

## Chapter 220 Tragedy

After discussing it with Tsai Xiaobing, we scrounged up some magazines. We lit them on fire, then put them out to increase smoke output. The room quickly filled with smoke, setting off the piercing smoke alarms and triggering the overhead sprinkler system.

"Damn, this won't work. This small flame will just get washed out," Tsai Xiaobing grumbled.

"Let's stop," I said.

"How are we going to slip out in the chaos then?"

I walked over to the fire alarm and punched the outer plastic shell. The piercing alarm rang through the whole building, and I shouted out into the corridor, "Fire, run!"

Tsai Xiaobing stared at me dumbfounded. "You're the best, Captain."

If the thirteenth floor was chaotic earlier, it was now absolute mayhem.

"Fire, run!"

"Ugh, there's so much smoke!"

"Oh my God, I just came here for some fun. How did I end up in this? I'm never coming back."

Rock pulled open a door. He had just taken off his pants when the screams and alarms interrupted him, and he was very disgruntled.

He wanted to yell at someone when a hand suddenly reached out and dragged him out of the room.

It was an anxious Gongsun Qingfeng!

"Brother Rock, let's go! There's a fire!"

"Wait, I need to wear my pants."

"Don't bother, we need to run!"

We did not get the fire up successfully, but there was a lot of smoke. In combination with the fire alarm, there was a strong sense of the apocalypse.

The corridor was filled with smoke and visibility was quite low. I bowed my head and ran down the stairs, carrying Sun Qiaoqiao.

I would have been even faster if I was not worried about attracting too much attention.

After more than an hour, I finally brought her out safely to the square.

We did not dare delay and immediately called a car to bring us to the hospital.

Along the way, Sun Qiaoqiao slipped into unconsciousness, probably because of her high fever. She stank of urine and excrement, and the driver griped unhappily, complaining that he was going to lose money this trip and wanting to make us pay extra.

The high fever made Sun Qiaoqiao very uncomfortable. She spasmed every so often and kept wavering in and out of consciousness. When she woke up, she looked at Tsai Xiaobing and me, and spoke with some difficulty, "Officer, am I free?"

I held back the discomfort in my heart and lifted her so she could see where we were. "Look, we got you out of there. Hold on, we're almost at the hospital."

The driver glanced back at us in the rearview mirror. "Damn, what happened? Who hurt you, Miss? Sit tight. We're almost at the hospital. I won't charge you extra."

I could tell that Sun Qiaoqiao was holding on the best she could. She was breathing out heavily but taking in shallow breaths. Her hand grasping mine was slowly losing its strength.

I had rescued so many hostages before, but I had never been more upset than now. It felt like someone was hammering at my heart; I felt both hurt and troubled.

"Big brother, I'll definitely live. We're almost at the hospital. Can I take a nap?"

She was disoriented and called us "Officer" at one moment, then "Big brother" the next. I had witnessed many deaths, and I knew what this meant.

Tsai Xiaobing caught hold of her hand. "You'll live, you hear me? Captain and I took such a great risk to save you. We're almost at the hospital. Sir, please drive faster."

"We'll be there in five more minutes!"

"Just five more minutes," I said, "Did you hear that? Hang in there."

"Yes... There are so many things I haven't done yet."

"Yes, think about what you want to do. When you get better, you can do them one after the other."

"I haven't fallen in love yet. In the future, I want to find someone like you, Officer. But who's going to want me... Officer, I hate them. I want revenge. Please help me take revenge on them."

I was too upset to speak, but I choked out my agreement.

"The man who raped me, Rock, arranged to deliver goods to someone on the twenty-eighth of October. He's a terrible person, Officer. Everything he does is evil. Those goods can't be anything proper. You need to help me catch him and take revenge on him."

Then, Sun Qiaoqiao gasped a few times violently, and her face twisted in pain.

We were reaching the hospital, so I called Zhao Zichen to update him on the situation and to ask him to send some trustworthy doctors over.

"Miss, you can do it. Don't get someone to take revenge for you, do it yourself!" cried out the driver too.

But Sun Qiaoqiao struggled and her eyes closed in exhaustion. She wanted to say more, but nothing came out.

Zhao Zichen and his men were waiting at the entrance to the hospital. I laid Sun Qiaoqiao on a stretcher. At this moment, she was unconscious and barely breathing.

Tsai Xiaobing and I waited anxiously outside the emergency room. We stood silently under the glowing red light of the operating theater, littering the floor with cigarette butts. Neither of us were heavy smokers, but right now, I needed to smoke to cope.

It was not that we had not encountered death; we had seen worse on the battlefield.

But this was not a battlefield. This was no hail of bullets. This was just an ordinary city.

It was this peaceful-looking ordinary city that hid such horror.

I kept thinking over what I had seen in Lady Of The Night. The rich men, the customers, Lady Of The Night's boss, even the lapdogs that drew their salary... None of them treated these girls as humans!

A person's life was worth so little in that place where dignity was not a human right.

Was this the Tong City that I had grown up in? This was no different from a battlefield?!

"Captain, do ya think anyone saw us when we ran out?"

"If they did, they did. I hope they saw. Let them come and look for me! I'll settle Sun Qiaoqiao's account with them, once and for all."

"Then this lead with Rock will be gone," Tsai Xiaobing said regretfully, "The old man won't give us that much time. If we lose this lead, I need to restart the investigation. We'll have lost a lot of time."

I gathered my thoughts and pulled myself together. "Yes, that would be a great loss. However, we still have two clues. As Sun Qiaoqiao said, Rock arranged to deliver goods on the twenty-eighth of October. We don't know what goods they are, but I'm pretty sure they aren't the appliances he manufactures."

"It's probably a shipment of guns."

"Besides that, there have to be some clues in the phone I gave you. Go back to Kunlun tomorrow. The sooner you go, the sooner you return. Make sure you come back before the twenty-eighth of October. I can't do this myself," I told him.

As we spoke, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that the red light above the operating theater had gone out.

We quickly got up to wait for the doctors to emerge. Even masked, the frustration was evident in Zhao Zichen's face.

I had a bad feeling just looking at his expression.

"We couldn't save her. I'm sorry, Brother."

Even though I had expected it, it still felt like a blow to the chest.

"Even if she made it, how would she live? She was sold by her father, and she was incontinent and possibly needed lifelong treatment. The worst part is, she didn't have any money for treatment. You can mourn, but this might have been for the best. She might be happier in the next world," Zhao Zichen comforted me.

"Did she have any last words?" I asked.

Zhao Zichen sighed. "Yes. At the end, she kept muttering 'revenge!'"