

PAW 891

Chapter 891: 100 million RMB ransom

The sky was gloomy, like everybody's mood.

For his daughter's safety, Dong Xuebing immediately went to the bank to transfer all his money into a bank account. He has around 100 million RMB, which was enough for the ransom. Money was unimportant to him, and he was willing to give whatever amount in exchange for her safety. At the same time, the Police found the public phone where Li Taibo called. It was in a secluded county in the neighboring city. Li Taibo was no longer in Fen Zhou City, and the Police immediately contacted the local Police to search for him.

Ring... ring... ring.... Dong Xuebing's phone rang nonstop.

The first call was from Xie Huilan, and the second was from Qu Yunxuan. The third call was from his Mum, Luan Xiaoping.

Dong Xuebing was afraid to answer. He hung up the calls and switched to silent mode. He continued to look out of his windows with his fist clenched tightly.

Dong Xuebing had lost his daughter. How was he going to face Aunt Xuan and his Mum?

No matter what, he still got to face them. He clenched his teeth and went to the hospital.

Afternoon, 2 pm.

City's First People Hospital.

Qu Yunxuan was transferred to this hospital. Dong Xuebing took a deep breath before walking into the ward.

Dong Xuebing's mother, Qu Yunxuan, and her parents were in the ward.

Qu Yunxuan's mother saw Dong Xuebing, and she screamed at him. "What happened to Qianqian?! Tell me!"

"Mum, I..." Dong Xuebing was speechless.

Qu Yunxuan's mother grabbed Dong Xuebing's collar. "Say something! Where is my granddaughter?!"

Dong Xuebing clenched his teeth and said. "Qianqian was kidnapped. It was my fault. I did not protect her."

Qu Yunxuan's father pointed at Dong Xuebing. "Dong Xuebing! What should we do with you?"

"Qianqian is only three months old!" Qu Yunxuan's mother pushed Dong Xuebing, tears rolling down her cheeks. "I will not forgive you if anything happens to her!"

Qu Yunxuan's father consoled his wife. "The Police are looking for Li Taibo now, and I believe he will be arrested soon. Furthermore, he is after the ransom and will not harm Qianqian. She will be fine."

Qu Yunxuan's mother cried. "What did our family do to deserve this?!"

Qu Yunxuan's father sighed. Little Qianqian had been living with them since she was born, and they were closer to her than Luan Xiaoping.

Luan Xiaoping was sitting beside Qu Yunxuan, who was lying in bed. She seemed to be sleeping.

Dong Xuebing was feeling terrible, and he walked over. "Mum, what's wrong with Yunxuan?"

Luan Xiaoping gave Dong Xuebing a stare. "Don't talk to me!"

"Mum...."

"Get out! I don't have a son like you!" Luan Xiaoping shouted at Dong Xuebing. She was furious because her granddaughter was abducted.

Qu Yunxuan's father looked at Dong Xuebing angrily. "The Police came this morning, and Yunxuan fainted when she heard Qianqian was kidnapped. She still had not regained her consciousness."

Dong Xuebing asked nervously. "What did the Doctor say? Is she okay?"

"The doctor says she got a shock and should be fine." Qu Yunxuan's father replied.

"Xiao Dong ah.... What were you doing? We returned to Beijing because we felt it was safe for you to take care of Qianqian. But what have you done? How can you leave a baby at home alone?! Can you be more responsible as a father?"

Dong Xuebing had no excuses and did not know what to say. "Dad, I am sorry."

Qu Yunxuan's mother screamed. "You brat! You had not treated Qianqian and my daughter seriously!"

Dong Xuebing had not treated Qianqian seriously? He was concerned for the people around him and feared Li Taibo would target his family. That's why he went to the Public Security Bureau before the sun was up to help them catch Li Taibo. He did not expect this to happen. He did not explain himself as it was too late now. Li Taibo had kidnaped Qianqian, and it was his fault.

Suddenly, the door opened.

Xie Huilan walked into the ward. "Mum, how is Yunxuan? Is she in danger?"

Luan Xiaoping looked at her. "Yunxuan is fine. Why are you back?"

"I heard about my goddaughter and took the earliest flight back." Xie Huilan walked over to Luan Xiaoping without looking at Dong Xuebing.

Luan Xiaoping started crying. "It was my fault. If I had taken care of her, this would not happen."

This was the first time Qu Yunxuan's parents met Xie Huilan. Qu Yunxuan's mother was staring at her coldly.

Xie Huilan wiped Luan Xiaoping's tears. "Mum, don't worry. I called the Public Security Bureau. They will do everything they can to arrest Li Taibo. Even if he manages to escape, we can also afford the ransom. Xiao Bing should have around 90 million RMB, and I will raise the rest. I still have a house. We should have enough if we sell it. We can save Qianqian."

Luan Xiaoping waved her hand. "How can we use your money?"

Xie Huilan replied without thinking. "Qianqian is my goddaughter. This is what I should do."

Qu Yunxuan's parents felt better after hearing Xie Huilan's words.

Xie Huilan turned and looked at Dong Xuebing. "How can you leave Qianqian alone and go to the Public Security Bureau after you know Li Taibo had escaped? I know you are confident in your skills and don't think he will dare to look for you. But the unexpected happened. You are overconfident in yourself! This is not the first time I have said this, and you never learn from your lesson. It's too late to regret it now. You can't even look after a child. What else can you do?!"

Dong Xuebing could not retort Xie Huilan.

Xie Huilan was correct. Dong Xuebing was overconfident in himself and gave Li Taibo an opportunity.

Suddenly, Qu Yunxuan's eyelids fluttered.

"Yunxuan is awake." Luan Xiaoping went over. "Yunxuan... Yunxuan...."

Qu Yunxuan's parents rushed over to check on her. "Are you okay? How are you feeling now?"

Qu Yunxuan looked at them and asked. "My baby... my baby.... Have they found my baby?" She was anxious.

Everyone kept quiet.

Qu Yunxuan got the answer, and she covered herself with the blanket. A few moments later, sobbing sounds can be heard.

Qu Yunxuan's mother also started crying again.

Dong Xuebing felt guilty. "Yunxuan, I...."

Qu Yunxuan's mother pushed Dong Xuebing away. "Get out! Don't show your face in front of us if you can't bring Qianqian back! Get out!"

Luan Xiaoping did not look at him.

Dong Xuebing did not say a word and left the ward with his head bowed. He drove out of the hospital alone.

On his way home, Dong Xuebing called the City Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Office Director Gao Wenrong answered. "Hello, Director Dong."

"Director Gao." Dong Xuebing said in a hoarse voice. "Something happened at home, and I might not come to work next week. I wish to apply for a long leave. I should have a few days of annual leave left." He was thinking about his daughter and had no mood to work.

Gao Wenrong replied. "You don't need to worry about your leave. The Leaders had heard what happened to your family and asked you to take time off work until you settle your problems. Deputy Director Luo Haiting will take over your duties when you are not around."

Dong Xuebing nodded. "Alright. Help me thank the Leader."

Dong Xuebing returned to his apartment after hanging up.

Dong Xuebing's eyes were red as he looked at the empty bedroom. He stood before the baby cot for more than ten minutes before packing his luggage. He drove to a motel and booked a room. He was too ashamed to return home and stayed in a motel for a few days. His mother, Xie Huilan, and Qu Yunxuan's parents were correct. He was to blame for what happened.

It was an ordinary motel.

Dong Xuebing threw his luggage aside and fell onto the bed. He took out his phone and looked at the pictures of him and Qianqian.

Wait for me, Qianqian....

I swear I will save you at all costs! I will bring you back!

One day passed....

Two days passed....

Three days passed....

Li Taibo did not call again, and the Police did not find any clues. He seemed to have disappeared with Qianqian.

The longer it dragged, the more dangerous it was for Qianqian.

Didn't Li Taibo demand a ransom? Why didn't he call?

Luan Xiaoping and Qu Yunxuan's parents got more anxious.

Chapter 892: Crisis

Dong Xuebing woke up in the motel, looking terrible. He lit a cigarette the moment he got up. It's been three days since Qianqian was abducted. Li Taibo had disappeared, and Dong Xuebing wondered what had happened to Qianqian. Is she still alive?

Dong Xuebing took out his phone and called Xu Yan. "Hello, Sister Xu."

Xu Yan replied. "I had used my connections and still have not found him."

"How can this be?" Dong Xuebing was anxious. "Did he leave the country?"

Xu Yan sighed. "I think it might be possible. Maybe he had used some channels unknown to us."

Dong Xuebing hit the bed in anger. Li Taibo! You are dead if I find you!

"Xiao Dong, you must rest well. I can tell you are in bad condition from your voice. If you collapse, who will save your goddaughter? Compose yourself. I will help you."

Rest?! How can Dong Xuebing rest when his daughter is missing?!

"Chief Xu, do you have Li Taibo's detail information?"

"Yes. What are you going to do?"

“Send me a copy of his information. Your side’s information is more detailed.”

“Alright. I will get someone to send it to you.”

“Thank you.”

An hour later, a State Security staff dropped Li Taibo’s personal information at the motel.

Dong Xuebing returned to his room with the information and started reading it. The State Security Bureau’s information was more detailed than the Public Security Bureau’s. It states Li Taibo’s personal life clearly. Li Taibo, forty-one years old. Divorced five years ago with no children. The following section was his work records and medical history. He was hospitalized in the City First Hospital five months ago for fever. Four months ago, his rib was fractured during the earthquake. Falling debris hit him, and his broken rib nearly pierced his heart. During that time, he was near a committee hospital and was saved. The information was so detailed that it indicated the time down to the seconds.

Dong Xuebing studied the information, but he did not find any clues. He kept it in his bag and snuffed his cigarette.

Dong Xuebing’s phone rang.

Xie Huilan called. “Where are you?”

“In a motel.”

“Come back to the family quarters now. Li Taibo had called.”

“What?! Wait for me! I am coming back now.”

Dong Xuebing rushed out of his room and sped home.

The door was opened, and Xie Huilan was waiting for him. She saw Dong Xuebing and said. “Don’t ask anything. Just come in.”

Dong Xuebing followed Xie Huilan into the apartment.

The apartment was crowded and full of devices from the Public Security Bureau. A few officers tried to trace the call, and Qu Yunxuan’s parents were beside them. Even Qu Yunxuan was there in a wheelchair. She was sobbing, and Dong Xuebing was the last to arrive. Everyone seemed to be waiting for him.

An officer explained. “Li Taibo had called and wanted you to be around.”

Dong Xuebing asked. “Is he still on the line?”

“He hung up.” The Officer explained. “He said he would call back later.”

The apartment was tense, and no one said a word.

A few minutes later, the phone rang. Ring... ring... ring....

Dong Xuebing rushed to the phone, and an Officer reminded him before he answered. “Use the speaker phone, Director Dong.”

Dong Xuebing nodded and pressed the speaker button. “Hello.”

Li Taibo said in his hoarse voice. "Dong Xuebing!"

"It's me!" Dong Xuebing replied. "Where is Qianqian? Where is she now?"

Li Taibo laughed. "I am carrying her in my arms. It must be crowded on your side now. The Police must be there. Here, I will let you all hear Qianqian's sound."

"Wa... wa... wa...."

Little Qianqian was crying loudly.

Qu Yunxuan shouted. "Qianqian!"

Qu Yunxuan's mother cried. "Li Taibo! You bastard!"

Luan Xiaoping turned pale from her anger. "She is a baby! Are you still human?!"

Xie Huilan quickly stopped them softly. "Don't anger him. Saving Qianqian is more important."

Qianqian's cries pierced Dong Xuebing's heart. He suppressed his anger and asked. "What do you want?! I had prepared the money. When are you coming to take it?"

Li Taibo laughed. "Money? I thought I needed money initially, and I have other ideas now. My whereabouts would be traced if I gave you my account number, and I might not get it out. I demanded a ransom to stall time. Now, I am safe and don't need the hostage and money."

Dong Xuebing was furious. "What do you mean?"

"I can tell you are worried for your goddaughter as if she is your real daughter. So, I got a new idea. Do you want to know?" Wave sounds can be heard in the background. Li Taibo seemed to be on a boat or by the seaside. He paused for a second and laughed. "Dong Xuebing, I had built up my connections in Fen Zhou City for many years, and reaching this position was not easy. Do you know how hard I worked?! You destroyed everything! I must get revenge! I want you to suffer for life?!"

Dong Xuebing got furious. "Then come at me!"

Li Taibo laughed coldly. "I am not stupid. Your goddaughter is in my hands now, and I can do everything I want to her as revenge."

Everyone's heart skipped a beat.

Qu Yunxuan screamed. "What do you want?!"

Li Taibo smiled. "All of you should hear the sea, right? I am going to throw your precious baby into the sea."

Luan Xiaoping shouted. "You dare?!"

"Of course." Li Taibo replied.

Qu Yunxuan's mother shouted. "You bastard! You will die a terrible death!"

The thought that Li Taibo would kill Qianqian made Dong Xuebing crazy.

Li Taibo laughed. "Go ahead and curse all you want. The more you all scream and scold me, the better I feel. Haha.... This little fellow had just scratched me. She still doesn't know she will die in a few minutes."

Qianqian was bawling.

Dong Xuebing closed his eyes slowly. He was sure Li Taibo would kill Qianqian as revenge.

What should I do now?

What else can I do?!

The only way to stop Li Taibo was to kill him. How was he going to kill him thousands of miles away?

Killing someone thousands of miles away?!

Dong Xuebing's eyes suddenly brightened up. A bold idea suddenly arises in his mind.

Chapter 893: Killing someone thousands of miles away

City Party Committee Family Quarters.

Dong Xuebing's apartment living room.

Li Taibo said he would throw Little Qianqian into the sea, and everyone got nervous. Qu Yunxuan's mother, Luan Xiaoping, and the rest were anxious and worried.

Qu Yunxuan shouted anxiously. "Release my daughter now."

Qu Yunxuan's father shouted. "Return Qianqian to us now. We will give you whatever amount you want."

"If you are unhappy with 100 million RMB, we can increase the amount." Qu Yunxuan's mother shouted.

Luan Xiaoping took a few deep breaths, and she begged. "Please.... Don't harm Qianqian."

Li Taibo laughed. "I said it earlier. I don't need money now."

Xie Huilan's eyes turned cold. "Qianqian is only three months old. How can you be so heartless?"

Li Taibo laughed. "Haha.... I will be executed if I remain in the country. What else do you think I dare not to do? I want you all to have a taste of your own medicine. Accuse me of murder?! Ask the Public Security Bureau to arrest me?! Hahaha.... There's nothing to hide now. That's right. I used authority to help Wan Sizhao a lot. I remember he had raped five women, and he asked me to threaten the witnesses, fabricate evidence, and close those cases. One of the women was not satisfied with the outcome and tried to report to the Provincial Public Security Bureau. Do you know what I did do to her?! I got a few gangsters to gangrape her for two days and two nights! After that, she doesn't dare to make any more reports."

Everyone felt a chill.

The Police Officers did not expect Li Taibo to commit so many crimes as a law enforcer.

Li Taibo laughed. "I am telling you all these because there's nothing I don't dare to do. Furthermore, you all had forced me. I dare commit crimes because no one can find evidence against

me. No one! But now, you all accused me of something I did not do! Dong Xuebing! Don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Dong Xuebing was about to explode from his anger.

You had committed crimes and fabricated evidence....

You got gangsters to gangrape the victim and threaten others....

The same thing happened to you, and you don't allow it?! Do you think the world revolves around you?!

Everyone felt Li Taibo had gone mad.

"Dong Xuebing, I admit you won this round." Li Taibo continued. "However, so what if you won?! So what if I am sentenced to death?! I am still alive now. Hahaha.... No one can do anything to me! Don't worry about me. I will continue to enjoy my life. I will kill your goddaughter today and your family members when I am free."

Luan Xiaoping and Qu Yunxuan were too angry to say anything.

The Officers were also anxious, but there was nothing they could do. Li Taibo is a lunatic!

The only person, who was composed, was Xie Huilan.

Dong Xuebing knew there was no time to waste. He whispered to Xie Huilan. "Help me stall him for one minute. Just one minute will do."

Xie Huilan asked softly. "What solution do you have?"

"I will try. I hope.... No, it must work!"

Xie Huilan's eyes narrowed, and she said to the phone. "Li Taibo. Do you need me to introduce myself?"

"No need. You must be Mayor Xie." Li Taibo recognized Xie Huilan's voice.

"Do you get a sense of achievement by murdering a three-month-old baby?"

When Xie Huilan was stalling Li Taibo, Dong Xuebing entered the bedroom with his bag. He closed the door behind him.

Inside the room.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down. He had to be calm in this situation.

There's still time.

All Dong Xuebing needed to do was kill Li Taibo to save Qianqian.

This was the sudden idea Dong Xuebing got. He was unsure if it would work, but he had to try. He took out Li Taibo's file from his bag. Li Taibo's picture and his details were from Xu Yan. He remembered reading a piece of information in the document earlier. It was Li Taibo's medical records. Four months ago, he was hit by falling debris and almost died when his broken rib pierced his heart. He was near a committee hospital and was saved from losing too much blood.

That's it!

This is the only way to stop Li Taibo.

This was Dong Xuebing's only way to save his daughter. He could not afford to fail.

What was Dong Xuebing going to do?

Dong Xuebing was going to use REVERSE on Li Taibo four months ago when his broken rib almost pierced his heart. He had never tried using REVERSE on someone away from him. When using REVERSE, he had to focus, and he was used to focusing on something in front of him.

Dong Xuebing thought about BACK and STOP. Both commands would affect the world, and REVERSE should do the same.

REVERSE might work even when Dong Xuebing could not see Li Taibo.

Dong Xuebing might not take this risk in other situations. But it's different now. Qianqian was about to die, and he could not afford to wait. He remembered the date and time when Li Taibo was injured during the earthquake. One second of REVERSE can return his condition for one day, and Dong Xuebing needs to calculate how many seconds of REVERSE. He had to be accurate and could not afford to miss one second.

Four months and three days.

October and December have thirty-one days.

That means Dong Xuebing needs to use REVERSE for two minutes and five seconds.

Dong Xuebing looked at Li Taibo's picture and closed his eyes. He imagined his face in his mind and focused.

REVERSE!

Chapter 894: Li Taibo died

Minutes passed.

Xie Huilan was still stalling for time with Li Taibo over the phone.

Xie Huilan said. "The investigation of Wan Sizhao's death is not over. Only the evidence is against you, and the court has not sentenced you. There's still hope for you. If you kill Qianqian, it will be the end for you."

Li Taibo laughed loudly. "Do you think I can still be fine now?"

"At least you think you are safe now." Xie Huilan looked at the phone. "If you kill a child, your crimes will be more serious. The Police will hunt you down no matter where you run. Where can you hide? Other countries? You will be wanted internationally. If you release the baby now, things might not get so serious. You should know the country would not go after you at all cost now."

Li Taibo laughed. "Enough. Stop wasting my time."

"Do you want to hide for the rest of your life?"

“We shall talk again if you can find me. Haha.... Killing one or two more people makes no difference to me now. Save your breath.”

“Li Taibo, you got to think over this carefully.”

“Eh?” Li Taibo becomes quiet suddenly.

Qu Yunxuan’s mother shouted. “Li Taibo! Li Taibo!”

The phone call was not cut, and they could hear Qianqian crying.

Li Taibo sounded weird when he said after taking a long pause. “Stop wasting time and say your goodbyes to your baby when I still got signal.”

Qu Yunxuan screamed. “No....”

Luan Xiaoping shouted. “Stop!”

Qu Yunxuan’s father cried. “Qianqian!”

Li Taibo laughed. “I will start the countdown.”

“Ten....”

“Nine....”

Luan Xiaoping’s legs gave way, and she fell to the ground.

Qu Yunxuan and her mother were crying and shouting Qianqian’s name.

Xie Huilan rushed to the bedroom and opened the door. “We got no more time.”

Dong Xuebing was leaning against the wall, covered in sweat. He clenched his teeth and said. “I know.” He did not say anything else to Xie Huilan.

It will be over soon.

Just a while more....

A thousand miles away.

The cold sea winds blew against Li Taibo, who was standing at the end of a boat. His coat fluttered in the wind, and he held his phone in one hand and a baby in the other. He grabbed Qianqian by her clothes and dangled her over the water. He laughed as he imagined Dong Xuebing’s angry expression and felt good.

Li Taibo had never lost to anyone when working in the Public Security Bureau for years. His career was smooth sailing until he met Dong Xuebing. He couldn’t even understand how he lost and how Dong Xuebing got him arrested. But all these were not important now. He admitted he was no match for Dong Xuebing, but he would win this time.

Dong Xuebing’s goddaughter?

From the latter’s reaction, Li Taibo felt this baby was not Dong Xuebing’s goddaughter or only his cousin’s child. She might be his real daughter. He smiled when he thought about this.

I am no match for you, and I will target your daughter and your family instead.

Let's see who is more ruthless.

"Six seconds more...." Li Taibo said he heard many people shouting and crying over the phone. It was music to his ears.

"Five seconds...."

"Four seconds...."

As Li Taibo counted down, he moved his arms and legs with a frown. Around two minutes ago, he felt a tingling sensation in his body. It was uncomfortable, and he thought nothing about it. Maybe he had caught the flu.

"Li Taibo! You bastard!"

"Release Qianqian now!"

"You will die a terrible death!"

Li Taibo laughed and shook his head. He let them scold as he got into the position of throwing the baby into the sea.

"Three seconds...."

"Two seconds...."

"One...."

Li Taibo's body froze as he counted to one. Blood spurted out of his mouth, and his legs grew weak. He stumbled and dropped Little Qianqian on the deck. His face changed, and he could not understand what had happened. He looked down and could not believe his eyes.

Blood....

Li Taibo was covered in blood.

Li Taibo's clothes were all stained red.

"Arrrrhhh...." Li Taibo shouted in pain, and he pulled his shirt open weakly. His chest was deflated, and his stomach had a punctured wound. Blood was gushing out of his wound. After that, he felt he could not move his right leg. It was fractured.

What the hell was happening?

What is going on?!

Li Taibo's mind was blank. He was alone on the deck and was not carrying any sharp objects. His shirt and pants were not torn. How? How did he get seriously injured suddenly? It was too sudden.

Li Taibo finally broke down after being injured suddenly and about to die.

"Arrrrhhh.... Help! Save me!" Li Taibo shouted for help.

Li Taibo's voice was getting softer, and blood continued to gash out from his chest and stomach. He was losing his strength slowly.

Dong Xuebing's apartment.

Everyone held their breath when Li Taibo counted to one. They thought Little Qianqian would die, and the next moment, Li Taibo was shouting in agony.

"What happened?" Qu Yunxuan's mother panicked.

Luan Xiaoping asked. "Where is Qianqian? What happened to her?"

Qu Yunxuan's father quickly said. "Listen! Qianqian is still crying. She is fine! She is fine!"

"What happened to Li Taibo? How come he...." An Officer was puzzled.

No one except for Dong Xuebing could answer this question.

Dong Xuebing supported himself against the door frame as he walked out of the room. It was the longest two minutes of his life. He was mentally exhausted from the pressure. Sweat was dripping from his forehead, and his eyes were blurry. He felt all his efforts were worth it when he heard Li Taibo's screams and Qianqian's cries. REVERSE had worked! He had successfully reversed Li Taibo's body condition!

However, it was too early to celebrate. Dong Xuebing still did not know about the situation on Li Taibo's side.

Li Taibo continued to cry for help. "Save me...."

Li Taibo's voice got weaker.

"Li Taibo is injured." Xie Huilan's eyes narrowed. "Someone is beside him."

"But we did not hear anyone." An Officer replied.

Another Officer listened to Li Taibo's voice with headphones. "He seemed to have injured his lungs and might suffer heavy blood loss."

Dong Xuebing asked. "Is he going to survive?"

That Officer shook his head. "I don't think so. Unless he can get his wounds treated and get a blood transfusion at a hospital immediately, he will not survive. He should be on a boat now, and it might be a smuggling boat. Such boats will not have medical equipment. So...."

Dong Xuebing nodded and listened to the phone quietly.

Li Taibo's cries for help made everybody feel better. He deserved it.

One minute....

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Li Taibo's cries stopped.

Li Taibo was lying on the deck, in his blood and his pupils dilated. Until his last breath, he still could not understand what had happened. He was scared and regretted going against Dong Xuebing. He should not go against him in the first place and should have escaped after breaking out from the detention center. He should not kidnap Dong Xuebing's daughter.

Li Taibo suffered a painful death.

A while later, the Officers in Dong Xuebing's apartment concluded Li Taibo was dead.

Everybody heard Little Qianqian's cries get softer, and they were relieved.

Qu Yunxuan's mother cursed. "I said he would die a terrible death."

Dong Xuebing released his clenched fists and sighed in relief. Qianqian was safe for now.

Suddenly, the line got cut. They immediately called back the number but could not get through. The boat must have sailed out to the deep waters. There's no signal there.

Everyone knew Qianqian was still in danger as they didn't know where the boat was heading.

Xie Huilan looked at the Officers. "Find out the boat's location and contact the coast guards! We must find Qianqian!"

"We will do our best, Mayor Xie!"

The few Officers packed their equipment and were about to bring the phone recording back to the station.

Before the Officers left, they looked at Dong Xuebing, who was smoking by the window. They were dumbfounded and impressed by him. Everyone in the Public Security Bureau had heard of his name and the saying, "those who clashed with the God of Plagues will have terrible endings." They thought it was only a rumor.

But the Officers confirmed the rumors today.

Li Taibo was about to kill the God of Plague's goddaughter and died before he could do anything.

How bizarre was this?

It was precisely the same as the rumors about Dong Xuebing.

Once might be a coincidence, and twice might be luck. But what about the third, fourth, and fifth time?

The rumors were true, and the Officers gained new founded respect for Dong Xuebing.

Chapter 895: Hijacked by pirates

Dong Xuebing, who had gone out to buy groceries, returned to the City Party Committee Family Quarters. Everybody was giving him weird looks, including the guards at the main gates, the Leaders, and family members returning from work.

"Director Dong."

"Mrs. Liu."

"I heard your goddaughter is safe."

"Not yet. We still have not located her."

"She will be fine."

“Thank you, Mrs. Liu.”

A few family members in the same building greeted Dong Xuebing as he walked up the stairs.

After Dong Xuebing walked past them, they started discussing him softly.

This was normal as everything that happened around Dong Xuebing was too bizarre. Wan Sizhao had tried to rape his cousin and forced her to jump out of a building. Two days later, Wan Sizhao fell out of the same private room of the same restaurant. Li Taibo and Xu Dabing, who had given false statements and fabricated evidence, were arrested for killing Wan Sizhao. Li Taibo escaped from the detention center and kidnapped Dong Xuebing’s goddaughter. They heard Li Taibo call this morning to tell Dong Xuebing he was going to throw his goddaughter into the sea. However, one second before he acted, he died for an unknown reason.

This was too bizarre.

Dong Xuebing’s apartment.

Xie Huilan had returned to work, and only Qu Yunxuan, her parents, and Luan Xiaoping were home.

Dong Xuebing placed the groceries on the coffee table. “Mum, I bought the groceries.”

Luan Xiaoping was still angry with her son and ignored him. She took the groceries into the kitchen.

Qu Yunxuan’s mother put down the newspapers and went to the kitchen to help Luan Xiaoping.

Dong Xuebing quickly followed. “Mum, I will help too.”

“No need!” Qu Yunxuan’s mother snapped and slammed the door behind her.

Dong Xuebing sighed. Qu Yunxuan was resting in the room, and he did not disturb her. He stood by the window and lit a cigarette. After that call, they lost contact with Little Qianqian. No one knows where she is. Although she escaped from Li Taibo, she was still on a smuggling boat.

Where is my daughter?

How am I going to save her?

Xie Huilan returned before dinner.

Luan Xiaoping rushed out of the kitchen. “Huilan, do you have any news of Qianqian?”

Qu Yunxuan’s parents were looking at her, and Qu Yunxuan staggered out of the room.

Xie Huilan closed the door and replied calmly. “The Police had located the last signal. Li Taibo’s phone signal indicated he was on the sea near Fujian province.”

Dong Xuebing was shocked. “Fujian Province?”

Xie Huilan nodded. “It should be a smuggling ship.”

Qu Yunxuan asked anxiously. “Have the Police contacted the local authorities?”

“It was reported, and they are discussing it now. We still don’t know if we can find her.”

Everyone was disappointed.

No one said anything during dinner. Other than Xie Huilan and Qu Yunxuan's father, who had taken a few bites, no one else touched their chopsticks.

How could they eat when Qianqian was still missing?

After dinner, Xie Huilan and Dong Xuebing made calls to ask about the progress.

Xie Huilan called home, while Dong Xuebing called Xu Yan.

"Hello, Sister Xu. Do you have any information about Qianqian?"

"I'm sorry. I am not powerful enough to be one of the higher-ups."

"I heard the Police had located Li Taibo's phone signal. Although we don't have the exact location, it should be on the sea near Fujian Province."

Xu Yan frowned. "Fujian sea? Are you sure?"

Dong Xuebing replied. "Yes. That's what the Police say."

Xu Yan replied in a serious tone. "If that's true, I have a piece of bad news."

"What happened?" Dong Xuebing's got nervous.

"I am not sure about the accuracy of Fen Zhou City Police's investigation. But when I was asking around for you, I heard a Chinese smuggling ship was hijacked by pirates this afternoon east of Fujian Province Sea."

"Huh?!" Dong Xuebing gasped. "Pirates?!"

"Yes. We received news the people on the ship had retaliated against the pirates, and eight smugglers were killed. The rest were taken, hostages. Around an hour ago, they demanded ransom from our country. The news should be reporting about it soon."

"This.... Qianqian should be on that ship."

"Lots of cargo ships sailed around that area, and there's not a lot of smuggling activities there. If the signal indicated Li Taibo was on the sea around that time, it might be the ship the pirates hijacked. I cannot confirm it, but you must be prepared."

Dong Xuebing was in a daze when he hung up the phone.

Suddenly, Qu Yunxuan's mother screamed. "Come and watch the news!"

Dong Xuebing, Xie Huilan, Qu Yunxuan, and the rest rushed to the living room."

"At around 12.40 pm, a Chinese smuggling ship was hijacked by pirates off Fujian Province. The pirates killed seven crew in a shootout, and three men were taken hostage. The Pirates had demanded a ransom."

The news confirmed what Sister Xu said.

Luan Xiaoping stood up. "Fujian Province's smuggling ship?! Qianqian must be on that ship!"

Qu Yunxuan turned pale. "Seven men were killed, and only three survived. What about my daughter?!"

Qu Yunxuan's mother took a deep breath. "Impossible. They must have hijacked another ship. Qianqian must be on another smuggling ship."

Luan Xiaoping tried to comfort herself. "Yes.... My granddaughter is blessed. Nothing will happen to her."

Everybody was upset and did not want to accept it.

Xie Huilan had not said anything since she called home. Suddenly, the fax machine on the table sounded. She went over quickly and pressed it. She seemed to be waiting to receive some important documents. After a while, a few pictures were printed. Her face was terrible when she looked at the pictures. She looked at the rest in the living room and passed the pictures to them.

Dong Xuebing asked. "What are these?"

"Just look at it first." Xie Huilan said.

Everyone's face changed when they saw the pictures.

These pictures were the pictures of the pirates and hostages. The Pirates pointed their guns at a few Chinese hostages bound by ropes. The background was a rundown hut with only a dirty table inside. The floor was covered with dirt and grass. These were not the reason why Dong Xuebing and the rest were shocked. A black man was holding a crying baby and looked like he was about to throw the baby on the grass."

That baby was Dong Xuebing's daughter!

Dong Xuebing was heartbroken. Qianqian was still wearing the same clothes. He was the one who changed her, and one of her shoes was missing. Her top was torn, and her face was dirty.

Qu Yunxuan cried. "Qianqian!"

Dong Xuebing was furious. "Huilan! Do the pirates capture Qianqian?"

Luan Xiaoping wiped her tears. "Why did this happen? Sob... sob.... Why?!"

Xie Huilan sighed. "I just found out after calling a friend in Central Government. He is in charge of such issues. When I heard a ship was hijacked off Fujian Province, I called him immediately. The pirates were demanding ransom and had sent pictures of the hostages over. I asked him to fax the pictures to me immediately. Qianqian is on that boat now. Including Qianqian, there are four hostages."

Luan Xiaoping grabbed Xie Huilan's hand. "Huilan, your family has a strong network and knows many higher-ups. Ask them to save Qianqian now."

Qu Yunxuan's father looked terrible. "That is a smuggling ship. Will the Government care?"

Qu Yunxuan's mother cried. "I don't care! My granddaughter is in those pirates' hands! They must save her!"

Xie Huilan replied. "I contacted my family and am waiting for my father's call. If Qianqian can survive for a while, she should be fine. There's no problem with the ransom."

Qu Yunxuan was holding back her tears. "What do you mean by for a while?"

Xie Huilan explained. "The last time pirates kidnapped Chinese crew, they released the hostages one year after the ransom was paid."

"One year?!" Luan Xiaoping dropped onto the sofa.

They had heard about this incident and knew Xie Huilan was not lying.

Even if they paid the ransom, no one knew when Little Qianqian could come home.

One year?! How was Little Qianqian going to survive for one year? She is only three months old. The pirates are from impoverished countries, and the death toll from illness and diseases is ridiculously high. How can a baby survive there? They also can't expect those ruthless pirates to care for her well. Without proper food, she will not even survive one month, let alone one year.

She would be dead if the pirates refused to release Qianqian after getting the ransom.

These pirates! Dong Xuebing punched the table.

Chapter 896: Dong Xuebing got into action

City Party Committee Family Quarters.

Luan Xiaoping, Qu Yunxuan's parents, Qu Yunxuan and Dong Xuebing did not sleep. They were waiting for news.

"Xiaoping, do you think Huilan can succeed?"

"She had left for Beijing last night. It should be fine."

"Her family...."

"All of them are officials, and Qianqian will be rescued with their help."

"I hope so. My precious granddaughter.... Why does she have to go through such an ordeal?"

Luan Xiaoping and Qu Yunxuan's mother started crying again. Qu Yunxuan's father's eyes also turned red.

Dong Xuebing was feeling terrible. He was to blame for what happened and didn't dare to say anything. He just stood by the windows to smoke.

"Smoke... smoke... smoke...." Luan Xiaoping shouted at her son. "All you know is smoke!"

Dong Xuebing snubbed his cigarette. "Mum...."

"Can you think of a solution?!" Luan Xiaoping scolded. "All you do is smoke! What else can you do?!"

Dong Xuebing returned to his chair, looking terrible.

Suddenly, the door opened, and Xie Huilan entered.

“Huilan is back!” Luan Xiaoping asked. “How was it? Have you spoken to your parents?”

Xie Huilan nodded. She looked tired. “I spoke to them. My Dad had contacted the higher-ups, and the Navy vessel would be departing tomorrow to send the ransom.”

“That’s great!” Qu Yunxuan’s mother was delighted. “Can Qianqian return tomorrow?”

Xie Huilan hesitated and shook her head. “I cannot promise anything. Those pirates are cunning, and it is difficult to get them to release the hostages immediately. But the higher-ups will do their best to rescue them. They demanded the hostages be sent back by the Navy, or they would not pay the ransom. Those pirates agreed over the phone, but we are unsure if they would keep their promise. After all, they are pirates.”

Qu Yunxuan’s mother stopped smiling. “That means they might not release the hostages after receiving the ransom?”

“Yes.” Xie Huilan replied. “We are a great nation and would keep our word. However, it is hard to let those pirates keep their promises.”

Dong Xuebing asked. “What time is the Navy vessel departing tomorrow?”

“It might be early or late morning tomorrow.” Xie Huilan replied. “The pirates wanted cash transactions, and it is a large amount. Our side needs time to prepare it.”

Qu Yunxuan’s father cursed. “Those bastards...”

Qu Yunxuan’s mother got agitated. “If anything happens to Qianqian, I will fight it out with them!”

Qu Yunxuan pushed herself out of the room. “Nothing will happen to Qianqian. Stop saying such things.”

“Yes... yes.... She will be fine.” Qu Yunxuan’s mother said. “My granddaughter is blessed and can overcome all ordeals.”

Dong Xuebing also wanted his daughter to be fine, but he was unsure. His heartache when he thinks about Qianqian is in the hands of those pirates. He hated pirates for their cruelty. They kidnapped, robbed, murdered, and committed all sorts of crimes. They had hijacked Chinese ships more than once and kidnapped his daughter now. He clenched his fists, and his eyes were full of killing intent.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath and lit a cigarette out of frustration.

Xie Huilan looked at Dong Xuebing. “I am pregnant. Can you snub it out?”

Dong Xuebing stopped and quickly snubbed his cigarette.

Qu Yunxuan’s mother wanted to vent her anger and turned to Dong Xuebing. “All you know is smoke! I did not see you show any concern for your daughter! Is smoking more important than her?!”

Luan Xiaoping also scolded her son. "If you were more careful, Qianqian would not need to go through these! Now, all you do is smoke. You are a father now!"

Dong Xuebing's mother and Qu Yunxuan's mother had been scolding Dong Xuebing for a few days. Even Qu Yunxuan's father had been giving him cold shoulders.

Dong Xuebing did not retort as they were right. He had not done his part as a responsible father and did not look after Little Qianqian well. Everything happened because of him, and he might not see his daughter again.

Dong Xuebing could no longer sit still.

I must bring my daughter back!

Dong Xuebing decided and got up to pack his stuff. He kept his wallet and phone in his pocket and said. "Mum, don't worry. I created this mess, and I will settle it! I will never return if I can't bring Qianqian back safely!"

Xie Huilan was shocked. "What are you going to do?"

Dong Xuebing did not say anything and left the apartment.

"Xiao Bing!" Xie Huilan shouted. "Come back! Come back now!"

Dong Xuebing continued his way down the stairs.

Xie Huilan went after him, and he disappeared when she reached the ground floor. He did not even drive his car.

Inside the apartment.

Xie Huilan returned, and Luan Xiaoping asked anxiously. "Where is Xiao Bing?"

"I could not stop him." Xie Huilan replied. "I don't know where he went."

Luan Xiaoping panicked. "What is he trying to do? Where is he going? Is he going to find Qianqian?"

Qu Yunxuan's father's face changed. "Is... Is Xiao Bing going to the sea off Fujian Province?"

That area was infested with pirates. Even the Navy vessels got to be cautious when sailing in that area. No one in their right mind would go there except for Dong Xuebing. Everyone knew he was not afraid of dying. He could risk his life for civilians, let alone his daughter.

Qu Yunxuan's eyes turned red. She shouted anxiously. "Mum! Are you trying to kill Xiao Bing?! Why did you anger him?! It was not his fault for losing our daughter! Did you think he wanted this to happen?"

Qu Yunxuan's mother was shocked. "This Xiao Bing.... Ah.... I was just saying.... You should know that I can't keep my mouth shut.... I... I... hurry and look for him."

Luan Xiaoping felt uneasy. "This kid.... What is he thinking?! Huilan, go and look for him now. Don't let him seek his death there!"

Qu Yunxuan's father stood up. "I will look for him too. This kid is too...."

Qu Yunxuan's father and Xie Huilan searched for Dong Xuebing in many places, but he was nowhere to be found.

No one can stop Dong Xuebing once he decides to do something.

Chapter 897: Set sail

A city by the sea.

Dong Xuebing got off a plane and boarded a long-distance bus to a port.

On his way to the port, Dong Xuebing switched on his phone for the first time after leaving home. Beep... beep... beep.... He immediately receives numerous SMSs from Qu Yunxuan, Xie Huilan, Luan Xiaoping, etc. They wanted to know where he was and asked him to return home. He did not reply to them. He said he would not return home if he could not rescue his daughter. He must bring Qu Qian home even if it costs him his life!

Dong Xuebing started calling his friends.

"Hello, Old Qian? I am in C City now. Do you know anyone working in the port? No? It's fine.... Thank you."

"Hello, Mr. Mu. Do you know any ship captain in the port here? Oh, it's alright. I am just asking."

"Brother Zhou, do you know anyone in C City? I need a boat. Do you have any solution? It's fine. I will ask someone else."

"Hello, Director Liu? I am Xiao Dong...."

Dong Xuebing made seven to eight calls but yielded no results.

One of Dong Xuebing's former subordinates in Yan Tai County Public Security Bureau asked him to look for Hui Tian Village Police Station Chief Liu Dahai. One of Old Liu's relatives is working in C City. Dong Xuebing had saved Liu Dahai's life before, and they were life and death buddies. He immediately called Liu Dahai and told him he must go to sea.

Liu Dahai asked. "Where do you want to go?"

"Any ships, including cargo ships, going to Fujian Province is fine."

"You don't have the paperwork even if you reach there...."

"I just want to board a ship for fun. It's a vacation, and I will not go on land."

"Oh, okay. Fine. I will help you since you ask. One of my relatives is a cargo ship captain, but he does not sail the shipping lines to Fujian Province. Let me ask him first. Maybe he has friends who can help."

"Thank you."

"Don't mention it. Wait for my call."

Dong Xuebing has many enemies and friends after working in Fen Zhou City for many years. He finally found a way to get on board a ship to Fujian Province.

Around twenty minutes later, the bus reached the bus station near the port.

Dong Xuebing walked towards the port and saw strict security checks at the entrance. Everyone entering the port was checked and must show an entry permit. Outsiders could not enter. This was not a problem for Dong Xuebing. He looked around and found a secluded place to hide. He mumbled under his breath. "STOP!"

Time stopped.

Dong Xuebing walked past the security and went into the port.

STOP deactivated, and time resumed.

At the same time, Dong Xuebing's phone rang. It was Liu Dahai.

"Director Dong, I will send you a location. Go there and look for Niu Dazhao. He is my relative's close friend. He can help you get onboard a ship, but you got to get through the port's security yourself."

"I am in the port now."

Liu Dahai paused for a second and did not find it strange. If Director Dong could not even get through port security, he would not be called Dong Xuebing. Getting past security checks should be a piece of cake for him.

Dong Xuebing could board any ships with STOP and sneak out to sea. But he did not do it. First, he did not know which ship would sail to Fujian Province. Second, he only has a few minutes of remaining time. He got to use it wisely. Lastly, he would be discovered on board the ship, and it would be troublesome to explain himself.

Dong Xuebing went to the third dock according to the location given by Liu Dahai. A small cargo ship was there, and the crew loaded goods onto it. They looked like they were going to set sail soon.

Dong Xuebing switched off his phone and walked toward the ship.

"You are...." A man in his late forties looked at Dong Xuebing from the ship.

Dong Xuebing said. "You must be Captain Niu. I am Xiao Dong."

Niu Dazhao looked at Dong Xuebing. "Are you the one Old Liu referred?" Old Liu should be Liu Dahai's relative. "How did you get past the security?"

"I walked in like that."

Niu Dazhao laughed. "Alright. Come onboard."

The crew looked at Dong Xuebing suspiciously as he boarded the ship.

Niu Dazhao did not say anything as he brought Dong Xuebing into a cabin. "Xiao Dong, I heard you wanted to go to sea for a vacation."

"Yes." Dong Xuebing replied.

Niu Dazhao shook his head. "Listen to me. You should go back."

Dong Xuebing looked at him. "Why?"

Niu Dazhao sighed. "It's not as simple as you think, young man. I am sure you don't have the relevant paperwork or identification. It would be smuggling if you go out to sea, and you can't get off the ship when you reach Fujian Province."

"I am not getting off and will not cause any trouble for you."

"I am not scared of trouble. I had brought my friends and relatives out to sea before. Nothing would happen if you remained in the cabin when we docked. But that was the past. I believe you have heard about piracy near Fujian Province. Ours is a small cargo ship, and we could not afford to hire Navy vessels to escort us. Without escorts, we might be attacked by pirates there. Although the probability is low, it is still dangerous."

"It's alright."

"You must consider carefully."

"I am sure. Sorry to trouble you, Captain Niu."

Niu Dazhao looked at Dong Xuebing and nodded. "Alright. I shall not say more since you considered the danger. Don't blame me for not reminding you when something happened."

Pirates?!

Those bastards were the reason why Dong Xuebing was going out to sea.

Dong Xuebing agreed to accept the risk, and Niu Dazhao did not say anything else. "It will take a few days to reach Fujian Province, and this will be your cabin."

The cabin was small and simple. Other than a bed and a small table, there was nothing else. Although it could not compare to other ships, it was considered the best cabin on this small cargo ship. Niu Dazhao had arranged this cabin because of his old friend, Old Liu. Another reason was Dong Xuebing looked skinny and weak. He feared his body might not take it if he shared a cabin with the other crews.

"Thank you." Dong Xuebing thanked Niu Dazhao.

Niu Dazhao waved his hand and left to do his work.

Dong Xuebing was illegally onboard the ship and did not walk around. He lay in bed, thinking about his daughter.

Half an hour later.

The ship's engine started rumbling, and the ship started rocking. It had set sail.

Dong Xuebing waited for a while and walked out of the cabin. A cold wind hit him, and it felt like needles on his skin. He could see the ship getting further away from land and surrounded by water. The crews were moving goods, and some were tidying up the ropes. A few of them were chatting among themselves. Niu Dazhao should be on the bridge, as Dong Xuebing did not see him around.

“Sigh... I hope it will be smooth sailing this time.”

“My wife had gotten an amulet for me. I wonder if it works.”

“Those pirates are getting out of hand. I heard they are only targeting Chinese ships.”

“That’s right. Old Li, abducted by pirates, said the ship he was on was sailing through that area, and there were other countries’ ships too. But the pirates purposely targeted them and ignored the other ships. It seemed they were only after them and started firing at them.”

“Are you sure? Why are they targeting us?”

“It’s because our country is willing to pay the ransom. Some countries don’t even care when the pirates capture their citizens.”

“Those bastards....”

“Yes. The news reported another Chinese ship was hijacked by pirates yesterday, and many of the crew were killed. The pirates asked for ransom again.”

“We should not give them!”

“If we don’t pay them, what will happen to the hostages?”

“I hope someone would kill all those pirates.”

“A Navy vessel can easily sink those small pirate boats. But they are revengeful. It’s easy to kill one or two of them, but they will take revenge by killing the crew on Chinese ships. Small ships like ours will be targeted as we cannot afford to hire armed escorts.”

“Didn’t they kill the crew now? They had killed six crew this time.”

“Sigh.... Those pirates should be killed.”

The crew was angry when they talked about pirates.

Dong Xuebing’s eyes turned cold after hearing the crew’s conversation. The situation was like what everyone was talking about. The Government had given in to the pirates again and again because of the hostages’ safety. This made those pirates bolder, and they started to target only Chinese ships. They would shoot the crew and rob the ship. After that, they can still get money from the Government.

These people must be stopped.

Chapter 898: Pirates are here

Two days passed....

Dong Xuebing woke up early in the morning and lit a cigarette. He walked out to the deck and looked around. The ship was sailing in the deep waters, and they could not see the land. All he

could see was water. Sailing on a ship was much slower than flying on a plane, and Dong Xuebing was prepared.

“Bro....” Dong Xuebing stopped a crew.

The crew dropped what he was doing and looked at Dong Xuebing. “What?”

“I got a question.” Dong Xuebing asked. “How far are we from the pirate-infested waters?”

The crew had a weird expression on his face. “A ship was hijacked a few days ago, and the Captain asked us to make a detour to avoid that area. This area is also one of the areas with high pirate activities.” He pointed to the west. “The pirate’s base is in that direction. It’s a lawless area without government. Our current location should be far from them, but we might still encounter them. Let’s hope for the best.”

Dong Xuebing looked at the sea. “This is the area....”

The crew nodded. “We entered this area early this morning. Can’t you see everyone’s expression?”

Dong Xuebing looked around. All the crew was wary. “Do you know how many men are there in this pirate group? Are there several pirate groups?”

The crew replied. “I don’t know how many men, but I am sure they have more than one leader. I heard they have stiff competition among themselves.”

“Do you know the group of pirates that hijacked the ship a few days ago?”

“I don’t know. I have never met any of the pirates. We would not escape if we met them. Their speed boats are much faster than us.”

“Oh, okay. Thanks.”

The crew continued. “You should not have boarded our ship.”

Dong Xuebing nodded. “Thanks for the advice.”

The crew wanted to say more, but he stopped when he saw Dong Xuebing’s expression.

All the crew had met Dong Xuebing these few days and knew he was here for sightseeing. They shook their head. Although they were impressed with his bravery, they felt he was conceited. Many ships sailed this route, and they might not encounter pirates. However, everyone onboard might be killed if they met those pirates. Any sane person would avoid sailing through this area, and only a crazy person like Dong Xuebing would want to sightsee here. If it were not for the high salary, the crew would have quit long ago. Nobody would want to risk their lives.

The crew was discussing Dong Xuebing behind his back.

“Is this young man not afraid to die?”

“I think he lives in a castle and doesn’t know the danger yet.”

“He is doing well for not getting seasick after so many days.”

“Look at his small body. I wonder how long he can last. Who would go on a sightseeing trip at this time?”

“That’s right. I think his legs would give way when we encounter pirates.”

“Spit... spit ... spit.... What are you saying?”

“Sorry.... Smooth sailing.... This will be a smooth sailing voyage.”

Dong Xuebing overheard their discussion and ignored them. He continued to look in the direction of the pirates’ base. The Navy vessel had departed the day after him, and he wondered if they had reached this area. Qianqian should still be in the pirate’s hands. How is he going to find him? Go straight to their base? It’s impossible to get past the vast sea. Use STOP to get off the boat and look for the pirates?!

Dong Xuebing thought about his options and felt the second solution had a higher probability of succeeding. He started running through a plan in his mind.

Five minutes....

Ten minutes....

Half an hour....

Suddenly, a crew member shouted.

“Eh! Look in front!”

“There’s a boat in front!”

“Captain! Captain!”

Dong Xuebing saw a white object in the distance before the ship.

Niu Dazhao walked quickly to the deck and looked in front with a pair of binoculars. His face changed, and he shouted. “Turn around! It’s pirates!”

“What?”

“Pirates?!”

The crew members were panicking.

Niu Dazhao shouted. “Why are those bastards in this area?! Why are they stopping there? Are they waiting for someone?”

Pirates usually use small speedboats to hijack ships. The speedboats are fast and more agile than bigger ships. That’s why the crew members did not think much when they saw a boat bigger than a speedboat.

Niu Dazhao shouted. “Hurry! Turn around!”

Everyone rushed to their positions.

“Shit!” Niu Dazhao, who was still holding up his binoculars, shouted. “They are coming towards us! The speedboats around that bigger boat are coming towards us!”

Speedboats....

The pirates still have speedboats....

Everyone's face turned pale and panicked.

The crew acted faster in a life-or-death situation.

But the cargo ship was much slower than speedboats. They saw the pirates getting closer to them.

That's it!

There's no way to escape now.

Niu Dazhao knew it was over for them and threw the binoculars on the deck. "These bastards.... Brothers! Let's fight them together!"

None of the crew responded.

Fight against the pirates? How are they going to fight against them? They have guns.

They might survive if they surrender, and the government would pay for their release. If they retaliate, they might lose their lives.

The crew members were in despair.

Niu Dazhao looked at his men and sighed.

Only Dong Xuebing remained calm. His eyes narrowed as he looked at the speedboats getting nearer. How did the pirates know a cargo ship would pass by this area? It should be impossible for them to know, but why are they waiting here? Could these pirates be the pirate group that captured Qianqian and are waiting for the ransom from the Navy Vessel? Is this the place where the transaction is going to take place?

Dong Xuebing smiled coldly.

I was still thinking of ways to look for you all.

Thanks for coming to me. You all saved me a lot of trouble.

Chapter 899: The Navy Vessel arrived

The sea.

The pirates' speedboats were getting nearer.

Niu Dazhao and his crew were still trying their best to escape. They were turning the ship around towards the north.

Dong Xuebing, on the deck, looked around and walked to his cabin slowly. He drank a glass of water to hydrate himself and took a small fruit knife from the table. It was a small foldable fruit knife used for cutting fruits. He stuck the knife on his belt behind him, but he felt it was not enough. He went to the crew's cabin and found two holding knives he kept behind him. These knives were useless against those pirates' machine guns like AK47. However, the knives were good enough for Dong Xuebing, and he didn't need too many.

Dong Xuebing returned to the deck and saw the pirates still chasing them.

Bang... bang... bang.... A few gunshots fired into the air.

Around ten pirates were chasing them in four speedboats. They were shouting in a foreign language.

The crew was scared by the gunshots. Some rushed for cover, and some ran to hide in their cabin.

“Hurry!!” Niu Dazhao shouted.

“Captain, we had tried....”

“Yes. We cannot escape.”

“Do you all want to die here?! Hurry and turn us around!”

The ship was in chaos, and everyone was panicking.

Suddenly, a crew pointed behind the ship and shouted. “There is a ship! A ship!”

Dong Xuebing looked and saw two black dots in the distance. Niu Dazhao and a few crew members used their binoculars.

“That ship is too far. I can’t see clearly.”

“The ship in front is a Korean cargo ship.”

“It’s a cargo ship! I can see it. It’s much bigger than ours!”

“The ship should carry valuable goods, which are four to five times bigger than us.”

The crew members brightened up and hoped the pirates would go after that ship. That ship had changed its routes after hearing the gunshots. If the pirates attacked Niu Dazhao’s ship, they would not catch up with that Korean cargo ship. That cargo ship’s goods were more valuable, and it gave hope.

Two pirates noticed that Korean cargo ship and used binoculars to see it clearer.

The pirates stopped firing and were talking among themselves. They signaled to the medium size main pirate ship, and they gave a command with a flashlight. The pirates on the speedboats saw it and continued to fire at the Chinese ship.

Niu Dazhao was furious, and he shouted at the pirates. “Our boat is only carrying normal goods! Why are you all keep chasing us?!”

A crew sees the pirates’ intentions. “They are trying to catch hostages!”

The other crew members turned pale. “They are too much!”

These pirates only targeted Chinese ships and ignored ships from other countries.

Pirates are criminals who rob ships on the sea. However, this group of pirates was more interested in abducting the crew than the goods. The ransom for the crew, especially Chinese nationals, was much higher than the value of the goods. They had done this several times, and the Chinese government paid the ransom every time. This made them bolder and preferred Chinese ships over other countries’ ships.

Dong Xuebing had been suppressing his anger and was about to explode anytime. We are concerned for the hostages' safety and paid the ransom. But you all kept targeting our country's ship and ignoring those countries which don't pay the ransom for their crew. You all are too much!

The more you give in, the more they would step all over you.

Dong Xuebing's eyes grew cold as he looked at the laughing pirates getting nearer. The main pirate ship was too far, and he could not see if there were any Chinese hostages or Qianqian onboard. He was unsure if they were waiting for the ransom from the Navy Vessel as it was his guess. He stood there looking at the pirates without moving.

Bang!

Bang! Bang!

The gunshots were loud, but they were warning shots. The pirates wanted the crew alive.

"Xiao Dong! What are you doing?" Niu Dazhao saw Dong Xuebing standing there, looking at the pirates calmly. He thought to himself. What is he thinking? Is he not afraid of bullets? The pirates are firing at us, and you are still standing there? "Hurry and get back into the cabins!"

Most of the crew had retreated to the cabins.

Dong Xuebing turned and walked back. He did not retreat to the cabins. He walked to a binocular dropped by one of the crew and used it to look at the main pirate ship. It was rundown. Plastic sheets covered many parts of the ship and were built with old wooden planks. That ship should be built with parts from old ships. He could see a man with a mustache standing at the bow, and he looked like the captain. Besides, the main ship was a speedboat. It was circling the main ship, protecting it.

That should be the leader.

Even the leader is here.

Dong Xuebing thought about the situation. The leader should not be around if the pirates were searching for a target. He would just send a few speedboats. Now, the leader is around with so many speedboats and dozens of armed crew. They should be here for other reasons.

The more Dong Xuebing analyzed, the more he felt these pirates were the ones who hijacked the Chinese ship a few days ago. He looked at the main pirate ship for a while and did not see Qianqian. A part of the boat was blocked, and he could not see inside.

Bang... bang....

Another round of gunshots!

"Xiao Dong! Come in now!" Niu Dazhao shouted as he ran into the cabin. The pirates were about to board their ship.

"Captain! Close the doors!"

"That's right! Just ignore him! He is trying to kill himself."

“That guy is crazy! How can he stand still in front of those guns?”

Everyone felt Dong Xuebing was weird since he had boarded the ship. Shouldn't you board a cruise ship if you want to sightsee? Why did you board a cargo ship, especially a ship that would be sailing to Fujian Province? Everyone knows pirate activities were high in this region. Do you have nothing to do? Bullets were flying everywhere, and you are still standing there with a pair of binoculars admiring the scenery?

Although the crew members scolded Dong Xuebing, they were impressed by his guts.

How many people can remain unfazed by bullets flying around them?

Dong Xuebing waved to Niu Dazhao and did not return to the cabin. He continued to look at the main pirate ship, hoping to see Qianqian. He looked at the ship for a while before looking at the surroundings.

The next moment, Dong Xuebing saw a ship some distance away. It was too far to see it.

When they saw the Korean cargo ship earlier, everyone noticed there were two ships. The one at the back was too far away, and that Korean ship had escaped. The ship at the back was still sailing towards his location.

That ship was coming towards us.

They were still coming despite hearing the gunshots and knowing the pirates were attacking Dong Xuebing's ship.

Dong Xuebing felt it was weird and continued to watch that ship with his pair of binoculars. Suddenly, he saw the flag on that ship as it got closer.

That ship was a Chinese Navy vessel!

Niu Dazhao was about to close the door when Dong Xuebing shouted. “The Navy is here! The Chinese Navy!”

Everyone paused for a second, and Niu Dazhao quickly picked up his binoculars. “It's our Navy vessel! We are safe!”

The crew members cheered.

Dong Xuebing could confirm these pirates were waiting for the Navy vessel to deliver the ransom.

Dong Xuebing looked at the pirates' speedboats less than twenty meters and smiled. He knew the pirates were going to board their ship soon.

Chapter 900: Found the daughter

The danger was approaching.

The cargo ship crew was excited when they saw the Chinese Navy vessel.

“Hurry! Sail towards our Navy!”

“Captain, the pirates are about to board our ship!”

“Move faster. Who wants to stop them with me?!”

“I will go out and fight it out with those bastards! Let’s go together!”

The cargo ship turned slightly towards the approaching Navy vessel, hoping to be rescued. A few bolder crew members grabbed poles, knives, and whatever weapons they could find. They bent over to dodge the bullets. Soon, they saw two hooks attached to ropes thrown onto the deck.

A few crew members rushed over to cut the ropes.

The ropes were thick, and the crew members could not cut them. They reached out for the hooks hoping to dislodge them.

But the next moment, bullets zoomed past their heads.

The crew members immediately retreated to the cabin.

Dong Xuebing also returned to the cabin, looking at the approaching Navy vessel. He reminded himself to be calm until he saw Qianqian. He must not act rashly as it might endanger Qianqian. These pirates would not think twice when killing their hostages. He needs to wait until he can confirm if Qianqian is in that main pirate boat.

Bang... bang... bang....

Bang... bang... bang....

When everyone had lost hope, the Navy vessel fired a few warning shots on the water. Water splashed up.

The Navy had seen them!

Those warning shots were to scare those pirates away.

The pirates stopped trying to board the cargo ship and hesitated. However, the main pirate ship flashed a spotlight. It was their leader giving them new commands. The pirates on the speedboats immediately sped to the other side of the cargo boat to take cover. They ignored the Navy’s warning shots and threw their ropes onto the cargo ship for boarding.

The pirates managed to get on board.

One....

Three....

Five pirates....

Five armed pirates boarded the cargo ship. Among them was a black man armed with an AK47. He seemed to be the leader of this team. The pirates pointed their guns and walked towards the cabin. They were laughing.

“@##%.”

The pirates shouted towards the cabin.

Niu Dazhao and the rest could not understand but could guess what they meant. The pirates wanted them to surrender.

Niu Dazhao looked at his crew and sighed. They would be dead if the Navy could not reach them in time.

“We are going to die!”

“We are done!”

“I will fight it out with them! They are too much!”

“Don’t be rash! They have guns!”

Everyone knew they stood no chance against the pirates. No matter how brave they were, they could not stop bullets. They started to move to the back of the cabin quietly.

Around fifteen seconds passed.

The pirates saw no one had come out from hiding, and they started shooting.

Bang... bang... bang.... Bullets were flying everywhere.

The crew screamed in horror and ducked to the ground. A few timid crew members started crying.

The pirates laughed when they heard the crew members’ cries. One of them kicked the cabin door. The door lock was damaged, and it was kicked open easily.

The five pirates rushed into the cabin and saw the crew squatting in a corner. They looked at each other and spoke in their language. Two of the pirates pointed their guns at the crew members and shouted. The crew members, including Captain Niu Dazhao, did not move. They had given up on retaliating. The three remaining pirates went over to them with ropes and tied them up.

One crew member....

Two crew members....

Three crew members....

The crew members’ hands were tied.

Captain Niu Dazhao’s hands were tied, and it was Dong Xuebing’s turn.

The crew members were terrified, and only Dong Xuebing remained calm. He looked at the pirates, and one of them started to tie his hands.

The black man nodded and said something in his language.

The rest of the pirates dragged everyone out to the deck and made them stand in a line, facing the Navy vessel.

The Navy vessel was fast and very near to the cargo ship.

Bang... bang... bang.... The Navy vessel fired a dozen rounds into the sea as a warning.

The pirates thought nothing and continued to joke around.

Dong Xuebing can see about a dozen men in military uniform onboard the Navy vessel. They were holding up their guns at the pirates. An officer, which seemed to be a Colonel, was standing at the back of the deck. Dong Xuebing knew these soldiers should be here to deliver the ransom and that the Colonel should be this ship's top leader.

Both sides entered a stalemate.

The soldiers were pointing their guns at the pirates, and the pirates were hiding behind their hostages, pointing their guns at them.

Finally, the main pirate boat started to move slowly towards them. That man with a mustache made a few gestures, and his men entered the cargo hold of their boat.

Dong Xuebing, who was tied up, looked at the approaching main pirate boat. He could see them now.

The few pirates, who went into the cargo hold, returned to the deck with a hostage each. The hostages were the captured crew from the hijacked Chinese ship a few days ago. They were looking listless, and their hands were covered with wounds.

Dong Xuebing's eyes narrowed. It's them. He had seen those men's faces from the pictures, and Qianqian was abducted with them.

Where is Qianqian?

Where is my daughter?

The pirate came out last and was holding something in his hand. Dong Xuebing saw him and was furious.

That pirate was holding Qianqian.

Qianqian looked sick and was too weak to cry.

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath. Alright. Since I found my daughter, all of you are dead!