

Golden 811

Chapter 811 The Crying Africa

Normally, a proper flight attendant only has one hand luggage after disembarking, but Zhuang Rui doesn't follow those rules, so Tianya also carried a women's handbag on her shoulder.

The figure hiding in the shadows was trying to snatch the bag from Tianya's shoulder, but just as he grabbed the bag and was about to run away, Tianya subconsciously tugged at it.

However, a woman's strength is no match for a man's. Even though it was just a boy, he still managed to pull Tianya to the ground. It has to be said that black people have great explosive power. After succeeding, the ten-year-old black boy took off running wildly out of the hotel.

"Thief! Thief!"

"Tianya, how are you?"

Tianya, who was lying on the ground, froze after letting out a scream. She kept muttering "Catch the thief!" Liuli saw blood seeping from Tianya's arm and hurriedly opened her box to take out a first-aid kit to bandage Tianya's arm.

"Is this still a thief? He's more like a bandit, practically trying to rob someone with a gun..."

Upon hearing Tianya's words, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but shake his head and smile wryly. He had heard that bag snatching had become quite popular in coastal areas of China in recent years, but he never expected to see it happening in Africa as well.

Seeing that the boy was about to disappear behind the flowerbed, Zhuang Rui knew he couldn't catch him. These locals were very familiar with the terrain, and once he disappeared into the alley across the street, it would be very difficult for him to catch him.

Just because Zhuang Rui couldn't do it didn't mean Peng Fei couldn't. Just as the black boy's figure was about to disappear, Peng Fei suddenly swung his right hand, and the black boy, who had already run more than ten meters away, suddenly let out a scream and fell to the ground.

"Liuli, help Tianya into the hotel, don't let her stay outside..."

Seeing Peng Fei make a move, Zhuang Rui quickly stopped Liu Li. This city truly lives up to its name of "Sin City"—they can even get robbed at the hotel entrance! If Liu Li opens her suitcase here, she might just attract another bunch of robbers.

Peng Fei had already run to the black boy's side, bent down and pulled the knife from the boy's leg, followed by another scream.

"Damn it, is this waiter an idiot?"

Zhuang Rui glanced at the hotel waiter at the entrance. The black guy seemed to have ignored what had just happened and was now trying to help Liuli with her suitcase. However, Liuli pushed him away. Who knows where he would take the suitcase?

Zhuang Rui sighed softly. He knew that South Africa was not safe, but he did not expect it to be this chaotic. Even at the hotel entrance, the safety of guests could not be guaranteed.

"Brother Zhuang, what should we do with this guy?"

When Zhuang Rui arrived at Peng Fei's place, Peng Fei had already subdued the black boy. The knife he had thrown had stabbed the boy's thigh, and now he had torn off the boy's clothes, bandaged him up, and stopped the bleeding.

However, Peng Fei also tied up the black boy's hands and feet. The little boy kept cursing in his native language, with a defiant expression on his face.

"Fine, let him go..."

Zhuang Rui carefully examined the child, who was about thirteen or fourteen years old. His face still had a touch of childishness, and when he opened his mouth to curse, he revealed a set of snow-white teeth.

However, the boy's face would occasionally show a look of pain, clearly indicating that Peng Fei's knife had caused the little guy a great deal of harm.

Seeing the boy's hateful eyes, Zhuang Rui sighed, took out his wallet from his pocket, pulled out about ten hundred-dollar bills, squatted down, and stuffed them into the boy's tattered clothes. He said in English, "Don't rob again. Be a good person!"

"Peng Fei, let him go, let's go..."

Zhuang Rui shook his head, pulled Peng Fei, who was still a little indignant, and said, "Why are you arguing with a kid?"

Zhuang Rui felt Peng Fei's reaction was a bit excessive. This wasn't his own country; if someone was injured and taken away by the police, the embassy might have to intervene. Zhuang Rui didn't want to cause any trouble.

"child?"

Peng Fei sneered and said, "Brother Zhuang, I've seen children kill people before. Let's not talk about this anymore..."

Seemingly thinking of something unpleasant, Peng Fei retorted to Zhuang Rui, then lowered his head and used the knife in his hand to cut open the clothes binding the little boy.

"Sir, thank you!"

Just as Zhuang Rui and Peng Fei had walked about seven or eight meters, a boy's voice suddenly came from behind them, tinged with a slight sob. Zhuang Rui paused for a moment, then waved his hand and said, "Let's go. Don't do this again..."

The black boy stood up, bowed deeply to Zhuang Rui, and then limped into the darkness.

"How about that? As long as you're human, you still know what's good for you..." Zhuang Rui patted Peng Fei on the shoulder and walked into the lavishly decorated hotel lobby.

"Brother Zhuang, never do anything like this in Africa again, or you'll be targeted. African children can be more terrifying than adults sometimes..."

Peng Fei shook his head and followed. Seeing Zhuang Rui's indifferent expression, he continued, "Once, I was on a mission with a comrade. That comrade was shot in the head by a child who had been injured by a landmine while trying to save him. Do you know that he was only nine years old..."

Seeing that Zhuang Rui still didn't quite believe him, Peng Fei told him about an experience he had had in the past.

Five years ago, Peng Fei and a platoon of comrades went to Africa on a special mission, which took them deep into the war-torn Congo.

The mission went very smoothly, but when they were about to leave after completing the mission, they encountered a child whose leg had been blown off by a landmine in the jungle. Peng Fei's comrades couldn't bear to see the child die, so they went up to help him bandage his leg.

Who knew that just as Peng Fei's comrade bent down to bandage him, the black boy actually pulled out a pistol from behind his back, pointed it at Peng Fei's comrade's head, and shot him.

Peng Fei and the others were unable to avenge their comrade, because after firing the gun, the boy detonated a grenade, his resolute manner showing that he didn't care about his own life at all.

Peng Fei can still remember the madness and indifference in the boy's eyes. They were like the eyes of a dead man, devoid of any life, like a walking corpse.

Zhuang Rui fell silent upon hearing this. Some things, you can never truly understand the feelings of the person involved without experiencing them firsthand. In his eyes, they were just children, but as Peng Fei said, if it were on the battlefield, even children could become killers.

After listening to Peng Fei's account, Zhuang Rui suddenly recalled a news report he had seen on Yuquan Mountain not long ago about the situation in Africa. It described the cruelty of child soldiers in Africa.

According to the report, in the armies of African countries such as Congo, Uganda, and Liberia, all captured children are regularly injected with cocaine or other maddening drugs, and those who refuse are immediately beaten to death.

Most girls are raped before taking the drugs. In 2004, there were approximately 130,000 girl scouts in Africa who had been forced into slavery.

The atrocities committed by these drug-addicted teenagers were appalling; they even used bayonets to cut open the abdomens of pregnant women. In order to gain merit and rewards, these "Boy Scouts" indiscriminately killed innocent people, regardless of age, cutting off their hands, feet, and heads to present to their leaders.

The child soldiers raped girls, often before killing them. They also castrated government police officers, using all sorts of methods to humiliate them.

These child soldiers have no concept of good or evil; they only worship and obey their leaders or chiefs because they can obtain drugs from these people to control them.

In order to train Boy Scouts to be violent, they are sometimes required to kill their parents and friends and drink their blood.

During the ten-year civil war in Lion Rock, rebel leaders forcibly conscripted nearly 10,000 child soldiers aged 9 to 15. These child soldiers carried AK47 rifles that had been phased out in Asia, wore camouflage uniforms, and smoked, drank, and played with women like adults.

After the civil war ended, these surviving child soldiers, besides war and killing, no longer knew how to survive. Many died from drugs, and many more went to countries still in conflict to continue the killing and madness.

Zhuang Rui knew these things, and Peng Fei was even more aware of them. South Africa was not far from those war-torn countries, so Peng Fei was very vigilant. Who knew if this black boy was a child soldier who had fled to South Africa from another country?

"He Shuang, what's wrong?"

When Zhuang Rui arrived at the hotel reception desk, he found He Shuang arguing with the waiter who had been standing by at the door, while Liu Li and the others also had indignant expressions on their faces.

"Mr. Zhuang, this guy has the nerve to ask for a tip? He didn't care that we were robbed, and he insisted on getting a tip even though we didn't ask him to carry the suitcase..."

He Shuang had served in the military for many years and had a fiery temper; if this were in China, he would have already thrown a punch at her.

"roll!"

Before Zhuang Rui could speak, Peng Fei, unable to contain his anger, stepped forward and shoved the tall waiter aside, saying in English, "If you don't want to die, stay away from us..."

Peng Fei, who usually appeared rather lazy, suddenly revealed a murderous aura, his eyes flashing with a cold light, causing the black waiter to retreat repeatedly.

Peng Fei is different from He Shuang. Although he also comes from a disciplined force, he is not bound by so many rules and regulations. Especially when carrying out missions abroad, he has a high degree of autonomy. Killing one or two people is nothing to him.

So he angered Peng Fei. If he really dared to kill this man, he could simply flee from South Africa to another African country and then find a way to return to China.

Chapter 812 Diamond Deal (Part 1)

"Peng Fei, forget it, don't bother with this kind of person..."

Zhuang Rui pulled Peng Fei back. He knew the kid was a bit emotionally unstable and might actually dare to kill the black waiter. 0800.00

Johannesburg may be chaotic, but it is still one of the most important cities in South Africa. Such blatant murders are unlikely to be resolved peacefully. If this happened in another African country, killing someone would be no big deal; a gold bar would be enough to settle the matter.

However, Zhuang Rui came to attend the diamond trade fair, not to assess the fairness of African laws, which is why he grabbed Peng Fei.

"Old He, contact Qin's Jewelry in Hong Kong and file a complaint with the hotel's headquarters!"

Zhuang Rui turned to He Shuang and said, "This hotel is a world-renowned chain of five-star hotels. If we complain to their headquarters, they will at least give us an explanation."

"Yes, Mr. Zhuang..."

He Shuang and the others had witnessed firsthand what a sinful city was like. They hadn't even settled in yet, and one incident after another had already occurred. Judging from the indignant look in the black waiter's eyes as he left, he seemed unwilling to let the matter rest.

After giving his instructions, Zhuang Rui did not go to the front desk to check in. Instead, he pulled Peng Fei to sit down on the sofa in the hotel lobby.

Zhuang Rui was waiting for the hotel manager to step in; otherwise, offending the black people in South Africa could lead to countless troubles in the future.

"Excuse me, are you guests from Hong Kong?"

Qin's Jewelry was very efficient. About twenty minutes later, a white man in his forties hurriedly came to Zhuang Rui.

Zhuang Rui glanced at the middle-aged man, frowned, and said, "Yes, it was I who filed a complaint against your hotel. Your employees extorted money from us, and I need an explanation..."

"I am John, the executive director of this hotel. This was our mistake, and I will give you a satisfactory answer..."

As the manager of this hotel, John naturally knew the temperament of those black employees. He was also a little helpless. This international hotel chain had thousands of branches all over the world. Why was he so unlucky to be thrown into this godforsaken place in Africa to work?

"I have serious doubts about whether your hotel can guarantee the safety of its guests, and I am considering whether to switch to another hotel..."

Zhuang Rui wasn't threatening John; he genuinely felt very unsafe here. Not only was he robbed at the door and no one paid any attention, but once inside, he wasn't even extorted. This was simply unheard of.

Even though Zhuang Rui knew that Johannesburg was not safe before he came, he did not expect it to be this bad.

"Sir, those damned black devils aren't allowed on the hotel guest room floors. Please rest assured about your safety; there will be absolutely no problems..."

John explained to Zhuang Rui in a humble voice that it wasn't just their hotel; all the hotels in Johannesburg had this problem.

If Black people weren't allowed to work at the hotel, the hotel would definitely run into trouble. So the management had no choice but to assign driving or security guard jobs to Black people, while strictly prohibiting them from entering the hotel's interior.

However, there are good and bad among these black people. The hotel will assign different jobs to them based on their performance. For example, the driver who picked up Zhuang Rui and the others was

quite good. If the doorman had been sent to pick them up, he probably would have led a few people into a den of thieves.

"Okay, but the original three rooms need to be changed. We'll cancel one of them and convert the remaining two into suites..."

Zhuang Rui thought for a moment and figured other hotels in Johannesburg probably weren't much better. However, after what had happened, he didn't dare let Liu Li and Tian Ya stay alone, so he simply changed them to a suite for He Shuang and Ding Hao to stay in as well.

"Okay, sir, I'll process it for you right away..."

Knowing he was in the wrong, John personally helped Zhuang Rui with the formalities and escorted them into the elevator.

"Old He, be careful. You don't need to go out for the next few days. I'll take you shopping after I finish my business..."

The two suites were not far apart. Before entering the room, Zhuang Rui reminded the others that it was best to be careful in a place like this.

"I understand, Mr. Zhuang, don't worry..."

He Shuang agreed. He had also witnessed what had just happened. Even if they were asked to go out for a stroll now, they probably wouldn't have the courage.

"Brother Zhuang, it's a call from Hong Kong..."

As soon as he entered his room, the brick-like satellite phone in Peng Fei's hand rang. Zhuang Rui always took two with him when he went out, one for the crew and the other for Peng Fei.

In places like Africa, there are many areas where mobile phones cannot be used. Zhuang Rui brought a satellite phone so that he could easily contact his family.

"Xiao Rui, has the matter been resolved?"

Qin Haoran's voice came through the phone, tinged with a slight apology.

"Dad, it's alright. I'll go to the trading market tomorrow and try to return to *** after the bidding opens on Friday..." If his father-in-law hadn't personally gone to *** to plead for him, Zhuang Rui really wouldn't want to stay here for even a day longer.

"Yes, the company has some connections in Johannesburg. I've made the arrangements for you. A diamond supplier will pick you up tomorrow. You can leave your itinerary for the next few days to them, and they'll also handle your security..."

What just happened really scared Qin Haoran. If his son-in-law had gotten into trouble in South Africa, not only would his wife and daughter not forgive him, but Qin's Jewelry's business in mainland China would probably be ruined.

To be honest, Qin Haoran regretted letting Zhuang Rui come. Although 200 million euros was a lot, Zhuang Rui's life was worth far more than 200 million euros!

After breaking out in a cold sweat, Qin Haoran quickly contacted a very powerful diamond company in South Africa. Qin's Jewelry paid for two vehicles and several security personnel from the company.

"Dad, I'll be careful, don't worry..."

Zhuang Rui sensed the worry in his father-in-law's voice, offered a few words of comfort, and then hung up the phone.

The next morning, Zhuang Rui received a call from the security personnel sent by the diamond company. They were already waiting at the hotel entrance, and from today onwards, they would be responsible for all of Zhuang Rui's itinerary after he left the hotel.

“Mr. Zhuang, hello, my name is George. I will be in charge of your security before you leave Johannesburg...”

After Zhuang Rui led Peng Fei out of the hotel, a white man in his mid-thirties immediately came up to them. Although the man was dressed in a suit and tie, Zhuang Rui could feel the explosive power in his bulging chest muscles. This guy was definitely not a writer.

Peng Fei's gaze fell on the man's waist, on the slightly protruding part. He narrowed his eyes. With Peng Fei's experience, he could tell at a glance that it was a pistol, and from the size of the gun, he could tell that it was a powerful Desert Eagle.

After George introduced himself, the three men behind him immediately formed a triangle around Zhuang Rui and Peng Fei. Clearly, these men were well-trained professional bodyguards.

"Thank you, Mr. George..."

Zhuang Rui shook hands with George and got into the car behind. George and a bodyguard followed, while the other two bodyguards got into the first car.

It must be said that Qin Haoran really valued his son-in-law's safety. A Volvo armored sedan led the way, while Zhuang Rui and the others rode in a Hummer.

After getting into the car, George gave Zhuang Rui and Peng Fei a brief introduction. Both cars were bulletproof modified versions, and unless weapons like rocket launchers were used, ordinary submachine guns would not be able to break through their defenses in a short time.

On the way to the diamond exchange, Zhuang Rui and George talked about the situation in South Africa, which gave Zhuang Rui a better understanding of where he was.

Due to the lack of gun control in South Africa, many criminal gangs have more firepower than the police. A submachine gun can be bought for only \$100 here, and it even comes with two 30-round magazines. Hiring a hitman only costs \$500.

Just like in the movies, you can only hear the police sirens after the gunfight is over. If the police sirens are going to arrive too early, they'll definitely pull over to the side of the road to smoke a cigarette and wait a while.

Because diamond and gold transactions involve huge sums of money, they are a primary target for criminal gangs in South Africa. Many foreigners, especially Asians, who come to Johannesburg need to be especially careful when participating in diamond transactions.

In 2002, a malicious incident occurred here. Five businessmen who successfully bid for a batch of diamonds worth \$60 million were stopped by a group of robbers ten minutes after leaving the diamond exchange.

All five businessmen in the car were shot dead, and the diamonds disappeared without a trace. The case remains unsolved to this day.

After this incident, the number of jewelry merchants from Asia decreased sharply, while the bodyguard business became popular in South Africa. People like George were retired U.S. special forces soldiers who voluntarily came to South Africa to work as bodyguards.

Although George didn't mention their exact price, Zhuang Rui could guess that his father-in-law must have paid a hefty sum to hire them.

After leaving the city, the car headed southeast of the city. There were very few cars on the South African roads, so the driver drove very fast. After about half an hour, the car stopped in the courtyard of a building complex.

As soon as Zhuang Rui stepped out of the car, he felt several menacing gazes fixed on him.

Chapter 813 Diamond Deal (Part Two)

This book is the first to offer a super smooth reading experience for Taiwanese novels, providing you with error-free and chapters in order.

When George saw Zhuang Rui stop and make eye contact with the people in the courtyard, he quickly nudged Zhuang Rui from behind and whispered in his ear, "Don't look at those people, go inside the trading hall..."

The other three bodyguards also got out of the car and escorted Zhuang Rui towards a high-walled compound. This compound was merely the exchange's parking lot and was not protected by the diamond exchange.

The exchange in front was a large red-roofed building with high electric fences on all four sides. The main gate was a double electric iron gate, and four security guards armed with AK47s stood at the entrance.

"Mr. Zhuang, we're waiting for you here. Please remember not to cause trouble inside..." Upon arriving at the gate, Zhuang Rui and his group were stopped by several security guards.

Due to the high risks involved in rough diamond trading, South Africa has implemented a licensing system for rough diamond traders. People without licenses are not allowed to enter the trading market to buy or sell rough diamonds.

Of Zhuang Rui's group, only Zhuang Rui had obtained a trading license, so even Peng Fei had to wait outside.

"Brother Zhuang, this..." Peng Fei was a little worried.

"It's alright, the exchange will guarantee the safety of its clients, you don't need to worry..."

George seemed quite interested in Peng Fei. Along the way, while chatting with Zhuang Rui, he would occasionally exchange a few words with Peng Fei. However, Peng Fei didn't seem to care much for him. Often, it would be George gesturing and talking for a long time before Peng Fei would finally utter a single word.

"Peng Fei, it's alright..."

Zhuang Rui waved to Peng Fei, saying that diamonds and gold are South Africa's main exports, and if even the security of the exchange cannot be guaranteed, then this government has no reason to exist.

"Sir, is there anything I can do for you?"

After issuing the transaction license, Zhuang Rui walked into the red house, where a white man greeted him.

"I need this week's diamond auction list, and also a room to view the goods..."

Before coming, Qin Haoran explained the diamond auction process to Zhuang Rui. Unlike jade auctions, diamond auctions are extremely private. Within the trading market, each trader does not meet with each other, and they do not know who won the diamond they have their eye on.

Normally, during the trade fair, the exchange provides each licensed buyer with a list of rough stones to be auctioned before Tuesday of each week.

Customers who receive these lists enter the market at different times and in different ways, and are then arranged to their respective trading rooms to inspect and purchase the goods. After submitting their prices, each buyer can leave and wait for further information.

The bidding opens at 3 p.m. every Friday during the trading period, and the auction results for the diamonds are announced. The winning bidder settles accounts with the exchange based on their results.

Diamonds are different from jadeite rough stones, which can weigh tens or even hundreds of kilograms. A small bag of these stones can be worth hundreds of millions. Therefore, it is always cash on delivery. The exchange issues a certificate to the buyer so that the diamond can be taken out of South Africa through customs.

While this method lacks the thrill of gambling on rough stones, it ensures the privacy and security of the traders. This trading method has been maintained since the establishment of the South African Diamond Exchange.

Even so, a considerable number of diamond buyers were still targeted by local or international criminal groups. Some of these criminals somehow leaked the information, ultimately resulting in their deaths and financial losses.

There are special cases for this type of transaction. If a buyer misses Tuesday's auction and doesn't want to wait until next week, they can provide proof of funds to the exchange and join the auction this week as long as it's not Friday's opening date.

When Zhuang Rui arrived in Johannesburg yesterday, it was already Wednesday, so he naturally didn't receive the auction list from the exchange. However, Zhuang Rui really didn't want to wait until next Tuesday, so he arrived at the exchange early.

Of course, there is a catch: the licensed trader who submits the application must have a purchasing power of at least 100 million euros.

"Sir, please follow me..."

The staff member sized Zhuang Rui up and down, then led him into an office, poured him a cup of coffee, and said, "Sir, please show me your proof of funds..."

Zhuang Rui heard about the procedure from Qin Haoran, and immediately opened his handbag, took out two bearer bank drafts issued by Swiss banks, and placed them in front of the staff member.

"David, come here for a moment..." The white man picked up the phone on the table and called someone in.

"William, that's right, two hundred million euros, available at any time..."

David, who answered the phone, was probably an accountant. After examining Zhuang Rui's bank draft, he nodded to the staff member named William.

"Okay, thank you, David..."

After the accountant left, William returned the bank draft to Zhuang Rui with a big smile, then took out a quotation from his desk drawer and placed it in front of Zhuang Rui.

"Mr. Zhuang, this is the list of diamonds to be auctioned this week and the starting bid prices. You can take a look at the list first, and if you would like to see the actual diamonds, I can get them for you..."

Anyone who can come up with 200 million euros is already a very important client of the exchange. After William opened the list, he pointed to it and said to Zhuang Rui, "Mr. Zhuang, look at this one. This is a diamond mined last August. It weighs 48 carats and the starting bid is only 5 million US dollars."

"And look at this one, this is the largest diamond mined last year, and it's a pink diamond at that. The starting bid is \$15 million, and I believe Mr. Zhuang has the financial means to buy it..."

William, acting as if they were old friends, sat down next to Zhuang Rui and went to great lengths to introduce the diamonds on the list to Zhuang Rui, as if he wanted to empty Zhuang Rui's pockets of every last penny.

"Damn, this thing is more expensive than jade!"

Zhuang Rui cursed inwardly. He knew that one carat was only equivalent to 2 grams, and fifty carats was only about 10 grams, or one-fifth of an ounce, yet it could sell for tens of millions of US dollars, which was much more expensive than top-grade jadeite.

"Mr. Zhuang, could you open this one..." Seeing Zhuang Rui's noncommittal expression, William pointed to another diamond.

"Thank you, let me take a look..."

Zhuang Rui smiled and glanced at William, interrupting him. If he bought the items as William suggested, his father-in-law in Hong Kong would definitely fight him to the death.

Zhuang Rui came to the south this time to help Qin's Jewelry and his own Qin Ruilin purchase a year's worth of rough diamonds. He dared not spend the money recklessly.

Currently, the price of loose diamonds on the international market, depending on their luster and color, is generally between 4,000 and 10,000 RMB per carat, which translates to approximately 400 to 1,000 euros per carat.

Of course, for some extremely rare pink diamonds and larger diamonds, the prices are not appropriate. For example, 50 one-carat diamonds may only cost 500,000 RMB, but a single 50-carat diamond may cost 5 million or even 50 million RMB.

For example, a rough diamond weighing over 55 carats was produced in South Africa a few years ago and was eventually auctioned off to a jeweler for \$12 million. The mine that produced that diamond was then directly acquired by an American company for \$100 million.

The diamonds that William just introduced to Zhuang Rui are the same; the weight and purity of a diamond can increase its price by tens or even hundreds of times.

So even though Zhuang Rui brought a lot of money this time, if he only chooses top-quality diamonds, he can probably only buy a few dozen at most.

"Hehe, Mr. Zhuang, please take your time looking around. Just call me if you need anything..."

William knew that his actions had offended the young man, so he stood up, poured Zhuang Rui another cup of coffee, and sat quietly beside him.

"Based on the annual sales volume of Qin's Jewelry's numerous chain stores across Southeast Asian countries, it would probably require at least 30,000 loose diamonds ranging from one to three carats, which would cost approximately 80 million euros..."

"We also need to purchase some diamonds ranging from three to ten carats, with higher purity and quality, which will cost approximately 80 million euros. The remaining tens of millions of euros can be used to select a few top-quality diamonds..."

Zhuang Rui secretly calculated in his mind that the tens of thousands of loose diamonds did not need to be of very high quality, but it would be best if they were from a batch of auction items. As for the other two types, Zhuang Rui would need to carefully select them.

"Hmm? That's acceptable..."

Zhuang Rui saw a batch of auction items, totaling more than 28,000 loose diamonds, all from the same mine, with a starting bid of 41 million euros, which was also the highest price in this package auction.

"Mr. William, could you please provide a few auction listings?"

These loose diamonds were all of average quality, and Zhuang Rui didn't need to inspect them at all. After taking the auction slips from William, Zhuang Rui filled in the lot numbers and then wrote down the auction price of 82 million euros.

Staff are not allowed to view the customer's bid price, so William waited until Zhuang Rui finished filling out the bid form and sealed it in a special paper bag before approaching Zhuang Rui and saying, "Mr. Zhuang, would you like to purchase some single diamonds?"

With William's experience, he could naturally tell that Zhuang Rui was buying loose diamonds. However, with such a big client, William would be reluctant not to sell a few top-quality diamonds.

"Mr. William, could you bring this pink diamond, this 48-carat diamond, and these others, for me to examine?"

William's efforts paid off; upon seeing the diamonds Zhuang Rui pointed to, he nearly fainted from happiness.

Chapter 814 Diamond Deal (Part 3)

The diamonds Zhuang Rui mentioned all had starting bids of at least \$500,000, including a pink diamond worth \$15 million and a 48-carat diamond.

William mentally estimated that the diamond Zhuang Rui wanted to see was worth at least fifty million US dollars.

In fact, Zhuang Rui wasn't very interested in the \$15 million pink diamond, because such a diamond would definitely have a starting bid of over \$30 million.

Zhuang Rui currently only has a little over 40 million euros left, which is about 50 to 60 million US dollars. If he buys this pink diamond, he won't have the funds to purchase other high-quality diamonds.

However, since he had come to South Africa, Zhuang Rui naturally wanted to see some top-quality rough diamonds that were still unprocessed.

"Okay, Mr. Zhuang, please wait a moment, I'll bring you these diamonds right away..."

William noted down the numbers of the more than forty loose diamonds over five carats that Zhuang Rui had selected, as well as the six or seven top-quality diamonds. Then he hurriedly left the office to prepare the diamonds for Zhuang Rui to inspect.

However, Zhuang Rui's wait was quite long. More than twenty minutes later, William walked into the office with an apologetic look on his face and said, "Mr. Zhuang, I'm so sorry, since you didn't make an appointment beforehand, these diamonds are currently being inspected, so you'll have to wait a little longer..."

According to the exchange's regulations, they would arrange each person's viewing time based on the application submitted by the licensee. Zhuang Rui's interference naturally disrupted their arrangements, so this situation is quite normal.

"It's alright, Mr. William, please make the arrangements as soon as possible..."

Zhuang Rui knew the rules and waved his hand to indicate that he didn't care. As the world's largest diamond trading venue and an annual diamond trade fair, there were bound to be many people looking at the goods.

"Definitely, definitely..."

After William left with his assurances, Zhuang Rui waited for another half hour. Apart from a white girl with freckles coming in to pour him a glass of water, William never appeared again.

Zhuang Rui was getting a little impatient. He stood up and opened the office door, ready to ask what was going on, when he saw William carrying a square metal box, walking out of another room alongside two black men and a yellow-skinned Arab man.

Behind them were two white men carrying submachine guns, presumably security personnel from the stock exchange.

Leading the way was an Arab man, around thirty years old, with short hair and wearing brightly colored clothes, a stark contrast to the suits and ties worn by everyone at the diamond exchange.

Behind the Arab youth, a black man was walking out while pointing at William, looking unhappy. William's attitude surprised Zhuang Rui; he kept nodding and saying sorry.

It's important to understand that in South Africa, although blacks are in power, their status is still very low. The entire country's economy and energy resources are controlled by whites. In other words, South Africa is essentially working for Western countries.

White people in South Africa enjoyed many privileges, which were left over from the colonial era. Although Mandela abolished most of these privileges after coming to power, white people still held a high status in South Africa and had always looked down on black people.

William's respectful attitude towards a young black man, who was likely just the young Arab man's servant, made Zhuang Rui take a second look at the Arab man.

After dropping the group off at the entrance of the exchange, William wiped the sweat from his brow, then picked up his suitcase and turned to walk towards Zhuang Rui.

However, the Arab man did not leave the exchange. When he saw William walking towards Zhuang Rui, he suddenly grinned at Zhuang Rui, revealing his snow-white teeth.

Although Zhuang Rui didn't recognize the man, he still politely returned a smile. What angered him was that after the Arab man smiled, he suddenly raised his right hand, spread his thumb and forefinger into the shape of a pistol, and pointed it at his temple as if to fire a gun.

"What the hell? Are you sick in the head?"

Zhuang Rui was stunned for a moment when he saw the man's actions, and then he became angry. Judging from the man's behavior and the unfriendly look in his eyes, he was not joking with him.

“f.....u.....c.....k”

Arabs may be rich, but they shouldn't do such an insulting thing to you. Zhuang Rui opened his mouth wide, mouthed a curse in English, and then crossed his hand across his throat.

Although Zhuang Rui didn't want to cause trouble, he wasn't afraid of trouble either. At worst, he would just skip the trade fair and go back to China. He didn't believe that this person could do anything to him.

Upon seeing Zhuang Rui's actions, the Arab man was visibly taken aback, then his face darkened with anger. He gave Zhuang Rui a thumbs-up, then turned his head slightly and said a few words to the black man beside him.

“Zhuang... Oh my God, Mr. Zhuang, please come in, please come in quickly...”

William was walking towards Zhuang Rui. When he first saw Zhuang Rui make this move, he was a little confused. However, when he turned around and saw the Arab youth, his face immediately showed a look of horror. He grabbed Zhuang Rui and pushed him into the room.

Two armed security guards followed them into the room. Their job was to ensure the safety of the goods during the customer's inspection, and they ignored the silent conflict that had just occurred.

"My God, Mr. Zhuang, how could you have offended that person?"

After entering the room, William's expression was still somewhat grim. He said, "Zhuang, you need to be careful. That man is a scoundrel; he'll definitely come after you..."

"Mr. William, he provoked me first. He just made a shooting gesture at me..."

To be honest, Zhuang Rui was also annoyed. What had he done to deserve this? That guy had made a threatening gesture at him for no reason. Was he supposed to just lie on the ground and cooperate with him?

However, the fact that the Arab man could frighten William to this extent suggests that he must be someone of considerable importance.

William sighed and said, "Sigh, you shouldn't have left the room. That way, he wouldn't know who wanted to inspect the goods. Zhuang, you really don't understand the diamond trade..."

The reason diamond exchanges conduct separate auctions and prevent dealers from meeting is to maximize client privacy.

It's important to understand that diamond transactions often involve hundreds of millions of dollars, making them a target for many criminal groups. If word gets out, even staying in the police station might not be safe.

"William, tell me who that person is?"

Zhuang Rui knew all of William's words, but he wasn't a god who could know that he would run into William and his guests coming out of another room as soon as he stepped out. What Zhuang Rui was concerned about now was, just who was this Arab who harbored ill will towards him?

"He is a general of Libya..." William said.

"General, so young?"

Zhuang Rui looked at the man, who appeared to be only in his early thirties, and realized he was a general, which piqued his curiosity.

"My God, he's Gaddafi's son!"

William was very unhappy that Zhuang Rui had interrupted him, and continued, "Do you know who Gaddafi is? Do you know what kind of power he wields in Africa and the Arab world? Young man, you shouldn't have provoked him..."

Upon hearing the name Gaddafi, Zhuang Rui's expression finally changed. Although he didn't know the truth, he had just read a book written by the famous journalist Donald Duck, which was a factual account of his interviews with Gaddafi.

Gaddafi was a controversial figure, with opinions about him being mixed. In the eyes of some, he was a "great savior," a "national hero," and a "revolutionary leader," while in the eyes of others, he was a "madman," a "lunatic," and a "supporter of terrorism."

But both his supporters and opponents had to acknowledge the fact that Gaddafi led the country of about six million people out of poverty. In 1981, Libya's per capita national income reached \$10,000, making it the richest country in Africa.

Even after years of Western economic sanctions, Libya remains one of the wealthiest regions in Africa, with its citizens enjoying compulsory education and a comprehensive healthcare system.

Gaddafi came to power through a coup. After taking power, he immediately expelled Western forces from the country and implemented a regime. It can be said that in Libya, Gaddafi was the only god and was respected by many small African countries.

A man who has been hated by Western countries such as Britain and the United States for decades is living a fulfilling life, which is admirable. However, Zhuang Rui's encounter with his son in Africa is not a pleasant thing.

Gaddafi's seven sons and one daughter were involved in numerous industries in the country, including oil, gas, hotels, media, distribution, communications, and social infrastructure.

Libya has proven oil reserves of approximately 43 billion barrels and proven natural gas reserves of 48 trillion cubic meters. Gaddafi's children have made a fortune solely from oil and natural gas exports.

Every year, hundreds of billions of dollars flow into the pockets of Gaddafi's children. It is speculated that the capital invested overseas by Libya also belongs to them, amounting to about \$70 billion. Gaddafi's children have also purchased a large number of properties overseas.

The person Zhuang Rui met was Muta, Gaddafi's youngest son. This guy was irritable and cruel. Relying on Gaddafi's power, he committed all sorts of evil deeds in Libya. He was once accused of assaulting his followers while in Switzerland and was "detained" by the Swiss police. He was just like Saddam Hussein's son Uday back then.

"Zhuang, I suggest you leave here after the bidding tomorrow, that way Muta won't be able to do anything to you..."

After explaining Muta's personality to Zhuang Rui, William kindly advised him that he had been working there for five or six years and was well aware of the lawless behavior of the children of these African countries. Even if Muta had killed someone in South Africa, he would still have diplomatic immunity.

"Thank you, William, I will seriously consider your suggestion..."

Damn it, this Muta is a total Libyan bastard! Zhuang Rui was a little annoyed. If we're talking about serious matters, I could be considered a third-generation official in China, right? How come I never enjoyed the same treatment as them?

However, Zhuang Rui was not afraid of that Muta. After the bidding was completed tomorrow afternoon, he would leave in the evening. Anyway, he would not pass through Libyan airspace on his way back. No matter how capable that guy was, he could not send out fighter jets to shoot him down over another country, could he?

Besides, there's only one day left until the bidding opens. Muta probably hasn't even figured out his own background yet, and Zhuang Rui is already on his way home.

"Zhuang, as a friend, I still hope you can be careful..."

William saw that Zhuang Rui seemed unconvinced and sighed inwardly. He knew that Muta was a very petty and vindictive person.

A Western journalist once published some negative news about Muta in a newspaper, and Muta hired an assassin to kill the journalist in the street, which caused a huge uproar in Western countries.

However, since Gaddafi always ignored Western countries, the matter was eventually dropped. Muta, however, never dared to travel to Western countries again, otherwise he would face charges.

Having spent the last few years holed up in African and Arab countries, Muta, perhaps out of sheer boredom, started a diamond business. Leveraging his considerable wealth and his father's influence in Africa, he monopolized rough diamonds in several countries.

Of course, the power dynamics within South Africa are complex, and Muta does not yet have the capacity to monopolize the South African diamond business.

"Thank you, let's look at the diamonds first..."

Zhuang Rui didn't want to dwell on this matter any longer. Even if he was afraid of him, he could just leave tomorrow, right?

After hearing Zhuang Rui's words, William took out a magnetic key and inserted it into a hole in the metal box on the table. Meanwhile, a security guard behind him also took out a key and inserted it into another keyhole.

After William and the security guard turned the key at the same time, the metal box latch clicked, and the lid of the metal box moved slightly upwards.

William stepped aside, presenting the metal box to Zhuang Rui, and said, "Mr. Zhuang, these are the diamonds you need to inspect. However, you only have thirty minutes to inspect them, as there are other appointments downstairs. This is the longest time I can arrange..."

"I think thirty minutes should be enough..."

After Zhuang Rui opened the metal box, he found that inside were small, foldable compartments like drawers. As the lid was lifted, six drawers made of black metal appeared in front of Zhuang Rui.

Each compartment has a label with the starting bid price for the diamonds inside, indicated in Arabic numerals.

At the very top of the box, there is a high-powered magnifying glass and a clip. These are tools provided by the exchange to customers to examine diamonds. Of course, customers can also bring their own tools.

Zhuang Rui came in a hurry today and didn't bring anything. He immediately picked up the magnifying glass and opened the top pane.

"This is a rough diamond?!"

Inside the first drawer were eighteen rough diamonds, each weighing over ten carats. Unlike the finished diamonds Zhuang Rui had seen before, these rough diamonds, though also crystal clear, lacked the luster of processed diamonds. Moreover, they were uncut and their shapes were extremely irregular.

"Mr. Zhuang, these are all flawless D-grade diamonds with a purity of VVS1. I believe they will satisfy you..." William introduced to Zhuang Rui from the side.

"Hmm, let me take a look first..."

Zhuang Rui used tongs to pick up a rough stone the size of a soybean, held it up to his eyes, and examined it carefully with a magnifying glass. From the surface, the rough stone was indeed flawless and had a very good luster.

After Zhuang Rui separated a wisp of spiritual energy and entered the diamond, he immediately felt a cool and refreshing aura. He had used his spiritual energy to examine diamonds before and knew that this was a unique aura of diamonds.

With time running out and the task heavy, after examining the first diamond, Zhuang Rui used his spiritual energy to scan the box that had been pulled out, carefully distinguishing the strength of the spiritual energy contained in these diamonds. Then he used tweezers to remove twelve more diamonds, all of which had relatively strong spiritual energy.

Zhuang Rui pretended to inspect the twelve rough stones, took out a price list, filled in his auction bid, sealed it, and handed it to William. William then took out a small black bag, put the diamonds into it, and put it back into the box.

In the lower compartments, there are fewer diamonds. The second layer has only three diamonds, with a starting bid of over \$500,000. The lower layers each contain one diamond, and the bottom box contains the colored diamond.

This diamond weighs 2 carats and is entirely pink. Even without faceting or polishing, it exudes a shimmering pink luster, as if there is a halo around the diamond, making it exceptionally beautiful.

Of course, the price of beauty is that the starting bid for this pink diamond is as high as \$15 million. After looking at it for a long time, Zhuang Rui finally shook his head and gave up, because the diamonds in the drawers above had already exhausted all the funds he had brought with him.

In order to successfully win the bid and leave this hellish place tomorrow, Zhuang Rui's bid was 30% higher than the market price. If nothing unexpected happens, he should be able to win all the diamonds except for this pink diamond.

If Zhuang Rui had the patience to wait another week or two, he might have been able to buy the same diamond for nearly ten million euros less. However, after what happened yesterday and witnessing the

arrogance of the African rioters today, Zhuang Rui would rather spend more money and leave Africa as soon as possible.

"Mr. Zhuang, I hope you win the bid tomorrow. I still have clients to entertain, so I'll leave you here..."

After Zhuang Rui submitted all his bids, William locked the box again and escorted Zhuang Rui to the entrance of the exchange. According to regulations, customers who have already submitted bids and inspected the goods are not allowed to linger inside the exchange.

Chapter 815 Madman Muta

"Brother Zhuang, are you alright?"

As soon as Zhuang Rui stepped out of the exchange, Peng Fei approached him, followed by several malicious glances fixed on him. These people weren't there to trade diamonds, nor were they waiting for someone; their expressions practically screamed "I'm a robber."

However, what they are doing now is probably the kind of "surveying" work in the domestic underworld, which means finding out the amount of money involved in a transaction after identifying a target, and then tracking it down and making a move on the transaction day.

"It's alright, let's go..."

Zhuang Rui was in a bad mood. He had inexplicably made an enemy of the African prince, and he was truly caught in the crossfire.

"Mr. Zhuang, do you know any of the people over there?"

As bodyguards, George and his colleagues had exceptionally keen senses. He noticed that about twenty meters away, a black man was staring at Zhuang Rui, making no attempt to conceal the murderous intent in his eyes.

"Muta's bodyguard had a bit of an unpleasant encounter at the exchange earlier..."

Zhuang Rui immediately recognized the black man as the bodyguard who had been following Muta earlier. It seemed that the man was a vengeful person, as he was still waiting here.

"Libya's Muta?"

Upon hearing this, George's expression immediately turned serious. His right hand instinctively went to his side, and he gave Zhuang Rui a push with his left hand, saying, "Zhuang, hurry up and get in the car..."

Surrounded by George and the other two, Zhuang Rui jogged all the way to the parking lot. Only after he opened the car door and got in did George breathe a sigh of relief, his eyes peering warily out the window.

"George, it can't be that serious, can it? What can they do in public?"

Zhuang Rui felt that George was making a fuss over nothing. No matter how arrogant Muta was, he was still in Libya. Now he was in South Africa. Even if he wanted to harm him, he would probably need time to find the local bigwigs. Zhuang Rui didn't believe that Muta would dare to come looking for him with a submachine gun.

"Zhuang, Muta kills without regard to location. As long as he has a sniper rifle, he can blow your head off..."

George gave a wry smile, and seeing that there was no movement outside, he continued, "Zhuang, how did you provoke him? That guy is a madman. He'll make anyone who offends him wait for seven whole days before they die over the slightest argument..."

Moreover, Muta doesn't allow anyone to bid against him for the diamond he's interested in, otherwise...

George gestured with his hand as if to fire a gun, a wry smile on his face. He hadn't expected that casually accepting a job would provoke Muta. If he had known beforehand, George definitely wouldn't have taken the job.

"Seven days? Isn't that like being slowly sliced to death?"

Zhuang Rui was stunned for a moment upon hearing this. He hadn't expected Muta to have this hobby. Damn it, if this guy were in ancient China, he would be a professional executioner.

Peng Fei understands English, but he had been keeping an eye on the situation outside. When he saw two black men surrounding an Arab man standing a dozen meters away from his car, he immediately asked Zhuang Rui, "Brother Zhuang, is that the Arab man?"

"It's him..."

Zhuang Rui saw Muta make a shooting gesture in the direction of his car again, and he couldn't help but feel a burning hatred.

"I'll go and kill him!"

As Peng Fei spoke, he casually patted George's shoulder with his right hand, then swiftly grabbed George's Jianjing acupoint with his five fingers like hooks and squeezed hard.

George immediately felt a tingling and numb sensation in his entire shoulder. Before he could react, the Desert Eagle at his waist was in Peng Fei's hand.

Peng Fei's murderous aura was reflected on the long silver gun barrel, making him appear even more ferocious. He skillfully pulled the trigger, glanced at the bullet in the smoothbore, and prepared to push open the door and get out of the car.

"Oh my God, stop! Damn it, do you want us all to die?"

George only reacted when Peng Fei was about to get out of the car. He grabbed Peng Fei with his left hand and shouted, "This bulletproof car is so soundproof, aren't you afraid of being heard outside?"

"If you kill Muta here, I guarantee this car won't last five kilometers before it gets hit by a rocket. Do you think it can withstand that?"

George nearly roared, spraying smear all over the car, forcing Zhuang Rui to raise his hand to shield himself.

"Peng Fei, George is right, let's give the gun back to him..."

Zhuang Rui knew Gaddafi's influence in Africa. Muta could kill him, but if he killed him, Gaddafi would probably send fighter jets to shoot him down even if he boarded the plane.

Even if I return to China safely, I estimate that the relevant departments in China will definitely invite me for a chat as soon as possible.

"Brother Zhuang, why don't you guys leave first, and I'll go and take care of him..."

Peng Fei was somewhat unwilling. Even if it were Gaddafi's son, or even if Gaddafi himself wanted to harm Zhuang Rui, Peng Fei would not hesitate to kill him.

"Forget it, let's leave tomorrow night. If we can't afford to mess with them, we can always avoid them..."

Zhuang Rui shook his head and rejected Peng Fei's suggestion. Although he also wanted to shoot that arrogant man in the head, Zhuang Rui felt that he could not bear such consequences.

After hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Peng Fei removed the magazine from the Desert Eagle, then pulled the breech, ejected himself, and returned the gun to George.

To be honest, Peng Fei didn't really think much of foreign special forces. Apart from having better personal equipment, their endurance and combat capabilities were far inferior to the unit he used to serve in.

As for Stallone's portrayal of Rambo, that's a complete joke. Everyone knows that when American soldiers were captured in Vietnam, they would immediately crouch down with their hands behind their heads, afraid of causing the enemy to misunderstand and fire. Those actions were all professionally trained.

"Peng, do you practice Chinese Kung Fu? I think we can practice together when we get back to the hotel..."

George rubbed his still sore and numb right shoulder, looking somewhat sullen. As Zhuang Rui's bodyguard, he had his gun taken away without being able to fight back, which made George feel extremely humiliated.

"You? You're no match for me..."

Peng Fei glanced at George with disdain. Perhaps this soldier could still be of some use on the battlefield, but when it came to skill and killing, even three Georges wouldn't be a match for him.

"Oh no, no one knows unless they try..."

"George, I feel you should be more concerned about my safety right now, rather than sparring with my brothers..."

Seeing George's persistent attitude, Zhuang Rui interrupted him, sensing that Muta's arrogant and domineering personality was very likely to cause him some trouble.

"Yes, yes, Zhuang, I have a suggestion..."

Zhuang Rui's words reminded George of his own identity, and he continued, "I suggest you cancel your trip to the mine tomorrow, and after you've traded the diamonds, leave this godforsaken place immediately. That way... it'll be better for all of us, don't you think?"

George had originally planned for Zhuang and the others to visit a diamond mine belonging to their company the next day. However, after this incident, for the safety of his employer, and of course, for their own safety as well, George decided to change the plan.

"The mine is privately owned by your company, so it should have its own armed forces, right?"

To be honest, Zhuang Rui never wanted to come to South Africa again. If he didn't go to see the diamond mine this time, he might never have the chance again in his life. So what Zhuang Rui meant was that he still wanted to proceed with the plan.

"Of course, even an army couldn't break through the mine's defenses..."

George raised his head and said, then his expression softened, "However, the journey there and back is very unsafe, Mr. Zhuang. If you insist on visiting the diamond mine, I suggest you hire an armored vehicle and add a few more security personnel. That way, you can be absolutely sure of your safety..."

"Armored vehicles can be hired? How much does it cost per day?"

Zhuang Rui found it intriguing; he'd never actually ridden in one before. This was only possible abroad. If he could drive an armored vehicle on a main road in China, people would probably be too embarrassed to drive cars like Hummers and Bugatti Veyrons.

"In South Africa, you can hire anything if you have money. According to our company's prices, an armored vehicle equipped with four security guards costs two hundred thousand US dollars a day. What do you think, Mr. Zhuang?"

Now that it's just the three of them protecting Zhuang Rui, George is feeling a little uneasy. He hopes Zhuang Rui can increase the number of security personnel, so that Muta, seeing no opportunity, will probably give up on retaliating against Zhuang Rui.

"Two hundred thousand dollars? Fine. Also, you and all the security guards will stay in the room next to mine tonight..."

Zhuang Rui thought it was worth spending \$200,000 for peace of mind. Although he knew George was asking for an exorbitant amount, Zhuang Rui was too lazy to argue. After all, judging from George's performance just now, he was quite dutiful.

"Okay, I'll arrange it right away..."

After hearing Zhuang Rui agree with his suggestion, George's tense expression immediately disappeared. He picked up the phone and dialed. However, when discussing the price, although George lowered his voice, Zhuang Rui still heard the words "ten thousand dollars".

"Alright, sir, they'll meet us halfway there..."

After hanging up the phone, George said to Zhuang Rui with a happy expression, and then signaled to the driver that they could start driving.

"Go find William. I need that kid's information. If William refuses, tell him I've been interested in his Venezuelan girl for a long time..."

After watching Zhuang Rui's car drive away, Muta gave an order to the servant beside him, sticking out his tongue and licking his lips as he spoke, as if he could already smell the blood.

"People always say my father is a tyrant who funds and supports terrorists. I think if I kill an Asian kid, my father will praise me a bit, right?"

Muta's smile sent a chill down the spine of the remaining black man beside him; this guy was a complete madman.

Chapter 816-817 Diamond Mine

Back at the hotel, Zhuang Rui didn't tell the crew about it. He was leaving the next day anyway, so he didn't want to cause them unnecessary worry.

Zhuang Rui didn't leave the hotel all afternoon, ate dinner at the hotel restaurant, and went to bed early.

As arranged by George, he will first visit George's diamond mine tomorrow morning, and then after the exchange opens the bidding at 3 pm, Zhuang Rui will go directly from the exchange to the airport to leave Johannesburg.

"Mr. Zhuang, we can set off now..."

The next morning, Zhuang Rui was woken up by George knocking on the door. After having some breakfast, everyone gathered together, checked out of their hotel rooms, and then got into the armored personnel carrier parked at the hotel entrance.

The two flight attendants were clearly surprised by Zhuang Rui's grand travel arrangements, while He Shuang, a former soldier, was quite excited. After getting on the vehicle, she kept examining the machine gun on the armored personnel carrier. The bright orange bullets, each as thick as a little finger, and the golden metal bullet chain, more than a meter long, were all real.

It's quite rare to see an armored vehicle in Johannesburg. The waiter at the hotel entrance was looking at Zhuang Rui with a particularly interesting expression. He hadn't expected that the person he had offended the day before yesterday would have such a deep background in South Africa.

Despite its heavy armored vehicle body, it was surprisingly fast, reaching speeds of up to 70 kilometers per hour on deserted highways. After more than two hours, the convoy turned from the asphalt road onto a dirt road, where its speed decreased.

"Mr. Zhuang, we've arrived..."

Another half hour passed, and Zhuang Rui, who was sitting in what felt like a sealed can, felt the car stop and heard George's voice outside.

"This...this is...a diamond mine?"

Zhuang Rui looked at the empty field in front of him and couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. In his imagination, there should have been many black people working here, and the roar of machinery should have filled his ears, not what he saw.

The open fields were simply fenced off with wire, and every two or three hundred meters there was a security guard holding a submachine gun.

A dozen meters away from the car, there was a simple building with more than thirty rooms on two floors, which must have been where the miners and security guards lived.

However, no one should cause trouble here. The security guard who was very close to Zhuang Rui was sitting on a large rock, leisurely smoking a cigarette.

Zhuang Rui found it hard to believe that the mine of such a powerful diamond company would be so rudimentary.

According to Qin Haoran's introduction, this diamond company ranks among the top three in South Africa, with at least tens of thousands of small diamonds flowing from here to all parts of the world every year.

"Mr. Zhuang, welcome to my diamond mine..."

A white man in his forties, accompanied by three armed security guards, emerged from the only house in the open field and approached Zhuang Rui and his group.

Looking at the guy in jeans and a sun hat, Zhuang Rui immediately thought of the American Western movies he had watched a long time ago. If this guy had a revolver hanging on his butt, he would be a complete American cowboy.

"Are you Mr. Kenneth Wayne?"

Although the visitor was dressed casually, Zhuang Rui dared not underestimate the entire American in front of him.

Wayne is a legendary figure in South Africa and even the world. When he was eleven or twelve years old, he became obsessed with the gold rush in the United States and Canada in the 18th and 19th

centuries. At that time, he made the outrageous statement that he would become the world's largest gold mine owner.

However, Wayne's ideals and reality diverged slightly. In the mid-1980s, Wayne came to South Africa to pursue his dream. At that time, he was just a young man in his early twenties with only a few hundred dollars in his pocket.

Initially, Wayne worked as a diamond broker, helping clients from all over the world select diamonds. In this process, Wayne not only gained a deep understanding of diamonds but also accumulated his first fortune.

Later, Wayne spent over \$200,000 to acquire a piece of land that experts believed was impossible to produce diamonds. However, Wayne unearthed three giant diamonds weighing over 100 carats on this land, causing a sensation around the world.

Afterward, Wayne spent more than a decade building up assets worth over a billion dollars, becoming a world-renowned diamond tycoon—a modern version of the 18th and 19th century gold rush.

"Mr. Wayne, I never expected to see you here..."

"Haha, Zhuang, do you think this place is too simple? This is a newly developed mine. We'll be conducting diamond transactions in Johannesburg soon, so I'll be staying here temporarily..."

Wayne laughed upon hearing this, knowing that Zhuang Rui would be very disappointed upon reading this. He continued, "My biggest dream is to be a cowboy in the West, to go on adventures like a cowboy, to pan for gold. Of course, right now I'm panning for diamonds..."

"Hehe, Mr. Wayne, I think you have already achieved your dream. Wherever there are diamonds in the world, there is your legend..."

Zhuang Rui flattered Wayne a few times, which pleased the diamond tycoon greatly. He waved his hand and said, "Zhuang, it's a pleasure to meet you. I've decided to open the mine to you for one hour. If you can find any diamonds within that hour, they're yours..."

Zhuang Rui and the cowboy got along very well, and Zhuang Rui immediately said, "Really? Mr. Wayne, it'll take at least two hours, one hour is simply not enough..."

"No...no, Zhuang, my new mine was a volcanic river long ago, meaning it's an open-pit mine, and a rich one at that. If you're lucky, you could definitely find diamonds..."

Wayne corrected Zhuang Rui's statement. In fact, even in an open-pit mine, the ore would probably be found at a depth of about one meter. Wayne wasn't worried about what kind of ore Zhuang Rui and his group would find; he was just using this opportunity to get closer to Zhuang Rui.

The diamond jewelry market in China is growing larger and larger, and the number of customers from China is also increasing. Wayne pays close attention to his interactions with Chinese customers. Why wouldn't Wayne use such a small trick to enhance their friendship?

Of course, if Zhuang Rui is really lucky, Wayne wouldn't mind giving them the diamonds they found as a gift. As long as Zhuang Rui doesn't find a giant diamond, Wayne can afford this loss.

In South Africa, many depleted mines have been converted into mineral parks. For a small fee, tourists can enter and hunt for treasures on the surface. If they are lucky, they might even find a few diamonds that were missed.

Inspired by South Africa, there are similar diamond-themed parks at some volcanic sites in the United States. However, most people who go there are mainly there for fun, and it's rare to hear of anyone actually digging for diamonds.

"Alright, ladies and gentlemen, the generous Mr. Wayne is about to give away diamonds, everyone go and try your luck..."

Zhuang Rui turned around and smiled at the crew, saying that he knew diamonds could be formed under high temperature and pressure. If there used to be a volcanic river here, then the area that was originally the riverbed should be a primary diamond mine.

"marvelous....."

"Wow, diamonds, here we come..."

"You two skinny guys, can you even dig that far?"

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, the crowd behind him cheered with joy, especially the two girls. The allure of diamonds was immense for them. After receiving pickaxes and sieves from the security office, they excitedly headed towards the mining area.

A pickaxe is used to dig soil, while a sieve is used to sift diamonds. This is a very delicate task because many diamonds are so small that they can be easily missed if you're not careful.

"Mr. Wayne, may I?"

Seeing the excitement of Liuli and the others, Zhuang Rui also became interested. He had just roughly observed the area with the spiritual energy in his eyes, and it truly was a rich source of spiritual energy, as there were faint fluctuations of spiritual energy within a dozen meters of him.

"Of course, my friend, even if you get nothing, I will still give you a diamond..."

Wayne was so generous because he learned from his call with Zhuang Rui yesterday that Zhuang Rui had quoted him a very reasonable price for his batch of loose diamonds.

"Well, Mr. Wayne, I hope you won't regret this. My luck has always been very... well, very good!"

Zhuang Rui used the word "very" to emphasize his tone, because he was afraid that if he found a good diamond later, Wayne would be reluctant to give it to him.

"Oh, then I'm really losing out..."

Wayne laughed. The place he had designated for Zhuang Rui and the others to dig for diamonds had already been bulldozed several times, and the ground had been almost completely cleared. Wayne didn't believe that Zhuang Rui could really dig up anything of value from there.

"Peng Fei, I'll do the digging. You can handle the diamond sifting..."

Seeing that Liuli and the others had already started working, Zhuang Rui quickly picked up a shovel from the ground, tossed a sieve to Peng Fei, and ran towards the designated area.

"Why should I? I still want to dig..."

Peng Fei was very dissatisfied with Zhuang Rui's way of distributing the spoils, so he grabbed a shovel and followed him.

"Wow, Sister Liuli, we've found a diamond!"

Zhuang Rui had just arrived at the area crisscrossed with trenches created by the bulldozers when he heard Tian Ya's excited shouts. It turned out that the two sisters had a division of labor: Liu Li was digging with a shovel, while Tian Ya was sifting through the soil.

Tianya's words attracted He Shuang and Ding Hao, who were engrossed in their work. These two brothers were not smart enough; they only dug but did not sift, making it difficult to distinguish diamonds with the naked eye.

"Mr. Zhuang, take a look, is this a rough diamond?"

Tianya happily placed the diamond, which was only the size of a mung bean and had a surface that looked a bit like frosted glass, into Zhuang Rui's palm. There was still some dirt on the surface of the diamond.

"Yes, this is a rough diamond, beautiful lady, you're very lucky..."

Wayne, who was following behind Zhuang Rui, recognized it at a glance. Despite its small size, it should be around one carat after processing. Even if the diamond's purity wasn't good, it would still be worth at least ten thousand RMB.

“Not bad, the purity is pretty good, probably worth around 30,000. Our women’s team is really impressive. Lao He, don’t just focus on digging, you should also sift it with a sieve...” Zhuang Rui gave He Shuang and Ding Hao, who were looking on with envy, a suggestion, and then casually returned the diamond to Tian Ya.

Although the area had already been mined, Zhuang Rui discovered along the way that there were still many diamonds scattered on the ground. Even without a shovel, given enough time, he could still sift out quite a few diamonds.

However, these fish that slipped through the net were mostly under one carat, and wouldn't be worth much if sold.

Tianya and Liuli were really lucky; they found a fairly large diamond on their first try. Zhuang Rui glanced at it briefly and offered 30,000 yuan.

"Mr. Zhuang, this... please take it..."

Tianya felt a little embarrassed. They didn't work much since they were paid, and they only came here to dig for diamonds because of the boss. As she spoke, Tianya stuffed the diamond back into Zhuang Rui's hand.

"No, this is the fruit of your labor. Mr. Wayne said that whatever you dig up is yours. If you can dig up the Star of Africa, that's a real win..."

Zhuang Rui smiled and waved his hand. The "Star of Africa" he was referring to was a giant diamond that appeared in Africa at the end of the last century, weighing 212 carats. It was eventually bought by an unknown person at an auction for 36 million US dollars.

Of course, Zhuang Rui was joking. If such a giant diamond really appeared, Wayne would probably immediately dismiss what he just said as nothing.

"Come on, Peng Fei, let's get to work..."

After walking seven or eight meters, Zhuang Rui suddenly realized that Peng Fei hadn't followed. He turned around and saw that the guy was already busy with a shovel, his butt sticking out. He couldn't help but shake his head with a wry smile. If he wanted diamonds, wouldn't it be easy to follow him?

To be honest, Zhuang Rui didn't care about these leftover diamond fragments. In his mind, he would have found a three- to five-carat diamond to make Wayne feel bad.

However, Zhuang Rui did not sense any diamonds with particularly abundant spiritual energy within a radius of thirty or forty meters. So he walked a little further away and looked up to see several machines running in the distance.

"Mr. Wayne, your equipment is really terrible!"

The two bulldozers and excavators parked nearby were covered in rust, at most only 30-50% new. As for the ore washing machine, it was even more dilapidated, making a "creaking" sound when it turned.

Four or five Black men were operating the machinery. They were loading all the cleaned ore into a large iron pan for sieving. However, these Black men were only responsible for operating the machinery; sieving the diamonds was not their job, as that was handled by specialists.

This method of diamond mining is far more advanced than Zhuang Rui and others digging in the soil with shovels and then sifting through the diamonds themselves.

"Zhuang, there's nothing we can do about it. South Africa doesn't have any places to manufacture and assemble heavy machinery. These machines were all bought from Japan and South Korea at high prices. Those damned guys, they sell their stuff for a high price, and it's always breaking down..."

Oh, by the way, in my other two mines, I have several "Dongfanghong" bulldozers made in China, produced 20 years ago, and they're top-notch quality..."

As Wayne spoke, he gave Zhuang Rui a thumbs up. He owns 12 diamond mines in South Africa. If all of them were mined by machinery, it would be a huge expense. So, for open-pit mines like these, Wayne relies more on manpower.

Zhuang Rui gave Wayne a disdainful look. You can't even find Dongfanghong bulldozers produced 20 years ago in China anymore. He guessed this guy got the machinery that China used to provide as aid to Africa from the South African government.

When Wayne saw that Zhuang Rui had a shovel but hadn't started digging, he nudged Zhuang Rui and said mysteriously, "Zhuang, don't dig for ore, let me take you to choose diamonds?"

Diamond mining involves several steps. The first step is to select a mining area, then use machinery to extract the ore and clean it in a washing machine. Finally, the diamonds are screened, which is the most important step.

In South Africa, the diamond sorting process is usually carried out by the mine owner or his confidants. Moreover, South African mine owners would never allow a black person to do this job, even among the very few black mine owners in the entire country.

Many black South African workers often work their entire lives without ever seeing a large carat rough stone, because they have no access to what comes out of the ore washing machine.

“Great! I’d also like to see the output of Mr. Wayne’s diamond mine...”

Zhuang Rui smiled and nodded. Being invited by a diamond mine owner to visit the ore processing site was a very rare opportunity.

Zhuang Rui followed Wayne back into the house. Two white drivers delivered the crushed ore that had just been washed in the fine ore washing machine to the room, while two security guards stood guard at the door with guns.

"Zhuang, there are twelve trays of diamonds that haven't been sorted yet. You can choose one, and I'll give you the largest one you pick..."

Zhuang Rui bought Wayne's diamonds worth seventy to eighty million US dollars this time. Wayne genuinely wanted to give Zhuang Rui a gift. Of course, if Zhuang Rui's luck is too bad, then there's nothing he can do.

Zhuang Rui glanced at the iron plates filled with ore, then smiled and said, "Alright, then... I'll choose the second plate..."

"Good luck..."

Wayne said this as he placed the first tray of ore on the stone-selecting table in the room. In fact, the so-called stone-selecting table was just a table covered with a layer of animal hide, with a strong light shining directly on the table.

Wayne held a specially made wooden clip in his hand, staring intently at the small, dark stones on the table, occasionally picking one up with the clip to examine it.

However, Wayne's luck seemed to be not very good. In the first batch of ore, he only picked out two small diamonds that were less than a carat each.

"Buddy, it's your turn now..."

Wayne shrugged, gave his seat to Zhuang Rui, picked up the second plate, and turned it upside down on the table.

"Haha, Wayne, it seems my luck is better than yours..."

After pretending to fiddle with the minerals for a while, Zhuang Rui accurately picked up a diamond and laughed loudly.

Zhuang Rui spotted the diamond as soon as he entered the room. It was of good purity and quite large. Just as Zhuang Rui was inwardly cursing Wayne for his incredible luck, Wayne unexpectedly let him choose one. Naturally, Zhuang Rui didn't stand on ceremony.

"Shit, this...how is this possible?"

Having spent half his life working with diamonds, Wayne immediately recognized that the diamond in Zhuang Rui's clasp was at least six carats, and after processing and faceting, it was estimated to be around five carats, which could be considered a large diamond.

Even as a rough diamond, such a price is considerable, estimated to be between \$30,000 and \$80,000. Wayne couldn't help but feel a pang of regret at giving it away with just a few words.

"Don't rush, Wayne, there's still plenty left on this plate..."

Seeing Wayne's ugly expression, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but feel secretly pleased. There were indeed quite a few diamonds in this second tray. Zhuang Rui quickly picked them out with his right hand. There were nine in total, and including the first one, the total weight should exceed 15 carats.

Seeing that Zhuang Rui had picked out so many diamonds besides the large one, Wayne's expression softened. Fearing that Zhuang Rui hadn't been careful enough, he went forward and checked them again, but couldn't find a single one more.

"Zhuang, you should come and work for me. I'll pay you the highest salary in all of South Africa..."

Wayne chuckled and joked with Zhuang Rui, then picked up the large-carat diamond and walked toward the analyzer.

He didn't have any doubts, because mastering the methods of selecting diamonds is a fundamental quality that any diamond merchant must possess.

"Oh, buddy, you're really lucky. It has an F color luster and VVS2 clarity. You could give this diamond to your wife; it represents good luck..."

However... Zhuang, you should work for me for an hour and pick out the rest of the diamonds for me..."

After Wayne finished examining the diamond, he tossed it to Zhuang Rui. Although the diamond was quite valuable, it wasn't valuable enough to make Wayne back out.

"Alright, as you wish..."

This job posed no challenge for Zhuang Rui. He only needed to use his spiritual energy to glance at the ore and determine whether there were diamonds inside and where they were located.

In just over half an hour, Zhuang Rui had picked out all the remaining diamonds, and there were quite a few, a total of sixty or seventy.

"Hey buddy, you're not a diamond hand, are you? Stay and work for me..."

After weighing the diamonds on the scales, Wayne shouted that he had already collected over a hundred carats of diamonds in just one morning's work, which was the result of several days' work normally.

Wayne actually had a slight thought of keeping Zhuang Rui around.

Those who have had contact with South African diamond mine owners may know that although these guys don't understand what feudalism is, they are extremely superstitious. They believe that the person who selects diamonds must have exceptionally good luck.

Therefore, in South African diamond mines, the highest earners are not the miners, but the staff responsible for sorting diamonds.

However, Wayne also knew that if he wanted to keep Zhuang Rui, he would probably have to give him the diamond mine instead.

Chapter 818-819 Crisis (Part 1 & 2)

"Mr. Wayne, let's forget it. I don't want to stay in this godforsaken place, South Africa..." Zhuang Rui shook his head. The security here was just too bad. Even if there were mountains of gold and silver, Zhuang Rui wouldn't want to live here. Besides, Africa is a high-incidence area for AIDS. Who knows, he might get infected if he gets grabbed by a black guy one day.

"Alright, we can head to the exchange now, it's almost time..."

Wayne shrugged. He knew Zhuang Rui would never work for him. Even if he had hundreds of millions of dollars, he would never work for someone else.

Wayne still felt regretful, after all, an excellent diamond appraiser is an extremely valuable resource, someone that all diamond mine owners in South Africa dream of having.

Zhuang Rui glanced at his watch; it was already 10:00 AM. Arriving at the exchange would be just in time for the bidding to begin.

"Ladies and gentlemen, how are your profits?"

Zhuang Rui and Wayne walked out of the room, while Peng Fei and the others also completed their diamond-hunting trip. They were all covered in dirt, like cats, but their faces were full of joy.

Tianya excitedly presented the diamond in her palm to Zhuang Rui and said, "Mr. Zhuang, Liuli and I found a total of 3 diamonds..." "Hey, the girls are lucky. This yellow diamond is of very high quality..." Wayne snatched the diamond, which was slightly yellow in the sunlight, and after examining it, returned it to Tianya.

Should we hire a few Chinese workers ourselves?

Wayne started to get superstitious. Zhuang Rui immediately picked out a diamond worth tens of thousands of dollars, and this girl was able to find a relatively rare colored diamond. Are all Chinese people so lucky?

"Hmm, not bad. This yellow diamond is worth the sum of the other two diamonds. You can consider having one person take the yellow diamond and the other person take the two diamonds..."

Zhuang Rui's attention was also focused on the yellow diamond, but his observation was much more professional than Wayne's. The purity of the yellow diamond was not actually very high, but without the use of instruments, it was still difficult to distinguish the flaws inside.

"Brother Zhuang, look at mine! It's much bigger than what they dug up. Look, it's even a black diamond!"

Peng Fei, as if presenting a treasure, pinched a piece of ore between two fingers and waved it in front of Zhuang Rui.

"Black diamond?"

Zhuang Rui was taken aback upon hearing this. After seeing the thumb-sized ore, his expression turned somewhat strange: "It is quite large, but..." "But what? Look at the luster on it..." it's definitely a diamond...

Seeing Zhuang Rui's expression, Peng Fei sensed something was wrong and immediately shoved the ore into Zhuang Rui's hand.

"Hmm, not good..." Zhuang Rui muttered, and Peng Fei was overjoyed.

"It's a decent piece of cloud fluorite, worth a few dollars, haha..."

After Zhuang Rui finished speaking, he couldn't help but laugh. He threw the stone to Peng Fei and burst into laughter. Even Wayne couldn't help but laugh along with Zhuang Rui.

"So what if you misjudged it? It's not a big deal. You didn't find any diamonds yourself either."

Peng Fei was somewhat unconvinced. He had kept the broken ore as a treasure for half a day, only to find it worthless when Zhuang Rui took a look. "What a waste of half a day!"

"I?"

Zhuang Rui smiled, took out the rough stone and tossed it, saying, "Don't compare yourself to me. Look at mine, it's worth at least thirty thousand US dollars..."

"No, I'll dig a few more times with the hoe," Peng Fei said, somewhat unwilling to give up.

"Alright, get in the car and let's go." I'll go home after I finish my business this afternoon. You can keep this one for now... "... Zhuang Rui grabbed Peng Fei and tossed him the diamond.

A six- or seven-carat diamond is considered very precious by most people, but Zhuang Rui didn't think much of it. "If I want to get my hands on diamonds," he said, "I need something like the 'Star of Africa.'"

It's about a two-hour drive from Wayne's mines to the diamond exchange.

After arriving at the exchange, Wayne took Zhuang Rui to a small restaurant behind the exchange, where they ate something simple. The taste was "...of course not very good. Even Peng Fei, who is not a picky eater, frowned while eating."

If they hadn't known Wayne's identity, Liuli and the others would never have guessed that this unkempt, uncaring person was actually a billionaire.

Sitting in a bulletproof Mercedes, Muta looked at Zhuang Rui chatting and laughing with Wayne, and a dark look appeared on his face. He then slapped the attendant sitting in the front seat across the face.

In fact, if Muta hadn't seen Zhuang Rui now, he would have forgotten about Zhuang Rui from his memory. However, Zhuang Rui's appearance reminded him of the throat-slitting gesture from yesterday, which made Muta very unhappy.

"General, that Chinese man is too heavily guarded. He's even brought in armored vehicles from Wayne's company. If we insist on killing him, it will cause a war..."

The servant felt a bit aggrieved. He was assigned by Muta's father to protect Muta, but all he did was fight over Muta's affections and assassinate people Muta disliked. He never did anything worthwhile.

"Have you found out their background?" Muta narrowed his eyes. He hadn't expected Zhuang Rui to be able to mobilize Wayne's armored vehicles. This was a bit of a problem.

Unless absolutely necessary, Muta was unwilling to provoke Wayne. Although he disliked the American, Muta had to admit that if he killed Wayne, all the diamond mine owners in South Africa would consider him an unwelcome person.

The attendant respectfully replied, "General, they are from Hong Kong, using a Hong Kong diamond license, and they even arrived in a private jet. I heard their business is quite large..."

The general's method yesterday worked perfectly. I only gave William a slight hint about his Venezuelan beauty, and William obediently took out Zhuang Rui's information.

"Hong Kong? Oh, that's British territory..."

Muta stroked his chin and laughed, but his black attendant next to him was unimpressed. This spoiled brat was truly ignorant and incompetent; Hong Kong had already returned to China seven or eight years ago.

"I think Father would be very happy if they were to get out of some kind of accident, right? South Africa used to be a British colony..." Muta's muddled brain could still remember that.

"General, are you sure you want to? But..."

The attendant was taken aback. To break through the armored vehicle's defenses, he would need at least two rocket launchers, but he couldn't get those things in a short time.

"No buts. Didn't I ask you to buy some C-moms a while ago? I originally wanted to give them to those old guys in China who don't get along with Father. Now let this Hong Kong guy enjoy them. Go get them right away..."

Muta chuckled, a laugh that sent chills down one's spine. Little did Muta know that his decision would give him a taste of the ancient Chinese punishment of slow slicing.

Zhuang Rui did not see Muta. After entering the exchange, he was led into a room where there was a computer with a countdown timer that kept ticking until 3 p.m.

"Mr. Zhuang, all the bidding information will be displayed here at three o'clock. You can then proceed with your transaction based on your winning bid. If you back out after winning the bid, your diamond trading license will be revoked..."

The person serving Zhuang Rui this time wasn't William from yesterday, but another white employee, Bernard. This guy was also a little puzzled. He didn't understand why William's client would be given to him. You know, if a client has a large number of transactions, the commission can be quite substantial.

Bernard was unaware that William was afraid Mutana had gone mad, and he was also afraid that if Zhuang Rui were killed by Mutana, the people behind Zhuang Rui would find out that he had leaked client information.

"Three minutes left," Zhuang Rui said, a little nervous. He had already decided that as long as he won the bid for those 20,000-plus diamonds, he would leave South Africa immediately. As for the higher-grade diamonds, he could buy them from middlemen later, even if they were a little more expensive.

As the stopwatch on the computer screen reached zero, a series of tables rapidly scrolled across the screen.

"It's a hit! This one's a hit too! Okay, mission accomplished..."

Zhuang Rui scrolled down the electronic tender document with his mouse and found his own bid number after several bid numbers. This made Zhuang Rui breathe a sigh of relief. Although the winning bid was much higher than expected, he had completed the task assigned by his father-in-law.

"Mr. Zhuang, please confirm your winning bid number and amount. If there are no problems, I will go and pick up the diamond you won, and then transfer the money..."

After working on the computer for a while, Bernard turned the monitor towards Zhuang Rui, showing him the diamond number and total amount that Zhuang Rui had won the bid for.

"Okay, please make the arrangements. I'm leaving South Africa today..."

Zhuang Rui nodded. The total was 198 million US dollars, which was a little less than he had expected. After converting all the euros in his hand into US dollars, he would still have tens of millions left.

The reason for this situation is that Zhuang Rui failed to capture the pink diamond in his photograph.

"Okay, Mr. Zhuang, please wait a moment..."

Bernard was overjoyed when he saw that Zhuang Rui had made the decision. He immediately went out to make arrangements. The diamond was worth nearly 100 million US dollars, but he needed to be very careful. He couldn't bear the consequences if anything went wrong.

About an hour later, Bernard returned to the room, carrying an alloy case in his hand, followed by two burly security guards.

"Mr. Zhuang, this specially made combination lock is a gift from us free of charge. It uses a fingernail lock, and the original combination has been unlocked. After you inspect the goods, you can reset the combination..."

Bernard placed the briefcase in front of Zhuang Rui. So far in this trade fair, only two of these briefcases have been given away.

Chapter 819 Crisis (Part 2)

Only customers with transaction volumes exceeding 100 million yuan can receive this specially made combination lock box as a gift from the exchange; ordinary people, even with money, have nowhere to buy it.

This combination lock case and the nuclear combination lock case held by the US president are produced by the same company. They have extremely high performance, and the special lightweight alloy can remain intact even after laser cutting and high-yield bomb explosions.

The combination lock is only about 30 by 50 centimeters in size, but it costs more than 10 million US dollars to make. Even the diamond exchange only orders about 100 of them every year.

Hanging from the handle of the briefcase is a gleaming pair of handcuffs, just like in the movies, which are used to handcuff the person retrieving the briefcase.

After Zhuang Rui set the fingerprint password, he opened the safe and checked it. The safe was divided into two layers. The upper layer contained more than thirty diamonds. These were all top-quality diamonds weighing more than five carats. Although they were unpolished, they still radiated an alluring luster.

The next layer contains countless small diamonds arranged together. Thirty thousand carats sounds like a huge number, but it only weighs about six kilograms. There's still plenty of room left in this combination lock box.

"Mr. Bernard, the transfer can proceed..."

Zhuang Rui scanned the broken diamonds with his spiritual energy. He didn't have time to examine each one individually. After sensing that almost every diamond contained spiritual energy, he closed the mold box.

The exchange does not accept checks. After Zhuang Rui transferred 198 million US dollars through the transfer card machine, "the transaction was considered complete."

"Mr. Zhuang, I hope to see you again next time..."

Bernard was in high spirits after landing a huge order for free. The commission from this deal was tens of thousands of dollars, and he really couldn't understand why William would give up his client to him.

"I don't want this to happen again..."

Zhuang Rui smiled and shook hands with Bernard. He told them to come back whenever they wanted, but he would never come to this godforsaken place, South Africa, again.

He picked up the briefcase and weighed it in his hand. "A few kilograms" was nothing to Zhuang Rui. Under the protection of two armed security guards, Zhuang Rui walked out of the exchange.

"Mr. Zhuang, should we wait for the boss to come out?"

When George saw Zhuang Rui outside the exchange, he waved his hand and several security guards immediately surrounded Zhuang Rui.

"Well..." Never mind, if Mr. Wayne has time next time, please invite him to visit China...

Zhuang Rui thought for a moment and shook his head. It was already past five o'clock. If he rushed to the airport, it would probably be dark by then. To avoid any unforeseen problems, Zhuang Rui wanted to board the plane as soon as possible.

"Alright, Mr. Zhuang, please get in the car..." George didn't force Zhuang Rui. The sooner Zhuang Rui left, the sooner his mission could be completed. George didn't want Zhuang Rui to stay in South Africa any longer, since he had provoked that madman Muta.

"Boss, is this stuff filled with diamonds?"

"Mr. Zhuang, please let us take a look..."

"Brother Zhuang, please take this..."

After Zhuang Rui carried the suitcase onto the armored vehicle, the eyes of the two women inside immediately became fixed on the suitcase, as if trying to see through the metal exterior to the diamonds inside.

"Let's see after we get on the plane..."

Zhuang Rui handed the box to Peng Fei. This guy was quite savvy; he immediately used his other handcuff to cuff his left wrist. This way, unless someone could kill Peng Fei and cut off his hand, they could not steal the box of diamonds from Peng Fei.

George saw Muta emerge from the stock exchange through the window and quickly said, "Zhuang, Muta's out, let's go..."

"Let's go to the airport..."

Zhuang Rui nodded, and George immediately contacted the vehicles in front and behind him via walkie-talkie. With a bulletproof vehicle in front and behind Zhuang Rui's armored car, they drove away from the diamond exchange with a loud roar.

"Who bought that pink diamond?"

When Muta walked out of the exchange, his face was contorted with rage. The pink diamond he had his eye on, weighing several carats, had been bought by someone else at a high price.

"It must be that Hong Kong girl..."

Muta saw Zhuang Rui's convoy leave the exchange and knew without a doubt that Zhuang Rui was sitting in the car. He wished this were Libya, so he could let Zhuang Rui experience being roasted alive in the car.

Actually, Muta wronged Zhuang Rui. Although Zhuang Rui bought a lot of large carat diamonds, the pink diamond did not end up in Zhuang Rui's hands. The South African diamond trade brings together diamond and jewelry merchants from all over the world, and there are many people who are richer than Zhuang Rui.

"If I can't have it, no one else can," Muta sneered, picked up the phone, and dialed.

"Is everything done?"

Muta's somewhat chilling voice told the person on the other end of the phone that their master was in a bad mood, and they quickly said, "I'm already at the airport, ten minutes from now. That brat didn't even leave any guards on the plane..." Muta gritted his teeth and said, "Set the timer for eight hours. I want them to be flying over the Indian Ocean like maniacs..."

"No problem, eight hours, I think you'll see the report tomorrow..." The person on the other end of the phone hung up after hearing Muta's satisfied laughter.

Because they were sitting inside armored vehicles, the convoy arrived at the airport an hour later than expected. At 8 p.m., Zhuang Rui and the others transferred to Hummers and drove directly to the plane.

"Mr. Zhuang, I wish you a safe journey..."

George felt a huge weight lifted off his shoulders, but he was still a little puzzled. Given Muta's personality, he should have caused some trouble, instead of things being so calm now.

Thank you, George, I'm very satisfied with your work... Zhuang Rui shook hands with George, then turned and boarded the plane.

Goodbye, damn South Africa!

As the plane began to accelerate on the runway, Zhuang Rui finally breathed a sigh of relief and called out, "Tianya, go get a bottle of red wine. To celebrate leaving South Africa, let's have a drink..."

"Brother Zhuang, why don't you open this box and let us see it first...?"

"Yes, boss, let us take a look..."

Knowing that the thing he was carrying was worth hundreds of millions of dollars, but being able to touch it but not see it, made Peng Fei very eager to get his hands on it. Tian Ya and the others beside him nodded in agreement after hearing Peng Fei's words.

“Okay, turn on the headlights, uh, turn on the spotlights too, Peng Fei, put the box here...”

Seeing everyone's expressions, Zhuang Rui couldn't help but laugh. After instructing Peng Fei to put the box away, Zhuang Rui aligned his fingers and opened the combination lock box.

"mountain peak!"

"So beautiful!"

"If only this were mine..." As the box was opened, a gasp of amazement came from inside the cabin. Even the co-pilot, Ding Hao, ran out of the cockpit with a look of infatuation in his eyes. As for the two girls, their eyes were already sparkling.

"Hey, is it really that exaggerated?"

Zhuang Rui couldn't stand it anymore. "These are just rough diamonds, without any processing or carving. They look almost like unpolished glass. How can they be as beautiful as they say?"

It's important to know that diamonds need to be faceted and polished to display their dazzling brilliance. The reason diamonds are so radiant is precisely because of the reflection principle of the facets. The more facets a diamond has, the more expensive it is.

"Alright, put it away. It's not yours to look at it anymore..."

Zhuang Rui then added a dig at the group, saying, "I originally wanted you to choose one diamond from the broken pieces, but generous Mr. Wayne has already given you yours, so I won't be getting my reward..."

"Brother Zhuang, this isn't fair! They all found diamonds, but I didn't!"

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, Peng Fei immediately shouted, looking aggrieved.

"Don't you have that black diamond? Keep it to show your wife when you get home..." Zhuang Rui saw Peng Fei's conflicted expression and couldn't help but burst into laughter.

After leaving South Africa, everyone was in good spirits. Tianya and Liuli cooked a steak, and everyone except the driver drank some red wine. They had been busy since morning. After the meal, the two flight attendants found seats to rest.

Zhuang Rui also felt very tired, but for some reason, ever since he boarded the plane, he had felt a little unsettled. Logically speaking, he had already left South Africa, and even Muta couldn't do anything to him.

But Zhuang Rui always felt something was wrong, as if something bad was about to happen. This was the first time in Zhuang Rui's life that he had this feeling.

It wasn't so obvious when he was laughing and joking with everyone, but now that he's quiet, Zhuang Rui feels his heart pounding and he's feeling anxious and restless. He can't help but unbuckle his seatbelt and stand up.

"Brother Zhuang, what's wrong?" Peng Fei's voice came from behind.

"I don't know, something feels really wrong, oh dear!"

Just as Zhuang Rui was speaking, the plane suddenly shook, throwing him back onto the sofa.

Zhuang Rui picked up the walkie-talkie next to the sofa and asked, "What's going on?"

"Mr. Zhuang, we've encountered strong turbulence. We need to fly lower. It's alright, don't worry..."

He Shuang's words came through the walkie-talkie, and everyone in the cabin simultaneously felt the plane dive downwards, and the shaking of the fuselage became more and more intense.

"Mr. Zhuang, it's alright, you can rest now..."

About twenty minutes later, the plane finally stabilized, and He Shuang's voice came through.

"Something's not right, why do I still feel a little anxious?"

Even after dodging the strong airflow, Zhuang Rui still felt anxious, as if a heavy stone was pressing on his chest, making it hard for him to breathe.

"Brother Zhuang, I also feel something's not right, it's like encountering a minefield in the jungle..."

Peng Fei's eyes were also full of suspicion. He used to walk on the edge of death often and had an unusual sense of danger.

Chapter 820 Clouds are moving in all directions

In this world, many animals can sense impending danger, and humans, being biological beings as well, possess an exceptionally keen sensitivity to peril.

Peng Fei is a case in point. When he was on a mission in Vietnam, there were millions of landmines left over from the war in the 1960s and 70s in the jungle there. Peng Fei survived until now by relying on his intuition.

"Minefield?"

Hearing Peng Fei's words, Zhuang Rui became even more uneasy and said, "Peng Fei, I have a bad feeling. Do you think that guy Muta might plant a bomb on the plane?"

"I also have a feeling something's not right, like some kind of danger is about to happen..."

Peng Fei felt a chill run down his spine. This feeling was exactly the same as when he accidentally stepped on a landmine during a mission. If he hadn't been alert and hadn't lifted his foot, he probably would have been dead long ago.

"You know what, Muta might actually have planted a bomb!"

After thinking for a moment, Peng Fei suddenly stood up with a drastic change in expression and walked towards the driver's seat.

"Peng Fei, what are you doing?" Zhuang Rui shouted from behind.

"I'll go ask if we can make an emergency landing; it's too dangerous on the plane..."

People like Peng Fei always trust their intuition the most, and right now, Peng Fei's intuition is that he feels extremely unsafe on the plane.

"Mr. Zhuang, what's wrong?"

"Who is Muta? Why would he plant a bomb?"

Liuli and Tianya were also made nervous by the conversation between the two. It was normal for an airplane to encounter strong turbulence, but they didn't feel anything.

As for the conflict between Zhuang Rui and Muta, the two of them were unaware of it. When they heard Zhuang Rui mention the bomb, they turned pale and almost screamed.

"Let me have some peace and quiet..."

Zhuang Rui took a deep breath, closed his eyes, and at the same time, invisible and colorless spiritual energy passed through his eyelids and spread downwards from his body.

As Zhuang Rui's spiritual energy spread, the outline of the aircraft gradually became clearer, with streams of spiritual energy passing through the alloy fuselage, carefully searching every inch of it.

If it weren't for the concern that spiritual energy would seep into the human body, Zhuang Rui could have inspected the entire plane in a very short time. However, now he could only bypass the people in the cabin and explore little by little.

"No problems inside the cabin, no problems on the surface of the fuselage, no problems were found in the tail section or wings, the overhead bins are normal, and the aircraft elevators are functioning normally..."

The fuel tank... More than half an hour later, Zhuang Rui's tightly closed eyes suddenly widened, startling the two flight attendants who had been staring at him.

"Mr. Zhuang, what's wrong?"

Liuli mustered up her courage and asked a question. Zhuang Rui's expression was something they had never seen before; he looked like he wanted to devour someone.

"Sit still and don't ask any questions!"

Without saying a word, Zhuang Rui unbuckled his seatbelt and rushed into the driver's seat, leaving the two bewildered men behind him staring at each other in disbelief.

"Old He, check the nearest airport and contact them immediately to request a landing!" Zhuang Rui kicked open the cockpit door and yelled at He Shuang.

"President Zhuang, what's going on? Xiao Peng just asked me if we could make an emergency landing. Please explain clearly..." He Shuang's face was full of surprise. Didn't that strong gust of wind just pass?

"There's no way to explain it now. We offended a very powerful person in South Africa, and I suspect they planted a bomb on the plane..."

Zhuang Rui couldn't very well say that he found a piece of plastic time bomb stuck to the bottom of the fuel tank, could he?

When Zhuang Rui first checked the fuel tank under the wing, he didn't notice anything, but suddenly a red light shone into his eyes from the metal sheet under the fuel tank.

Upon closer inspection, Zhuang Rui saw a palm-sized, flat, clay-like object firmly stuck to the bottom of the fuel tank. Inside this clay-like object was something resembling a digital watch, with numbers constantly changing on it.

The plastic bombs were so white that they would be difficult to spot even if you were standing under the wing of the plane, unless you were paying close attention.

Even if you haven't eaten pork, you've seen pigs run. When Zhuang Rui saw this thing, he immediately knew why he was panicking. It was definitely a plastic bomb.

Zhuang Rui had seen this kind of thing quite often in foreign movies, but he never expected that he would encounter it himself one day.

Although he didn't know the bomb's power, Zhuang Rui was certain that if it exploded in that location, the plane would definitely turn into a fireball in the air.

Fortunately, the number inside the bomb still showed 48 minutes and 30 seconds left, although now it's only 47 minutes and 50 seconds.

"What? A bomb? No way, Mr. Zhuang, this airport is guarded. Who could plant a bomb on our plane?"

Ding Hao was somewhat dismissive. The things Zhuang Rui mentioned were quite common in stories. For example, before the liberation, Dai Li died in a plane crash, and it was rumored that a bomb had been planted on the plane.

However, in reality, Ding Hao had never heard of such a thing. As it turned out, the reports of bombs on airplanes were all false alarms.

Zhuang Rui had no time to waste with them at this moment. He immediately glared at Ding Hao and shouted, "Stop talking nonsense, Lao He, is there an airport where we can land within half an hour?"

Ding Hao and He Shuang, both in the driver's seat, were startled by Zhuang Rui. Since they had known and worked for him, they had never seen their young boss so out of control. 0999.

Seeing Zhuang Rui's fierce expression, He Shuang immediately replied, "Mr. Zhuang, turning back in half an hour is definitely too late. We are currently over the Indian Ocean, surrounded by nothing but the sea and small islands. The nearest airport is two hours away..."

"What? No airport? Then how about we force a landing on the sea?"

Zhuang Rui was stunned when he heard this. He originally thought that he had 40 or 50 minutes, which should be enough time for him to find an airport to land. He did not expect that he had already run over the Indian Ocean and there was no airport nearby.

He Shuang said with a wry smile, "President Zhuang, this is a small plane, there's no way it can land in the sea. The best outcome is that it will crash into the ocean..."

Having flown fighter jets for over twenty years, He Shuang thought he was crazy enough, but Zhuang Rui's words made him realize that his boss needed to be even crazier. Trying to land on the sea was practically suicide.

Upon hearing this, Zhuang Rui's face contorted with rage, veins bulging, and he gritted his teeth, saying, "Damn it, Muta, if I don't die this time, I'll skin you alive..."

"Mr. Zhuang, this is just your guess; it might not necessarily lead to anything bad..."

He Shuang comforted Zhuang Rui, then suddenly looked at the electronic screen, his expression changing, and said, "President Zhuang, there's a storm ahead, we need to take shelter..."

"Damn it, a storm?"

Zhuang Rui now understands what it means for misfortunes to come in pairs. Not only was a bomb planted in the fuel tank, but a storm also struck, leaving Zhuang Rui truly at a loss.

Actually, it's quite normal for airplanes to encounter storms over the oceans. Usually, they can spot them in advance and maneuver around them without any problems.

"Old He, turn around and fly!"

Zhuang Rui knew he couldn't afford to panic. He took a deep breath and said, "Old He, Ding Hao, whether you believe it or not, I, Zhuang Rui, started from scratch and relied entirely on an extraordinary intuition. I've never been wrong when it comes to gambling on stones and finding treasures. If I said there was a bomb on the plane, I absolutely couldn't be wrong..."

"Mr. Zhuang, what should we do?"

Seeing Zhuang Rui's serious expression, He Shuang and Ding Hao also sensed something was wrong. Zhuang Rui was a multi-millionaire boss; he wouldn't be so bored as to make such pointless jokes with them, much less risk his life by asking them to do something like a forced landing on the sea.

Before Zhuang Rui could speak, Peng Fei interrupted, "Abandon the plane and parachute!"

Peng Fei didn't trust Zhuang Rui's feelings, but rather his own intuition, which had saved him many times.

"Isn't this a bad idea? It's too dangerous out at sea. If we don't encounter a rescue team, isn't that just courting death?"

Ding Hao shook his head. He disagreed with Peng Fei's idea. Besides, this plane was worth more than 100 million yuan. Zhuang Rui didn't care, but Ding Hao was very distressed.

"It's better than being bombed to death on the plane!"

Zhuang Rui glanced coldly at Ding Hao and said, "Old He, set up autopilot. You and Ding Hao, come out here, let's discuss this..."

He Shuang and Ding Hao were a bit confused by Zhuang Rui's actions. They were the boss, so they just did what he said. After He Shuang turned the plane around and set it to autopilot, the four of them returned to the cabin together.

"Ahem, let me say something first..."

After gathering everyone together, Zhuang Rui coughed and said, "I'm certain there's a bomb on the plane. I don't know when it will explode, but it should be soon. Staying on the plane will definitely mean certain death. I've decided everyone should parachute out..."

Since it was a private plane, there were plenty of parachutes, more than a dozen in total, so there wouldn't be any of the ridiculous stories from textbooks where Uncle Zhou gave up his parachute for Xiao Yangmei.

How could that be?

"There's the ocean below, I won't jump..."

"I also disagree with skydiving!"

Upon hearing Zhuang Rui's words, the two flight attendants and Ding Hao simultaneously voiced their objections. It was nighttime, and anything could happen in the vast ocean.

The mature He Shuang remained silent, simply watching Zhuang Rui. Perhaps because of Zhuang Rui and Peng Fei, he too had a sense of impending doom.

"If you want to live, then shut up. Skydiving doesn't necessarily kill you, but I can tell you with certainty that staying on the plane will definitely kill you, and you'll die a horrible death..."

Zhuang Rui's smile vanished completely, and his words sent a chill down the spines of Ding Hao and the two beautiful flight attendants.

Although they didn't know why Zhuang Rui was so certain there was a bomb on the plane, his attitude suggested that if they didn't jump, such a thing could really happen.

"Peng Fei, give me the phone..."

Zhuang Rui glanced at the wing. There were still forty-two minutes left. He didn't have time to waste with the others. The most important thing now was to notify the country and ask them to find a way to rescue them after they parachuted.

"Brother Lei, someone planted a bomb on my plane. We have to parachute out immediately. Here are the coordinates. You need to find a way to rescue us..."

Zhuang Rui called Ouyang Lei, but fearing that the other party would ask too many questions on the phone, he directly told him that he had discovered the bomb.

"What?! Who did this?"

Even though Ouyang Lei was a man who had seen his share of storms, he was so frightened by Zhuang Rui's words that he jumped out of bed and rushed out of the bedroom without even putting on his shoes.

"It was Muta from Libya. I had a few words with him in South Africa, and I never expected him to plant a bomb on my plane..."

Zhuang Rui briefly explained the whole situation, then said, "I'm going to parachute now, Lei-ge, you need to find a way to get someone to rescue me..."

"How much longer until the explosion?"

Ouyang Lei had calmed down by now and was using his hand to search for Zhuang Rui's location on the world map in the study.

"have no idea!"

In front of so many people, Zhuang Rui naturally couldn't say how much longer it would take for the explosion to happen. That would make it impossible for him to keep his secret. It was understandable that he could sense the danger, but to be able to predict when the danger would arrive was simply too amazing.

"Then hurry up and parachute out. Remember, bring your satellite phone and stay in touch with me after you jump..."

Ouyang Lei didn't suspect anything. A time bomb doesn't necessarily have a time display on it. Zhuang Rui has a bomb on the plane, so it could explode at any time.

"Brother Lei, don't tell Grandpa and my mom about this, and... don't tell my wife either. We'll talk about it after we find them..." Before hanging up the phone, Zhuang Rui repeatedly told Ouyang Lei a few things to avoid worrying his family.

"I know, be careful. The rescue team won't arrive for at least four hours, so you have to hang in there..."

After hanging up the phone, Ouyang Lei immediately picked up the internal phone of the Central Military Commission on the table and issued a series of instructions.

"Chief Ouyang, what happened?"

A high-ranking official from the Central Military Commission called, saying that the scope of the orders Ouyang Lei had just given on the phone had exceeded his authority.

"A bomb has been planted on the plane carrying an important person, and immediate rescue is needed. I will explain this to the Central Military Commission later..."

Ouyang Lei was too preoccupied to say anything more, and when the other party heard that it was just about rescuing one person, they didn't say much either. As long as it didn't involve any political issues, they would still give Ouyang Lei this much face.

Following Ouyang Lei's call, numerous relevant departments immediately sprang into action. In the embassies of several countries near the Indian Ocean, phones rang incessantly, and the ambassadors, who had already gone to bed, immediately contacted the heads of state and presidents of the local countries for consultations.

Several warships that were conducting military exchanges near the Indian Ocean also turned around and headed toward the coordinates specified by Zhuang Rui.

Meanwhile, Chinese military satellites were also mobilized to lock onto Zhuang Rui's target area, but at night they could not detect anything, only signs of a storm in the vicinity.