

## **The Growth 148**

### Chapter 148 - 3: The Mountain Behind the Railway (3/5)

Ten minutes later, when He Bo arrived near the railway warehouse with Huo Dou and Luo God.

The local police had already been fully mobilized, starting a large-scale investigation and search operation.

"Huh? Did the police get here so quickly?"

Looking somewhat surprised at the police not far away, Huo Dou's question earned him an eye roll from Luo God.

"Did you think we were shooting a movie?"

"Isn't it normal for the police to rush to the scene immediately?"

Opening his mouth as if to say something but stopping, Huo Dou clearly remembered that before leaving with He Bo, they hadn't been notified that the police would participate in the action.

"The current situation is indeed a bit off, perhaps the little girl's parents reported it."

Glancing back at the somewhat bewildered Huo Dou, He Bo, who was leading the way, continued.

"Although a missing person case can only be officially filed after forty-eight hours."

"But in normal circumstances, as long as the missing child's parents report it, the police will take immediate action."

"After all, if something really happened to the child, the first forty-eight hours are the golden rescue time."

Following closely behind He Bo, the three smoothly reached the police front.

The leading officer obviously recognized He Bo, so just with a greeting, they allowed the three to enter the restricted zone.

Then, Huo Dou noticed a man and two women not far away talking to the police.

One of the man and women looked anxious, their expressions unpleasant, occasionally arguing loudly about something.

The other middle-aged woman kept trying to calm them down, but mostly she was giving some information to the police.

"Shh!"

Seizing the moment when He Bo stepped forward to the officer,

Huo Dou immediately signaled Luo God beside him to keep quiet, while he listened intently to gather intelligence.

Seeing this, Luo God quickly understood and played along, putting on a united front.

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Using his extraordinary hearing and understanding.

Huo Dou quickly pieced together the fragmented words of everyone present and roughly sorted out the whole story.

Just as Huo Dou suspected earlier, the police hadn't sealed off the scene in coordination with the 749th Bureau's actions.

In fact, before He Bo showed up, the police had no idea this mysterious organization would be involved in the "search and rescue operation."

As for the man and two women talking to the police?

After eavesdropping for a while, Huo Dou learned who they were.

The young couple among the man and women were the parents of the missing little girl - He Jiali.

Thanks to their timely report, both the police and the 749th Bureau were promptly informed of He Jiali's disappearance.

Shortly afterward, the police received another call from a middle-aged woman.

According to this woman, she was the owner of a breakfast shop nearby.

She would open at dawn and close at dusk, busy from early morning till evening.

But this afternoon, as she was about to close up shop, while cleaning the kitchen, she suddenly heard a child's voice from outside.

When she rushed out from the kitchen, all she saw was her buns in the steam basket were gone.

Not only that, she also noticed the leftover soy milk beside them was drunk up.

Realizing she'd been robbed, the owner hurried back to the front desk but was surprised to find no money was taken.

Later, by watching the shop's surveillance video, the owner discovered the "thief" was a little girl.

After reminders from others, the owner realized the girl might be the missing child nearby and immediately reported it.

Afterward, it played out pretty much like what Huo Dou saw now.

The police, informed of the report, confirmed the identity details and immediately dispatched personnel to search the area.

Other than the timing, this police action had nothing to do with the 749th Bureau.

"Boss! What have you found out?"

"Did you get any useful information from the police?"

Just as Huo Dou was about to continue eavesdropping, Luo God intentionally raised her voice next to his ear.

Cued by this, Huo Dou immediately turned around, looking at He Bo as he walked toward him and Luo God.

"Don't think I don't know what you two were up to!"

Glaring at Luo God in annoyance, He Bo then turned to Huo Dou.

"I didn't get any information from my side."

"But how about you, did you find any useful intel?"

Without a trace of embarrassment, Huo Dou calmly shook his head.

"Other than learning He Jiali ran away from home because of her parents' quarrel, I didn't hear any useful information."

Running away from home due to her parents' arguments fits Huo Dou's understanding of a girl this age.

But the problem now is that the headquarters of the 749th Bureau clearly detected the presence of a "Possessor" from He Jiali.

So was the girl controlled by an Ancient God, leading her to run away?

Or was it the intense stimulus of her first runaway that made her hear the voice of the Ancient God?

"What are we waiting for?"

"Before the Ancient God causes more trouble, we have to find He Jiali in advance!"

Massaging his temples in frustration, He Bo said as he headed towards the mountain behind the railway warehouse.

"Huh? Are we going into the mountain?"

"Entering the mountain at this time? I'm bad with directions!"

Realizing immediately what He Bo intended to do, Luo God widened her eyes, barely holding back her reluctance.

It's understandable why Luo God reacted this way.

Growing up in this city, she had often heard from her parents all kinds of legends about this mountainside.

A terrifying old woman who likes to eat people...

A mass grave buried during the war...

Children mysteriously disappearing around here at night...

Having heard such stories so many times, even as an adult, Luo God instinctively resisted entering the back mountain.

"How old are you, still scared of this and that."

Turning to glare at Luo God with no choice, He Bo explained.

"I just asked Director Cao; they only found two sets of children's footprints in the railway warehouse, but not He Jiali herself."

"According to the footprints, He Jiali and another child should have gone into the mountain."

"The temperatures have been low at night lately, and if we don't find them in time, then I guess..."

Here, He Bo stopped talking, letting out a deep sigh instead.

Whether or not He Jiali was possessed by an Ancient God, he couldn't let two children spend the night in this mountain.