

Chapter 244 Out of Control

The deafening shouts boosted my confidence. I asked Liu Rushi to arrange a group of people to head down to the engine room and await my orders. At the same time, I brought several people with me up to the bridge on the eighth floor.

I bumped into Baldie on the fourth-floor deck. He had been awaiting further developments and was surprised to see me. He asked me what I was doing here.

"There's no time to explain, Baldie. Inform everyone on the ship to put on life vests and be ready to get into lifeboats. We have to abandon ship!"

Baldie did not question me. He turned and did as I asked.

We trailed along the deck in the strong winds and heavy rain. We all held on to the rope railing, to prevent ourselves from being blown out to sea.

We made it to the bridge with much difficulty. When we entered the room and switched on the flashlights we found on the wall, we were shocked to find the captain and first mate lying on the floor.

Their eyes were wide open and they were bleeding by their temples. The blood covered the floor, but the salty tang of the sea was covering up the smell. All the other crew was on the floor too. It did not look like anyone was breathing.

"It must have been Ho Zhitian. He really wants us dead," said Yue Mangong.

I refused to give up and checked them over, but they were all already dead.

How many people had Ho Zhitian killed?!

"Zhang Chao!" Suddenly, Baldie rushed in, panting. "All the lifeboats are damaged. They can't be lowered."

"What?"

"Everyone in the engine room is dead!"

There was a buzzing sound in my head. Ho Zhitian, you cretin!

Yue Mangong asked, "Did you find Ho Zhitian?"

"No, we only found some security guards. However, there's one lifeboat missing. He must have escaped."

I grit my teeth. "It seems like Ho Zhitian really wants us dead. He chose to set sail today and killed all the crew in order to let the ship wreck itself. Baldie, bring some men downstairs to the engine room and start the boilers. Ask around if there are any surviving crew."

Baldie did not seem to fear death. He heard me out and—with the same expression as before—spun his cap around, stepping back out into the storm.

"What was Ho Zhitian thinking?" Yue Mangong asked, "There are so many people on board. Is he okay with sacrificing them all?!"

"I don't know what he was thinking. If I get my hands on him, I'll beat him to a pulp!"

I tested and found that the backup generator was not damaged and was still working. It still provided power to the lights, and we could send out a distress signal via radio.

Perhaps Ho Zhitian did not understand the structure of the ship and did not destroy the backup generator. However, it could not provide sufficient power to get the engines running.

The waves kept coming one after the other, getting taller by the minute.

"Let's get out of this storm first! Disregard everything else. Wait for the

men downstairs to start the boilers."

The ferocity of the storm grew, and the surging waves made our ship pitch and roll. I felt the ship get lifted into the air and the view from the windows affirmed this. For a moment, it felt as if the world had come to a standstill. There was no sound; it was silent.

These extraordinary martial artists were in awe. They might be peerless, but when faced with the majesty of Mother Nature, they were just blips on the radar.

Qian Xiaoqian had started crying, and even Liu Rushi's legs shook. Only Yue Mangong was still acting normal, though he had gone slightly green.

"I don't want to die."

I did not know who said it, but the situation on the bridge was now out of control. People were screaming and crying and calling for help.

"Will someone save us!"

"When will the rescue boats arrive?!"

We had been lifted by the waves and dropped back down. The ship groaned unhappily, and we were lifted again, this time higher than before... The waves kept coming. I did not know how long the ship could withstand it.

There was still no sound from the engines. We might really die here.

We sat on the floor of the bridge. At this point, I was only thinking of Chu Xiaoxiao and how upset she would be if I died like this.

I scoffed bitterly. "They say that a dying man's words come from the heart. Yue Mangong, since we're going to die, I overheard your conversation with Jiang Ming. Think of it as collecting karma. Tell me how my parents died."

Yue Mangong did not answer me. Instead, he fixed me with a stare that made my blood run cold. "You were at the casino. Did you take Mount Wuxiang?"

He had just said that when he leaped at me like a madman and grabbed me by the throat. "Did you take Mount Wuxiang?!"

He was scarily strong and my neck felt like it was going to break.

"Are you crazy? You want to start this now?! What proof do you have?!"

"You're the only one who would hide the painting. We only want to know what the last words on it are. We wouldn't hide it away!"

Last words? What last words?

"F you, let go of me or we're all going to die!"

I could not breathe and my vision was beginning to go gray.

Just then, there was a low humming sound. The engines had started!

My face was flushed as I gathered all my strength and flung my fist into Yue Mangong's face. "Get off me! The engines have started, you can hear the turbines. The ship can move again!"

Yue Mangong's face was swollen, but he still wanted to duke it out with me. However, he was quickly held down by the others.

"Go steer the ship. Leave Yue Mangong to us!"

The crowd was acting like hungry wolves. They were hell-bent on surviving and turned on Yue Mangong. Yue Mangong had no choice but to defend himself.

Liu Rushi bared his teeth and grabbed Yue Mangong by the collar. "Yue, we only want to survive. I don't care who Old Ge chose as our leader. Right now, whoever leads me away from death will be our leader. If you dare to hurt a hair on Zhang Chao's head, I send you to swim with the fishes!"

I clambered to my feet. The systems and control panels were coming to life, and I could hear Baldie's voice over the intercom.

"Zhang Chao, Zhang Chao, the boilers are burning and the turbines are turning! Can you hear them?!"

Baldie's voice was drowned out by the wave in front of us. I steered the ship with all my strength.

"Starboard! Full speed into the waves! Hold on tight, we're going through the wave!"

I yelled out and put my weight on the wheel. The ship turned ten degrees, and it sliced through the giant wave like a knife.

The water hit the deck, leaving a white foam. Our ship dipped slightly and emerged unscathed on the other side of the wave.