

The Beauty 531

Chapter 531 Rescuing Little Hua (2)

"Since you were able to locate her whereabouts, you should be clear about the position of that airplane."

"According to the intelligence we have, in twenty hours, that airplane will make a fifteen-minute stop at an airport to refuel. Fifteen minutes later, the airplane will take off again, and no one knows where it will go. If Mr. Ling wishes to take action, you only have fifteen minutes to infiltrate that airplane."

Fifteen minutes!

Ling Chen frowned inwardly; infiltrating the airport and blending into that airplane within fifteen minutes was an extremely urgent timeline.

"Send me the location of the airport and the model of that aircraft."

"Sure. Mr. Ling, do you need any other assistance from us?"

Ling Chen asked casually, "Any kind of assistance?"

"Just give the word, and we will try our best to meet your needs."

"Good, then thank you in advance!"

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen looked at the information that had been sent to his mobile phone, and said, "Mr. He, I've found Little Hua's whereabouts, it's just..."

"Just what?"

Ling Chen shrugged helplessly and said, "I'm afraid we have a long journey ahead."

He had intended to stay at home for a few more days, taking the chance to spend more time with Nanrong Wanqing, but from the current situation, he probably didn't have time to linger in East Sea City for too long. Luckily, Su Lin had already returned home, and with Su Lin's company, Nanrong Wanqing wouldn't be too bored.

"Mr. He, let's get ready. We set off at four o'clock tomorrow morning."

"Okay."

...

The next day.

Before dawn, after resting for a few hours, Ling Chen slung his backpack and left Wealthy Manor alone. In less than forty minutes, he arrived at the international airport of East Sea City by car.

In the waiting hall of the airport, Ling Chen met He Ziyun, who had already arrived there to wait.

He Ziyun carried simple belongings, one of which was wrapped in a long cloth, and without looking, one would know what was inside.

The two went to Hangar Three, where a small Boeing passenger plane was parked inside, undergoing final checks.

Once on the plane, an attendant with a delicate face came over and asked with a smile, "Would you two like some coffee?"

"No need." Ling Chen waved his hand, sending her away.

"Ling Chen, did you arrange this flight?"

"Sort of."

He had asked the woman on the phone to arrange this flight, and when he put forward the request, she had readily agreed.

...

After more than ten hours of flight, the plane finally landed at a simple airport in the desert.

From here, Ling Chen had to switch to driving to reach the destination. After all, the airplane was too big a target and easily noticeable.

The vehicles for this operation had all been prepared by the Secret Society. The driver was a middle-aged man, a native of Huaxia over forty years old, with a weathered face. Perhaps because he had spent years in the desert, his skin was often sunburned, making it somewhat dry.

For reasons of secrecy or other reasons, the middle-aged man stated his name as Sang Ji.

Sitting in the car, Ling Chen chatted with Sang Ji nonchalantly, hoping to get some information about the Secret Society from him. However, Sang Ji was tight-lipped; whenever the topic related to the Secret Society came up, he would keep his mouth shut, acting as though he heard nothing.

After traveling for several hours, Ling Chen noticed armored vehicles passing by the roadside, as well as a group of armed militants carrying AK47s.

According to Sang Ji, the thousands of miles nearby were all desert, a lawless zone where many mercenaries and terrorist organizations rooted themselves and established strongholds to train soldiers. However, he mentioned that as long as one didn't provoke trouble with others, nobody would bother them.

The God Organization had chosen to stay here precisely because there were no restrictions, and there was no need to worry about accidents.

Ling Chen looked at the time and discussed with He Ziyun in a low voice. Seeing that they had not yet reached their destination, he leaned back against the seatback and closed his eyes to rest, conserving energy for the upcoming operation.

"Mr. Ling."

In a drowsy state, Ling Chen heard Sang Ji's voice. He rubbed his eyes and yawned, looking at the pitch-dark sky outside, and asked, "Have we arrived?"

Sang Ji pointed ahead and said, "Two more kilometers and we will reach our destination. The plane will land in two hours."

"Let's rest for a bit, no rush."

"We can only rest for an hour at most; you must hurry over in advance. I've investigated, and there is a mercenary base nearby, heavily guarded. Just infiltrating the base will take a substantial amount of time."

"Okay."

As the operation approached, Ling Chen filled his stomach and built up his energy. When the time was almost right, he and He Ziyun got off the car and walked toward the mercenary base.

Before long, a base that resembled a military fort appeared within their view.

The base was surrounded by barbed wire, covering thousands of square meters, with many tents erected inside, and a runway running through the middle of the base.

Ling Chen carefully observed for a while and saw that each of the four corners of the base had watchtowers and searchlights, with three to four mercenaries on each tower and several patrols around.

The airplane was half an hour away from arrival. Ling Chen and He Ziyun decided to wait until the plane landed before taking action. With their capabilities, infiltrating the base was just a matter of minutes.

After lying in wait near the base for several minutes, He Ziyun suddenly tapped Ling Chen on the shoulder and pointed to the sky, saying, "Here it comes!"

Ling Chen raised the binoculars and saw multiple dazzling lights twinkling in the night sky. Soon, a large passenger plane appeared in their line of sight, approaching from afar.

Finally!

The plane appeared unremarkable and even bore the logo of an airline company, but that was all for deception.

As the plane landed on the runway, Ling Chen didn't say a word; he immediately packed up and moved towards the base.

A barbed wire fence over two meters tall was no challenge for Ling Chen, and in no time, they quietly infiltrated the interior of the base.

"Mr. He, there!"

Ling Chen pointed, and He Ziyun immediately focused his attention on a fuel truck. Without much talking, He Ziyun understood Ling Chen's intention.

Immediately, they carefully avoided the guards and stealthily approached the fuel truck.

However, the area around the fuel truck was heavily guarded, and Ling Chen didn't dare to get too close to avoid detection. After waiting for a few minutes, the fuel truck finally started moving. As the truck passed by the roadside, Ling Chen and He Ziyun rushed forward from both sides, rolled on the ground, and slid right under the truck.

Then, Ling Chen grabbed onto the truck's undercarriage with both hands, hanging mid-air, following the fuel truck's movement.

Soon, the fuel truck reached the side of the large passenger plane.

At this moment, the plane's cabin door opened, and two armed men came down, directing the mercenaries on the fuel truck to help refuel.

Chapter 532 Leading You into the Urn

Ling Chen took a deep breath and, seeing that no one noticed him, quietly lowered his body to the ground, avoiding the guards' line of sight, and slipped in front of the aircraft's landing gear. Above the landing gear, there was a secret door leading to the interior of the airplane, and Ling Chen, without much effort, successfully snuck inside the aircraft.

Not long after he entered the plane, He Ziyun followed closely from the landing gear.

"Let's split up and search."

"Okay." Ling Chen nodded and reminded: "Mr. He, be careful."

"You should worry more about yourself."

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but touch his nose. It seemed true; He Ziyun was a top-ranked fighter from the Earthly List, much stronger than himself. What he really needed to be worried about was his own safety.

According to the plan they had made, they intended to find Little Hua within fifteen minutes, take her off the plane, and then meet with Sang Ji who was waiting outside.

Time was of the essence, and Ling Chen dared not delay. He quickly entered the cargo hold from the bottom of the plane. Once in the cargo hold, Ling Chen was startled by the contents inside. Everywhere he looked, there were weapons and chemical supplies, including many experimental devices.

Snap!

At that moment, the cargo hold door was suddenly opened, followed by a series of footsteps.

Ling Chen had no time to think, and immediately hid behind the door. Suddenly, a fully-armed guard walked in.

"Hey!" Ling Chen waved to greet him. As soon as the guard's gaze turned, he pounced fiercely, his fist smashing violently into the guard's nose. Blood splattered everywhere, the guard's nasal bridge was directly smashed, and he didn't even make a sound before collapsing to the ground, unconscious.

After dealing with the guard, Ling Chen searched the man's body, found a pass card and a wireless headset. After securing the items, Ling Chen moved the body to a discreet corner and then headed to the top level of the plane.

This was the cargo hold; the laboratory must be located in the core area of the plane.

It must be said, the security on the plane was very tight, with identity recognition devices installed at each cabin door. Fortunately, Ling Chen had obtained a pass card, which allowed him unhindered access.

In less than five minutes, Ling Chen entered the top level of the airliner.

As expected, the laboratory was set up in the middle section of the plane, surrounded by transparent glass, creating a dust-free environment. However, although he had found the laboratory, Ling Chen also encountered a significant problem.

At the entrance of the laboratory, there were six fully-armed guards. With his abilities, dealing with these men would not be a problem. However, taking such action would surely alert the others, increasing their vigilance.

Moreover, they were currently in a mercenary base, and revealing their identities would inevitably lead to being surrounded by hundreds of mercenaries. By then, no matter how skilled they were, escaping would be next to impossible.

What to do?

Faced with this situation, Ling Chen fell into deep thought, indecisive.

He also wondered how Mr. He's search was going.

While Ling Chen was contemplating his next move, he suddenly felt the aircraft's body start to shake slightly.

Oh no!

Ling Chen's expression changed slightly; the plane was about to take off!

He checked the time; only ten minutes had passed. According to the information provided by the Secret Society, the other party was supposed to stay for fifteen minutes.

Amidst his thoughts, a voice came from the headset: "Attention everyone, we just received orders to return to the base within two hours. Please prepare yourselves; the plane is taking off immediately."

Ling Chen cursed under his breath, realizing it was impossible to get off the plane at this point.

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen gritted his teeth, making a silent decision in his mind.

There was no other way now.

As the plane ascended, Ling Chen, hiding in the shadows, locked his gaze on the security personnel in front of the laboratory.

Suddenly, a cold gleam shot out, instantly piercing the throat of a security guard. Before the others could react, Ling Chen sprang forward, grabbing the hilt of the Tianling Blade and pulling the blade from the guard's throat, turning it towards the others.

In just the blink of an eye, six security guards were killed without even a chance to resist.

Following the death of the six guards, a piercing alarm immediately sounded on the plane.

Ling Chen glanced at the surveillance cameras hidden in the shadows, then withdrew his gaze and walked towards the laboratory. The most important thing now was to find Little Hua, everything else was negligible.

Da Da Da!

At that moment, a burst of rapid gunfire came from the other end of the laboratory. However, the gunfire did not last long before it turned into screams.

Without a doubt, it must have been He Ziyun who made his move.

Moving through the laboratory, Ling Chen looked around for Little Hua, while being wary of any security personnel who might appear on the plane.

"Ling Chen."

After a while, He Ziyun approached from another direction of the laboratory.

"Mr. He, did you find Little Hua?"

"No. Not just Little Hua, I didn't see anyone in the laboratory at all."

Not a single person?

Ling Chen frowned secretly, could the information provided by the Secret Society be wrong?

"Let's go to the cockpit," Ling Chen said. "The pilot must know where they are kept."

As they spoke, the two hurriedly headed towards the front of the plane. However, as they were about to reach the laboratory exit, the transparent glass doors at the exit suddenly closed, trapping them inside.

Seeing this, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and raised his Tianling Blade, striking at the glass door.

Dang!

With a crisp sound, the edge of the Tianling Blade was bounced back, and the glass door was unmarked.

This... Ling Chen was taken aback, looking at the glass door in disbelief.

"Let me try," He Ziyun said in a deep voice.

With that, He Ziyun held a three-foot sword, stepped in front of the glass door. Then, flicking his wrist, his eyes burst with sharpness, and he suddenly struck with his sword, releasing his Inner Strength, ferociously striking the glass door.

However, the glass door remained intact, without a trace of damage.

Just as Ling Chen was stunned, a voice suddenly emanated from the laboratory's loudspeaker:
"Gentlemen, don't waste your energy. This laboratory was specially prepared for you; all the doors and windows are made of the hardest materials, you won't be able to destroy them."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's face subtly changed.

"Specially prepared for us? What does that mean?"

"Mr. Ling, you are a smart man, surely you understand what this means? Everything was prearranged by us, the person you're looking for is not on this plane at all. But don't worry, I will take you to see her soon."

Trapped?

Ling Chen felt a sinking feeling, turning his head to look at He Ziyun beside him, he said: "Mr. He, I..."

"You don't have to explain, I believe this is not your fault, it seems we were deceived by the information provided by the Secret Society."

Ling Chen frowned, afraid it was more than just deception. The Secret Society's actions completely betrayed them.

Chapter 533 Experiment Base Number 2

"Both of you, just stay inside peacefully and don't think about escaping." As the voice from the loudspeaker faded.

Ling Chen's face looked somewhat unpleasant as he stared at the thick glass door. He had meticulously planned but hadn't anticipated this to be a trap. He didn't understand why the members of the Secret Society would do this. Since the mysterious man was acquainted with his father and they were friends, there was no reason he would betray him, unless... unless there were spies from the God Organization within the Secret Society.

Sigh! Ling Chen exhaled, casting aside the clutter in his mind, no longer indulging in these comforting reasons.

Now that he had fallen into the hands of the God Organization, thinking more was useless.

More than two hours later, Ling Chen noticed that the airplane was finally beginning to descend. Looking out the window, he saw a vast expanse of blue sea, endless and boundless.

An island!

It seems that the people of the God Organization like using islands as their secret bases. Indeed, these islands located in the middle of the sea are most secretive and hard to locate.

As they thought, the large passenger plane slowly landed on the runway.

When the airplane steadied and the cabin door opened, more than ten fully armed men, led by a man in his forties, a Caucasian with a full face of flesh, a beard, and a very sturdy build at a height of about 1.9 meters, appeared imposing.

"Mr. Ling, Mr. He, please cooperate, put down your weapons, and don't make futile resistance."

Facing over ten dark gun muzzles, Ling Chen shrugged his shoulders and without saying a word, directly threw his Tianling Blade on the ground.

Once He Ziyun threw down his sword, the Caucasian man gestured to his subordinates. Soon, the glass door opened to either side.

"Gentlemen, please raise your hands and turn around."

With guns pointed at them, Ling Chen and He Ziyun dared not disobey and sincerely did as told. In such a cramped space, even if their skills were excellent, they couldn't ensure they'd evade the bullets one hundred percent.

Under the directions of the Caucasian man, two team members bound Ling Chen and He Ziyun's hands and feet with specially-made chains, restricting their movements.

"Gentlemen, come with me."

Following the Caucasian man, escorted by the others, Ling Chen disembarked from the plane, observing the surroundings with great attention.

This island was larger than the one where they had previously rescued Nanrong Wanqing. The island was filled with vegetation and at the very center, there was a towering mountain with rugged rocks. Besides, the keen-eyed Ling Chen also noticed several radar devices set around the mountain, hidden among the trees.

Walking along, Ling Chen became increasingly alarmed; this island was definitely a major base of the God Organization. It was not only equipped with radar but also had many fortresses, all installed with heavy weaponry.

Such a heavily defended base must certainly conceal many secrets.

Before long, Ling Chen and He Ziyun reached the base of the mountain under the guidance of the Caucasian man, where there was a man-made tunnel with laid tracks, and a rail vehicle big enough to fit more than twenty people was parked.

Getting on, the rail car slowly started moving, traveling inward along the track. After moving forward more than ten meters, Ling Chen noticed that the rail car began to tilt slightly. It seemed that the secret base of the God Organization was built underground.

The speed of the rail car wasn't very fast, moving at twenty kilometers per hour. Even so, it took just over a minute to reach the end of the tunnel.

"Gentlemen, once you enter here, don't think about getting out again," the Caucasian man said with a cold laugh. "There is only one entry and exit path, and the tunnel inside is equipped with cameras and Dark Posts. No one can escape."

Ling Chen frowned tightly, remaining silent. He knew the Caucasian man wasn't lying; when he came in, he had checked the tunnel, which was full of traps. Without outside help, it would be difficult to escape this place.

At the end of the tunnel was a massive iron door. As the door, one foot thick, opened, Ling Chen felt a bright space open before his eyes, revealing a huge underground base.

The Caucasian man scanned the stunned Ling Chen and said, "Welcome both of you to the secondary experimental base of the God Organization."

Passing through the iron door, Ling Chen and He Ziyun followed the Caucasian man, their eyes sweeping incessantly around, seeing hundreds of workers busy transporting goods. In one corner of the base, there were dozens of large shipping containers.

It was hard to imagine how they managed to transport these items here.

Ling Chen looked at the busy workers and asked, "Are these all the subordinates you recruited?"

"No," the Caucasian man shook his head. "We rarely recruit externally, it's too dangerous, who knows if there could be spies among them. There are many homeless orphans in the world, we take them in, train them from a young age, and when they grow up, they come directly to the base to serve us. To them, we are like a big family, no one would betray us."

"Training?" Ling Chen snorted lightly. "More like brainwashing."

"Feel free to interpret it as you wish. You only need to know, these people are extremely loyal to the God Organization and will never defy our orders."

"How many such bases does your God Organization have?" He Ziyun, who had not spoken till now, asked.

"That's confidential, not convenient to disclose to outsiders. However, I feel you eventually won't be leaving this place, so revealing this doesn't matter. The God Organization has two bases of this size; one is the main base, the other a backup base. The one you are in now is the backup."

No wonder!

Ling Chen silently nodded. This base must have taken decades to build. The God Organization pouring so much effort into it, it must be of vital importance.

However, the more this was the case, the heavier Ling Chen's mood became. By telling them this information, it seemed they were not intended to leave alive. If this base were exposed, it would be a significant blow to the God Organization.

At that moment, the personnel escorting from behind nudged Ling Chen, indicating for him to hurry up and walk ahead.

Passing through a corridor, Ling Chen and He Ziyun were taken to two separate cells.

"Gentlemen, take a rest first, recuperate well, as there's much more we'll need your help with later," said the Caucasian man, instructing his subordinates to close the cell doors before he and the others turned and left the cells.

After they left, Ling Chen looked toward He Ziyun, who was in the adjacent cell, and asked, "Mr. He, what do you think they want to do?"

"They kept our lives, probably to experiment on us, just..."

"Just what?"

"Don't you find it strange? Seeing how they behave toward us, they seem to value us highly. If they merely wanted us as experimental subjects, they wouldn't need to do this."

Chapter 534 The Mysterious Person Who Helps in Secret

Ling Chen nodded, agreeing with He Ziyun's speculation. The God Organization had already cultivated masters of the Earthly List and might even possess masters of the Heavenly List. It was unnecessary to focus on them; there had to be something amiss.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen suddenly let out a bitter laugh, slapping his forehead. He didn't even know whether he could leave this place alive, so why bother with these concerns? What good was knowing

more if he was still doomed to die in the end? Instead of guessing the motives of the God Organization, it would be better to think of a way to escape from this damned place.

While pondering, he heard a light tapping noise coming from the cell next door. Looking through the glass window in the cell, Ling Chen turned and saw He Ziyun knocking on the wall of his cell.

"Mr. He..."

Before Ling Chen could finish his sentence, He Ziyun shook his head and said, "No use, these walls have steel plates inside them; brute force won't break them."

Ling Chen shrugged his shoulders; he had suspected as much. Their captors wouldn't fear them trying to escape if they dared to lock them up here.

Their only hope was if someone could rescue them from this place.

...

At this moment, far away in the Huaxia country.

In a bright room, a middle-aged man in a suit, looking dashing, walked in from outside.

"Mr. Ling."

Seeing the visitor, the delicate girl working in front of the computer immediately stood up to greet him.

"No need for formalities, take a seat," the middle-aged man said as he walked behind the girl. Looking at the content displayed on the computer screen, he asked, "Tell me about the situation over there."

"Just as we predicted, Ling Chen and He Ziyun were both captured by the people of the God Organization."

"That's good," the middle-aged man said, relieved, and nodded with a smile.

"Mr. Ling..." The girl hesitated, looking as though she had something to say but stopping herself.

"Speak your mind, there's no need to hold back in front of me."

"Mr. Ling, is it really good to do this to Ling Chen? You didn't even give him a heads up, and directly let him fall into the most dangerous situation. What if... what if something bad happens to him? No matter what, he's still your..."

"There's no need to worry about him," the middle-aged man interrupted the girl, saying, "I've already made arrangements, the God Organization won't just kill them offhand. Moreover, everything that is happening now is within my plan. As long as there are no deviations, their lives won't be in danger."

The girl, still visibly anxious, said, "But... if he finds out that it was you who did that thing, I'm afraid..."

The middle-aged man smiled slightly, "Do you think I'm too cruel, or perhaps I'm too scheming, to even calculate against my own son? I've always wanted to let him live an ordinary life, but unfortunately, things haven't turned out as I wished. Many matters are not under my control. Since he has already gotten involved in this, let him lend me a hand, I believe he won't refuse. Now let's not talk about this, keep a close watch on the moves of the God Organization and report to me at all times. I have someone to meet."

"Yes, I understand."

...

In the blink of an eye, two days passed, and Ling Chen and He Ziyun were still locked in their cells. Apart from the regular meals delivered thrice a day, no one else came to see them.

"Mr. He, do you think they've forgotten about us? It's been two days and not a single person has come to interrogate us."

"Who knows what they are plotting." He Ziyun sat cross-legged on the ground, meditating with his eyes closed, not at all worried about what might happen next. At his age, he had learned to let go of many things. His only concern was the safety of Little Hua.

Seeing that He Ziyun was reluctant to talk further, Ling Chen didn't speak either, sitting alone against the wall, quietly awaiting the unknown.

At that moment, a young man came to the front of the cell and slid a tray of food through the slot at the bottom of the cell door.

Ling Chen picked up the plate and saw black pepper steak, spaghetti, and a cup of juice on it. He couldn't help feeling sentimental. Though a prisoner, the treatment was pretty good, different dishes for every meal, and the taste was excellent, comparable to a star chef's cooking skills.

Taking the knife and fork, Ling Chen cut off a piece of the black pepper beef and put it in his mouth, chewing slowly, savoring the tenderness and flavor of the steak. This might be his last meal. If he could enjoy it, he would—the point wasn't to die hungry.

When the black pepper steak was half-eaten, Ling Chen's gaze was suddenly drawn to something in the steak.

"What is this?"

Curious, Ling Chen quickly set down his knife and fork and pulled out the thing hidden inside the steak.

A key!

This... Ling Chen was momentarily taken aback, his eyes inevitably shifting to the cell door. Could this be... the key to the cell door?

Thinking this, Ling Chen immediately stood up, walked to the door, reached his hand through the small window of the cell door, and inserted the key into the keyhole on the outside.

Click!

With a light sound, the cell door unlocked.

It really was!

Ling Chen's heart leaped with joy, and he ran to the next cell to release He Ziyun.

Looking at the cell door key in Ling Chen's hand, He Ziyun asked with a mix of surprise and doubt, "Where did you get this key from?"

"Found it inside the steak, it seems someone wants to help us escape secretly."

"Who? This base is full of people from the God Organization. We know no one here; who would take such a big risk to help us?"

"Could it be General's men?"

"Impossible, Ghost and Lonely Wolf haven't infiltrated this deep; they don't even know about the existence of this base." After pondering for a moment, He Ziyun spoke gravely, "Regardless, we need to be cautious, in case it's a trap."

"Understood."

Leaving the cell, Ling Chen, using his memory of the route from that day, cautiously made his way out, ready to find an opportunity to escape the base with He Ziyun.

However, they had not gone far when they stopped and dared not proceed any further.

Around the corner in front, within a stretch of corridor less than twenty meters long, there were three 360-degree surveillance cameras installed. Approaching them would surely alert the God Organization.

Ling Chen frowned slightly. Besides this route, there was no other path unless they turned back. But that would only lead them deeper into the heart of the base, with no chance of escape.

"Ling Chen."

"What is it?"

"When we came in, you saw it too; the guards outside are strict. We can't possibly sneak past the God Organization's surveillance. The only way to leave here is one method."

"What method?"

"Capture the leader first."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's eyes lit up, instantly grasping He Ziyun's idea. They would capture the one in charge here and then use that as leverage against the others. Though risky, it was still a plan. Besides, they didn't have any other choice now.

Chapter 535 Perils at Every Turn

Having made up their minds, Ling Chen and He Ziyun no longer hesitated and immediately ran in the opposite direction.

No matter who was in charge here, they definitely lived in the core area of the base.

Soon after, Ling Chen realized that entering the core area of the base was a difficult task. Along each corridor of the base, aside from the 360-degree surveillance cameras, there were also personnel patrolling, covering almost every corner of the core area.

Listening to the footsteps approaching, Ling Chen took a deep breath, made eye contact with He Ziyun, signaling him to get ready to take action and deal with the security guards nearby.

He Ziyun glanced over, locking all three security guards within his sight. Then, he lightly tapped his toes without making a sound, and like a flash of lightning, he disappeared around the corner.

Before Ling Chen could make his move, by the time he reacted, the security guards were already down on the ground.

"Let's go!"

He Ziyun uttered sharply, not slowing his pace and continuing deeper into the area.

At this moment, they could not afford any delays. By killing the three security guards, they were essentially telling the personnel of the God Organization that they had escaped from the cell. It wouldn't be long before the entire base would be searching for them. Therefore, the situation called for urgent actions.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

Indeed, as the guards were killed, a piercing alarm immediately blared throughout the base.

As they moved, Ling Chen only heard a series of quick footsteps approaching from afar, appearing on their path.

"There, catch them."

"Break out!"

Undeterred, He Ziyun surged forward. As he came closer, he sprang up like a large bird spreading its wings, swooping down from above directly into the crowd, wreaking havoc.

Taking this opportunity, Ling Chen quickly glanced out of the corner of his eye, then rolled on the ground to pick up a pistol that had fallen, quickly pulling the trigger.

Bang! Bang!

Several consecutive gunshots rang out, and with Ling Chen's precise shooting, the following security personnel were instantly neutralized.

"Ling Chen, take this."

He Ziyun threw an assault rifle to Ling Chen, then drew several knives from the bodies, urging Ling Chen to keep moving.

...

In the control room of the base, a Caucasian man stood in front of over a dozen monitors with his arms crossed, issuing orders coldly, "Tell them to evacuate from the central area, close the channels to the central area, and prepare to release poison gas."

"Yes."

After speaking, the white man pointed to an aide beside him and said sternly, "Go check the cell; I want to know how they escaped."

"Understood!"

...

"Mr. He, the passage here is sealed." Ling Chen said, frowning. Just a moment ago, they had intended to enter through here, but before they could reach it, an automatic iron gate had fallen, closing off their path. Without the password, no one could open this gate.

"Let's check other places."

During the conversation, they tried several other entrances in the corridor but, without exception, all were sealed.

Ling Chen gave a bitter smile: "Mr. He, what should we do now?"

He Ziyun was about to speak, but just then, a stream of green gas suddenly appeared from the ceiling, quickly spreading around.

Seeing this, the expressions of Ling Chen and He Ziyun changed unavoidably.

"It's poison gas!" Ling Chen quickly covered his nose and mouth, swiftly moving out of the range of the green gas. However, the source of green gas appeared in multiple places, filling the area fast. Soon, the entire enclosed area would be enveloped in poison gas.

At this critical moment, a door nearby suddenly opened.

"Mr. He, over there." After saying this, Ling Chen hurriedly charged towards the doorway.

Once the two of them passed through the door, it sealed shut again, blocking all the green gas. Ling Chen breathed a sigh of relief internally, thankful that the door was still operational; otherwise, he and He Ziyun would have perished inside.

However, amidst the relief, Ling Chen was even more puzzled about who was helping them secretly. That door wouldn't have opened without reason; someone must have tampered with it.

Recalling the cell key he had obtained earlier, Ling Chen's curiosity deepened, wondering who the mysterious person was.

"Ling Chen, look at this."

At that moment, He Ziyun pointed at the architectural layout map on the wall and said, "We are here now, and right ahead is the residential area of the base. Anyone living in this area must hold significant status, and the person we're looking for is likely here."

Ling Chen, holding the gun in his hand, smiled faintly: "Whether we can leave alive is still uncertain; if you ask me, killing one is enough, killing two is profitable. Let's just eliminate everyone living in this area, leaving no survivors."

As he spoke, they heard a 'click', and a door that was initially closed suddenly opened.

Seeing this, Ling Chen's mind stirred, could it be the person who just helped them indicating the way?

Thinking this, Ling Chen looked at He Ziyun and walked towards the door.

Before long, Ling Chen was surprised to find that whenever they passed through a gate, the next one would automatically open. Although he did not know where the other party wanted to guide them, Ling Chen believed that they harbored no ill intentions towards them. Otherwise, there was no need to save them earlier.

Bang!

In the monitoring room, accompanied by a gunshot, a technician's brain burst, dying instantly at the workstation.

The Caucasian man put away his pistol, looking coldly at the silent staff around him, and said coldly, "Can anyone tell me why they were able to escape from the enclosed area, why our surveillance failed, why someone tampered with the system without any of you noticing? The organization trains talents, not wastes; give me a satisfactory answer within fifteen minutes, or this person's fate will be yours."

Hearing this, everyone's faces turned slightly pale.

"Tea... Team leader, only someone with the right authority could log into the system, modify system commands," a cautious staff member spoke.

The white man sharply countered, "Are you suggesting that I am assisting their escape?"

"No, not at all, I... There are only eight people in the base who have such authority. Maybe..."

The white man pondered for a moment, then ordered, "Send someone to their residences immediately, bring them all here; I want to question them myself."

"Yes."

...

At this moment, guided by the mysterious helper, Ling Chen and He Ziyun arrived outside a room.

"What is this place?" Ling Chen pondered internally.

As he was contemplating, the room door suddenly opened, revealing a familiar face instantly within his view.

As soon as Ling Chen clearly saw who it was, he was stunned on the spot, unable to recover for a long time.

Chapter 536 Seeing Liu Xiyao Again

It's her!

Ling Chen never expected to encounter her here. In an instant, he realized that it was this elegant and luxurious woman who had provided the key to their cell and helped them avoid a disaster just now.

Liu Xiyao!

Ever since he learned about Liu Xiyao's connection with God Organization, Ling Chen had little contact with her, trying his best to avoid her. There was no helping it, every time he saw Liu Xiyao, Ling Chen was reminded of her betrayal. No matter how prominent her identity or how beautiful she was, Ling Chen wouldn't show her a friendly face.

With his temperament, it was already very generous of him not to have killed Liu Xiyao.

"Why are you here?" Ling Chen asked.

"Don't ask so many questions now, hurry in," Liu Xiyao glanced left and right down the corridor, and after making sure no one was around, she welcomed Ling Chen and He Ziyun into the room.

After closing the door, Ling Chen looked around at the environment. Although this was an underground base, the conditions here were no worse than those of a five-star hotel. The luxury of the place was indicative of Liu Xiyao's status and identity here.

"Follow me," Liu Xiyao hurriedly led Ling Chen and the other into the next-door storeroom after they entered. She moved the piled-up items in the corner, revealing a square floor tile.

At Liu Xiyao's gesture, Ling Chen lifted the floor tile. Suddenly, below was a narrow and enclosed space.

"The people outside will come looking soon; you'd better hurry and hide in here," Liu Xiyao urged anxiously.

Ling Chen said helplessly, "Such a small place can't fit two people." With that, he turned to He Ziyun, "Mr. He, you go in first; I'll find another place."

"You should go instead, I..."

He Ziyun was about to refuse when he heard Liu Xiyao say, "Stop going back and forth. Old man, please go in, I will find another place for Ling Chen to hide."

Hearing this, He Ziyun didn't hesitate anymore and quickly jumped down. The space here was small, but there were porous ventilation ducts installed inside. Even if the floor tile was closed, it wouldn't cause suffocation. Moreover, there was a lamp inside, as well as compressed biscuits and mineral water; food and drink were all available. It was like a simple shelter.

Once He Ziyun was ready, Ling Chen immediately put the floor tile and other items back in place. This way, no one would be able to tell that there was a person hidden there.

Leaving the storeroom, Ling Chen asked curiously, "How can you have such a place here?"

"When this base was first built, many factors were considered, including invasions from outside. If the base is destroyed and there's no chance to escape, we can hide inside and wait for rescue."

So that was it!

Ling Chen nodded, then asked, "You haven't answered my question yet. How come you're here?"

"Do you still remember what I told you before?"

"I remember."

Liu Xiyao had once told him that she was a bastard child and her father was a member of a significant family. Due to various reasons, she had suffered a great deal of humiliation. Later, she met a kind person who took her around different countries and raised her. That person's identity was a high-ranking official within God Organization.

"Are you saying that person brought you here?"

"I've been here for several months now."

No wonder!

During this time in East Sea City, Ling Chen hadn't heard a single piece of news about Liu Xiyao; it turns out she had been brought here.

As he pondered, Ling Chen had a thought and asked, "The person you mentioned, wouldn't happen to be the person in charge of this base, would they?"

"He indeed is; I only found out this time. He never revealed his identity within the God Organization before."

"Do you know where he is right now?"

"He had to leave because of some business and might not return for a couple of days."

"Aren't you afraid that he will punish you for helping me like this? The God Organization has always been ruthless towards those who betray them, never showing any mercy."

Miss Liu sighed softly and said in a melancholy tone, "He saved me years ago and made me who I am, for which I am grateful. However, this gratitude is only towards him personally, not for his actions. I have never fully understood the doings of the God Organization and didn't wish to get too involved. But while staying at the base recently, I've seen too many unacceptable things. Although I hate to admit it, I can't sever my ties to the God Organization. Therefore, I hope to do something to make amends."

"When you were captured the other day, I received the news and have been thinking of ways to rescue you. Luckily, that man trusts me enough to grant me significant authority. However, I fear I can't hide this for long; they will eventually trace it back to me."

"Don't worry, as long as I can get away, I'll take you with me."

While they were talking, a 'thud thud thud' knocking sound came from outside the room.

With a look of concern, Liu Xiyao said, "They've come looking; you'd better find a place to hide."

Hide?

Ling Chen looked around the room but found no suitable place to conceal himself.

As the knocking outside got increasingly urgent, Liu Xiyao, anxious, pulled Ling Chen into her own bedroom and then pointed at the large bed, "Hurry up and get in there, hide under the quilt."

As she spoke, Liu Xiyao started to strip off her clothes.

Seeing her actions, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, his face filled with confusion as he watched her, not understanding her intentions.

Feeling Ling Chen's gaze, Liu Xiyao's cheeks blushed a deep red. Feeling embarrassed, she quickly turned her body away, no longer facing Ling Chen directly.

"Don't... don't look..." Liu Xiyao murmured softly.

Though her body had been seen by Ling Chen before due to an accident, stripping in front of him now was different. No matter how worldly she may be, as a woman, she still felt the innate shyness stirring within her.

With a light cough, Ling Chen forced himself to look away from her fair complexion. He then lifted the quilt, slid into it, and covered his body. However, even though he was concealed, the obvious rise in the quilt made it clear someone was underneath.

At this moment, Liu Xiyao finished stripping down to a set of attractive lingerie and then took a nightgown from behind the door and put it on. Once done, she approached the door.

Before opening the door, Liu Xiyao tousled her hair purposely, feigning the disheveled look of just having woken up.

As the door opened, a Caucasian man stood outside, accompanied by two of his men.

"Miss Liu."

Seeing Liu Xiyao's attire, the Caucasian man was taken aback for a moment, quickly lowering his eyes to the floor, unable to face her directly for fear of being impolite. He was well aware of this woman's status in that man's eyes; in the entire base, she was the one woman he dared not offend.

Chapter 537 Escape Plan

In the past, because someone gave Liu Xiyao a few extra glances in front of that person, he was killed. Since then, everyone knew the status of Liu Xiyao in that person's eyes, and no one dared to provoke her easily.

"Louis, what do you want to see me for?"

"Miss Liu, two prisoners have just escaped, and we are concerned about your safety, so we came to check on you."

Liu Xiyao yawned, her demeanor languid and alluring as she said: "I have been sleeping the whole time; I know nothing of any escapees. If you wish to search, feel free. Just don't disturb my sleep."

Having said that, Liu Xiyao turned around and walked back to the bedroom, casually closing the door behind her.

Watching Liu Xiyao's departing figure, Louis signaled with his eyes to the two subordinates behind him, who immediately understood and quickly entered the room to search.

A moment passed, and the two subordinates returned to Louis, shaking their heads, "We found nothing."

"Have you checked everywhere?"

"Everywhere, only..." one subordinate hesitated, his eyes glancing towards Liu Xiyao's bedroom.

Louis immediately understood, he walked to the bedroom door, raised his right hand, and made a knocking gesture. However, after hesitating for a long time, his hand ultimately did not knock.

"Forget it, there's no need to check here, Miss Liu probably has nothing to do with this. Let's go and check elsewhere," Louis said.

At this moment, inside the spacious bedroom, Ling Chen was curled up in bed, surrounded by a faint fragrance that made him feel drowsy. Especially with the presence of a snow-white delicate body lying beside him, the temptation was immense, making him want to hold the beauty tight and sleep deeply.

Lost in wild thoughts, he heard Louis's voice from outside the bedroom: "Miss Liu, we're heading back now. We apologize for the intrusion, and hope you won't be offended."

Liu Xiyao did not respond, merely replying with a lazy nasal sound to their words.

Only when the sound of the door closing echoed from outside did Liu Xiyao's tense face gradually relax. She took a deep breath, lifted the covers, and spoke softly, "Get up; they've left."

Watching Liu Xiyao get up and disperse the fragrance, Ling Chen couldn't help feeling a pang of regret. He wondered if it was due to his progression in the Prajnaparamita Sutra, as his resistance toward women seemed to be growing weaker. Just seeing any modestly pretty girl would provoke a reaction from his body, let alone an exceptional beauty like Liu Xiyao.

Standing by the bedside, Liu Xiyao smoothed her bangs, wrapped her sleeping robe tightly around her, and looked at Ling Chen, who was still lying under the covers, asking, "Why aren't you getting up?"

"Well..." Ling Chen replied with an awkward smile, "I was rather tired just now, I'd like to lie down a little longer. Could you please get me a glass of water?"

"Okay, just wait!" Liu Xiyao, unsuspecting, turned and left the bedroom.

As he watched her leave, Ling Chen silently heaved a sigh of relief. If he didn't find an excuse to make Liu Xiyao leave, his bulging part might have embarrassed him.

Once his body returned to normal, Ling Chen got out of bed, walked straight into the living room, and then released He Ziyun who was hiding in a storage room.

"Liu, having stayed at this base for so long, you must know how to get out, right?"

With a bitter smile, Liu Xiyao shook her head, "Leaving this place is not as simple as you imagine. The base's security is extremely strict. It's easy to come in, but very difficult to get out. Anyone who wants to leave must be accompanied by Louis; he is the only pass allowed here. Even I can't defy the rules they have set. It's too troubling, so I spend most of my time in my room and rarely go out."

At that moment, Liu Xiyao seemed to remember something and added, "Right! Aside from the route you took to come here, there is another waterway for leaving. To my knowledge, a large entranceway has been carved out on the other side of the mountain, which has been turned into a port where all cargo ships come and go. Inside the base, there's a designated path that only leads to the port. However, there is a special guard post at the entrance to that path, and only personnel responsible for the port's cargo handling are allowed in."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's mind stirred, asking, "Can you get a pass for that guard post?"

"No use. Like I said, this base doesn't use passes. To prevent theft, they canceled all use of passes and ID cards. Here, each checkpoint uses the most primitive method—facial recognition. To my knowledge, the base employs over two hundred workers, more than forty researchers, and over a hundred security personnel, nearly five hundred in total. Members of each department are familiar with each other, and checkpoint officers have a deep impression of these workers. They use their eyes to verify identities before allowing passage. So, you basically can't fake it."

After Liu Xiyao finished speaking, Ling Chen and He Ziyun exchanged a glance, both revealing a solemn look in their eyes.

The God Organization's regard for this base far exceeded their expectations. If it really was as Liu Xiyao described, their chances of escaping were almost nil. As soon as they left this room, they would be instantly detected by the other side.

While pondering, Liu Xiyao spoke again, "Actually, there is a way, but it's very risky."

"Let's hear it."

"I have access to login to the system, and through that access, I can shut down the entire system. Once the system is shut down, they will definitely reboot it, which takes three minutes. In short, we need to escape within those three minutes."

"Three minutes..." Ling Chen pondered for a moment before saying, "That shouldn't be a big problem for us."

"You're thinking too simplistically," He Ziyun interjected. "Don't forget the Lucifer experiment. Since this base is so important to the God Organization, do you think they won't have top experts stationed here? Once these experts appear, three minutes is nowhere near enough time for us to escape."

Liu Xiyao interjected, "What I just mentioned is only the first step of escaping the base. The second step is to leave this island. There are only two types of transportation on the island available for us to use: one is the airplane, and the other is a ship."

After some thought, Ling Chen said, "It shouldn't be too difficult to get a motorboat."

"No use. Do you know our current location? As far as I know, the island we are on is surrounded by hundreds of miles of ocean with no land in sight, just a few desolate islands. We cannot possibly reach land with just a motorboat unless it's a large cargo ship. Additionally, that airplane only arrives at the island at specific times to deliver supplies and doesn't stay long."

Listening to Liu Xiyao's words, a profound sense of powerlessness surged within Ling Chen's heart.

In that case, they had no chance of escape at all.

Chapter 538 The Whereabouts of Little Hua

Liu Xiyao looked at the pensive Ling Chen and said, "In two more hours, that airplane will land on the island. You better make a decision quickly. I'm worried that after Louis reports to that person, he will revoke our privileges."

Ling Chen turned to He Ziyun and asked, "Mr. He, do you have any suggestions?"

"Since there are no other options, we can only take a risk. Ling Chen, when we act, you take Miss Liu and leave first."

"What about you?"

"I'll go look for Little Hua and try to take her with us. Also, I'll draw their attention to prevent you from getting ambushed."

"That won't do." Without even thinking, Ling Chen immediately refused: "Mr. He, if we're leaving, we should leave together. How can we leave you alone to take risks?"

"I'm old, dying is just dying. It's different for you; you're still young and have a long future ahead. If my old life can exchange for both of your lives, then it's worth it."

"Mr. He..."

"Enough! Let's settle on that. We have two hours left; take the time to rest." After speaking, He Ziyun got up and walked into the guest room arranged by Liu Xiyao.

After He Ziyun left, Ling Chen sat silently on the sofa, his eyebrows tightly furrowed, his eyes flickering with anger like Mo Che.

If anything goes wrong this time, the Secret Society is undoubtedly to blame. Without their betrayal, he and He Ziyun wouldn't have ended up in this situation.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen calmed down and looked at Liu Xiyao beside him, asking, "Liu, I have a question. Who is that person you mentioned? What is his name?"

"His name is Lin Guodong."

"A Huaxia person?"

"Yes, he should be over fifty this year, but he looks like he is in his thirties, quite young-looking."

"Lin Guodong..." Ling Chen muttered the name, with no impression. He had always thought that besides Mr. Yun, the other high-level members of the God Organization were foreigners. But now, it seems this is not the case. To be in charge of this contingency base, his influence within the God Organization must rank within the top three.

This is a big fish!

If he can leave here alive, he must capture this guy.

"Ling Chen, can I ask you a favor?" Liu Xiyao hesitated for a moment before asking.

"Tell me, as long as I can do it, I will not refuse."

"If... I mean, if one day Lin Jiadong is captured by you, I hope you can spare his life. No matter what, I owe him too much in this life. He was once married, and his daughter died from a strange illness at the age of five. He took me by his side mainly because I look like his daughter. Over the years, he has always treated me as his own daughter; I don't want him to get hurt. Ling Chen, I know my request is excessive, but..."

"You don't have to say anymore," Ling Chen interrupted Liu Xiyao, saying, "Since you've spoken, I'll try my best to spare his life."

"Thank you!"

"Thank me for what? Let's escape first."

As they were talking, the phone in the room suddenly rang.

Liu Xiyao glanced at the landline on the cabinet, stood up, and picked up the receiver. Whatever the person on the other end said, Liu Xiyao's face slightly changed. After a while, she forced a smile and replied softly, "Okay, I understand."

After hanging up, Liu Xiyao returned to Ling Chen's side and said with a bitter smile, "Our plans might need to change."

"What happened?"

"He just called, saying there is a very important transaction today, but he can't make it back in time, so he asked me to stand in for him, in one and a half hours."

"A transaction?" Ling Chen asked, "What transaction?"

"He didn't say; he just told me to go with Louis, and the guest will arrive in an hour."

Ling Chen pondered for a moment, his lips suddenly curling up with a light smile.

Liu Xiyao, puzzled, asked, "What are you smiling at?"

"This is a rare opportunity for us. Since there are important guests, it will be easier for us to cause chaos. Moreover, the guest will certainly come by plane, which we can take advantage of." After that, Ling Chen changed the topic, "By the way! Do you have any communication devices here? It would be convenient to contact us at that time."

"No. All wireless signals inside the base are blocked, except for the landline phones, all other communication devices are useless."

"Is that so..." Ling Chen thought for a moment and then said, "You are more familiar with this place than I am; later, you help me draw a simple map, so I can find you."

"In the base, there is a special guest reception room, they will definitely take the guests there," Liu Xiyao took out paper and pen, and while speaking, she drew the route to the guest reception room.

...

An hour later, a small Boeing jet flew in from the sky and slowly landed on the runway of the island.

At that moment, at one end of the runway, Liu Xiyao, dressed in a flowing purple gown, wearing snowy white pearl earrings and a pendant, her skin fair as snow, exuded an élégance and noble aura, giving off a stunning impression.

Standing beside Liu Xiyao was a Caucasian man, none other than Louis.

The two, one on the left and one on the right, quietly awaited the arrival of the guests, escorted by over a dozen security personnel.

After a while, the cabin door opened, and a middle-aged man in a suit briskly walked down. Following him were three subordinates, two men and one woman, all around thirty years old, the woman wearing a mask, her specific age unclear.

Seeing the middle-aged man approaching, Liu Xiyao greeted him with a warm smile and a polite greeting, "Mr. Tang, hello, welcome to the island."

The middle-aged man returned the greeting with a gentle smile, slightly bowing in a gentlemanly manner, "You must be Miss Liu."

"Mr. Tang, please come inside!"

Without much ado, they took a track vehicle into the base.

Once in the guest room, Liu Xiyao sat discreetly to the side, not saying much, but giving Louis the floor.

"Mr. Tang, did you bring your goods?" asked Louis.

The middle-aged man gave a faint smile, "Mr. Louis, this isn't my first time dealing with the God Organization, so I know it's sometimes wise to hold back. If I brought the goods directly, wouldn't that be a loss? Since it's a business, both sides need to respect integrity." As he spoke, the middle-aged man gestured, and the woman standing behind him immediately stepped forward, handing a tablet computer to Louis.

Louis casually opened the video, and a girl around five or six years old appeared on the screen, curled up in a corner, hugging her knees, a pitiful sight.

If Ling Chen were here, he would certainly recognize that the girl in the video was none other than Little Hua.

Chapter 539 Mr. Tang

"Mr. Louis, this is the person you wanted, isn't it?" the middle-aged man asked with a smile.

Louis nodded and said, "Exactly. Where is she, and when can I see her?"

"Don't worry, she's in a very safe place. After we complete the transaction, I will definitely hand her over to you. Mr. Louis, isn't it time for you to let me meet the person I want?"

Louis put down the tablet he was holding and said, "Mr. Tang, I'm very sorry!"

"What do you mean?" The middle-aged man's smile froze slightly as he asked.

"We had captured Ling Chen and another person, but there were some problems, which led to their escape. However, you don't need to worry. Though they have escaped, they are still within this base, and sooner or later we will find them. Before that, I hope you can give me a day or two, I will settle things as quickly as possible."

The middle-aged man frowned and said displeasedly, "Mr. Louis, since the person isn't in your hands, you should have informed me in advance. Had I known earlier, I wouldn't have traveled all this way, wasting time."

"Mr. Tang, please cool down. It's only a delay of a day or two, it won't take too much of your time. Besides, Mr. Lin has instructed me that he will try his best to compensate for your loss in this matter."

After pondering for a while, the middle-aged man asked, "When can I meet Mr. Lin?"

"Mr. Lin has some personal matters to deal with, and he probably won't return for a few days. If Mr. Tang has the time, why not stay for a few more days? Once Mr. Lin is back, he will certainly take good care of you."

Hearing this, the middle-aged man hesitated for a moment, then nodded, "Alright, I do have some matters I would like to discuss with Mr. Lin in person." After finishing his words, the middle-aged man changed the topic, "There's another matter, Mr. Louis, remember our agreement, I want Ling Chen and that person alive. If they die, don't blame me for canceling our deal."

"Mr. Tang, if I may be so bold to ask, do you have some personal grudge with Ling Chen?"

"That's my personal affair, you're better off not knowing."

"In that case, I won't ask anymore." After finishing speaking, Louis beckoned over a subordinate, instructing, "Take Mr. Tang to their accommodation, remember to treat them well, do not neglect our honored guest."

"Mr. Tang, this way, please!"

After seeing the guest off, Liu Xiyao slowly rose to her feet and said, "If there's nothing else, I'll be leaving."

"Miss Liu."

Louis called out to Liu Xiyao who was about to leave, catching up to her, "Miss Liu, don't rush off. I have something to discuss with you, please come with me."

Liu Xiyao glanced at the clock on the wall, a trace of worry flashing in her beautiful eyes. According to their plan, Ling Chen was about to take action in a minute or two. Leaving with Louis at this time would make it very difficult for her to meet up with Ling Chen.

With these thoughts, Liu Xiyao felt at a loss for a moment.

"Miss Liu, what's wrong? Do you have something even more important to do?" Louis asked with a meaningful tone.

"No... nothing." Liu Xiyao, fearing arousing Louis's suspicion, said calmly, "Let's go. Let's get things done quickly, I still need to go back and rest."

Meanwhile, in the room where Liu Xiyao was staying, Ling Chen was sitting on the sofa, fiddling with a laptop. The computer was already connected to the base's system; he just had to press the enter key to shut down the entire system.

"Ling Chen, the time is almost up, we can start now," He Ziyun reminded him from the side.

Ling Chen nodded and placed his finger on the enter key. However, just as he was about to shut down the system, a rustling noise suddenly came from the door.

Someone!

A thought crossed Ling Chen's mind—could it be Liu Xiyao? This idea was immediately dismissed by Ling Chen. Judging by the sounds outside, there was more than one person.

Had their location been exposed?

As thoughts raced in his head, Ling Chen quickly got up and dashed into the bedroom. Simultaneously, He Ziyun swiftly retreated to the utility room, leaving the door ajar, secretly watching the movements at the entrance.

After a while, the door opened, and several fully armed men stepped inside.

Ling Chen, hiding in the bedroom, heard the footsteps approaching closer and his brow furrowed instantly. The presence of these men at this moment suggested only two possibilities: either the enemy had started to suspect Liu Xiyao, or Liu Xiyao had betrayed them. In his heart, Ling Chen hoped it was the former possibility. But given Liu Xiyao's past actions, Ling Chen's mind swung with uncertainty.

Backed against the wall, Ling Chen held his breath, listening intently to the steps of the opposition. Soon, a hand pushed open the bedroom door.

The moment the door opened, Ling Chen, without saying a word, spun around and threw a punch, knocking the man down to the ground.

At that moment, He Ziyun, hiding in the utility room, leaped into action. In the blink of an eye, the men in the living room had been taken down without firing a single shot.

Looking at the several unconscious men on the floor, Ling Chen walked up, picked up the guns from the ground, and put several grenades into his pockets.

Once everything was ready, Ling Chen checked the time and went straight to the computer, pressing the enter key.

In an instant, the living room lights went out. But just a few seconds later, the emergency lights came on.

"Go!" He Ziyun said sternly.

They had only three minutes; every second counted.

As the system shut down, all computer-controlled doors in the base opened. Along the way, Ling Chen and He Ziyun had a clear path, heading swiftly towards the exit.

"That's far enough, Ling Chen."

Hearing He Ziyun's voice, Ling Chen nodded and cautioned, "Mr. He, be very careful."

"You too."

After speaking, He Ziyun tapped his toes lightly and dashed like a breeze down another corridor.

As per their original plan, He Ziyun would go to find Little Hua's whereabouts and meanwhile distract the enemies' attention to give Ling Chen ample time to escape.

After seeing He Ziyun off, Ling Chen pulled out the crude map drawn by Liu Xiyao and located the reception room, then hurried over.

Bang!

Suddenly, a gunshot rang out, a bullet flew past Ling Chen's side, hit the wall, and sparked.

Seeing the security personnel ahead blocking his way, Ling Chen didn't hesitate—immediately pulling a grenade from his pocket and tossing it forward.

Boom!

The explosion rocked the corridor, with fire and smoke billowing everywhere.

Ling Chen, with a gun in hand, didn't stop for a second, continuing his race to the destination. For him, the pressing priority was to find Liu Xiyao and escape the base as quickly as possible.

Chapter 540 Breaking Through the Encirclement

At this moment, in a luxurious guest room within the base, the middle-aged man who called himself Mr. Tang slightly furrowed his brows, pacing back and forth in the living room with a tinge of worry in his eyes.

Beside him, the young girl wearing a mask gazed at the doorway, her anxious feelings plainly evident in her clear eyes.

Just then, the door opened, and two men, one after the other, hurried in.

Seeing the newcomers, the middle-aged man couldn't wait to ask, "What's the situation outside?"

"We've just checked; the base's systems have been shut down, and there's been a fire in the residential area."

"Is it Ling Chen?"

The two men looked at each other and said, "Other than him, we can't think of anyone else."

"This guy..." The middle-aged man felt somewhat helpless.

"Master, what should we do now?" asked the girl with the mask. "With Ling Chen acting like this, our plan is probably not going to work."

After a moment of contemplation, the middle-aged man immediately made a decision: "Find Ling Chen, and let's all leave this place together."

...

At this point, Ling Chen had already reached the reception room following the simple map drawn by Liu Xiyao. However, the room was already empty, and Liu Xiyao was not there at all.

Checking the time, there was less than two minutes left. Ling Chen was secretly anxious; time was limited, and Liu Xiyao's whereabouts were unknown, making it anybody's guess where to find her. For a moment, Ling Chen found himself caught between a rock and a hard place.

If he went to look for Liu Xiyao, there definitely wouldn't be enough time, and they would all get trapped in the base. Alternatively, he could try to find a way to escape by himself, leaving the island first. After all, he knew the location of the island and could contact Qiao Zhen later to send a large force to rescue the others.

However, his only concern was whether He Ziyun and Liu Xiyao could hold out that long.

As thoughts raced through his mind, Ling Chen gritted his teeth and made an instant decision.

Leaving the reception room, Ling Chen hadn't gone far when he heard a flurry of hurried footsteps coming from nearby. Without any time to think, he pressed himself against the wall, hiding his body. Soon after, he saw an armed team pass by him.

Judging by the direction this team was heading in, they seemed to be planning to go to the area where He Ziyun was located. He Ziyun had said he would try to draw the enemy's attention, and it seemed he had succeeded.

As the team was about to move away, Ling Chen suddenly took a quick stride and swiftly pounced, hugging the last member of the team. Without letting the person speak, he covered their mouth firmly and dragged them into a corner.

"If you don't want to die, you'd better keep quiet," Ling Chen said in a cold voice, pointing his gun at the man's forehead.

Seeing the person comply, Ling Chen asked, "Tell me, where is Liu Xiyao?"

"I don't know."

At this response, Ling Chen's brows furrowed, his finger poised to pull the trigger. Seeing his action, the man was startled and quickly pleaded, "I... I really don't know."

Ling Chen thought for a moment and simply changed the question: "Then where's Louis?"

Liu Xiyao had disappeared, so she must be with Louis.

"At a time like this, he should be in the Control Room."

After finding out the location of the Control Room, Ling Chen nodded and said, "Since you've cooperated, I'll spare your little life," and then he raised his hand high and smashed the butt of his gun into the back of the man's neck.

With the information provided by the man, Ling Chen quickly made his way through the corridors. Along the way, he encountered many security personnel, all heading towards another district.

What on earth had Mr. He done to attract everyone over there? Ling Chen wondered to himself.

As he pondered, Ling Chen halted his steps, his gaze drawn to a firmly locked door.

Finally found it!

Seeing over twenty security personnel guarding the door, Ling Chen pulled out the last two grenades from his pocket and threw them over.

"Grenades! Run!"

As the grenades tumbled from mid-air, the dozens of security guards' faces instantly changed color as they dived towards the ground.

Boom! Boom!

In the midst of the loud explosions, the floor was instantly blasted open with two large holes. The shockwave from the grenades sent countless fragments flying, piercing into everyone's bodies.

For a while, the scene was filled with agonizing cries, with limbs and severed arms everywhere, blood flooding the floor.

Ling Chen walked past, giving a final shot to any severely wounded guards who were not yet dead, ending their lives.

Standing in front of the Control Room's door, Ling Chen looked around and discovered that the door was controlled manually rather than electronically, requiring it to be opened from the inside. Moreover, the door was extremely solid, made of steel plates more than ten centimeters thick; even grenades might not be enough to blast it open.

At that moment, inside the Control Room, a security personnel anxiously reported, "Mr. Louis, we're under attack outside."

Louis glanced at the locked door and sneered coldly, "Don't bother with it. They won't breach our defenses." Then, turning to the busy operatives in front of the computers, he asked, "How much longer until the system reboots?"

"Thirty seconds."

"Good." Saying this, Louis looked toward Liu Xiyao beside him and with a half-mocking tone said, "Miss Liu, you haven't said a word this whole time. Judging by your expression, you seem worried about something."

Liu Xiyao replied indifferently, "The base is under attack. Shouldn't I be worried?"

"Do you really think that?"

"What's that supposed to mean?" Liu Xiyao said displeased, "If you're suggesting something, just come out and say it. There's no need to beat around the bush."

Louis withdrew his gaze and spoke with emphasis, "Mr. Lin instructed me that you are to stay with me at all times until he returns. Whether it's eating or sleeping, you must remain within my line of sight."

Hearing this, Liu Xiyao's complexion slightly changed, a hint of tension flickering in her beautiful eyes.

"The system has rebooted."

At this moment, an excited voice came from a worker in front of the computers.

Louis nodded and methodically issued commands: "Connect me to the surveillance of Sector C. I want to know the situation there."

"Yes."

Within moments, several surveillance feeds appeared on the large screen.

In the footage, an old man was surrounded by dozens of security personnel. Despite the fierce gunfire, the old man moved agilely and with ease, not at all daunted by the bullets. It wasn't long before the old man found an opportunity to charge into the crowd, and in the blink of an eye, several guards were killed.

Seeing this, Louis's expression turned sour.

"Issue my order for everyone to fall back."

Fall back?

The worker hesitated and asked, "Are we giving up the defense of Sector C?"

"Who said we're giving up." Louis said with a cold smile, "We'll leave him be; naturally, someone else will deal with him."

"Yes." Without further hesitation, the worker carried out the communication and relayed the orders.