

## 48 Hours 1131

### Chapter 1131: Blue Flames

Since they had discussed their next destination, the seven naturally did not want to stay in the nuclear power plant and continue to be exposed to radiation.

In fact, the nuclear powerplant had already become a complete purgatory at the moment. The fire caused by the explosion began to spread wildly, and sirens ominously blared one after another. Shattered glass flew everywhere...

The seven soon found the stairs that led down and were about to run down the stairs when to their surprise, they saw the door of the room at the end of the corridor, which looked like a central control room, opening again. Three people wearing white clothes ran out. Two of them looked very young, looking like they were in their early twenties, and the person behind them was none other than the man who had escaped the reactor explosion with the seven of them. He was standing on the balcony.

As they were quite a distance away, there was a lot of dust floating in the air. In addition, the three of them seemed to be a little unsettled. It was as if they had not noticed the players at the first moment.

Hence, when the players saw this, they hurriedly retreated into the stairway. The youth and Master Kui looked at each other. The latter made a knock-out gesture. The youth nodded, but the players did not expect that the three of them would not turn around when they passed the stairway. They did not even glance at the stairway and just walked straight ahead.

The youth was stunned. "What do you mean? Where are they going? There shouldn't be any other stairways behind them, right?"

He wasn't the only one puzzled. The others were as well.

"Could it be that they want to go to the reactor?" Although Master Kui said those things, it appeared from her expressions that she did not really trust this deduction.

After all, it was understandable that the players didn't know how powerful the reactor was when they first entered the dungeon. However, the man standing on the balcony was obviously an employee of the nuclear power plant. He also seemed to be in charge of the reactor. Judging from his frightened look at that time, it was impossible that he didn't know what had happened.

And now, he didn't want to leave this place as soon as possible. Counterintuitively, he actually turned around and walked back to the reactor. Did he not know what was waiting for him after he opened the safety door?

As if answering the players' questions, the three of them really came to the safety door. They even seemed like they were preparing to open the door.

"Are they crazy?" the young man in the Zhanfu who stuck his head out asked in surprise.

"Don't bother with their matters. Let's leave this place as soon as possible," the doctor said with a solemn expression. "If they open the door, the radiation will definitely rise."

As expected, everyone lost interest in watching the show. They continued to run down the stairs, and along the way, they met a few people in white coats. They were all workers from the nuclear power plant, filled with panic and confusion. However, they did not run out. Some were busy rescuing the injured, some were busy putting out the fire, and some remained at their posts.

Regardless of what the nuclear power plant workers were doing, none of them wore any protective equipment. Be it protective clothing or breathing masks that could prevent radioactive dust from falling on their skin, they were basically dressed as they usually did at work.

However, what was even more unbelievable was what the players saw after they ran out of the building.

They saw that the roof of the reactor building they were previously in had been completely blown apart by the explosion. Half of the wall facing the road had also collapsed. Broken bricks, concrete, and some black substance flew everywhere, some still cindering when they landed on the asphalt pavement. The steel bars and pipes that were initially buried in the building were now exposed. A massive pillar of fire soared into the sky, emitting a faint blue luster under the effects of Cherenkov's radiation.

However, behind this beautiful luster was an incomparably terrifying danger.

Without the protection of the protective cover and concrete, the high-intensity radiation was spreading from the damaged core in all directions!

At this moment, the players only wanted to do everything possible to leave this radiation hell. However, the sharp-eyed Mouse saw a figure appear from within the ruins.

It was the man who had been standing on the balcony. He had returned to the building where the reactor was located. He was climbing up the ruins, and below his feet was the damaged reactor core. At this moment, his body was enduring an unimaginable amount of radiation. His skin burned by the nuclear radiation became darker and darker, and his eyes swelled.

He crawled using both his hands and feet while shouting something intelligible.

"Who is he shouting at?" the teenager asked subconsciously.

"His colleagues, I think," Zhang Heng said. "Didn't we see the workers of the other two nuclear power plants in that building? The direction he is heading to is the office where the two workers are."

However, the players only took one look before they averted their gazes. According to the Doctor, after leaving the building, the radiation doses they received would increase significantly. Considering the distance between them and the core, every second they stayed here increased their risks exponentially.

This time, the maintenance worker ran at the front and rushed toward the door. Coconut was right behind her. However, after running for about 50 to 60 meters, Coconut let out a muffled groan. A chaotic set of circumstances, it was also in the night, and she couldn't see the road under her feet. She stepped on a piece of construction waste and fell to the ground.

Mouse, behind her, immediately stopped and helped her up. "Are you bleeding?"

"It's just a scratch. It's not a big deal," Coconut said. There was a black stone where she fell just now, which had grazed her palm. Coconut, however, didn't take this minor injury to heart. Instead, she tried walking a few steps only to discover that she had sprained her ankle. She was limping a little.

Then, the mouse and the teenager lifted her and continued to run toward the gate.

“There’s a bus over there. Let’s get on the bus first,” the doctor said. He pointed at a bus parked not far away from the gate. The maintenance man got on the bus first before the driver waved his hands and feet in excitement, attempting to tell him something. However, he was interrupted by a punch from the maintenance man before he could say anything.

Master Kui followed him onto the bus. He glanced sideways and saw that the maintenance man was holding onto the driver’s neck. The latter’s face was flushed red from holding his breath.

“Are you planning to kill him to silence him?”

“No, I just want him to be quiet,” the maintenance man explained; the muscles in his body tensed.

In the end, Kui grabbed the driver’s hair and knocked the latter’s head against the iron handrail. The bus driver immediately rolled his eyes and fainted.

“Now he’s quiet.”

### **Chapter 1132: Countdown**

When the last player climbed onto the bus, the doctor immediately called for everyone to shut the doors and windows.

The repairman was already sitting in the driver’s seat, holding the steering wheel. However, the next question he asked left all the players dumbfounded.

“The hospital... which way?”

Previously, everyone had decided their next plan in the corridor, preparing to go to the hospital to get iodine tablets. However, they had neglected the most crucial problem: they did not know where the hospital was. They were now certain that this dungeon’s background was Chernobyl, and based on their historical knowledge, they knew that Pripyat was the nearest town to the nuclear power plant.

However, they were clueless about the more detailed information, such as the number of available hospitals in Pripyat and where they were located.

They could not be blamed for being careless, though. The main reason was that it was never difficult to find a place for those who lived in the information-laden 21st-century and were already familiar with the internet. All they had to do was take out their mobile phones and search for a location. Now, not only was there no internet, but even though the players wore white skins, no one knew and spoke Russian.

In the end, it was Zhang Heng who reminded them.

“Ambulance.”

He didn’t explain much because after observing the game for a while, he realized that although most players in this round were single-players without guilds, their average skill level was still pretty good. Even though they were a little dazed from the first nuclear explosion, he believed they had not completely lost their ability to think and understand what he meant.

There would definitely be injured people after the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, so there would definitely be someone who would call for an ambulance. By then, as long as they followed the ambulance, they would naturally find the hospital.

The first ones to arrive, however, weren't the ambulances but the firefighters.

In fact, before the players had even run out of the building, the first batch of firefighters had already arrived at the scene only two minutes since the explosion. Subsequently, the second and third teams of firefighters arrived at the scene within five minutes.

Almost as soon as the fire engine came to a stop, the firefighters on board hastily jumped down the truck and rushed into the sea of fire with water guns in their hands.

A few workers in white coats had been fighting there for some time. They had used nitrogen to replace the hydrogen in the generator in the turbine hall to prevent an explosion before transferring the diesel supply from the turbine fuel tank to the emergency water tank above the reactor unit.

All the work was done under unimaginable radiation doses of 500-15,000 roentgen per hour. Thanks to their valiant actions, the turbine hall was saved from being engulfed by the flames. If the fire spread to the other reactors, this would lead to an even larger disaster.

The firefighters climbed to the roof through the fire escape and began to think of ways to fill the reactor with water. Like the workers at the nuclear power plant, the firefighters weren't in any radiation protective gear. They were only wearing their ordinary fire uniforms and were completely exposed to the radiation. Some of them even took off their helmets because they were too hot.

Though the smoke from the burning asphalt on the roof severely blurred vision and made breathing a chore, the firemen still tried to get as close to the fire as they could.

At the same time, fire engines were coming in from all directions, not only from around Chernobyl but also from Kyiv and other areas, after receiving the call for help.

Under the doctor's guidance, the maintenance workers drove the bus to a wall to prevent it from being continuously exposed to radiation.

Until they could no longer see the scene inside the nuclear power plant, the hearts of the players still could not calm down for a long time. Most of them had heard of the name of Chernobyl more than once, but the disaster that year was too far away from them, and most hadn't even been born at that time.

All of their knowledge of Chernobyl came from news and anecdotes, novels, and games on the Internet. Never in their wildest dream had they ever thought that someday they too would be involved, witnessing one of the most tragic disasters in human history. And from such close proximity as well.

"I feel terrible now..." Mouse said. He sat on the chair of the bus and panted heavily. However, it was not because of the intense exercise just now, but purely because of the physiological reaction after heavy palpitations. When he thought about the reactor scene that had just exploded, Mouse's legs went weak.

“Who isn’t? I thought it was a welfare book, but I didn’t expect it to be a life-ending book after I came in,” the maintenance man said with a wry smile. “No wonder the mission time is unlimited. Who would want to stay here? I can’t wait to go back now.”

“The situation isn’t that bad. At least we don’t have to worry about the aftereffects.” Master Kui had calmed down at this time, “We are in a game after all. Compared to the firefighters and the workers of the nuclear power plant, as long as we can return to the real world alive, our physical condition will return to normal.”

As soon as she finished her sentence, Coconut, who was sitting in the back seat of the bus, suddenly vomited.

“Are you okay?” Mouse had been following her and carried her all the way to the bus. As a result, the two had drawn close. Seeing how unwell Coconut was, he asked with concern.

“Vomiting is one of the common adverse reactions brought about by radiation overdose,” the doctor said.

“Because lots of cells die when exposed to this much radiation, new cells need to be divided to make up for them. To produce cells, you need water and energy. This will lead to an insufficient blood supply to your stomach, which will eventually lead to vomiting.”

“I’m fine.” Coconut wiped the vomit from his mouth with his hand and smiled weakly at Mouse.

“You don’t have to explain everything in such detail. It makes me want to vomit myself,” the boy said.

“Sorry, I like to keep talking when I’m nervous.”

After waiting for a few minutes, the ambulance finally appeared. A doctor ran down from the ambulance and injected some tranquilizer into an unlucky person hit by a crossbeam during the explosion. He did some simple triage, then ordered his men to carry the injured man into the ambulance while he stayed behind to deal with burn victims and mildly injured.

The players were also cheered up when they saw the ambulance because this meant that they could finally leave this godforsaken place.

When the ambulance drove out of the main entrance with the injured, the maintenance worker stepped on the accelerator impatiently. The bus returned to the road from under the wall and followed the ambulance in front, heading toward the nearby town of Pripyat.

Zhang Heng turned back to look in the direction of the nuclear power plant. A few brave firefighters had climbed up to the roof of the reactor and were attempting to fill it with water. Under their feet was a huge crack, where the melted core was spewing out a vast amount of radioactive particles.

The invisible flame had burned everyone present.

### **Chapter 1133: Pripyat**

The wheels of the bus rubbed against the asphalt surface, making a dull grinding, its roaring engine particularly clear in the silence of the night.

The players had obtained a watch from the unconscious bus driver, so they finally knew the exact time.

It was 1:44 a.m., and according to Zhang Heng's calculations, the explosion should have happened 15 to 20 minutes ago.

There was still a long time before daybreak. For the town of Pripjat, three kilometers away from the nuclear power plant, most of the residents were still sleeping soundly, having none the explosion's shockwave had already sent a portion of the core's material into the sky, forming a large masses of strong radioactive particles.

At first, the mass only wrapped around the nuclear power plant, but it quickly began to expand and spread in all directions with the wind.

The residents of Pripjat who first noticed the explosion were probably a group of night anglers.

The nuclear power plant would drain the cold water from the steam turbine's pre-heat exchanger into the Pripjat River on the side. Because the water was warm and attracted fish, it was an excellent fishing spot, not to mention that it was just in time for the spring fish spawning season, thus anglers came here one after another. Even at night, there were many people.

The people came as close to less than 300 meters from reactor No. 4. When the maintenance workers drove past them in a bus, the players saw some anglers looking up at the thick smoke in the direction of the reactor. Some were only beginning to pack up, but more people chose to stay where they were.

They seemed to believe that the fire would not spread to where they were, especially after a few fire trucks had just arrived, convincing the anglers that the fire would be brought under control soon. Some, thinking that witnessing the heroic firemen putting out the fire up close would be a fine tale they could brag to their friends about, continued to hold their fishing rods and stayed by the river.

In addition, a young couple was even secretly tasting the forbidden fruit by the river. They turned a blind eye to the explosion behind them and were tightly entangled together. Further away, several workers patrolling the railway bridge had also stopped to watch.

"Heh, it looks like we're the only ones who are busy running for their lives within a hundred miles," Master Kui said cynically.

"They'll pay the price," the Doctor droned as he put on a serious note. "The radioactive dust above the nuclear power plant has already drifted here and landed on their skin. With every breath they take, it enters their lungs. When they recall it in the future... if they still have a future, this will be the moment they will regret the most in their lives."

"What exactly are these people thinking? How can you be indifferent to the explosion in the nuclear power plant when you are moving around it?!" Mouse's face was filled with disbelief.

"I don't know. I'm just a surgeon, not a psychiatrist." the doctor shrugged.

"Will the radioactive dust drift into the town?" At this moment, Master Kui was concerned about another question.

"Without a doubt, this is already happening."

“So, if we stay in the town, we’ll continue to be exposed to the radiation?” Mouse asked.

His words sank the hearts of all the players.

Moreover, unlike the anglers and lovey-dovey couples by the river, the players knew that to complete their quest, they had no to stay in the town even if they knew that there was a risk of radiation.

Thus, the carriage fell into silence. A moment later, coconut began to vomit again. However, because she had already vomited all her dinner before, she could only vomit non-stop now. It was the rats that were taking care of her.

“Sorry, I still feel a little carsick,” Coconut said.

“I’ll try to drive steadily, but this isn’t a very smooth section of the road,” the maintenance man said. As he spoke, he saw a few passing cars from the opposite side. There were fire engines that followed them, as well as private cars. One of them even honked at them, as if wanting them to stop.

However, the maintenance man would not listen obediently. He turned the direction, bypassed the car, and continued to drive forward. He looked at the rearview mirror and saw that the owner of the car had already walked down. Seeing that the bus was far away, he seemed a little helpless. He had no intention of continuing to chase after them, however.

After about five minutes, the ambulance and the bus drove past the safety zone near the nuclear power plant and finally entered the town one after the other.

Everyone’s impression of Pripjat was basically inseparable from the word “ghost city.” After the Chernobyl incident, the city became desolate and no longer had any people. In addition, Ukraine later launched an adventure tourism program, which basically confirmed Pripjat’s identity as a ghost city.

Tourists held radiators in their hands and wore protective clothing as they walked between the abandoned school and the stadium. Listening to the creaking of the counters, they seemed to be able to feel the terrible disaster that happened here decades ago, at the same time, they enjoyed a ghost city’s desolation.

However, at this time, Pripjat looked no different from other towns. In fact, it was more accurate to say that Pripjat looked more beautiful than most of the towns in this era.

The town was built before the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the east. After the plan for the nuclear power plant was approved, the dormitories of the workers and the office buildings of the administrators were built first. As the project progressed, the families of the workers also moved to the town. People named the new town after the Pripjat River.

As the number of residents in the town increased, there were more and more houses. There were shops, schools, stadiums, even buses and railways. When the No.1 reactor of the nuclear power plant was put into operation, the workers of the nuclear power plant and their families also moved into the town. After that, the construction of the reactor continued. After the No.4 reactor, the No.5 and No.6 reactors went into intense construction.

The number of residents in the town also increased. So far, there were more than 50,000 people. Moreover, unlike those compact and crowded old cities, Pripjat was a typical Brezhnev-like city. The

streets were wide, neat, and geometrically distributed, and the houses were well-arranged. There was also a magnificent palace for teenagers and the 11th Cinema of the Soviet Union.

Whether it was the design or the planning of the city, everything was determined by top Soviet leadership. It also showed the bloc's ambition for the use of atomic energy. Everyone who came to Pripjat was fascinated by its charm. In order to get a living witness here, people fought over it.

But now Pripjat was still in deep sleep. Only a few people noticed the light of the distant nuclear power station.

### **Chapter 1134: Changes**

The ambulance stopped outside Pripjat's medical center. The nurses, who had been preparing for a long time, immediately carried the injured into the emergency room and began to treat them.

At this time, the maintenance workers had already parked the bus in the parking lot of the medical center and the players got off the bus. At this time, there were not many patients in the medical center. It looked a little deserted, but everyone knew that it would not be long before the doctors and nurses here would be swamped.

"The clothes we're wearing now are still from the nuclear power plant. They're too eye-catching. Moreover, there's quite a lot of radioactive dust on them. Let's go and change our clothes first," the doctor suggested.

No one had any objections.

Therefore, the players quietly bypassed the outpatient building and arrived at the inpatient department at the back. There were two young nurses on duty there. When they saw the players walking in, they were stunned.

One of them stood up and asked, but in the blink of an eye, the group of uninvited guests in front of her restrained her. Her companions were no exception.

Master Kui killed the two people cleanly. After that, the players found two unoccupied rooms. The male and female players were each given one room and the youth in the Zhanfu found the place where the patient gowns were kept.

The players each took a set. Just as they were about to go to the room to change, they were stopped by the doctor. "Wait, I see a bathroom at the end of the corridor. Let's go take a shower first. Although 80% of the radioactive elements have already accumulated in the granular layer under our skin, it's still useful to use water to wash them down."

The two ladies, Coconut and Master Kui went to wash up, followed by the maintenance worker and Mouse. Zhang Heng and the young man in the uniform were in line behind them.

Zhang Heng walked to the sink and took off his clothes and shoes first. Then, he turned on the tap and heard the young man in uniform praise him, "Idol, you have a real good figure. You probably spend a good deal of time working out, right? Or are you some soldier king or special force or something in the real world?"

"What's a soldier king?" Zhang Heng asked as he splashed water on his arm.



"It's the kind of soldier king that... When the god of war returns home and sees his daughter living in a doghouse, he orders 100,000 soldiers to go to the battlefield," the young man said with a sneer. But it didn't seem to have any effect on Zhang Heng.

Zhang Heng turned to look at him and said calmly, "Aren't you going to take a shower?"

"I've already been exposed to radiation, so I don't care about this half a minute. I'll shower with the doctor," the young man said with a wave of his hand.

"Suit yourself." Zhang Heng washed his hair and back after washing his arms. "Also, stay away from me. I don't want my skin to be contaminated with radioactive dust again."

"Okay, no problem." The young man took half a step back and commended. "As expected of my idol. He's always so cautious."

"..."

After the Doctor and the young man had showered and changed, the team of players transformed from nuclear power plant employees to patients in the medical center.

With the help of the fluorescent lights in the ward, everyone noticed the changes in their bodies. Their previously exposed skin had turned red, and according to the doctor, was because their stratum corneum had disintegrated after being exposed to the high-intensity electromagnetic waves, exposing the cells under their skin.

Other than that, a portion of the players also felt a headache and nausea. However, the most serious one was the coconut. Her hand, which had been grazed by the high-energy electromagnetic waves, had actually started to swell up. Moreover, the wound had even split open, any slight movement would cause severe pain. In addition, her lips were also slightly swollen.

The doctor's expression changed slightly. "Did you touch anything that you shouldn't have touched before?"

However, when Coconut heard this, she suddenly exploded for no reason. "What's something that you shouldn't have touched? Is there anything that you should have touched in that nuclear power plant?" she exploded.

Her sudden anger also confused the players. Among them, the maintenance worker and the young man in the Zhanfu showed a hint of displeasure on their faces. It was clearly not the time to be petty, although they had become closer after experiencing the explosion of the nuclear power plant and escaping together, and they had begun to act like a small team. In the end, they had only known each other for less than an hour, no one would coddle anyone unconditionally.

In the end, it was one of the doctors who came out to comfort the others. "It's okay. This is not her intention. She should be suffering from radiation induced mania in the nervous system now. Such an illness only appears extremely severe in the beginning."

"What happens after that?" The dissatisfaction in the maintenance worker's eyes disappeared when he heard that it was the illness.

“After that, it will turn into a deep depression. It’s fine. We’ll get some anti-depressants later,” the doctor said and looked at Coconut. “How’s your hand?”

“What do you think? I feel f\*cked right now. It’s like someone is constantly slicing through my palm with a knife,” Coconut said. “And my mouth is swollen. I want to cut it with a knife.”

“When you fell at the nuclear power plant, you probably encountered some powerful radiation. That’s why your hand became like this.” The doctor took gauze from the nurses’ station and wrapped two layers around Coconut’s injured hand. “After that, when you vomited, you covered your mouth with your hand, so your mouth was also exposed to a high dose of radiation.”

The other players’ expressions froze when they heard this. They had thought that the radiation they had suffered from being so close to the core of the reactor was already very high. They had not expected that there would be such a dangerous thing in the nuclear power plant.

“Let’s find a wide-range radiation measuring instrument to test it. This kind of instrument can measure the nature and degree of radiation inside and outside.” The doctor paused for a moment before adding, “In the future, it would be best if we all take a test together. At the very least, we can know how much radiation we have been exposed to.”

After that, everyone left the ward and went to the outpatient building. What the players did not expect was that they could not find the kind of measuring instrument that the doctor had mentioned even though they had searched several places to place the instruments, at this moment, more and more injured people were sent to the hospital. Among them, there were quite a number of people who had suffered from severe radiation.

The Doctor suggested that the hospital check their radiation dose, but it turned out that the hospital only used a relatively simple measuring instrument to perform a simple radiation test on the incoming patients, after confirming that they were all radioactive, the Doctor gave them a bath, changed their clothes, and injected them intravenously.

The doctor was also surprised. “That’s it?”

“Why? Is there something wrong with their methods?” Zhang Heng asked.

“There are still a lot of problems. The medical equipment that I mentioned before is not particularly advanced, so it should be available in this era. Furthermore, this hospital provides medical services to nuclear power plants. At the very least, you should know how much radiation your patients have absorbed. In addition, the number of patients that have been sent here has also increased. Logically, the hospital should be classifying the patients according to the progress of acute radiation syndrome. However, all the patients that I’ve seen have been mixed together, and the medical staff’s protective gear is not in place.”

### **Chapter 1135: Potassium Iodide**

The doctors were surprised by the lack of preparedness of the Pripjat Medical Center for acute radiation sickness.

In particular, the lack of large-range radiometers meant that the players had no way of determining how much RAD of radiation they had absorbed in the previous explosion. This meant that they had no method of estimating how much time they had left.

However, the good news was that they had found potassium iodide injection in the hospital.

“The best time for this thing to take effect is before your exposure is to radiation. It is, however, still effective even after you are exposed to radiation.” The doctor gave the players, including himself, an IV drip. With drip stands in hand, coupled with the hospital gowns, they looked no different from patients now.

When they were done, the hospital was finally bustling with activity. The wounded had been streaming in from Chernobyl, and many had their skins turn dark brown, and their bodies swelled. As they were being carried out of the ambulance, they couldn’t stop moaning. Some became hysterical. They looked very manic, but soon, his severe hiccups forced him to calm down.

Zhang Heng and the others also saw a familiar face among them. It was the man who had stood on the balcony in front of the reactor.

His condition was also the most serious of all. Because he was too close to the reactor, all the skin on his body had almost been burned off. The strips of skin hung on his body, exposing the flesh underneath. His entire body was swollen beyond recognition, and he could not move at all. Even moving his fingers proved impossible.

In order to relieve the poor man from the excruciating pain he was experiencing, people in the same ward had to find some vodka for him to drink. However, before he could even swallow any, he retched it out violently. His condition did not look good, and it seemed that he had little time left to live.

The off-duty doctors and nurses had also mobilized. There were also people borrowed from the nuclear power installation company, mainly aunties, cleaning the corridors and wards over and over again.

Considering that each of the injured from the nuclear power plant contained a lot of radiation, the players and their team had all left the medical center with IV bottles. However, they did not return to the original bus, finding a jeep instead.

After witnessing the current state of the medical center, everyone could not help but worry about their future, especially Coconut. The doctor had to give her a sedative to calm her down.

“Now that we’ve obtained the potassium iodide, what’s our next step?” Master Kui asked.

“Of course, we have to hurry and complete the main storyline,” the maintenance man said without hesitation. He didn’t want to stay in this dungeon a second longer.

“What do you guys think about the main storyline quest, then? Let’s hear it,” Zhang Heng said.

“Okay, I’ll go first.” To everyone’s surprise, the first person to raise his hand this time was unexpectedly the server youth. “I feel that the situation in this dungeon is actually not that bad. Hmm, even though everyone’s survived a nuclear explosion, it looks like they don’t have much time left to live.”

“Your definition of “not that bad” is quite ingenious,” Master Kui mocked.

“No, the first part isn’t the main point. What I want to say is that this mission isn’t too difficult. Finding the key person should mean we have to find the key person that caused this disaster. And don’t forget that we have an advantage in this.”

“What advantage?”

“We don’t need to really investigate this accident because we’re from the 21st century. We’ve all read some information related to Chernobyl.”

“I haven’t really read much about it.” Coconut yawned. Because of the sedative, she couldn’t feel the pain in her palms and lips anymore. However, the side effect was that her senses would be dulled, and she’d feel a little sleepy.

“Alright, most of us should have seen it.”

The young man immediately corrected himself. “What we need to do now is to find the most responsible person for this accident based on the information everyone has. Then, we can find him and directly complete the mission and leave this damn place.”

“I remember that this accident seems to be due to some safety test. The person in charge of this test was the deputy chief engineer of the reactor. His name is Otlov or Totorov... It’s tough to remember Russian names,” the maintenance worker complained.

“Gatlov,” the doctor said, “And the foreman on duty and an operator at that time. But I don’t remember their names. In short, the three of them should be the main people responsible person for this disaster.”

“Did their mistakes lead to the accident?” Master Kui raised her eyebrows.

“No, I remember a passage saying that there was something wrong with the design of the reactor itself. Their experimental operation that night was the cause,” the maintenance man said.

“So, if it’s the second possibility, do we have to find the designer of the power plant?” Mouse asked anxiously. “Does he live in Pripyat or nearby?”

“Who approved tonight’s safety test?” Master Kui asked again.

“The chief engineer, the director of the nuclear power plant?”

“Don’t you think they should be more responsible for the accident?”

“Yes, that makes sense, but then we’ll have to add names to our list.”

“We should list all the suspects and prioritize them according to their importance. We should first take care of the people who live here or nearby,” Zhang Heng said, “Also, the most important thing right now is to find a translator. Otherwise, our actions will be too limited, be it investigating or integrating into the city.”

“Finding a translator is not a problem, but how can we guarantee that he won’t betray us?”

“We don’t understand Russian, after all, so we rely on translators to communicate with the outside world. Furthermore, we have a cold war background now, so we might be treated as spies sent by the West.”

“I’ll solve this problem,” Zhang Heng said.

“That would be the best.”

With Simon’s words, the players could finally heave a sigh of relief. The next step was to find a translator. Pripyat was the newly built atomic city of the Soviet Union, complete with all manner of facilities. However, there was also a problem. This city had only been developed because of the nuclear power plant, and most who settled here were also related to the nuclear power plant. They were either builders or staff at the plant. There were few around who worked in other professions, even more so for those who translated for a living.

It was not easy to find a competent translator in the massive city of Pripjat.

Chapter 1136: Whispers

“If I’m not mistaken, there are quite a few countries in the Soviet Union and there should be more than one language, right?” Mouse asked.

“Yes, the Soviet Union is an alliance of 15 countries, and there are quite a few ethnic groups in each country. Therefore, there are quite a few languages. Russian is the main language of communication, and the government has been working hard to popularize it. However, there are still languages in different places. For example, in Ukraine, where we are now, everyone can speak Ukrainian. Do any of you know Ukrainian?” the doctor asked.

In the end, the players looked at each other, but no one answered.

Even though Zhang Heng had mastered nine languages, there was, unfortunately, no Russian or Ukrainian among them. Just as everyone was staring at each other, Coconut, who looked sleepy, suddenly said, “I have that kind of... tool that can communicate with your mind.”

“What?”

“I’m not joking,” Coconut said as she took out an earring from her pocket. “Here, this is it.”

Just when everyone was overjoyed, Coconut opened her mouth and swallowed the earring.

“What drug did you inject her with?” Mouse angrily scolded the doctor. “Don’t tell me that her mental disorder is also due to nuclear radiation? !”

The doctor’s expression changed slightly as if he thought of something, but he didn’t say anything.

“It’s none of his business.”

Coconut swallowed with difficulty and gulped the earring before she spoke.

Her expression was very calm. Although she looked a little dull under the effect of the tranquilizer and her eyes were lifeless, she didn’t seem to have lost her basic ability to think. After that, she stretched out her uninjured hand and opened it.

Mouse saw the earring on her hand and heaved a sigh of relief. "So you didn't eat it. Then what was that? Did you do a magic trick?"

"No, the earring is a pair. I swallowed one just now, and there's another one here," Coconut said.

"It seems like you still don't trust us." The doctor sighed.

"Since everyone dares to come out to play single-player, of course we have to be careful. I don't intend to harm others, but I don't want to die for no reason. Furthermore, my current situation isn't good, and I'm a burden to the team. If I take out a valuable game item at this time, it's hard to say if people won't have other thoughts," Coconut said.

"Then why did you reveal that you have a telepathic item?" Zhang Heng asked.

"Because I'm part of the team, and we're all on the same boat. Naturally, I want to help the team clear this dungeon. Seeing that everyone is in trouble, and I happen to have a solution, I can't just sit still," Coconut said.

"So you swallowed that earring."

"That's right, the earring is a pair called Whispers. People who hold Whispers can communicate through thoughts... though there are still many limitations to this. First, both parties need to agree. And just like you sending and receiving messages, you need to focus your mind to convey what you want to say, then accept the other party's words."

"You swallowed an earring, so as long as you give the other earring to the "translator" we're looking for, you'll be able to talk to him. In this way, the team won't be able to leave you behind, right?"

"That's right. As expected of the number one player, he's very organized," Coconut commended.

Mouse was dumbfounded. He didn't expect Coconut's seemingly irrational actions to actually contain a calm plan.

"I have no objections," Zhang Heng said. After that, he looked around at the other players in the car. In the end, everyone shook their heads.

The maintenance worker muttered softly, "You're asking for it." However, he didn't say anything else after that.

With Whispers, the matter of finding a translator became much easier.

The crowd didn't waste any more time. They directly dragged one of the two young nurses who had been knocked unconscious in the inpatient department into the car.

In order to seize every second and buy as much time as possible, the players did not even wait for the young nurse to wake up by herself. Instead, they went to fetch a basin of water. They first put an earring on her ear before pressing her face into it.

Stimulated by the cold water, the young nurse woke up. Then, she saw that she was being imprisoned in a jeep by a group of people. These were the same people who had knocked her unconscious previously.

The nurse wanted to scream, but then she was covered by someone.

So she could only use her big black eyes to pray that the bandits in front of her would find their conscience and let her go home. However, her beautiful wish was destined to fail.

The nurse saw a woman with slightly swollen lips in front of her and pointed at her head, indicating for her to focus.

However, the young nurse was completely scared silly at this moment. She could not concentrate at all, and her mind was a mess. All her thoughts were busy guessing where this group of people came from and what they would do to her. Her entire body was constantly trembling.

Hence, after trying for a while, Coconut got tired. "No... this coordination is too bad."

"Do we need to use some tricks?" the maintenance man asked.

"It's useless. She was scared to begin with. If you scare her again, it will only make things worse. Let's move on to the next one," Coconut said calmly.

Thus, Master Kui had no choice but to knock the little nurse unconscious again and drag her colleague over.

The second little nurse looked much taller and bigger. When she was subdued, she still wanted to resist. This was also the reason why the players wanted the first little nurse to be the translator.

Unfortunately, the first nurse's mental strength was too weak, while the second one was much better.

Coconut took less than five minutes to connect with the girl. She learned that the girl's name was Besnova, a Ukrainian who came to Pripjat three years ago after graduating school. She became a nurse at the medical center and had no other relatives there except a roommate who shared a room with her. The other was a new boyfriend who worked at the train station as a ticket inspector.

"Tell her that as long as she does as we say, we won't hurt her, and it'll be good for her and her boyfriend," Zhang Heng said.

Coconut closed her eyes and passed the message to Besnova, who quickly nodded in agreement. She was a smart girl, and she could tell that she was no match for these people. Since that was the case, she had to work with them first, that was the only way to save her life.

"Okay, let's ask her the first question first. There's a parchment seller in town...." Zhang Heng said.

#### Chapter 1137: The Old Bookstore

The team searched through the town's grocery stores and shops before they found a notebook wrapped in parchment. Zhang Heng used the parchment and Besonova to complete the Vow Rings ceremony.

If Besnova harbored any bad intentions toward them, Zhang Heng would be the first to know and stop her.

Of course, it would be best if such a situation didn't occur.

To make Besnova realize this, Zhang Heng even invited her to play a little game. He allowed her to think about anything.

Besnova thought about her boyfriend and whether the hospital would send people to look for her after they found out that she was missing. Zhang Heng didn't respond. However, once she thought about how to escape, a small knife was placed on her neck.

The chill from the blade caused goosebumps to sprout on her neck. Even with Besnova's boldness, she was shocked by the sight. The way she looked at Zhang Heng changed completely.

"She said you're the devil," Coconut, who was in charge of translating, said.

"Okay, let her think I'm the devil then," Zhang Heng said lightly. He paused before continuing, "Ask her if she knows about Jartolov."

Coconut closed her eyes and said after a while, "She said that she has heard of the name. She knows that Jartolov is the deputy chief engineer of Chernobyl reactor No.4. Some of the nuclear power plant workers who used to go to the hospital for treatment used to chat about Jartolov in private."

"Is that so? What did they talk about?"

"Most of the time, they complain that Jartolov wasn't easy to get along with. He is always shirking his responsibilities. He often shouts in meetings and is dissatisfied with everything, stubborn, and does not socialize much. In addition, there is a worker who came to see the dentist who said that he likes to be corny. Most of the physicists hired are from the Far East, where his old boss lives.

"The foreman called Jartolov a despicable b\*stard because before the reactor unit even started operating, he had a chance to study, but Jartolov didn't give it to him. He said that he had enough knowledge and didn't need to study anymore, so he sent two other people to do it. However, during the final assembly and start-up phase, those who didn't study did most of the hardest work, and they didn't get paid as much as those who went to study. The foreman angrily went to Jartolov to demand an explanation, but Jartolov told him that those people had gone to study, but he didn't; hence it was reasonable for those people to get a high salary. He was so angry that he scolded them for the whole morning."

"It may sound like a jerk, but as long as the company and organization are large enough, there will always be such inappropriate leaders," Zhang Heng said. "Now that we know that our deputy chief engineer of Jartlov is not very popular at the nuclear power plant, we can't blame him for the accident. We need to meet with him to understand the details of the accident."

Zhang Heng glanced at the watch that he had taken from the bus driver. It was 5:30 in the morning. It had been four hours since the explosion. After a night of heroic fighting by the firefighters, the fire in the direction of the nuclear power plant seemed to have been put out. At least there was no pillar of fire that soared into the sky. However, the crisis did not pass as smoothly as most people thought.

The doctor stood on the second floor of the old bookstore and looked out of the window, looking very worried.

At this moment, the sky had begun to turn white, and the sun was ready to take over the position of the moon. It seemed it would be another bright and sunny morning. On the balcony of the residential



houses opposite, laundry and sheets were fluttering in the wind, and some early women had already started preparing breakfast for their husbands and sons in the kitchen. The flower beds downstairs were in full bloom.

For the residents of Pripjat, the day seemed no different than usual.

People woke up from their warm beds, opened the windows, poured themselves a glass of water, kissed their loved ones, and contemplated the day's work. They thought about the weekend, on whether they should go fishing, set up a picnic, or just go hunting in the forest across the river.

In fact, it was May Day in a few days, a holiday for workers around the world. All factories and units would be on holiday, and cities would hold grand celebrations, with throngs of people flooding the streets. The whole city would be beaming with joy. No one, however, realized that their lives had already been completely different since the explosion at 1:23 a.m.

The radioactive fallout had drifted into Pripjat with the wind, sticking onto their clothes that had been hung out to dry, and into the room as the windows opened, onto everyone's skin. Adults, children, and the elderly could not escape, where particles even made their way into uncapped cups and breakfast plates, filling the air with plutonium, cesium, strontium, and massive amounts of iodine-131, not to mention the huge radioactive cloud that was slowly drifting in the sky.

Unfortunately, these real dangers could not be seen with the naked eye.

"They should evacuate the residents here as soon as possible," the doctor sighed.

"I saw the news on the internet. It was said that Soviets only began evacuating the residents here after 34 hours," the maintenance man said.

"Is it because it takes time to gather vehicles?" Mouse asked, confused.

"Yes, it takes a lot of vehicles to transport 50,000 people, but it shouldn't have taken that long. Also, apparently, ordinary people haven't been notified since the accident," the repairman said as he looked at Besnova.

As expected, Besnova was confused. She didn't seem to understand why the players looked like they were about to face a great enemy. Everyone was fully dressed, trying not to leave their skin exposed. They also wore gloves on their hands, and masks over their faces.

Zhang Heng also tossed a "protective suit" to Besnova. They were quite lucky. Previously, they had passed a fire supply store and found a respirator and breathing apparatus, but now that they were quite far away from the radiation source, they didn't have much use for it. The mask could stop some large particles of radioactive dust from entering their mouths.

"Although this might sound cruel, it's actually a good thing for us. Since the main culprits on the list are still here and haven't been dragged to Moscow or anywhere else, it'll be easier for us to investigate," the young man said, blinking his eyes.

"Yes, the owner of this old bookstore is about to wake up. He'll probably be here soon, so it's about time for us to leave," Zhang Heng said.. He then glanced at Coconut, the latter started to vomit again after finishing the conversation with Besnova.

## Chapter 1138: Looking for Katarov

In fact, Coconut was not the only one in the party who vomited. The maintenance guy and Mouse had vomited twice, but their condition wasn't as severe as Coconut.

The wound on her hand, which had been bandaged by the Doctor, seemed to be unable to heal. Fresh blood kept oozing out, and she needed to change the bandage every once in a while. Even under the effect of the tranquilizer, Coconut did not seem to be feeling very well. Her lips also seemed to be on the verge of cracking.

All that and not to mention the lingering nausea: the players could basically feel it, but the degree of severity was different. There was also a faint sour smell in the air, but it was not that obvious.

The players had already left the bookstore and got back into the jeep.

Zhang Heng walked behind them and said to Coconut, "Help me tell her that she can call her boyfriend and ask him to stay at home for the day. But don't say anything unnecessary. If she tries anything funny, I'll find out."

Coconut rinsed her mouth with the water from the old bookstore's canteen. She glanced at Zhang Heng and asked, "Do you want to tell her the reason?"

"Yes, tell her the truth about the nuclear power plant explosion."

Coconut nodded.

A moment later, a look of surprise appeared on Besnova's face. She seemed to be in disbelief, but there was not much fear in her eyes. Zhang Heng guessed that she did not know the severity of the situation at all, just like the night anglers they saw on the road.

Zhang Heng did not explain, though. Firstly, Coconut, who was the middleman, looked very tired. Zhang Heng did not want to trouble her with any more words. Secondly, Zhang Heng had already done his best by asking Besnova to call her boyfriend. If she was unwilling or did not believe him, Zhang Heng would let her be.

However, after thinking for a moment, Besnova actually used the bookstore's phone to call her boyfriend. In fact, she was very obedient the whole time. Not long after, she seemed to get a little angry and slammed the receiver on the phone.

"She said that her boyfriend didn't listen to her and insisted on going to work at the train station. He also told her not to say anything. He said that a colleague of his had received the news, that there was an explosion at a water tank at the nuclear power plant, and the accident was under control," Coconut said.

"..."

Anyone who had been to the scene and had any sense wouldn't have thought it was just a water tank explosion. However, Zhang Heng didn't say anything and just got into the car with Besnova and Coconut.

Because the maintenance man was feeling a little dizzy, the driver was now Master Kui. After everyone had arrived, she asked, "Do any of you know where Katarov is now?"

"I think that guy has already run. He's the deputy chief engineer of reactor No.4, and unlike the ordinary people in town, he should know a lot about the reactor. Therefore, he must know that the reactor has already exploded. If he stays there, he will be exposed to even more radiation."

"Don't let him get caught already," the maintenance man said with a frown. "Then we'll have to think of a way to get him out of the police station."

Zhang Heng was not in a hurry to come to a conclusion. "Let's go to his place first," was all he said.

Although Besnova did not know where Katarov lived, the man wasn't a nobody in Pripjat, so it wasn't that difficult to find out. She got out of the car and made two phone calls; a friend married to a gas line operator at the power plant. Hence, she quickly got the address.

Under Besnova's human navigation, Kuei drove the car to Katarov's door. However, to his disappointment, Katarov did not come back after the explosion.

"He didn't come home... Did he just run away?" Mouse asked.

Zhang Heng thought about it and turned to look at Coconut, who looked a little pained. "Ask her if she knows any of the family and workers of reactor No.4. See if you can get any information about Katarov's whereabouts from them."

Coconut took two deep breaths and closed her eyes.

Then, she saw Besnova shake her head. After a moment of hesitation, she nodded again. She got out of the car again and walked to the public phone booth. This time, it took her a long time, but Zhang Heng was watching her from the side, and during that time, she did not feel any change in the Vow Ring she was wearing.

After about half an hour, the public phone rang again. Basonova only said two sentences before hanging up.

"She asked someone to contact Victor Grigorievich Smagin, the shift leader of the No.4 reactor unit. Smagin is the shift leader of the No.2 reactor unit. He was in charge of the day's work and went home at night. In the end, he was picked up by a van not long ago. Apparently, he went back to the nuclear power plant to help. According to Smagin, Katarov left the nuclear power plant about three hours ago. According to the people at the administrative building, he went to the civil defense headquarters," Coconut said.

"Three hours ago? In other words, he stayed there for at least two hours after we left the plant. Why? Does he want to die?" the maintenance man asked in confusion.

"The three-hour civil defense meeting should be over. Katarov was in the control room when the accident happened. He was not far from the reactor, so he should have been exposed to a lot of radiation," the young man said. "If he really stayed there for another two hours, the radiation dose would have increased. He should probably be feeling very unwell by now."

“The hospital!” Mouse and the maintenance man said in unison. “Katarov is probably in the hospital now.”

“It’s not just him. The people in the control room that night are probably in the medical center as well,” Zhang Heng said. “We should be able to meet a lot of people on this trip.”

Zhang Heng was right. When they returned to the medical center, they realized that it was completely different from the first time they came.

The number of patients had increased by at least fivefold, most being firefighters and employees at the power plant that night. Not only were there people from reactor No.4, but there were also people on duty from reactor No.3 next door. The other night anglers also noticed that they were not feeling well when the sun rose. Their breathing was rapid, and their lungs looked as if they had been burned by fire. Their skin was sunburned and had turned dark, caused by the nuclear fire.

The sound of coughing rose and fell in the ward. There was also a radiation detector. The alarm was constantly beeping, so the cleaner had to disinfect the corridor and the ward. He threw away all the clothes of the wounded, all to no avail to the beeps of the Geiger counter. No one realized that it was actually because of the radioactive dust floating in the air.

At this moment, there was no place without radiation in Pripyat.

Some of the patients seemed to be in a serious condition, but most of them could still bear it. At least for now, it seemed that their physical and mental conditions were still normal.. Some of them were still chatting, and little did they realize that their bodies might rot bit by bit in a few days.

#### Chapter 1139: New Plan

Besnova worked as a nurse in the medical center. With her around, the players’ movements in the hospital became more convenient. Besnova even helped them get the names of the patients in each ward.

However, after that, another problem was placed in front of the players.

That was how to make contact with the target.

Currently, the medical center’s wards were practically full. Every ward was filled with patients, and the corridors were filled with people.

For a town of only 50,000 residents like Pripyat, the hospital itself did not have too many wards.

This major accident at Chernobyl caused over a hundred patients to flood into the hospital at once, instantly putting the limited medical resources under great strain. Despite the hospital having already arranged for the normal patients to be sent to the two clinics in Pripyat, the situation didn’t look too optimistic. This was only the beginning. The fallout had already reached the town, and more sick patients would come to see them later.

There were already militia setting up a cordon in front of the hospital, blocking the families of the firefighters and power plant employees who had rushed over after hearing the news. Only Zhang Heng was among the players, and Coconut had followed Besnova in.

However, it was not easy to get Katarov out of the crowd.

Of course, considering that the militia did not have any weapons and there was no armed force in the hospital, it was not impossible for the players to rob people. However, the commotion was definitely not a minor one. Katarov, however, was only the first person on the list. Behind him were the shift leader, Alexander Akimov, and the advanced reactor control engineer, Leonid Toptonov.

At this stage, the best solution was to pack them up and take them away. However, Akimov and Toptonov's condition was much worse than Katarov's. Their skin had completely turned dark brown, and they looked like they were in great pain, having no choice but to rely on powerful sedatives to alleviate their suffering.

Zhang Heng did not know if the two of them would be able to withstand the pain. Furthermore, there was another problem with taking the three of them away. It would alert those who were behind the list but were not in the hospital. If the three of them were excluded, it would be even more difficult to investigate those not on the list.

The best way was to have a conversation with the three of them at the hospital. They would try their best not to cause any trouble. The players only wanted to know what had happened in the control room last night, and who was responsible for the accident. However, even without asking Zhang Heng, he knew that the three of them would not cooperate obediently. After all, the players were just uninvited guests who had suddenly appeared here. They did not even have any identities, so it would be strange if Katarov were willing to pay attention to these suspicious people.

Therefore, he had to think of another way.

Coconut and Besnova were waiting for Zhang Heng's decision. At that moment, Akimov and another plant employee suddenly broke into an argument in the ward. Zhang Heng raised his eyebrows and asked Coconut, "What are they arguing about?"

"Besnova said that they were arguing about the explosion last night. Sitnikov said that he had just checked all the places, and the reactor was gone. There were graphite blocks all over the floor. Akimov said that he was mistaken. Sitnikov said that the experts would be coming soon, and they will find out."

"Experts?"

"Yes, they did mention that word."

Zhang Heng thought about it and said, "Got it. Let's leave this place for now."

.....

After listening to Zhang Heng's introduction of the situation in the hospital, all the players realized the seriousness of the situation. They started to discuss the next step of the plan in the car.

Some people supported the idea of directly robbing people, while others suggested finding other targets first and putting the three at the end of the investigation. That way, they wouldn't be afraid even if the situation got out of hand.

"I'm afraid we don't have much time left," Zhang Heng said after everyone had finished speaking. "We just received another piece of news at the Medical Center. Moscow's Hospital No.6 has sent doctors here. They're probably preparing to transfer the patients."

Although Pripyat Medical Center was the largest hospital beside the nuclear power plant, it hadn't faced such a challenging situation since it was built. The doctors had previously complained about their lack of inspection and treatment methods, and the hospital did not even have the equipment to check how much radiation everyone had been exposed to, so they had to call for help from the hospitals in Kiev and Moscow.

When the doctors from those hospitals arrived, they would realize how serious the condition of the patients were, and they would definitely transfer them away.

"Let's talk to Katarov and the others first," Zhang Heng said. "I have a plan. Maybe we don't have to kidnap them from the hospital."

"What plan?"

"Moscow seems to have sent a team of experts to this place."

Mouse was stunned. "You mean you plan to disguise yourself as part of that team?"

"That's right," Zhang Heng said. "We share a similar goal. We want to investigate what happened at the nuclear power plant. We can use their identities so that no one will suspect our actions."

"This... will this work?"

"Let's give it a try. Since we're all Soviets in this dungeon, we'll use force if we can't do it," Zhang Heng said.

"But we don't know Russian, so we can't talk," the doctor said with a frown. "We're experts from Moscow, but we don't speak Russian. No one will believe this, right?"

Zhang Heng glanced at Besnova. "She can speak, and she can speak on our behalf. Also, I was outside the ward for a while. It's very noisy there now, so as long as we keep a distance, they won't hear us talking in private."

"She's just a nurse. How can she do such a thing? Besides, many people in the hospital know her."

The doctor was still skeptical about Besnova's new identity.

"I can help her put on makeup and teach her some manners and words so that she appears capable of being an expert," Zhang Heng said. "Besnova is talented and a quick learner. She's a smart girl, so the only problem is..."

Zhang Heng looked at Coconut. "The rest of you can stay in the car, but you have to go. Only you can communicate with Besnova and adjust your questions accordingly. This conversation will probably take a long time. Can you handle it?"

Coconut nodded without hesitation. Even though her face looked terrible, she still said, "I'm probably the person who's most eager for this dungeon to end as soon as possible, so as long as I can leave this godforsaken place a minute earlier, I'll do anything you want me to do."

"In that case, let's go to the clothing store to buy some clothes and toiletries.. We'll be back in an hour," Zhang Heng said.

### **Chapter 1140: The Experts**

An hour later, a black Volga sedan stopped at the entrance of the medical center.

Four people stepped out of the car, two men and two women, all looking very serious and wearing formal clothing. One of the men, in particular, had an expressionless face the entire time. Looking to be in his forties, the people who stared at him could not help but feel their hearts skip a beat. They lowered their heads, daring not to look him in the eye.

It was evident that he usually held a lot of power at work, the reason he could develop such an autocratic temperament. In comparison, the three people around him looked much worse.

One of them, in particular, wore glasses and looked like a scholar. Some even noticed that one of her legs could not help but tremble slightly. This poor girl appeared to have been "bullied" by that detestable boss many times along the way.

The other two people were much more normal. However, one of the women wore a mask and did not look very well. She seemed to be feeling ill or something.

The four of them attracted the attention of many people as soon as they got off the car. Saying nothing, they directly walked toward the medical center.

In the end, the captain of the militia team in charge of the patrol hesitated for a moment, but he still extended his hand to stop the four people because he had received the order to not allow other unrelated people to enter the hospital.

The leader of the militia squad felt that he should still obey the order, but the middle-aged man who looked like a leader did not say a word. He only gave him a cold glance, and the leader immediately regretted his actions.

Fortunately, the bespectacled girl who seemed to be easier to talk to stood up and said to him, "We are the expert team from Moscow. We received an order to investigate the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. We are here to talk to the staff on duty that night."

"A team of experts from Moscow? They came so quickly?" The captain of the militia team was stunned. According to the rules, he should check the documents of the four people next, but he saw that the girl wearing glasses kept winking at him. At the same time, the middle-aged man, who looked very mean and challenging to get along with, showed an impatient look, as if trying hard to suppress the anger in

his heart. Thus, the captain of the militia team finally gave in. He saluted and allowed the four people into the medical center.

Besnova heaved a long sigh of relief. Although it was a brief confrontation, her heart almost jumped out of her chest. Fortunately, she managed to muddle through in the end. As long as she passed through the outermost defense line, naturally, no one in the hospital would dare stop them. Thus, the four fake experts swaggered their way into the inpatient department.

However, when they entered the inpatient department, Besnova's heart started to race again. She had been working here all this time, and all the doctors and nurses knew her. She was afraid that her identity would be exposed.

After deceiving the captain of the militia unit downstairs, Besnova knew that she had completely fallen into the trap. If their identities were exposed now, she was afraid that she would be assigned to Zhang Heng's group as well. Losing her job was certain, and she might even be sent to prison if unlucky. She certainly didn't want to play the expert with Zhang Heng and Coconut if she had a choice.

Unfortunately, from the moment she fell into the players' hands, she no longer had any freedom. She could only pinch her nose and accept Zhang Heng's makeup. After that, she spent half an hour learning all kinds of posture and speech skills.

Zhang Heng did not expect Besnova to become a genius overnight, so he arranged for her to be a nuclear physicist. She was more of a research-oriented person, so she shouldn't be too exposed to the ways of the world. In addition to him and Coconut, a doctor was also present. Their doctor's identity was a radiation specialist. This was the role he was most familiar with, so he wouldn't be easily found out.

After entering the hospital, Besnova felt a little nervous, but she quickly realized that her former colleagues couldn't seem to confirm her appearance. She even deliberately walked around in front of her best friend, to which the latter had no reactions either.

Meanwhile, the head nurse complained, "Where did Besnova and Daysa go? Weren't they supposed to be on duty last night? Why haven't I seen them until now? The hospital is currently short of manpower. Can someone please call them back?"

"I think I saw Besonova come back. Perhaps something happened at home, and she left again," Besonova's good friend explained in a low voice.

Neither of them expected the person they were looking for had just walked past them. It was only then that Besnova realized just how good Zhang Heng's makeup skills were.

She knew which ward Katarov was in, but she didn't forget her current identity. She coughed twice and asked the head nurse beside her, "Are Anatoly Stepanović, Comrade Katarov, and Alexander Akimov Here?"

"You are?" The head nurse looked at Besnova and felt that the person in front of her seemed a little familiar, but she could not tell how. She then looked at the serious-looking middle-aged man behind her and was also shocked.



“We are the team of experts from Moscow. We have received orders to investigate the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. We needed to talk to the staff on duty last night,” Besnova repeated what she had said to the captain of the militia team.

“They appear to be big shots from Moscow,” the head nurse thought to herself. She received a call early in the morning and went back to work. She had heard the power plant staff that had been sent over talk about this matter before dawn. Therefore, compared to the militia team downstairs, she did not doubt the identity of the four people at all. She hurriedly said, “Come with me, but some of them are not in good condition. You’d better be mentally prepared.”

Even though the head nurse was a little afraid of the middle-aged leader, she mustered up her courage on the way to the ward. “There are a bunch of good people inside. Really, some of them are my neighbors. Sometimes when I get off work late, his wife will ask my children to have dinner at their house. This accident is a tragedy, and no one wants it to happen, but fortunately, I heard that it has been controlled.”

“The expert group is here to investigate this matter. We will definitely find out the cause of the accident, and when the time comes, we will naturally clear the name of an innocent person.” Besnova tried hard to recall whatever Zhang Heng had told her with a straight face, as calmly as she could.

Sure enough, the head nurse did not dare say anything else. She led them to a ward and knocked on the half-open door. “Mr. Katarov, the group of experts is here to see you.”