

Ability 81

Chapter 81: Could This Be Classmate Lin Beichen?

The human traffickers were numb.

They couldn't comprehend how this had happened. In their own minds, they wondered, could it be that heaven had indeed opened its eyes? Seeing them do so much evil, it wouldn't be enough to strike them dead once, it had to kill them completely?

But among them, Sun Chao was still the most clear-headed.

Seeing the situation, Sun Chao immediately understood what was going on. Wasn't this lightning summoned by Lin Beichen?! This was a total extermination!

However, he had no time to explain this to the other traffickers.

Escaping was the priority!

Earlier, he had already analyzed the direction Lin Beichen had left from the footprints. At this moment, he darted out in that direction first.

"What are you all staring at?!"

"Waiting to die?!"

"Run!"

"That's the direction Lin Beichen went!"

"Run that way!!"

Running and shouting, Sun Chao's voice was filled with urgency and desperation.

Upon hearing his shouts, the other human traffickers snapped back to reality. At this moment, they had no thoughts, no time to think.

Just one thought: escape!

The traffickers from all directions saw Sun Chao's back and chased after him.

If Lin Beichen had not left here, he would have caught that inexplicable feeling and observed the Electric Element in this special area...

The phantom image of the Black Tortoise seemed unable to endure this tearing sensation, its head and limbs thrashed violently in the dark ocean, and its tail flailed wildly.

For a moment, the ocean was stirred up.

In the flashes of lightning and thunder.

Huge waves surged into the sky, sweeping up the rainwater, then crashing heavily onto the already turbulent sea surface.

At the same time.

"Crack——!!!"

"Crack——!!!"

"..."

The sound of several thunderous cracks burst almost simultaneously, so loud it seemed to tear the sky apart, as if an army on horseback was charging!

Before the sound faded.

Streaks of white and purple lightning erupted from the bright spots within the clouds.

In an instant!

Several bolts of lightning descended from the sky, surrounded and flickering with electric arcs, piercing through the rain, like a purgatory of thunder, striking straight at the human traffickers running with all their might on the ground.

"Run faster!"

"Run even faster!!"

The traffickers dared not, or rather didn't have a second to turn their heads to see what was behind them, dreading they would follow in Zhong Bai's footsteps if they slowed down by even a moment.

However, despite not looking back.

Their necks grew stiffer, pores tightened, and their spines cooled...

These sensations made them acutely aware that the thunder was coming closer and closer.

Among them.

Only Sun Chao didn't have this feeling, or more accurately, he had just felt it, but at the last moment, it receded like the tide.

But...

He dared not look back, dared not stop running, instinctively dodging from side to side trying to avoid the lightning strikes.

Just then.

"Boom——!!!"

"Boom——!!"

"..."

The rumbling sounds exploded almost simultaneously.

The ground trembled violently for a moment.

Sun Chao could feel the tremors coming from a distant place and heard the rumbling from far behind him.

"Has the lightning in the sky stopped striking?"

"Not striking me anymore?"

"What's happening?"

Thinking about the sudden disappearance of that locked-in feeling, he had a sense that he might be safe now.

However, he still dared not stop running, continuing to sprint forward with all his might, suddenly taking a big step to the side and then quickly turning to look back.

After all, he had to confirm his situation, or he would eventually be exhausted even if he wasn't struck by lightning!

Sun Chao glanced back.

Just one look, and the scene he saw would be etched in his memory forever.

Behind him, it was like a purgatory of lightning incarcerating the mortal world!

The white-purple lightning bolts had not completely faded, but the electric glow was no longer so brilliant and dazzling, it wouldn't cause temporary blindness.

Near the ground, each bolt of lightning had a person, some engulfed in lightning, some lying outside its sphere.

Those enveloped by lightning might no longer be human, but charred, rigid corpses standing upright, preserving the posture of their final moments running, identical to Zhong Bai's horrific remains!

Those outside the lightning sphere, few and far, only five or six, had expressions of terror and shock identical on their faces.

However, none of them stopped running, still sprinting towards Sun Chao with all their might.

In the sky.

The cloud vortex continued to spin, seemingly nearing its limit.

Only a few bright spots remained in the dark cloud layers.

But...

White-purple lightning erupted again from every bright spot, the strikes aimed at those running with all their might.

Though the scene was terrifying and shocking, Sun Chao had already prepared himself mentally before looking back. He was not overly surprised.

What caught him off guard and filled his mind with countless thoughts...

Was this second wave of lightning!

"???"

Sun Chao was dumbfounded. It was outrageous enough for so much lightning to strike down just now! How could it still be chasing people to strike? Must it kill everyone?!

This is too ridiculous!

Then he suddenly noticed...

The survivors of the first wave were running towards him, with the lightning following closely, seemingly about to strike again.

In an instant, he was unsure whether the lightning aimed at them or him, the lucky escapee.

Was he inevitably doomed?

Sun Chao had no time to think, muttering a curse under his breath. He refused to look back again, focusing on sprinting forward.

In the pouring rain, amidst thunder and lightning.

At this moment, he resembled a child running desperately without an umbrella.

"Bang—!"

"Bang—!"

"..."

The thunderous noises soon echoed from behind once more.

This time, Sun Chao didn't look back, nor did he care what was happening behind him. His sole concern was his survival, his desperate will to live.

He kept running.

Unaware of when it started.

The thunder was no longer audible, only the rushing wind, lashing rain, and erratic panting sounds from behind.

"No more lightning?"

"Someone behind me?"

"Who could it be?"

"..."

A series of questions floated through his mind.

His stamina was nearly exhausted, thoughts were his distraction to keep running.

He wanted to ask questions, but feared speaking would disrupt his rhythm and drain his remaining energy.

And running, he didn't know how long.

His lungs felt ablaze, legs turned to jelly, he was utterly spent.

"I can't run anymore!"

"Been running so long without hearing thunder..."

"Maybe it's over?"

Uncertain, but no choice—if the lightning struck him after all this, he would accept his fate.

The thought of stopping made his heart race, feeling it might leap out of his throat. Inhaling deeply, summoning courage, he bit down and halted abruptly.

"..."

The wind was calm, rain steady.

No incident occurred.

"No issue?"

Sun Chao gradually opened his eyes, relief and lingering fear in his gaze.

Just then.

A breathless voice reached him from behind.

"Ch... Chaozi, why... why did you stop?"

The voice grew nearer, very familiar.

It was Zou Huaide!

Sun Chao quickly turned around.

Zou Huaide staggered towards him, face covered with dirt, left arm severed, hastily bandaged, blood soaking the cloth and dripping.

Two others followed him, uninjured.

But their mental states seemed dire.

Their expressions bore fear, confusion, and daze, their eyes filled with unspoken terror.

Sun Chao glanced at them briefly, then turned his gaze skyward. The dark clouds were heavy, silent, with occasional flickering arcs.

"No more lightning."

"It seems we are safe for now."

The weight on his heart lifted slightly, then he looked back at Zou Huaide and the other two.

"Brother Zou, it's temporarily safe."

"Temp... Temporarily safe???"

Zou Huaide grasped Sun Chao, eyes wide with fear and doubt, pale lips trembling: "Really safe?"

"No lightning in the sky now."

"None?"

Zou Huaide, wary and anxious, glanced repeatedly at the sky, finally dared to stare directly, then mumbled as if reborn, "Truly no more lightning."

"Brother Zou, I warned you, Lin Beichen is extraordinary, a formidable person!"

Sun Chao finally had time to recount, if not for Zou's insistence on pursuing Lin Beichen, how did they end up like this?

Growing angrier, he said, "You didn't believe me. Now look, all our brothers are dead, what shall we do now? Still hunt Lin Beichen? Still kill him?"

"..."

Silence.

Whether Zou Huaide or the others, hearing Lin Beichen's name no longer harbored hate, only fear and dread, vigorously shaking their heads.

Even without encountering Lin Beichen.

But...

These unusual bolts of lightning twice enlightened them to something very wrong, though reluctant to believe Sun Chao's words, they had no choice but to think along those lines.

Of the dozen, only four remained.

If they continued searching...

Would they all perish?

Zou Huaide pondering along the run had an epiphany, surviving was a reprieve.

Feeling faint, he quickly said, "Let's find a place for treatment, I will report to the boss later."

Sun Chao hesitated, "We're lost now. I fear if we continue, we might encounter Lin Beichen. If that happens, how can we escape?"

"If he appears, what then?"

...

...

Meanwhile, elsewhere.

Sun Dewang, with other officers, pursued the direction of the thunder and lightning. In the rain, they neared the first special area.

One officer, looking ahead, frowned: "See that? There's a big dark figure lying there?"

Officers including Sun Dewang followed his gaze, vaguely seeing a dark figure on the distant clearing.

"How did a big guy end up in this forest?"

"Didn't Zou Huaide have connections abroad? Could this big guy be...?"

"..."

They instantly linked it to the foreign associates of the trafficker gang, their expressions stern, cautiously advancing with drawn guns.

A hundred meters...

Fifty meters...

...

Getting closer, they gradually saw clearly the so-called dark figure.

"A...a body?!"

Officers quickened their pace.

For all their experiences, seeing the charred, disfigured body still made them wince.

The horror!

They quickly deduced the cause—lightning strike!

One officer, remembering something, furrowed his brows, incredulous: "Could this be Lin Beichen?"

Chapter 82: The police are shaken, something big happened on the mountain!

"Lin Beichen, is that you?"

Upon hearing this, Sun Dewang and the other officers felt a chill run down their spines. In this situation, it's entirely possible, and quite likely too!

Lin Beichen wasn't encountered by the human traffickers and retaliated against. Instead, he was researching thunder...

Could he have been struck by lightning and killed?

The thought of this possibility made their expressions inexplicably strange. Could a person be so unlucky?

At this moment, Sun Dewang carefully observed the charred corpse on the ground and noticed a crucial detail, asking, "If I remember correctly, the information shows Lin Beichen is a tall guy, about 1.8 meters?"

Pointing to the corpse, he said, "This corpse looks only about 1.6 meters. Even if struck by lightning, causing body contraction, the skeleton is still intact. There's no way it shrunk that much suddenly."

Seeing the other officers nodding in agreement, he concluded, "So, this isn't Lin Beichen."

For a moment, the officers breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, it wasn't Lin Beichen.

But then another question immediately popped into everyone's minds—

If this body isn't Lin Beichen, then who is it?

The officers looked at each other, instantly understanding the mutual confusion in each other's eyes.

Sun Dewang, being a veteran cop, didn't waste any time and immediately said, "Let's investigate the scene first."

He then led the other officers to start the investigation.

"This area seems to be frequently struck by lightning."

One officer mumbled while observing the surroundings without starting the investigation, "The trees are blackened and dead, the ground is black. It makes one feel uneasy."

"Indeed."

Another officer nodded in agreement, "I've never seen such a scene in my life. It's comparable to a fire scene."

Before he finished his words.

After the investigation, an officer gave feedback: "I found many footprints here. They look somewhat chaotic, and they're not from just one person, about six people."

Now, no one paid attention to the surrounding scenery anymore.

Everyone focused on the investigation.

Soon, feedback came continuously.

"I found many footprints here too, about nine people."

"Come over here and check if the footprints in my area overlap with what you found?"

"Come over here too, let's compare."

"..."

They exchanged words one after another.

They quickly sorted out the footprints found at the scene: The footprints in this area belonged to sixteen people.

At this moment, one officer speculated: "Given this weather, for so many people to suddenly appear in the depths of Wuling Mountain, I think these people are likely the human traffickers hiding in Wuling Mountain!"

The other officers nodded in agreement, expressing the same thought.

For a moment, they couldn't help but look at Zhong Bai's corpse on the ground, their expressions inexplicably strange. So, the one struck by lightning should be one of the traffickers?

Could it truly be retribution?

First, Li Youquan was struck dead, and now another one?

Just targeting the wicked human traffickers?

At this moment, another officer pointed to the pit where the Thunderstruck Wood was originally located, guessing: "Isn't this pit dug by the traffickers for burial?"

"But why did they only dig halfway and leave the corpse exposed in the wilderness?"

Another officer raised his doubts.

While talking, the officers surrounded the pit and observed.

"Hey, looking at the inside of the pit, there used to be a tree here. If the traffickers wanted to dig a pit, they should've dug on an empty space. Why dig up a tree?"

New findings brought new doubts.

But then, the officer raised another question: "Also... Where's the tree? The dug-up tree isn't anywhere nearby."

Upon hearing this, the officers exchanged glances, their expressions extremely odd. Could the tree have been carried away by the traffickers?

Leaving their comrade's corpse behind to...

Carry a tree?

They couldn't figure out what kind of sophisticated operation the traffickers were up to.

At this moment, Sun Dewang asked, "Have we basically finished the investigation?"

Seeing the other officers nodding.

He took out his communication device and said while pressing the button, "No point in speculating now. Since it's pretty much confirmed that it's the traffickers, let's quickly inform Captain Xiao. Once we catch the traffickers, interrogation will clear everything up."

He then gestured to the other officers to follow him.

At this moment, the call connected.

Xiao Peng's voice came from the communication device: "Hey, Old Sun, what's the situation? Did you find Lin Beichen?"

"Captain Xiao, we haven't found Lin Beichen yet, but we seem to have discovered the whereabouts of the trafficker gang."

Sun Dewang explained his situation and the scene investigation while walking, then added: "The footprints on the ground are still very clear, even in this heavy rain. It seems those people haven't gone far. I'm heading there with the team to scout and see what's happening."

On the other end.

Wuling Mountain Scenic Area meeting room.

Xiao Peng and his team leaders, along with Wang Kai and other officers from the substation who had arrived, sat around the conference table. They used this as a temporary command center to discuss the operation to capture the traffickers.

Chapter 83: The police are shaken, something big happened on the mountain!_2

At this moment, Xiao Peng asked the officer beside him, "Have you pinpointed the location of Old Sun's communication device?"

"Just located it."

The officer nodded and tilted the computer screen to display the image.

Xiao Peng looked at the area marked by the small red dot on the screen, then turned to the Wuling Mountain area map in front of him.

The map of Wuling Mountain was covered with black marker doodles, but only one area was circled with a red marker.

The red-circled area was the hideout of the human traffickers' gang, pinpointed after everyone's arduous efforts. While not 100% certain, it had an extremely high probability.

He picked up the red marker and marked the location point on the Wuling Mountain map.

The red dot was within the red circle!

Upon seeing this, everyone present felt their spirits lift. The information alignment practically confirmed that the human traffickers' gang was indeed within the red-circled area, and that the people Sun Dewang reported must be the traffickers without a doubt!

"Old Sun, I just pinpointed your location. You are currently in the final locked hidden area of the traffickers. So your suspicions should be correct."

Xiao Peng reminded, "You have fewer people, and they are numerous. Be cautious with your actions to ensure your safety; report any situation to us immediately. We are heading out to meet you now."

"Got it."

Sun Dewang hung up the phone.

Xiao Peng assigned an officer to handle Sun Dewang's calls before turning to Wang Kai, "Team Leader Wang, let's head into the mountains."

"Alright."

Wang Kai nodded, though worried about Lin Beichen and disappointed by the lack of news about him; he knew that successfully capturing the traffickers would also indirectly protect Lin Beichen.

Soon, two police stations mobilized collectively!

Dark clouds pressed down on the city, torrential rain pouring.

"Splash——!"

"Splash——!"

"..."

Numerous feet stepped into the rainwater, splashing it everywhere.

Hundreds of police officers appeared in the Wuling Mountain Scenic Area.

They had already divided their tasks before setting out.

They each performed their duties.

Some ran to set up barricades to prevent traffickers from escaping and avoid tourists from intruding, while others fought their way through different positions at the foot of Wuling Mountain into the depth.

Even amid the heavy rain, the scenic area still had many tourists with umbrellas strolling around, anxiously watching the police officers rushing by, feeling uneasy amid the tense atmosphere.

Everyone felt uneasy!

"What's going on?"

"What happened?"

"Why are there so many police suddenly? What happened?"

"What's happening on the mountain?"

"..."

The tourists were utterly confused.

They lost interest in their activities, focusing their attention on the Wuling Mountain beyond the barricades, constantly peering at the mountains, trying to glimpse some happenings.

Such a large scene...

Must be something serious, right?

...

...

Deep in Wuling Mountain.

Lin Beichen sat cross-legged in an open space, palms facing upwards, cultivating.

This open space was the third special area he found in Wuling Mountain.

Compared with the previous two special areas...

Visually, this area looked darker in terms of the surrounding trees and ground, and invisibly, the Electric Element in the air was more concentrated, making it easier to absorb.

Lin Beichen was cultivating not to capture the feeling but to see the illusionary scene presented by the Electric Element in this area.

Before, he had already captured the feeling and seen the illusionary scene this area presented.

It was a phoenix in grey-blue flames!

The phoenix was crimson all over, radiating golden light, soaring in the blue flames. Each flap of its wings would stir up boundless waves of flames.

Lin Beichen was cultivating here because, after seeing the illusionary scene, he suddenly seemed to get a feeling about the questions he had been pondering.

The feeling...

As long as he continued cultivating and enhanced the illusionary scene, he could figure out those questions!

"What is the answer to the question?"

...

...

Unnoticed, the heavy clouds gradually thinned.

The torrential rain started to lessen.

Electric Flash still brightened the sky, and Lei Ming rumbled but less frequently.

The sunlight increasingly broke through the clouds, shining on the ground.

Sun Dewang led the officers, cautiously tracing the dozen footprints on the ground, fearing they might stumble upon the traffickers if they were careless.

It wouldn't just be awkward then...

It would be deadly!

One officer looked up at the sky and muttered, "Looks like the weather is about to clear up. Should we speed up?"

"These footprints are becoming clearer; we might catch up before the weather clears."

Sun Dewang analyzed rationally.

Hearing this, the other officers became excited but also more vigilant, observing their surroundings.

Another officer said, "These surroundings look familiar. The road leading away from the place we found the bodies had similar sights; the trees and weeds were black. I don't think these areas were hit by lightning; why do they look like this? It's strange, so I remember it clearly."

"I noticed that too."

Another officer nodded and speculated, "As we continue, will we find an area identical to the one where we discovered the bodies?"

Before he finished speaking.

Suddenly!

An astounded voice rang out, "Look over there!"

Everyone looked over, stunned.

On the higher ground at the right-front slope, there was a visibly charred area.

"Is there really?"

They instinctively gazed at the footprints on the ground, following them to the distant charred area!

"Did the traffickers head towards that area next?"

"Such an area wasn't seen coming up from the mountain, must be uncommon in Wuling Mountain. Following the traffickers' traces, we see two such areas in a short time."

"Does this have something to do with the traffickers?"

"..."

The officers were filled with more questions.

Sun Dewang signaled them to quiet down and whispered, "Don't think about that now; we can interrogate them once we catch the traffickers. We don't know what's ahead, could be traffickers up there; let's proceed cautiously."

"Alright."

The other officers nodded, their expressions turning serious and cautious as they carefully followed Sun Dewang up the slope.

Hundred meters...

Fifty meters...

...

The closer they got to the top, the slower they walked, pressing their bodies lower.

But they saw no shadows at the top, not even a single one, nor heard any human sounds, just the wind, rain, and occasional thunder.

"Are there really people ahead?"

A big question mark lingered in their minds.

With doubts, they finally reached a point where they could see the top if they stood straight.

They quickly stood straight.

They saw the top.

"?????"

Sun Dewang and the officers were stunned, eyes wide open in shock and disbelief.

On the slope, all around were charred and rigid bodies.

Most were intact bodies.

But some...

Missing arms or legs!

The missing limbs scattered by the corpses, indistinguishable whose they were.

Now they knew there were people, but they weren't alive.

They remembered what Sun Dewang said before coming over...

Indeed!

The traffickers were most likely all here!

Chapter 84: Is Lin Beichen Behind All This?!

A police officer murmured, "Were all these corpses struck dead by lightning?"

"..."

No one answered him.

The answer was obvious.

Sun Dewang and others scanned each charred body one by one, their eyes filled with shock and disbelief.

What on earth happened in this area?

What kind of event could strike so many people dead at once?

Ten flash strikes at once??

They could only think of this possibility, but found it hard to believe. What kind of weather or cloud could send down ten lightning strikes in such a small area?

Unbelievable!

Extremely unbelievable!

Sun Dewang thought, if only there were human traffickers alive to explain what happened at the scene.

With this thought, looking at the bodies on the ground, his eyes brightened. Surely not all the human traffickers perished, right?

Sun Dewang began counting the number of corpses.

"There are only twelve bodies here!"

He showed an excited and joyful smile, saying to the other officers, "We previously determined from the footprints that there were sixteen people, which means that four people were not struck by lightning."

"That's right!"

The other police officers also did a count.

At this moment, one officer said with mixed feelings, "Originally, the human traffickers were mighty against us, now we're the mighty ones."

"These human traffickers probably did too many bad things and got their retribution."

Another officer shook his head and said half-jokingly, "We had better hurry up and find these four people. If we are late, they might get struck by lightning too, and everything will become an unsolved mystery."

"Indeed."

Sun Dewang nodded, agreeing, "We should locate these four people quickly, and investigate the scene to see where they ran to."

After saying this, he began to move forward but suddenly paused.

Not only him, but other officers also did not move forward immediately.

They all had a huge question mark in their minds—

There won't be more lightning strikes in this area, right?

"Let's observe a bit more."

Sun Dewang and others looked up at the sky, after waiting for a while and seeing that there were no signs of lightning from the dark clouds overhead, they were relieved, thinking: It's the heavens doing justice, striking the bad guys!

They quickly investigated the site and soon found the correct direction to pursue among the chaotic footprints.

"Go!"

"Catch up!"

...

...

In the depths of Wuling Mountain.

The heavy rain had turned into moderate rain, pouring down on the wild grass growing wildly in the woods.

At this moment, the tall grass swayed.

An anxious voice sounded from the grass.

"Brother Zou, hang in there."

It was Sun Chao's voice.

In the grass, Sun Chao was walking in front, and behind him, two uninjured human traffickers were supporting Zou Huaide. Zou Huaide's face was pale, devoid of blood, his steps unsteady, and his consciousness was unclear.

Sun Chao's face was full of anxiety and helplessness.

Lost!

Completely lost!

From the moment Zou Huaide decided to go to the hospital first, as the only one with a somewhat clear mind, he became the navigator among the four.

At that time, going forward might lead them to Lin Beichen, going back...he did not dare, having just escaped from there.

Thinking, since neither forward nor backward was safe, he decided to head sideways into the woods, taking a small path to descend the mountain and reach the hospital.

The idea was good.

But...

Once he entered the woods, after walking for a while, he realized how ridiculously wrong he was.

Heavy rain obstructed his vision, dense grass blocked the path ahead, and tall ancient trees appeared indistinguishable.

The woods seemed like a maze to him!

Making him lose his sense of direction entirely.

Furthermore...

In this environment, even retracing his steps was impossible.

They could only rely on luck, hoping to find a way out.

However, this attempt...

led them to this point.

He felt as if he had been going in circles from the start.

"What should we do!"

"At this rate..."

"Brother Zou is definitely not going to survive!"

Sun Chao wasn't exactly compassionate.

Earlier, Zou Huaide had intended to kill him, and he now wished Zou Huaide would drop dead.

He only feared that without Zou Huaide, there would be no one to contact the boss, and he would lose his income.

At this moment, Zou Huaide's weak voice sounded.

"Chao...Chaozi, are we close to descending the mountain?"

Not only was Zou Huaide's consciousness unclear, even the two uninjured traffickers following Sun Chao did not know their current location.

Sun Chao thought, How the hell should I know?

But he replied firmly, "Almost there, Brother Zou, hold on, we're almost there!"

Before his words were finished.

Suddenly!

"Boom——!!!"

A massive thunderclap exploded.

Sun Chao and the others felt a shock in their hearts, and even the semi-conscious Zou Huaide suddenly woke up a bit, showing a face full of panic and fear.

Although lightning had struck earlier, it always seemed distant, unlike the thunder now.

It sounded as if it was right above their heads!

They cautiously looked up.

The clouds were no longer thick, thin arcs of lightning flashed in the sparse dark clouds.

"!!!!!"

Sun Chao and the others felt that a bolt of lightning was forming right above them, about to strike. Could Lin Beichen be following them, determined to kill them all?

Chapter 85: Is Lin Beichen Behind All This?_2

"Quick, get out of here!"

Sun Chao didn't have time to continue determining the direction. He thought, never mind where to head, just get out of this area first, and started running ahead with his head down.

The three people behind him hurriedly followed.

"Splash—!"

"Splash—!"

"..."

The chaotic and disorderly footsteps echoed all around.

The four were running with all their might.

But at this moment.

Suddenly!

The grass in the distance ahead rustled violently.

"Rustle—!!"

"Rustle—!!"

"..."

The rustling sound clearly reached the ears of Sun Chao and the others.

Someone?!

Their first reaction: Lin Beichen?!

The moment they thought Lin Beichen might step out from the grass in the next second...

Sun Chao and the other three felt an inexplicable weakness in their legs, they stopped, like they were nailed to the ground.

Their pounding hearts felt like they were going to jump out of their throats at this moment, and their breathing became difficult.

They stared intensely at the distant grass, their frightened eyes darting around crazily, their nerves so tense they could almost snap. What would they do if they really ran into Lin Beichen?

Fight to the death? With what?

Otherwise, kneel down and beg for mercy?

Would he let them go?

...

While they were lost in their thoughts.

Not only the grass in front of them, but the distant grass all around also started rustling.

The next second.

Several figures rushed out of the grass ahead, and out of the grass in the distance around them, other figures appeared one after another.

And they...

were Sun Dewang and a group of police officers.

When they were chasing the four, they suddenly saw four sneaky figures moving in the forest at the foot of the mountain.

If it had been an hour ago, when it was as dark as night, they might have hesitated and wondered if these four were their targets.

But...

Now the clouds had thinned, and a lot of sunlight was shining down on the ground.

The forest was already quite bright.

With the mini binoculars they carried, they could clearly see the four people and immediately recognized one of the human traffickers—Zou Huaide—from the highlighted information from the Xiaoqianmen precinct.

So, without any hesitation.

They quietly approached, afraid of alerting their prey, who might escape again using the complex forest terrain.

They aimed to take down the enemy in one move!

"Police!"

Sun Dewang raised his gun at Sun Chao and the others, and the officers around them did the same.

Pointed at by black gun barrels.

Sun Chao and the other three didn't feel scared or flustered but rather felt relieved.

It's the police!

Although surrounded, inexplicably, Sun Chao and the others felt a sense of survival after disaster.

It was unimaginable before that encountering the police would make them happy.

But at least for now, seeing that their pursuers weren't Lin Beichen, their suspended hearts finally settled, and instead of fear and panic, their hearts were filled with relief.

It's not Lin Beichen!

At least...

They wouldn't be struck dead by thunder!

After the emotional rollercoaster.

Already exhausted by the previous lightning storm, their mental state completely collapsed.

Now, to them, neither the police nor the black gun barrels were as terrifying as Lin Beichen!

And at this moment.

"Boom—!"

The sound of thunder rumbled again.

Sun Chao and the other three shivered, the brief moment of relaxation vanished, and their hearts tightened again, their breathing became difficult once more. Although it wasn't Lin Beichen, the lightning in the sky...

Just then, Sun Dewang's voice yelled out.

"You are surrounded, I advise you..."

"Officer, officer, I surrender, please protect me, take me out of this area quickly, I beg you!!"

Sun Chao's quick thinking sought the protection of the police.

In trouble? Look for the police!

He was lost, but the police shouldn't be, right?

Judging by the situation, it looked like they were caught, so it was better to be caught and leave here quickly...

To save his life!

Without waiting for Sun Dewang to finish, he smoothly raised his hands over his head and ran toward Sun Dewang.

The two people beside Zou Huaide were stunned for a moment, but quickly understood his meaning and followed suit.

"Officer, I surrender too!!"

"Arrest me, please, don't leave me here any longer!"

"..."

Seeing them running to surrender with their hands over their heads.

Not just Sun Dewang, all the officers were dumbfounded. What was this situation?

They originally thought the arrest process would be tense and full of confrontation, as the human traffickers were all vicious criminals, they couldn't be easily subdued, right?

But now...

They weren't playing by the rules?

Although stunned.

The officers' actions didn't falter, and they slowly closed in on Sun Chao and the others.

"Officer, I... I can't go on."

At this moment, Zou Huaide tried to lift his broken arm and shook it weakly, saying, "Please, take me to the hospital immediately."

Not just to get treatment, but also to leave here quickly.

At this point, Sun Dewang and the officers had completely subdued the four.

Sun Dewang glanced at his condition, then turned to one of the officers and said, "I remember you studied medicine before, right? Check on him. If it's serious, send him down for treatment first. He's a key figure in the trafficking ring and knows a lot of information. We can't let him die."

Chapter 86: Is Lin Beichen Behind All This?_3

"Okay."

The officer walked over to Zou Huaide's side, lifted his eyelids, checked his pupils, and observed the condition of his severed arm.

Then he walked back to Sun Dewang and said, "The injury looks serious, but the severed arm seems to have been struck by lightning. Most of the wound has already been cauterized, and a lot of bleeding stopped forcibly. Additionally, he used emergency methods to stop the bleeding, so there's no more bleeding at the moment. He shouldn't have any significant issues for now and can hold on until the larger team arrives and he can be sent to the hospital for treatment."

"Understood."

Sun Dewang nodded, glanced around the environment, and felt that the shelters and obstacles were too many, not suitable for staying long.

He then remembered that the group had emphasized their desire to be taken away from this place during their surrender. Though puzzled, he decided not to ask immediately and planned to inquire during the interrogation.

He waved his hand and said, "Let's go, take them back to the previous clearing and wait for the large team to join us. Then we'll take them back for interrogation."

The officers knew the place he referred to - the area where many charred bodies had been found.

The other officers controlled Sun Chao and the three others as they moved toward the clearing.

Sun Chao and the three others had adopted a nonchalant attitude, letting the police take them wherever they wanted, as long as it was away from that previous area.

But...

As they were taken closer to the so-called "clearing," they started to feel a familiar sensation, making their bodies shudder!

Why did it feel so familiar?

The area they had escaped from had left them deeply agitated, only thinking about running for their lives, not paying attention to the surroundings.

The path they were now walking seemed familiar, but they had no clear impressions of it.

"Patter—!"

"Patter—!"

"....."

Just then, a disorderly sound of footsteps echoed from afar.

Several figures came into view from a distance. It was the large team arriving for reinforcement, led by Xiao Peng and Wang Kai.

Sun Dewang quickly waved his hand, joyfully saying, "Captain Xiao, over here! We've captured four human traffickers, including Zou Huaide."

As he spoke, he and other officers quickened their pace, moving toward the large team.

Sun Chao glanced at the reinforcement team, his eyes flitting around, catching sight of the scene beside them.

The ground and trees...

Were blackened!

Suddenly, it dawned on him.

He knew why the sensation felt familiar.

Damn it, weren't they heading back to the area where almost all his brothers had been killed?

A full circle back again?!

Out of the wolf den and into the tiger's lair???

This can't be allowed!

He had barely managed to escape!

Sun Chao was overcome with panic, shouting loudly, "Officer, officer, please don't go forward, I beg you, please don't go forward!!!"

His voice was filled with urgency and terror.

Seeing his response...

Zou Huaide and the others instantly realized where the familiarity had come from, and each became even more terrified than Sun Chao, violently struggling despite initially accepting their fate calmly.

"I don't want to go forward anymore!!"

"We can't go ahead, please, don't take us forward!"

"....."

Cry after cry rose up.

Zou Huaide's inner shadows might have been the deepest among the surviving human traffickers. His already weak mental state crumbled completely.

"No... don't make me go forward again. I'll tell you everything you want to know, just don't make me go forward, I beg you!"

Zou Huaide nearly broke down. Correction, he actually broke into tears.

"Stop moving!"

"Don't struggle!"

"....."

The officers firmly controlled them again but were simultaneously baffled.

Such a strong reaction over this area? Even if it struck down so many people, wasn't it just an accident? There was no current thunderstorm, so what was the fuss about?

At that moment, a cop with a deep hatred for criminals grew extremely impatient, scolding, "You didn't want to stay where we captured you, and now you don't want to move forward. Are you seeking trouble for yourselves?!"

"If we move forward, the lightning will follow us again!!"

Zou Huaide's mental defenses had completely shattered, recalling the scene then, shouting frantically, "The first strike didn't kill us, then the second one, the third one will follow. It's that guy, no, no, it's Lin Beichen's doing, he is punishing us, no, he wants to kill us, he is killing us! Catch him, catch him and I'll be safe. Then I'll go wherever you want, just catch him, I beg you, I implore you!!"

"???????"

Not only Sun Dewang and the other officers but even Xiao Peng and Wang Kai approaching the group also heard Zou Huaide's words.

A collective bewilderment filled their faces.

Lightning chasing people for strikes?

Do those even sound like human words?

Moreover...

How did this involve Lin Beichen?

Chapter 87: Displaying Sagacity in Front of Others!

"Captain Xiao."

Sun Dewang and other officers saluted the arriving Xiao Peng.

Xiao Peng nodded, then looked at Zou Huaide, his expression turning stern as he shouted, "Zou Huaide, be honest with me. Stop your little tricks. Don't think that by pretending to be crazy you can escape the law's punishment! What does this have to do with Lin Beichen?"

Of course, he didn't believe what Zou Huaide was saying. Wasn't this all nonsense?

He thought that the reason Zou Huaide said such things was to make everyone think he was mentally unstable and thus receive a lighter sentence.

And with his words.

The other officers, after a moment of confusion, understood as well, looking at Zou Huaide with eyes filled with disgust and anger, instead of sympathy.

Still trying to be smart!

Truly incorrigible!

"Everything I'm saying is true!"

Zou Huaide's mind was broken, but he wasn't crazy. He immediately cried out for his innocence.

Sun Chao and the other two quickly chimed in.

"Officer, everything Zou said is true!"

"Yes, you have to believe us!"

"..."

They knew that if they didn't support Zou Huaide, the police wouldn't believe his words, and they would still be forcibly taken away.

This can't happen!

Absolutely can't!

Sun Chao was more straightforward, closing his eyes tightly and sticking out his neck, saying, "I'd rather die than take another step. Just shoot me here if you must!"

Zou Huaide and the other two nodded vigorously, firmly agreeing.

"Yes, we'd rather die here!"

"If you want us to die, give us a quick and dignified death!"

"..."

Seeing the four of them like this.

Xiao Peng and other officers were puzzled, wondering what was going on.

They'd rather die than move forward?

What kind of game were they playing?

But soon, they understood. These four must have agreed in advance that if they were caught, they would collectively pretend to be crazy at the first opportunity, right?

Xiao Peng's eyes narrowed. These human traffickers were indeed not simple.

He thought that their interrogation needed to begin immediately. The longer it was delayed, the more time they had to prepare.

"We can't give them such an opportunity!"

Xiao Peng immediately decided to conduct a surprise interrogation, formulating a plan in his mind.

He beckoned to the other officers, sneering, "Take them forward. I've lived for decades and I've never seen lightning strike someone. Today, I want to witness it, thanks to them!"

"Yes!"

The officers controlling Sun Chao and the other three smiled, thinking that Captain Xiao was quite humorous.

They had no worry about any lightning striking them.

Because they didn't believe it at all.

Sun Chao and the other three struggled desperately as they were forcefully moved forward, but it was all in vain. They were held tightly with no room for resistance.

"Stop, stop right now!!"

"Please, don't go any further!"

"Just shoot me now!"

"..."

They screamed at the top of their lungs.

As they neared the nightmare-like area, Sun Chao and his companions stopped struggling, closed their eyes in despair, and anxiously awaited their deaths, hating every policeman present.

Not believing them, huh?

Fine!

Then let's die together!

The thought of so many officers dying because of them brought them some anticipation.

And then.

They suddenly felt themselves stop.

Before they could figure out what was happening.

That irritating voice rang in their ears again.

"Can any of you tell me... where's this lightning that was supposed to strike you?"

Sun Chao and the others instinctively opened their eyes.

Xiao Peng stood before them with a stern face, a sneering smile on his lips.

And the officers standing next to him...

They were in the charred area!

Twelve charred bodies lay stiff on the ground, surrounded by officers from the forensic and technical departments conducting a detailed investigation of the scene.

Sun Chao and the others felt a sudden chill, their bodies shivering.

Back again?!

They instinctively wanted to flee.

But the next second.

They realized, why run? There was no lightning!

Where was the lightning?

Where was the lightning that was supposed to strike?

???

Sun Chao and the others looked dumbfounded at the sky, where not even a spark of an electrical arc could be seen among the thin clouds, let alone any lightning.

This lightning was too unreasonable!

Doing this...

Makes it seem like they were completely lying, right?

Seeing their silence.

Xiao Peng snorted coldly, ruthlessly exposing them, "Still dare to say you weren't lying?! I think you guys saw you were caught by us, so you tried to pin your accomplices' accidental deaths on Lin Beichen, trying to divert our attention to him as revenge!"

???

Sun Chao and the others were in tears, not knowing they had such mental processes!

They felt more wronged than Dou E!

Chasing lightning strikes, no one believes them!

Every word they said...

Taken as nonsense!

"Even if you want to pin something on Lin Beichen, at least come up with a reasonable story. Saying it's his trick that caused lightning to chase you... Do you think so little of us? Even if Lin Beichen were here, do you think we would believe this nonsense?"

Chapter 88: Show off Your Brilliance in Front of Others!_2

Xiao Peng was not usually a talkative person. The reason he spoke so much was because it was part of his interrogation plan.

From forcefully bringing them here to saying so much.

It was all part of the interrogation plan.

The goal was to expose their lies, guess their psychological activities and thoughts as much as possible, undermine their confidence, and disrupt their mental fortitude.

Then take advantage of the situation to strike...

Catch them off guard during the interrogation!

"Lin Beichen didn't show up because he didn't want to be discovered!"

Sun Chao retorted excitedly.

Just then, he suddenly figured it out. The lightning that had been chasing him didn't appear now, which could only mean that Lin Beichen was behind the scenes, controlling everything!

Seeing him with the police...

He decided to stop!

Lin Beichen didn't appear, but his presence was everywhere!

At that moment, Sun Chao was incredibly certain of his previous opinion: Lin Beichen was indeed a high-level person!

However, before he could say more.

Xiao Peng waved his hand directly, "Alright, alright."

Seeing Sun Chao's rising emotions.

He believed that his interrogation plan had begun to show results, so he probed, "Let me ask you, outside this area, there's another area where a charred corpse was struck by lightning. Was he your accomplice?"

"Yes."

Sun Chao thought Xiao Peng was starting to believe him and was asking questions to further confirm, so he cooperated fully.

"What's your accomplice's name?"

"Zhong Bai."

Xiao Peng nodded, confirming the name.

Zhong Bai's identity had been confirmed through DNA comparison by the technical department.

Seeing Sun Chao's cooperation.

He felt that his interrogation plan was working well.

The significant effect of the interrogation was likely due to his previous reasoning and guesses striking directly at Sun Chao's heart, throwing him off balance.

For a moment, he became even more confident in his previous reasoning and guesses, convinced that this was the truth!

At this moment, Sun Dewang suddenly asked, "Speaking of Zhong Bai's corpse, were you digging a pit to bury the body when we found you?"

"The pit wasn't dug by us."

Sun Chao shook his head, explaining, "When we got there, the pit was already there. The pit should have been dug by Lin Beichen. There was a big stone or a wooden stake there before, and Lin Beichen was sitting right next to it."

"..."

For a moment, not only Sun Dewang but also the other officers were at a loss for words. It seemed every sentence revolved around Lin Beichen. He was determined to act crazy and pin everything on Lin Beichen.

At this moment, a technical department officer came over and reported to Xiao Peng, "Captain Xiao, the identities of the twelve deceased at the scene have all been confirmed through DNA comparison."

"Hmm, not bad."

"But..."

"But what?"

"There are some new findings."

"What findings?"

"During the examination of this scene and the previous one, some hair and skin tissue fragments were found. DNA comparison showed a high match with some of the deceased, indicating they fell off as those individuals passed through the area. However..."

At this point, the technical officer's face showed a strange expression and continued, "However, there is one DNA sample that does not match any of the deceased at the scene, and this DNA was found at both scenes. By cross-referencing the DNA database, we confirmed that this DNA...comes from Lin Beichen."

"?"

Xiao Peng and the officers were stunned. Lin Beichen?

Beside them, Sun Chao grabbed onto this piece of information like a lifeline, eagerly saying, "See, officers, we weren't lying. Lin Beichen is no ordinary university student, he's an expert, a real expert! He wasn't missing; he was just not discovered!"

Xiao Peng and the officers looked at each other thoughtfully. Lin Beichen had appeared at both scenes?

Thinking about the recent series of lightning incidents...

They started to furrow their brows, a mix of surprise and confusion shining in their eyes.

Lightning strikes aren't usually this frequent. How come there's been an uptick recently, and why does Lin Beichen seem to be present at all these incidents?

Or perhaps...

Places where Lin Beichen appears are more prone to lightning strikes?

Thinking about this made their expressions quite odd.

Was it due to Lin Beichen's research on lightning?

If so, was he sacrificing himself for science?

Despite their wild speculations, they could not figure out the key connection and could only suspect it might be linked to Lin Beichen's scientific research.

But what kind of research could attract so much lightning?

They figured they should ask people from Imperial Capital University when they had the chance.

Something was definitely off!

However, they didn't believe Sun Chao's attempts to frame Lin Beichen, even though he appeared at both crime scenes. When the human traffickers were struck by lightning, Lin Beichen wasn't actually there. How could he be connected to this?

"Captain Xiao, I think we should continue this interrogation back at the station."

At this point, Sun Dewang pointed at Zou Huaide worriedly, "I don't think he can hold on any longer."

Xiao Peng looked over and saw that Zou Huaide was completely out of strength, barely standing with the help of the officers next to him, his head lolling and eyes rolling back.

"Hmm, alright."

With that, he quickly assigned the tasks.

As he was preparing to wrap up and lead Sun Chao and the others down the mountain.

Chapter 89: Show off Your Brilliance in Front of Others!_3

A ray of bright light shone into everyone's eyes, the warm feeling instantly spreading throughout the body.

Everyone unconsciously looked up.

The rain had mostly stopped, and the dark clouds had almost completely dispersed.

Gentle sunlight filtered down through the remaining thin wisps of dark clouds to the ground.

For a moment, the sunlight not only dispersed the clouds in the sky but also the shadows in everyone's hearts, making everyone feel much more relaxed.

And at that moment.

Many people noticed something strange at the horizon in the distance.

Above the thin wisps of dark clouds, amid the mist, there was a large expanse of vague and faintly visible light and shadows, like a projection directly cast into the air, indistinct and elusive, hidden within the sea of clouds.

"What's going on over there?"

"Did you see that? Over there, it's so strange."

"..."

Murmurs rose among the investigating police officers at the scene.

Hearing this, others also unconsciously looked over, attracted by the somewhat unusual sight at the horizon, unable to tear their gaze away for a moment.

At that precise moment, a thin cloud blocking the sun drifted away.

Sunlight scattered towards the sea of clouds.

The swirling mist gradually thinned, and the vague, faint light and shadows became much clearer and more distinct.

Through the vast mist, the scene within the light and shadows could be vaguely discerned.

Rather than simply light and shadows, it looked more like a 3D projection!

It was a forest!

The sky served as the ground!

Trees rooted in the golden sunlight, growing in the void.

"Is this..."

"A mirage??"

A policeman paused his work, exclaiming in surprise.

No sooner had he spoken.

The crime scene became abuzz with chatter.

"It really is a mirage!"

"So this is a mirage? I had only seen it in videos before, never thought I'd see it in person while out on a case. How lucky!"

"Is this mirage a forest?"

"This forest feels so mysterious for some reason!"

"..."

As they talked, the light and shadows became even clearer and more distinct.

At this moment, the sunlight was even more brilliant.

Meanwhile.

In the light and shadows.

A point of dazzling light appeared directly above, like a second sun in the sky at that moment.

Golden light scattered down from that brilliant point in beams, and amidst the beams, floating light particles fluttered down, sprinkling onto the forest.

"This is too... too amazing, isn't it?"

"It looks so dreamlike."

"..."

Exclamations of amazement arose.

Everyone present was deeply captivated by the sudden change within the mirage.

Many of them took out their phones to start recording.

At this moment, the thin mist grew even thinner.

Though the mirage did not become any clearer or more distinct.

But...

As they watched, they suddenly noticed a blurry dark figure behind the mist.

"Huh?"

Everyone was stunned; the dark figure looked so much like a person!

Could it be...

There's someone in the mirage?

Under their astonished gazes.

The thin mist quickly thinned to a mere layer, like early morning fog.

The dark figure also became clearer and more visible.

It was indeed a human figure!

The figure was very blurry, nothing could be seen clearly, only a rough outline, seemingly sitting cross-legged, and in front of it, something seemed to be standing upright.

Surrounded by swirling mist, it was hard to tell if it was sitting in the forest or on a cloud.

Above its head, brilliant golden light shone like strands of holy light!

Floating light particles fell around it.

Like the Exiled Immortal sitting cross-legged, with Purple Qi coming from the east.

Chapter 90: Exposed to the Entire Network!

"..."

Silence fell over the scene for a brief moment.

A pin could be heard dropping!

Everyone was deeply shocked by the scene before their eyes. At that moment, they couldn't distinguish between reality and illusion, unsure whether they were witnessing a sea mirage or the legendary Immortal Realm!

The next moment, the site instantly erupted.

"It's really a person!"

"There's a person in the sea mirage, and it's just one person?"

"Who is he? He looks so mysterious."

"Just a moment ago, I thought I saw an immortal."

"Is this person meditating? It looks like it."

"I wonder where this sea mirage scene is; if we get a chance to see this person, it would be great to find out what kind of person he is."

"I guess this person doesn't even know he's become the protagonist in the sea mirage, right?"

"Why is he meditating?"

"..."

Seeing such a scene, anyone would feel extremely excited; after all, sea mirages are rare.

Wang Kai felt the same way.

But amidst his excitement, he also felt a sense of doubt, which originated from the figure in the sea mirage.

Why does it feel so familiar?

And not just Wang Kai, many police officers from Xiao Qianmen station also had this feeling, puzzled by this inexplicable sense of familiarity.

Suddenly, an excited and urgent voice rang out.

"This is Lin Beichen, he's Lin Beichen! I told you he's an expert! He really is an expert!!!"

It was Sun Chao's voice!

The voice was so loud that it drowned out the murmuring of others.

It resounded throughout the scene.

This figure had left a deep impression on him.

The figure in the sea mirage...

At the first glance, it perfectly matched the image in his memory, of the figure sitting cross-legged, struck by lightning from the sky, yet unharmed!

Upon hearing this, Xiao Peng and the other police officers from Wuling Mountain station were speechless, paying no attention to what Sun Chao said, thinking to themselves, this guy is really persistent, taking any opportunity to insert himself. With such a blurry figure... you could claim it's Lin Beichen or even yourself hanging up there, and who could argue?

None of these people had seen Lin Beichen in reality.

But the police officers from Xiao Qianmen station who did know Lin Beichen, upon hearing Sun Chao's words, increasingly felt it really did seem somewhat alike!

Especially Wang Kai and those officers who had felt that inexplicable familiarity.

They suddenly understood.

They knew where that feeling of familiarity came from—

Lin Beichen!

However, the figure was so blurry that they couldn't make out any details.

In an instant, scenes of interaction with Lin Beichen flashed through their minds like slides.

Gradually, they found that the clear impression of Lin Beichen in their minds suddenly became blurry, combined with the mysterious circumstances surrounding him, they couldn't help but feel that Lin Beichen was like a figure covered by a veil of darkness.

Unfathomable!

...

...

The sea mirage appeared on the horizon, and it wasn't just seen by the police in Wuling Mountain's depths.

In the Wuling Mountain Scenic Area, there were also many tourists who saw the sea mirage first-hand; as word spread, the entire scenic area soon knew.

At this moment, each tourist looked like they were curing cervical disease, craning their necks, looking up at the sky, faces full of excitement and curiosity.

"A sea mirage! Aren't sea mirages generally found on the sea or desert? How come it's here in the mountains?"

"I initially thought it was unlucky, coming to Wuling Mountain in such bad weather, but this surprise makes it worth it!"

"My first time seeing a sea mirage, it's so magical. Watching videos and photos doesn't capture this magic at all!"

"What scene does this sea mirage reflect?"

"Was that golden scenery in the sky or in the sea mirage?"

"..."

At this moment, someone in the crowd suddenly said, "Is it possible that this isn't a sea mirage, but a scene from another space? Considering that many sea mirages can't be found in reality, and the scientific explanations are very weak, this possibility isn't out of the question."

Many people expressed their views on this statement.

"You mean scenes from another dimension?"

"Not a sea mirage, but spatial disarray, causing real scenes from another dimension to appear in ours?"

"..."

However, their ideas were too fantastical.

They didn't garner much agreement.

Soon, they were drowned out by the more heated discussions of the crowd.

"The forest looks quite large, why is there only one person inside?"

"Who is that person?"

"He's just sitting there, what is he doing?"

"..."

Compared to the amazement of seeing the sea mirage, tourists were more curious about the figure inside.

Just as their discussion heated up.

Suddenly!

The figure sitting cross-legged in the sea mirage moved slightly, seemingly raising a hand.

"It moved, it moved!"

"It really is a person! Initially, I thought it was a statue because it didn't move!"

"It looked like he raised his hand, what is he doing?"

"..."

The slight movement of the figure sparked heated discussion among the tourists.

Under their curious and astonished gazes.

The next second.