with the edge of the window. However, as soon as he opened the window, he was spotted by the federal police.

This was undoubtedly good news for O. If he deduced it right, the package was with the man outside the window. What made O feel a little uneasy was that, as of now, Zhang Heng's whereabouts hadn't yet been found.

Considering the moves Zhang Heng pulled earlier, he was way too quiet now, leaving O to wonder what Zhang Heng was thinking.

In fact, when he reached the twelfth floor, O was expecting Zhang Heng to join forces with the three special operations team members. No matter the conflict between Zhang Heng and Mr. G, Zhang Heng was still one of the couriers involved in this transaction. It was plausible that both parties would join forces due to the critical situation.

However, it seemed Zhang Heng didn't pull such a move. Seeing that the special operations team members were about to lose the battle, O still did not know where Zhang Heng was. However, this time, O also learned his lesson. He no longer focused on what Zhang Heng was going to do; instead, he turned to find the optimal strategy from various situations.

The fire in the corridor was getting fiercer, and at the same time, the two special operations team members were almost at their limit. O estimated that his men would be able to take them down within five minutes. However, the man who stood outside the window was their top priority of this mission. If Zhang Heng got his hands on the package first, it would be pointless for them to fight the two special operation team members in front of them.

In the end, O made a decision and said to the three people around him, "You guys stay here. If that guy appears, don't think about how to kill him. Just make sure he can't step through the door. Can you guys do it?"

"Of course. We've actually wanted to meet that guy a long time ago to see if he is that powerful," No. 7 said.

"Don't make any rash moves. After I leave, switch to a defensive formation. If we can delay him, we will win the battle." O then paused for a while before continuing, "This fire will solve all problems for us."

### **Chapter 1015: Armed To The Teeth**

Although the federal police outside the hotel mentioned that they saw no one else climb out of the window except for the last special operations team member, O now had reason to suspect that Zhang Heng was no longer on the twelfth floor.

The main reason was that the fire over there was getting bigger and bigger. If Zhang Heng continued to stay in the room, it would not end well for him. The longer he stayed on the twelfth floor, the less likely he would be able to get himself to safety. O would be impressed if Zhang Heng still hadn't made a move on the twelfth floor.

But even so, 0 still left all of his manpower on the twelfth floor. As for himself, he went hunting the last special operations team member alone. It was not because he was confident enough to deal with Zhang Heng alone.

On the contrary, 0 chose the most conservative and safest strategy. If Zhang Heng was still on the twelfth floor and eventually joined the battle, even if three of his men failed to eliminate him, the fire would stop him from entering the safe passage. On the other hand, 0 would kill the special operations team member as quickly as possible and head back there to help his team. Even if he did not return, the raging fire would be enough to kill Zhang Heng.

In addition, 0 had considered the possibility that Zhang Heng had left the twelfth floor. If that happened, his goal would change too. Instead of looking for a way to get his hands on the package as soon as possible, he would first deal with Zhang Heng and prevent him from getting the package. 0 was confident that he'd be able to do it. He only needed to drag on until three of his men eliminated their targets. They would then come to join him to take down Zhang Heng together. As for the last special operation team member, he shouldn't cause much trouble to them.

The biggest advantage of this combat strategy was that it was flexible enough. All possibilities had been carefully accounted for, and no matter where Zhang Heng was, the one who would win the battle, in the end, would be 0 and his emergency response team.

After arranging the next battle plan, 0 received a report from the federal police downstairs that the last special operations team member had escaped into a guest room on the eighth floor.

So, 0 hesitated for a moment before quickly rushing to the eighth floor.

His departure made the two special operations team members feel slightly relieved. In addition, No.5, No.2, and No.7 had adopted the defensive strategy according to the orders 0 gave out. They could clearly feel that the firepower on the opposite side had weakened, but the pressure on them had not been alleviated as of yet.

Even though the firepower had weakened, the fire on the twelfth floor had only grown in intensity. A lot of residents lost consciousness after inhaling all that smoke. With the gruesome thought of being burned alive looming, more and more people decided to give what the female office worker did a while ago a go. Many attempted to cross the invisible bullet wall. After all, compared to being burned alive, getting shot was a relief.

Unfortunately, none of them were able to leave the twelfth floor alive. Now, the corridor where the two parties exchanged fire had become purgatory on earth, with charred corpses strewn everywhere.

The two special operations team members found it harder and harder to breathe. Their vision started to become blurry, and their shooting accuracy deteriorated further.

No.2 was the most courageous and the best at seizing the opportunity among the three emergency response team members. Although 0 mentioned that they should focus more on defending after he left, No.2 found it difficult to hold back after their enemies revealed their flaws. Coupled with the fact that Zhang Heng had not shown up for so long, No.2's guard was lowered. He felt that even if Zhang Heng was still on the twelfth floor, there was an 80% chance that he would be burned to death. So, he chose

to shift to another position that allowed him to shoot better in the end. He silently aimed at one of the exoskeleton fighters' control panels that the enemy carelessly exposed.

But the next moment, No.2 did not expect that the room's door in the middle of the corridor would suddenly open without warning. After that, No. 2 saw a man with an oxygen cylinder and an oxygen mask wearing a fireproof suit charged out.

No. 2's eyes snapped open. Although the person was almost completely wrapped up, No. 2 instantly recognized the person's identity from the small rifle in his hand. The rifle originally belonged to No.3. However, they received news not long ago that Zhang Heng eliminated the three emergency response team members at the amusement park. In other words, the person that was holding the small rifle was Zhang Heng.

What made No. 2 curious, however, was where Zhang Heng acquired this set of professional firefighting equipment?!

The police officers in charge of the blockade outside the hotel were not blind. It could be possible that Zhang Heng entered the hotel in police uniform, but it made no sense with such a large bag of things and an oxygen cylinder. Earlier, they thought that Zhang Heng had breathed in too much poisonous gas and had collapsed. However, when they took a good look at him, they figured that he could stay here for at least an hour or two.

The firefighting equipment that puzzled No.2 was actually made out of Lego bricks. The Barrett he assembled earlier with his Lego bricks had expired and had returned to its brick form. So, when Zhang Heng realized that 0 would set the entire floor on fire, he assembled a set of firefighting equipment with the Lego bricks.

This was why the Infinite Building Block was so powerful. As long as Zhang Heng had a set of Lego bricks with him, he could deal with various environments and battles, not to mention how easy it was to carry around. When the Infinite Building Block was inserted into a Lego model, even an X-ray scan couldn't tell if it was fake.

Zhang Heng did not grant No.2 any time to react. After rushing out of the room, he instantly pulled the trigger of the rifle.

He waited patiently for so long just to wait for the three emergency response team members to put down their guards and make a mistake. In order to snipe one of the special operations team members, No.2 chose a relatively dangerous position, which happened to be within Zhang Heng's field of vision. Once he spotted him, it was already too late.

The next moment a bullet accurately hit his chest.

No.2 originally wanted to block this bullet with his new-generation bulletproof vest on his body. Still, he never expected that Zhang Heng had no intention to show them any mercy. As soon as he came out of the room, he fired the special explosive bullet at him. Instead of stopping the bullet, the bulletproof vest exploded a second later.

Not only was the latter sent flying away by the explosion, but even No.5 and No.7 were also hit. Right after that, Zhang Heng wasted no time and aimed the small rifle at the special operations team.

## Chapter 1016: Racing With Time

The two special operations team members were taken aback when they saw No.2 being blown up.

They had inhaled too much smoke, and it caused their thinking to become more sluggish. Besides, Zhang Heng was now wrapped up tighter than the mummy, the reason the team could not recognize him in the first place. Initially, they thought Zhang Heng was someone that had come to help them.

Until Zhang Heng pulled out his guns and aimed at his enemies, the two still couldn't figure what just happened to them. And the next moment, Zhang Heng had already pulled the trigger without hesitation. He fired the explosive bullet at the special operations team member that was closest to him.

The latter's exoskeleton provided its user with great defense. As long as the vitals weren't hit, it could even ward off rounds from an ordinary sniper rifle. Unfortunately, the special high-explosive rounds were kryptonite to the exoskeleton. After the bullet made contact with the exoskeleton, it would explode, and the flame would quickly engulf its wearer.

In fact, if No.3 hadn't been sent to the amusement park to deal with Zhang Heng, and the federal police hadn't underestimated the special operations team's firepower, the outcome of the battle at the station tonight would've been very different. And if that happened, the four special operations team members wouldn't even escape into the Four Continents Hotel.

Now, Zhang Heng had taken possession of No.3's gun. Without hesitation, he killed two enemies in front of him. It did not matter if they belonged to the special operations team or the emergency response team. His brutality alone was enough to make them all fear him.

This was just the beginning. In total, Zhang Heng had three high-explosive rounds with him. After killing two of them, Zhang Heng left no room for hesitation and fired the last bullet at the final special operations team member. With that being said, all the special operations team members on the twelfth floor had been annihilated.

At this point in the battle, Zhang Heng no longer had any intention to work together with the special operations team members. He did not expect the other party to help him deal with the emergency response team's firepower. Besides, the two special operations team members were about to die. They were no longer good enough to fight against the emergency response team members. And Zhang Heng could not completely trust them as well. When he fought against the emergency response team, he would be distracted by them. Hence, Zhang Heng decided to deal with them first.

After firing the three special bullets, Zhang Heng reloaded the gun with ordinary bullets and dashed towards the safety exit.

The fire in the hallway had now spread all over the place. With the entire floor filled with heavy smoke, it provided Zhang Heng with the perfect cover. Among the three emergency response team members, No.2 was killed by the explosive bullet before landing on the ground. On the other hand, No.5 and No.7 suffered only minor injuries because they stood quite far from No.2. And they immediately fired their guns at Zhang Heng, but Zhang Heng's firepower soon suppressed them. They could not even poke their heads out.

However, the two were clone warriors Shengtang Morgan Group had built at a high price. They possessed the perfect combat skills. Even if No.5's arm was hurt, the line of defense they had built still managed to stop Zhang Heng from moving forward.

No.7, however, knew all too well that they would not be able to stop Zhang Heng forever.

Zhang Heng was totally immune to the fire. This was something that they did not expect. With the fire spreading so quickly, No.7 and No.5's only gas masks were at risk of burning. On the contrary, Zhang Heng was fully equipped to withstand the fire, and he walked freely within the flames. The emergency response team members even started to wonder if Zhang Heng was the one that set the fire.

No.7 immediately informed 0 downstairs about Zhang Heng's showing up. After receiving the news, 0 asked them to hold out a little longer. It wasn't without reason that 0 made such a decision.

0 didn't stay idle when Zhang Heng showed up and started killing his enemies. He managed to force the last special operations team member to a dead end. As long as he got the package first, he would deliver the package to the fifth level and complete this task.

As for the life and death of No.7 and No.5, although both were members of his team, completing the task was always their priority in the three years they had been with him. This was the number one rule programmed into their brains. There was no doubt about it.

Therefore, after hanging up the call, 0 wasted no time, moving quickly toward the conference room in front of him.

...

On the other side, Zhang Heng attempted to break No.5 and No.7's defenses, but it was fruitless. Although the two were at a disadvantage, it wasn't a problem focussing on stopping Zhang Heng from crossing their line of defense. After 0 left, the two followed his instructions strictly, trying to hold Zhang Heng off as long as possible. They knew that the special operations team member downstairs was no match to 0. The latter would come and join them after he dealt with him.

But what surprised the two was that Zhang Heng started to slow down after he failed to break through the blockade twice. He then started to adopt a positional warfare strategy, slowly grasping the details that he missed in this battle.

The advantage of this strategy allowed Zhang Heng, with Lv3 marksmanship, to defeat No.7 and No.5. However, it would take a longer time for him to get the result that he wanted.

Considering that both sides were now racing against time, No.7 and No.5 were happy to see that Zhang Heng had resorted to such a strategy. That said, they soon had a taste of Zhang Heng's powerful marksmanship. Zhang Heng stopped firing his guns at them, deciding instead to capture the right opportunities and only fire at the right time. With Zhang Heng moving constantly, No.7 and No.5 didn't dare poke their heads out anymore.

Zhang Heng's marksmanship was simply too good. Most of the time, the bullets would fly past their cheeks. If they had lowered their heads half a second later, they would've been killed instantly.

This made No.7 and No.5 think carefully about every move they made because any small mistake would cost their lives. Over time, the psychological pressure on them grew bigger and bigger.

In just a short time, the two were shot several times. Fortunately, the bulletproof vests they wore helped them take the brunt of the bullets. Since they could not poke their heads out, they had completely lost track of Zhang Heng. Their combat experience told them that their circumstance had just gotten more dangerous. They were now blinded. It meant Zhang Heng held power to attack them whenever he wanted.

When No.5 was about to risk it and check out the situation, he felt something warm splashing on his arm. No.5 then turned around, and to his horror, saw that No. 7's body had fallen to the ground. He could see a small bullet hole in his temple.

It was at that time, No. 5 realized that he had lost all advantage. However, the desperate situation inspired the bravery in his heart. Immediately, he grabbed his gun and jumped out of the bunker. He then fired his gun in the direction where the bullet came from. The ferocious fire burning down this place made him look like he was in the midst of purgatory.

But in the end, Zhang Heng killed him with a single bullet. His lifeless body fell to the ground and turned into the fuel for the fire.

#### **Chapter 1017: Fourth Person**

On the eighth floor of the Four Continents Hotel.

Zhang Heng had already taken off his slightly bulky firefighting suit and temporarily placed it at a corner. After dealing with his last opponent, he looked for battle traces left on each floor. And they finally led him here.

The bullet holes in the wall and the broken door showed that a fierce battle happened here not long ago. But now that the battle was over, the corridor had gone all quiet again.

If anyone else was in Zhang Heng's shoes, their hearts must have sunk by now. It could mean that 0 had killed the last special operations team member, and the latter must have gotten the memory encoder ahead of him.

After that, 0 didn't rush to the twelfth floor to meet No.7 and No.5, which meant that he might have decided to abandon his two team members and left the hotel. Considering that Zhang Heng was a step behind 0, it was almost impossible for him to get past the federal police's blockade and prevent 0 from boarding the shuttle to the fifth floor. Such difficulty was enough to make anyone despair.

However, Zhang Heng himself did not seem affected. His expression hardly changed, and he had no intention to put his guard down. On the contrary, he was now more cautious than before, having to assume that 0 was on the same floor as him.

The next moment, Zhang Heng's ears moved, and a bullet whizzed out from behind the conference room's half-open door. It was as though a rattlesnake hiding among the rocks had suddenly attacked its prey. However, it looked like Zhang Heng was anticipating his appearance. Zhang Heng managed to dodge the bullet one step ahead of time. He then dashed toward the door in front of a room and used

the protruding wall as his cover. As for the place where he stood earlier, there was now a bullet hole on the wall.

0 snorted, and his voice came from the conference room. He sounded anxious.

“How did you know I’m still here?”

“I killed almost all the members of your squad. Of course, I have to assume that their captain will avenge them,” Zhang Heng said.

“You’re lying. You know the package is not here, right?”

0 did not believe a single word Zhang Heng told him. The reason was simple. Zhang Heng did not look like he was in a rush from the very beginning. Whether it was the battle at the higher floor or the time of his arrival at the eighth floor, they were longer than 0 estimated. And Zhang Heng acted slow and steady. He definitely did not look like he was racing against time.

0 then tried to think like Zhang Heng again. If he were Zhang Heng, he would try to go down to the eighth floor to grab the package while the two special operations team were fighting with No.2, No.5, and No. 7. The fact that Zhang Heng was on took 0 by surprise.

“What’s going on? Did you not find the package? That’s a real shame,” Zhang Heng said as he fired two shots at the conference room. One of the shots hit the door panel, and another shot flew into the door’s crack. Unfortunately, it failed to hit the target.

“How did you know that the package is not with the special operations team?” After a while, 0 spoke again.

This was also the thing that puzzled 0. There were four special operations team members who fled into the Four Continents Hotel. And now, all four of them were dead. However, the package was still nowhere to be found. Among them, the man in Room 936 did not want to live anymore. And he wanted to bring a few enemies down with him before he died. That said, the package was definitely not with him. And the two special operations team on the twelfth floor were prepared to sacrifice themselves as well. They wanted to buy more time for their last ally. After staying in the sea of flames for so long, their fates were sealed. From this point of view, the last special operation team member should be carrying the package. However, after 0 killed him, it turned out the package wasn’t on him.

Nothing made sense to him thus far. Could it be the special operations team had gone crazy and placed the package with the man who was about to commit suicide in Room 936?

Something suddenly struck 0. “The guy who died in Room 936... Is he from the special operations team?”

After that, 0 tried to recall the situation in the room at that time. The explosion was indeed caused by the detonation of the exoskeleton’s power core. And they found the body in the ruins too.

Unfortunately, the person was standing at the center of the explosion. Hence, his face was completely unrecognizable. They could only identify the person as a female. Under such a circumstance, everyone would assume the deceased to be a special operations team member.



As he racked his brains, 0 suddenly realized that the exoskeleton could be taken off from the user. So, if there were another person in the room when the explosion happened, everything would make perfect sense.

In other words, the number of the special operations team who died in the battle was not four but three. The last member was still alive. The package was definitely with that person.

Zhang Heng did not answer 0's question. As he talked, he fired another two bullets at him.

0 had gotten the answer that he wanted.

There was nothing 0 could do about it. Zhang Heng had gone to the ninth floor before him. Thus, 0 realized that Zhang Heng must have found something other than the oil stains on the wall.

However, it was too late to think about such a thing now. 0 had to focus on the battle between him and Zhang Heng. He had to get rid of Zhang Heng first before going after the last special operations member and retrieving the package.

However, 0 also knew how difficult it could be. No one in the entire New Shanghai 0297 knew how strong Zhang Heng was other than him. As the latter said, he almost killed the entire emergency response team by himself. Such a tragedy had never happened in the history of the emergency response team.

Now that 0 had lost all his team members, the battle plan he came up with was scrapped. This final battle had become a heads-up match between him and Zhang Heng.

However, 0 did not lose confidence. As the captain of the emergency response team, he was the strongest among all the team members. By strongest, it did not just refer to his overall strength but also his combat abilities.

As team trump card, 0 naturally had to act like one. The next moment, he raised the gun in his hand again and fired at Zhang Heng. Neither side spoke to each other anymore; only the constant bangs and pops of the guns were audible.

### **Chapter 1018: 0.1 Seconds**

The battle between Zhang Heng and 0 was less intense than the previous battle. However, its circumstances were far more dangerous. Like Zhang Heng, 0 too should have reached Lv3 marksmanship. The only thing that placed Zhang Heng at a disadvantage was his slower shooting speed compared to 0. Zhang Heng first learned how to shoot from Simon, but the place he got to practice his marksmanship was the quest he got sent to western America. From there, he learned how to draw guns and fire them as fast as possible.

In the first two minutes of the battle, Zhang Heng and 0 were evenly matched, where both sides adopted the same strategies and rhythm. Even the consumption of bullets was similar. After that, Zhang Heng chose a completely different combat strategy against No.5 and No.7. He deliberately increased his rate of fire. In contrast, 0's reaction was slower than usual. After being pressured by Zhang Heng, he realized that Zhang Heng had disrupted his battle rhythm. He, too, started intentionally slowing down his firing rate, intending to buy himself some time and regain the judgment and precision he had in his previous battle.

The battle between the two was no longer about their marksmanship. It now leaned more toward their ability to read their opponent and control the game.

But what surprised 0 was that Zhang Heng's combat experience wasn't inferior to his. Unlike combat skills, although battle experience could be written into their memory, it provided nothing except the ability to use those skills, especially the rhythm of battle and the ability to read it. All these abstract things were difficult to explain through a single battle.

After all, written memories did not make a person omnipotent. If the person who wrote the memories for them lacked combat experience, it also meant their creator would have no way to make the clones understand what they did not know how to describe and define.

0, however, was a rare clone who had broken through his shackles. In addition to his solid learning ability, he had completed hundreds of missions that provided him with enough combat experience. 0 always felt that he was the clone with the most combat experience until he met Zhang Heng.

Although 0 still failed to figure out what had actually happened to Zhang Heng, the impact of that wasn't as big as this battle. It had even shaken his worldview. 0 could not imagine how Zhang Heng accumulated so much combat experience at such a young age. He looked like he had started fighting since he was born, with decades of combat experience.

Although 0 had worked as hard as he could and perfectly executed all his given tasks, he still felt that Zhang Heng was slowly gaining victory. And there was nothing he could do about it.

He also felt like he was stepping into a swamp, and he could only let himself sink further. 0 knew that both sides were reaching their limit soon. The gap in their strength would then determine the course of this battle.

The real turning point of the battle came from the breaking of the conference room's door. The door was already damaged during 0's battle with the last special operations team member. After another onslaught of bullets, it was now completely destroyed.

Instead of retreating, 0 chose to move forward, not looking for cover before charging out of the conference room. He realized that if he decided to fight against Zhang Heng with an orthodox combat method, the battle would go nowhere. Instead, he decided to risk his life by moving quickly and unpredictably to dodge some of the bullets. As for the bullets, he couldn't dodge. His bulletproof vest would absorb the damage.

At the same time, 0 was getting closer to Zhang Heng, and he also realized that he could lose his life. In order to not get hit, he moved in an extremely bizarre way. It caused him to be unable to control the direction he moved, and any stray bullets that came his way could potentially end his life.

But tonight, the God of Destiny seemed to be on his side. 0 dashed all the way to a spot only ten steps away from Zhang Heng. And he wasn't hit by any bullets. At the same time, he counted the number of shots that Zhang Heng had fired. When he counted to a certain number, 0 made an extremely crazy move: he suddenly stopped moving.

Zhang Heng wasn't one to let such a golden opportunity slip off his hand. The next second, O stretched out his right hand to grab a piece of the metal shell from the exoskeleton to block Zhang Heng's shooting.

After that, he pulled the trigger again, but he found out that there were no bullets left in his rifle.

O's eyes lit up. He knew that the golden opportunity he had been waiting for was finally here. He threw away the alloy shell in his hand, and at the same time, aimed his gun at Zhang Heng. And he was about to pull the trigger.

Given another 0.1 seconds, he would've been able to eliminate Zhang Heng.

Unfortunately, O did not have the chance to make use of that 0.1 seconds.

Zhang Heng remained unworried after realizing that his rifle was out of bullets. He directly drew the pistol from his waist, a trick he performed many times in the quest he completed.

The cowboys' duel was all about speed, and Zhang Heng would always be the fastest person to draw a gun. This time was no exception.

The moment O was about to pull the trigger, Zhang Heng had already sent a bullet to the spot between O's eyebrows.

This 0.1 second had determined who lived and who died in this battle.

The joy in O's eyes was forever frozen, and he would never be able to pull the trigger. After ending this mentally exhausting battle, Zhang Heng let out a long sigh of relief. In all fairness, the emergency response team did bring him a lot of trouble, especially O, their captain. It was rare that a one-on-one battle could bring so much threat to Zhang Heng.

However, it was not the time for him to relax yet because Zhang Heng had not gotten the memory encoder yet. But the good news was that he knew where to get it. Zhang Heng then put on the fire suit again. The fire had now completely spread to the entire floor, not only on the twelfth floor but also on the two adjacent floors.

Zhang Heng climbed up to the fourteenth floor. The fire there was not too widespread yet. However, the smoke on this floor was very thick. After that, Zhang Heng went around and searched room by room, but he did not manage to find the female hotel staff that came to this floor to seek refuge. And he finally cast his gaze on the small door to the rooftop.

Zhang Heng tried to push it from below, managing to open it easily, and he saw her hiding behind the water tower. The terrifying fire had traumatized her, and she did not know where else she could hide. When she saw Zhang Heng coming to her while taking off his oxygen mask, her eyes lit up, overjoyed.

### **Chapter 1019: Opportunity**

"Is the battle over, Mr. Policeman?" the hotel staff asked.

"Yes. The battle is over, but you should also know that I am not a policeman." Zhang Heng paused and then said, "Where is the package?"

“What package?” The waiter was at a loss.

“The goods to be traded tonight. All your three allies are dead. In other words, the package is definitely with you.” Zhang Heng said casually.

The hotel staff’s expression changed slightly when she heard what Zhang Heng said. She then took a short step back and calmly said, “I don’t know what you mean, Mr. Policeman... I am a waitress at the Four Continents Hotel, and I have more than three companions.”

“No. You are not hotel staff,” Zhang Heng said. “I was suspicious of you the first time I met you. Although you did not show any fear and panic, your temperament was nothing like hotel staff.”

According to your statement, you ran into a man wearing an exoskeleton in the corridor, but the other party ignored you and let you go. This is very strange. If the exoskeleton fighter wanted the death trap to work in Room 936, he wouldn’t be letting you live.”

“Maybe... because I’m just a hotel staff that nobody cares about. I carry no threat. I think he showed me mercy and let me live,” the hotel staff smiled reluctantly.

“Impossible. Those men are all fanatical believers of Mr. G. They are willing to sacrifice their lives to achieve the ideal world that Mr. G wants to create. It makes no sense for them to care about the life or death of an insignificant person,” Zhang Heng said. “To further confirm that you are no more than a hotel staff, I asked you to go to the linen room to get the stain remover.”

“And I did do that for you.” The waitress widened her beady eyes, looking innocent.

“Yes, but you took too long to complete such a simple task,” Zhang Heng said. “If you are really a staff, you should know where the detergent is. Even if the smoke in the room had not dispersed, you took too long to get what I asked for.”

The girl was finally speechless this time.

Zhang Heng continued, “But at first, I didn’t expect you to be one of the four who fled into the hotel. I originally thought you were the person Mr. G assigned to help the special operations team in the hotel. After that, I found out that the other three special operations team members didn’t go to the rood. Instead, they stayed on the twelfth floor even though it would cost their lives. It was at that time I started to doubt your identity.”

The hotel staff did not speak. Instead, she waited for Zhang Heng to continue.

And the latter did not disappoint. He continued, “Now, I can probably deduce what happened after the special operations team fled into the hotel. At that time, your exoskeleton equipment was seriously damaged. You did think of sacrificing yourself to buy your allies more time. However, you changed your mind after that because you realized that even if you sacrifice yourself, you still can’t change the fact that this was going to be a dead-end for you guys.”

“When the special operations team was in a disadvantaged position, and your guys had no way to escape, you or a companion of yours came up with a dangerous move. Since all four of you can’t escape the hotel, it would be better to die here together,” Zhang Heng said. “Of course, you don’t really want to die here. No one would be able to send the package to the first floor otherwise. One of you would feign

death to confuse the enemies. If it went well, the package would be delivered to the first floor. And this delivery person is you.”

“Why me?” the staff asked.

“I don’t know which of the four of you are better or who is more courageous. The reason your team chose you to become the courier is very simple. You are the only woman among the four, making it easier for you to exchange identities with the hotel staff. In addition, your exoskeleton has been severely damaged. You had enough reason to leave your team and detonate the exoskeleton. The corpse in Room 936, however, is not you. It belongs to the real hotel staff on this floor.

“You either knocked her out or killed her. After that, you put your own exoskeleton on her body. Then, one of your tech-savvy companions modified the detonating device to turn the power core into a state that can be remotely detonated. Once that was done, you changed into the hotel staff’s clothes, who you either knocked out or killed. That’s how you completed the identity exchange. As for the three people on the twelfth floor, they were left here to die. Whether it was the two members who stayed to fight the emergency response team or the one who climbed out the window and escaped, they were all trying to cover up the fact that you are still alive. But you are too naive.”

“What do you mean?” The hotel staff frowned.

“I know what you did on the ninth floor. You probably took the initiative to tell them about the situation in Room 936 when the emergency response team came up to make your identity more believable. You should be thankful that you met me. Although your plan was not bad, the execution of it was rather poor. If I can see through you, I bet O could do the same as well. If you didn’t meet me, you would’ve fallen into the hands of the emergency response team.”

“So should I thank you for saving me?” The hotel staff sneered. “I know who you are. You are one of the ten couriers. I heard Miss F values you very much. I bet she will be disappointed if she knows what you did. If it weren’t for your cowardice and despicable means to divert the attention of the emergency response team and send them to us, it wouldn’t be too hard to execute our plan.”

Zhang Heng was noncommittal. “I respect your personal choices and all the efforts you have made to change the circumstance. I don’t want to judge the paths that you chose as well. In fact, I didn’t come to you for a fight. Considering Mr. G and I have a lot of conflicts and misunderstandings, I just want to have a good chat with him.”

“Well, you can start by protecting me. We can go back to the first level together. And you will get the chance to see Mr. G again.”

“I’m sorry. For the sake of Ms. F, I once accepted the opportunity offered by Mr. G. But as you can see, it did not end well for me.” Zhang Heng raised his eyebrows, “So, now it’s the time to change the way of communication with him. It’s my turn to offer him the opportunity. And you seem to have misunderstood something. I will go back to the first level, but I don’t plan to take you with me.”

The hotel staff’s face changed. “Then I have no reason to hand over the goods to you.”

“No, you will hand over the goods to me.” Zhang Heng said calmly. Just as the two were talking, the fire had spread to the rooftops.

“You can’t leave this place anymore. Just hand me the package. At least Mr. G still has the opportunity to negotiate with me. If you fail to deliver the package, it will be burned down alongside you. Even if you call Mr. G now, I bet he will ask you to hand over the package to me.”

### **Chapter 1020: You Will Know Soon**

Zhang Heng’s words caused the staff to grit her teeth in anger.

But she had to admit that what Zhang Heng said was the truth. The special operations team’s only goal tonight was to bring the package back to the first floor. To achieve this goal, they were even willing to sacrifice their lives. This was indeed a very noble idea.

However, she did not expect that this belief would one day be turned into a weapon against her. Zhang Heng made it clear that he had no intention to bring her back to the first floor. He also told her that she would die here tonight. Hence, he asked her to hand over the package.

What frustrated her even more, was that she found that she had no reason to refuse Zhang Heng’s offer. After holding back a long time, she finally asked, “After I pass the package to you, are you sure you can get past the federal police’s blockade?”

“This problem doesn’t concern you,” Zhang Heng replied casually.

She was rendered speechless, but she had no intention to give up. “Promise me that you will deliver the goods to Mr. G.”

By this time, she had softened up. And Zhang Heng felt that she was begging him.

He, however, shook his head. “I won’t guarantee anything. Okay, time’s almost up. Give me the package.”

At this time, the flames had already spread to the rooftops. The thick smoke that came with the fire almost surrounded the entire Four Continents Hotel. This greatly frustrated the last special operations team member. After all, they had paid a huge price and sacrificed countless allies to get to where they were now. They were only one step away from completing the task, but in the end, everything that they had done was in vain. She was also unhappy that Zhang Heng was the one to reap what they sowed. To her, he was someone selfish and without belief. Logically speaking, she had to hand over the package to Zhang Heng. However, she still had not made any move.

And Zhang Heng seemed to have figured out what she was thinking. He then raised her eyebrows and said unceremoniously, “Do you really think you guys lasted until now because of those so-called lofty ideals? Without me, every single one of you would’ve been wiped out at the station.”

After hearing what Zhang Heng said, she lost all her strength like a deflated balloon. This was perhaps the thing that bothered her. They had been working hard from the beginning to the end, and they were not afraid of death. But, unfortunately, their effort did not help much in this matter. As Zhang Heng said, the entire emergency response team was killed by him singlehandedly. The special operations team could not do anything about them.

They outnumbered the five members of the emergency response team at the station, yet still failed to defeat them. Eventually, they were being forced to flee into the hotel. If Zhang Heng had not arrived in time, Shengtang Morgan Group might have taken possession of the package.

The last special operations team member did not say a word about it. Instead, she climbed up the water tower, grabbed a finger-sized metal rod from the top, and placed it in Zhang Heng's hand.

This surprised Zhang Heng a little. "This is it?"

"It seems you know what's in the package. The memory encoder's core is only this big. However, its internal structure is quite sophisticated. As of now, there is only one company capable of producing it. You will need to use it with a piece of certain equipment. Fortunately, the equipment is not that hard to manufacture."

"It seems you guys have spent a long time preparing for this."

Zhang Heng accepted the finger-sized metal rod and put it in his backpack without inspecting it.

He was not worried that she would give him a fake. As Zhang Heng said, the fire had spread to the rooftop, and it was the end of the journey for her. If she did not hand over the memory encoder to Zhang Heng, it would most probably be destroyed in this fire.

For those determined to change New Shanghai 0297, the entire plan would fall apart if the memory encoder turned to ashes. Unfortunately, this was a price they could not afford to pay.

After handing over the memory encoder to Zhang Heng, she seemed relieved. She knew that she had done everything she could tonight, and as for whether Zhang Heng would give the memory encoder to Mr. G or what deals he would strike with him, those things were no longer under her control.

After she came to her senses, the pressure on her shoulders was lifted. She looked at Zhang Heng again. "You have got what you want. How do you plan to leave this hotel?"

"You will know soon."

Zhang Heng then took out a gas mask he acquired from the emergency response team from his backpack. He then tossed it to the special operations team member and said calmly, "I told you that I wouldn't bring you with me, but you and your people have helped me preserve the memory encoder until now. The emergency response team did not even get to lay their fingers on it. Consider this gas mask as a gift from me to you. However, the fire is now out of control. Even if you have this gas mask with you, your chances of surviving are no more than 20%. So, I wish you good luck."

After Zhang Heng finished, he took off his oxygen mask.

And the special operations team member saw a scene she would never forget. She witnessed a pair of black wings suddenly stretching out from Zhang Heng's back.

When she first saw it, the special operations team member thought that the poisonous smoke caused her to hallucinate. But the next moment, she realized that the pair of wings did exist, and they were made of shadows. They looked as if they'd been created by some very realistic projection technology. However, when she wanted to take a closer look, Zhang Heng had moved the pair of black wings behind him. After that, he jumped off the roof and flew into the thick smoke.

She did not expect Zhang Heng, who seemed extremely sensible, would make such a suicidal move. And she was shocked to her core, especially when she thought that the memory encoder was still with him.

So, she rushed to the side of the rooftop with the risk of inhaling the poisonous smoke. She then looked down. However, the entire Four Continents Hotel was now surrounded by thick smoke and she couldn't see a single thing. After sticking out her head for a few seconds, she started coughing violently. In the end, she had to step back, pick up the gas mask on the ground, and put it on.

On the other side, Zhang Heng had already flown a great distance in the thick smoke. In order to avoid being spotted by the federal police downstairs, he deliberately flew higher. Protected by an oxygen mask made with the Infinite Building Block, he also had the Filter Lens that allowed him to navigate accurately in the thick smoke.

Finally, Zhang Heng left Four Continents Hotel secretly without anyone knowing. Twelve seconds later, the Shadow Wings on Zhang Heng's back disappeared, causing him to land on the roof of the office building next door.