

Daddy CEO 576

Chapter 576 Turning Point (1)

"Is something wrong, Xueyi?"

Ran Xueyi turned and saw that the group had stopped for her. Shaking her head, she scolded herself for losing her focus and letting other things distract her.

"I'm fine," she said. "Let's go."

The group continued walking inside the narrow tunnel. As they go deeper and further inside, the dimmer the lights become. Probably because the bunker hadn't been in use for a long time, there was even water leaking on the ground, and as they went to the deepest part, the bunker looked rougher as if the previous owner decided to give up on spending his money on it.

Fortunately, none of them was afraid of bugs as centipedes and spiders skittered around.

Or they probably didn't want to rouse the tiny creatures with many hands, so they kept quiet.

Just as they thought it would take them long to reach the end of the tunnel, Evgenia ordered them to stop.

Above them was another tunnel, but smaller. Only one person could pass through at a time and get out of that square manhole cover, which was located at the very top.

"Get over there and open it," Evgenia instructed his men.

One man stepped forward, using the metal steps attached to the wall. After a minute, he pushed the manhole cover a few times but it wouldn't budge.

"I can't open it. The thick snow is pushing against the weight," reported the man.

This makes sense since this island snowed almost every single year. The snow covering the manhole must be thicker than it should be. However, Evgenia didn't think this was a problem.

After instructing the man to get down, Evgenia started to climb the steps. Using the entire forearm, he started to push and push. In the beginning, there didn't seem to be any change, and the manhole looked like it wouldn't budge. But after a few minutes, white light seeped through and snow fell through the gradually widening gaps.

Grunting loudly, Evgenia pushed with all his might. It had been a while since he used all of his strength, and he had never thought he'd use it to open a manhole cover.

Soon, the gaps turned bigger and bigger.

At his one final push, the manhole finally surrendered and opened.

Cleaning up a chunk of snow on the side, Evgenia got out of the hole and looked around him. Aside from the trees sporadically spread around the area, only snow filled his view. It seems their pursuers haven't found them yet.

"It's safe, you can all come up now," Evgenia shouted his order.

One by one, the group climbed up the hole.

When the last man finally got out, they restarted their journey. This time, their destination was towards the northern part of the island, where Evgenia remembered there was a shack where he stored some guns and a boat for fishing and hunting.

To get there, they must pass through the trees.

But that wasn't the only problem they needed to think about.

When they left, they didn't prepare some clothes to wear. In this cold, they were bound to suffer the consequences. Ran Xueyi and Alina were the lightest, dressed in their group.

"It'll only take fifteen minutes for us to reach that place. Can you two beat with it for now?" Evgenia turned to the two women in the group.

Ran Xueyi nodded while her arms were folded across her chest. She was cold, but it was not as unbearable as she thought it would be.

Alina also nodded, but the lack of pants seemed to testify that she might not survive even a minute out in the cold.

"Take this," Evgenia took off his suit jacket and gave it to her.

"I'm not cold. Give it to Ran Xueyi." Alina tipped her head at Ran Xueyi.

Ran Xueyi held her hands out. "Thanks, but I'm fine. You need that more than me."

With no other choice, Alina took the jacket from Evgenia. The group started to walk forward. As soon as it wrapped around her form, she almost elicited a moan from the sudden warmth. Tugging it a bit closer to her body, Alina saw Ran Xueyi looking at her with an amused smile and a raised eyebrow.

Knowing exactly what she was thinking, Alina rolled her eyes. "It's not what you think."

Walking beside her, Ran Xueyi chuckled. "It is what I think it is."

There was no way a man would offer his jacket in this cold to a woman he didn't like. Besides, among the men in their group, Evgenia was the only one who gave up his jacket.

Initially, Ran Xueyi assumed Evgenia liked her. After all, what kind of man would go as far as to do the things he did just to get her? But it seems she was overthinking things too far.

The way Evgenia looked at Alina and Ran Xueyi was different. Ran Xueyi concluded that the only purpose Evgenia has on why he went as far as to do these things for her was because he was obsessed with revenge.

And it would've worked his way if this thing didn't happen.

The trees surrounding them became thicker and thicker.

Ran Xueyi slowed down from her steps so Alina could walk beside Evgenia. Ran Xueyi didn't want to match Alina to just any other man. She knew what Alina had been through all these years just to become the leader of her own gang and grow her reputation.

What Alina needed was not an ordinary man who could give her a temporary sense of peace. But a dangerous man who could match her own and perhaps scare away those annoying and pesky bugs who try to make her life difficult.

She was unsure whether Evgenia was such a man, but Ran Xueyi trusted the Evgenia of the past, the roguish boy who found her and gave her a safe place to stay when she most needed it.

'Click'

Ran Xueyi's steps halted at the sound. Her attention was now hyper-focused on the back of her head, where she felt a hard thing pressing against it.

She refused to believe this was happening to her right now, when just a couple of feet away, Alina and Evgenia were walking in front of her.

But there was no denying that what was pressing against her skull was a gun.

As she had suspected, the one holding the gun leaned close to her ears. His breath fans across her cheek and hair.

"Slowly back up," ordered the man. "If you scream or even try to make a move, I'll shoot."

"If you shoot, you'll die," Ran Xueyi countered, trying to make him see what the outcome of his situation would be.

The man snorted. "That's fine. If I fail, I'll die either way."

Fail? Ran Xueyi wondered what that meant.

Chapter 577 Turning Point (2)

Ran Xueyi looked up ahead, where the group was already several steps ahead of her, unaware of the danger lurking behind them. She wanted to shout a warning, but she hesitated, not because she wanted to be saved, but because she needed to tell them that their enemies had already anticipated their route and would soon surround them.

Yet she knew that any attempt to alert them would likely provoke the man behind her to act ruthlessly. If she made a move to signal her friends, the man wouldn't hesitate to pull the trigger.

She could only trust that Evgenia and Alina would notice something sooner so that it wouldn't end up in the worst outcome.

"Slowly back away."

The man continued to order her around, completely disregarding her worries.

Ran Xueyi followed his instructions, retracing her steps and keeping the gun pressed on her head close so she knew where the man was.

The distance between her and her group grew increasingly far. The falling snow created a white veil that soon covered her and the man's tracks from being found.

"Turn to your right and don't do anything stupid."

Ran Xueyi obeyed his command, moving as he directed. The man shifted to her left, keeping the gun steady, now aimed at her temple.

Glancing at him, Ran Xueyi could finally see the person's identity.

It turned out to be the man who had first tried to open the manhole but couldn't.

Now thinking about it, he was also the one who was behind her during their walk inside the tunnel. But back then, Ran Xueyi thought he was only doing it because he was keeping an eye out if an

enemy chased after them. Did he volunteer to be on the lookout in the back because he had been planning to abduct her?

"Why are you doing this? Your boss won't like it when he hears you just betrayed him. I heard he does horrible things to traitors." Ran Xueyi knew she shouldn't be saying this to the person holding a gun. But she needed information.

And the more agitated a person is, the more they will slip.

As expected, the man leveled his gaze at her and scoffed. "If you're talking about Evgenia, he's not my boss."

"He's not?" Ran Xueyi's face flashed with surprise. "Then why are you working for him?"

"For money, obviously," the man said with pride. "Walk."

Ran Xueyi followed his order again, only for the walking part.

"So, who is your boss?" A blunt and direct question she shouldn't have asked. But Ran Xueyi shrugged when the man narrowed his eyes at her. "Come on, you're the one who has a gun pointed at my head. Besides, didn't you say there are some of your comrades nearby? Where would I run to even if I got my chance to escape?"

The man didn't respond to her initially, and Ran Xueyi felt her heart almost constrict in her chest as anxiety filled her. She honestly didn't want to keep testing him, but dying without knowing who was doing this to her would definitely make her regret not doing it.

Ran Xueyi observed as the man contemplated her question.

Just as she was about to think he wouldn't answer, the man blurted, "We don't know who hired us. But one thing is for sure, they're not someone ordinary. And they're adamant on what they want."

"And what do they want?" Ran Xueyi felt her breath quicken.

"You."

For some reason, Ran Xueyi expected this. But when she finally heard it coming from his mouth, it still filled her with dread.

Just how many people wanted her dead? Was she born with the power to attract chaos and trouble wherever she went?

Who could be the people who wanted her? The Cao family? Cao Yujin? Her father? Someone who hated her?

What she couldn't understand was she was just a celebrity. What could these people want from her?

Thousands of questions swirled in her mind, each one more unsettling than the last. But as they collided and merged in a chaotic storm of fear and confusion, not a single one offered a clear answer. The uncertainty gnawed at her, leaving her grasping for something, anything, that could make sense of the situation.

But no matter how hard she tried, the answers remained elusive, hiding just out of reach, like shadows slipping through her fingers.

"Stop asking questions," the man prompted her to hurry. "Let's go."

Ran Xueyi pushed her feet to move forward. "Last question. Just answer this one. Why do they want me?"

The man regarded her carefully from top to bottom. He sneered. "Who knows? What do you think you can give to them?"

Ran Xueyi didn't ask him questions anymore, as they got further away from their initial position. From just this, she gathered enough information.

According to his words, Evgenia wasn't his boss. But someone else is. They were hired instead of employed. Thus, Ran Xueyi guessed the man dragging her into an unknown place was a mercenary. His comrades must be the same, hired by the same person and also mercenaries.

Another thing is the gun was real.

But the most important detail that Ran Xueyi found out was that although the man said his comrades were nearby, their position didn't necessarily mean they could get to where they were in a flash.

Now, all Ran Xueyi needed was a miracle to happen.

"Stop."

Ran Xueyi turned to the man. He wasn't looking at her. His attention was drawn in the other direction.

"What is it?" Ran Xueyi feigned curiosity as she prepared herself to run.

In the direction where the man was looking at was a black wolf. Its eyes gleamed with feral intensity. Its furry head was lowered when it abruptly looked up with its nostrils flared up.

A low growl rumbled in its throat, and saliva dripped from its mouth, landing with a soft hiss on the ground below.

The air between them thickened with a sense of impending danger, as if the beast was ready to pounce at any moment.

Chapter 578 "Where is she?" (1)

It trotted forward. Slow and unsteady, each step hinted at the wolf's weakened state.

It may look weak right now.

But even a child wouldn't mistake a beast for a harmless pet. Especially a starved one.

The wolf saw them as its meal.

The foot that Ran Xueyi raised stopped.

Even if she wanted to run now, how could she possibly outrun a starving monster in the middle of the snow? Forget about how it'll be hard for her to even walk with the snow piled up everywhere. It was dark and cold. And if there was a tiny chance she escaped, the enemies lurking somewhere would capture her back.

As much as she hated to say this, the only chance of survival right now was the gun in that man's hand.

"Don't even think about it, woman," the man sensed her gaze and gave her a warning. "You're closer, and I could just shoot at you if you do anything stupid."

Ran Xueyi bit her lips before she said, "Then, aim at it."

"Why should I waste a bullet on a mutt?"

"That's a wolf."

The man shrugged. "Same thing"

The man ignored her. He was completely confident of himself and he had just seen the wolf's unsteady form. He thought the wolf was just a mutt.

Ran Xueyi hated that she couldn't do anything right now. Even moving a single muscle could rouse the wolf to target her.

"What are you doing? The wolf's going to tear us apart if it gets to us," Ran Xueyi urged him.

The wolf was now getting closer.

However, the man was unafraid.

Ran Xueyi looked between the man and the wolf. She could hear the rush of blood in her ears as the wolf started to gain momentum. Its unsteady steps now growing stronger and confident.

Soon, it was running at them at full speed.

The growl coming from the wolf was her only signal before Ran Xueyi brought down her foot and ran for it.

She didn't turn around as she ran.

The miracle she was hoping to happen had been nothing but a devil in disguise.

Now, she had to rely on her stamina to escape the area and hope that the wolf didn't see her as a target.

Fortunately, the wolf didn't bother with her. The man had been so caught off guard by her abrupt actions that he turned away for a second to try to grab her back when the wolf lunged at him.

The man grunted as he fell to the ground, the gun flew a few inches away from his hand. In the beginning, he didn't know the dangers he had courted himself. But now, with the wolf clawing at him and trying to take a bite of him, he finally understood why he should've listened to Ran Xueyi.

"Fuck!" the man struggled quite hard as he tried to throw the wolf off his body.

But the wolf latched on him like a leech.

Soon, gashes and scratches appeared on his face. Blood followed a trail down his cheeks to the white snow beneath him.

From a considerable distance, Ran Xueyi ran with all her might. She didn't dare turn back. The fear of what she might see behind paralyzed her thoughts. She only stopped running when her breath became short and her lungs burned with each gasp of air.

Panting heavily, Ran Xueyi finally dared to glance behind her. Relief washed over her as she realized the wolf was no longer pursuing her.

She could still see the man she had been with, struggling desperately to fend off the ferocious beast. His screams were loud and guttural, echoing hauntingly through the forest, sending chills down her spine.

Ran Xueyi squeezed her eyes shut, forcing herself to block out the sounds of his anguish. She couldn't bear to watch as the man who had once stood beside her was reduced to prey for the beast. Yet, despite the horror unfolding before her, she felt no remorse for her actions. She had made her choice.

There was nothing she could do about it.

It was either him or her.

Choosing her survival was only natural.

So, she couldn't care about the man who was paid by someone to abduct her.

Ran Xueyi rested a trembling hand over her chest, trying to calm her racing heart. The cold night air bit at her skin, each gust of wind feeling like sharp blades cutting through her. It was a harsh reminder of how close she had come to losing her life in just one night.

As she stood there, catching her breath, her thoughts drifted to Song Yu Han and their son. She missed them dearly.

And she'd trade anything in this world just to see them again.

"AHHH!"

Ran Xueyi winced as the man's scream rang louder.

Then, a dead silence quickly followed.

Pushing against the bark of the tree she was leaning against, Ran Xueyi restarted her run. This time, she's no longer worried about her destination. She needed out. Fast. Any place was better than being in the presence of a starving wolf.

Just then...

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Ran Xueyi skidded to a halt, gripping a tree trunk and pressing her back against it. Her hands instinctively covered her head, as if that might protect her from the bullets tearing through the air.

Gunfire echoed from all directions, each shot seemingly closer than the last.

Terror gripped her heart; the thought of being shot, of dying here, alone, was unbearable. She wasn't ready to die—not when she still had so much to live for. She thought of her husband and son. How could she let it all end here?

With these thoughts burning in her mind, Ran Xueyi became even more determined to survive this chaos no matter what.

But this world was far too cruel to give her that.

This world will always prove that no matter how much you want something and work hard, it won't mean anything if the thing you want doesn't land on your feet.

The next thing Ran Xueyi knew, a pain cut through the back of her head, and pure darkness filled her eyes.

Chapter 579 "Where is she?" (2)

A minute later, three men in thick coats walked towards Ran Xueyi, who was now lying on the ground with her eyes closed.

One of them brushed off the hair that covered her face, and after confirming it was the target they were looking for, he pulled out a walkie-talkie and spoke to it.

Moments later, three men in heavy coats approached her, now lying unconscious on the ground. One of them brushed the hair from her face, confirming she was the target they sought. He pulled out a walkie-talkie and spoke into it.

"We've secured the target."

"Good. You can all return now," came a distorted voice from the other end, the speaker's gender indiscernible.

After keeping his walkie-talkie, the man started commanding the other two. Then, he glanced back at Ran Xueyi and clicked his tongue. Being hired as a mercenary to kill someone was one thing, but to kidnap a woman and bring her to another location was another.

A man approached Ran Xueyi and started injecting her with some liquid.

Afterward, the second man unzipped a gray body bag and placed it beside Ran Xueyi before pushing her towards it, securing her inside.

"Don't zip everything. She might die from suffocation." The man who seemed to be their leader walked off after ordering.

"Call the others back. We're done here."

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Evgenia and Alina weren't having a great time.

The moment they realized Ran Xueyi was gone, they immediately retraced their tracks and looked around.

But they could not find her.

And with the snow falling above their heads, whatever footprints she and the man who took her left were now all buried under.

They didn't relax, even though they couldn't find a single hint of where Ran Xueyi was.

They decided to go in different directions to look for her.

But just then, a scream was heard.

It was a scream that had seen horrible things.

And Alina didn't want to imagine it came from Ran Xueyi.

Thankfully, the voice belonged to a man.

Soon, they each followed the direction of the voice and found a wolf scarfing down a corpse.

Seeing new prey, the now-fed wolf bared its fangs at them. But after growling a few times and lunging at them, the beast also did not have a good end.

Alina didn't stick with them as they regrouped. With a gun in her hand, she headed elsewhere to find Ran Xueyi.

She ran around the area and called for Ran Xueyi's name at the top of her lungs. She regretted listening to Ran Xueyi and leaving her side. Had she not left, the man wouldn't have found a chance to take her away!

Alina furiously wiped the tears that dripped down her face. What's the use of crying now?! If something happened to Ran Xueyi, she didn't know how she could live in this world, knowing it was her fault that Ran Xueyi got into this pandemonium.

How could she possibly face Little Zhanzhan if his mommy was gone?

"Ran Xueyi, you better be alive."

Alina wanted to search a bit more, but then she heard a commotion coming from the direction where she left Evgenia and his men behind.

Her breath was caught in her throat as she reached the area where she left them behind, only to be met with a chilling sight.

Evgenia was forced to stay on the ground, a net tangling above them. Around them were men in military uniforms who stood with their weapons at the ready.

But what made her blood run cold was the sight at the center of it all. Evgenia was on his knees, his blonde hair clenched tightly in the hands of an exceptionally handsome man.

She recognized him instantly—it was Song Yu Han.

...

A few minutes earlier.

Evgenia didn't stop Alina from leaving. He no longer has any right to do that after losing sight of Ran Xueyi.

Looking at the man who had been once a trusted subordinate, Evgenia's eyes glinted icily. He never thought there would be a day when he would be betrayed once again. And this time, by someone who had stayed beside him most of the time.

The world he lived in made his hands even filthier with the blood of his enemies, and betrayal was common, but he thought the man was worthy of his trust because he was family.

That right. The man whose face now couldn't be recognized by how mutilated it looked was his cousin. A family he took in the moment he became the head of the Volkov family.

Evgenia wiped the blood on his cheek. "Search carefully around. Since he's here, Ran Xueyi should've run somewhere close."

Just as his order landed, the low thrum of helicopter blades cut through every sound. Evgenia froze; his face turned upward toward the source of the light but he was almost blinded by the beam of light descending from the helicopter, shining on him and his men.

"Boss, be careful! They could be our enemy," his men reminded him.

Adrenaline surged as he aimed his gun at the helicopter. His finger tightened on the trigger, but before he could fire, a sharp whoosh filled the air.

A heavy net exploded from the helicopter, unfurling like a spiderweb.

Evgenia barely had time to curse as the net tangled around him and his men. They struggled against the thick ropes that held them captive.

He looked up just in time to see a ladder drop-down, swaying slightly in the wind. One by one, several men descended from the sky.

The last one landed with a loud thud, his boots crunching on the thick snow underneath his soles.

Evgenia could barely see through the bright light, squinting his eyes to get a clearer view of who these people were.

The boots now stood inches from his face before a gloved hand grabbed his hair, yanking his head back sharply.

The cold voice that followed sent a chill down his spine.

"Where is she?"

Chapter 580 In Search For Her

"Where is she?"

Song Yu Han's cold voice echoed in the empty and frozen forest. Despite it being cold enough, the people who heard it couldn't stop the shiver that ran through their bodies.

His subordinates dared not glance at their boss, knowing that the control Song Yu Han had over himself had completely been unwrapped. One wrong word and a death sentence could be served.

The man on the ground didn't know what their boss could do. But even then, he should've heard the danger in their boss's voice.

And they were right.

Evgenia had never imagined himself feeling scared. It was the opposite. He was the one who brought fear to his enemies. He shouldn't fear the man before him.

Yet, he did fear him.

The hand grabbing him by the hair tightened, and his scalp screamed in pain. If he didn't do anything, Evgenia thought that Song Yu Han would peel his scalp off with his bare hands!

"Stop!"

But before he could say anything, a voice came from somewhere behind.

It was Alina, who had returned from her search for Ran Xueyi. Evgenia had hoped to find Ran Xueyi, but looking at her expression, it seemed that she also failed

Song Yu Han moved his head toward her direction. His cold eyes focused on her, and for a moment, Alina thought her heart was gripped by a hand. Her steps faltered as she made her way to them.

She remembered Ran Xueyi telling her that her husband was the sweetest and gentlest man she'd ever met. Gushing over the fact that she married a man who was perfect for her. But Alina couldn't see the man her best friend was talking about from the man standing in front of them.

Just what kind of man did you really marry, Ran Xueyi? Alina couldn't help but shout in her mind.

The man standing in the middle of the forest was the complete opposite of gentle and sweet. No, there wasn't even a trace of those things. Rather, what Alina and everyone saw was a man thirsting for bloodshed and chaos.

And that one glance was enough for Alina to tell that he wasn't a man to be trifled with.

"Don't hurt him. Ran Xueyi wouldn't want that." Alina spoke before Song Yu Han could do any harm to Evgenia.

"And how would you know what she wanted?" Song Yu Han asked in return.

Alina frowned. "I don't. But you should know her more than I do. Do you think she's someone who would hurt the people around her?"

Song Yu Han's eyes flickered. He knew Ran Xueyi wouldn't hurt them. Even if she was harmed by someone, she would deal with them in a way that would make them suffer the same amount of crime they did. But she would never do something that would completely break them.

The contrast between them was precisely one of the things Song Yu Han loved about Ran Xueyi.

She's the opposite of him. Song Yu Han would torture and kill someone if anyone dared to make an enemy of him. He would take his sweet time to let those people think they had the upper hand and let them glee over their little victories. Then, he would pull them down from their thrones to the muddy ground before making them suffer unimaginable pain. Death would be too short and gentle for them.

The contrast between them was precisely one of the things Song Yu Han loved about Ran Xueyi.

"And why should I listen to you?" Song Yu Han lessened the strength in his grip, but his entire being continued to be wrapped in ice.

Alina and Evgenia flinched. He was right. Hadn't it been for their selfishness and helplessness, Ran Xueyi wouldn't be forced to run here and be captured by their enemies. G

This was especially true for Evgenia, but Alina also felt guilty for she was the reason why Ran Xueyi had to come here.

They had no response to his words because they all knew he was right.

"She's not here," Alina confessed guiltily.

"What do you mean?"

Alina lowered her head, daring not to look at him anymore. "We were attacked earlier. Someone invaded the island, killed everyone on sight, and took her."

It was best to reveal this now rather than later. Alina knew what she said might push Song Yu Han to act against them, but he had the right to know.

Alina waited for him to react and respond. But even after a few minutes passed, Song Yu Han remained silent. It was as if a pause was suddenly hit in a remote control, stopping him from moving and breathing.

But everyone in that field knew that that wasn't entirely true. Not when even from where they stood, Song Yu Han oozed out an air of deadliness like a venomous snake that would strike at anyone who would make a move.

And as if in tacit understanding, no one said a word or moved. They waited for Song Yu Han to do something. And honestly, they were afraid he'd lose control of himself and start killing everybody.

Contrary to what they were thinking, Song Yu Han calmed himself down. He did want to let loose and beat everyone else to a breath of their lives, be they foe or ally, but it wasn't time for this.

His wife was still out there somewhere. Rather than waste it to cause bloodshed and chaos, he should find her and make sure she's safe. Only then would he feel relaxed and could deal with the things that should be dealt with.

Releasing Evgenia like a sack of potatoes, Song Yu Han ordered a string of commands to his men.

Suddenly, the empty area turned into a busy place. Every man who arrived with Song Yu Han rounded the island and started their search for clues. Alina shook her head in dismay. No matter

how much Song Yu Han searched. he wouldn't find a trace of Ran Xueyi because the people who attacked were once part of Evgenia's organization.

And as for those who took Ran Xueyi away, they were not your ordinary gang or group. They came prepared and took her away without leaving a trace.

Alina didn't want to be so negative about this, but the reality was harsher than she thought. Even if Evgenia and Song Yu Han teamed up, it would still be impossible to find her in the air. She could only hope that Ran Xueyi would be safe and sound until they found her.

"We found her."