

Golden 74

Chapter Seventy-Four: The Battle of the Wolf and the Mastiff (Part One)

"Da da... da da da..."

The crisp sound of a gunshot startled Zhuang Rui from his sleep. As he sat up, he noticed that dawn was breaking outside the car window.

Liu Chuan was driving a Hummer, chasing after the wolf pack. Zhou Rui, who hadn't slept all night, had bloodshot eyes. He leaned half his body out of the car and used his gun to precisely shoot down the fleeing wolves.

In modern times, human activity has gradually reduced the living space of grassland wolves. Large wolf packs of hundreds of people, like those before liberation, have completely disappeared. The wolf pack that Zhuang Rui and his group encountered, with over a hundred grassland wolves, was already the most powerful wolf pack in the Nagqu Grassland. However, they were unlucky enough to encounter Zhuang Rui and his group, who were well-equipped and had plenty of ammunition.

From ancient times to the present, the wolves of the grasslands have been sworn enemies with all creatures on the grasslands. In particular, the war between humans and wolves on the grasslands is extremely cruel. Humans and wolves use cruelty to invade cruelty, use cruelty to retaliate against cruelty, and use cunning to fight cunning. If Zhuang Rui and his group hadn't been traveling in a Hummer, and if they hadn't had guns, they would probably all be skeletons by now.

"Liu Chuan, turn around!"

After Zhou Rui shot the last prairie wolf in his sight, he retreated back into the vehicle. A pungent smell of gunpowder immediately filled the Hummer. Seeing that Zhuang Rui had woken up and his complexion was similar to usual, only a little pale due to excessive blood loss, Zhou Rui breathed a sigh of relief. Judging from this, Zhuang Rui had not been infected by the bacteria in the wolf's fangs.

"Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Just to be on the safe side, Zhou Rui still asked a question: Generally speaking, after being bitten by a wolf, unlike being bitten by a dog, the rabies virus contained in a dog's teeth may remain dormant in the human body for several years or even more than ten years before recurring. However, if a person bitten by a wolf does not have symptoms such as fever or elevated body temperature within a day, there will generally be no further problems.

"It's okay now, it's just that I still can't use my left arm properly.

Zhuang Rui flexed his left hand and said to Zhou Rui.

"That's good. Once we get to Nagqu, we can get the injection at the hospital." Zhou Rui was completely relieved.

Liu Chuan had just chased the wolf pack in his car for several kilometers. When he returned to the starting camp, he found that the wolf carcasses that had been shot during the night had disappeared. They must have been eaten by the surviving wolves. These animals are not only cruel to their enemies, but also have no compassion for their own kind. Dead or wounded wolves often quickly become food for the pack, especially in the cold winter.

The grassland was incredibly beautiful in the early morning. The sun peeked shyly out from behind the distant mountains, as if it hadn't fully woken up yet. Dewdrops still clung to the tender petals of the early-awakening wildflowers, bitter bean flowers, and wild chrysanthemums. The grassland shifted between darkness and light, appearing both real and illusory.

The distant mist creates a hazy atmosphere. The verdant meadows of early spring, with their rounded, undulating hills, reveal their tender bosoms. Under the caress of the rising sun, they are lush and enchanting. If it weren't for the pungent smell of wolf blood, this would be a beautiful scene straight out of a poem.

The temperature on the grassland in the early morning was around three or four degrees Celsius, not too cold. After being cooped up in the air-conditioned car all night, the group got out to get some fresh air. However, the strong smell of blood made it impossible to camp there any longer. Liu Chuan loaded the car with the remaining seven or eight bottles of Luzhou Laojiao liquor, while Zhou Rui was already changing the tires of the off-road vehicle with his tools.

The two tires that were bitten out by the wolf's teeth were completely destroyed. The wires inside the tires were bitten through and couldn't be repaired. Fortunately, Zhou Rui had brought two spare tires with him before he set off. Otherwise, he would have had to abandon the car here and wait until he got to the city to buy tires before he could drive it away.

"Brother Zhou, do you think the wolf pack will come back? I've heard that wolves are very vengeful..."

Zhuang Rui held a Type 56 submachine gun in his right hand and stood guard beside Zhou Rui. He was afraid that the wolf pack might launch a counterattack, and if the group was not prepared, they would definitely suffer a great loss.

"It's alright. I shot the wolf king this morning, otherwise the pack wouldn't have scattered, and this pack wouldn't exist anymore; it would just have split into several smaller packs.

While Zhou Rui was busy with his work, he replied casually that the unit he used to serve in also had the word "wolf" in its name, so he knew a great deal about the habits of wolves.

"Xiao Zhuang, you're quite good. You have guts and know how to assess situations. If you train in the army for a few years, you'll definitely be a good soldier."

Zhou Rui casually tossed the discarded tire back into the trunk of the SUV, clapped his hands, and looked at Zhuang Rui, who was holding a gun with one hand, and gave him a rare compliment.

"Brother Zhuang is amazing! He was a hero who saved the damsel in distress yesterday, hehe."

Bai Mengyao skipped over, followed by Bai Meng'an, who had just woken up from a hangover. At this moment, Bai Meng'an could no longer maintain his gentlemanly demeanor. Looking at the messy campsite and the dark brown wolf blood all over the ground, he stared in astonishment, listening to the chattering beside Bai Mengyao recounting what had happened the day before.

"Oh, how did I get so drunk? This kind of opportunity is rare even in Europe, a pure wilderness hunt."

Bai Meng'an angrily blamed herself, regretting that she had missed the big event yesterday. Zhuang Rui, who was listening nearby, rolled his eyes. The event was indeed big, but try facing three starving wolves on the grassland alone.

"Zhuang Rui, come here for a moment."

Lei Lei's voice came from beside the Hummer. Zhuang Rui looked in the direction of the voice and saw Lei Lei waving at him.

"What is it, Miss Lei? Please let me know if you need anything."

Zhuang Rui slung the gun over his right shoulder and walked over. Since last night, Zhuang Rui's personality had become more cheerful than before. In the face of life and death, he was more able to let go of many things.

"Come closer." Seeing that Zhuang Rui was still three or four meters away from her, Lei Lei stomped her foot and walked over herself.

"Xuanxuan needs to pee. Could you go check around? She's worried there might be wolves," Lei Lei whispered into Zhuang Rui's ear.

"!?!"

Zhuang Rui exclaimed in surprise, his mouth opening even wider than Bai Meng'an's.

Zhuang Rui can't use his left arm, so he's practically crippled. Everyone else here has perfectly fine arms and legs, and Zhuang Rui can't understand why Qin Xuanbing sent him out to keep watch.

"Hey, what are you yelling about? What did my wife say to you?"

After Liu Chuan put the case of liquor in the car, he casually opened a bottle and carried it in his hand. In his left hand, he also had a bag of Dezhou braised chicken that he had just torn open and was enjoying it. Anyway, on the grassland, as long as you don't drift while driving, there is no danger of overturning.

"It's alright, it's alright. Lei Lei said you were an invincible hero yesterday, and she'll repay you with her life when we get to Nagqu."

"Go on, you two brothers are no good either."

Zhuang Rui muttered nonsense as he walked toward Qin Xuanbing, who was waiting at the front of the car, with Lei Lei's laughing and cursing voice coming from behind him.

"Xuanbing, this... well..."

Zhuang Rui walked up to Qin Xuanbing, unsure of what to say. After fighting side by side yesterday, he felt that the barrier between him and Qin Xuanbing had disappeared, but something else seemed to have mixed in, making him feel somewhat uncomfortable in front of her, unlike before when he felt completely at ease.

"Pfft..."

Seeing Zhuang Rui's silly expression, Qin Xuanbing couldn't help but laugh. She had felt a little shy at first, but now she felt natural.

"You stay here and keep an eye on things, don't let anyone get close."

Qin Xuanbing pulled Zhuang Rui along and led him into the bushes behind the Hummer.

"Okay, don't worry, I'll be watching over you."

Zhuang Rui was lost in thought when this sentence suddenly popped into his head.

"I'm not telling you to look at me, I'm telling you to watch out for wolves and people around you."

Even though Qin Xuanbing was usually very generous, she couldn't help but blush when she heard Zhuang Rui's words. She stopped in her tracks in anger and walked into the waist-high grass.

"Look at your foul mouth, buddy..." Zhuang Rui realized he had misspoke, lightly slapped his face with his right hand, and quickly chased after him.

"Xuanbing, don't go in yet, let me take a look around first."

Zhuang Rui grabbed Qin Xuanbing's hand and saw the bruised finger marks on it, realizing it was his handiwork from yesterday. His face immediately flushed.

Before Qin Xuanbing could reply, Zhuang Rui let go of her hand, waded through the grass, and then stomped down a section of grass about a meter square before beckoning Qin Xuanbing over.

"We're gentlemen, not villains. Well, we can't do things like spying, but taking a look doesn't seem like a big deal, right?"

Zhuang Rui stood three or four meters away from Qin Xuanbing, listening to the soft sound of flowing water. He was engaged in a fierce internal struggle. Just as his desire to peep won out, he discovered that Qin Xuanbing had already stood up. He was filled with regret and wished he could use his spiritual energy to scan Qin Xuanbing's body to make up for it.

Qin Xuanbing's heart was pounding like a deer's, and her face was flushed as she ran past Zhuang Rui and back to the Hummer.

"Wood, let's go. Are you going to stand there and herd sheep?"

Liu Chuan's voice came from the Hummer. Zhou Rui had already started the SUV, identified the road, and was preparing to leave.

The two vehicles drove one after the other into the depths of the grassland. Since Zhuang Rui was injured, Bai Meng'an naturally returned to the off-road vehicle, while Liu Chuan and Lei Lei took turns driving the Hummer. In fact, including Qin Xuanbing and Bai Mengyao, everyone's driving skills were better than Zhuang Rui's.

"Aww...woof, woof, vomit..."

When the car had traveled about fifty kilometers, a pitiful wolf howl suddenly rang out a few hundred meters ahead, seemingly mixed with the low growls of dogs. Zhuang Rui, who was sitting in the car eating eight-treasure porridge, immediately tensed up, picked up the gun beside him, and crouched down to walk to the passenger seat.