

Golden Eyes

Chapter Two: The Hospital

"Why is everything black? Why do my eyes hurt so much? Why can't I open them?"

Inside a High-Level Cadre Special Care Ward in a hospital in **City Name**, **Zhuang Rui** finally woke up after three days of unconsciousness. The severe headache made him forget what had happened before he fainted. The darkness before his eyes and the pungent smell of disinfectant filled him with panic. **Zhuang Rui** desperately tried to open his eyes, but found it futile, only able to wave his hands in the air.

"Xiao Rui, don't be afraid, Mom is here..."

A familiar voice rang in **Zhuang Rui**'s ears, accompanied by soft sobs—that was his sister's voice. Hearing his family nearby, **Zhuang Rui** slowly calmed down. The voices of his mother and sister reassured him, and he drifted back into a deep sleep.

Zhuang Rui's grandfather was a famous geologist in their hometown's Ancient **City**, but he didn't survive the Ten Years of Turmoil. Even **Zhuang Rui**'s father was implicated and passed away due to health reasons when **Zhuang Rui** was five. His mother was just an ordinary middle school teacher who worked tirelessly to raise **Zhuang Rui** and his sister, retiring early last year.

Zhuang Rui's sister is **Zhuang Min**, five years older than him. She is married and has a child over three years old. She stopped working after having the child. Her husband comes from a family with several brothers, also an ordinary family, and his parents couldn't offer much help. Her husband is an honest, ordinary worker who treats **Zhuang Rui**'s sister very well, but his income isn't very high. The family of three lives a rather frugal life, and most of **Mother Zhuang**'s pension usually goes to subsidizing them. This was one of the reasons **Zhuang Rui** came to **City Name** to find a high-paying job.

When **Mother Zhuang** and his sister received the notification about **Zhuang Rui**'s injury, they immediately rushed to **City Name**. They had been guarding **Zhuang Rui**'s bedside for two days, and both mother and daughter showed signs of fatigue and worry on their faces.

"Doctor, how is Xiao Rui? Why is he unconscious again?"

Mother Zhuang's hands tightly gripped the white coat of the doctor who had rushed over upon hearing the news. Her tearful eyes were full of anticipation, afraid to hear any bad news from the doctor.

"It's nothing serious. His electrocardiogram is stable. He should just be sleeping now. Don't disturb him; let him wake up naturally. The patient's eyes still require further examination, but his retina has not detached, merely been severely stimulated. There should be no danger of blindness, so please rest assured. The patient is a hero of our **City**, and we have instructions from the leadership to do everything in our power to treat him."

The doctor's words calmed the mother and daughter, who looked at **Zhuang Rui** on the bed with worried expressions.

The morning sun filtered through the curtains of the ward, brightening the dim room. **Zhuang Rui**'s ward was in the inpatient area, where most patients had overnight companions. Now, most people were getting up and starting to wash up, and doctors had begun their rounds. Suddenly, the previously quiet area became somewhat noisy, bringing a bit of life to the slightly desolate hospital.

Today was the day to remove the stitches from the wound on the back of **Zhuang Rui**'s head, and it was also the day they would find out whether his eyes could recover their sight. If his eyes weren't too badly damaged, he could be discharged today. As for a full recovery, that would require time for slow recuperation.

More than half a month had passed since the **Pawnshop** robbery incident. With the attention of many people, the details of the case had become very clear.

This was a Robbery Gang that had drifted to **City Name**. There were four individuals, and the one acting as a lookout outside was also arrested by the **City Name** Police a few days later. Interrogation revealed that these individuals had disguised themselves as customers and visited the **Pawnshop** several times in the week leading up to the incident to scout the location. **Xu Ling**'s early departure on the day of the incident led them to believe the robbery would be easy to accomplish. However, **Zhuang Rui**'s good habit, formed over a year of work, of strictly following regulations to store valuables inside the counter before leaving work every day, completely ruined the robbers' plan. The early arrival of the Bank Escort Vehicle also sealed their tragic fate.

The Public Security Bureau and the leaders of the **Pawnshop** fully affirmed and highly praised **Zhuang Rui**'s professionalism and heroic actions during this incident. A few days ago, they delivered a consolation payment of one hundred thousand yuan to **Zhuang Rui**'s bedside. It must be noted that if **Zhuang Rui** hadn't handled the situation properly, those Unredeemed Pledges, valued at over a million yuan, could very likely have been stolen by the robbers.

"Mom... it's okay. The doctors said the worst possibility is just some impact on my eyesight; I won't go blind. Don't worry..."

Inside the ward, **Zhuang Rui** felt the slight trembling of his mother's hands resting on his shoulders, so he spoke up to comfort her. His sister, needing to take care of her child, had returned to **City** after **Zhuang Rui** first woke up. For the past few days, his mother had been the one accompanying him in the ward.

Zhuang Rui was quite confident about regaining his sight because, after his second awakening, he felt a cool stream of Qi wrapping around his eyes, which prevented them from feeling the burning sensation they had when injured. Moreover, that cool Qi significantly lessened the pain from the wound on the back of his head.

Zhuang Rui didn't know what caused this phenomenon. Initially, he was also somewhat panicked, afraid that his eyes might go blind, but later he felt this cool Qi seemed to make his eyes increasingly comfortable, so he eventually put his worries aside.

Zhuang Rui didn't know that the powerful airflow caused by the bullet grazing past his eyes had ruptured all the pores around his eyes and damaged his cornea. However, just as he was being lifted onto the hospital's Ambulance, they had miraculously healed. This was all thanks to the unknown cool stream of Qi in his eyes.

The doctor's explanation was that the medicine was cooling in nature and had taken effect, which was why **Zhuang Rui** felt a cool sensation in his eyes. Furthermore, at the time, his eyes were only stimulated by the airflow caused by the bullet's trajectory, causing no actual damage (the wounds on **Zhuang Rui**'s eyes were completely healed by the time he arrived at the hospital), so there wouldn't be a major impact on his vision. It was the injury to the back of his head that had worried the doctors for a while, but observation over this period showed no lasting after-effects.

Just past eight o'clock in the morning, leaders from the Municipal Investment Company and **Uncle De**, the manager of the **Pawnshop**, arrived at the ward.

Due to **Zhuang Rui**'s outstanding performance in this incident, which ensured the **Pawnshop** suffered no losses, coupled with **Uncle De**'s recommendation, it was highly likely that **Zhuang Rui** would take over as the manager of the **Pawnshop** after he recovered. **Uncle De** had privately disclosed this when he visited **Zhuang Rui** a few days ago. **Zhuang Rui** was very happy about this, as it meant his income would increase significantly. Combined with the current consolation payment, he could consider moving out of the Zhabei Shanty Town where he currently lived, take out a loan to buy a small apartment in **City Name**, and bring his mother to live with him..."Young man, relax, don't be nervous, it's alright..."

Zhuang Rui's attending physician patted his shoulder, then gestured to the nurse following him, signaling her to step forward and untie the gauze on **Zhuang Rui**'s head and face.

The nurses in the special care ward were selected from across the entire hospital; they were not only young but also exceptionally beautiful. A few days ago, **Zhuang Rui**'s university dorm leader came to visit him and kept secretly praising **Zhuang Rui** for his 'luck with beauties,' which left **Zhuang Rui** feeling both amused and helpless, since he couldn't see anything, no matter how pretty they were.

As the nurse's soft, boneless hands unwrapped the gauze from his face layer by layer, **Zhuang Rui**'s heart also calmed down. The previous feeling of anxiety and apprehension completely vanished with the faint body fragrance emanating from the nurse.

Finally, the gauze was removed from his face, but the nurse was still helping the doctor deal with the sutures on the back of **Zhuang Rui**'s head, where a piece of glass had cut him, requiring six stitches. Now the stitches could be removed. However, the posture of the nurse and **Zhuang Rui** at this moment was somewhat strange; viewed from behind, it looked as if the nurse had completely cradled **Zhuang Rui**'s head against her high, firm bosom.

"Xiao Zhuang, first adapt to the light, open your eyes slowly, don't rush..." said the doctor behind **Zhuang Rui**, who was treating the wound on the back of his head.

In fact, when the innermost layer of the black eye patch wrapped with medication was removed, **Zhuang Rui** already sensed the presence of light, even before opening his eyelids. Hearing the doctor's instructions, he slowly opened his eyes.

"Huh? Pink..."

The eyes, opened just a slit, first saw a blurry patch of pink, seemingly very close to him. The faint fragrance he had previously smelled must have come from there. **Zhuang Rui** widened his eyes, wanting to see exactly what that area was.

Just as **Zhuang Rui** focused his gaze on the pink area, he suddenly felt a turquoise light appear in his eyes. The entire world before him turned turquoise. Simultaneously, the black pupils in **Zhuang Rui**'s eyes suddenly split in two, like cell division, and then quickly merged back into one. This process was extremely brief, perhaps only a fraction of a second. From the recombined pupils, an invisible and colorless ray of light shot out, following **Zhuang Rui**'s concentrated gaze toward the pink area he was looking at.

Zhuang Rui only felt that as he concentrated his gaze, trying hard to see what was in front of him, a flash of turquoise light appeared. The cool stream of Qi that had been enveloping his eyes for the past half-month suddenly began flowing around his eye sockets and shot out following his sight. Before **Zhuang Rui** could react to what was happening, the sight that followed completely stunned him.

First, a flash of turquoise passed before his eyes, and then what appeared in **Zhuang Rui**'s vision was a vast expanse of white. The distance was so close that if **Zhuang Rui** slightly raised his head, his nose could touch it. **Zhuang Rui** had never felt white to be so dazzling, making his body, which had been thoroughly nourished by several bottles of glucose every day recently, feel utterly parched.

"Why does this look like something I've seen before? Muto Ran? Matsushima Kaede? Or Aoi Sora??"

At this moment, **Zhuang Rui** suddenly felt that the calculating brain he had always been so proud of was failing him. It was a complete blank, with only four words flashing in his mind: So big, so white...