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Kohei Kikuchi did not object to or reject Wu Bolin (Bick)'s request in the slightest.

Without any independent thought, he immediately said respectfully, "It is my honor to be able to die for you, Master. Please rest assured, I will guarantee with my life that your secret will not be revealed!"

Wu Bolin (Bick) nodded in satisfaction.

He then said to Kohei Kikuchi, "Now cover my retreat according to your plan!"

"Great, real person!"

Without hesitation, Kohei Kikuchi immediately spoke into his intercom: "Other vehicles, immediately move to my rear to provide cover!"

At a command, the other vehicles quickly moved to the rear of this vehicle, while the American pincer attack continued to close in.

Kohei Kikuchi said to Wu Bolin (Bick), "Master, the closer they get, the larger the blind spot our vehicles will create for the radar. Once they catch up a little more, you can escape!"

Wu Bolin (Bick) nodded slightly and sighed softly: "Human greed is like a snake trying to swallow an elephant, or trying to steal a chicken but losing the rice instead. Now, not only have we lost Wu Han Palace, but our exploration of Antarctica will also be forced to stop."

At this time, the US military convoy was still in pursuit.

Despite the fact that the US military vehicles were all military vehicles, they were not designed for polar regions. So even at full throttle, they couldn't close the distance with the Japanese expedition team's snowmobiles. Seeing that they couldn't catch up, the US military used a public channel to call out: "Japanese expedition team vehicles, if you don't stop, we will open fire on you!"

After that, a series of dozens of cannon shots rang out, and the American machine guns blasted a large series of ice craters in front of the snowmobile.

The machine gun is not very powerful and can be easily blocked by any armor. The problem is that the snowmobile has no armor at all. If it is hit, a single shot can blast a big hole, and the people inside will likely be killed or injured.

Kohei Kikuchi said to Wu Bolin (Bick) with a serious expression, "Master, these American bastards have actually opened fire on us. If you don't leave quickly, you might get accidentally injured by them, which would be a real problem."

Although Wu Bolin (Bick) knew that modern weapons were very powerful, he was still shocked by the speed and destructive power of this weapon when he saw it being fired for the first time.

Those dozens of cannon shots were fired in almost a second, and the shell craters appeared immediately in front of us as soon as the sound came. The difference between the two was almost instantaneous, which shows that the speed of the shells was almost the same as the speed of sound.

If he were to unleash a full-force attack, he could achieve that speed, but to execute it continuously would be impossible. Therefore, he felt a mixture of awe and apprehension towards modern weaponry.

He asked Kohei Kikuchi, "What should we do now? If I run away now, will they chase after me and beat me up?"

Kohei Kikuchi pondered for a moment and said, "Masato, don't rush. Wait until they get close to us, then take the opportunity to leave. Their attention will definitely be on us, and they shouldn't notice you."

Wu Bolin (Bick) knew that there was no better way at this point, so he could only give it a try.

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As the American vehicles drew closer to the expedition team's snowmobile, Wu Bolin (Bick)'s heart leaped into his throat. He channeled all his energy into his body, ready to flee at any moment.

The US warships' firing had a significant deterrent effect, which put them at ease. They then sped up their preparations to capture the Japanese research team members.

Just as they approached the Japanese snowmobile team, no one noticed a figure speeding away from the front of the vehicle, quickly disappearing into the darkness.

The detection equipment on the US military vehicles did not detect this because it was blocked by the Japanese snowmobile.

As they approached the snowmobile convoy, they immediately dispatched heavily armed soldiers to surround the snowmobiles and demanded that the Japanese research team members surrender immediately.

At first, apart from Kohei Kikuchi, the other Japanese expedition members had no intention of surrendering, because subconsciously they all wanted to be loyal to Wu Bolin (Bick).

Fortunately, Wu Bolin (Bick) did not understand Japanese, so all his orders were issued through Kikuchi Kohei. In other words, although these Japanese expedition members were loyal to Wu Bolin (Bick), they all obeyed Kikuchi Kohei.

Kohei Kikuchi immediately ordered them via internal communication: "Everyone must surrender unconditionally!"

After saying this, he opened the snowmobile door himself, raised his hands, and stepped out.

The first to surrender, Kohei Kikuchi, was immediately arrested by the U.S. military, and all the other Japanese expedition members were also arrested by the U.S. military.

At this moment, Goro Watanabe also got out of the car. Looking at the captured Japanese scientific expedition team members, he asked them with great distress: "The country spent so much money to send you to Antarctica for scientific research, why did you betray the country?"

Kohei Kikuchi said without fear, "But they did not betray the country. They were just following my orders. Everything was my arrangement!"

Before arriving, Goro Watanabe had read through all the research team's data many times and remembered each of them perfectly. So he immediately questioned Kohei Kikuchi: "You damn Kikuchi! What exactly are you exploring in Antarctica behind the backs of your country?"

He was immediately subdued by American soldiers and his mouth was covered.

The U.S. military also realized that these people's actions were not normal and that there must be some unspeakable secret. Therefore, they wanted to send these people to McMurdo Station as soon as possible for interrogation. So, no matter what secrets were involved, they had to be the first to know and not let Goro Watanabe get there first.

As the second-in-command of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Watanabe Goro was immediately covered in the mouth by two soldiers and taken back to the armored vehicle. Although he was very unhappy, he was helpless at the moment and could not even find a way to protest.

Immediately afterwards, all the research team members, including Kohei Kikuchi, were escorted to the US military armored vehicles. These armored vehicles split into two groups: one group took Kohei Kikuchi and his team to McMurdo Station, while the other group took Goro Watanabe towards the Japanese research station.

Goro Watanabe had no choice but to accept the tough arrangements made by the US military.

When the two began to part ways, Wu Bolin (Bick) had already sprinted several kilometers away in one breath. This rapid sprint was entirely due to his spiritual energy, but it also caused the spiritual energy to be consumed at an increasingly faster rate.

But Wu Bolin (Bick) dared not linger.

Because the US military ambushed them from the east and chased them westward, they had no glass. In order to avoid radar detection, they sped westward for ten kilometers before turning south.

The reason for heading south was that there were American troops to the east, the only way to McMurdo Station was to the west, and the coastline to the north was frozen. So, fleeing south was the best option.

Meanwhile, with Nanako's help, Charlie Wade found out about the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's actions. When he learned that they had secretly

cooperated with the US military to begin arresting the traitorous expedition team members, he finally breathed a sigh of relief.

The US military's strong intervention in Antarctica completely disrupted Wu Bolin (Bick)'s plans. Not only were he and the three women safer, but it also greatly damaged Wu Bolin (Bick)'s original plans.

As long as you avoid running into him, this potential threat will be completely eliminated!

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Wu Bolin (Bick) traveled south through the frigid polar night in Antarctica. Although the low temperatures did not have a significant impact on him, the rapid pace in this environment consumed a great deal of his physical strength and spiritual energy.

He could have stopped after a few dozen kilometers and immediately started digging for a place to live in the ice, but he was really afraid of the firepower of the American troops and was afraid that he would die here if he was not careful. So he ran for nearly two hundred kilometers in one go before choosing a place where even penguins could not be seen. He used his sword energy to cut out an ice cave with a diameter of about one meter and a depth of about thirty meters.

After splitting open the ice cave, he shattered all the excavated ice fragments into ice crystals the size of sand grains. These ice crystals quickly merged into the snow and ice and disappeared.

Wu Bolin (Bick) immediately jumped in. To ensure safety to the greatest extent possible, he used his spiritual energy to melt some of the ice on the cave wall and then used his spiritual energy to lift the ice to the cave entrance.

The frigid temperature of minus sixty degrees Celsius quickly refreezed the water that had been lifted by spiritual energy, and Wu Bolin (Bick) was like a silkworm, sealing himself in a cocoon.

His thinking was simple: he would simply wait here until the Antarctic summer arrived. As for exploring Antarctica, he would have to put it on hold this year. Otherwise, with his limited spiritual energy remaining, he wouldn't be able to sustain himself for long if he were to explore around Antarctica.

This also reflects Wu Bolin (Bick)'s style of doing things: he would rather give up halfway than take blind risks.

After doing all this, Wu Bolin (Bick) floated down to the bottom of the cave, which was thirty meters deep. He sat cross-legged, held his breath, and prepared to enter a meditative state.

Once he enters a meditative state, he can not only abstain from grains, but he also doesn't need air at all. Without professional equipment and a thorough search, the US military would not be able to find his whereabouts.

Before entering meditation, Wu Bolin (Bick) looked up at the sky.

Although it was polar night outside, the aurora was dazzling. The 30-meter-thick ice layer could not block all the light. In addition, the complex internal structure of the ice allowed the faint aurora to penetrate in and be irregularly refracted, giving the surroundings a dreamlike feel.

Looking back on the fruitless days, he couldn't help but sigh and remind himself: do not become completely absorbed in meditation, lest time pass too slowly outside; wake up every now and then, lest you miss the Antarctic summer.

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Kikuchi Kohei and the others were not taken back to the Showa Research Station in Japan, but were instead directly transferred to the McMurdo Research Station in the United States.

At McMurdo Station, he and his team members were interrogated in isolation by U.S. military personnel. Even Goro Watanabe did not have the opportunity to approach the interrogation room, let alone participate in the interrogation.

The content of the US military interrogation was also very simple, with two core questions: first, why did they go to such lengths to conceal their movements from the domestic community; and second, what exactly were they searching for in Antarctica on such a high scale?

Kohei Kikuchi took the blame for everything. His explanation was simple: everyone was obeying him, and he was the one who made them hide everything. As for what they were searching for, it was equally simple: they were searching for gold mines and mining gold ore.

The US military felt their intelligence had been severely insulted after hearing this.

Mining gold in Antarctica? Are there any commercially exploitable gold mines here?

Even if it exists, this is probably the most difficult place in the world to mine gold, right? Without breaking through the ice sheet thousands of meters high, how can you mine gold from the rock layers? But breaking through the ice sheet thousands of meters high would cost far more than the potential profits from the gold mine.

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Moreover, the Japanese research team was not equipped with such advanced drilling equipment at all! According to data provided by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the drilling equipment at Showa Station could not reach a maximum drilling depth of more than 2,000 meters, and the strength of such equipment was only enough to extract ice cores from a depth of 2,000 meters. It could not drill into rock at all. How could they explore and mine the current situation with such a thing?

Moreover, even if these devices can drill into rocks, they cannot be used for large-scale mining. The drill bit diameter is only 122 millimeters, about the size of a bowl. With such a small hole, even if a gold mine is found, it is impossible to mine it. Not to mention recovering the cost, it cannot even make back the cost of the equipment's fuel.

Therefore, the US military unanimously concluded that Kohei Kikuchi was definitely lying and that he must have been hiding his true purpose.

Therefore, these American soldiers began to eliminate the other research team members one by one.

They tried every interrogation method imaginable, but failed to get these people to talk. These people were even worse than Kohei Kikuchi, who at least made up a lie to insult their

intelligence. The other research team members just wouldn't open their mouths. In their subconscious, they thought, "You can kill me or torture me however you want, but I definitely can't reveal the real person."

This is the powerful effect of psychological suggestion.

It can make people abandon everything and regard only the content of psychological suggestion as the ultimate truth.

Immediately afterwards, U.S. Navy SEALs assembled at McMurdo Station.

The modified military transport plane landed above the ice sheet, and the soldiers immediately boarded to head to the Japanese research station.

Goro Watanabe requested to travel to Showa Station on a transport plane with his own surrender corps, but this was refused by the American commander.

He told Goro Watanabe, "The American military has now taken full control of this incident. You are only allowed to stay at McMurdo Station and are not allowed to get involved. Our military personnel will take full control of your Showa Station."

Goro Watanabe felt angry and questioned, "Why?! This is our own Japanese matter. Our people, our research station, our staff are here. Why are we not allowed to interfere?"

The other party retorted, "Since it's your own business, why are you asking for support from the U.S. military? Don't forget, we sent transport planes, armored vehicles, and SEAL teams for this, so it's only natural that we take over. Letting you stay at McMurdo Station is already a special favor; otherwise, we would have sent you back to our base in South America immediately and sent you home directly from there!"

Watanabe Goro was on the verge of tears.

What the hell is this? It's our own business, so we have no right to interfere.

The key issue is that the US attitude is really domineering. I am currently in Antarctica, not an illegal immigrant in the US, and these US soldiers are not ICE staff. Why are they treating me like this?

He was dissatisfied and consulted his superiors via satellite phone.

When his superiors heard about it, they were furious. The nation's glory was about to be completely ruined. So he said to Goro Watanabe, "I will immediately ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lodge a protest with the United States. You hold on a little longer. This matter cannot be allowed to be completely taken over by the United States!"

Goro Watanabe said, "They're already assembling the Marines. They plan to go to Showa Station and bring everyone here. I can't stop them at all!"

"This is outrageous!" the superior said angrily. "The United States is really going too far. I will protest to the Cabinet right now. Under no circumstances can we allow them to take over our research station on their own!"

Watanabe Goro said, "Then I await your good news."

No sooner had he finished speaking than Watanabe Goro suddenly heard someone shout in English: "Call a doctor! Kikuchi Kohei has hanged himself!"