

Versatile 2951

Chapter 2951: Ending Life

“There you are! Why aren’t you resting at this hour?” Kaede Takahashi’s voice was familiar.

Lingling turned to him only to see him exhausted and haggard. He probably had not fully recovered from his injury after touching the forbidden barrier. He probably still felt the pain from his wounds.

“How did you get to the forbidden barrier? Don’t you even have the slightest recollection of how you got there?” asked Lingling.

Kaede Takahashi shook his head and said wryly, “I slept very early that night. A sharp pain jolted me awake.”

“Sleepwalking, just like Sinchino Mochizuki. He didn’t even know what he had done.” Lingling related the two issues together.

Kaede Takahashi’s expression changed.

“That’s right. Sinchino and I encountered similar incidents. Besides, both of us might be disqualified from becoming the National Institute team players. Could someone be messing around in the dark?” Kaede Takahashi sensed that things were not as simple as he thought.

“If Sinchino and you are disqualified, who will most likely be the next to join the National Institute team?” asked Lingling.

“It’s not good to simply make a speculation without evidence, especially on things like this,” said Kaede Takahashi.

“I’m just asking. I’m not convicting that person,” said Lingling.

Kaede Takahashi hesitated. “Ikuko Ishida will most likely be the one next. However, the Mochizuki family has settled Sinchino’s issue in private. So, he stands a high chance of recovering his spot.”

Lingling nodded. Then, she keyed in the two people’s names into her notebook.

Kaede Takahashi could not quite read the strange data in her notebook. Since she was a professional hunter, she must have a unique insight about collection of data. He did not ask about it.

“We’ve got a problem!” Nagayama rushed into the restaurant from outside and charged at Kaede Takahashi.

The restaurant was very near to the State House. The students often were found there during the breaks.

“What’s wrong?” asked Lingling.

“My uncle committed hara-kiri!” said Nagayama.

Lingling frowned.

Nagayama's uncle had a very poor mental state. But from what Lingling noticed, he still had a very firm will to live and to rid himself of the mental burden.

He had not seemed like a person who wanted to commit hara-kiri.

"Your uncle has cut his belly! Why are you here instead of with him?!" exclaimed Kaede Takahashi.

"Officer Ozawa asked me to come over to inform Ms. Lingling," said Nagayama.

"We'll go there and take a look," said Lingling.

"Huh? It looks scary. Are you sure you want to go to the scene?"

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When they arrived at the scene, there was a pool of blood on the floor. The blood dripped slowly.

Nagayama and Kaede Takahashi looked away. They could not look directly at the corpse. Meanwhile, Lingling looked like a veteran detective who frequented the crime scene. She wore her gloves skillfully and carefully examined the body.

"It's suicide," Lingling said with great conviction.

The military penal officer from the West Guardian Towers beside her was stunned. "Miss, I should be the one to say that line. Don't try to act like Detective Conan!"

After leaving the scene, Lingling was deep in her thoughts. Kaede Takahashi's phone fell on the ground and made a loud sound.

"What are you doing? He's my uncle, not yours! Why do you have to be so nervous?!" Nagayama scolded.

Kaede Takahashi picked up his phone. He showed his phone to Lingling and Nagayama. It was a short video that Kaede Takahashi had just received.

Lingling clicked on it. To her horror, she saw a girl soaking her head in the bathtub, and her hair spread on the water...

"Who is she? Why did she have to shoot something so scary?" asked Nagayama.

"She's my junior," said Kaede Takahashi. He looked pale.

He had just received the message. The three of them immediately ran to her apartment.

The room door was locked. Nagayama crashed the door open.

The moment they entered through the door, the water in the bathroom had overflowed to the living hall. Kaede Takahashi panicked. He quickly dashed into the bathroom.

Lingling was slower. However, by the time she entered the bathroom, Kaede Takahashi and Nagayama stood frozen at the door.

"She might still be alive!" Lingling pushed the two away and carried the girl out from the bathtub.

Unfortunately, Kaede Takahashi's junior's eyes were filled with blood veins. She had suffocated.

There was a cell phone propped up on a stand next to the bathtub. She recorded the process of ending her life with that phone. She had scheduled the video to get sent.

"What's going on? Why... all of a sudden?" Nagayama was shocked.

"I-I rejected her yesterday. I told her that... I just want to focus on the World College Tournament." Kaede Takahashi was devastated.

Throughout his youth, Kaede Takahashi had many girls who showed an interest in him. He politely refused their advances. All of them just went on with their lives.

Kaede Takahashi collapsed on the floor. 'Why did she have to end her life just like that? She was a living being. Why did she have to do that just because he rejected her? Had he been so brutal that she had lost all willpower to move on?'

"Kaede Takahashi, please leave. Get a hold of yourself. Ms. Lingling, I have to delete her video. Everyone is tense right now. If the rumor spreads that his junior committed suicide because of him, this will affect his journey in joining the National Institute team." Nagayama was calm. It looked like he was very concerned about Kaede Takahashi's future.

Apparently, Kaede Takahashi did not think about it. He had not recovered from the shock of his junior's suicide.

"Don't delete the video. If you delete the video, it will only make him more suspicious. Do you think the interrogators are children? If a person ends their lives, no matter what you do, it will change nothing. Moreover, we don't if the cause of her suicide was the rejection or something else." Lingling stopped Nagayama's reckless behavior.

Nagayama heard her out and did not do anything hastily.

"Inform Officer Ozawa," said Lingling. "Contact her teacher, her family and her relatives. Don't touch anything. Her death may not be as simple as you think."

Chapter 2952: The Prisoner Visits

Officer Ozawa and several other officials in charge of the order of the West Guardian Towers gathered in front of the door. They checked the contents of the video with Kaede Takahashi and made a copy from his phone.

Officer Ozawa walked out of the house with a dark expression. Lingling was sitting outside the house.

"What do you think?" Officer Ozawa asked.

"Your intuition is right. Many strange things happened in the West Guardian Towers, and they all should be related to the two people who committed suicide. I'll find the substance that affected their emotions as soon as possible," said Lingling.

The magnetic field of the Red Demon had become more powerful. The emotions of people like Nagayama's uncle, who felt guilty and tormented, were amplified. Finally, they chose to end their lives by committing suicide.

It might be the same thing that happened to Kaede Takahashi's junior. It showed that the Red Demon's magnetic field had greatly affected both because they might have come into contact with that powerful evil energy.

"I'm so sorry to trouble you. The East Guardian Towers are also in trouble, so we have many things to handle," said Officer Ozawa.

Lingling returned to her room. She had obtained information on the daily activities of Nagayama's uncle and Kaede Takahashi's junior. After some simple comparisons, Lingling soon noticed a pattern.

"The Sacrificial Mountain."

Nagayama's uncle and Kaede Takahashi's junior never crossed paths. One was part of the fortress's military, and the other was in the academy. The Twin Guardian Towers were large, so the probability of the two meeting was small. However, the Red Demon's magnetic field had greatly affected them more than anyone else.

In Lingling's opinion, the two might have gone to the same place at the same time where the evil energy was manifesting. The closer they were, the easier it was to be affected.

The next morning, Lingling and Officer Ozawa went to the Sacrificial Mountain.

The Sacrificial Mountain was a Japanese temple. It was a place where the people of the Twin Guardian Towers paid tribute to their deceased relatives.

Every few days, Nagayama's uncle would come here because of his guilt. He wanted to wash away the pain and guilt he felt by asking for forgiveness at this place.

"I have already confirmed what you asked me to look into. The spirit tablet of the father of the girl who committed suicide yesterday is indeed here. The day before yesterday was her father's death anniversary. Someone saw her here. She stayed here for a long time," Officer Ozawa said to Lingling.

"Everyone needs to register to enter the Sacrificial Mountain, right?" Lingling pointed to a monk who was guarding the gate.

"Yes. Everyone must register," said Officer Ozawa.

"List down all the people who have visited this week. I'll go in and take a look," Lingling said to Officer Ozawa.

"Okay."

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Lingling walked into the Sacrificial Mountain. There was an old, small temple inside. Many people's spirit tablets were in the temple's main hall, and these spirit tablets were arranged in orderly rows and

columns. Each spirit tablet had an oil lamp at the side. The bright oil lamps illuminated the small temple and made it appear mystic.

Lingling read the general instructions. Only the spirit tablets of those who had contributed to the Twin Guardian Towers would be displayed on it. Of course, they were all deceased.

A delicate scroll summarizing the lives of the deceased was under each spirit tablet. Golden ink was used to highlight the remarkable things they did for the Twin Guardian Towers.

Lingling was proficient in various languages. Although the scrolls were in Japanese, she could understand them.

She read a few scrolls at random. Officer Ozawa walked over with a book and told Lingling that he had noted down the list of recent visitors.

“Officer Ozawa, is this the one that Nagayama’s uncle accidentally killed?” Lingling pointed to one of the spirit tablets.

“Yes, he was a brave person. It’s a shame such a thing happened.” Officer Ozawa nodded.

“Didn’t you notice anything?” Lingling asked.

Officer Ozawa did not understand. After carefully observing the full name on the spirit tablet, he suddenly realized something. “The father of the girl who committed suicide was Akematsu?”

“Yes, they came here recently to pay tribute to the famous Akematsu, who was accidentally killed,” said Lingling.

“This...” Officer Ozawa was creeped out.

Two unrelated people suddenly committed suicide, and they were related to Akematsu, who was accidentally killed because of association with the evil group.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

Officer Ozawa’s communicator rang. He glanced at it and found a text message about the Battle of the Night Sea.

The sea-facing part of the Twin Guardian Towers was a military fortress. In the past few days, the Ocean Demons had been trying to invade it. However, the main battles were at sea, so the Twin Guardian Towers would not be affected.

Officer Ozawa did not pay much attention to it at first. After all, he was not responsible for the Battle of the Night Sea. He was mainly in charge of the Twin Guardian Towers. After flipping through the list of deaths in the battle, he saw a familiar name.

“What’s wrong?” Lingling asked.

“I’m not sure if it is a coincidence, but a female soldier named Shizuka Sato, who died in the Battle of the Night Sea, also came here four days ago,” said Officer Ozawa.

Lingling took the book with the list of names and made a comparison. She found that a person had visited late at night four days ago.

“Officer Ozawa, I would like you to make some comparisons regarding this visitor to see if there are any other people who have had... similar accidents,” said Lingling.

Officer Ozawa nodded and took photos of the list of names in the book with his phone.

“That’s weird.” Officer Ozawa’s hand stopped moving, but he continued to pose for pictures. On one of the pages, he fixed his gaze on the last name. “Ki Kurokawa. Why would this person be listed as a visitor?”

Lingling leaned forward to observe. Since Ki Kurokawa was not a particularly unique name, she couldn’t figure out why Ozawa was shocked.

“Is there anything special about this person?” Lingling asked.

“It is impossible for him to appear here. He is imprisoned in the lowest level of the East Guardian Towers!” said Officer Ozawa.

‘He is imprisoned? That means he is a sinner who isn’t allowed to see sunlight for the rest of his life. Why would such a terrifying person visit here? How did he escape?’

“I must look into this!” Officer Ozawa uttered hastily. He appeared to be scared.

“Is it that bad?” Lingling asked.

“It is worse.” Officer Ozawa did not dare to stay any longer. He ran down the Sacrificial Mountain while calling the headquarters of the West Guardian Towers’ military fortress.

Chapter 2953: The Third Suspect

After Officer Ozawa left, Lingling walked around the Sacrificial Mountain.

She could confirm that this was where the evil energy was released. Lingling knew very well that the Red Demon might be nearby. If she was too obvious, the Red Demon might target her.

Lingling left. She already knew that the evil energy was in the Sacrificial Mountain and was likely in the temple’s spirit tablets.

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After Lingling returned to her room, she opened the visitor list and carefully checked the names.

Lingling was checking the first page when someone knocked on the door. She frowned.

“Who is it?” Lingling asked.

“It’s me.” Mo Fan’s voice came from outside.

Lingling opened the door.

“Didn’t we agree that we won’t meet up?” Lingling angrily asked.

"I found something. What about you? Did you find any clues?" Mo Fan walked in. He glanced at Lingling's laptop on the table and the list of names.

"I haven't found anything so far. I only know that a guy, who was imprisoned at the lowest level of the East Guardian Towers, escaped and visited the Sacrificial Mountain. What about you? Did you find anything special?" Lingling stood in front of the door.

"I sneaked into the East Guardian Towers. It was different from what we expected," said Mo Fan.

"In what sense?" Lingling asked.

"Everything in the East Guardian Towers was in order. The guards were on patrol, the prisoners were strictly guarded, and there were almost no signs of riots," Mo Fan replied.

"That is a bit abnormal. Ordinary people live in the West Guardian Towers, and it is full of anger, ugliness, and irritability. On the other hand, the East Guardian Towers have many criminals, but it is calm and peaceful," said Lingling.

"Did you find anything else?" Mo Fan said helplessly.

"No. There are very few clues and everything I have found till now is all fragmentary. I feel that nothing is related to what we are looking for, but at the same time, everything seems to be connected. It is giving me a headache," said Lingling.

"Okay. I will continue to search. Come and find me if you find anything important," said Mo Fan.

"How can I find you? I still don't know who you are disguising as," said Lingling.

"Let's choose a place. If you find anything, we will meet at the stone platform at the east cliff," said Mo Fan.

"Okay."

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After closing the door, Lingling opened the notebook and began to look for information about Ki Kurokawa.

Lingling soon found the documents about shocking things Ki Kurokawa had done. These documents were internal documents of the Japanese government and were not open to the public. They recorded the terrorist incidents of Ki Kurokawa slaughtering civilians.

Ki Kurokawa was a manslayer. He had slaughtered people more than once. He had killed thousands!

Lingling finally understood why Officer Ozawa was in a panic. If such a manslayer was out, it would seriously affect the Twin Guardian Towers and even Osaka Castle.

'Was this also related to the Red Demon?' she wondered.

The Red Demon was not a manslayer. It liked to control other people's minds and turn them into its spiritual slaves.

Lingling's mind was a mess. The special environment of the Twin Guardian Towers made it possible for people to be affected by the magnetic field of the Red Demon.

However, who were the people related to the Red Demon Kazuaki? Where was the Red Demon hiding? The Red Demon was greedily staring at these people caught in his game like a cunning game designer.

Lingling lay on her back on the soft bed, turned her head to the side, and looked at the three sketches on the bedside table.

She had drawn these three sketches near the suspension bridge. They recorded the scene of an army entering the East Guardian Towers. At that time, Lingling felt that there was something strange about it but could not understand exactly what.

She took two of the papers each in one hand. Suddenly, she got it! Lingling understood the difference between the two!

The first sketch showed the army entering the East Guardian Towers. The third sketch showed the army coming out and walking on the suspension bridge.

The number of people had changed! When they entered, there were about twelve men in that army. When they exited, there were thirteen people in the army!

There was an extra person!

Lingling got up from the bed and finally understood why she felt something was strange.

"Why was there an extra person? Either a soldier was guarding it and he came out with the others. Or the army took someone out of the East Guardian Towers and asked him to put on a military uniform to hide him. Could it be that the person they brought out was Ki Kurokawa?" Lingling muttered.

'Did the army let Ki Kurokawa out? Did someone use the army to help Ki Kurokawa escape from prison? Did the army do it on purpose?'

There were so many questions in her mind which could only be answered if she talked to the army directly.

"Why is he on the visitor list?" She found that Kaede Takahashi was also one of the visitors.

Kaede Takahashi also visited the Sacrificial Mountain. The night of his visit, he sleepwalked to the edge of the cliff, and the yellow lightning severely injured him. If he could not recover, he would lose the chance of joining the National Institute.

Lingling continued to flip through the notebook. If she was guessing right, a person named Sinchino Mochizuki should have also visited the Sacrificial Mountain.

Since the Sacrificial Mountain was where the evil energy was stored, people who behaved strangely would be on the list.

Lingling looked at last month's record but did not see Sinchino Mochizuki on the list.

Lingling typed his name on a fresh page and circled it in red ink. She wasn't sure if he was affected by the Red Demon's magnetic field. Either it made him lust after a woman and commit a crime, or he was

the Red Demon. There were some side effects when the Red Demon occupied someone's consciousness and memories.

"It can also be Ki Kurokawa." Lingling wrote down the name.

A person imprisoned in the East Guardian Towers had escaped and visited the Sacrificial Mountain of the West Guardian Towers. Either someone had helped him escape or it was the Red Demon who was in fact Ki Kurokawa.

Lingling was about to close the notebook after she keyed in the names of these two suspects. However, she hesitated. She reopened the 'suspects' column and added another space. She had a third suspect in mind, but she didn't key in the name yet.

Chapter 2954: A Photo

The lights in the house at the end went out, and the long corridor became as dark as the night sky. The brilliance of the crescent moon could only illuminate the silhouettes of the Twin Guardian Towers. No one could see what was going on inside.

In the woods outside the lengthy passageway, a thin individual stood. He had short hair and dark brown eyes that glistened even at night.

He had just been concentrating on the lit room. He still had no plans to go even after the light went out.

His body was encased in a layer of dark red, evil energy, and the beads hanging on his waist glowed with a special luster, like luminous pearls.

"Who is in the woods?" asked a night watchman.

Mo Fan walked to the watchman. "I am just taking a walk after eating. Don't be so nervous."

"It's midnight now."

"I had a late dinner. Is that against the law?" Mo Fan asked.

The watchman turned his flashlight on Mo Fan's face. "You are Mo Fan!" he said. "You are the one who defeated Shou Watani with just one move."

"You flatter me," said Mo Fan with a smile. "I was only able to win because Shou Watani didn't go all out on me. I even dare to think he gave in intentionally."

"You're indeed very strong. You don't have to be so humble. Although you're from China, we have always respected the strong regardless of nationality. Can I take a photo with you?" asked the watchman.

Mo Fan nodded.

The watchman happily took his phone out and took a photo with Mo Fan. The torch flashed. It emitted a glare, but Mo Fan held his eyes open. The photo was finally taken.

"Thank you! Thank you! I never thought I could take a photo with an amazing person like you!" The watchman left contentedly.

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After the watchman left, Mo Fan waited for a while in the woods alone. He left after a while when he didn't detect anything unusual.

In Lingling's room, she took the notebook and snuggled under the blankets with her notebook. She opened the "suspects" column and noted down the third suspect's name: Mo Fan.

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When it was dawn, Lingling pulled the blanket away from her head. She looked in the mirror.

She had barely slept so she had dark circles under her eyes. She wouldn't have cared in the past, but she had changed. She wanted to look beautiful every day.

She covered them with an eye cream. Although her complexion was pale because of lack of sleep, she thought she still looked good.

Lingling changed into simple sports clothes and went on her morning run. Then, she took a bath, put on a full set of makeup, and went to the restaurant for breakfast in good spirits.

She continued her healthy habits that she had opted for a year now. Lingling was finally active like a seventeen or eighteen-year-old girl after quitting the unhealthy habits of staying up all night, drinking milk tea, and skipping meals. She exuded the attractiveness that was particular to girls her age, like a flower that was just beginning to bloom.

After breakfast, Lingling returned to the room to start her hunter's work for the day. She discovered a picture wedged in the door gap as soon as she entered the room.

This photograph still smelled of ink, thus it ought to have been printed just recently.

It was a photo of two people. A man dressed as a watchman with a bright smile, taking a photo with Mo Fan. There was nothing strange about Mo Fan's face but his dark brown eyes looked strange because of the glare from the flashlight. Other than that, nothing was amiss.

Lingling looked at the photo, and a smile appeared on her face.

"I stayed up all night for nothing." Lingling pouted.

Lingling could have a restful night's sleep if she knew Mo Fan was by her side.

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The quiet night was moonless.

In West Guardian Towers, strange deaths were a continuous occurrence, but these killings had clear "motives" that could be justified. There was no mistake. The majority of them who mysteriously passed away were on Lingling's list of visitors obtained from the Sacrificial Mountain.

There was no question that the Sacrificial Mountain contained the evil energy. Those who had been there had been adversely affected by the Red Demon's magnetic field. Their intense feelings drove them to commit suicide.

Even though she was aware of a list of people who would eventually pass away, Lingling was unable to stop them because she could not control a group of people who were destined to die.

She was aware of the location of the evil energy, but she was unsure of the Red Demon Kazuaki's true identity.

Only one thing Lingling was certain of was that the Red Demon had a clone, and that clone was also passing for another person. Kazuaki, the Red Demon, had not yet slipped in any way.

The Red Demon Kazuaki's actual identity was patiently awaiting the moonless night. By impersonating someone, his clone was causing chaos in the West Guardian Towers. Lingling was aware of his disguise, but she was unable to confront them head-on. The Red Demon Kazuaki would only become more careful in concealing his true identity.

"If only I can go to the East Guardian Towers, I can find out who are allies and enemies." Lingling held a small notepad in one hand and a pencil in the other.

Strange energy emanated from the Twin Guardian Towers as a whole. These strange occurrences might be perceived as normal by other hunters. Lingling, however, was unique. Her expertise lay in linking seemingly unrelated topics while removing truly unrelated ones.

"Master Lingling, the West Guardian Towers are in a panic. If you know something, please let us know. The students have no intention of training, the soldiers can't get along, and even the higher-ups are beginning to suspect each other. Everyone says that the evil gang from the past has returned and that they are devouring everyone. People who get along every day are turning out to be suspicious. They might take away our most prized possessions," said Officer Ozawa, solemnly.

Ki Kurokawa had recently escaped from the East Guardian Towers and the chief of the Towers decided to lock down the Twin Guardian Towers. Nobody was permitted to enter the country as a tourist, and nobody was permitted to depart. The manslayer Ki Kurokawa might be hiding in one of the Twin Guardian Towers. It was a possibility.

Officer Ozawa wanted to hire other hunters or even report to senior officials in Osaka Castle. However, the Chief of the Towers ordered the Twin Guardian Towers to be locked down. No one could enter or leave until they found Ki Kurokawa.

Lingling became the only hunter in the Twin Guardian Towers as of now. Officer Ozawa asked Lingling to deal with some minor incidents before, but he had not expected the situation to escalate.

Chapter 2955: Frame-up

Lingling was not surprised by this. The moonless night was coming soon. It would be weird if there were still peace here.

"Someone deliberately released Ki Kurokawa to prevent everyone in the Twin Guardian Towers from entering, leaving, and communicating with the outside world," Lingling said.

“Could it be that someone is going to implement a dreadful plan?” Officer Ozawa asked.

“What actions will the Chief of the Towers take if a prisoner escapes from the East Guardian Towers?” Lingling asked.

“Lockdown, of course. In fact, there are two prohibitions in the Twin Guardian Towers. The first is to lock down the East Guardian Towers. Outsiders can’t break in, and the prisoners inside can’t escape. The second is a safety measure. If a prisoner accidentally leaves the East Guardian Towers, the prohibition on the West Guardian Towers will also be activated. Then, the entire Twin Guardian Towers will be on lockdown to prevent prisoners from escaping into society,” Officer Ozawa said.

The system of the Twin Guardian Towers was simple.

The East Guardian Towers and the West Guardian Towers used to be prisons for a very long time. The sole entry and escape, if the inmates were held prisoner on a cliff, similar to the East Guardian Towers, would be the suspension bridge.

In this fashion, if inmates managed to scale the East Guardian Towers’ cliff and escape, they would have to cross the suspension bridge and enter the West Guardian Towers. The convicts would be unable to flee if the West Guardian Towers were placed on lockdown.

In the past, the East Guardian Towers provided some assurance.

The strictness of the East Guardian Towers, however, eventually rendered the West Guardian Towers essentially worthless. The West Guardian Towers were initially transformed into a military facility by the army. The West Guardian Towers eventually developed into a location with educational, military, and tourist services.

If Ki Kurokawa had not escaped, many people who lived in the West Guardian Towers for a long time would not even be aware of the second level of safety measures.

“The Chief of the Towers is very sure that Ki Kurokawa has not left the West Guardian Towers. Every prisoner has a prisoner’s mark after being imprisoned. This mark is related to the prohibition of the West Guardian Towers. Once he tries to leave the Twin Guardian Towers, the second-level prohibition will be automatically triggered. Ki Kurokawa knows this, so he does not dare provoke this second-level prohibition,” Officer Ozawa said.

“The manslayer fled into the West Guardian Towers and mingled among its occupants, blending into their social circle. People continue to die in strange ways, but the reasons are not clear. Since the Evil Gang has returned, everyone is wary of those around them. The Twin Guardian Towers are on lockdown and don’t have contact with the outside world creating an environment for panic,” said Lingling.

“Master Lingling, you found out about the escape of Ki Kurokawa. Now that so many days have passed, did you find anything else? If we can catch him, everyone won’t be so anxious,” Officer Ozawa said.

“Let’s handle it one at a time,” Lingling said.

“Huh? Do you already know where Ki Kurokawa is hiding?” Officer Ozawa asked.

“Well, sort of.”

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Officer Ozawa called the higher-ups of the Twin Guardian Towers.

The Chief of the Towers, Katana Mochizuki, Tegami Fujikata, and General Takuichi were the four chiefs of the Twin Guardian Towers.

The Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo, was in charge of the defense of the East Guardian Towers. All the guards had to obey his orders, and all the prisoners were under his management.

In the Mochizuki family, Katana Mochizuki played an important role. This family built the Twin Guardian Towers. They were the earliest residents of the Twin Guardian Towers, and their family members held many positions in the entire Twin Guardian Towers.

Tegami Fujikata was in charge of the State House and the Academy. All the teachers and students were under her management.

General Takuichi was the leader of the military fortress. In addition to Ocean Demons, he dealt with other threats to the city, such as prisoners who might escape from the East Guardian Towers.

Officer Ozawa had no idea that all four chiefs would show up at once, and he had no idea why they would show up to support a Chief Military Officer like him.

Officer Ozawa entered the hallway and saw that the four chiefs had been invited to an emergency meeting by an unidentified person. A wide range of professionals were also in attendance.

“Ozawa, you told me a long time ago that you hired a Seven-Star Hunter Master to handle the strange incident in the Twin Guardian Towers. Where is the Seven-Star Hunter Master now?” the Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo, asked.

“A woman named Lingling is the Seven-Star Hunter Master. She has some major discoveries and seeks to report to all of you,” Officer Ozawa said.

There were a lot of people there, and they were all staring at Lingling.

To be honest, it was hard to believe that a young girl could be a Seven-Star Hunter Master, yet no one expressed any skepticism.

“Okay. Young master, what are the reasons for all the troublesome things happening in the Twin Guardian Towers? Also, how did you find Ki Kurokawa’s name on the Sacrificial Mountain’s visitor list? Why were you at the Sacrificial Mountain?” The Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo, took charge of the overall situation.

Lingling found a place to sit down. She needed to tell them everything one by one.

“First of all, let’s talk about what happened to the Mochizuki family a while ago. According to my investigation—”

“I don’t care about that matter! I hope you could talk about Ki Kurokawa. It is the most urgent thing we need to know right now,” the Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo, interrupted Lingling.

Lingling glanced at the Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo. However, she ignored him and continued, "According to my investigation, the scandal of the Mochizuki family was deliberately committed by someone. Akematsu has a daughter who is studying in the academy, and she loves Kaede Takahashi. She knew that Kaede Takahashi wanted to join the National Institute's team, so she used Psychic Element Magic to force Sinchino Mochizuki to sleepwalk and do some terrible things, forcing Sinchino Mochizuki to lose his position in the National Institute."

Sinchino Mochizuki was also present. When he heard Lingling's words, he trembled and stared at Kaede Takahashi in horror.

Everyone in the conference room abruptly stopped speaking.

"Erm, we actually checked it out. It's just as Miss Lingling said," Katana Mochizuki said slowly.

"Although the Mochizuki family did not take disciplinary action against Akematsu's daughter, she still blamed herself and chose to end her life the day after Kaede Takahashi rejected her confession," Lingling said.

"Kaede Takahashi sleepwalked and almost died. At that time, his junior was already dead. It won't make sense unless we assume that the spirit of his junior controlled him," Nagayama said hurriedly.

"You can ask Kaede Takahashi. He knew what was going on." Lingling looked at Kaede Takahashi.

Kaede Takahashi suddenly panicked. Under everyone's attention, he was obviously under pressure.

After hesitating for a while, Kaede Takahashi lowered his head and said, "Miss Lingling, you're really smart. It was true that I pretended to sleepwalk. Sinchino lost the qualification of the National Institute because of me. When my junior confessed, she told me the truth. I hoped to return the quota to Sinchino, so I violated the prohibition late at night and hurt myself."

Chapter 2956: A Wrong List

"So, these so-called bizarre things that happened in the State House were simply because of the relationship problems between the students?" Officer Ozawa was quite surprised.

He did not expect this result. After all, it was difficult to explain everything that had happened.

"I'll take care of the things in the State House, so there is no need for everyone to worry about it," said Tegami Fujikata.

"I apologize for making everyone concerned about my affairs," said Kaede Takahashi.

"Miss Lingling, if you only resolved the personal grievances of these young people as a Seven-Star Hunter Master, then there is no need to hold this emergency meeting." The Chief of the Towers was unhappy with Lingling.

From the perspective of the Chief of the Towers, these matters pale in comparison to Ki Kurokawa's location. Everyone had their ideas and was prepared to act in ways that were absurd due to the extremely stressful environment throughout the Twin Guardian Towers. It would take too long to take action against them.

“If you want to know the whereabouts of Ki Kurokawa, you need to listen to me patiently because they are all related to the next thing I’m going to say,” Lingling said.

“Can’t you just tell us where Ki Kurokawa is?” The Chief of the Towers was angry.

“Chief, please listen to Lingling. Even if the matter is urgent, we can still spare some time. Besides, the Twin Guardian Towers are on lockdown, so Ki Kurokawa can’t escape,” said Katana Mochizuki.

Lingling ignored the impatient Chief of the Towers and continued, “Let’s talk about the officer who committed suicide. He used to be the guard of the East Guardian Towers. He blamed himself for murdering Akematsu, who was framed and imprisoned. Recently, he had the symptoms of a mental disorder as he said he could always see the ghosts of those who died. He could not bear the guilt and torture, so he chose to commit suicide.”

The Chief of the Towers snorted coldly but did not interrupt Lingling this time.

Everyone knew what Lingling was talking about, and the death of Nagayama’s uncle was not included among the strange incidents. Ultimately, he was affected by his own guilt and the opinions of others. Nobody was shocked when he decided to end his life.

“While we’re on the subject, we should bring up the Evil Gang that’s hanging around the East Guardian Towers. The East Guardian Towers’ security personnel formerly faced a serious danger from the Evil Gang, which had amassed a sizable number of inmates. Did you give the order to assassinate every member of the Evil Gang, Chief?” Lingling asked the Chief of the Towers.

The Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo, glanced at everyone present. This matter was not a secret inside the Twin Guardian Towers, so he admitted without hesitation. “Yes, I issued an order to kill all the members and let the prisoners serving their sentences have their souls extracted in advance.”

“Then have you thought about the problem?” Lingling said.

“What problem?”

“The people you ordered to kill were not members of the Evil Gang but those who did not join or were unwilling to join the Evil Gang,” said Lingling.

When Shigekyo learned it, his face transformed. He violently slammed the table. “Nonsense!”

Katana Mochizuki, Tegami Fujikata, General Takuichi, Chihaya Mochizuki, and Officer Ozawa were all shocked.

“H-How is that possible? At that time, we had gotten rid of the Evil Gang. Although we did kill some innocent prisoners in the process, we got to curb the expansion of the Evil Gang. It was inevitable. Miss Lingling, maybe you are mistaken? How could the chief, soldiers, and guards executing at that time carry out a completely different order?” In an effort to lighten the mood, Officer Ozawa attempted a smile despite the heavy atmosphere.

“Since many innocent people were killed, it meant that you guys could not distinguish the members of the Evil Gang. Was it possible that the Evil Gang was quite large in East Guardian Towers, but some people refused to obey them, such as the righteous Akematsu?”

“After the Chief of the Towers realized this force was growing, the head of the Evil Gang wanted to get rid of the gang in advance. Therefore, he put innocent prisoners and those who refused to join them on the list of members. Then, he made good use of the chief’s order to kill them, so the gang had control of the entire East Guardian Towers.”

While speaking, Lingling paced, but her gaze was questioningly fixed on the Chief of the Towers.

The conference hall was silent. They could only hear Lingling’s light footsteps and her terrifying inferences.

Shigekyo, the Chief of the Towers, began to breathe heavily.

“Nonsense! Nonsense! You are only a little girl. You know nothing! Have you lived through that period? Do you even know what happened inside? Akematsu joined the Evil Gang out of resentment because he believed that he was falsely accused. This was a fact at the time. Why do you say that we wronged him? Why should we accept this criticism?” Shigekyo said angrily.

“Chief, you don’t have to be so angry. I think you were also misled by others about this matter. At that time, you would never have thought that in addition to the prisoners being brainwashed by the Evil Gang, someone in your security team also might have joined the Evil Gang,” Lingling said to Shigekyo.

Hearing Lingling’s remarks, the irate chief was startled and sat stiffly back in his chair.

“Chief?” Katana Mochizuki stared at the Chief of the Towers in horror.

Lingling’s recent statement was nothing more than a supposition, thus the Chief of the Towers was justified in reprimanding her. After all, if Lingling was correct, the Chief of the Towers committed a grave sin that could not be atoned for.

Even if Lingling’s assumption was reasonable, everyone still did not quite believe it. Even the Chief of the Towers scowled at her claims.

Katana Mochizuki and Tegami Fujikata realized that Lingling’s assumptions might be true since the Chief of the Towers looked so panicked!

Why else would the Chief of the Towers react in this way?

Could it be that all the people killed at that time were not even members of the Evil Gang?

The Evil Gang was in charge of the East Guardian Towers as a whole at that time.

Chapter 2957: The Twin Guardian Towers Have Been Infiltrated

“Nagayama, your uncle killed himself not just to make amends to Akematsu. He wished to express his regret to the duped Chief of the Towers and all the deceased captives. He was one of the guards who joined the Evil Gang, and he was the one who compiled a list of non-members for the chief.”

“Akematsu did commit manslaughter, but so did all the other convicts who perished as a result of this episode. However, other prisoners were serving heavy sentences, and society would not care about them. Akematsu was different. As a result of what happened to Akematsu, people were aware of the plan to eliminate the Evil Gang. Unfortunately, people did not know much about it.”

After Lingling finished speaking, everyone's expression changed, as if it took time to digest this critical piece of information. Some people at the management level paled as they thought about further details.

"If all the people who died at that time were dissidents of the Evil Gang, it means that all the prisoners in the entire East Guardian Towers were members of the Evil Gang. Now that so many years have passed, they must have grown to a level that we can't even imagine!" Shou Watani said in a trembling voice.

It was too frightful!

Evil Gang had not been eradicated back then, and now it must have expanded beyond measure. With their growth rate like parasitic bacteria, the current East Guardian Towers must have become a concentration camp for the Evil Gang.

"Erm, Miss Lingling, do you have any proof for your claims?" Officer Ozawa said in a low voice.

Officer Ozawa specially invited the Chinese Hunter Master to appease everyone and solve the strange incidents. The idea was to calm everyone's anxiety. After all, too many strange events had come to pass in quick succession.

At first, Officer Ozawa was happy to see Lingling solve the problems between the State House. It turned out that the students were to blame for the strange occurrences in the beginning.

He had not expected Lingling to reveal such shocking news. It did nothing to calm people down, instead it revealed more horrifying possibilities.

They become much more frightened.

"Although I don't have any clear evidence, those involved knew whether the story was true. I can only expose it. Chief, even if you want to conceal it, I can tell you responsibly that when the moonless night is bound to arrive, everyone in the Twin Guardian Towers will die."

"By then, you will have strengthened the Evil Gang, manslaughtered the inmates, and destroyed the Twin Guardian Towers, which had stood for hundreds of years." Lingling was firm. There was no trace of playfulness on her somewhat immature and young face.

Lingling was so solemn that her aura did not match her young age. She had a lot of experience, like a mentor.

The Chief of the Towers, Shigekyo, had been seated for a while.

Even though he had known about this for a while, he was still hesitant to accept it. He made an effort to convince himself that the Evil Gang was really defeated by his strategy. But the truth was something else.

His subordinate had confessed everything to him before committing suicide.

Shigekyo saw Nagayama's uncle kill himself that evening when he was in his room. His blood flowed, and he was dying slowly with remorse and despair. He begged Shigekyo to save the Twin Guardian Towers.

Shigekyo thought he could hide this sin forever, but he had not expected a Hunter Master to expose it.

'How did an outsider know everything so clearly?'

"Chief!"

"Please tell us the truth!"

"Chief, are the Twin Guardian Towers in danger?"

"Chief, we should end the lockdown and contact Osaka, so they can come forward to solve this."

"Yeah, it is not the best idea to trap everyone here. It will only make us more uneasy and cause more terror incidents."

Suddenly becoming enraged, the Chief of the Towers struck the table.

"No way! The lockdown cannot be lifted. I won't let scum get away. I won't allow such a thing to happen even if the Twin Guardian Towers are impacted!" the Chief of the Towers said sternly.

Everyone looked at the Chief of the Towers in confusion as they attempted to understand his startling statement.

"Finding Ki Kurokawa is just an excuse. I believe that you know where he is. Your purpose is to lock down the Twin Guardian Towers and identify the head of the Evil Gang under the pretext of finding Ki Kurokawa," Lingling said to the crowd.

"Miss Lingling is right. Ki Kurokawa didn't escape from the prison. I asked an army to enter the East Guardian Towers and take him out of there." The Chief of the Towers nodded.

"Chief, why would you do that? Why did you create such a panic for everyone?" asked an instructor.

"Miss Lingling, please help explain the matter. I-I'm ashamed to even say it." The Chief of the Towers' attitude toward Lingling was different. Everyone could tell that he respected her.

"Like I said before, the Evil Gang eradicated dissidents and grew continuously in the East Guardian Towers. Many guards became their members. However, that was many years ago. The Evil Gang has already crossed the suspension bridge and infiltrated the West Guardian Towers." "The members have entered the spheres of management, academies, the military, and prisons, among others. There are members of the Evil Gang among your friends, colleagues, teachers, subordinates, and bosses, just as you feared." Lingling glanced at the conference hall sharply.

Her statement caused an uproar. The Evil Gang created by the prisoners had infiltrated the West Guardian Towers!

"Chief, is that true?" General Takuichi stared at the Chief of the Towers.

Katana Mochizuki and Tegami Fujikata remained silent. Were they really unaware of this? They might have observed it, but they couldn't be certain.

Lingling's findings were unbelievable, and they felt powerless against the truth.

"For so many years, The West Guardian Towers has been in good order. How did the Evil Gang get inside?"

“Yeah, those prisoners are all imprisoned in the Dongshou Pavilion, and there are restrictions to trap them. Even if they are all Evil Gang members, they can’t escape from the East Guardian Towers.”

“Chief, it would be better not to simply acknowledge such an assumption. Regardless of our position, we all serve the Twin Guardian Towers with loyalty. It breaks our hearts to see other people being suspicious of us.”

“It’s difficult for the enemy to destroy the Twin Guardian Towers, but the panic and suspicion caused by such remarks will ruin us.”

Soon, a group of individuals opposed it and voiced their disagreements. Several disputed Lingling’s assertions.

This was often the case with people. Despite knowing the truth, they would rather judge it as false. Otherwise, it would be challenging to keep things as they are.

“I’m sorry, everyone. Locking down the Twin Guardian Towers means I’m determined not to let the Twin Guardian Towers be corroded.”

Chapter 2958: More Panic

“Chief, even if you decide to do this, you need to have everyone’s consent first. All of us work for the Twin Guardian Towers, and we are also willing to risk our lives and honor to defend the Towers. How could you imprison us over fabricated charges? It only shows that you don’t trust any of us!” said the head of the Guard Regiment.

“The Twin Guardian Towers has always been well-organized. There’s no such thing as the Evil Gang. What did they do? Are they truly threatening us? Chief, we’re disappointed with your hasty decision.”

What was the Evil Gang? Thus far, they did not find any evidence about the Evil Gang’s operation. Moreover, the East Guardian Towers maintained foolproof security. Aside from Ki Kurokawa, whom the Chief of the Towers had brought out of the prison, none of the prisoners had ever escaped from it.

If that were the case, why did they have to seal off the Twin Guardian Towers due to some strange theories, and why did they imprison everyone inside the towers because of this made-up Evil Gang?

People from various departments raised objections. Perhaps they did not even care about the existence of the Evil Gang.

“Chief, since you mentioned the existence of such a terrifying organization, kindly reveal it to us so that we can see that the organization is real. Before your subordinate committed hara-kiri, he was already mentally unstable. It was only natural for him to say strange things. As for the young woman, she was the one who arrived at the crime scene first, hence she believed everything she saw and heard,” refuted the head of the Guard Regiment.

“Everyone, keep quiet.” When Katana Mochizuki saw them quarreling, he finally stepped in.

Katana Mochizuki was still an influential man. The crowd respected the elders of the Twin Guardian Towers.

"I can understand that all of you are in a bad mood because of the recent, strange deaths of the people you know or are familiar with. However, based on the facts laid before us, we don't have to be divided into two groups and suspect each other. We must unite and make up for the past mistakes by investigating the departments that may have been infiltrated. On top of that, we have to figure out what the organization is trying to do and who the leader is. Everyone, it's not that I suspect you, but I believe some of the evil ideology has demonic properties and can affect our minds subconsciously. Don't feel burdened if you have come into contact with them. As long as you're willing to help us, we won't pursue the matter. After all, it's not your fault," Katana Mochizuki said to the crowd in the emergency meeting.

"Mr. Katana, are you saying that you agree to the suggestion?" asked the head of the Guard Regiment.

"Yes." Katana Mochizuki nodded.

"Tegami Fujikata, how about you?"

Tegami Fujikata also nodded. "We should work hand-in-hand to get through this together."

"But what is the challenge for us? It seems to me that this atmosphere is all made up. Didn't most of the bizarre deaths end up having a logical explanation?"

"The truth is, we also have no idea what the challenge is that we're facing. This is what worries and disturbs us the most. We haven't figured out what the organization is really up to." Katana Mochizuki let out a long sigh.

This sort of emotion was horrible. It appeared as though they were aware that disaster was coming but were unable to spot any indications of it. It was as if lightning had just struck in the afternoon, and, immediately after, a downpour occurred. They were powerless to stop it!

Katana Mochizuki knew the enemy was on the way. It was approaching them. However, he did not know who the enemy was, or what action to take. He did not know a thing about his enemy!

...

The Chief of the Towers made up his mind. He insisted on sealing off the Twin Guardian Towers and would issue a notice to the public that a prisoner had escaped, thus no one was allowed to go in or out of the towers.

After they left the meeting, Officer Ozawa looked wistful. He turned to Lingling. "I didn't expect it to turn out this way."

"But you're the one who insisted on giving an explanation about the bizarre phenomenon," said Lingling casually.

"I didn't expect the issue to be more serious than I anticipated. If I knew the truth, I would have rather remained in a state of panic as before. At the very least, we can comfort ourselves by assuming that everything that happened was purely coincidental." Officer Ozawa looked disheartened.

No one should blame him for being discouraged. After all, he hired the hunter to keep the Twin Guardian Towers in order and to solve the bizarre issues. Who would have thought the hunter was so smart to the point of researching the background of the Twin Guardian Towers?

The Twin Guardian Towers was covered in years of filth. There was a lot of stuff hidden behind the public eye in the world. This happened not only to the Twin Guardian Towers, but also to the Japanese regime. As long as the man in power turned a blind eye to the issues, who would find out about the internal rots? Most people were only concerned with the chaotic phenomena that happened on the surface and quarreled over personal interests.

Officer Ozawa, have you ever considered the idea that the Evil Gang had long since occupied the Twin Guardian Towers and had altered their appearance and way of life with the aid of the Towers?" Lingling asked.

He was so shocked that he almost stumbled. 'That was a very bold speculation!'

"Ms. Lingling, your thoughts are indeed quite different from us. Ahem, if the Evil Gang truly occupied the towers, wouldn't I have become one of them, too?" Officer Ozawa answered wryly.

"That's why no one should be trusted except Mo Fan and I," said Lingling.

"If that's the case, it is equally possible that Mo Fan and you could be the main culprits of the Evil Gang too. You stir up panic in the Twin Guardian Towers, then you control the Chief, Katano Mochizuki, and Tegami Fujikata. You make us harm one another and cause us to be trapped inside the towers," said Officer Ozawa in jest.

"You finally get it!" Lingling's face turned solemn.

When Officer Ozawa noticed Lingling's change of expression, he was so shocked that he almost missed a step again. 'Could this be the truth?'

By the time Officer Ozawa regained his balance, a chill went down his spine. A silvery laughter rose. Lingling laughed so hard that she held her stomach and sat on the bench by the stone steps. Her body trembled with laughter.

Officer Ozawa stood by the side and scratched his head. 'Ms. Lingling is teasing me.'

"Ms. Lingling, you seem like you still had a lot to say during the emergency meeting. Although I might not look trustworthy right now, I hope you can tell me more about the issue. I dislike the feeling of being kept in the dark. Even if the truth is worse than what I anticipated, I want to be informed," Officer Ozawa said solemnly.

"There is a demon here. It enjoys role-playing. We've known about it for a while, and we've been tracking it since. In the past, we believed it prowled the world's prisons, feeding on human resentment and other negative emotions. However, we've neglected the fact that this is its birthplace, and where the most infamous prison in the world is located. If I were the Red Demon Kazuaki, I'd also build my foundation here," said Lingling.

Chapter 2959: Give The Name List

Before Lingling and Mo Fan entered the Twin Guardian Towers, they subconsciously thought that the Red Demon Kazuaki would make radical changes to the towers and stir it up before the moonless night. However, both were wrong.

The Red Demon did not lay its hands on the Twin Guardian Towers at all. It would not simply lay its hands on its people.

This was because the Twin Guardian Towers were already within its grasp. The Evil Gang was one of the Red Demon Kazuaki's evil sprouts. It had grown into a gigantic tree. The shade of the tree covered the towers like a mass of dark clouds.

The moonless night was about to arrive.

The Twin Guardian Towers was its fortress that would protect it during its ascension. The moment it ascended and became the emperor, it would use the Twin Guardian Towers as its base camp to infiltrate and grow rampantly. It would turn Osaka into a prison.

"Ms. Lingling, do you mean that the Twin Guardian Towers have been substantially infiltrated?" asked Officer Ozawa in horror.

"Officer Ozawa, you may have underestimated the Red Demon's ability. Its doppelganger appeared in Kun Mountain of China. Since its inception, it has maintained solid control over a sizable prison. If not it, then who else gained control of the Twin Guardian Towers?" said Lingling.

"Oh, my god! Ms. Lingling, is it because the Twin Guardian Towers are completely under the Evil Gang's control that you didn't mention all this during the meeting?!" Officer Ozawa could barely control the pitch of his voice.

He was informed that the towers had only been breached. He believed the impact to be quite minor, much like the proportion of corrupt officers among the officials.

But according to Lingling's argument, the Twin Guardian Towers had completely fallen! 'How could this happen? Everything appeared to be in order, didn't it?'

"Officer Ozawa, you're the Chief and Takuichi's right-hand man. When the meeting was over, didn't the Chief allow you to draw up a name list of the suspected people?" asked Lingling.

"Not yet," said Officer Ozawa while shaking his head.

"Oh, perhaps he wants you to send me back first. Officer Ozawa, how about we make a bet?" said Lingling.

"What's the point of making a bet?"

"So that I can know if you're trustworthy," said Lingling.

"I-I need to digest your words first." Officer Ozawa was scared. He found his world view disintegrating.

"You're the one who pleaded with me to tell you the truth with sincerity. I am telling you the truth now, but you refuse to hear it and you want to retreat," said Lingling.

"I... fine, Ms. Lingling, I admit that I'm starting to get scared. After all, I grew up here. I spent my childhood and most of my adulthood here. I served the Twin Guardian Towers. It's my home. I'm very familiar with everyone. They are very dear to me." Officer Ozawa's tone changed.

At that moment, he did not know what to do. Lingling's words shocked him. He wondered whether he could trust her, or if he was even willing.

"That's very common. Most people would rather live in a dream. Even after they are inadvertently woken up from it, they want to return to it. However, a dream is, after all, just a dream. Dreams are illogical without any common senses and connection to reality. Dreams show things that appear in one's subconscious minds. When they are able to think normally and revisit their dreams, they'll find that everything in their dreams is like a sketch. The faces of the people they have been obsessed with are distorted with a hypocritical smile. The beautiful scenery behind their backs is drawn with a few rough lines. The outlines are blurred. They don't actually like the things inside the dreams, they are only placing their hopes on them so they have the feeling of relying on them," said Lingling.

Officer Ozawa was rendered speechless.

Lingling had used an appropriate to depict the circumstance. The Twin Guardian Towers were very much like a dream. Everything looked normal when they did not notice its problems. However, the moment they probed into it, thought of them carefully, and got to the bottom of them, they realized many things appeared bizarre and unusual.

Did the situation involving the few young individuals from the State House, for instance, appear normal? It was clear that it was just a minor incident, but many people were hurt by it.

It was deformed once they touched it.

"I'll go back to my room and take a rest first. The moon is disappearing soon," said Lingling to Officer Ozawa.

"What is the bet you mentioned?" Officer Ozawa asked.

Lingling whispered a few words to him. He fell deep into his thoughts.

...

After Lingling closed her room door, Officer Ozawa still smelled her lingering fragrance. However, at that moment, he felt ambiguous.

Who should he trust?

He trusted the place where he grew up. He also trusted the elders and peers he had known since he was a child...

But Lingling, the Chinese girl who had wandered here by accident, made some terrifying remarks!

Officer Ozawa sucked in a deep breath before returning to his post. He was in charge of maintaining the security of the Twin Guardian Towers. All of the events were within his purview to handle.

Right after he returned to his office, a slender silhouette stood before the window.

Officer Ozawa was stunned. The faint moonlight reflected the person's appearance. He was a familiar figure. It was Chief Shigekyo.

"Chief, why are you here?" Officer Ozawa asked in surprise.

He was about to switch on the light, but the Chief stopped him.

Chief Shigekyo turned around, looking depressed.

“Ozawa, you have been in charge of the order of the Twin Guardian Towers over the years. You handle almost all the internal incidents that happen inside the towers. You know the ins and outs of every department, level of management, and the staff. I hope you can draw up a list for me of the people who may have been affected by the Evil Gang,” said Chief Shigekyo.

“H-How could I simply convict people without any evidence?” said Officer Ozawa in shock.

“It’s just a name list with suspected people. Everyone in the country has the right to list out suspects. They have nothing to fear if they haven’t broken the rules. With your current position, you communicate, interact, reconcile, and handle everyone from the institute to the families, Ministry of Security, and the military. You deal with Katano, Tegami, and Takuichi. You’re familiar with their subordinates. No one knows better than you what they are doing, or what they have done over the years. The Twin Guardian Towers are in great danger. You’re my most trusted man. The reason I came alone is because I need to seek your assistance as you’ve been an honest and loyal person. I need your help for the sake of preventing the towers from rotting...” said Chief Shigekyo solemnly.

Chapter 2960: The Blood Demon

Officer Ozawa hesitated. “I’ll do my best.”

“Good, but you have to act fast.”

Officer Ozawa bowed to him. The Chief waved his hand, signaling that Ozawa did not have to do that.

After the Chief left, Officer Ozawa heaved a sigh of relief.

He was under a lot of pressure. He sat down on the chair and stared at the table. He was compelled to scratch his head.

How should he draw up the name list?

Based on his observation, many people fit the characteristics of the Evil Gang. They acted strangely and lacked common senses. But how could he prove that those people were part of the Evil Gang? What if those were just stressed, hence the erratic behavior? What if it was just a mistake?

Officer Ozawa was under tremendous pressure because of the task assigned to him. Truth was, he did not want to pit anyone against the Twin Guardian Towers.

The moon outside the window resembled an eye, casting its bone-chilling gaze on the jagged, rocky cliffs of the Twin Guardian Towers.

A Japanese castle was on top of the cliff. It was situated in the middle of the rocks under the bleak moonlight. It was clear that there was not even a single trace of fog in the night, but the fortress looked as if it had been shrouded in mystery. When one fixed their gaze on it, one would find oneself fascinated by it. Later, it was shocking to realize that many pairs of eyes looked back like hungry wolves...

...

Lingling sat on a rock bench at the stone platform. She could view the scenery from the platform. The atmosphere was serene and quiet.

The place was utterly empty. Even a night watchman did not patrol such a remote nook.

She looked up to see the moon. It was above her head. She guessed the moon would vanish entirely in two days. By then, the land would fall into absolute darkness.

“Lingling!” A man approached her. He smiled lazily as though he had just woken up.

Lingling neither got up nor turned around.

The man was Mo Fan. They had agreed to meet at this place if any one of them found a clue. They had decided to meet at midnight.

“Did you discover anything this time?” Mo Fan walked up to her.

“I did, but the enemy is too cunning,” said Lingling.

“How so?” asked Mo Fan.

“It has several doppelgangers. It won’t reveal its true form until the most critical moment. When I saw a fish caught on the net, I deliberately waited for a couple of days. Little did I know that I would still find the same fish on the net. Regardless, catching a small fish is better than catching nothing.” Lingling turned around and gave him a charming smile.

“We have to do things one step at a time. Who is that small fish?” Mo Fan continued to walk forward.

Mo Fan was ready to take another step when all of a sudden, as if his legs were being tugged by a rope, his body stiffened. It was difficult for him to move.

Mo Fan frowned. He looked down, only to find that he had stepped into a trap.

He had stepped within a magic circle that was about the size of a manhole cover. Brown light trails are interspersed throughout the magic circle. No matter how complex the light traces were, they intertwined with one another and formed a Trapped Demon Hexagram. A light spear grew in the middle of the Trapped Demon Hexagram and nailed Mo Fan in place. He could not move at all.

“You are that small fish.” Lingling smiled.

“Lingling, stop joking around! Are you under the demonic spell, too? I’m Mo Fan...” said Mo Fan.

“Are you really Mo Fan? Allow me to ask you a few questions to confirm. If you can answer all correctly, I’ll spare you. How does that sound?” Lingling walked around him.

“Go ahead.”

“Where did we meet the first time?”

“At Clearsky Hunter Agency,” Mo Fan said briskly.

“When we first met, how many stripes were there on my Scottish striped uniform?” asked Lingling.

Mo Fan was speechless.

“You can’t answer it, right? Go to hell!” Lingling snapped her fingers. The Trapped Demon Hexagram unleashed a powerful light inch spear and sliced his flesh piece by piece!

“Lingling, are you mad?!” Mo Fan screamed in pain.

Lingling remained motionless. Mo Fan was under torture, and she stared at him shrewdly.

Mo Fan was trapped inside the Trapped Demon Hexagram. He could not endure the pain any longer. He glowed in crimson red light. He looked like an expanded large vessel that was going to burst at any time!

Bam!

Blood splattered. The blood, as sharp as a sword or an ax, split the surrounding rocks apart. Lingling dodged. She was protected from the splattered blood by a barrier that encircled the area where she was standing.

“Hah! You finally reveal your true self!” Lingling fixed her gaze on the man trapped inside the Trapped Demon Hexagram.

The man was bathed in flowing blood. She could not see his face or his skin. “Mo Fan” finally revealed its true form.

The Blood Demon did not have a face, so it could transform into any body it liked.

“So where exactly did I reveal my flaws?” The Blood Demon looked creepier under the moonlight. When it opened its mouth, it did not have even a single tooth. It looked like a skinless old man.

“Huh?” Lingling stood inside the protective barrier.

“I’m a dedicated and motivated Blood Demon. Whenever I impersonate a person, I can do it so well that I can live with their families in peace . I can even do better than their true selves, making their beloved ones become obsessed with me and forget their true loves. Is there anything that I can do to improve myself? Can you tell me before dying?” The Blood Demon smiled hideously.

“If you want to impersonate a person, you have to learn their weaknesses first,” said Lingling.

After the Blood Demon heard her words, it was deep in its thoughts. It smiled. It seemed to have understood her words.

“A person looks real with their flaws and annoying pet peeves. They will look scary and hypocritical if I create a perfect image of them in order to gain other people’s approval. Is that what you mean?” said the Blood Demon.

Lingling did waste time on meaningless conversation with the Blood Demon.

It laughed. It appeared extremely content, as though it had discovered a remarkable talent. “Thank you for your guidance. You can meet your Creator now!”

The Blood Demon continued to laugh, but its laughter was one of rage and madness.