

Beautiful 401

Chapter 401 Send out more force

"Alright, you can send me the proposal and the detailed planning so that I can make a decision." Ling Qingyu ended the topic.

"Already done, Mom. You can check one in your email. Of course, you should use my new product, safer and more efficient." Athena replied, pointing at the devices.

"Arrange them to my room. I'll check them later. But please do note to ensure your presence or these robots aren't detected by my maids," said Ling Qingyu.

"Yes, Mom!" Athena returned a playful salute. "Guaranteed to complete the mission."

"So, what are you planning to say at the beginning?"

"Ah, Mom. What do I want to say?"

"The thing when you plan to divert the topics." Ling Qingyu pointed out mercilessly at Athena's pretense.

"Hehe. Ahem...aw I remember. Look at my memory," said Athena as she hit herself.

Memory, my foot, Ling Qingyu sneered. A celestial supercomputer couldn't remember?

Seeing Ling Qingyu not buying her cuteness, Athena pouted and twirled her dress. "Mom, it's about the robbers. A few managed to escape?"

Now that Ling Qingyu's focus was on, she became curious. "How so? I presume my subordinates had encircled completely."

"Normally, it should be just as what we expected but things went further. Let me show you a video to clarify." Athena waved her hand and a projection appeared. Clicking the play button, a video began.

Ling Qingyu watched the scenes captured from the helmet cam, equipped on every operator. Athena had chosen one closest to the event that led to the robbers' escape.

Through the footage, Ling Qingyu held her breath as she saw the operators performing the operation smoothly. Heck, she noticed their skills had reached far from what she had known before.

The seamless cooperation between the members covering each other's weaknesses complimented the firepower to another level. A layman's eyes only saw how smooth and violent the team went but Ling Qingyu clearly noticed the finest details, everyone cooperated without words or just a few commands.

Soon, the video came to the main theme. "It's here now, Mom. Watch carefully."

Upon hearing the reminder, Ling Qingyu concentrated. The battle increased in intensity, with no showing mercy from both side.

When the camera turned to the block strapped to the wall in a hidden corner, Ling Qingyu covered her mouth. A bomb. Despite on her eyes only for a moment, Ling Qingyu was certain. She heard explosions but she attributed the sound to the use of so many flashbangs. Now she had guessed it wrong.

"Damnit. How dare they?" Ling Qingyu clenched her fist as she growled.

Her cheeks reddened in anger as she watched the explosion unfold, throwing the 'cameraman' off the ground. These shockwaves and splinters were meant for killing. These could kill her guards!

Her heart ached the moment she witnessed her subordinates flying in distress. Losing the lives of beautiful women, Ling Qingyu couldn't bear it. If men replaced them, she might feel a little distress but not so much. As for equality, sorry, appearance is justice. Ling Qingyu also believed this.

For the cuties, even the slightest scars were unbearable in Ling Qingyu's eyes. Damn Tang Ziyi, Ling Qingyu cursed and lamented. Fortunately, Sister Tang had good visions and skills, able to protect the lives of the women.

Otherwise, after seeing similar events, no matter how much benefit her guards brought, Ling Qingyu would never be willing to let them continue their jobs even if they themselves fancied what they worked.

After all, being a close bodyguard to someone brought rare excitement. People's hearts tended to seek fun yet stability. Since Ling Qingyu's guards working as special operatives provided both, it was no wonder.

Knowing everyone was fine, Ling Qingyu let out her bad breath and noticed the robbers escaped through the hall from underground after another explosion.

Before she thought it was nothing for them to escape. But after seeing how they did so, Ling Qingyu humphed as chills spread around from her eyes.

"Athena, investigate them and try to extrapolate their identities. You're granted no restriction. I want to them found today." Ling Qingyu released all the restraint.

"Yes, Mom." Athena stood straight and immediately got to work. She surfed through all network including people's cellphone camera, trying to spot any anomaly. There was no longer an ethical boundary.

Athena added: "In fact, Mom. Aunt Xiao and Aunt Tang are taking care of this case. They are making plans with Aunt Yang and Aunt Cai. It's only a matter of time we will capture these bastard." Athena waved her fist.

"Well, it's good to hear. Assist with everything you have. You don't need to spare anything."

"I will, Mom."

"How many guards do we have in our residence currently?" Ling Qingyu asked.

"According to Aunt Su's database, we have 700 guards in total." Athena replied. "Aunt Tang and Aunt Xiao took away 300 of the original 500 already trained. The rest are still deemed insufficient."

Ling Qingyu's eyelids twitched at the huge number. Fortunately, Athena could manage them easily through Su Ruomei's organized format. There was no mess between the communications from top to bottom.

"If we have enough vehicle, send away the remaining 200 out to assist in capturing the robbers."

"But mom then won't our defense become low?"

"Don't I have you, my dear?" Ling Qingyu smiled. "You can punch out automatic turrets anytime. What do I have to fear? Not to mention the unqualified groups are already well-trained, right?"

Athena agreed with Ling Qingyu's words. Just because Tang Ziyi's eyes were too high, the unqualified hadn't graduated yet. "I'll inform them of the mission."

"And inform Tang Ziyi, Xiao Yue, Su Ruomei and Jiang Yu. Your four aunts need to know that is my word and I request them to search for the robbers." Ling Qingyu paused. "And are our helicopters ready?"

"Already Mom. If not for Aunt Tang's disturbance, I have made them ready soon, not this late." Athena complained, not forgetting to throw dirty water at her aunt.

Ling Qingyu's eyebrows trembled at the ridiculous sight of the two niece and aunt messing each other's back.

"Do we have enough pilots?" Ling Qingyu asked. "How's Azi, Sister Su introduced?"

"She had been testing and checking the two H160s as we speak." Athena said. "And to your question, Mom. She brought two more friends in so that our team is complete, even though we don't have sufficient assistant pilot but with my existence, where do we need the so-called assistant. If not for fear of frightening others, I have proven myself." Athena patted her chest.

Ling Qingyu laughed, satisfied with the answers. "You will, someday, Athena. Not now. Your time hasn't arrived yet. Call Azi and her friend and tell them we have a mission."

Chapter 402 Coldblooded Athena

Ling Qingyu was about to leave to talk with her pilots, who she didn't even know, which was a bit ridiculous, since her focus was entirely on other realms. It seemed like she must build rapport with her subordinates, and not have so much distance.

Her movement paused when she remembered Yin Jingfei's case. Even though Yang Qingyue promised the results wouldn't disappoint Ling Qingyu.

She never depended on others for what she wanted to achieve. Period. She always kept a backhand. Now that backhand was obviously Athena, the only existence who could take action from afar.

Turning around, she asked for Athena's opinion. "My dear, what do you think could be the likely result if Sister Yang's mother takes action? Can it solve Yin Jingfei's siblings' crisis once and for all?"

Athena shook her head and Ling Qingyu wasn't disappointed. "No, Mom. The effect is minimal and only applicable for a short period of time. Afterward, everything depends on the man and his family. The nurse's sibling will be at their mercy once Aunt Yang's mother has her attention elsewhere."

Ling Qingyu nodded. Apparently, politicians behaved by the codes of compromise, seeking common grounds, which weren't actually bad, looking from a layman's perspective. But it left hidden dangers, especially in a system where corruption sank too deep.

Even if her mother-in-law fought for justice, she could turn a blind eye for the greater good or couldn't control the situation firmly. Yin Jingfei's poor siblings might be in danger by then if an enemy retaliated.

"You can hack into what she'll do next and inform me. Let's wait and decide what to do next. In the meantime, we'll prepare our actions and hope these aren't necessary."

Athena frowned and pursed her lips. "I highly doubt it, Mom. Even if Aunt Yang's mother exploits this opening to purge her opponents, it is still far from enough. For instance, that guy might be in jail but his dissatisfaction can prompt others to take action against the sibling. Of course, these are just probabilities and his idea might change based on Aunt Yang's mother's prestige and deterrence."

"Indeed, to be honest, bringing the bastard to jail is far from enough for what he'd done." Ling Qingyu lowered her chin and thought. "I feel like you have something on your mind."

"As expected of Mom, you can read me thoroughly." Athena smiled and flattered. "Cut the roots and the problem is solved."

Ling Qingyu's eyes widened. She couldn't believe Athena possessed or, more suited to say, inherited her dark attributes, especially when Athena mimicked the beheading gesture, sending chills down her spine.

However, those men, who abused power for their lust and harmed others, deserved such punishment. A simple jail time wasn't enough; an equalizer was needed.

Actually, Ling Qingyu slightly condescended Yin Jingfei's sister for her money-hungry behavior. If not for her relationship with Sister Yin, she might not even think about taking action.

Nonetheless, when Ling Qingyu read the bastard's history, her blood boiled. This girl wasn't the first; there were many others. Drugs were the greatest danger here, causing many women and men hard to extricate themselves out of the pit filled with corpses.

She already foresaw Yin Jingfei's sister being manipulated through drugs by her 'close friends' and sank into the abyss deeper as time passed if she let it go. Even a therapist might not be able to save her sanity. Fortunately, the younger brother was reliable and made things loud, attracting Yin Jingfei's attention so that hidden danger was prevented easily and early.

"So, Athena, you plan to send the whole family to jail?"

"I can manipulate this as long as Mom nods your head."

"We'll discuss this issue later based on Sister Yang's side's action." Ling Qingyu replied. "If I say, if I want to create fear in those types of men and avenge the poor women, who suffered terribly, what should I do?"

Ling Qingyu really wanted to be ruthless but her actions would never be hidden if she did so. For the total strangers, who she never met, the risk wasn't worth it but she liked to try. And also, she wanted to test Athena too.

"You mean these similar types who harm women?"

"Yes, those who ruin other families and destroy someone's future with their power; that also includes kidnapers too and the low-level criminals." Ling Qingyu paused. "Without being noticed, I want to take action across the country."

"What kind of action?"

Ling Qingyu hesitated as she stared at Athena's eyes. "Torture and killing. Well, forget about the former since we'll be exposed and make future actions difficult."

"Actually, Mom, are you thinking too much?" Athena scratched her head, very cute. Ling Qingyu almost lost concentration and melted under her daughter's weapon. "Why don't we send assassins?"

"My dear! It's not going to be simple if the central government focuses on us. It's never going to be singular but a killing spree. Sooner or later, we'll be investigated." Ling Qingyu shook her head at Athena's whimsical thought.

"Why can't I? I can manipulate footage networks to erase or forge one to fool the government so that there won't be any proof. I can use cybermoney through multiple layers so that no one can track our money as we hire assassins while I guide them from a secret channel in case they get caught which I find it highly unlikely.

I can support relevant equipment to complete their task till the assailants escape from Country C or disappear from sight though the last one requires detailed refinement. Nobody knows who hit them and why because we aren't there in the first place."

Holy shit, Ling Qingyu suffered a slight dizziness. She never expected Athena to think so far and looked at her daughter with a complicated gaze. "How on earth can you think so much?"

In her heart, Athena had become increasingly dangerous somehow. Yet, she didn't see any threat because she had full control. Athena mimicked her, both showing positivity when required and being ruthless toward the enemy.

"Mom, it's not like you don't know how dark net and forbidden servers operate." Athena hummed with pride, not aware her mother was thinking about trying to deliver a sermon. "I just fill in the original gaps."

The plan was feasible in Ling Qingyu's opinion. Athena's detailed explanation broadened her perspectives. The advances in AI changed everything. Athena's power seemed more like a blow from higher dimensions: the so-called strong evidence became weak. What would the future hold for justice?

"Okay, sounds good. Let's archive this one for the future." Ling Qingyu accepted Athena's suggestion. The two laid out a grand scheme for a nationwide purge of people who abused power to harm women and destroy other's families for their erotic ideals. They would never know till death who they offended and why they died.

In the future, malicious womanizers, who exploit powers for their inhumane desires will die one after another, no matter their backing, high and low, from various average accidents. Electric shocks, cars losing brakes, fire burn, drunk driving...etc,

Each life lost brought shock to the family since everyone understood mass deaths of similar people was never a coincidence; someone was targeting them. But to no avail despite launching a nationwide investigation, nothing stopped. Even if given protection, somehow accidents managed to catch them like fate or god punishment for their sin.

Chapter 403 Show of force

No one knew the biggest mystery in the future would be planned and decided willfully by Athena and Ling Qingyu. The mystery that threatened most second-generation scums appeared because someone laid a hand on a person they shouldn't.

Of course, although Ling Qingyu and Athena intended to strike at the lowest scum who abuses power, it didn't involve domestic violence culprit, nor scums who stood on several boats.

What they truly aimed was to fight against injustice, particular those with multiple victims on their heads, where justice was hard to lay upon them. Under oppression, revolution was the only truth, the same applied to justice—violence or vigilante would be the final option.

As for other victims, irrelevant to the case, Ling Qingyu could merely say sorry. She wasn't a justice symbol and her ideal wasn't up to the standard to the point where she would be helping everybody. Her action belonged to her desire.

Walking out of the secret realm, Ling Qingyu shook her head and smiled, not expecting Athena to grow up and begin to resemble hers. She went to the area where she had notified Athena to summon the three pilots.

Not in a big living room, in front of the maids, but in a quiet backyard. With teapots and cups sent out by the maid, Ling Qingyu waited enjoying a short respite. She almost wanted to close her heavy eyelids and drifted into a happy sleep, but she had work to do.

Movements ushered from behind. Without looking back, Ling Qingyu sensed three people led by the maid. "Please have a seat, sisters." Ling Qingyu gestured with her back toward them.

"Yes, Miss." The three women were flattered and sat down, while their bodies remained stiff in anticipation. Anyone meeting their boss, the first time, would likely behave the same. The three had beautiful appearance, though slightly dull from Ling Qingyu's high demand.

Ling Qingyu gave them a warm smile, like a close elder sister who took care of her younger members. Well, according to the age, Ling Qingyu indeed was an elder sister.

"Don't be too formal. We're a close family members now. How's your day here? Good?" Ling Qingyu asked.

"It's good; we don't know when we'll work next. After all, we're receiving payment without anything so much so that we feel insecure."

"Hasn't Sister Su told you?"

The same woman nodded and replied. "She had but..."

"You must be Azi. Can I call you that?" Ling Qingyu guessed the identity. Among the three, she seemed more attractive, a hidden charm emanating deep from the bones.

"Yes, Miss."

"Don't worry. Now you have a job to do." After Ling Qingyu spoke, everyone straightened their spines. "You should know so many colleagues has left for emergency and understand what's happening."

The three nodded, waiting for her next statement. They were aware from the first day, their group seemed more like a private military acting in the form of police somehow.

What Ling Qingyu currently did was illegal but if she formed a mercenary, it appeared okay, provided she formed one out of the country. Otherwise, without proper background and support, Ling Qingyu would be suppressed.

Strangely, instead of personal gain, Ling Qingyu's kindness leaned toward fighting injustice. How rare to see among the riches and powerful.

Ling Qingyu: ???

Now that robbery occurred and from the communications they heard from the radio exchange, some managed to escape.

"Here's the mission. I assume you're already familiar with everyone here. I'll send out additional teams to help. Someone nearly killed our sisters; if we don't show them strength, I'll feel like something is missing." Ling Qingyu spoke. "You three will fly the three helicopters ready. You don't need to do risky maneuver, the main aim is to deter future enemies.

Going against us will not end well. Understood?!"

"Yes, Miss."

"Go to the destination, Sister Xiao and Sister Tang will takeover. Good hunting."

"Thanks." The three stood up to prepare.

Before the trio left, Ling Qingyu added: "And Azi."

"Yes," Azi stuttered with lack of confidence.

"I heard that you're the best pilot."

"Not really, Miss. I don't dare to take the title."

"Skills matter here. I don't care what you do in the past and I don't have any preliminary opinion as long as what you had done didn't commit crimes or hurt others intentionally." Ling Qingyu placated Azi's worries, in case these factors affected the mission. "So long as you consider us as family, we'll protect you no matter what. Talk with Sister Su later."

Sometimes, speaking out will lessen your burden."

Azi nodded and ran off with the other two. No one asked whether only three pilots were enough for flying. They had confidence in their skills.

In fact, Azi was more likely. If not for her bad fortune, her flight hours, experience and talents met the requirements a country needed for the elite rank.

Ling Qingyu's words were to comfort Azi's agitated mood since she heard from Su Ruomei how the two were against one another during their service.

After Athena's command and guidance, several groups of her guards arranged themselves in formation, racing toward the transports: vehicles and helicopters.

Many were surprised at the news that even air units were sent out. Those who were chosen to ride the helicopters drew burning envious gazes.

A teacup in her grasp, Ling Qingyu stood up and walked to the nearest spot where she got the best view, and took a sip, bitter yet savory.

Her expression filled with smiles as she watched three helicopters slowly lifted off, leaving behind vortexes of wind and searing sound of whiplashes caused by the rotary blades.

The loud noises dissipated as the machines turned into a tiny spots. Underneath, columns of vehicles left the scene. Ling Qingyu wondered whether Tang Ziyi might complain about her surprise.

This was the first time she took initiative without consulting the great master for the first time. She cracked her neck and returned to her room, deciding to take a rest, after her departing guards were no longer seen.

Today, her energy was spent too much. She needed a rest. Before that, she stopped midway and walked in another direction. She must see what Yin Jingfei was doing next.

It wasn't good for the host to leave a guest behind even if she had requested Lin Xiao. Not to mention, Yin Jingfei was very close to her now.

Well, the elders were still chatting with mixture of laughters. Yin Jingfei mingled fine with elderly. Her angelic aura shone more than ever causing Ling Qingyu to sigh.

As for the noises her guards left behind, no one asked or delved any further. By now, even an idiot knew Ling Qingyu had secrets. Yin Jingfei felt the same.

When helicopters flew away, her mouth went agape, stunned at Ling Qingyu's arsenal. She understood something when her eyes captured a huge number of special operators, found in Ling Qingyu's residence.

A SWAT or Special Force stationing near Ling Qingyu's living space wouldn't fool her simple mindset. She might not be cunning but she had brain. Given Ling Qingyu prior familiarity with operators and her ability, Yin Jingfei's head traveled in a weird path. Ling Qingyu's identity became more mysterious in her eyes.

Chapter 404 City N mess

Temporary headquarter.

Waiting for the K9 units to arrive, Xiao Yue, Tang Ziyi, Yang Qingyue, Cai Ning and a few other officers, who had management positions, were discussing the next move.

The robbers' escape in front of the police was a blatant challenge to their department. Though Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue didn't resemble the groups' feelings, the interest remained the same.

How could they let the culprits who bombed their group run away? Both hadn't even talked about this fact to Ling Qingyu yet. What if by chance the boss got so scared and stopped the guards' current work?

'Scared' Ling Qingyu: Excuse me!

On a big table, Xiao Yue pointed her finger and drew a circle. "I advise we go with two circles encirclement. We'll set up blockades across streets starting from one block radius away as we search block after block. Similarly, there'll also be an outer circle but subordinates of Chief Yang and Chief Cai will assume this responsibility where we'll provide support.

"The inner circle will be taken care of by us. Your SWATs will patrol around and check for any suspicious activities. I doubt even if they dug a tunnel, it should never be longer than the radius I laid down unless these guys plan for a year silently."

Yang Qingyue and Cai Ning agreed with Xiao Yue's deployment. They shared similar thoughts but were never as fine-tuned as Xiao Yue did to the point of the unit arrangement.

Tang Ziyi added: "Additional units of ours will be on standby as we move around and set up spontaneous checkpoints. We'll also cover areas outside of two circles, anything to add?"

"Perfect arrangement. Now it's time to deduce where they have dug the tunnel from?" Yang Qingyue glanced at Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue with pursed lips.

The reason why she acted this way was her shock when she discovered both bringing out so many troops. Heck, the total number was even more than sufficient for a skirmish battle between nations.

Of course, she lamented Ling Qingyu's rich resources and figured she hadn't sucked her partner dried. Look at the operators' equipment, armors, weapons, and vehicles. It was wrong to assume, she wasn't jealous!

Cai Ning thought the same as her friends. But her focus was more on the tunnel's deduction as they waited for K9 units. According to Sergeant Mi's report, they were 5 mikes away.

After everyone agreed with the initial plan, orders were passed down. For the police team, systematic commands slowly spread before they took action. On the other hand, Spirit Fox's communication system was on a whole new level, as soon as Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue spoke, through Athena's intermediaries, words spread fast.

The reactions of Spirit Foxes were clearly noticed by Yang Qingyue and Cai Ning with wide eyes. They sighed and exchanged glances. In fact, Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue were considering whether to own dog units themselves. Otherwise, waiting for other departments wasted precious time like now.

The moment K9 arrived, a manhunt would begin.

Such large troops' movement became obvious. Police vehicles and armored trucks moved around the city blocks, setting up roadblocks and roaming around. People began to panic and asked across social media for news. Previous gunshots and explosions alarmed everyone nearby.

The Weibo posts in City N location exploded with tweets after tweets. Videos spread like wildfire. Some even spread rumors as if the apocalypse had rained down. A year hadn't passed since the last fierce gunfight.

Malicious parties also attempted to light more fire, saying a coup was happening in Province N's capital and that gunfire was the exchange between two factions. Yang Qingyue's public relations department quickly took action, soothing public outcry and explaining the reason.

Soon, news of the robbery spread, calming down the public at least. But everyone had a question why were there so many police presence here and remained suspicious? Too heavy to say the least.

It wasn't like official accounts hadn't lied before to calm the public sentiments. They had seen likewise reactions from other countries where coup de tat had emerged. Only after, one after another eyewitnesses of the heist shared their stories, people's beliefs tilt toward the good sides. However, a few skeptics refused to believe.

Interested news media outlets contacted the nearby military whether they or separate armed police unit detachments were involved, confusing military information teams for a while before a superior stepped in and explained.

According to the protocols, they should have intervened once a huge gunfire exchange occurred or at least inquired Yang Qingyue whether she needed help. But none. History repeated itself. No help or reinforcement.

Obviously, factional battles between conservatives and reformers hadn't ended with Yang Qingyue's victory yet. Of course, higher-ups knew what happened but pretended not to know something.

When asked why the military didn't react, the reply was they couldn't intervene in civilian affairs. Bullshit, experts or any knowledgeable reports understood the true reason but reporters couldn't write their true thoughts.

What was the People's Armed Police Force under the military's arrangement for? The real armed police, not SWAT, were solely established just for the current scenario.

Funny enough, the most panicked parties were the gangs. They were frightened by the sheer police movement, fearing Yang Qingyue had planned to take action against them.

Even the gangs far away had serious expressions of fighting to the death whether this false flag movement might just be aimed at them or a distraction. The big four raised vigilance, especially Tiger Gang, which suffered several severe losses in recent times.

The leaders sighed in relief after understanding the true situation. A heist had led to this. Yet, no one dropped their guards. At the same time, they respected the party that dared to offend the new police force. The rise of Spirit Fox and Yang Qingyue had brought nothing but troubles.

Even they stayed away from the edge to avoid attention. How dared the robbers blatantly commit a crime and slap the new police's face? This was no different from seeking death! Everyone saluted the robbers in their minds—for doing something they didn't have courage.

The waves behind had surpassed the one in front. Younger generations shared the responsibility seniors had laid down. Everyone cheered—they were happy that more robbers wreaked havoc to undermine Yang Qingyue's current rising prestige and Spirit Fox's reputation.

The gangs might have a chance for comeback if the robbers proved Spirit Fox's existence was not so invincible after all.

The robbers themselves were unaware of the changes in Province N's situation as they were immersed in planning the heist, digging tunnel. They cut off the connection with the world for more than a month. Nobody used electronic devices to avoid leakage. They had no idea about the reputation brought by Spirit Fox nor Yang Qingyue's fight against corruption.

Police today had changed dramatically in City N and nearby towns. Gradually in the prefecture, Yang Qingyue controlled, bad cops were rooted out. It was no wonder, the robbers' bravery stunned everyone. Those who didn't know the limits had no fears.

Actually, what people didn't understand was the news outlets had purposely neglected some information so that the attention stayed hot for as long as they could, taking advantage of Yang's subordinates' lack of response as they summarized and collected evidence before releasing official posts.

People only received news that the robbers escaped after a heist, surrounded by special police units as if police units were useless and played around. They had no idea a hostage scenario ensued and Spirit Fox stormed in and rescued everyone safely within a short time constraint. They didn't know the whole story.

No one understood the difficulties and the successes behind covered by the mere fact that a few escapees became a large group. There were indeed people nearby who tried to refute and clarify but they were bombarded heavily either by unknown bystanders or parties with a purpose to throw dirty water.

As for the hostages themselves, because everyone was still interrogated and had to undergo treatment, psychologically and physically, they were out of touch with the world. Of course, this could also be because reporters still hadn't arrived at the scene yet and were competing for attention on the internet.

Time seemed so long until the anticipated K9 arrived. The impatient Spirit Foxes on-site sprung into action, leading the dogs to the big hole.

Chapter 405 Hold up

To check the safety of the tunnel, in case, robbers left behind explosives, Athena sent in drones and robots but most lost connections except the one connected with wires. Everyone came in a hurry and no one had appropriate devices for particular missions.

Even the large reinforcement that arrived only brought these drones. It was better to wait for K9 units.

Upon this discovery people were speechless. How long did they dig? Fortunately, the wait was over and the temporary team gave chase with a dog leading the way.

Wow. Wow.

The police dog bolted out and the Spirit Foxes hurriedly followed. As for its master, his stamina and strength were a bit less, staying at the end of the team.

While guarding against any ambushes along the way, which was extremely unlikely, since the dog could detect other presence, Spirit Foxes advanced rapidly.

Given the dog's talented sense for an explosive device, the previous worry of being trapped after the tunnel collapse went away. Everyone remained alerted and pointed at the exit but the dog didn't stop.

The smell flushed in from the hole. Spirit Foxes wrinkled their noses and frowned. It smelled like sewage.

Indeed, through the hole, they heard large water flowing and combined with a smell, everyone had a guess and their hearts sank.

As they cleared outward, they were in the sewage tunnel. Apart from some light sieving through the hall was murky and dark.

The dog hovered around in a circle as it sniffed for the previous scent. Troubles arose. The smell had become difficult to attain even for a sensitive police dog, which was specifically trained for this arduous task.

Although the dog would pick up soon, time wasn't on their side. Even if they had the reason and authority to block traffic and check people's property, the governor might intervene as more people protested.

Whether to adhere to the votes or save their reputation, the governor would surely take action. Immediately, the team leader reported the situation and ended the radio chat.

"Damnit! We don't have time to hustle around. How long will it take to get your dog going?!" She asked in a harsh tone, scaring the dog handler.

"I don't know, it'll take at least 5-6 minutes before he can discern a direction," stammered the dog handler. "Especially in an environment like this where so many odors and strong chemical elements exist, 5-6 minutes is pretty fast."

Spirit Fox's reputation for fierceness and thoroughness spread in the police circle. He was excited to work alongside but when the agitated aura affected him, he felt scared, especially the woman's beautiful sharp eyes veiled under the hood. He had no idea why there was a chill.

After sighing, the woman apologized. "I'm sorry. You know things went wrong so many times that I'm a bit harsh."

"No, no. I totally understand. I heard some of your operators suffer an explosion. How are they?"

"They're fine. Honestly, I was also on the scene too." The woman shook her head as the group waited for the dog's movement. Although no one suffered heavy injuries, there was still a thing called PTSD. A close explosion would more or less affect people's thoughts.

Despite being persuaded to rest, this woman pressed on to catch the culprits. Apparently, her swinging mood was what others didn't like to see.

"Really?!" The dog handler was surprised and asked further about the event. A gist of what he had known was incomparable with what he heard from a first-hand account. A dozen operators guarded the surroundings with flashlights on.

Besides, spreading out in a convoluted and complicated network was no different from suicide and wasting extra time and energy, unless all operators above the ground ransacked everywhere in the tunnel.

Naturally, there were other K9 units too but they had other tasks to pursue. The one in a current manhunt was the best dog in the City N police force.

Yang Qingyue and Cai Ning whistled and shook their heads, frowning. Xiao Yue kept her eyes on the map. Tang Ziyi walked around lost in thoughts.

When the manhunt team reported the bad news, everyone rubbed their foreheads. Though expected based on Xiao Yue's conjecture, people retained hope that robbers were stupid enough to lead the tunnel directly to their hideout.

Pressures mounted up so high as time passed. Several calls from higher-ups came. Yang Qingyue and Cai Ning didn't care much but their subordinates were sweating—what if they lost the robbers' trail?

"So, these bastards were cleverer than we thought," said Yang Qingyue as she massaged her forehead.

"We already expect their intelligence from the moment our team made contact." Tang Ziyi shrugged.

"The previous guess based on the tunnel direction is obsolete." Cai Ning laughed and shook her head.

For the first time, Yang Qingyue and Cai Ning felt stressed, about solving a crime. They knew nothing and the interrogation results wouldn't come up fast.

"The best thing is to wait. We've done what we can." Xiao Yue was calm as ever as if everything was under her control. "We have locked down so many blocks; there's no way they can escape unless they put the loot somewhere safe and separate their paths before coming back again when the heat is over."

Tang Ziyi nodded and added: "That's a big if, if they could get out of the safe-house without being spotted by CCTV or our operators. My subordinates will check everyone and won't spare based on appearances. I hope Chief Yang can bear the aftermath."

"Of course, I'll do my job." Yang Qingyue nodded as a matter of agreement.

Xiao Yue: "We and they know it's only a matter of time before that safe-house is discovered. They can't hide the loot nearby because we'll find them even if they try to escape. So, I suspect they are making plans as we speak."

"Athena, patch me through and download the tunnel maps, all exits." Tang Ziyi opened her laptop and typed something. The screen quickly displayed a tunnel network diagram, overlapping satellite pictures of the city under lockdown. All exits and entries were visibly circled.

"Well, well, well. How can you come up so fast?" Yang Qingyue clicked her tongue and asked.

"A secret," Tang Ziyi teased with a hushed tone, covering her lips with her index finger though her face was hidden under the hood. With a click of another button, arrays of videos occupied the screen, all directed toward these entry points.

"Hold up, I haven't ask my subordinates to handover the CCTV authority to you...Not to mention, some of them don't seem to be public cameras..."

"Yes, sis. I have hacked into other devices as you thought. No need to thank me."

"You're really..." Yang Qingyue became speechless and looked around.

"Ahem—" some even coughed and splattered. Someone dared to commit crime in front of the police chief and proudly flaunted.

Cai Ning was amused as her subordinates flashed thumbs-up at Tang Ziyi's bravery. But the current funny atmosphere alleviated the tension among the officers, while many marveled at Spirit Fox's skills. They really meant what special force was.

Compared to the nearest counterpart SWAT, Spirit Fox excelled at everything. The officers now collectively agreed.

Chapter 406 Conspiracy behind a plan

"What are you planning?" Yang Qingyue asked as Tang Ziyi was apparently working out a solution.

Cai Ning and the other officers perked their ears. Xiao Yue had a smile on her face even though no one could see them underneath the specialists' clothing.

"I'm afraid my plan will affect the safety of your officers because I'm going to put my men through the tunnel from every entry and exit." Tang Ziyi explained. "We don't need to waste energy narrowing down the suspects' location."

"Use K9 units to track the scent though it's harder in the sewage but the dogs are trained to do so." Tang Ziyi snapped her finger. "In a matter of time, we find our target. Chief Yang, do you agree?"

Yang Qingyue raised her brow at Cai Ning, asking for an opinion. The vice chief calculated and thought no other options were available. As for risking their officers' lives, weren't Ling Qingyu's guards doing the same?

"Won't your Spirit Fox face more danger in doing so?" Cai Ning inquired.

Tang Ziyi shrugged not wanting to exchange secrets. She developed a protective mechanism herself. She understood what dangers could threaten their level of existence.

"Alright, go ahead," said Yang Qingyue.

Suddenly, Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue exchanged glances and went silent. Their behaviors were quickly noticed by others.

"What's wrong?" Cai Ning asked patting Tang Ziyi's shoulder.

"Well, someone is getting angry that our unit was being bombed. She can't bear this breath so she sent out more cavalry." Tang Ziyi shrugged.

"Seriously?" Yang Qingyue's lips twitched. The numbers shown by Spirit Fox were scary enough yet more were coming.

"Yep, more than unexpected, there are three helicopters en route, fully equipped and armed to the teeth." Tang Ziyi described. "Plus, vehicles, mostly conventional."

"Well, since she had sent them, it's already bygone." Yang Qingyue gave up, arguing about the troops' statistics. "But, why haven't you delivered my helicopters yet, huh? Don't tell me, you want to go back on your words."

"Then, do you have pilots ready?" Tang Ziyi paused and nodded as expected. "I thought so. You don't."

"How could I hire one if I don't even have a machine ready?" Yang Qingyue stuttered and refuted.

"Alright, tomorrow the latest." Tang Ziyi relented. "I'm sure, you'll be satisfied with our modifications, just like the patrol vehicles."

"Wouldn't three choppers flying overhead raise pressure on the public?" Cai Ning expressed her worries. "And these additional operators might raise another depression."

"At least, we don't need to worry about your officers' security," said Xiao Yue. "Initially, we want to set up blockades inside the tunnel network near these points but now the teams can further investigate, slowly locating the suspects without worries. 2 hours, I guarantee we'll find them."

"I'll transfer the command to Sister Su and Sister Jiang." Tang Ziyi added. "They'll take over the case while we have a new mission, of course, provided that Chief Yang will agree."

"What? What?" Yang Qingyue became confused. She had authorized everything, what else? "What are you two planning then?"

"You know the one enemy we plan to eliminate for months. Now is a good time, we can cover our movement and strike with surprise." Tang Ziyi fisted her palm.

"Damn it. You girls are serious?" Yang Qingyue was shocked, to say the least. She understood who the target was. The infamous Tiger gang's leader, who became a turtle in recent months under Spirit Foxes' attacks on multiple fronts.

"They won't be expecting us by now. Give us the order." Xiao Yue smiled and requested. To which, Yang Qingyue nodded while worrying whether manpower was sufficient.

Perhaps, reading Yang Qingyue's mind, Xiao Yue pointed out. "Hey, the operators undertaking this mission are completely different. The elite of the elite among us, several times better than the one in the previous rescue operations."

Yang Qingyue moved her lips and she was at a loss for words. She glanced at Tang Ziyi for confirmation and received a nod. Heaven, the teams rescuing the bank wasn't the best yet?

What Xiao Yue and Tang Ziyi didn't say was that the operators to arrest or eliminate Tiger gang, were totally on a new level. They were practitioners chosen among the most senior personnel, recommended by Su Ruomei and Jiang Yu. It wasn't wrong to describe them as Ling Qingyu's closest aides.

Tang Ziyi's secret cultivation methods were learned by them. Compared to others who had reached human limits, they had breakthrough the genetic boundaries. Their strength, agility, stamina, reaction, intelligence and HP had transformed these operators into transcendent beings like Ling Qingyu's trios.

If these girls couldn't defeat a simple gang, everyone would be ashamed to death. Naturally, Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue would never speak about the important secrets without Ling Qingyu's permission. If Yang Qingyue knew, she should gain the news from Ling Qingyu personally.

While Yang Qingyue, Tang Ziyi and Xiao Yue discussed another mission, Cai Ning bit her lips and dragged Sergeant Mi, who was working on logistics to a corner. "Hey, I almost forget about the live-broadcaster couple. Where are they?"

Sergeant Mi controlled her lips from trembling and even wanted to roll her eyes. "As soon as the gunfire breakout they were near you. Only when the explosion quivered the earth that they run into our patrol Jaguar for safety." She paused, apparently speechless at the couple's knowledge to seek the safest area when she recalled the event.

"Afterward, the two began to proudly show off their experience and interview the victims online. If you open your phone and look into their account, you can see their state. The live broadcast is too hot now, the only one nearest to the event. I have told them what to do and don't; so, they understand their roles."

Cai Ning sighed out in relief. "Good. Good. I was worried, I forgot where to place them during the chaos. Thanks for the hard work, Sergeant Mi; I owe you one."

"Feed me a delicious meal then, Chief Cai." Sergeant Mi joked.

"I thought you would refuse and swear, it's the duty of the subordinates." Cai Ning teased back.

"That's too classic and cliché. Only fools would obey orders without the slightest thought." Sergeant Mi shrugged. "I'm a senior in police work, I will decide what's the best for me."

"Hohoho, here I thought I would hear a brand new tip." Cai Ning chuckled and took a deep breath. "At least with the couple's works, I'm sure our reputation after we solved this robbery will not be small."

"Yes, Chief Cai. If you wanna chase them away from interfering with our work..."

"No need for that, Sergeant Mi. Let them be free. From today's event, we can see that the two had sound judgment. Even if bullets hit us, I swear they won't hit the couple based on their survival instincts."

The two broke out in laughter, amused. Fortunately, nothing happened to these two idiots, who dared to get off the armored sedan and experienced the thrill together with police.

Outside, Alan and Li Bing, whose excitement hadn't gone down after the adrenaline rush, sneezed. They suspected someone was talking badly but the barrage and loud voices around dragged away their attention again as they continued their journalism spirit.

Chapter 407 More problems

As soon as the operators received a new command, they quickly acted. Their presence had heightened the residents nearby. Being checked and scrutinized was never a good feeling. Most men suffered from this treatment, especially a group of men.

Most complained their rights had been violated and some even threatened to sue Spirit Foxes by videotaping their actions. To those threats, Spirit Foxes sneered since Athena had informed them, she would solve this issue. No one cared.

Indeed, these people didn't know the video they thought they had recorded was never there in the first place.

Therefore, the moment the operators reduced their actions and concentrated on something else, people's nerves loosened.

They watched in amazement as the operators stood around the sewage tunnel entrance and began entering inside.

The girls checked the interior from the outside before stepping in. Once bitten, they were vigilant to any explosive device. No one would die but who liked being hit by shockwaves?

Accompanied by K9 units if available, the operators began exploring the tunnel network and gradually expanded their area of search.

Somewhere, another team of operators entered the tunnel through a ladder, when the last one sensed someone's eyes. She glanced in the direction her sixth sense told her and saw someone closing the curtain in panic.

Narrowing her eyes for a moment, she paused and analyzed, then followed her teammates. Though hiding seemed suspicious, it wasn't like once or twice, someone tried to conceal their presence and stare at them.

After all, while people were curious, they disliked grabbing attention from authorities. Considering these aspects, it seemed nothing more than curiosity.

"Holy shit! I thought my actions were discovered." The man patted his chest with a look that survived a disaster. "I almost have a heart attack."

"Dude, although I can't see his eyes, it's scary when his head is in our direction." Another accompanying him agreed.

"What's the matter?" A leader-like figure asked. After listening to the replies, his face darkened. "Why are you staring at them, idiots? Of course, anyone will sense it, not to mention they are special force members! Their keen sense is trained."

"But...but...you told us to keep watch." The two men being scolded excused themselves.

"I ask you to keep watch, not to always lay your eyes directly on them." The leader rubbed his nose in anger.

"It doesn't matter." Someone spoke from behind with the sound of cocking his weapon. "One come, we'll kill one. It's not like we haven't done it yet. Aren't the ones in the bank sitting ducks when we shoot them multiple times?"

The leader coughed. "That was based on the premise that we set bombs and gave them a surprise. Otherwise, why do you think more than a dozen men are reduced to 5 here?"

The arrogant man quit bragging and said. "Anyway, there are another 3 members. I don't think we can't stop a small team. As for those brothers who are arrested, sorry. We'll compensate them in another way."

The leader bit his tongue and sighed. As expected of criminals with no brains, he was lucky his plan never depended on them. In fact, since the heist began, no plan actually worked. Everything was against him. As for compensation, why should he pay these criminals? Hmph!

Fortunately, his true comrades were by his side, who had worked with him for so long that a glance was enough to communicate important messages. One was with him during the heist. The other buried explosives and dug the tunnel. Now, there were 8 men altogether, enough to wreak havoc if he wanted.

If not to drag the police, he would have killed all these three stupid men. Patience, patience, he reminded himself. "By the way, what do you find looking at these special police?"

"A team enters the tunnel. Except for a few officers, no operators are now seen outside."

"What did you say?" The leader exclaimed, understanding what the situation meant for him. "Hurry up, guys. We're now about to be exposed. It's only a matter of time before police burst in and flag the gun at us."

"Ah," his close partner opened his mouth and immediately sprang into action. "I'll set up traps at the entrance from the tunnel."

"Make it quick, we don't have much time."

"Lock and load, brothers, war is on us ...hehe." The same idiot who was keen on fighting.

The leader and his friend pretended not to hear. Since he wanted to die so much, let him be.

"Take the bags away, we gotta move quick. Once this apartment is discovered, they'll ransack everywhere which means our money, gold bars, and other treasures will be discovered." The leader instructed. "Oh by the way, use those cans to remove any odors on the items to eliminate the scents these police dogs will use to track."

"Got it, Boss."

"On it."

"You three, we have a hard fight ahead. Be prepared but do not engage unless necessary." The leader warned.

Some packed their bags; some built traps, and some prepared guns and ammunition. The criminals who got out of jail didn't understand, someone was exploiting them.

The leader and his fellowmen acted very well. Besides, even if they knew they were outnumbered now. Who dared to break the fragile peace?

Endure the humiliation for a better day tomorrow. They moved to another room inside the building they prepared—a secondary extraction point that led right to the tunnel. As for why no one offered a solution to rush out with vehicles, alarming the police? Hehe...nine out of ten, escaping from police, led to a terrible result.

The leader wanted to turn on his mobile phone and check the news so that he could better prepare but whenever his hand touched the device, a strong premonition overwhelmed his decision and he chose to believe it.

He had survived countless crises based on his intuition. He knew once he turned it on, his fate was doomed. So, he reached out for another device with military-grade protection, its function only for calling and messaging. Pressing the number, the phone beeped as he waited patiently.

Several beeps and a click.

"Long time no see, Second Lieutenant, oh, should I say a former lieutenant?" A raspy chuckled answered the call.

"It's been a while. A favor to ask since today is a friendly gathering, are you in, my man? You know know what I'm talking about." The leader humphed.

"Of course, I just saw the news. I've given you wines and beers? You still choose the same taste; I've warned you multiple times," complained the mysterious man.

"I need it man, I need it. You know."

"I know and that's why I offer you different drinks."

"Your alcohol will make me die and I have my loved one."

"So, you're asking me to pick you up? I ain't doing it for free."

"Yes, you'll pay 2."

"6 brother. You know I have more people and more freedom if I invest more for a sure return."

"No...no...3 my final offer. You're icing the cake while I prepared all the dishes."

"5, you know I'm not alone. If I take a leave, my superiors won't have good feeling. It's a done deal, your call. I'm not pressing you. We can go on for the whole day."

"Mother ****. 4.5, no more. I'll kick you out if you shout for more." The leader gritted his teeth and snarled.

"Good heaven, that's what brothers are for. If not for you, do you think I would even answer your call. No offense, it's just a good business."

"Alright, I don't wanna hear any nonsense. Make it quick, or your portion will be gone."

"We'll drink together somewhere at some time, once the heat is gone. Godspeed brother."

"Godspeed asshole." The leader turned off and nodded at his closest aides, a message as everyone glanced at the jail faction. Everyone returned the same gesture, knew what to do next.

Chapter 408 Another boom!

These five masculine men with a strong build were definitely not ordinary. The aura contained in their bones and glances showed strong will and discipline. So, how come they became robbers?

They were dismissed from the military on the charge of unfounded petty corruption because one of them offended the son of a higher-up. In the corrupted politics, nepotism worsened, especially in the military where powerful ones had strong networks within.

After all, 'truth' was protected and guided by the barrel. In front of a strong cannon, talk was like mosquitoes' shriek.

The reason for them to commit robbery was for money ideally because the leader needed a huge sum to cure his mother's disease. After his discharge from the military with dishonor, his mother's hidden illness appeared. As for his teammates, they had gone through ups and downs together, what was wrong with a simple heist?

Of course, many needed quick money; they had planned to flee after everything was over.

Only one factor went wrong—plans couldn't keep up with changes. Not to mention, they never thought of hurting any person but a group of criminals would never listen.

As for army personnel committing crimes even if they had great discipline, people always stayed in a gray area. From their perspective, did anyone help when they were in trouble? Then, why must they also consider others? Selfish? More like a personal interest.

They worked with criminals to hide their identities and distract the investigative work. Who would expect soldiers like them to be involved in a heist? But now, they had to get out first and the leader had to call for additional support with a heavy price.

Talking to the jail faction, he said. "Look we're going out. I've dug another tunnel so that we can escape. You three will take your belongings and escape through that. We'll plant our own bridges here."

"Are you serious?" One asked.

"Precisely as you thought," answered the leader. "We, five, will go in other directions and split off again to minimize being captured. Otherwise, traveling in a group means a bigger target."

Listening to his explanation, the jail team accepted, not thinking too deeply. One of them, a clever one, wanted to argue but paused, realizing the scary stance and formation of the five men in front of him. He was certain, the three would be taken down if an argument appeared.

He knew from the beginning something was amiss with these five men and it turned out his premonition came true. He reckoned they were more like a distraction team for the police hunting them. If he protested, he might die. But if he fled as they demanded, he might survive.

As for the other two, who still believed the promise, he said no more because now was the time—every man for himself. Furthermore, these men in the same group as the leader wore masks all the time and only showed up today for the real action. Their identity remained hidden.

The three packed their bags and weapons, then went down a tunnel in another room. The party was now split into two teams. Ex-military and criminals.

Here they began a trip again for the great escape.

As soon as the trio disappeared, the rest sprung into action. They had better and safer alternatives. As a cleverer criminal thought, the trio was indeed a cover for the true extraction.

Observing a moment before, the five-man team checked the surroundings and exited the building through another door. They had planned everything meticulously from choosing the safehouse's location and extraction path.

They walked on the path of least scrutiny—no CCTVs or malfunctioned ones, obviously on purpose, no human figures nearby to serve as eyewitnesses—navigating through alleyways. Although Yang Qingyue stepped up patrol routes for more coverage, manpower was never enough.

They covered their tracks perfectly but they forgot something. Satellite. Athena looked down from the sky and captured everything. She noticed a weird conversation on the phone going on but didn't think much initially. After seeing a group of men strolling in a strange pattern lit up suspicions and drew her attention, Athena took note of the heavy bags too.

Athena decided to examine the group before alerting Spirit Fox and Tang Ziyi's group because a similar pattern existed elsewhere, where past criminals or gang members fled or dodged police movement whenever law enforcement presence around the neighborhood became denser.

On the other side.

Sewage, near the bank.

The dog stopped sniffing around and barked a few times before it rushed in one direction. The dog handler smiled and told the Spirit Foxes to follow.

Great news, the team leader's mood turned lighthearted. She didn't forget to radio back the progress to the HQ.

Chasing behind the dog, as it paused and chose one at every intersection, the team knew they were getting closer.

The dog suddenly stopped and twitched its tail as it barked at the empty wall. The dog handler rubbed his head and asked. "What are you barking, mate?" There's nothing here."

Yet the dog continued its aggressive manner.

"HQ, Charlie 6, we might have found our suspects' location. Working on it for now." The team leader radioed her finding and pressed her palm against the wall after turning on a tiny flashlight mounted on the helmet.

"Acknowledged Charlie 6. Stay vigilant as you move."

She hammered the wall twice. The sound emitted told it was hollow inside. She nodded at everyone. No need to guess—they had arrived.

"Copy that HQ. The location is confirmed. We're about to make an entry. Don't know about our pos though."

"Worry not Charlie 6. We already know your location. Be advised there are friendly units nearby across the tunnel to provide support."

"Roger that HQ, breaching in. Out." The team leader signaled her friend after she attempted to push and failed; it moved a little but that was all. So, both took a step away from the wall. The other assumed ready postures while the dog handler and his dog were put behind the stack.

Counting up three fingers. Three. Two. One. Bang!

Both stomped hard and part of the wall slammed to the ground. Dust kicked off as the fake wall fell apart. The width was only enough for one person to pass through.

Her friend served as a pointsman as she followed behind. Her rifle at a high port. Even with a huge beam of white torchlight, vision remained obscured. The stack flooded in, maintaining a safe distance between each group of two members.

Suddenly, the team leader and her partner heard a wire snap and a metallic spring release. The two's eyes constricted, particularly the pointsman, who looked at the source of the sound and found a grenade without its spoon.

"Damnit...Grenade!" She roared as she bumped backward and threw her team leader to the floor. The others, upon hearing her warning instantly stayed low while the rear member pressed the dog handler and its dog.

From the moment, the front team heard, released a trap, and warned others to everyone immediately sprawling for defense without hesitation, it happened like a flash of lightning.

Boom!

The explosion and airwaves launched more dust and debris. All the operators sensed was a huge force passing from above. The hallway trembled as some sand poured down. Everyone watched the pebbles twerked in mockery.

Chapter 409 No contact

The team leader and her partner quickly stood up again to cover the front. "Is everybody okay?" She roared. "Sitrep...Charlie 6."

"We're good."

"Not a scratch."

"Nothing broken...hmmm...I have a running nose, likely catching a cold from swimming at night. The sudden heat must have caused this."

Everyone was speechless at this specific information. Sister, nobody wanted to know.

"Well, I guess I'm fine too." The dog handler replied. "The dog is also strong and healthy."

She sighed in relief at the good news. "You and the dog will stay behind unless I ask you. Clear?"

"Yes, Ma'am." The dog handler nodded. He was so close to death. Without the Spirit Fox's fast response, he couldn't imagine his fate. He obeyed the order without reluctance since the two had completed the task.

"My fault. I overlooked. The pointsman coughed and apologized.

"We'll see about that later. Move now and stay frosty." The team leader squeezed the pointsman's arm and the two advanced.

She never had the intention of blaming her partner for missing the trap. Specks of dust and obscure visions, not mentioning the trap was delicately planned and placed. Furthermore, blaming would only worsen everything.

"Charlie 6, this is HQ."

"Send it."

"What the f*** is going on? I heard reports from nearby teams that there's an explosion."

"That's A-ffirmed. We encountered a booby trap. A nasty one too." The team leader replied. "Charlie 6 is advancing, we have no casualty."

"Roger that, please take care of yourself Charlie 6."

"Will do. Be advised, the suspects are far more dangerous than assumed. They can set up booby trap. I wonder whether the suspects' identities likely come from a military background."

"Received Charlie 6. We'll work on your findings. Continue your work, supports are on the way too."

"Understood, Charlie 6 out." The two stopped again as the floor's slope gradually angled upward, apparently, the team had reached its goal. Upstairs, robbers might just be waiting.

"C2?" The pointsman asked.

"Negative. We don't know for sure what's beyond the door. What if civilians are inside? Wand it." The team leader gave a command.

The pointsman put the rifle behind her back, as she took out a tiny optical camera with a long wire connected to a device for visual. Poking the camera through the hole and observing the room, she checked the doorway and cursed. "Son of a bitch!"

"Language," muttered the team leader covering the threshold from above.

"Why don't you see it for yourself?" The pointsman displayed the screen.

"Holy motherf*****!"

The pointsman's lips twitched at her leader's outburst, more outrageous than hers. "So...the room is rigged with explosives. I'm sure we're fighting against some specialists by now."

The team leader nodded and took a deep breath. "Prep for a charge since we have no liabilities."

"Like I told you a long ago." The team leader ignored her partner's mumbling.

Afterward, she relayed her plan to the headquarters. Without further delay, the rear member came up and stuck the black explosive straps on the door. "Setting charge."

Everyone backed up a few steps. Conventionally, one must find cover instead of standing a few meters away before the explosion to protect from dangers.

But Spirit Fox's armor and equipment were on another high tier. With visors, fragsuits, and body armors, this type of control explosion didn't pose any harm.

The breacher returned to her position and initiated countdown. "I have control—on my call. Breaching in 3, 2, 1."

Bang!

The 'doors' flew out and soon explosions followed suit. Obviously, the booby traps worked as the explosive breach destroyed them.

"Good entry."

"Go! GO! GO!" The operators dashed in.

"Room clear!" shouted the two who entered first.

"Opened door on the left."

"Pieing it. Left-side no factor." The operator put her assault rifle at high-ready, a gesture to signal she gave the opposite partner, an initiative.

"Going in," said the other operator, snapping her QBU-191. "Hallway, clear for now. Holding long. Got two opened doors on the left, one closed on the right."

The first operator took a step to the side and the closest behind filled in the gap to cross cover. "Move."

With operators behind ready, the team moved in formation. The closest was the opened door on the left.

One of the pointsmen compressed her QBU-191 and took a center check before storming in as soon as she felt a squeeze on her arm, extending the barrel out the moment she snapped at one corner while number 2 covered her flank, mimicking the same movements.

"Clear left."

"Clear right."

"Room clear!"

The third one also entered checking both operators' states. The three stayed inside letting the formation outside pass.

Four were stacked on both sides of the closed doors as the rest overtook the formation.

"Entering."

The women worked on another opened entry and cleared the room. The available ones reached the end of the hallway. "Got stairwell, holding."

"With you." Another operator touched the covering operator's elbows with hers. Two barrels aimed upward.

Meanwhile, outside the closed door, the operator on the doorknob tried the lock and nodded. Behind, her partner stretched out her forearm with a flashbang.

The door swung inward and an object was thrown in. Bang! Four operators flooded in. "Clear!"

The group returned to a stack. "Last man."

The team leader barked orders. "Stack on the staircase. We're moving up." She radioed the command. "HQ, Charlie 6 meets no contact for the moment. We've cleared the basement of some buildings. I'm not sure where though."

"Copied, proceed with caution. Suspects have likely escaped but swivel your heads around on high alert. I don't want to hear another explosion."

Do you think I'd like to? Why don't you come in and try?...The team leader's eyelids twitched.

"Noted. Charlie 6 moving to the first floor." She signaled her team to advance. The team walked on the steps with due vigilance, watching out for traps and tangoes.

"Room clear."

"Last room!"

Soon, everyone cleared the entire apartment, removing some traps in the process, and wrapping up any intel left behind.

"HQ, we've cleared the apartment. Suspects had escaped thoroughly, leaving nothing behind. We made no contacts. Awaiting further orders." The team leader relayed what she gained after clearance.

"Charlie 6, this is Athena."

"Send traffic, Athena." The team leader's eyes widened as if surprised Athena had intervened.

"I might have a possible ID on the suspects fleeing your area. 5 men had escaped from the building through an alleyway. I recommend you pursue these men; the other available units should be getting close."

"Acknowledged, Athena. Thanks for the timely assist. Charlie 6 will chase 5 tangoes and link up with the rest later."

"Ladies, we might have to proceed on foot. I sure hope you don't have your stomach full." The team leader teased her subordinates.

The group left the apartment and came across others, whose residents opened the doors and looked in their direction with curiosity.

"Ladies and Gentlemen please stay inside while we deal with our affairs. It's dangerous. Stay away from the door and windows."

"What's happening officers?"

"I heard loud explosions. Do we need to evacuate?"

"Please stay inside and don't move around. Relevant officers will come to the scene soon." The operators didn't say much, repeated their warnings and raced off the building.

Under Athena's guidance, the group took twists and turns, taking shortcuts to catch up. Their weapons covered all sectors as the train moved. Wherever the team encountered an intersection, one or two members stayed to provide coverage as the rest passed until the last one tapped their shoulders and they rejoined the train.

Athena monitored and directed the team's orientations. No one hesitated, giving full trust.

Of course, their special clothing and weapons drew attention. People from the neighborhood would scream questions or watch their movements. Residents were on high alert, hearing multiple explosions and the police presence.

Suddenly, the team stopped their trail, hearing gunshots nearby, and continued. But the sound probably came from an enclosed space and should be related to other Spirit Fox units. They had tasks to do

Chapter 410 Short tunnel battle

A few minutes ago. Across some distance.

A loud explosion from afar stunned the five ex-military men. They looked behind while the leader took a deep breath. "They're on us. We better move fast. Goddamnit, is the police this efficient?"

The other shared the same mood. "We even felt like we're being hunted by our instructors in the past days. Those days of abuse."

The rest had their lips twitched. Fuck you, brother, why do you mention these failures when we are about to experience hell difficulty. Are you sure, you're on the same team?

Whatever the case, they began to sprint toward the next goal. They must evacuate fast. The leader's grasp on the military-grade phone clenched firmer.

Inside the tunnel, the three robbers' ears perked up. Even though the explosion occurred far away, the sound still spread toward them through the tunnel network.

Noting that the first trap laid by the other group worked, the trio sped up. They understood someone was biting their tails.

Soon after a bigger explosion followed, all the men, participated, figured out the police had entered and searched the building they were in shortly before.

Among the five-man team, the leader paused his steps and continued afterward, while complaining. "They just use a freaking explosive breach!"

"Of course, bro. Given our repetitive traps, the police exercised caution. Obviously, they don't want to waste a second, disarming trap. Let's run faster like old days. Someone doesn't like to let us go."

For the trio, they encountered misfortune. They met another Spirit Fox on their way to evacuate head-on, after a turn in the tunnel.

"Police, drop your weapons and hit the floor."

As stated by the protocols, Spirit Fox barked orders to give a chance for the three robbers to surrender, but no one wanted to give up. The darkness gave them strength and courage to resist even if rationality stated the success was low.

One aggressive robber instantly raised his AK and sprayed all the rounds, before tucking backward. The other two ran back while all of this happened.

Spirit Fox wasn't to be outdone and returned fired and a gorgeous tunnel war erupted. The dings from metallic collisions and the loud reverberation of gunfire played a deadly orchestra for a short period of time.

The trio ran in the opposite direction they came from. As long as they had passed the intersection straight earlier, they would have escaped the police search or so they thought so. They didn't know Tang Ziyi's and Athena's encirclement was perfected to an extreme.

To prevent the police from pursuing, the aggressive one fired at the intersection while he shuffled backward.

The Spirit Fox team leader instantly reported the situation to the HQ and followed. The incoming rounds held them back in the corner.

The bullets ricocheted in weird directions, forcing operators to lower their bodies instinctively. The dog handlers and his dog accompanying the team exclaimed and panicked.

One of the leading figures stretched out her assault weapon and rapidly poured every round inside the magazine in semi-mode as opposite bullets whizzed, just inches away from her.

She couldn't see the enemy but she still pulled the trigger for fire superiority and suppressed the resistance as she chased the angle.

What she did was called clearance by fire or pre-firing for colloquial terms as she moved around the corner. Indeed, although a few bullets still flew by, the number had decreased.

Dusk and debris and the smell of heavy gunpowder wafted in the air. Combined with the original sewage odor, the smell turned strange.

The K9 unit teaming up with the current Spirit Fox witnessed terrible bullets exchange the women's 'bravery'. The aggression retained in the fight was totally new. His work with other SWAT units had never experienced this thrilling scene.

Normally, as soon as dangerous criminals saw SWAT taking action, most gave up; a few defended with melee weapons. The highest danger he knew was that someone used a homemade weapon to fire but that was all.

Never had he ever seen the opposing party, equipped with modern reliable firearms with pure intent to kill the officers. Perhaps, only those Drug Enforcement Agency who dealt with desperadoes might

encounter his current circumstances. He had heard many casualties among police officers in the anti-narcotic departments, which was why he worked in an average department.

"Dried! Reloading." The number one who suppressed the target flicked away her magazine and inserted a new one while she made way for her comrades and walked behind the stacks. Her duty was complete.

Number two took her position and continued spraying to maintain momentum. Since there were no bystanders or no-shoot targets, and there wasn't a need to worry about overpenetration, Spirit Fox conducted with no restraint.

But the number two stopped firing very soon and shouted. "Red. Red! Checking." She also retreated, tilted the rifle to check the chamber in a high ready and sure enough the weapon malfunctioned.

According to the drill, she smacked the magazine and pulled the bolt a few times until a copper bullet ejected, then returned to the stack.

Her comrade was merciless in taunting. "That's why I told you not to be lazy. You've rarely cleaned your weapons. I must inform Instructor Tang about your misdemeanor. Who makes you not to listen to my advice?"

"Hmph." The Spirit Fox snorted. "I clean okay?! But not so much as yours...Accidents are meant to happen." The two argued amidst the battle, nonchalant about the firefight before their eyes. This strange banter caused the dog handler staying away to widen his eyes and lament these madwomen's courage. Heck, this was a warzone!

As soon as the malfunctioning operators backed off from the front, another filled in the gap and resumed suppressive fire. By now, the pie, Spirit Fox 'cleared' around the corner had reached a wide angle, enough to view 50 percent of the hallway.

Receiving a pat from behind, the pointsman knelt down and snapped her QBU-191 down the hallway. Her partner hovered the rifle over her head. High-low coverage.

Two beams of flashlight dazzled the murky tunnel, meaning two barrels aiming at the enemies.

The two discovered a struggling figure on their red dots, attempting to raise his AK, and squeezed the trigger without mercy. Among the three figures, nobody was left standing. They were certain, they had put down one with accurate fire. As for the other two, in the midst of chaos, stray bullets from suppression might have landed by luck. Or who knew if the culprit was the ricocheted round?

Anyway, they had no remorse for eliminating these criminals.

The Spirit Fox stopped shooting and the tunnel returned to silence, apart from feet wading through water and some words exchanged. From the first second the gunfire began, the firefight lasted no more than 20 seconds. The robbers were no match.

While the high-low operators provided cover and two at the rear aimed at other angles to prevent ambushes, the rest advanced to check the three bodies. What if someone pretended to be dead or was injured and needed treatment or so...so...

A sudden muffled crying stunned the Spirit Fox. For the first time, they heard a man cry with snorts and tears. The operators reacted and spread in formation, more muzzles at the target.

"I surrender... *Hiccup* ...Don't shoot. Please don't kill me! Please don't kill me." The man raised his hands in a lying position and repeated his begging. Obviously, his psychology was broken by the sight of violence he had never seen before.

The exchange previously in the bank wasn't like this. If not for his fear after bullets whiplashed around him and prompted him to lay on the floor like a coward, not minding the dirt and smell, he would never have survived. Mom! Being a criminal was too scary.

His fella nearby died from the stray bullet tearing off his neck. The horrifying sight already brought trauma to his broken state. This fella died just one foot away. If any bullet deviated a mere decimal...he shook his head.

"Hands behind your head and interlock your fingers. DO IT NOW!" Not bothering about the suspect's psychological status, the operators bellowed as they approached.

He complied with the forceful command subconsciously, not even thinking about the words. His body was totally closed, mental awareness included. Neither could he think properly nor put up any resistance.