

The Beauty 1111

Chapter 1111 The Proximity Advantage Worries Me

Ling Chen smiled slightly, looking directly into Nanrong Wanqing's star-like eyes, and said, "Because you're the only one who can help me solve this problem."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing was slightly stunned, then put down the files in her hand, sat up straight, and asked seriously, "What's the matter?"

"Someone may use you to target me. Right now, I'm not by your side, so I can't guarantee your safety. Although Captain Zhong is there, their abilities aren't enough to put me at ease." At this point, Ling Chen didn't hold back and told Nanrong Wanqing the specific situation.

"You mean... aside from me, Liu Xiyao and the others could also be in danger?"

"That's right." Ling Chen nodded and said, "That's why I have them all living at my house. That way, I can ensure their safety."

For some reason, upon learning that Liu Xiyao, Tang Shiyun, and Zhu Xiaozhu were all living at Ling Chen's house, Nanrong Wanqing felt quite uncomfortable.

After thinking for a bit, Nanrong Wanqing asked, "Did you come to me this time to ask me to live at your house too?"

Ling Chen chuckled and said, "I'd like that, but the key is whether you're willing." To be honest, Ling Chen wasn't holding out much hope for this. He knew Nanrong Wanqing had misgivings about him, and his actions some time ago had indeed annoyed Nanrong Wanqing.

Right now, he'd invited Tang Shiyun and the other three women to his house, and given these points, it was impossible for someone like Nanrong Wanqing to agree.

"Fine, I'll come."

"You..." Ling Chen opened his mouth, ready to respond, but when he heard Nanrong Wanqing's reply, his expression froze.

After being stunned for a while, Ling Chen looked at Nanrong Wanqing in disbelief, almost doubting his ears.

"You want to come live at my house?"

"What's wrong, are you not welcoming me?"

"No, no, of course you're welcome." Ling Chen quickly laughed. Nanrong Wanqing's decision surprised him greatly; before coming, he hadn't considered such an outcome at all.

Compared to Ling Chen's surprise, Nanrong Wanqing was very calm. However, this calmness was only on the surface and didn't reveal her true inner emotions.

Actually, Nanrong Wanqing herself didn't expect she'd make such a decision, and she made it without hesitation, without much thought.

Since being reprimanded by Nanrong Hao last time, Nanrong Wanqing had thought a lot. Ling Chen had flaws, but nobody is perfect. As for the mistakes Ling Chen made, they weren't unforgivable, since there were a lot of misunderstandings involved. Beyond that, the most important thing is she can't let go of this feeling. Although this is an open society, she inherently retains traditional thoughts.

In this life, only one man will be allowed on her bed.

Besides some inevitable flaws, Ling Chen is undoubtedly an excellent, responsible man. That's precisely why he attracts so many girls around him; it's undoubtedly a reflection of his personal charm. From another perspective, it proves her eyesight is good.

Nanrong Wanqing knew clearly that the reason she was willing to stay at Ling Chen's house wasn't just because of these factors; there was also a very important reason.

Tang Shiyun, Liu Xiyao, Zhu Xiaozhu!

The presence of these three women was the main reason she made her decision.

Nanrong Wanqing wasn't unfamiliar with these three women; she'd dealt with them before. Whether it was Tang Shiyun, or Liu Xiyao, or Zhu Xiaozhu, they were all very outstanding girls. Additionally, she's aware of Zhu Xiaozhu's feelings for Ling Chen, and Tang Shiyun, needless to say, has her entire focus on Ling Chen. As long as Ling Chen goes east, she wouldn't go west. As for Liu Xiyao...although she hasn't shown interest in Ling Chen, given enough time, Ling Chen's excellence might attract Liu Xiyao.

Now, with these three women living at Ling Chen's house, they have the advantage of proximity. In contrast, she's completely at a disadvantage. So she must act and can't let Ling Chen be taken by others.

At this moment, the Ling Chen sitting opposite Nanrong Wanqing had no idea about the complex thoughts of the CEO in front of him. To him, Nanrong Wanqing's willingness to stay at his house was already an unexpected harvest.

After setting the time, Ling Chen didn't stay long; he had other matters to attend to.

After leaving Hongyu Group, Ling Chen drove directly to the base.

"Hey Fatty, what's up, still no clues?"

"That guy's too cunning, completely impossible to trace." Hu Fei said helplessly; he had mobilized all resources in East Sea City but found nothing.

"Ling Chen, I think whoever's behind this is no ordinary person. Given the power we have, anyone we want to find usually can't escape detection. That guy's hiding so deeply; someone must be helping him cover up. Moreover, their force definitely isn't weak." Hu Fei analyzed seriously.

"Could it be... the Ling Family?" Ling Chen squinted his eyes and said, "Lin Qiqi once called me, telling me that a key figure in the Ling Family has lived in East Sea City for years. Last time, Zhu Hong was rescued; this time, we're inexplicably targeted. It's likely that person is causing trouble behind the scenes."

"When you mentioned it last time, I checked it out specially. There are too many people with the surname Ling in East Sea City, it's impossible to investigate them one by one. Plus, they're in the dark while we're in the light; this way, we'll be quite passive."

"Let's put this aside for now. As long as they're active, they'll eventually leave clues. Fatty, remind everyone to stay safe, minimize going out, and also have Kai deploy more personnel to strengthen security around everyone." Ling Chen instructed.

Old K had warned him that the second explosion was related to his friends. This 'friend' wasn't limited to female friends. Therefore, aside from Nanrong Wanqing and the others, the safety of people like Nanrong Hao, Jiang Hao, Zhao Zhengxiong also needs special attention.

However, compared to Nanrong Wanqing and the others, Ling Chen is more at ease about the others. After all, Jiang Hao and the rest have dedicated protectors, every time they go out they have a group of subordinates with them, so there's no need to worry too much.

Sunrise.

Ling Chen rubbed his sleepy eyes, got up to open the curtains, looked at the bright sunshine outside, stretched his arms, and lazily stretched.

Today is the third day.

Old K mentioned that within three days, the second explosion will occur. Although Ling Chen has made preparations in advance, such matters must not be taken lightly; caution is still necessary.

Pushing open the bedroom door, just as Ling Chen stepped out, a gorgeous sight walked past him.

Tang Shiyun!

This girl was wearing a kawaii lazy bear pajama, looking as though she hadn't fully woken up, occasionally tugging at her hair, seemingly just out of the bathroom.

The second floor has five bedrooms, only two of which have their own bathrooms and showers, while the other three bedrooms share the second floor bathroom.

Seeing Ling Chen coming out the door, Tang Shiyun yawned and said, "Ling."

"Girl, hurry and tidy up, it's time for breakfast."

Just as the words fell, a captivating fragrance suddenly drifted over. Taken aback, Ling Chen's gaze instantly froze.

Chapter 1112 - 1119: Truth or Dare (1)

Across from Ling Chen's bedroom lives Liu Xiyao. At this moment, the door opened, and Liu Xiyao stepped out wearing a sexy black lace nightgown.

Whether it's black or lace, they are both things that attract men. When these two are combined, paired with a perfectly shaped, fair-skinned, stunning-looking woman, it undoubtedly pushes the allure of a black lace nightgown to its extreme.

Ling Chen isn't a novice when it comes to women, yet even so, faced with the lazy charm naturally exuded by Liu Xiyao, he found his mind wandering.

If it weren't for his strong self-control, he'd probably have had a nosebleed.

"Xiyao," watching Liu Xiyao in front of her, Tang Shiyun was also greatly impacted. Comparing their figures, Tang Shiyun felt very self-conscious. Her petite figure couldn't compare at all to Liu Xiyao's perfect curves.

Cough, cough!

Ling Chen lightly coughed twice and said, "Umm... Xiyao, you..."

"What's wrong with me?"

"No, nothing." Ling Chen chuckled and swallowed his words. He originally wanted to remind Liu Xiyao to be more cautious when going out, but on second thought, since he was the one benefiting, and not others, there was nothing wrong with enjoying the view.

Seeing Ling Chen's gaze occasionally sweep over her voluptuous figure, Liu Xiyao blushed slightly, understanding his thoughts. She gave Ling Chen a sidelong glance and said no more, heading directly back to her room.

A moment later, Liu Xiyao returned in more conservative loungewear, much to Ling Chen's disappointment.

During breakfast, Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu had also gotten up. Nanrong Wanqing had moved in the day before, and Liu Xiyao and Tang Shiyun were being very friendly. However, Zhu Xiaozhu remained indifferent, just as she had before, with very little interaction between her and Wanqing.

Yang Qingling carried a bowl of porridge, looking at the beautiful women seated at the dining table, feeling a bit unreal. The last time Ling Chen had a conflict with Nanrong Wanqing, she was worried sick. But now, not only had Nanrong Wanqing moved in, there were also three other stunning women with diverse charms.

Click, click! She wondered what kind of good fortune her son had to have such great luck with women. It seemed she wouldn't have to worry about her son finding a wife in the future. Her only concern now was not having too many grandchildren, or she'd be overwhelmed.

"Everyone stay home today, don't go out."

After breakfast, Ling Chen wiped his mouth with a napkin and said.

Nanrong Wanqing drank the porridge without looking up and said, "There's an important meeting at the company today. As the chairman, I must attend, I..."

"No way." Before Nanrong Wanqing could finish her sentence, Ling Chen flatly refused, "Without my permission, no one is allowed to step foot outside the door. This is not a joking matter." After speaking,

Ling Chen glanced at the silent Nanrong Wanqing and added, "Tell your company to change it to a phone conference."

"Got it." Nanrong Wanqing obediently complied without rebelling.

Tang Shiyun and Zhu Xiaozhu actually had things to do, but seeing Ling Chen refuse Nanrong Wanqing, they both chose to keep quiet.

If they couldn't go out, they'd just have to stay home.

In the living room on the second floor, Liu Xiyao sat with a magazine in her hands, positioned by the window, her long slender legs crossed on the chair, leaning against the sofa, her silky hair cascaded casually, exuding an inviting pose that enhanced her mature womanly charm.

Zhu Xiaozhu and Tang Shiyun watched TV, occasionally chatting about topics that mostly revolved around Tang Shiyun. After all, Zhu Xiaozhu was Tang Shiyun's fan.

Nanrong Wanqing stayed in her bedroom, conducting a phone meeting with the company's upper management.

At this moment, Ling Chen was probably the least at ease. The threat from Old K had not been eliminated, and Ling Chen needed to be vigilant at all times to prevent any sudden incidents.

Before long, evening came. Ling Chen felt a little relieved, as fortunately, the day had passed without bad news. His precautionary measures seemed effective, and Old K likely didn't find a chance to act. However, Ling Chen remained cautious, as there was still the night ahead, and who knew if Old K might take action?

With dinner over, everyone gathered in the second-floor living room. Watching Nanrong Wanqing and the others sitting in different spots, involved in their own activities, Ling Chen couldn't help but scratch his nose, feeling the atmosphere was slightly awkward.

He imagined that these women would be harmonious together, but in reality, things weren't as he expected, as it seemed none of the women were inclined to engage with each other.

"Ling,"

At this moment, Tang Shiyun snuggled up to Ling Chen, habitually wrapping her arms around his. This action immediately drew the attention of the other three women. However, they merely glanced and then resumed their own activities, undisturbed by each other.

"Little girl, what's up?" Only with Tang Shiyun did Ling Chen feel most relaxed. There was no helping it; this girl was the most obedient and well-behaved.

"Ling, I've been so bored staring into space all day. Why don't we find something to do?" Tang Shiyun suggested.

Ling Chen chuckled and asked, "What do you want to play?"

Tang Shiyun looked around at the others and said, "I brought a game called 'Truth or Dare', how about we all play together?"

Uh...

Truth or Dare? Ling Chen's heart instinctively resisted. He thought, "This isn't a casual game to play, especially with Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu around."

Thinking of this, Ling Chen opened his mouth, wanting to refuse. However, before he could speak, Nanrong Wanqing suddenly raised her head and said, "I think it's a good suggestion, count me in."

Next to her, Liu Xiyao smiled and said, "Since everyone's interested, I'll join in too. Xiaozhu, how about you?"

Zhu Xiaozhu said nothing, just nodded lightly.

"Yay!" Seeing that everyone was willing to participate, Tang Shiyun was undoubtedly the happiest, and she immediately ran into her room to fetch the game items.

Faced with the enthusiasm of the women, Ling Chen's intuition told him this wasn't good news.

Soon, Tang Shiyun returned to the living room with the game items. With the game commencing, even if Ling Chen was unwilling, he had no choice but to comply at this moment.

Under Tang Shiyun's instructions, the five of them sat around the table, listening as she explained the game rules.

In fact, the rules were simple. The game items were like playing cards, each card had a question on it. The person who drew the card must answer the question seriously, no matter how embarrassing it may be. This was precisely what Ling Chen feared most. What if he was unlucky and drew an embarrassing question? Wouldn't this be digging a hole for himself?

Chapter 1113 - 1120: Truth or Dare (Part 2)

The game started, and by now, Ling Chen couldn't refuse.

"I'll go first." Tang Shiyun said with a giggle, "Wanqing, help me draw one."

Nanrong Wanqing nodded and picked a card from the dozens on the table.

The question on the card was very simple: Who was your crush in middle school?

"I didn't have a crush, my family said I was too young to date. Besides, in middle school, everyone was just a kid, no charm at all. Alright! My turn now." Tang Shiyun said, drawing a card from the deck.

How many people of the opposite sex have you had a relationship beyond friendship with?

Seeing this question, Nanrong Wanqing and the other girls immediately blushed slightly. Although they were prepared, such a question still made them feel embarrassed.

Zhu Xiaozhu glanced at everyone and asked, "Whose question is this?"

Tang Shiyun pointed to Ling Chen beside her and said with a smile, "Your turn, Ling."

What?

Ling Chen's eyes widened, and he secretly lamented. It seemed his intuition was spot-on, worrying about something only for it to happen—these types of questions are really just traps.

Seeing Ling Chen dazed, Liu Xiyao remarked with a smirk, "Ling Chen, this is Truth or Dare, no shortcuts, you have to tell the truth."

Ahem!

If he could, Ling Chen really wanted to escape. Facing the gaze of four girls and such an awkward question, he really didn't know how to start.

"What, is the question hard to answer?" Liu Xiyao said with a playful smile, "Or have you had relationships beyond friendship with so many people that you can't count them all?"

With these words, Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu gave Ling Chen a different kind of look.

Realizing the situation wasn't good, Ling Chen quickly waved his hand and said, "No, none."

"Then tell us, how many of them were there?" Liu Xiyao pressed on, not letting him off.

Ling Chen sneakily glanced at Nanrong Wanqing, contemplating how to answer. It would be a lie to say none, because Nanrong Wanqing knew about his thing with Leng Feifei.

Actually, there weren't many with whom Ling Chen had relationships beyond friendship, only three—Xia Mutong, the porridge girl, and Leng Feifei.

But even though there were just three, he didn't dare tell the full truth. Who knows what reactions Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu might have?

After much hesitation, Ling Chen lowered his head and sheepishly held up one finger.

"Only one? I don't believe that. Ling Chen, you're no fun, this is Truth or Dare, you have to be truthful. If you back out like this, what's the fun in the game?"

Liu Xiyao's words immediately garnered unanimous approval from the girls.

"Go on, we won't eat you. Besides, it's your private affair, we can't interfere, what's there to be afraid of?" Nanrong Wanqing said calmly.

"Come on, Ling, everyone's waiting." Tang Shiyun urged him.

Ling Chen was a bit helpless. After thinking about it, he sighed. Since there's no escape, he might as well just tell the truth.

"Three?" Liu Xiyao was surprised.

Ling Chen could barely lift his head, too embarrassed. He should have said two.

"Ling, you're really not charming at all."

Tang Shiyun's voice came, making Ling Chen pause. Not charming? What does that mean?

"I thought with your charm, it wouldn't be twelve or thirteen, but at least six or seven; turns out it's not even half that. Sigh! Being a man like you is truly a failure."

At Tang Shiyun's words, Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu exchanged glances, choosing to remain speechless but showing little else in their expressions.

Uh... Ling Chen was really stunned, expecting criticism from the girls, but the criticism wasn't about his character; it was about his lack of charm.

What's wrong with women these days?

Perhaps noticing Ling Chen's thoughts, Liu Xiyao smiled and said, "You're actually a good man. Nowadays, which man isn't flirting outside? Not only living recklessly but also being proud of it, as if afraid others won't see how charming he is."

Tang Shiyun nodded in agreement, "Yeah! I've seen quite a few of those men."

"Really?" Ling Chen looked at Tang Shiyun incredulously, quickly advising, "Girl, I'm telling you, stay away from those men."

"Oh, Ling, I know. I'm not stupid, I wouldn't bother with those men. Hmph!" Tang Shiyun said, raising her nose, "They're just flirts; I have no interest. If I ever do look for someone, I'll find someone like Ling."

Liu Xiyao teased, "Shiyun, if you like Ling Chen, just say it, why beat around the bush."

Tang Shiyun blushed, bashfully lowering her head, "I... I don't."

"Alright, stop teasing the little girl." Zhu Xiaozhu said, "Let's keep playing."

"Ling, it's your turn to draw."

Without a word, Ling Chen drew a card from the stack and placed it on the table.

Who was your first kiss?

This question was aimed at Zhu Xiaozhu.

Zhu Xiaozhu glanced at Ling Chen, her face turning red involuntarily. Seeing her reaction, with Liu Xiyao's insight, it was obvious. To avoid the atmosphere becoming awkward, Liu Xiyao quickly said, "Alright! No need to ask this question, I think we all know the answer. Okay, my turn."

Saying so, Liu Xiyao drew a card.

Who was your first love?

"This question is quite nice," Liu Xiyao said with a small smile, "Miss Nanrong, your turn."

Tang Shiyun looked at Nanrong Wanqing with great interest, her gossiping heart for this 'East Sea City's flower' was burning strong.

"I..." Nanrong Wanqing hesitated, not knowing how to begin. Her first love was Ling Chen, which was no secret. But given that Zhu Xiaozhu had her first kiss with Ling Chen, telling everyone Ling Chen was her first love could lead to awkwardness.

Not just her, but Ling Chen and Zhu Xiaozhu could also feel uncomfortable.

"I... I..."

At this moment, even the usually decisive chairman of Hongyu Group was stuttering.

Just then, an abrupt ringtone sounded in the living room.

"Ling, your phone."

A savior!

Ling Chen secretly sighed in relief, whoever was calling, he had to thank them.

Taking the phone, Ling Chen saw the caller ID and immediately got up to answer the call on the balcony.

"Hey! Fatty, what's up?"

"I just checked, haven't found anything yet, so I called to ask if there's anything unusual on your end."

"Everything's fine here, don't worry."

Chapter 1114 - 1121: The Death of Wei Jun

"Alright, since that's the case, I won't disturb you. I'll contact you if anything comes up." After saying that, Hu Fei was about to hang up the phone.

"Wait!" Ling Chen glanced stealthily at the four women in the living room and whispered, "Buddy, don't hang up yet, you have to save me tonight."

"Save you?" Hu Fei laughed and teased, "I say, Ling Chen, the sun must be rising in the west today. You're actually asking me for help. What? Do you have too many beauties around you that you can't manage, and you need me to come over and give you a hand?"

"Get lost. If you dare talk nonsense again, I'll tear that big mouth of yours. Hey! Are you free? Bring some snacks and come over, let's have some drinks."

"Sure, since there's nothing much going on, wait for me, I'll be right over."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen returned to the living room, seeing everyone's eyes on him. He hurriedly smiled and said, "Hu Fei is looking for me; he'll be coming over soon. I'll go downstairs to wait for him, you guys enjoy yourselves." Without waiting for Liu Xiyao and others to speak, Ling Chen had already run out of the living room.

Arriving at the first-floor living room, Ling Chen took a deep breath, feeling refreshed all over. Without those beautiful women around, he felt completely at ease.

Sometimes, having too many beauties around isn't necessarily a good thing.

In less than half an hour, Hu Fei arrived with a few bottles of liquor and some spiced food.

"Hey! Where are those ladies?" Hu Fei looked around, seeking traces of the beauties.

"Enough, stop looking, they're upstairs. What, you want to meet them? Fine, leave the stuff, I'll enjoy it slowly, and you can go up on your own. But don't say I didn't warn you, those ladies aren't easy to deal with."

"No worries." Hu Fei grinned, "I'm more experienced in dealing with beauties than you. Alright, enough of this, I'll head up first to say hello to the ladies."

Ling Chen couldn't be bothered with Hu Fei, eating his spiced food and drinking beer by himself.

In less than five minutes, Hu Fei came running down from upstairs in distress. Reaching Ling Chen's side, Hu Fei wiped the sweat off his forehead and exhaled, "You were right, that group of ladies is really hard to deal with. Sigh! Ling Chen, I wrongfully blamed you; it seems not everyone can enjoy such fortune."

"Come, come, let's have a drink, ignore those women."

After finishing the drinks, it was already past eleven o'clock at night. Checking the time, Hu Fei stood up and said, "It's late, I'm heading back now, looks like we managed to get through the day safely."

"Let's hope so."

After seeing Hu Fei off, Ling Chen returned to the second floor, only to find Nanrong Wanqing and the other three women had gone to rest, leaving playing cards from a game of Truth or Dare on the table.

Ling Chen chuckled, casually drawing a few cards, and after reading the questions on them, he silently praised himself for being smart enough to call Hu Fei over in time, thus dodging a bullet. Otherwise, if he had drawn such questions, he would truly be in trouble.

The next morning.

Ling Chen was still sleeping when his phone suddenly rang, waking him from a sound sleep.

Yawning, Ling Chen reached out, grabbed his phone, and glanced at it, seeing that Xia Mutong was calling.

It's only half-past five, what would Xia Mutong need from him at this hour?

Connecting the call, Ling Chen said "Hello" and asked, "Officer Xia, what are you calling me so early for?"

"Ling Chen, I need to ask you, is Nanrong Wanqing at your place?"

"Wanqing? Why, do you need to talk to her? You could just call her directly."

"I did, but no one answered, probably still asleep. Can you wake her up? Something happened over here."

"Something happened?" Ling Chen sat up abruptly, hastily asking, "Officer Xia, what happened?"

"At midnight last night, there was an explosion in the southern part of the city. We just finished handling the scene."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen felt a shiver in his heart and asked, "What does this explosion have to do with Wanqing?"

"We've just confirmed the identity of the deceased, he's an employee of Hongyu Group. Since we couldn't contact the family, I had to find Miss Nanrong to ask about the employee's situation."

"There's a deceased?" Ling Chen said solemnly, "Who is it?"

"Based on clues found at the scene, the deceased is identified as Wei Jun, the head of security at Hongyu Group."

Wei Jun?

Wei Jun!

Ling Chen's face changed drastically. After finding out the address, he immediately got out of bed, dressing hurriedly while heading to Nanrong Wanqing's room.

Knocking on the door, Nanrong Wanqing, rubbing her sleepy eyes, saw Ling Chen's grim face at the door and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Get dressed, we need to go out, Wei Jun is dead."

"Wei Jun? Who is Wei Jun?" The still-sleepy Nanrong Wanqing didn't immediately react.

"Wei Jun, the captain of the second security team."

"What?" Nanrong Wanqing was shocked, instantly becoming alert.

"I'll wait for you downstairs."

Soon, the ready Nanrong Wanqing came downstairs. Inside the car, Ling Chen said nothing, immediately starting the car and rushing to the destination.

Before long, Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing arrived at the explosion site.

Wei Jun's home was in an old residential building, on the second floor, and the explosion had occurred right at Wei Jun's place. Police had already cordoned off the area.

Ling Chen glanced around and quickly spotted Xia Mutong in the crowd.

"Officer Xia."

"You finally arrived." Xia Mutong greeted Nanrong Wanqing and asked, "Miss Nanrong, Wei Jun was one of your employees. Can you reach his family?"

"I've already notified the HR department, they should send the information soon."

"That's good."

"Officer Xia, Wei Jun... where is he?" Ling Chen asked.

Xia Mutong pointed to an ambulance parked roadside. Before she could speak, Ling Chen had walked over quickly. Getting to the vehicle and seeing the body bag on the stretcher, Ling Chen's heart sank heavily.

Just a few days ago, he had seen Wei Jun, and they had been laughing and talking. Now, they were separated by life and death.

"Wei," Ling Chen clenched his fist, his eyes red, wishing he could immediately hunt down the perpetrator and tear him to pieces.

At that moment, his phone rang. Ling Chen pulled out his phone and saw the caller ID was an unfamiliar number, which he immediately answered.

"You're the one who killed him, aren't you?"

"Haha! Mr. Ling, don't be upset. Didn't I warn you three days ago? It's your own negligence. If you'd paid attention to him, he wouldn't have ended up like this. But this is just a small lesson. That Wei Jun was a nobody, so it's no big loss for him to die."

Ling Chen said coldly, "That was a human life."

"Human life varies in value. For instance, Nanrong Wanqing, Tang Shiyun, Liu Xiyao, and Zhu Xiaozhu, their lives are precious, which is why you brought them to your home for close protection. As for someone like Wei Jun, you consider him a friend, but never thought about his safety. So, in your eyes, he was just a dispensable minor character."

Chapter 1115 - 1122: Hidden Motives (Part 1)

"Shut up!" Ling Chen coldly shouted, "I don't care what background you have, what your real name is, or what grudge you have with me. Just listen carefully, as long as you live one more day, I will not let you go. When I catch you, I will make you understand what is worse than death."

Old K couldn't care less about Ling Chen's threat, and said with a faint smile, "Okay, I'm actually looking forward to seeing what you're capable of. Mr. Ling, enough idle talk, I'm just calling to remind you that our game has just begun. The third explosion will occur within ten days, again targeting your friend. With this lesson, I hope you become smarter and protect your friends well, don't let me succeed again."

After speaking, the other party directly hung up the phone.

Holding the phone, Ling Chen wished he could punch the car to vent his grief and anger.

For the first time, a strong hatred surged in his heart, wishing to tear Old K apart.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen calmed his emotions, looked at the body bag in front of him, and said in a deep voice, "Wei, it's my fault. Rest assured, I will take good care of your wife and children, and no one will bully them."

Back at Nanrong Wanqing's side, looking at Ling Chen with slightly red eyes, Nanrong Wanqing sighed softly, "Condolences and changes, don't be too sad. What we can do now is to help Wei Jun handle his affairs well, find the murderer as soon as possible, and avenge him."

"Miss Nanrong, have the victim's family been contacted?" Xia Mutong walked over and asked.

"I have already talked to them on the phone, they are on their way here and may take about two hours," Nanrong Wanqing said, "Fortunately, his wife and children went back to her parents' place, otherwise, the family of three would have suffered misfortune."

Xia Mutong nodded and asked, "Miss Nanrong, Wei Jun is a security guard at your company. How is his relationship with people at the company normally, does he have enemies?"

Just as Nanrong Wanqing was about to speak, Ling Chen took over and said, "This matter has nothing to do with others, I know who the murderer is."

"Who?" Xia Mutong asked eagerly.

"Old K."

"Old K? What kind of name is that? What grudge does he have with Wei Jun?"

Ling Chen glanced at Nanrong Wanqing nearby and said, "Officer Xia, let's talk alone about this." Saying this, Ling Chen walked aside. Things had gotten to this point, there was no need to hide anymore. He originally thought he could stop Old K, so he hadn't planned to tell Xia Mutong. But now the situation was different, someone was dead, and Xia Mutong would definitely pursue it to the end. Instead of letting Xia Mutong waste time investigating, it was better to reveal the truth.

After learning the course of events, Xia Mutong angrily said, "Why didn't you tell me about this in advance?"

Ling Chen smiled bitterly and said, "I admit it's my fault. I thought I could solve it myself, so I didn't want to bother you. I just underestimated Old K's ruthlessness. Anyone connected with me becomes Old K's

target, this scope is too wide, I can't possibly protect everyone. Officer Xia, I'm afraid I'll need your help with this matter."

"It's my duty; even if you didn't tell me, I would pursue it to the end. How many clues do you have concerning Old K?"

"Not a single clue, he always calls me using disposable phones. The voice is specially processed, making it unrecognizable. I guess his age is between thirty and forty. Besides his gender and age, I know nothing else."

Speaking up to this point, Ling Chen changed the subject and asked, "Have the remnants of the bomb installed at Wei Jun's house been found?"

"Found them, just sent to the lab, probably will take a few hours to get results." Xia Mutong thought for a while and asked strangely, "This thing is odd. You said Old K is coming for you. If so, why doesn't he directly target you? Instead, he wastes time on your friends. As long as you're ruthless, his methods wouldn't work at all. Also, he gave you three days, now ten days. If I were your enemy, I wouldn't drag it out, waste time, I'd directly find an opportunity to get rid of you, why go to such lengths and effort."

Xia Mutong's words also made Ling Chen feel suspicious. This doesn't seem like a simple act of revenge and targeting, maybe the other party has some other plan.

"Officer Xia, I'll look deeper into this, if I find anything else, I'll notify you immediately."

"That's better. Ling Chen, don't say I didn't warn you, when you encounter similar things in the future, be sure to notify me first. Just like this time, if you had told me in advance, maybe your friend wouldn't have died."

"I understand."

The police would handle the subsequent matters, Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing returned to the car and drove straight to the villa.

On the way, the two remained silent, each lost in their thoughts.

"You don't need to worry too much about Wei Jun's family." As they neared home, Nanrong Wanqing spoke, "I've already talked to the company; they will help improve Wei Jun's wife and child's quality of life. From now on, all their costs will be covered by the company. Wei Jun's son will enter Hongyu Group after graduation."

"Thank you!" Ling Chen nodded. This is undoubtedly the best arrangement; Wei Jun's wife and children lost their pillar, only this could eliminate their worries.

"No need to thank me, as chairman of Hongyu Group, this is what I should do."

"What about the Liu Family?" Ling Chen changed the topic. He knew Nanrong Wanqing was dealing with them; last time the Liu family head directly ran to Hongyu Group to make trouble, claiming to perish together with the Nanrong family. He didn't know what the situation was now.

"The Liu Family is done for. Last time they came to Hongyu Group looking for me, it was just an act. Over the years, the Liu family's assets have been in deficit, they simply don't have the capital to fight me. It's also their own greed; if they didn't instigate Liu Wei to take advantage of our Hongyu Group, the Liu Family wouldn't lack food now. They've declared bankruptcy, their bank account is in negative."

"Looks like I should avoid provoking you in the future."

Nanrong Wanqing couldn't help but roll her eyes at Ling Chen after hearing these words.

Back home, Ling Chen was not in a good mood, he went directly to his bedroom, not even interested in chatting with the women. Wei Jun's death hit him hard, no matter how optimistic he was, Wei Jun's death was on him, he had an unavoidable responsibility.

If it was in the past, Ling Chen might not have cared much, but now... the weight of 'friendship and loyalty' was growing heavier in his heart.

Chapter 1116 - 1123: Hidden Agenda (2)

"Mr. Zhu, you're here!"

In a three-story building located in East Sea City, a middle-aged man stood at the door, welcoming Zhu Hong from outside.

"Old K, how's the matter coming along?" Zhu Hong sat down casually and asked.

"Rest assured, Mr. Zhu, I never fail when I handle things. Ling Chen has already taken the bait, and I reckon he's grieving over his friend's death right now."

"Very good. You were recommended by Elder Ling, so I trust your capabilities. Before my plan is completed, use whatever means necessary to keep Ling Chen in East Sea City. He must not ruin my plan."

"That's not a problem. Within a month, Ling Chen won't be able to step out of East Sea City unless he wants to watch his friends die." After a pause, Old K asked, "Mr. Zhu, once your matter is settled, can we take care of Ling Chen?"

Zhu Hong smirked and said, "Do you want to take care of him? Old K, it's not that I underestimate your abilities. I know you're capable. However, if you want to deal with Ling Chen, you're still lacking a bit. Not even Elder Ling himself would be entirely confident in taking down Ling Chen. Alright, don't worry about Ling Chen. Sooner or later, someone will take care of him. Now the most important thing is to complete our plan."

"Yes, I understand."

"Oh, right! Old K, I have a list here that I compiled last night, maybe it'll be useful to you."

Taking the list handed over by Zhu Hong, Old K glanced at it briefly, his thick eyebrows suddenly raising as he smiled and said, "Thank you, Mr. Zhu, for the information. This makes things easier for me."

"Alright! You get busy, I have a flight to catch in two hours. When I return, we'll celebrate together."

"Safe travels, Mr. Zhu."

...

Three days passed, and Ling Chen became increasingly cautious. The death of Wei Jun told him that Old K wouldn't spare any friend around him, even those with shallow relationships were becoming targets of Old K, which was undoubtedly the most troublesome thing for Ling Chen.

He had been in East Sea City for so long and made a lot of friends; notably, those from Hongyu Group, such as Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui, were his friends, and who knew if Old K would target them.

To ensure safety, Ling Chen not only intensified everyone's security but also increased the search efforts.

As long as Old K remained in East Sea City, he was determined to find him even if he had to dig three feet into the ground.

On that day, Ling Chen arrived at the base, intending to ask Hu Fei about the progress. Just as he reached the control center, before he had a chance to sit down, he received a call from an unfamiliar number.

He thought it was Old K calling, but when he answered, he discovered the identity of the caller.

Ling Tao!

The person he'd been waiting for.

"Where's my dad, where is he?" Ling Chen asked impatiently. Ling Tao had finally called him; he had to seize the opportunity to inquire about Ling Kun's whereabouts.

"Kid, I know what you want to ask. The matter concerning your dad is quite complicated and can't be explained in a short time. We can talk about it later. Right now, there's a more urgent matter that needs your help."

"What is it?"

"I might need to borrow some of your forces," said Ling Tao. "We've already entered a full-scale war with the Southern Ling Family. Although we were prepared, I still underestimated the Southern Ling Family's power. Over the years, they've been lying low, accumulating strength, and the power they've exploded with now far exceeds my expectations. I didn't want to trouble you at first since you've worked hard to stabilize and it's a good time for you to expand your influence steadily. However, given the current situation, I have no choice but to ask for your involvement."

Ling Chen pondered for a moment and asked, "How many men do you need?"

"Three hundred elites, including those experts by your side. I need them all."

"No, I can't spare that many people. I'm also facing troubles and urgently need a large number of people. I can lend you at most two hundred. As for my friends, I need to ask for their opinions since they're not my subordinates; I'm not in a position to command them."

"Two hundred is too few, sending them would just be sending them to their deaths, as they simply couldn't withstand their assault." After a pause, Ling Tao said seriously, "Ling Chen, I don't have time to waste words with you. Honestly, one of our bases is under attack, and the one in charge of its security is porridge girl. Her situation is critical right now, and based on the intelligence I received, without reinforcements, she can hold out for at most three days."

Ling Chen furrowed his brows and asked sternly, "Can't you allocate forces to support them?"

"If I could, I wouldn't be asking you. The Southern Ling Family has launched a comprehensive offensive, and all our regional forces are under attack, making it impossible to allocate any manpower. Okay, I've said what needed to be said, you have to find a way to resolve this matter. Even if not for our sake, you should think about porridge girl." After saying this, Ling Tao didn't give Ling Chen a chance to speak and abruptly hung up the phone.

At the same time, his phone vibrated with a message from Ling Tao containing the location information of porridge girl.

Damn!

Ling Chen couldn't help but curse. At this moment, he finally realized Old K's intentions.

The opponent deliberately wanted to bind him, keeping him in East Sea City. In the current situation, he not only had to ensure the safety of Nanrong Wanqing and others but also had to search for Old K's whereabouts. Hu Fei had already allocated nearly half of the manpower, leaving only about two hundred people available.

According to Ling Tao's request, he must mobilize all forces to support porridge girl. Otherwise, porridge girl would likely face imminent danger. However, if he did so, the defensive power in East Sea City would be significantly weakened, providing an opportunity for those with malicious intentions.

"Hey, fatty!"

"What's wrong?" Seeing the serious expression on Ling Chen's face as he approached, Hu Fei sensed something was amiss and quickly asked.

"How many exoskeleton armors are available for use in the base?"

"All together there are about one hundred and fifty sets."

"Give me a hundred sets. Also, have Kai choose a hundred elites."

Hu Fei was momentarily stunned and asked, "I'm asking, who are you going to war with? Don't blame me for not warning you, this is East Sea City. If you engage in large-scale warfare, the authorities above certainly won't allow it."

"I know, don't worry about that. Just arrange it for me as soon as possible. By the way! Where is Bai Huanjun? I need to find him urgently."

Based on the current situation, going to support porridge girl was inevitable. He couldn't just watch porridge girl fall into trouble. Therefore, the only solution was to have Bai Huanjun impersonate him and stay in East Sea City to hold the fort.

Though a hundred elites weren't many, once equipped with exoskeleton armors, their combat power would be equivalent to three or four hundred people, which should be sufficient.

By the time everything was arranged, it was already past ten in the evening.

After a busy day, Ling Chen was utterly exhausted. Dragging his weary body back home, everyone including Nanrong Wanqing had already gone to bed, only the light in Liu Xiyao's room was still on.

Chapter 1117 - 1124: Supporting the Porridge Girl

Knock knock knock!

Ling Chen knocked on the door and said, "Xiyao, it's me. Can I come in?"

"Come in." With Liu Xiyao's permission, Ling Chen pushed the door open and went inside.

It was already May, and the weather was gradually becoming hot. Liu Xiyao was wearing a sexy nightgown, half-reclining on the bed, her long, snow-white legs crossed, with smooth, jade-like ankles. As his gaze moved upward, today's nightgown on Liu Xiyao was particularly daring, revealing a patch of fair skin on her firm and ample chest. Strands of hair slipped from her shoulders, falling just into that deep cleavage, making it hard for anyone to look away.

Seeing Liu Xiyao's alluring and seductive appearance, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, mouth half-open, nearly drooling.

Noticing Ling Chen's dazed expression, Liu Xiyao finally realized how seductive her posture was. Flushing slightly, she took a thin blanket from the side and covered herself, concealing all of her allure.

Liu Xiyao's action quickly brought Ling Chen back to his senses. Embarrassed, he chuckled and casually found a topic to hide his awkwardness: "Why are you still awake?"

"Can't sleep, slept too much during the day. So, did you need something?"

"I have to leave tomorrow morning and might not be back for a few days..." With that, Ling Chen didn't hide it and told Liu Xiyao his plan. Once he left, the 'Ling Chen' portrayed by Bai Huanjun would move in to cover up, making Old K believe he was still in East Sea City. Of course, to not disturb the daily lives of the girls, Bai Huanjun wouldn't stay on the second floor; he had already arranged a room on the first floor for him.

"Where are you going? Is it far?" Liu Xiyao asked. She was a clever woman, and Ling Chen's actions meant he was leaving East Sea City.

"Not too far, just a few hours by plane. Anyway, it's late, and I won't disturb your rest. Just let Wanqing and the others know for me when you get a chance." Saying this, Ling Chen turned and headed for the door.

"Wait!"

Hearing Liu Xiyao's voice come from behind, Ling Chen turned his head and asked, "What's up?"

As Liu Xiyao played with the hair by her ear, she said, "It's nothing, I just wanted to ask about you and Wanqing... What is your relationship now?"

"Friends."

"Just ordinary friends?" Liu Xiyao looked into Ling Chen's eyes, with a hint of something else in her tone.

"This..." Ling Chen opened his mouth but didn't know how to answer. Ordinary friends? Even though Nanrong Wanqing had broken up with him, there was still that ambiguous connection between them. Like a barrier between them that, if broken, they could return to the past.

However, neither he nor Nanrong Wanqing seemed ready to break through that barrier, perhaps... they both still had reservations.

"What? Hard to answer?" Liu Xiyao lightly smiled and asked, "Then... if you had to choose between Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu, who would you choose?"

Ling Chen replied helplessly, "Xiyao, why do you suddenly ask me this?"

"No reason, just curious, so I asked. If you don't want to tell me, I won't force you. However, I think both Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu are great girls. And after spending two days with them, I believe they both care about you. There's an old saying in Huaxia: 'Pick the flowers while you can, don't wait until there are none.' Honestly, there's no need to overthink things. During my studies abroad, many nobles were like this, with no shortage of women around any excellent man."

Uh...

Ling Chen was genuinely taken aback. He thought Liu Xiyao was going to criticize his romantic inclinations, but unexpectedly... she said that.

"Alright then! It's late, you should rest. As for choosing, that's up to you."

After leaving the bedroom, Ling Chen sat in his room, still reflecting on Liu Xiyao's words. Was Liu Xiyao... encouraging him to have multiple partners?

Never mind! Ling Chen patted his forehead. At a time like this, there was no mental space for such random thoughts.

Early the next morning.

Before dawn, Ling Chen quietly left the house alone. He moved with utmost caution, unsure if Old K had someone secretly watching. If the opposition discovered his whereabouts, everything would be in vain.

An hour later, Ling Chen took a taxi to the airport.

"Ling Cheng, over here." In the waiting hall, Yuan Yun waved at Ling Chen.

With a smile, Ling Chen quickly approached and said, "Big brother, you all came so early." For this operation, after much thought, Ling Chen decided to ask for Qiu Yong and the others' help. Although the base had many masters, including Ji Gang, a Heavenly List expert, East Sea City was his headquarters, requiring a substantial force to hold the fort to prevent any mishaps. So now, the only help available were the Eight Odd People.

"Ling Cheng, didn't you say there would be more people? Why are you the only one who arrived?" Xia Yue asked.

"There are too many of them, so they had to charter a flight. We're going ahead."

After waiting in the departure hall for a while, Ling Chen and his party boarded the plane. Looking at the time, it was only six-thirty. Considering the flight time, they should reach the destination by nine.

Porridge girl... I wonder how she's doing. Hopefully, nothing goes wrong.

Several hours passed, and the plane gradually descended, finally reaching its intended destination. Ling Chen looked out the window, facing a sight filled with endless dust.

"Ling Cheng, the environment here is really bad."

"Fifth Sister, this is the edge of the desert, so the environment is bound to be worse than back home." After a pause, Ling Chen looked at everyone and reminded, "We're now 300 kilometers north of Huaxia's border. Based on the intel I have, this is a small country with an unstable political situation and frequent warfare. Once we deplane, everyone must be vigilant."

"Ling Cheng, don't worry, we'll follow your lead," Yuan Yun responded.

Upon disembarking, Ling Chen and his party made their way outside the airport and made a few phone calls. In less than half an hour, an old Nissan van slowly drove up and stopped beside them.

The door opened, and a Huaxia man jumped out, walking straight to Ling Chen. He handed him a set of keys and a few documents, saying, "Everything you asked for is in the car. After entering the desert, you'll have to rely on yourself."

"Understood, thank you!" Ling Chen nodded. The man before him was a member of Lonely Wolf. Since they were abroad, many things were inconvenient, so Ling Chen had to seek help from Lonely Wolf. Fortunately, he had a good relationship with Pang Jiulin, and the other party did not refuse.

Chapter 1118 - 1125: Desert Crisis (1)

"Ling Cheng, are we heading into the desert?" Yuan Yun asked.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "According to the intel I received, Porridge Girl is located in the desert. I checked the map on the plane; from here, if everything goes well, it will take about four hours."

"That far?" Wei Jiahao exclaimed, "Ling Cheng, have you been to the desert before? I heard it's terrifying inside. If we lose our way, we'll end up dying in there."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, patting Wei Jiahao on the shoulder, "No need to worry, it's different now. We have a specialized positioning device, we won't stray off course. Okay, after sitting on the plane for so long, everyone must be tired. Let's find a place to rest, eat something, and head out in the afternoon."

While Qiu Yong and the others were resting, Ling Chen remained busy. Entering the desert isn't something to be taken lightly, and he didn't have much experience, so he had to be thoroughly prepared.

First was the vehicle. Ling Chen rented two professional off-road vehicles from a nearby rental service; a good off-road vehicle is undoubtedly essential in such desert terrain. Besides the vehicles, Ling Chen also purchased a lot of water and food, these are necessities. Furthermore, water consumption is extremely high in the desert.

Everything was ready by around four in the afternoon.

With their stomachs full, Ling Chen, without any rest, directly led the group toward the desert. Since there were eight of them, one off-road vehicle couldn't accommodate everyone, so Ling Chen drove one and Yuan Yun drove the other, with the two vehicles moving in convoy straight into the desert.

Before setting off, Ling Chen called Porridge Girl to notify her. He got this contact from Ling Tao; when he received the number yesterday, Ling Chen had called to ask about Porridge Girl's situation, but unfortunately, the call couldn't get through.

At this moment, the phone connected but the busy tone still came from the other end, indicating that she was out of the service area. Ling Chen put away his phone, frowning slightly, with a hint of unease in his heart. It's been two days, no news from Ling Tao, and they couldn't reach Porridge Girl either; he wondered how she was doing.

This was Ling Chen's first time entering the desert; before setting off, he had done a brief study on it. The desert he was in now was vast; even if the whole of East Sea City were placed inside, it would occupy at most a third of its area. This showed just how terrifyingly large this desert was.

The off-road vehicles were equipped with navigation devices, and Ling Chen only needed to enter the destination's coordinates to automatically configure the fastest and clearest route above.

According to Ling Chen's plan, it would take just four hours of driving in the desert to reach where Porridge Girl was. Along the way, the two off-road vehicles moved quickly; after all, it was an endless desert unlike the congested city, so driving at 120 km/h didn't seem fast.

In the blink of an eye, two hours passed, and the two off-road vehicles had gradually entered the desert.

Looking at the increasingly dim sky, Wei Jiahao rolled down the window, watching the sandy surroundings, and asked, "Ling Cheng, how much longer do we have?"

"Soon, about two more hours." Just as Ling Chen finished speaking, before having time to react, he felt the car's front suddenly sink, and the sandy ground caved in, causing the off-road vehicle's front to plunge into a pit.

Luckily, everyone inside was protected by seatbelts, and no one got injured.

Seeing Ling Chen's vehicle rush into the sandpit, Yuan Yun quickly stopped the car and, along with the others, rushed over.

"Ling Cheng, are you guys okay?" Qiu Yong rushed to the front, swiftly unlocking the car door.

With the help of others, Ling Chen, Yang Chen, and Wei Jiahao climbed out of the car. Climbing out of the pit, Wei Jiahao said helplessly, "Ling Cheng, our luck is really bad, hitting a sandpit."

Ling Chen brushed off the sand from his body, observing the situation around the pit, his brows furrowed slightly.

"Hey! Ling Cheng, why did you jump into the sandpit?"

Ling Chen didn't respond but instead pulled out a thick plastic sheet from the sandpit. Besides the several-meter-long plastic sheet, there were also some wooden rods in the sand secured into a frame with iron wires. However, when the vehicle rushed down earlier, the frame got damaged, and now it's completely collapsed.

Seeing Ling Chen crouching silently in the pit, Zhang Zhongfeng asked, "Ling Cheng, what's going on?"

Ling Chen stood up, climbed out of the sandpit, scanned the surroundings, and said solemnly, "Everyone gather around and stay alert; there may be enemies nearby."

Upon hearing this, Qiu Yong immediately gathered everyone together, watchfully eyeing the surroundings. Ling Chen glanced at the pitch-black desert, instructed Qiu Yong, then cautiously moved around. He walked slowly, probing the ground with each step before advancing.

Just as expected, there was another trap about ten meters away.

Ling Chen's expression grew serious as he pondered silently; he couldn't fathom who would set traps here. This was a desert, isolated from any village or shop, who could it be? Was it robbers? Thinking this, Ling Chen couldn't help but chuckle. If anyone dared to rob them, it could only mean they were courting death.

This place was hundreds of kilometers from Huaxia, where Huaxia's laws and restrictions had no impact. Regardless of what adversaries they faced, they need not show mercy.

After waiting for a moment and seeing no danger arise, Ling Chen immediately called everyone to pull the off-road vehicle out of the pit.

Upon opening the vehicle's hood and looking at the smoking area, Ling Chen was somewhat helpless. They hadn't even covered much distance, and there was already a malfunction. At this rate, it would take another half hour.

"Help me get the tools, Eighth Brother."

"Got it!" Wei Jiahao replied.

After about forty minutes, the vehicle's issue was finally resolved. "Everyone, get in the car!" Ling Chen called out, and with Yang Chen and Wei Jiahao, boarded the off-road vehicle. As the vehicle started, Ling Chen maneuvered around the adjacent sandpit, heading straight ahead.

Bang!

Suddenly, a sudden gunshot rang out. Ling Chen's expression changed slightly; realizing the car's front tire suddenly burst, causing the whole vehicle to tilt to the left.

"Ling Cheng, the gunshot came from the northeast," Yang Chen calmly stated. Born blind, his hearing was the sharpest among the group, a skill in itself.

Ling Chen turned to look in the direction Yang Chen mentioned, but it was pitch black, and nothing was visible.

"Guys, stay in the car and don't go out; the opponent has the advantage, we don't need to take risks," Ling Chen said over the walkie-talkie.

"Understood!"

Chapter 1119 - 1126: Desert Crisis (Part 2)

"Ling Cheng, who do you think... they might be?" Wei Jiahao asked softly.

"Not sure, but those who come are not good, and those who are good do not come, so we should be careful." After saying this, Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "Staying in the car isn't going to work, I will go out to have a look and try to find the person who ambushed us."

Yang Chen said worriedly, "Ling Cheng, this isn't a good idea, they're in the open, we're hidden, it's too dangerous."

"Dangerous or not, we have to try, we don't have time to delay here. Alright, you all stay in the car obediently, no one is allowed to leave." After he finished speaking, without waiting for Wei Jiahao and Yang Chen to speak again, Ling Chen had already pushed open the car door and quickly dashed into the vast night.

After getting out of the off-road vehicle, Ling Chen found a relatively safe spot, lay on the ground, and glanced towards the northeast. At the moment he raised his head, he heard a 'bang', and the bullet hit right next to Ling Chen.

That was close!

Ling Chen silently rejoiced; it seemed his judgment was correct. In such a dark environment, the opposing party could accurately hit the car tire, had to be equipped with night vision.

However, that shot also revealed the sniper's location. Locking onto the direction, Ling Chen took the small bag from his waist and took out a few smoke grenades. When coming from East Sea City, no one carried any weapons because dangerous goods are not allowed on planes, not to mention military-grade weapons.

Therefore, Ling Chen specially entrusted Lonely Wolf to transport their weapons through special channels while preparing the intelligence information, including the gear Lonely Wolf specially prepared for him. Anyway, since they weren't in their own country, there was no need for so many scruples.

A smoke grenade was thrown out, and the dark desert was instantly shrouded in thick smoke. Ling Chen slipped and rushed into the smoke, casually throwing out several other smoke grenades, advancing step by step towards the sniper's location.

Ling Chen's technique was very precise, each smoke grenade was distanced perfectly, preventing the sniper from locking onto his position.

A minute passed... Bang! The gunshot rang out again, and the bullet directly landed at Ling Chen's feet. Fortunately, Ling Chen responded promptly. At the moment the gunshot rang, he had already dropped to the ground, finding a relatively safe cover. Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen didn't move and rested on the ground.

He had locked onto the sniper's position, but there was still a distance of about twenty meters. Right now, he had run out of smoke grenades in hand. Though twenty meters wasn't long, exposing himself to a sniper's gun without cover was undoubtedly an unwise choice.

At the moment, inside the two off-road vehicles, Qiu Yong and others were very anxious. Due to the distance and the dark night, the visible range was limited. They couldn't see Ling Chen's situation clearly, only vaguely seeing a blurry figure. Just now, when the gunshot rang, they noticed that the blurry figure fell to the ground and didn't move for a long time.

This scene made everyone's hearts hang in their throats, silently praying, hoping Ling Chen was alright.

In a flash, two minutes passed, and Ling Chen appeared in their view again. Qiu Yong tightened his expression and said sternly, "No, we can't stay like this; Ling Cheng might be in danger, we must go over to help."

Zhang Zhongfeng chimed in, "Let me go." Saying this, he picked up his bow and arrow, preparing to get out of the car.

"Fourth brother, wait!" Qiu Yong stopped Zhang Zhongfeng, saying, "The position isn't clear, later I'll go down first to attract the sniper's attention, you find a chance to strike and try to suppress the opposing party." He paused, then turned to Xu Ming, "Second brother, watch for the right time, as soon as the sniper is suppressed, immediately go to assist Ling Cheng."

"Understood."

"Everyone be cautious." After saying this, Qiu Yong opened the car door and jumped down, moving laterally towards the left.

Bang!

Soon, Qiu Yong's appearance attracted the opposing party's attention. The gunshot rang out, but Qiu Yong moved quickly, and the bullets didn't hit.

Bang! Bang!

Two consecutive shots, Qiu Yong seemed to be hit by one of the bullets as he suddenly collapsed to the ground. At this point, Zhang Zhongfeng couldn't care about anything else, swiftly drew three arrows, knocked them, and shot towards the gunshot direction. The earlier gunshots helped Zhang Zhongfeng lock down the approximate position.

Three arrows shot consecutively, Zhang Zhongfeng didn't stay in place and kept moving quickly. Standing still would undoubtedly turn him into the opposing party's target.

At this moment, Ling Chen, who was prone in the sand, looked back at the situation behind him, and quickly grasped it in his mind. Right now, the sniper's attention was on Zhang Zhongfeng, not noticing him, which undoubtedly was Ling Chen's best opportunity.

Without time to think further, in these matters, being late by a second could pose a fatal risk to Zhang Zhongfeng. With a swift step, Ling Chen's body was like a gust of wind, swiftly rushing forward with a speed as fast as a released arrow. In the blink of an eye, the twenty-meter distance was halved. Simultaneously, the sniper's figure finally appeared in Ling Chen's sight.

Ten meters... Ling Chen gritted his teeth and accelerated instantly. When the sniper noticed, Ling Chen was already closing in. Not giving the sniper a chance to shoot again, Ling Chen kicked the sniper rifle aside with his toe. Then, Ling Chen leaned forward slightly, grabbed from the ground, and pulled the sniper up, holding him with one hand high in the air.

Hmph!

Ling Chen didn't hesitate, directly raising his iron fist, ready to hit the opponent's abdomen. If this punch landed, the opponent would be severely injured, if not dead.

"Stop! Stop!"

At the moment Ling Chen prepared to punch, strong lights suddenly projected over. Under the piercing light, Ling Chen quickly turned his head, squinting his eyes, not daring to directly face that strong light.

"Put the person down." The voice speaking was in English, but Ling Chen understood.

Hearing the voices around, Ling Chen shrugged, released his fingers, and let the sniper down. Regardless of who was coming, Ling Chen heard the sound of a gun bolt. If his guess was correct, there were at least a dozen guns aimed at him. Facing such bright lights, he couldn't see anything clearly. In this situation, he could only obediently comply, not daring to act excessively. Otherwise, in the next second, his body might become riddled like a beehive.

He hadn't met up with porridge girl yet; to die in a place like this would be too unworthy.

"Arrest him!"

With the command given, Ling Chen saw two Asians, carrying guns and handcuffs, walk over from the strong light. Ling Chen didn't say anything, allowing them to handcuff him.

Soon, the sound of footsteps approached, Ling Chen focused his gaze, seeing Qiu Yong and others also being escorted by gunpoint.

Chapter 1120 - 1127: Desert Crisis (Part 3)

Looking around at the situation, Ling Chen chuckled bitterly. What bad luck, entering the desert not long ago, he encountered such a thing, truly unexpected.

At the moment, there are nearly a hundred armed militants around, each equipped with weapons and guns. No wonder Qiu Yong and the others chose to surrender. Although they are experts, being skilled doesn't mean being invincible. In the wide-open space of the desert, faced with a group of fully armed enemies, there's no chance to avoid them. If they forcibly resisted, perhaps they could kill nearly half, but they wouldn't have any hope of survival.

"Take them away." A leader commanded.

Soon, Ling Chen and his team were escorted onto a military transport vehicle by a group of armed militants. Sitting inside the vehicle, Ling Chen and the others exchanged looks, each pondering a plan.

However, these militants seemed very cautious. Besides them in the carriage, there were more than a dozen armed militants responsible for guarding them, all pointing their guns at their heads. Ling Chen believed that if they dared make a move, the bullets would surely and unhesitatingly pierce their foreheads.

With the lights inside the carriage, Ling Chen took the opportunity to observe these militants, all typical Asians speaking a dialect they couldn't understand. From their equipment configuration and the bloody aura emanating from them, Ling Chen's heart sank slightly.

Before coming, he had done a brief study of this small country dependent on Huaxia. It's a country constantly in civil war, especially recently, with the domestic regime under attack by rebels, causing the government to become completely paralyzed, even the country's government leader was killed by rebels. Now, to seize control of the country, several rebel forces are fighting fiercely.

Knowing the situation, Ling Chen planned his route to avoid conflict zones as much as possible, to prevent unnecessary trouble.

Ling Chen had seen rebels before during his ghost missions. However, these militants in front of him were different from the rebels he had encountered before. It's known that most rebels are temporary recruits, given a gun and instantly becoming armed personnel.

Such people are untrained, without combat experience, surviving on the battlefield purely by luck. Through four or five battles, they could turn from novices into veterans. This was the rebel's unique training method.

However, these militants in front of him were entirely different from the rebels he knew. They were highly disciplined and well-equipped, not a mix-and-match. From these people, Ling Chen sensed the presence of regular soldiers.

Looking at the convoy behind the transport vehicle, Ling Chen hesitated several times but ultimately abandoned the thought of making a move. Although he was 70% sure of escaping this transport vehicle, they had a convoy, and with only his legs, he surely couldn't outrun them. Moreover, these armed militants responsible for guarding had loaded their bullets. If they made a move, bullets wouldn't have eyes, and with so many people, being mistakenly hit would be a troublesome matter.

"Ling Cheng, big brother was shot when he went out just now," Wei Jiahao whispered to Ling Chen.

What?

Ling Chen's expression changed drastically, quickly turning to Qiu Yong and asking, "Big brother, how are you, is the wound serious?"

"It's nothing, just a superficial wound."

Despite Qiu Yong's calmness, Ling Chen was still worried, "Big brother, where did the bullet hit?"

Qiu Yong pointed to his left arm. Then, before Ling Chen could ask, Qiu Yong stretched out a hand, opened his palm, revealing a bullet in his palm.

Seeing Ling Chen's surprised look, Qiu Yong smiled and said, "Don't be surprised, I trained in Cross Training, my muscles are tougher than ordinary martial artists. Also, I've recently cultivated the martial arts manual from you, enhancing my abilities. When the bullet entered my body, I can instantly change the density of my muscles through self-control, making the bullet stay on the outside, so it doesn't cause much damage."

After hearing Qiu Yong's explanation, Ling Chen was inwardly shocked, surprised at Qiu Yong's Cross Training reaching such a level, truly unbelievable.

At this moment, Ling Chen wasn't the only one shocked; there was another person in the car, the sniper who had just wounded Qiu Yong. Seeing the bullet Qiu Yong took out, he was completely dumbfounded, staring intensely at Qiu Yong, uncertain of what he was thinking.

Minutes passed, and the convoy finally reached the destination. As soon as they got off the vehicle, Ling Chen glanced around, a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Surrounding them was a vast campsite with hundreds of tents neatly arranged in the desert, armed militants were everywhere. Not only that, Ling Chen also saw armed helicopters, armored vehicles, tanks, various military equipment.

This... is entirely a military base!

Finished! Caught at their military base, even if they had divine skills, they wouldn't necessarily escape.

Soon, Ling Chen and his team were taken to a makeshift cell.

"Ling Cheng, what do we do now?" Wei Jiahao asked worriedly.

"It's not that there's no solution, let's see the situation first. If we can persuade them to release us, we don't need to make a big fuss."

In the cell, after waiting a while, someone finally came to interrogate them. A middle-aged man in his thirties came, looking no different from a Huaxia person, except his skin was darker. Standing outside the cell, he looked at Ling Chen and the others, asking, "What are you doing in the desert?"

The middle-aged man spoke in the local dialect, with none of them understanding. Seeing no response, the middle-aged man repeated the question in English.

Ling Chen replied, "Sorry, we came through here to meet with my friend, not intending to offend you."

"Friend? This is the desert, who would you meet in such a godforsaken place? I'm warning you, don't come up with excuses. I ask you, are you sent to assassinate the General?" the middle-aged man asked coldly.

"Sir, we're Huaxia people, we just arrived in this country today, completely unaware of any General. And, you misunderstand us, we have our own matters to handle, unrelated to you, please release us."

"Huaxia people?" The middle-aged man switched to standard Chinese and said, "Now is a time of war; aren't you Huaxia people enjoying yourselves at home? Why come to a place like this? Seeking death?" Before Ling Chen could respond, the middle-aged man waved to the door.

Soon, two armed militants walked in, carrying piles of items, weapons used by the group, and some military equipment.

"These were found from your vehicle, are you trying to tell me you're bringing these to meet friends?"