

Superstar 441

Chapter 441: The inexorable panda!

"No good!"

"They're back again!"

"Damn! Still not done?"

"They still dare to attack?"

"Everyone, be careful!"

"A social forum has been attacked and brought down! Yet another large quantity of words scolding China appeared. Based on the text, it was definitely translated by some software. It's those Korean hackers again!"

A few shouts had broken the peace at the Internet Surveillance Bureau!

Everyone in the First Department felt the tension, cursing under their breaths, as they took positions in front of their computers, rushing to defend from the attacks.

Fang Xiaoshui said angrily, "Are they competing with us on energy levels? Are they not done yet?"

Meng Yi was also very angry, "The point is, why is the Korean government not doing anything about this at all? Such a large scale invasion of our networks has already been going on for two days and they didn't even question what's going on? They don't care? Isn't that the same as condoning the hackers actions?! They just silently approve their hackers attacks on us? That kind of attitude is much too terrible! What kind of people are they? Those leads from the IP addresses that Sister Fan found and submitted to the Korean authorities have all gone unanswered? No one has been caught? Or is it because they don't plan on arresting them at all? This is so infuriating!"

A young cyber-policeman said, "Maybe they have already arrested them in secret, but just that we are too low ranked to know of this information, but to be honest, their government's attitude of turning a blind eye towards this matter is really too much!"

A cyber-policewoman said with a tone of sarcasm, "Didn't you all see it? Even the Korean media is scolding us on their papers saying that our hackers have caused them a major economic loss and social disruption, but when their country's hackers illegally infiltrated our networks and caused us trouble, even going as far as stealing accounts to post insulting words, aren't they causing social disruption to us too? The Korean media didn't even mention a single word about it! I'm really completely floored by these Koreans! They truly deserve to get scolded by Teacher Zhang Ye! I'm going to rewatch "Zhang Ye's Talk Show" after this case is over. Those Korean insulting segments really are the best! They are a bunch of bastards!"

When they spoke about Zhang Ye, a few of them looked over to him.

"Eh? Teacher Zhang? What are you doing?" Fang Xiaoshui looked at him strangely.

Zhang Ye was typing furiously on his keyboard when he heard his name being called, "I'm writing a document for work."

Fang Xiaoshui quickly said, "Oh, oh, then I won't disturb you."

Fan Yingyun said coldly, "Stop that idle chatter! This bunch of grandsons are already at our doorstep. Quickly go get them, I've already caught one. Old Dong, this is one of their IPs!" She wrote it down and passed it to Dong Zhiqiang. In this group of people, Fan Yingyun's workrate was the fastest and most effective.

Dong Zhiqiang said excitedly, "Well done! Everyone, raise your spirits. Let's get through this and after we're done, I'll treat everyone!"

Everyone in the office knew that Zhang Ye was here only for a few days and was here just for show. He probably wouldn't be here anymore after tomorrow and since they had their hands full now, they did not pay much attention to Zhang Ye anymore. Zhang Ye's back was facing a window. If anyone walked up behind him, they would definitely discover that he had a window on his screen in which he was entering complex shell commands and procedural calls. They were so complex that even Fang Xiaoshui might not understand them!

objMail Send

Next

SetobjMapi=Nothing

SetobjOA=Nothing

-

for i=0 to Count

do

LoopFiles(Path+SubDir+Strings,Mask);

FreeAndNil(SubDir);

end;

Alright!

Input complete!

Zhang Ye smiled deep down inside, but did not show it on his face. He glanced at the busily working staff of the Internet Surveillance Bureau and pretended to be busy with his own work as well. Meanwhile, he had connected to the Internet Surveillance Bureau's network and had once again gotten into the Korean networks. Quietly, he began his "proper" business.

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JIN: "Be careful, everyone. Remember to cover your tracks to protect yourself. The virus from '2' has already been cracked, but there's still 'FAN'. That's also another powerful person! You must take note not to get caught!"

Jen: "Understood!"

Hyo: "Without the Panda Burning Incense virus, they have nothing that can scare us!"

59-V still bore a grudge from being infected by the virus. He said, "A virus like that Panda Burning Incense was never complicated to begin with. It's just that since the anti-virus database did not have records of such a virus, that '2' was able to exploit a loophole, but now, he's....."

Up until here, 59-V suddenly disconnected!

JIN: "59? 59?"

Jen: "Where's 59? What's the matter?"

JIN: "I don't know. He's still online, but why is there no movement from him?"

Then, 59-V appeared again and the first words he said had left everyone with their mouths agape! They heard him cursing out, "FUCK ME! I've been infected again! This '2' is seriously a grandson all the way to the end of the earth! There's no hacker that is as bastardly as him! He even posted a thread on a Korean forum titled 'Song Jimi's nudes for download'. I just downloaded it and my computer immediately went dead! It's the Panda Burning Incense! It's the same virus!"

Song Jimi — A famous female Korean celebrity.

"Ah?"

"Impossible!"

JIN also doubtfully said: "You didn't install the kill tool?"

59-V said: "I did, but my Auto-play settings were not changed! This is damned to a million fucks! I'm done here! My computer is going to auto restart soon! I don't understand what's going on now! What's with the kill tool? Didn't the virus definitions get updated too? Why did I....."

His avatar dimmed out!

59-V's words were cut off there!

Following that, another 5 hackers got infected!

"Ah! I've been infected too!"

"The virus is back!"

"It's really Panda Burning Incense! It's still alive!"

JIN felt his heart turn cold, "Stop the attack! Withdraw! Everyone withdraw! Hurry!"

Jen was also shocked: "Didn't the virus already die?"

Hyo: "Why did this happen? Wasn't the virus cracked already?"

JIN snapped out from his daze: "It's a variant of the Panda Burning Incense! That '2' has struck again! He actually had a backup plan! We really underestimated our enemy!"

Variant?

Virus variant?

Many of the Korean hackers drew a cold breath!

JIN said: "Stop! Withdraw now! Everyone, change your settings and disable Auto-play now! This variant of the Panda Burning Incense probably had its source code changed. We have to wait for the Malware Protection Center to crack this one! Before that, don't act rashly! No one knows how much damage it will cause after it mutates!"

A bunch of Korean hackers had gone for the kill in high spirits, but had once again slammed into a stone wall. It had only been a few minutes, and they were all sent packing!

It's that nasty panda again!

It's that inexorable panda again!

Chapter 442: Panda Burning Incense's multiple variants!

At the same time.

"Song Jimi's uncensored nudes"?

"Picture of Chen Quan's fatal accident"?

"Lee Anson's bare face before plastic surgery"?

"Lee Parkwoo and Lee Anson's late night gay meetup — high-res photos free for download"?

One by one, titles describing horrendous events began appearing all over Korean forums and websites. Some of these were even posted on websites while others were spread via email. Once the downloaded images appeared, it caused a frenzy in Korea. The moment many Koreans saw these titles, they all gasped, and clicked on them trembling with excitement. They couldn't wait for those pictures to be downloaded!

"That's fascinating!"

"There's such a thing?"

"Quick, download it before it gets taken down!"

"I'm downloading it right now!"

"Such welfare! I'm blessed!"

"Hehehehe. how can I miss out on such good stuff!"

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In China.

Somewhere in the Internet Surveillance Bureau.

Fang Xiaoshui wondered, "Heh, what happened this time, why did they leave again?"

Meng Yi also realized, "They have withdrawn, what's going on? Something happened again?"

The hacked websites were once again restored. This was an identical situation like previously. They disappeared after a short invasion!

Zhang Er asked, "Director Dong?"

Dong Zhiqiang had a sunken expression and was just about to make a serious statement, but the moment he thought of the explanation he gave yesterday, leaving him totally embarrassed, he just coughed and did not say anything further.

Suddenly, a cyber-policewoman said, "Ah, Chen Quan died in an accident? How can it be? I was just watching the news about him yesterday?"

Another young cyber-police then shouted, "Damn, Lee Anson and Lee Parkwoo were secretly photographed in a gay encounter? Those two had something with each other? That's impossible!"

Fang Xiaoshui also saw, "Lee Anson had plastic surgery before? This is the first time I've heard about this."

An old cyber-police drew in a deep breath through his nose and said excitedly, "Song Jimi's.. uncensored nudes?"

As they had been preparing for battle with the Korean hackers, they had their Korean translation softwares opened up. Seeing such post titles left them shocked. So much shit had happened in the course of one night? They needed to see this for themselves!

No one moved.

Some did not speak, but secretly downloaded the attachments.

Then, someone was heard cursing, "F**k! It's the Panda Burning Incense!"

Someone else also cried, "Holy shit! Everyone, be careful of downloading those titled attachments! It's a virus! My computer's infected! Sis Fan! Sis Fan! We need help!"

Fan Yingyun glanced at them, "Download the kill tool!"

A youth said, "I've download it already, but it was useless. It can't kill it! The anti-virus was updated too, but there was no warning at all!"

Fang Xiaoshui was stunned, "Then it can't be the Panda Burning Incense. The virus definitions were already updated."

That youth was on the verge of tears, "Look here, it really is the Panda Burning Incense. It's exactly the same. All of the .exe files transformed into panda icons. What's going on?"

Dong Zhiqiang went over, "Let me see!"

Fan Yingyun also went over, "Huh?"

The cyber-policeman, whose computer was infected, was at a loss at whether to laugh or cry, "This '2' has no bearings of a world class hacker! He's basically scamming people! How can he use this sort of method to disguise the virus? He's has no humanity left in him!"

Fan Yingyun disconnected his LAN cable to prevent the virus from spreading within their network before she took over his computer to take a look. Thereafter, she made some changes to the system and made a frown.

Dong Zhiqiang quickly asked, "How did this happen?"

Fan Yingyun's frown turned into a smile, "This time, those Koreans are in for another headache. This is indeed the Panda Burning Incense from yesterday, but it's a variant. A variant might occur sometimes on its own due to many possible factors or it could be modified consciously by the virus author. It looks like this '2' had it prepared. In the field of creating computer viruses, he is already at the peak of perfection!"

Fang Xiaoshui wondered, "'2' knew that those Korean hackers would attack again, so he hit them with the virus again?"

Fan Yingyun laughed, "I like this person! Right up my alley!"

Meng Yi asked the leader, "Director Dong, so what do we do now?"

Dong Zhiqiang thought about it before saying, "Go busy yourselves with your own work, but stay alert. Other matters are not in our jurisdiction, as long as we continue to defend our networks from attacks." Saying that, he also felt quite happy, "To be able to come up with trickery like this to spread a virus, we can see how difficult this '2' can be."

Fang Xiaoshui also said in a gloating manner, "'2' has the techniques of a world class hacker and he is a world class virus programmer, is talented, and even knows strategy well. No matter where you put them, this kind of a hacker is the most dangerous. Even those top anti-virus companies do not dare to provoke such people. If they do, it would only mean a lifetime of trouble for them. This time, those Koreans are really down on their luck!"

Dong Zhiqiang symbolically cautioned, "Watch what you say, Little Fang. Remember which side you are on."

"Yes, sir." Fang Xiaoshui smiled cheekily.

Zhang Ye, who was behind them, was listening to everything that they were saying. He did not react or interrupt and just smiled as he continued busying himself with his 'work'. He furiously tapped away at his keyboard doing something unknown.

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Korea.

The Malware Protection Center issued a red alert for the third time! A new variant of the Panda Burning Incense had started spreading and could not be stopped by the kill tool! Even the updated virus definitions could not prevent an infection as the Korean Malware Protection Center scrambled to issue the warning to remind Korean citizens not to open any suspicious email attachments or download any files from unknown sources! They also announced the file name that the virus used!

But that warning had come too late!

Countless people had already been tricked!

On the Korean internet, thousands and thousands of people posted in anger!

"It's that panda again!"

"Crap! My new computer's infected again!"

"Why can't it be killed?"

"What is the Malware Protection Center doing?"

"Didn't they already find the prevention method and make a kill tool for it? Why is it not working? The virus definitions were only updated a short while ago, but the virus was able to infect our systems again?"

"The virus definitions are working fine, but that was only against the first version of Panda Burning Incense. The new variants need to be cracked again, so please wait for a while everyone. We need to trust our programmers. With experience from the previous strain, they should be able to come up with a kill tool very quickly. Even if it's a variant, it's still that same Panda Burning Incense. There should definitely be some common source code that they share. That would help to make the research into cracking it much easier! I do not believe that we can't eradicate this virus once and for all. Be patient and wait for a bit, our people will surely solve this!"

"This is so terrible!"

"It's too wicked, I thought that Song Jimi's nude photos had really been leaked!"

"How can that hacker '2' from China even be considered world class! That bastard is just a hooligan! Does he even have the dignity and ethics of a top class hacker? Big liar!"

"My computer is dead! One year's worth of work went down the drain!"

"We need to fight China till the very end! F**k! I'm not finished with them!"

"Right, we need to duke it out with them all the way!"

"When the variant's kill tool is out, I will go and scold them until they die!"

Less than an hour after having just resolved the catastrophic risk of Panda Burning Incense, the Panda had once again swept through Korea. This was something that no one expected!

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Korea.

Malware Protection Center.

In a certain research department.

A person scolded, "The new variant's source code has actually changed since the original? To crack this new variant now would require us to start from scratch!"

Another person said, "We have only just found a way to crack it and updated the virus database, but he already created a new one? How can he be so fast, did he plan this in advance? Was it aimed at us? This is obviously provocation! Everyone, research the new variant with utmost urgency! We need to crack it within two hours! Then we have to update the virus database as soon as possible, otherwise it will be increasingly difficult to control the number of infected systems!"

A middle aged person said, "It's already out of control. I have news here that says the number of infected systems has already reached to 800,000!"

A woman said, "The numbers are snowballing!"

The person-in-charge said, "Stop talking and concentrate. We need to crack it fast! The deadline has already been set by management! We only have two hours! Hurry!"

800,000!

900,000!

1 million!

The number of infected systems increased exponentially!

The reason for this large number of infections was partially due to the release of the kill tool by the Korean authorities. Everyone had lowered their guard after they knew that the virus had been cracked. They thought that even if they got infected, it wouldn't matter since there was a kill tool available now. Perhaps because of this attitude, it allowed the Panda Burning Incense virus to take off and spread even faster than expected. This spread was very alarming and could no longer be controlled!

The number of infected systems were currently held back and not announced by the Korean authorities. They knew that if this number was announced, it would cause too much confusion and sensationalism, but this expedient measure could not be held back for long and the only way now was to quickly create a countermeasure for this virus, so that everything else could be brought under control. They needed to stop the spread!

However, after another ten minutes, the Korean Malware Protection Center and anti-virus companies were plunged into yet another crisis!

It was not that the Panda Burning Incense variant couldn't be cracked since they already had the experience from the original virus. Even though the source code was different, there were still similarities. They only needed a little more time before they could crack it and develop a kill tool. What really surprised them was — The second new variant of the Panda Burning Incense had appeared!

The difference between the second new variant and the previous variant was that the second variant was much more terrifying! This second variant, after being tested by the Malware Protection Center was

shown to be able to prevent anti-virus softwares from updating their virus definitions. It could even block most anti-virus softwares and disable certain functionalities of the firewall!

Following that!

A third variant appeared —This time, it was a Panda Burning Incense that could corrupt document files. It was another new feature that made it not only target .exe files!

Five minutes later, the 4th variant had made its way around Korea!

Chapter 443: Extermination!

At the Korean Malware Protection Center, many programmers and computer virus experts witnessed the spread of all these new variants of the Panda Burning Incense. Their hearts turned cold and they felt totally helpless at this point. They finally understood what kind of a god their country had offended. They finally understood just what kind of virus the Panda Burning Incense had turned out to be!

The original source code was simple?

It's concept was not complex?

This virus was no big threat?

Looking back now, they felt that those words of theirs were a joke. Those words had turned into the hands of '2' which smacked them in their faces, hard!

The terrifying thing about the Panda Burning Incense was not its sudden appearance or the lack of preparedness by the anti-virus companies, but its variants!

"Heavens!"

"Four variants!"

"What do we do?"

"Quickly crack them! Hurry!"

"There are four variants, how can we crack them? We don't have enough manpower!"

"We used a whole night to crack the original version of Panda Burning Incense, but now there are four variants. This....."

"Damn that '2'!"

"Crap! This time, we're done for!"

"We can't stop the spread of this virus!"

"Quickly send out an alert!"

"That '2' is really going all out to get us!"

The Korean Malware Protection Center issued four red alerts as the alarm rang out one after another to warn the public. It felt very pathetic!

When the Korean citizens heard that the Panda Burning Incense virus was wreaking havoc again, they immediately thought about the kill tool that the Malware Protection Center had spent an entire night developing. It was useless now? Four different variants appeared at once? The citizens were thrown into a panic as they completely turned pale!

"Ah!"

"My anti-virus has been disabled!"

"My firewall is useless! It's been deactivated by the Panda Burning Incense!"

Sounds of wailing could be heard all throughout Korea. These sounds signaled that the panda has once again struck!

1.2 million!

1.3 million!

The number of infected systems continued to rise!

At this moment, the Korean internet was in a frenzy!

The Americans fell silent!

The Russians fell silent!

The whole world fell silent!

At this point, many networking and computer experts expressed concern regarding the situation. Seeing how new variants of Panda Burning Incense constantly appeared left and right caused everyone to become speechless!

YOYOT (USA): "Never forget this '2'. This person is crazy! Even if you are a genius in computer viruses, do not ever mess with him unless it's a last resort!"

47 (USA): "Mess with him? I know it now that towards such a god, I will never mess with him. That person's too merciless! He has ruthless skills, but his personality is even more ruthless!"

TOM (UK): "What the f**k! Quickly go and see, there's another new variant. That's already the fifth one! Although the one's source code looks similar to the second one, it's still a new variant!"

Fujiwara (Japan): "He still has more variants??"

Cepera (Russia): "I really cannot imagine how many variants this Panda Burning Incense virus has! Is that '2' really going to go all out? The way he's going, is he really intending to destroy all the computers in Korea?"

47 (USA): "God damn it! The sixth and seventh variants have appeared as well!"

TOM (UK): "That's crazy! '2' really wants to make Korea beg for mercy in a single breath!"

YOYOT (USA): "Korea's done for. There are too many variants to the point that even if all the countries' Malware Protection Centers and anti-virus companies work together to crack them, they would not be able to keep up with the variant viruses that '2' is releasing. Korea has met a catastrophe!"

Fujiwara (Japan): "Crazy! This is really the craziest of crazies! I don't wish to meet someone like that ever, it's a nightmare!"

TOM (UK): "Yea, no one would be able to bear such a massive bombardment of variant viruses. Those Koreans were really too cocky this time. If only they had admitted defeat during the first attack by the Panda Burning Incense or just kept quiet and faded away, then this might not have happened! Those Koreans were too full of themselves! And now they're paying for it!"

Who could '2' be?

At this time, the whole world was asking the same question!

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JIN: "Get '2'! Expose his identity! Do whatever it takes! "

Jen: "We can't get him. He hasn't even shown himself!"

Hyo: "The eighth variant has appeared! It's over! This time it's really over!"

A hacker said: "Go take a look at the internet, quick! This eighth variant will redirect your browser to a webpage, it's a homepage!"

Everyone could see it!

Computers that were infected by the eighth variant would attempt to redirect to a specific website on their browsers every ten seconds. The webpage displayed some Korean and Chinese characters:

[We will not attack!

Unless we are attacked!

If we are attacked, we will certainly counterattack!]

JIN cursed: "The variants are actually all different! This bastard, just how many cards does he have left! He's still hiding so many of them?"

Jen: "How can one person come up with so many variants of a virus? Even for an extremely skilled programmer or highly experienced virus coder, they couldn't possibly get so many out in such a short amount of time, right?"

Many of the Korean hackers had fallen silent by now!

It was scary!

This was such a scary hacker!

A really scary family of viruses!

59-V appeared online again, possibly after restoring his computer, "JIN! The Malware Protection Center said that to crack these eight virus variants, it will probably take them one or even two days time! What should we do?"

Hyo: "Son of a bitch! This time we've lost miserably!"

A Korean hacker said: "If we knew that there was such a dangerous hacker in China, we would not have attacked them. Now....."

It was too late to say anything!

Right now, Korea was faced with the most destructive network infiltration and infection in its entire history. Looking at the situation, it seemed like they had been completely annihilated!

JIN: "Stop. As long as we have some programmers, we can help to crack the virus variants! Let's not waste any time in creating a kill tool! That '2' is a human being too, so he can't possibly have three heads and six arms! The worm virus' eight variants all use different source codes, so it's already its limit. As long as we can crack them all, '2' will lose all his trump cards! We can still gain back what we lost and more! We can still win!"

Jen: "Let me help!"

Hyo: "I'm already beginning to study the variants!"

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Somewhere in the Internet Surveillance Bureau.

Fang Xiaoshui exclaimed, "That's already the eighth variant!"

Meng Yi also said incredulously, "Do you think that '2' has more variants up his sleeve?"

"Eight should be the limit already, right?" Zhang Er said excitedly as this virus attack had widened his horizons. It was too exciting!

Fang Xiaoshui sighed "I must have been really ignorant in the past. Only now do I know that we have such an awesome hacker in China!"

Eight?

That's really a lot!

Those who were tech savvy all felt the same.

Only Fan Yingyun squinted her eyes, deep in thought and said, "That's not necessarily true."

Dong Zhiqiang was stunned, "You're saying that '2' has even more variant viruses up his sleeve? Eight variants, wasn't that enough to turn Korea upside down? Isn't that enough?"

Fan Yingyun smiled, "Somehow, I feel like this is just the beginning."

Fang Xiaoshui shook her head, "Korea has over a million computers infected already. How could this just be the beginning? He couldn't possibly go that far. Besides, the variants are already very complicated, each of them...."

Before she could complete her sentence!

A ninth variant had appeared!

Then followed by the tenth!

Eleventh!

Twelfth!

Thirteenth!

Twentieth!

Seeing those rampaging variants, the Koreans were scared silly. The Malware Protection Center's programmers put down their mice, completely demoralized. They stared blankly at their computer screens and could no longer find the motivation to work any longer!

What was there to do?

What could they do?

Even if they tried to crack the viruses now, it was of no use anymore!

Too many variants had appeared! The speed at which variants were appearing was too fast!

But this was still not the end. Just like Fan Yingyun had predicted, it had only just begun!

The thirtieth variant!

The fortieth variant!

The fiftieth variant!

The Korean Malware Protection Center was now as silent as the grave!

The whole Korean internet was totally immobilized!

Their last bit of hope had now been totally crushed! Crack the virus? Make a kill tool? No one mentioned this anymore! Their manpower and technical resources could not support the need to crack the virus in a short amount of time. To be able to crack all fifty variants? They might need up to a week's time! It might even be longer than that! And they would have to work tirelessly without rest!

But what they did not expect was that this was still truly not the end yet!

The 51st variant appeared!

The 60th!

The 70th!

Up until the 90th variant!

At this moment!

Korea was silent!

The world also became silent!

Everyone was just staring at their screens in which the Panda Burning Incense kept appearing over and over again, their brains were numb and they did not feel a single feeling!

— Korea was finished!

When the 90+th of the Panda Burning Incense virus appeared, those who had concerned themselves with this matter realized the truth. More and more people turned silent!

On the Korean internet, there was no one left to scold the people of China!

It was not that they didn't hate them, nor that their hearts had made peace with the matter. It was because the Panda Burning Incense and all of its variants had literally left everyone unable to connect to the internet anymore!

Dead systems!

BSODs!

Auto restarts!

Paralyzed systems!

Korea had fallen!

Under the rampage of over 90 variants, Korea's number of infected systems had exploded!

3 million!

5 million!

10 million!

The numbers was already uncountable!

Zhang Ye did not rest the whole day as he had been typing until his fingers were sore. He had really given his all this time and did not hold back. He had transferred about a hundred of those variants, which had rampaged across his world, and brought them all into this world!

Chapter 444: We do not accept your surrender!

Afternoon.

Work had ended at the Internet Surveillance Bureau.

"It's time to call it a day. Everyone has worked hard for the past two days. Go home and rest well now." Dong Zhiqiang came into the office to announced an early release for today. Then, he went to look for Zhang Ye and laughed as he said, "Teacher Zhang, you may go back too. You don't need to report here

anymore starting tomorrow. The matter you are assisting us with has already been approved and with the Panda Burning Incense incident, the top management won't be asking about you anymore."

The reason he was here was only symbolic and right now, he had completed what he was needed here for.

Zhang Ye smiled, "Sure, let me treat everyone to dinner."

Dong Zhiqiang did not accept and said, "How is that alright?"

Zhang Ye stood up and said, "Although it's not even been two days, I feel that I've been very welcome here. Now that I'm leaving, I definitely need to buy everyone dinner."

Fang Xiaoshui, who was already very hungry, said, "Ah ha, if Teacher Zhang says so, then I won't refuse."

Meng Yi also chirped, "Teacher Zhang is rich, we don't need to help him save."

"Right, choose anywhere you'd like." Zhang Ye gave a wave of his hands, full of generosity.

Dong Zhiqiang did not refuse or say much. He instructed two people to stay stay on duty as the rest marched out of their office with Fan Yingyun following behind too.

The snow had not stopped, but had lightened.

As tiny snowflakes drifted down, some falling onto their faces. It was a soothing feeling.

Fang Xiaoshui was still in her police uniform. It was not known what the rules were for the Internet Surveillance Bureau, but Meng Yi and Zhang Er were also in their uniforms, while the rest were in casual clothes. Amongst all of them, Fan Yingyun was the most striking and stood out from the rest. A short haired beauty in a police uniform. As they walked through the street, she attracted a number of gazes from passers-by, with a very high head-turning rate. Several students who were on the streets trying to light some firecrackers stopped when they saw Fan Yingyun, as they all looked over at her.

Fan Yingyun just looked straight ahead as she stepped on the soft snow covered streets in her leather boots. It made a crunching sound with each step she took.

"We've finally finished our work." Zhang Er said.

Meng Yi said, "Today's such a day of relief."

An old cyber-police said, "Yea, those Koreans have finally been dealt with."

Fang Xiaoshui said as she walked, "This incident blew up. I wonder how much they'll lose economically, hundreds of millions in US dollars at least, I would assume?"

"Hundreds of millions? That might not be right." Dong Zhiqiang was also more relaxed and less uptight since he was out of uniform. He casually mentioned, "An estimate of a few billion is already on the low side, do you know what age this is? It is the age of the modern internet. Who doesn't use a computer? Which company doesn't need computers? If it were personal losses, it might still be OK. At most you'd lose some data and have some delays. but to those corporations and the government, this virus infection would be considered a disaster for them. If they carry on allowing the Panda Burning Incense to wreak havoc like this, if the Korean authorities do not quickly resolve this issue, the Korean economy

might even be set back by several months! Just think about that, how could it be just losses in the hundreds of millions?"

Fan Yingyun interrupted, "Are there any leads on that '2'?"

Dong Zhiqiang shook his head, "No, there's no sign of him at all. We only know that he is a Chinese citizen and has pretty good literary skills. As for his gender.....that's also unclear. He was very covert in what he did and his technical skills are very high too. There was not a lead that we could follow. The leaders have already had a meeting and I understand that they have discussed about '2' already. I'm guessing that '2' will be our mission for the next few days and our objective is to find him. Even if he did not cause our nation much damage, he did cause quite massive hysteria around the world. He targeted the Korean internet and destroyed it, causing great economic losses. That in itself is already considered an act of terrorism. A dangerous person like that who can easily destroy 20-30% of computers in a country, not only is he Chinese, but he might also be living within China? Who's not to be fearful of him! That's '2' is a ticking time bomb!"

Zhang Ye looked at the snow, not saying a word at all.

The Internet Surveillance Bureau people were discussing, even the passers-by were doing the same.

A couple, who was walking towards them, just discussed this matter too.

"I heard that slightly less than half of all the computers in Korea have been infected by a virus!"

"How can that be? That's too many."

"It's true. Didn't you watch the news? It's already been reported."

"Ah? That serious?"

"Seems like it. There aren't even many computers that can even use the internet in Korea right now. I spoke on the phone with one of my friends who is studying in Korea and he's telling me that Korea is in a state of chaos right now. There are so many people who can't get online, from internet cafes, shops, education sectors, and many corporations have all stopped work. They have all been affected by the Panda Burning Incense virus. The author of that virus appears to be a Chinese citizen."

"What a fierce person!"

"Haha, that's great! That bunch of Koreans should have already been taught a lesson long ago! They attacked our websites without any good reason? And even stole and took over our celebrity accounts? Let's see if they still dare to come now! Having been taught such a bloody lesson, I think they would want to take a detour the next time they see us! The Sino-Korean hacker war seems to be a joke now. A war, my ass! We just had one hacker represent our country and it was enough to wipe all of them out! It wasn't even a battle! It was a massacre!"

"My hero."

"My hero too! When I have the chance, I want to brush up on my computer skills too. If I can have just 0.1% of the skills of '2', I would be happy enough, and if there's another hacking battle in the future, I want to take part too! Glory for our country!"

This was how a majority of people felt.

By now, all of society was discussing the Panda Burning Incense virus.

"We're here." Dong Zhiqiang pointed to the front.

Zhang Ye saw the place and smiled, "You're helping me to save money, aren't you?"

Dong Zhiqiang chuckled, "As long as it's delicious, the price doesn't matter. We usually come here to eat anyway and it's quite good. The taste is just right."

The restaurant wasn't big, about a 100 meters square. It was a Shabu-shabu house.

When everyone saw the place, they felt the hunger coming on. After entering, they immediately ordered some dishes without holding back.

"I want a plate of mutton!"

"Give us five plates, there are so many of us."

"I want two plates of fatty beef and a plate of prawns!"

"I want tofu. Oh right, it's a cold day today. Teacher Zhang, you want some Erguotou?"

Meng Yi had just finished asking when Fan Yingyun interrupted, "Teacher Zhang drove here today, why would you ask him if he wanted Erguotou? You have such low awareness."

Meng Yi, ".....Hai, I forgot."

Zhang Ye laughed, "It's alright, I'll have some."

Fan Yingyun waved her hands, "Forget that. You should just have warm water." As she said so, she stared at the male waiter, who was stealing glimpses of her, "What are you looking at me for, pour us some water."

The waiter was startled, thinking that this beauty was really too fierce. He hurriedly said, "Ah, OK, OK." and reactively poured the water for Fan Yingyun.

But Fan Yingyun pointed, "Pour it for Teacher Zhang first."

"Uh, OK." the waiter obeyed her.

"Hey, thanks." Zhang Ye held his cup up as he said to the waiter and also, Fan Yingyun.

Everyone from the Internet Surveillance Bureau's First Department who looked at how thoughtful Fan Yingyun was towards Zhang Ye felt rather uncomfortable at her new found politeness. You're so good to Teacher Zhang, but so terrible to everyone else. Isn't this some sort of discrimination!? But thinking about it, Teacher Zhang Ye was definitely more talented and on a different level with them computer "brutes", so they didn't feel too bad anyway.

The dishes were served.

Everyone started eating.

There was a news broadcast on television which was fixed overhead.

"According to reports, the Panda Burning Incense virus infection is spreading further in Korea and has affected more and more users. We interviewed a member of the China Malware Protection Center and understand that this is a worm virus, but not the usual ones that we have encountered in the past. It is a very destructive virus and spreads very quickly. What's even more alarming is that this worm virus has as many as 100 variants now. It can be considered as the most destructive worm in the history of worm viruses. Just based on the number of systems it has infected already puts it in unprecedented territory!"

Panda Burning Incense!

Panda Burning Incense!

The entire world was frowning because of it!

The media, the news, online, all of them were reporting about it!

Halfway through the meal, Dong Zhiqiang's cellphone rang. From his expression when he answered the call, it was probably a leader from the Internet Surveillance Bureau or Public Security Department calling "Yes, yes...I understand. I will return immediately!" He hung up and stuffed a few more pieces of mutton into his mouth, "We have to go! We can't go home as we just received new orders. The Panda Burning Incense has appeared in a northeastern province and there's a small scale invasion of the systems there. Upper management has issued an emergency notice for us at the Internet Surveillance Bureau to go back to help control the situation. We cannot have a repeat of what happened in Korea happening here!"

Zhang Er said, "It's only a few hundred computers, isn't that making a mountain out of a molehill?"

Dong Zhiqiang looked at him, "This is the Panda Burning Incense virus we're talking about. If it spreads, are you intending to watch our nation become the next Korea?"

When they all heard these words, all of them panicked!

That's right!

Even if '2' had configured the virus to only attack Korean language based systems, it was still the Panda Burning Incense virus they were talking about. A worm virus that had crippled the Korean internet!

"Teacher Zhang, you should be going home already."

"We have to rush back now."

"Let's meet again if you have time."

Everyone said goodbye to Zhang Ye.

Fan Yingyun also showed a face of unwillingness to leave.

Of course, Zhang Ye did not need to follow along. He wasn't an employee of the Internet Surveillance Bureau anyway. Seeing them leave, he helplessly shook his head and looked at the dishes on the table. Well, he could only help himself to all of them then.

.....

The other side.

An anonymous person suddenly joined the temporarily chat that JIN had set up. Without anyone's invite, he had made his way into the secure chatroom.

Anonymous User: "Little JIN, do you know who I am?"

JIN was stunned, but replied soon after: "Yes."

Anonymous User: "Sort out the mess that you created. Talk to '2' to see if there's a way to settle all of this without affecting everyone."

JIN: "How should I communicate with him?"

Anonymous User: "Apologize or whatever, I don't care. You better settle this soon. The country's losses and effects on society have already surpassed your imagination!"

Jen: "Apologize? That's impossible"

JIN: "Jen, don't interrupt. That's a senior."

The anonymous user ignored Jen. He said: "Don't feel bad. If you lost, you lost. Just work harder on your technical knowledge in the future. There's always a chance to win again. This is a good chance for you to reflect on what's holding you down. This person '2' is currently being investigated by the government as well. The warrant for his arrest is currently only active in Korea, but in a few more days, he should be wanted all over the world by authorities. As long as he reveals his tracks from now on, they will definitely be able to get him. The mess he created is too big and everyone in the world is paying attention to what he does. He won't be able to escape. What you need to do right now is to appease him first so that this incident can come to a halt and the virus to be cleaned out. There's still a lot of time for you to do something about it in the future!"

JIN: "I understand."

.....

That night.

When Zhang Ye got home, he took a bath to release all of the stress built up from his day at 'work'. After inputting so many lines of code, his hands did not feel like they belonged to him anymore. Although the virus did not need to be programmed from scratch and was only modified from the original source that he had retrieved with his Memory Search Capsules. He had bought several memory search capsules to retrieve his memories of the code for the Panda Burning Incense back in his world to see how the attacking codes were written. All of this had taken a toll on him.

Suddenly, something happened online!

When Zhang Ye switched his computer to check, he realized that the webpage that the eighth variant redirected users to had been hacked.

Before, the webpage had the words "We will not attack! Unless we are attacked!". But now, another line of words had been added to the bottom of it.

It was JIN's message!

A lot of people saw it as well!

YOYOT (USA): "JIN has appeared!"

TOM (UK): "Haha, let me take a look too."

Fujiwara (Japan): "Why did he appear to speak?"

47 (USA): "He was probably forced to. I suppose someone pressured him into doing so since the Koreans have been hit badly by this Panda Burning Incense!"

Over at the China's Internet Surveillance Bureau.

Fang Xiaoshui, who was currently solving the issue from the virus infection, suddenly said, "Hey, everyone take a look. The Korean hacker has appeared! It's the leader of that hacker team, JIN!"

Meng Yi said, "What?"

Dong Zhiqiang also went over, "Show me!"

Everyone went over and surrounded Fang Xiaoshui. Only Fan Yingyun did not move.

Zhang Er asked curiously, "Officer Fan, why aren't you seeing this?"

Fan Yingyun smiled coldly, "JIN? He's just a small fry, what's there to see about him. I'm only interested in '2', everything else doesn't interest me."

Zhang Er felt deflated. Alright then, we will take a look for ourselves.

At this moment, all of the world's hackers and computer programmers had their eyes fixed on that webpage!

JIN had written the message in English: I am Jin. This incident was started by me. I was the one responsible for leading an attack on China's websites. If I offended anyone in any way, I apologize. '2', you are a world class hacker and I believe that you have the magnanimosity to forgive. I alone am responsible for this, you can come for me, but please don't implicate everyone else. If there's a chance, could you please give us the kill tool for the viruses?

The world waited.

They waited for '2' to reply.

After some time, there was still no news. JIN once again left a message on the webpage: I repeat. I would like to apologize on behalf of myself and my team!"

Over in China, there was a cheering throughout the country!

Netizen were sharing screenshots and links, while updating on the latest developments live!

"Hahaha!"

"They've apologized!"

"These people are finally admitting defeat!"

"They're inferior to our hackers! They only have themselves to blame!"

Did they forget what they did earlier? Now they want to apologize?!"

Hacker wars were generally very simple. There were no guns or smoke and everything happened quickly. Many of these things occurred in a split second and no one would really know who won or who lost. Perhaps only the participants themselves would know, but apologizing? One of Korea's top ten hackers had made a public apology? This was a rarely seen event. In previous encounters, even if a hacker lost, that was it. What could anyone do about it? Even if they didn't apologize or admit defeat, their opponents couldn't possibly travel through the cables and appear out of their computers to bite them, right? As a result, from this event today, it could be seen just how big of a mess the Panda Burning Incense had caused in Korea! It had even forced JIN to step forward!

However, this news wasn't really trending on Weibo. There was not many posts about this event. It wasn't known whether it was because not many people were concerned about it or because of the country's censorship. Among the top ten news articles, only the second spot was a report regarding the Panda Burning Incense. The other spots were all reporting on current affairs, entertainment or music, etc.

But...

Ci Xiufang had forwarded it!

Yao Jiancai also forwarded it!

Grandma Zhang also liked the post!

These were the victims of the hackers in the past few days. Their accounts had been hacked into and stolen, so when JIN issued an apology, it was very meaningful for them!

On the Korean side.

Some people, who could still access the internet and dared to do so, also saw JIN's apology. They all felt infuriated and felt a sense of embarrassment!

An utter defeat!

With no chance of hitting back!

This was their first attempt at crossing swords and they had already lost so terribly!

Just as everyone was waiting for '2' to reply, a new message appeared on the webpage. It was from '2'!

I don't accept any form of apology!

— 2.

When JIN and the other Korean hackers saw this, they nearly vomited blood. F**k, we've already apologized and lost face, but you still won't accept it?

Of course Zhang Ye did not accept it. In fact, he had already held back earlier on and was hoping to give them a chance, but when they developed that kill tool and thought that they had the virus under control, they immediately came back to attack again. From this alone, it could be seen just what kind of people they were. To Zhang Ye, these people had already lost their chance to negotiate. There was nothing left to say!

This was a war!

We do not accept your apologies!

We do not accept your surrender!

Chapter 445: The aftermath of the virus, a suffering of heavy losses!

The Panda Burning Incense disaster was still spreading throughout Korea!

Seoul had fallen!

Busan had fallen!

Incheon had fallen!

Gyeongju had fallen!

No place in the country was safe. As long as it was on the Korean map, all of them had been hit hard. The incident had become so big that it was way out of control. The Korean Malware Protection Center's red alert buzzer no longer rang. This was because the thirteen computers in the Malware Protection Center's command center had all already been infected by the 71st variant of Panda Burning Incense! Faced with a national crisis, the Korean authorities were eventually helpless in the face of the virus. They requested for emergency help from the world as they urged several major powers to crack the Panda Burning Incense. They were really getting anxious!

The world wasn't at peace either.

The Panda Burning Incense virus had also paid a visit to Russia, USA, China, and several other countries as well, but as only a minority number of computers were infected, it didn't cause much panic and was resolved very quickly.

This was a war!

It was a war between the world and the Panda Burning Incense!

On the 5th day of the new year, at 4:05AM Beijing Time, the Americans finally made their move!

An American virus research company set up an action task force regarding the Panda Burning Incense virus and were the first to crack the 4th, 5th, 17th, 25th, 26th, and 78th variants of the virus. They had created six kill tools and an update to patch the system from being infected was published by an anti-virus company. The resources were shared to their Korean counterparts as well.

These six variants actually shared common code. Simply speaking, even though they used different offensive and defensive techniques, they were still similar in nature. The Americans discovered this after cracking one of the variants and followed up very quickly by using the kill tools and patches for other related variants!

The spread was finally put under some control with America's support. Although this was still far from effective, as not even 10% of the variants had been cracked, it was at least a form of encouragement and gave the Korean government and its people confidence and hope!

On the sixth day of the new year, the Koreans themselves cracked four virus variants.

Sixth day, afternoon. The Russian Malware Protection Center announced seven patches to the Panda Burning Incense virus as they carried out their 'humanitarian assistance' towards Korea.

Sixth day, evening. Japan cracked three more variants of the virus.

Sixth day, night. Japan announced that another variant had been cracked.

Seventh day, past midnight. The Americans issued over 20 patches for the Panda Burning Incense variants that had not been cracked yet.

Seventh day, morning. The world's largest operating system maker issued a system update to patch the vulnerabilities that Panda Burning Incense had used to spread. It was the most thorough patch issued so far.

Seventh day, afternoon. North Korea also announced that it had cracked 75 variants of the Panda Burning Incense virus and.....and that was that. Even the countries who had the best relationship with them did not believe this.

India and the Philippines also joined in. It seemed like Korea's standing in the world wasn't too bad after all. This world's countries were largely the same as before, but the diplomatic relations had subtle differences. The world had changed, and so its history was also a little different. In this respect, diplomatic relations were also definitely affected. Some of the countries that Zhang Ye remembered having good relations seemed alright in this world. Of course, that might also just be on the surface.

Virus quarantining!

Cracking!

Patching!

The whole world was hunting down the Panda Burning Incense all at once!

Everyone believed that this virus would be completely cracked soon. Even Zhang Ye felt so too an unbreakable code didn't exist. The fact that the Panda Burning Incense had managed to spread on such a large scale had already exceeded Zhang Ye's estimates. In his previous world, the Panda Burning Incense virus did not have such capability and only affected a few million systems and only a few provinces had been affected within China. Zhang Ye thought that the reason this virus had spread so quickly and widely here was due to the spread of the variants. Back in his world, the Panda Burning Incense variants were released over a longer period of time as virus authors and hackers slowly improved the code to do specific tasks, but since Zhang Ye had all these codes available to him, he had

dumped them out very quickly within several hours. This was the real reason behind the disastrous destruction of the Korean internet!

But then again, it was because of this reason that set off a panic in the world. This led to the cooperation between each country's Malware Protection Center, as well as expert hackers, in dealing with the virus. As they said, what came quickly will go quickly too. There were always pros and cons anyway. As Zhang Ye's objective had been met with the Panda Burning Incense virus achieving more than what it set out to do, it was time for it to 'retire'. Zhang Ye was overall very satisfied with his performance. At least he did not let down the original "Panda Burning Incense"!

Time passed by bit by bit.

Finally, it was already the morning of the eighth day of the new year. The Global Malware Protection Center announced that all the variants of Panda Burning Incense had already been cracked with a single kill tool created and put up for download. It was a free download for everyone to use, so that the Panda Burning Incense virus would no longer wreak havoc in this world!

This news came at the right time, but at the same time, a little too late.

The infected systems began to be restored one by one!

Countless Korean citizens cheered as they broke down in tears!

Five days! It had lasted a full five days! It had been a dark five days!

"Why did it only just arrive!"

"We've been waiting for too long now! It has finally all been cracked!"

"Victory!"

"We're victorious!"

"We've defeated the Panda!"

"That damned panda! We only scolded China a little and hacked into a few websites, but that didn't cause you any big losses. Do you all have to do this? Ah? This was so uncalled for! Aren't you pushing us to our deaths!?"

"Oh my god, I can finally come online. I've never thought that being able to connect to the internet was such an important and touching activity. Thank you to the world's computer organizations!"

"That damned panda! I don't wish to ever see a panda in my life ever again! My heart will tremble at the sight of one!"

"Don't bring up the word 'panda' anymore. I can't stand hearing that word anymore. Forget it, we have emerged victorious anyway."

Victorious?

The Korean government fell silent!

The Korean Malware Protection Center also fell silent!

Faced with this Panda Burning Incense virus, they never had the chance to strike back. Their losses were huge and it even caused a huge step back in their economy. If this was what they called a victory, then that must be the world's greatest joke. The other party's hacker had just thrown out a kind of virus, and had wiped out the entire nation. They had to gather the entire world's resources just to eliminate the virus. Was there any victory that cost that much?

This was no victory at all!

It was clear to anyone that this was an utter defeat!

On this day, it would go down in history as Korea's most damaging network invasion of a virus. The relevant agencies and departments all called it the "five days of darkness".

The virus was under control.

Work to clean up the mess continued.

Any virus remnants were purged and economic losses were calculated. Although a solution had been found, the damage to the economy and the shaken confidence of the Korean people had already been done. It wasn't something that could be swept under the rug in a day or two. Even now, the Korean Malware Protection Center did not lift the red alert on the Panda Burning Incense. They were afraid, afraid that new variants of the virus would appear again!

"Still can't find '2'?"

"Get him arrested quickly!"

"That '2' is too dangerous!"

"What's the government doing! Don't they even have any experts? Catch him! Investigate him! And dig him out of his hiding hole! What are they waiting for?"

"We need to have our revenge!"

"What revenge! Haven't you all learned the lesson?"

"Yea, I think it's better not to mess with that guy ever again. He's such a bastard! If we step on his tail again and he reacts by doing this again, who would be able to take it?!"

The Korean public's comments varied with all sorts of opinions!

Unknown to them, everything that they mentioned was already being undertaken by all the countries. But where did they start looking? Where could they check? They wanted to arrest '2' as well, but there was no trace of him at all! Although they knew that he was a Chinese citizen, who didn't know how many people there were in China!? With a population base so large, this lead was as good as useless!

After a few hours.

In the aftermath, as the remnants of the Panda Burning Incense was being cleared out, the Korean government could no longer hide it. They had to announce to the public about the statistics of the economic losses suffered by the country due to the Panda Burning Incense virus and its variants!

Seeing the breakdown of infected systems!

Looking at the list of economic losses!

In this second, the world felt something!

It was possible that some people had already done some estimates, but many others still did not understand how much damage was caused by this virus. They only felt that if there was a kill tool available now, everything would be fine. There was no bigger picture to them and thus, they could not appreciate the seriousness of the incident, but with the figures announced, everyone was stunned!

This...was this our losses?

How could this be possible!? Those figures are too scary!

Before of the appearance of the Panda Burning Incense, no one could imagine that a computer virus that was only a few hundred kilobytes in size could cause such great damage to a technologically advanced country!

To put it in context, a terrorist attack took place in this world sometime last year, killing many people and caused a setback to the economy as well, but with the figures presented now, the economic losses created by the Panda Burning Incense virus was significantly much larger!

Was this even just a computer virus?

This had to be a f**king nuclear weapon instead!!

A simple computer virus had actually caused so much havoc in a big country of this world. At this moment, the world had the Panda Burning Incense virus burned into their memories. The world would also remember that a dangerous person like '2' existed!

Chapter 446: The world's most dangerous computer viruses rankings!

On the 8th day of the new year.

At home.

7 PM in the evening.

The snow that had just fallen a couple of days ago hadn't melted yet. There wasn't any more snow on the ground, but on the roofs, drains, and bushes, a lot of snow remained.

Behind him, the television kept playing news about the Panda Burning Incense virus.

Outside his window, the newspaper vendors on the streets were constantly selling copies of the evening news. There were headlines everywhere regarding the Panda Burning Incense virus no matter where you looked.

"Who could the hacker '2' be?"

"The Panda Burning Incense disaster has finally been overcome, Korea suffers heavy losses!"

"The day when the world's internet died!"

"Whoever offends the mighty nation of China, however distant, shall be destroyed?"

"How should we view patriotism?"

Despite being the person in question, the world didn't seem to have anything to do with him. Right now, Zhang Ye was lying down at home beside the window, admiring the snow, the moon, and the beauty of this world. Sigh, the virus seemed to have caused quite a lot of trouble. It did help to vent his frustration and take revenge and it gave him a satisfying feeling, but Korea having suffered such heavy economic losses would cause it to affect the world economy too. This was a chain effect, so had he done the right thing?

Zhang Ye suddenly became very philosophical. In that moment he felt very depressed.

My personal whims, should I have dragged the whole world into it?

How should I have treated this matter?

Who am I?

Where did I come from?

Where will I be going?

What is the meaning of life?

Will anyone be able to unravel the secrets of the universe?

Zhang Ye sighed as he couldn't come to a conclusion. Then, his cellphone rang in his pocket. He pulled it out and took a look. It was his Weiwo WebTV's leader — Wang Xiong.

The phone call connected.

Wang Xiong laughed. "Teacher Zhang, what are you doing now?"

Zhang Ye said sorrowfully, "I'm thinking about the mysteries of the universe."

When Wang Xiong heard this, he nearly choked, "Don't ponder about the universe and world peace for now. That can wait. Let me tell you this first, 'Zhang Ye's Talk Show' has just finished broadcasting the final episode and has officially ended. Many of the audience members left comments to congratulate you about it. Go online to mingle and interact with them when you can."

Zhang Ye's depression immediately disappeared as he asked, "All done? So fast?"

Wang Xiong said, "It's not like you did not know about the new policies that the SARFT is implementing in the next few days. We uploaded 4-5 episodes a day, so of course it ended very quickly. I already informed you, didn't I?"

"Alright then." Zhang Ye said happily, "The reception isn't too bad I hope?"

Wang Xiong laughed heartily, "It's more than not bad, it's really good, in fact. Your talk show program has been extremely popular since the beginning and there's also a lot of praise for it. Now that the series has ended, even I can't bear to see it end. Hur Hur, thanks to you, our WebTV station has gained such a great program. Up til now, a variety program like the talk show is still an exclusive genre only to our

company. Those, which tried to copy your talk show, are basically not even talk shows at all. They can't grasp the essence of it at all. In this entire world, only you can do it. I heard that the Americans have their attention on this and are studying how it is presented. I suppose they will be coming up with something similar as well, but it's not set in stone yet. If they intend to purchase copyrights, I will contact you. You can speak to them yourself since the copyrights belong to you. We've already discussed this in your contract, so we won't meddle in your affairs."

After he hung up, Weiwo WebTV's leader, Feng Guiqin also called. She congratulated Zhang Ye on the completion of the broadcast for his talk show and also chatted with him about the next project, but as Zhang Ye had not thought of it yet, he casually mentioned something before hanging up.

Oh, what was I thinking about before the calls?

Never mind, I can't remember anymore, and so Zhang Ye went about doing what he needed to do. He went online to interact with his fans and viewers, thanking them for their support and also gave a conclusion to his "Zhang Ye's Talk Show".

After all this was done, he browsed Tieba.

"Sharing a link with all of you!"

"What is it?"

"You'll know when you see it! It's awesome!"

"Holy sh*t! This is the list of rankings of the world's most dangerous computer viruses!"

"Are you sure?"

"It was recently updated by the authorities, so how can it be fake?"

"I know this website. All of you might not know it since it doesn't usually concern you all, but the list of rankings of hackers is a very authoritative one. It's a compilation of numbers computed by the USA, the United Kingdom, Russian, as well as many other countries' relevant organizations. As long as you're tech savvy and trained in this field, many programmers dream of being able to appear on this ranking!"

Rankings?

There's such a thing?

Zhang Ye was suddenly interested to know more, so he went to take a look.

Numerous others, who were like him, all rushed to take a look. Including all of the world's hackers, programmers, and normal citizens, this latest update of the rankings had attracted attention from all over the world. There needed to be something to bring down the curtains of this virus infection incident!

JIN (Korea) was looking at it.

YOYOT (USA) was looking at it.

Fujiwara (Japan) was looking at it.

Fang Xiaoshui (China) was looking at it.

Almost everyone that worked in similar fields would not miss this!

It was like a music awards show or a film awards ceremony. This was the recognition of hackers for their technical skills and 'contributions'!

List of rankings of the world's most dangerous computer viruses:

#1: Storm Virus.

#2: Panda Burning Incense Virus.

#3: 77 Virus.

Everyone knew about the Storm virus as it was this world's first virus after the development of the modern internet. As technology had not matured back then, or was rather incomplete, the resulting damage was extremely heavy. On top of that, since it was the first official virus to be labeled to have spread at a large stage, its name held significance to everyone. This was why for the past few decades, it had always remained in 1st place!

Next, the 77 virus, which had infected a few million computers 8 years ago by infiltrating the systems of 13 large international banks and caused data corruption resulting in monetary losses. Those who were slightly older would remember it. This virus had always been ranked 2nd, but now it had been replaced by the Panda Burning Incense virus!

The Koreans were mad!

But the citizens from other countries were not surprised.

Only citizens from China were rejoicing when they found out about this news!

"The people of Hunan send their congratulations!"

"Residents from the Hebei province send their congratulations!"

"There's finally a Chinese representative in the world's top 10 of most dangerous computer viruses! The previous most destructive virus that was made in China was ranked 21st. It was even created more than a decade ago by an old hacker from China. It has finally been surpassed today!"

"In 2nd spot! Awesome!"

"Our computer viruses has finally gone global!"

"Hahaha, why do I feel that this glory is a little psychopathic! This isn't something we should be proud of, right?"

"Hehe, I'll take pride in it anyway! At least on this list of dangerous computer viruses, all of them were used to steal data and information or bring harm to their own countries, but Panda Burning Incense was different. '2' did not use it for personal gain, nor was it used against any of our own people. He used it fully to smack the Koreans under forced circumstances to retaliate against the enemies, so what's there

to not be proud of? This is our glory! God '2' must be a patriot! The 2nd place ranking of the Panda Burning Incense is an honor for China!"

"That's true!"

"Well said!"

Chapter 447: World Hacker Rankings!

The virus rankings were updated.

Every country's reaction was different.

Panda Burning Incense had managed to get ranked in second place amongst the notorious ranking of dangerous viruses, yet it was congratulated and cheered on by the people of China. This made Zhang Ye at a loss of whether to laugh or cry. However, after thinking about it, wasn't he such a person? He was also an ordinary citizen of China. He did not have such broad horizons, nor was he that refined. He, too, was a Chinese national who loved to see the world burn, and enjoyed watching the bustle, cursing, swearing, and even if provoked, would even beat others. A satisfied balance of gratitude and revenge was a portrayal of them as a people. What about world peace or morality or the meaning of life? He didn't think much about that at all. If he was angry, he would hit back. Who cares about your meaning of life!?

Americans:

"This virus was very formidable."

"Yes, 77 Virus has been dethroned."

British:

"The hacker ranking hasn't been updated yet?"

"Let's wait a little while longer."

"Right, they always update the dangerous virus and trojan horses first. Next should be the world's hacker rankings."

Russians:

"'2' should be listed on there."

"There's no need for you to say that. I heard that China has another formidable expert. I heard he is a programmer from the Internet Surveillance Bureau. I wonder if he will get ranked."

Chinese citizens:

"JIN will be taken down."

"A new generation replacing the old."

"Hurry up and update!"

"That's right. I'm anticipating the gods of China to be ranked!"

A typical ranking would be updated in one go after any major international internet security issue or hacker invasion in a hacker war. After the updating of the virus rankings, the hacker rankings and other miscellaneous things would be next. However, what made the world surprised was that although the virus ranking had been updated, but the hacker ranking had not been updated after a long time. It was still the old rankings from the previous month.

Many people left their comments below.

"What happened?"

"Where is the staff?"

"Update please, we are all waiting."

"They must be sleeping."

"It's already midnight over here."

"Haha, I just woke up this morning. There's no rush. I can wait."

Due to the different time zones and different languages, most people communicated in English. There were also many people using Russian, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese. There were people from all over the world watching.

Zhang Ye was also looking at the website.

About half an hour later.

Someone refreshed the page and immediately shouted, "It's been updated!"

Numerous people hurried over to take a look. It wouldn't have mattered much if they just took a look, but many people were left stunned. Some of the rankings had been guessed, but there were some that far exceeded their expectations!

This was a comprehensive list of hacker rankings. Inside, there were internationally dangerous hackers, as well as programmers from security companies and anti-virus companies!

Korean hacker, JIN's ranking had dropped. He had previously been ranked 45th on the world hacker ranking, but now he had been dropped to 59th. Similarly, the Korean 59-V, who had just resigned from a security company, also dropped in ranking. He went from 89th to below 100th. He did not even appear on the first page. Out of all the Koreans, only "Jen" rose in rankings. The reason why he rose was because as a rookie, he did not have any ranking prior to this. Although the Koreans had suffered a miserable defeat, Jen's programming skills were evident. Hence, this new rookie had left his mark on the world stage of hackers. Jen's ranking was 65, just lower than JIN by a few places. There was a feeling of how each new generation excelled compared to the last one.

What was most worthy of concern was placed on China!

The first shock to the world was FAN's ranking!

The performance of FAN, from the Chinese Internet Surveillance Bureau, had indeed given the hackers, who watched the war, a fright. On the internet battleground, this was a person who fought through all

odds. She was good at both offensive and defensive measures, lures, data, ports, loopholes. She was a very well-rounded hacker. In the battle, FAN had faced three top Korean hackers, JIN, Jen, and 59-V alone without any pressure, and even managed to send them packing. Eventually they could only use an encirclement strategy and not clash with FAN directly. Besides, FAN had even managed to pursue one of Korea's top hacker, "Ying". From her technical skill, it could be seen that she was on a completely different level. She was overwhelmingly better than them!

Everyone knew this!

Everyone understood all of this!

However, the ranking of FAN was too f**king high in everyone else's eyes!

World hacker ranking: FAN — 10th place!

No one knew how a rookie like FAN, a rookie, who had never appeared on the world stage, could enter the top ten!

Was it a mistake?

This ranking must be wrong, right?

YOYOT (USA): "How could this be?"

Fujiwara (Japan): "What's up with this ranking?"

47 (USA): "It can't be a mistake. This is a hacker's heaven. The people making the evaluations are the most professional amongst professionals in the world. Could there be any trick to it?"

Cepera (Russia): "FAN's ranking is so much higher than ours?"

TOM (UK): "It's normal for it to be higher than yours. You are old, and your technological skills have been regressing. However, how can FAN be higher ranking than YOYOT? To enter the top ten?"

On the other side.

JIN said, "This ranking is so unconvincing!"

Jen: "I know FAN is formidable and definitely is more skilled than me, but anyone with eyes wouldn't admit that she can enter the top ten, right? Her true strength can't even be seen, but whatever that was presented would at best, put her somewhere in the forties."

Everyone was surprised in different ways!

The officials soon published an explanation. Actually, it was not an explanation. It was like everyone else. They had added a piece of information to FAN's personal profile. Some of the people ranked on the world hacker rankings had more complete information. For example, some orthodox anti-virus programmers. They were all working, or they were employees of government-related internet departments. Their personal information was already known and something simple would be written. Things that intruded on personal privacy, or things the person in question did not wish to reveal would not be revealed on the website. There would only be a known label added. These were "White Hats". As

for other hackers, most of them had incomplete information. Some of them had nearly zero personal information.

FAN's official profile was written in a long paragraph in English:

FAN.

Sex: Unknown.

Age: Unknown.

Nationality: China.

First appearance in the Sino-Korean Hacker War. Works for China's Internet Surveillance Bureau. However, after repeated analysis and experiments of professionals, we have unanimously come to a conclusion that FAN's operating methods, technological skill, and technological trajectory, as well as some relevant evidence that temporarily will not be disclosed, FAN has a 90% chance of being responsible for the paralysis of all the computers in CPAA Internet Security Company last year. That matter has been labeled as 'Supernatural hacking incident'!

That was all the information there was.

When everyone saw this, they were dumbfounded!

JIN gasped: "FAN is the one who invaded the top American security company last year?"

Jen: "..."

Hyo: "Holy sh*t! So it's him!"

59-V: "F**k! I was wondering why I succumbed to him! So it was that monster from last year! No wonder his skills are so impressive!"

On the other side.

YOYOT (USA) was enlightened. "No wonder!"

47 (USA) felt a yearning. "Finally found him! That matter caused such a commotion. I was nearly affected by it! So the culprit is here, and even went to work for the Internet Surveillance Bureau?"

Cepera (Russia): "Then there's no surprise regarding this ranking. Let's not even talk about an hour. Even if you give me a year's time, I wouldn't be able to paralyze all the computers that belong to hackers, programmers, and security experts in a top American security company without any detection!"

So for the "Supernatural hacking incident" back then, many programmers and experts of the world came to a conclusion that not more than ten hackers in this world could do it!

For FAN to be ranked tenth, that was very normal!

The citizens of China went hysterical!

"Wow!"

"Tenth place!"

"Heavens, the Internet Surveillance Bureau has someone that awesome!"

"Last year's incident? What happened last year? To even call it a supernatural incident?"

"I don't know about it. I just know that it definitely has to be very awesome! What is the concept of being the tenth best hacker in the world? When has a hacker from China ever received such a high ranking!?"

"Hahaha, our country is full of such fierce people!"

"Right, who said China's programming skills are weak? We are staying on the down low!"

After Zhang Ye saw this, he blinked his eyes. Oh no, was Fan Yingyun's identity revealed? People had guessed her identity? However, now that she was working for the Internet Surveillance Bureau, she should be fine, right?

.....

Internet Surveillance Bureau, First Department.

There were many people working overtime in the office.

Fang Xiaoshui pointed at her computer, stunned. "Sis Fan, you've been exposed!"

Meng Yi said with a serious face, "What are we to do now?"

"Things aren't good. Sis Fan, take a look! Stop playing games!" Zhang Er looked at the gaming Fan Yingyun. He was thinking how this was the perfect situation of how he was more worried than the person in question.

But who knew that Fan Yingyun ended saying nonchalantly, "Shut up. It's so trivial, so what if they found out. I've never tried to concealed it anyways!"

When her colleagues heard this, they smiled wryly. They were just reminded that back when Officer Fan was teaching in the People's Public Security University of China, she had used her the computer in her office to intrude into the American security company. She did not even delete any traces or modify any records. She had gone in openly and left openly. When it was time for class, she went to teach. She did not conceal herself at all!

That's right!

She didn't even hide!

She was never afraid of being caught to begin with!

Typical thoughts of Meng Yi and company was to do such stuff sneakily. They had to hide for that was an average person's thought process, but today, they finally realized that an expert amongst experts like Officer Fan had a thought process unlike ordinary people, and with that bad temper of hers, she was not the kind of person who would hide. Looking at her, back then, she couldn't even be bothered to clear the records from her computer. Man, such a arrogant and defiant hacker was really seldom seen. She was a wonder of the hacker world!

Chapter 448: Wanted Globally!

Outside.

Dong Zhiqiang entered.

"Leader." Fang Xiaoshui immediately reported, "Sis Fan seems to have been exposed. She has been found out by the experts on the other side. For this matter, will..."

Fan Yingyun did not leave her name back then. A year had passed since the matter, yet those people managed to go connect FAN and last year's supernatural hacking incident together through observation and data analysis. It might seem almost magical, but it was not magical in any way. Every hacker had their own operating method and technological techniques. For example, the before and after of an intrusion, the speed at which commands were issued and the time in between them or things like a familiar tool or software. These were the "trademarks" and "names" of a hacker. Be it FAN or that Supernatural hacker, they were just aliases. A hacker's true alias was actually his skill. Just like a singer, everyone had different voices. There were differences and even if they changed their stage name, they were still the same person.

Hence, despite the placing of the name, having appeared on the world stage twice, with so many expert hackers in the world, it was not surprising for them to have realized Fan Yingyun's identity.

Dong Zhiqiang also appeared calm. With a wave of his arms, he said, "It's fine. Go busy yourselves." After saying that, he walked towards Fan Yingyun and said to her, "The American security company has issued a denouncement and demand for compensation. The higher-ups have handled the matter for you. Relevant personnel will negotiate with them. In the future, even if this matter were to be revealed, you don't have to worry."

From black hat to white hat.

That was probably what it meant.

Fan Yingyun carried on gaming and acknowledged tersely. She didn't even look worried. She didn't care about this at all, and focused on her game.

.....

The internet continued discussing!

"God FAN is an almighty god!"

"Seeing a world-class top ten hacker enter our country's Internet Surveillance Bureau's mysterious cyber-police, I have an inexplicable sense of excitement. In future hacker wars, China finally has someone to take the lead."

"That person is a civil servant, can he even participate?"

"I'm talking about an orthodox hacker war. It is considered an exchange between technological skills. As long as it's legal, FAN can participate in it, and lead our country's hackers. Of course, he can't do it representing the Internet Surveillance Bureau. FAN can only use his personal capacity to raise the flag. When that happens, it will be like a pillar of support. If not, even if our country's hackers are

technologically proficient and experts exist, they would fail to unite. They would do things themselves. Look at the Sino-Korean war, none of our hacker experts stepped forward. It was just a pile of loose sand. Now that FAN has appeared, and with that incident from last year, he will definitely stand out. No one can lead the team better than him."

"Hey, hey. Did you all forgot about '2'?"

"I didn't forget about '2', but think about it. With that god's formidable and bold style, which of you would dare let him take the lead? How much audacity would you have to have!?"

"Man, that's true."

"This god is too dangerous!"

"That's right, once god '2' makes his move, that would be the f**king end of the world!"

"However, I still like '2'. Look at those tricks god '2' employed. What Song Jimi's uncensored nudes, or pictures of Chen Quan's fatal accident, or Lee Anson's pre-surgery bare face pictures. Back when I saw it, I nearly pissed myself from laughing. Those Koreans actually fell for it and swarmed towards it to download it. Hahahaha, god '2' is too wretched! Right up my alley!"

"That's right, that's right. I almost forgot to take a look. What's '2"'s ranking?"

On the World hacker ranking, other than "FAN" in the top ten, "2"'s name was also there!

Third.

"2".

Age: Unknown.

Sex: Unknown.

Country: China (Unconfirmed).

Summary: Panda Burning Incense's creator and distributor.

Information about "2" is extremely scarce. Even the nationality being China was written by the officials has not yet been confirmed. It was equivalent to him being completely unknown, but despite this hacker being completely unknown, a rookie that appeared for the first time on the world stage, he had squeezed past thousands of hacker experts and clinched third place!

It was not any ordinary third place!

It was third in the world!

"Awesome!"

"Haha, top three!"

"Raising the magnificence of China!"

"A single move and he entered top three?"

The Chinese citizens, who were paying attention to this matter, erupted fervently!

When Zhang Ye saw his own ranking, he did not have much thought about. He only smiled. Third in the world? Ha, was this bro so powerful?

Then, he couldn't laugh any longer!

Suddenly, hacker heaven's official website included a string of red English text behind #3 hacker in the world, "2"!

[Reward: US\$ 50,000,000!]

This was clearly not a statistics produced by the hackers heaven website, but a notice for arrest from a relevant international organization!

The only country that could afford that much seemed to be only one—America had made its move!

It was nothing new when it came to bounty rewards for hackers. It was commonly seen. For example, the hackers on the world hacker ranking, the bounty on JIN's head was US\$ 100,000. as he had committed multiple internet crimes. After FAN caused a world shocking incident last year, her bounty was US\$ 500,000. Now that she was not a "black hat", the bounty might even be removed. There were also famous hackers with misdeeds and their bounties were not low. Even the lowest one seen was US\$ 10,000. As for those higher ones, it was possible to be hundreds of thousands to millions!

The world number one hacker, "Leon", was the only person in the world who managed to steal 200 million British pounds from the Swiss Bank using the internet. Although many forces around the world spent great effort over a span of two years, they eventually managed to take back 190 million British pounds, that case had shocked the world. At that point, every bank in the world felt anxious for their own safety, but even so, "Leon"'s arrest warrant was only 20 million American dollars!

And "2"?

50 million?

And this was in f**king American dollars!?

This was an astronomical number. It caused another sensation around the world!

A Chinese hacker: "Is this madness? To pay that much?"

Another Chinese hacker: "It seems Korea is bent on capturing '2'. They want to wipe this disgrace away and also rid themselves of any further repercussions."

A Chinese programmer: "Without any news, who can capture him?"

"That's why the reward is so high. There would definitely be bounty hunters after such high rewards."

"For China to produce a hacker with such a high reward for his arrest, I'm really unsure if I should feel honored or give a wry smile."

A Russian security expert: "Korea has truly felt pain this time."

A British programmer: "That reward is too high. Only 20 million dollars was offered for the serious crime that 'Leon' committed. It's not even half of '2''s, and if you do some calculations, amongst the top 100 hackers in the world, if you were to add up all the rewards for them, it's still less than '2'!"

A Japanese hacker: "Holy sh*t! That's true. The bounty on '2''s head nearly matches all the rewards offered for hacker suspects around the world!"

A Korean programmer said, "Compared to our country's losses, that reward is nothing! If revenge is not sought! We will not give up to our death!"

A Chinese hacker harrumphed: "Blame yourselves on being inferior to others. You already lost, yet you don't admit your faults?"

That Korean programmer was angered. "What did you say?"

A Chinese anti-virus company's security expert said: "Why? Do you want to fight it out?"

.....

There was a sensation everywhere!

Numerous people were shocked!

This reward far exceeded everyone's understanding. For such a huge reward, that was almost equivalent to that offered for a terrorist! A hacker could be worth this much? Just thinking of the previous terrorist attack in Russia, 17 people were killed and more than 200 had been injured. A building was blown up, and the leader of the terrorist organization had only a bounty of 60 million American dollars!

"2" was almost on par with him?

The bounty on his head was almost the same as a head of a terrorist organization?

Everyone could not help but shout out in shock. How much economical damage did the Panda Burning Incense cause Korea? Could the figures and data regarding the losses previously announced by Korea be just the tip of the iceberg? Not everything had been released? Or else why were they so hellbent on arresting him?

A Russian expert said, "The Koreans and United States are making a fuss over a molehill. They have complicated the problem. Actually this virus infection sounded an alarm for the world. In the future, anti-virus companies and operating systems would release precautionary measures against such viruses. There is no way to avoid some losses. Besides, '2' did not have his eyes on any economic gain on this matter, so there is no way of understanding that 50 million bounty."

However, a Korean expert refuted. "This bounty is nothing compared to the economic damage and effects on society '2' dealt to our country, and it can be seen that '2' is filled with animosity for Korea. Sino-Korean relations are a bit more delicate, so if this 'bomb' is ignored, it might cause another round of destruction to our country. Having five days of darkness once is more than enough. None of you experienced those five days yourselves, so you have no way of understanding how Korea spent those five days! I support my country in offering 50 million American dollars for '2''s arrest! Even if it were 100 million American dollars, compared to the danger that '2' poses, I think it's not much, let alone 50 million!"

An American expert also expressed, "From a certain angle, '2' is much more dangerous than 'Leon'. 'Leon' had economical interests and did things low-key. He never revealed himself. However, '2' did not have economical interests. From Panda Burning Incense and usage and procedure of having so many variants, this virus could definitely control a user's computer on a large-scale basis. He could have used the 'transfer flow' and obtained great economical gains, but '2' did not do so. What he valued was destruction. Such a person is undoubtedly more dangerous. Evaluating him as the greatest terrorist in the field of computers wouldn't be too much. Hence, this person has to be arrested, or else he will be a disaster and nightmare for the entire world. Several experts and I believe this deeply!"

There were people for it.

There were also people against it.

Anyway, there were all sorts of thoughts on it!

The large reward internationally also caused a huge uproar around the world. Even if the discussion of whether such a large reward was necessary was ignored. The entire world understood the danger that "2" posed. There was no doubt about that. Now, the dispute was about how dangerous "2" was. If every country were to strengthen their anti-virus tools, would "2" be able to stir up another storm. Would these precautionary measures be able to prevent "2" from attacking with his virus?

Chapter 449: Aunt's Family has a Problem

A few days later.

The new year festival finally came to a conclusion. The sound of firecrackers could no longer be heard on the streets.

As for the discussion about the Panda Burning Incense both domestically and internationally, be it the media or the common people, it gradually began to calm down. No matter how hot a topic was, it would eventually cool down. Everyone still had to work, and return to their normal daily lives. Zhang Ye was one of these people. The injuries on his face and neck had already recovered. The scabs had fallen off, and could not be seen on the surface. Hence, he returned to his parents' home.

Caishikou.

By the time he arrived home, it was already 6:30 AM.

Using his key to open the door, he pushed the door open. His parents were already up. Dad was washing his face in the bathroom, while Mom was preparing breakfast. There was a pot of congee boiling on the stove.

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "Dad, Mom, did you just wake up?"

Mom looked at him and stared. "You actually know how to come back home?"

"Hey, didn't I say that I had to do some things these past few days?" Zhang Ye hurriedly gave a placating smile, and went to the kitchen to help. "Just ignore it. Let me do it. You're cooking three eggs, right?"

Mom held in her anger and said, "No matter what you have to do, you should come home to pass the new year. Count how many days you spent here since the new year? Not a single day! First you were

busy with the Spring Festival Gala. On new year's eve, you weren't at home, and even went to the police station! I only caught a glance of you after you came out, then you left. On the 5th, you didn't even come back to eat dumplings. Kid, are you crazy?"

Zhang Ye said, "Aiyah, what can I be crazy over? I really had urgent matters and couldn't take time off."

Dad walked out the bathroom after washing up. He said to his wife, "Enough. You always have so much to say. Hurry and wash up."

Mom indignantly reprimanded her son a few more times before putting the things in her hands down before going to wash up.

The moment she left, Dad leered at his son. "Have you recovered from your injuries?"

"Oh, what?" Zhang Ye quickly feigned ignorance. "I'm not injured."

Dad lifted his chin. "That cock and bull story of yours can only fool your Mother. It was all over the news."

Zhang Ye made a placating smile once more. "You knew about it all along?"

Dad did not speak further. "Enough. As long as you've recovered. A true man shouldn't care so much about such tiny injuries. You did well. You did not throw our face as party members."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "That's true. They were just a bunch of children. I couldn't dodge, nor could I retaliate, so that was all I could do. As expected of an old party member like Dad to be so perceptive. The reason why I didn't dare to tell the two of you about my injuries was because I'm afraid Mom will bear a grudge, and even seek them out for revenge."

Dad said, "Yea, she is a reflection of governmental policies, so she won't understand any of this. Not telling her was the right thing to do, or we would hear no end from her."

The father and son duo spoke in whispers.

After Mom was done washing up. "What were you two talking about?"

Zhang Ye immediately turned his head over. "Nothing much. The congee is done. Let me scoop it for you."

"I want a big bowl and give me some salted vegetables!" Mom sat down comfortably and began commanding. "Don't let the fire for the eggs be too weak or they won't cook properly."

Zhang Ye responded, "Alright."

Dad secretly pursed his lips at his son.

Zhang Ye chuckled.

During the meal, Dad asked, "Will you be alone at home in the day? Or are you going out?"

Zhang Ye spoke as he ate, "You are going to work with Mom, right? No problem. I'll be home then. If there's nothing, I won't be going out. I've nothing on my hands to do these two days."

Mom asked, "When are you returning to Shanghai? Are you doing a new program?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "The talk show just finished, so no matter what, I'll take a few more days of break. I only came home after all these days, so I won't be going anywhere for the next few days and I'll just stay at home."

Mom pursed her lips, "Enough of that. Every time you say that, something unexpected happens. Right, your Aunt called yesterday and asked about you. She asked what you were doing. I didn't know and didn't say much to her. I think your Aunt needs you for something."

Zhang Ye blinked, "What?"

Mom said, "How would I know?"

Dad said, "Give your Aunt a call in a bit."

"Alright, I got it." Zhang Ye carried on eating. "In a while, you can go to work directly. I'll do the dishes. Hur Hur. Mom, how is that?"

Mom tsk'ed, "I'll make do with that."

After a while, the old couple left for work.

Zhang Ye began to wash the dishes along at home. After he was done, he sat on the couch in the living room and lit up a cigarette... Oh right, now the SARFT doesn't allow smoking. This paragraph will be deleted!

As he watched TV, his cellphone rang.

From the display, it was his Aunt's home number.

Only then did Zhang Ye recall the matter. He did not expect his Aunt to call him already. He then pressed the answer key. "Hello, Aunt. I just heard from my parents that you were looking for me for something. I was just about to call you back."

Zhang Donghua said: "You are home?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yea, I just returned home this morning."

Zhang Donghua asked with concern, "How are you? Are you busy with work recently?"

"Hai, I don't have any work anymore. I'm currently resting." Zhang Ye said.

Zhang Donghua responded, "Oh. Hur Hur. That's nice."

Zhang Ye blinked his eyes. "Is there something you need me for?"

Zhang Donghua then said, "Actually it's nothing serious. Well, erh.. it's this. I'll let your elder sister talk to you about it. She has something for you..."

Zhang Ye said, "Sure."

He could hear Zhang Donghua call her daughter over the phone, "Little Shuang, it's your brother's call...Little Shuang. Hey, you finally came over...Hurry..."

A very soft female voice said from the other side, "You do the talking, Mom."

Zhang Donghua said in a speechless manner, "This child."

Zhang Ye made a wry smile. "Aunt, tell me then. I'm still so confused about what's going on. We are family, so what can't you tell me about?"

Zhang Donghua said, "I'm not very sure about the matter too. It's your elder sister's blogshop. She's not working now, right? She and her friend formed a partnership to set up a blogshop and were designing clothes themselves, or find others to design. It's considered their own brand, then they would get a factory to produce the clothes and sell them on the web, but now, the business isn't doing too well, and nothing spectacular has happened. They have been losing money all this time."

Zhang Ye did not know of this matter. "My Sis opened a Taobao?"

When Zhang Donghua heard this, she was confused. "What's Taobao?"

"Cough Cough. Nothing, my bad." Zhang Ye smacked himself on the lips and just realized that this world no longer had Alibaba. "Tell me, what do you need me for?"

Zhang Donghua said, "Your Sis is a bit thin-skinned. She long wanted to get your help, but kept feeling that it wasn't appropriate. Now she has no job and income..."

Zhang Ye was at a loss whether to laugh or cry. "Aunt, Aiyah, just tell me. I'm getting dizzy hearing all this."

Zhang Donghua coughed, "Your Sis, she wants to...get you to be a model. They sell male clothing, but do not know anything about celebrity endorsement, or if there are any restrictions from your company. If it's too much trouble or violates your company's contract, then forget it. It's alright."

Model?

Just this?

Zhang Ye immediately said, "Is my Sis also at home?"

Zhang Donghua said, "She's here."

"Then I'll come over now. It's not easy to talk about such things over the phone." Zhang Ye really could not stand his Aunt's beating around the bush. It was too confusing.

"Now? Aren't you busy?" Zhang Donghua said, "I heard from my siblings, that you have really been busy recently over some random stuff. You haven't been home the past few days and even went to the Internet Surveillance Bureau."

Zhang Ye said with a frivolous smiles. "Not busy at all. Even if I were busy, it can't be more important than something my Aunt and Sis need me for. I'll be over shortly."

Zhang Donghua said with a laugh, "Our Little Ye is so obedient. Aunt will wait here for you. Don't worry about lunch. I'll settle it for you."

Chapter 450: The despised comrade Little Zhang!

His Aunt's house.

An alleyway on Nanheng Street.

It wasn't a big house, only around 60 square meters. It had been segregated into two zones, the inner zone, where Zhang Donghua and Zhang Shuang slept, and the outer zone was the living room. However, since Zhang Shuang started her blogshop last year, the living room had been converted into a 'warehouse' and was full of boxes, big and small. There wasn't even enough room to walk around in the mess.

In the house.

Zhang Donghua put down the phone and said, "Little Ye's coming over in a short while."

Zhang Shuang walked over cautiously, "You told him?"

"I briefly told him about it." Zhang Donghua complained, "Seriously, this is your own matter and you made me do it for you."

Zhang Shuang bitterly replied, "I just feel bad asking. For Little Ye to get to where he is now, our family didn't even help at all. I've not done much for him as an elder sister either. Now that my brother's doing well through his own hard work, how can I approach him and ask for help... he's a big star now, a C-list celebrity. Do you even know how what that means? Even just stepping out and taking public transport, there would be people talking about him. If I buy a random newspaper, there might even be news or pictures of him. He might not be a big shot yet, but he's definitely not small either. For me to... it just doesn't feel right for me to ask him for help. You know very well that I don't like asking people for help, but this time I really have no choice left. If the stock in the living room don't get cleared soon, I will have no more cash left."

Zhang Donghua was also badly troubled by the stock in the living room. She said, "When it comes to trading, the most unwanted problem is the stock not moving. It might still be alright if you had a job, at least that would guarantee you have some cash flow, but since you are not working a day job anymore, just that amount of unmoving stock is enough to kill you. I've taken care of Little Ye since young. He's filial and places importance on relationship. If he is able to help, he will definitely help."

Zhang Shuang said, "I know that, but I'm worried that he might be bound by some contract restrictions. A celebrity cannot simply do whatever endorsement they want."

Zhang Donghua did not understand such things, "Ask him yourself when he gets here."

The sound of footsteps could be heard at the front yard. A woman's voice called out "Shuang!"

Zhang Shuang, "....."

The voice shouted out again, "Shuang!"

And then, a woman, who wasn't very tall and looked to be around 26-27 walked into the house. She did not knock and just pushed the door open. It could be seen that she was very familiar with the people living here.

Zhang Shuang made an annoyed expression and said, "Liu Qian, how many times have I told you. Can you not call me by just my name alone? At least call out my full name. If you keep randomly calling out "Shuang", what would others think if they saw and heard you? It sounds so weird." ('Shuang' means to feel good.)

Liu Qian smiled happily, "Well, that's what your name is."

Zhang Donghua smiled, "Qianqian, you're here?"

"Auntie, I'm here to visit you. How are you doing?" Liu Qian asked.

"Rather good. How are your parents?" Zhang Donghua asked.

Liu Qian said cheerfully, "They are doing even better than I am. They just went to Taoran Pavilion this morning to dance. I couldn't even stop them."

Zhang Donghua took a cloth bag and said, "Great. Well, I'll leave you and Little Shuang to yourselves. I need to get some groceries. Stay for lunch, alright?"

Liu Qian unreservedly said, "Of course I will stay. You can't chase me away even if you wanted to. There's food, so how could I not stay?"

Zhang Shuang quipped, "You sure are not leaving empty handed."

When Zhang Donghua left, she shut the door behind her. Liu Qian and Zhang Shuang both sat down.

Liu Qian glanced over to the pile of clothes in the living room and asked, "Those still can't be sold?"

Zhang Shuang said with sadness, "There were only two orders yesterday and none for the day before that. On your side, there's no need to make any more orders from the factory for now. We can't even sell what we have now."

"You don't need to tell me that." Liu Qian said depressingly, "Business has been too poor this year. Although last year wasn't that smooth either, at least we could earn enough to feed ourselves. We even quit our jobs in hopes that our blogshop would take off, but now look at us. We've pushed ourselves into the corner. How much money do you have left?"

Zhang Shuang threw up her hands, "Just some tens of thousands in savings."

Liu Qian sighed, "This sis is the same as you. We're both poor! Our brand can't go on like this any longer! We need to find a way out. Yesterday, you called me to come over today saying that you thought of a way we could use to get more business? What's the idea about? Quick tell me. I'm suffocating from the pressure."

Zhang Shuang equivocated, "I'm not sure if it will work or not."

Liu Qian said, "Then at least tell me what the idea is."

"I'm thinking...of finding a model to help us..." Zhang Shuang did not finish her sentence.

Liu Qian was already shaking her head. "It wasn't like we didn't hire a model in the past either. All of them were so expensive, but after the shoot, not many clothes were sold either. It's not a problem about the model."

Zhang Shuang coughed and said, "What I'm talking about is not any ordinary model."

Liu Qian glanced at her and said in amusement, "You even say not an ordinary model? Are you planning on inviting a celebrity to endorse our brand?"

Zhang Shuang said, "...Yea."

Liu Qian stretched out her hand to touch her forehead. "Here, let Sis see how high your fever is."

"Stop fooling around." Zhang Shuang swatted her good friend's hand away in a speechless manner.

Liu Qian said, "You're the one fooling around. We only have tens of thousands left combined. What celebrity can we afford to hire? We don't even have any money to do any big promotions on a website. Those celebrities are money diggers. Let's not even talk about C or D-list celebrities, even an ordinary E-list celebrity with a few more fans would cost hundreds of thousands just to endorse our product and be a model. And that's an optimistic and conservative estimate of the costs. If you really want a C or D-list celebrity, how can you get one without a couple million or so? Besides, we aren't big brands like other people. We don't do commercials on TV and are just a small blogshop. Even if you can cough up the million we need to invite them, those bunch of celebrities might not even give us a glance. Besides, if I had a couple million, why would I open a blogshop. I'll just open a real store, right? Lady, I think you have gone silly from your fever."

Zhang Shuang said, "Aiyah, it's not what you are thinking."

"Then what do you mean?" Liu Qian asked.

Zhang Shuang hesitated all day before saying, "About that, actually my younger brother is in the entertainment industry. Hai, but he's technically not considered a person of the entertainment industry either. Anyway, he's quite popular. I think think if he can help us, our blogshop might be..."

"Your brother? You still have a brother? How did I not know after knowing you for so many years?" Liu Qian asked.

Zhang Shuang said, "He's not my real brother. It's my mother's younger brother's son. You don't come to my family gatherings often, so of course you've never seen him."

Liu Qian looked at her. "Is your brother handsome?"

Zhang Shuang stuttered, "Average I guess. I can't consider him handsome."

Liu Qian rolled her eyes. "Then how popular can he be? At most he is a rookie who just signed a contract with a management company, right? Maybe only a few people would know him. Using him as a model would be useless too."

Zhang Shuang did not like hearing that. "Hey, what do you mean it would be useless. If my brother..."

As she was saying this, a sound of footsteps approaching could be heard. Then, the door was pushed open. Zhang Ye said, "Aunt. Eh? Where's she?"

Zhang Shuang's eyes lit up and walked out of the room. "Little Ye."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Sis, you're home?"

"Yea, you came here so quickly?"

"Of course, we don't stay that far from each other."

"My Mom went to go get some groceries." Saying that, Zhang Shuang turned her head and did some introductions. "This is my college classmate, and also my best friend, Liu Qian."

Zhang Ye took off his sunglasses and stretched out his hand. "Nice to meet you."

Liu Qian sized him up a few times before shaking his hand. "Nice to meet you too."

Zhang Shuang said to her, "This is my younger brother."

Liu Qian said with a laugh, "I can tell. Both your noses are quite similar. It's almost like both of you were carved from the same mold." It appeared like she did not know Zhang Ye, since she had no reaction at all.

Zhang Ye was not surprised. There were still many people who did not know who he was. He had also not reached the point where everyone knew him either. He looked at Zhang Shuang. "Sis, if you have anything in the future, you can just call me directly. It's not like you don't have my cellphone number."

Zhang Shuang said, "I was afraid that you'd be busy."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "For you, as a brother, I'll make time no matter how busy I am. Right, my Aunt said your blogshop was lacking a model?"

Zhang Shuang was just about to speak.

Liu Qian secretly nudged her.

"What do you want?" Zhang Shuang stared at her and then said, "Right, my shop's business is terrible. The winter wear we produced this year isn't selling at all. They are all outside, and if I can't sell them, so there's no way to even produce spring wear for this year, and so I wanted to ask if it's alright with you."

Zhang Ye said in amusement, "That's no big deal. How can you say things about whether I'm okay with it. I'll do whatever you need me to do. Do you want to do the shoot now or when?"

"Today works for you?"

"Any day would do."

"Alright, then let's do it today!"

Zhang Shuang was extremely happy hearing Zhang Ye's reply, but then she suddenly thought of a matter. "There will be no conflicts with any of your contracts, right?"

Zhang Ye waved his hands. "It's alright."

Zhang Shuang said, "I don't want to give you trouble. I heard that you celebrities can't do endorsements easily. I don't know much about the contracts in the entertainment industry either."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I don't know either, but it should be fine. Even if there's a problem, I don't really care. It's not like I've never made mistakes. Will they eat me up because of it? Taking a few pictures for my elder sister is perfectly justified!" His current company was Weiwo WebTV, but he really did not know about contracts in the entertainment industry. He didn't care either for he had his own principles.

Zhang Shuang also realized that. Her younger brother was notorious in the entertainment industry and was basically known by all. People did not dare to offend him easily. "That's great then! Thank you Little Ye!"

Zhang Ye said, "Sis, you don't have to stand on ceremony with me. If you have anything, just ask me and I'm capable of doing it, I'll get it done. If I'm incapable of doing it, I'll get someone to do it for you!"

Zhang Shuang was a bit touched and acknowledged.

Zhang Ye never denied his relatives!

Although after he grew up, other than the holidays, he seldom met his Aunt and Sis, he had lived in his Aunt's place for a few winters when he had still been young. As his parents were too busy with work to care for him, he would scrounge for food and drinks at his Aunt's house during the winter. He would only be brought home in the evening, so it could be said that he grew up together with Zhang Shuang, so their relationship was pretty good.

Zhang Shuang looked at the time. "Let's go to a hotel. I'll make the reservation. There's no way we can take the pictures at home anyway. It's more convenient at a hotel. Is that alright, Little Ye?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I came here to help, so I'll do whatever you need me to do."

Zhang Shuang couldn't help but think to herself how nice it was to have a younger brother. "Alright then, take a seat first and have a drink. I'll give the hotel a call." Saying that, she went out.

When Liu Qian saw this, she also hurried outside. She stopped Zhang Shuang who was out in the courtyard making a call. She said with a face that looked like she was at a loss of whether to laugh or cry, "What are you doing? You're really getting your brother to be a model?"

"Didn't we already talk about it?" Zhang Shuang said.

Liu Qian rolled her eyes at her. "It's not that I'm putting you down. Your brother's looks of course can't be said to be ugly, but he's not considered handsome either. And that figure...There's no figure at all. He doesn't look like a model at all. He's even worse than the previous two models we used. What's the point of taking pictures of him? Let's not talk about raising sales, I'll be overjoyed if the sales don't decrease!"

Zhang Shuang was amused. "Hey, don't tell me you don't know my brother?"

"It's the first time seeing him. Why would I know him?" Liu Qian couldn't understand her words.

Zhang Shuang did not say anything else. "Anyway, just listen to me. Once the pictures are uploaded, you will know. You really do not know a thing."

Liu Qian asked, "What do I know?"

Zhang Shuang leered at her. "Do you know how many companies asked my brother to be their spokesperson? Do you know how much endorsement fees my brother gets a year?"

Liu Qian asked, "How much?"

Zhang Shuang said, "The amount of endorsement fee he gets a year is at least a few million. Many companies offered a couple million for my brother to be their spokesperson, but I heard he rejected all of them."

Liu Qian chuckled. "Keep bragging. Just keep bragging!"

Zhang Shuang was rendered speechless. "You're the one who is ignorant and doesn't watch the news or keep up with the entertainment industry. Forget it, I'll not tell you anymore. Hur Hur. I'll make the reservation at the hotel."

Liu Qian chased after her. "Hey, don't go. Tell me clearly, what's the meaning of this? Do you really want to get your brother to be the model? That figure of his..I think my Dad would be more suitable!"