

Watch Out! Danger Ahead

Chapter 11

A series of uncontrollable shivers began from Song Qingxiao's back and slowly spread across her body as soon as the voice of the office lady—number two—rang out. The feeling of impending death that she felt when her assailant stabbed her throat had returned. She lifted her neck subconsciously and took a deep breath in.

The tank was cramped inside. However, with the heavy lid blocking out most of the light and the sewage water covering her lower half, it felt like the air inside the tank was very thin.

As soon as she raised her neck, she froze and exhaled very slowly. She moved to touch her throat with the back of her hand stiffly as she tried to force herself to calm down and keep a lid on her fear of death.

“Number nine?”

Number two continued to call out for Song Qingxiao. Her voice seemed to get closer. Based on the sound of her footsteps, it seemed like she had already entered the part of the factory where Song Qingxiao hid. Her soft, feminine voice sounded eerie in the strange environment.

It was even worse because the office woman had deliberately lowered her voice to make it sound more warm and gentle. Her voice echoed against the old, tattered walls of the factory and gave off a terrifying feeling of suppressed resentment. It was enough to send another wave of shivers down Song Qingxiao's back.

As her voice drew closer, the sound of grass rustling could be heard. Occasionally, her footsteps would stop. Song Qingxiao was in such a state of heightened anxiety that she felt like she had an out-of-body experience.

It felt like her soul had left her body, and she could 'see' herself crouched in the water tank. She did not dare to move, and her face was as pale as a sheet. She looked like a corpse, just like when she was stabbed in the alley.

She felt like she could 'see' the office lady walk towards the tanks cautiously as she lowered her head to examine Song Qingxiao's tracks when she entered previously. The office lady tried to figure out where Song Qingxiao hid.

"You should just come out."

Number two's voice seemed to come from different places. It was clear that she was moving around the factory. Apart from that, Song Qingxiao could not hear any other sounds. Based on the prompt in her mind, she knew that the doctor was still alive since three unopened cards were left. It was likely that he was standing in a corner observing the scene quietly.

Song Qingxiao's heart began to pound faster. The office lady's footsteps began to draw closer. She stopped calling out for Song Qingxiao, so the only sounds that could be heard were the sound of her clothes brushing against the tank and her footsteps on the grass. The strange silence made her even more panicked.

After a few minutes, the footsteps sounded very close to the tank Song Qingxiao hid in. In her state of heightened anxiety, she was highly susceptible to the sound and seemed to hear something that sounded like a loud knocking on the side of the water tank.

The office lady spoke in a low voice that carried the hint of a smile.

"I've found you..."

Her words and tone nearly caused Song Qingxiao to scream out in terror. However, she felt like something was wrong. She bit her tongue as soon as she realized that something was off and resisted the urge to scream. She was worried that she would be found instantly if she made a sound.

Even though she did not scream, she began to sweat all over while in a state of extreme terror. Beads of cold sweat appeared all over her body, and her body temperature began to drop. She began to shiver without noticing.

Thankfully, the office lady continued to knock against the tank after she had finished talking. When she did not hear any sound coming from inside the tank, she quickly left.

She walked to another tank and seemed to knock against it softly. She lowered her voice and said, "I can see you..."

As soon as Song Qingxiao heard that, her stiff body seemed to relax. She understood that the office lady had not truly discovered her. She was merely acting to force Song Qingxiao out of hiding. It proved that the doctor was very likely to be nearby, watching over the situation. He would pounce in to kill her as soon as the office lady found her.

Her heart began to beat faster. Her heart raced so quickly that she felt as though she was about to faint.

That was not the time to faint!

Hence, she bit down hard on her tongue once again until she could taste blood in her mouth. However, her actions made her recall the blood that dripped into her mouth when she killed number six. She suddenly felt a strong urge to vomit.

All she could feel was a faint, dull pain despite having bitten through her tongue. It might be due to how terrified and nervous she was at the moment. She chewed on her tongue a few more times because the pain seemed to help her calm down.

After the office lady had completely explored the whole area and discovered nothing strange, she became a little impatient and screamed loudly. She no longer pretended to be warm and friendly.

"Maybe she's not here?"

As soon as she said that, Song Qingxiao was certain that the doctor was close by. The doctor must have realized that the office lady had blown their cover. He stopped in his tracks and sighed. It was a long while before he spoke.

"That's not possible."

He was the person she had trusted earlier in the space, yet, she got goosebumps when she heard his voice.

"Number one's corpse is close by, but number six's body has disappeared."

He was methodical in his analysis.

“This area is covered in tracks. Number nine is extremely clever. She deliberately covered her tracks so that it would interfere with our judgment.”

Song Qingxiao heard the doctor's words through the tank. It felt odd to be complimented. After all, she was not from a noble lineage, and she had a low societal status. Not to mention her father's criminal record and her mother's drinking problem. She gently moved her finger to touch her dagger. She felt a little safer after that.

The doctor continued to say, “However, she missed something.”

His tone was casual and light, but it made Song Qingxiao's heart nearly leap out of her chest.

“If I'm not mistaken, she must have dragged number six's body here to dispose of it.” The doctor paused for a moment before he continued to say, “Since everyone has different body weights, the depths of our footsteps are different as well. She must have supported number six on her back, which explains why the footprints here are deeper, and the grass here appears crushed from being trampled over.”

Song Qingxiao raised her chin and pursed her lips as she desperately took small breaths. The doctor seemed to take a few steps, drawing closer to where Song Qingxiao hid.

“She might be hiding here.”

What the doctor said was true. The tracks that she left behind as she was carrying someone else's weight would be deeper. Even if Song Qingxiao put more effort into covering her tracks, it was unlikely that she could trick such an intelligent person like the doctor.

Knock knock knock.

The sound of knocking rang out. It seemed like the doctor had curled a finger and was tapping lightly on different tanks as he walked.

“Is she here, or here? Perhaps she's somewhere over there?”

As soon as the office lady heard his words, she seemed to take a few steps back. The tone in her voice seemed to become warier.

“Is she here or not?”

“I’m not sure. Perhaps she’s hiding on her own, but she might be hiding with number six’s corpse as well.” The doctor went deep into thought.

The office lady mustered some courage and suggested, “Should we... Should we lift the lids of the tanks?”

As soon as she said that, the doctor paused and smiled.

“You should go ahead to find some dried leaves and twigs so that we can light a fire here.”

As he spoke, he seemed to be shaking something in his hand since Song Qingxiao could hear a clicking sound. It sounded like a lighter. She could even hear the tiny ‘whoosh’ it made when the flame was ignited.

“It’s the perfect time to use the lighter left behind by number seven.”

The doctor’s suggestion was extremely vicious in that situation. Song Qingxiao shivered, and the hand that she used to hold the phone moved subconsciously to lift up the lid covering the tank.

However, she suddenly remembered the trick where the woman pretended to know which tank Song Qingxiao was in. The doctor must be using a similar mind game to get the woman to leave so that he could lure Song Qingxiao out.

‘What should I do?’ wondered Song Qingxiao.

Her heart was racing, and it felt like it was about to jump out of her chest. The odds were against her in that situation. The three of them had blood on their hands, which proved that their desire to live was extremely strong. The office lady and the doctor seemed to have formed an alliance. Hence, things would be very dangerous for her if she was discovered.

“I’m going to count to three. You should show yourself by then...”

The doctor spoke as his gaze swept over all the large water tanks in the factory.

“One...”

“Two...”

He drawled out each word. However, before he could count to three, the office woman spoke. It turned out that she was still here.

“Why don’t we move some of these tanks so that we can get a better look?”

The doctor seemed to silently agree with her suggestion as their footsteps began to draw closer to where Song Qingxiao hid. The doctor pointed out several large tanks that appeared more suspicious, including the one that Song Qingxiao was hiding in.

Amid her terror, she was keenly aware of the doctor’s fingertips scratching against the body of the tank she was in. His fingernails grazed across the tank, making an unpleasant noise. The screech made her feel helpless, like her life was entirely in the hands of those two people.

In the next moment, the doctor removed his finger from the tank she hid in and pointed towards another. “Open that one,” he ordered.

As soon as the lid was removed, a shrill screech could be heard. The doctor seemed to be out of luck. The office lady said disappointedly, “It’s empty.”

The doctor selected three large tanks. The first one that he picked was empty. There were still two left. If the tank that Song Qingxiao hid in was chosen next, she would be in tremendous danger.

On the other hand, if the tank containing number six’s corpse was discovered first, she might be able to fool the doctor and the office lady, giving Song Qingxiao a chance to escape.

Luck seemed to be on Song Qingxiao’s side. Once the doctor made his second choice, the two of them pushed aside the lid together, and the office lady inhaled sharply. Number six’s body lay inside with his head down and his legs up!

“He’s in here!” The office lady’s voice wavered when she saw number six’s dead body. Song Qingxiao could not tell if she was relieved or terrified.

The tank was huge. They could not see the middle-aged man's face from their angle. All they could see were his legs floating upwards. The doctor frowned and ordered the office lady, "Climb into the tank to have a look at his body."

He wanted to know how Song Qingxiao killed the middle-aged man. He also wanted to see if she might be hiding under the corpse. The office lady was evidently respectful of the doctor and heeded his instructions obediently. However, at that moment, she hesitated. In the end, she climbed into the tank, trembling as she did so.

The middle-aged man was short and fat. After Song Qingxiao had tossed him into the tank, his corpse was snug inside the tank. His head was tilted at an angle that no living person could have made.

His face loomed inside the sewage water. The office lady got a fright when she saw it.

"No, number nine isn't here!"

She got out of the tank and landed on the ground with a plonk. The doctor looked a little disappointed as he said, "Is she really not there? I guess we'll have to search somewhere else..."

As soon as they said that, Song Qingxiao closed her eyes tightly as she sat in the tank. Her tense body began to relax slightly. The doctor and the office woman's footsteps could be heard leaving the area. Song Qingxiao felt her heart settle to its original position instead of being stuck in her throat.

Previously, when the doctor and the office lady stood extremely close to her tank, she did not dare to breathe. She held her breath for such a long time that the lack of oxygen made her go limp as soon as she relaxed her body.

Those two people had formed an alliance and were working together. Since they had joined forces, their chances of survival were far greater than someone working alone. Number seven was a great example of it.

Once the two of them had left and discovered that they could not find Song Qingxiao, their fragile alliance was bound to fail over time. If the office lady and the doctor's alliance began to break down due to infighting, they would start to turn on each other and slaughter the other. Only then would Song Qingxiao have a glimmer of hope at survival.

She had just begun to relax and was preparing to check the prompt in her mind when out of nowhere, the tank she was in was forcefully hit by someone. The tank had been left alone for ages to the extent that its bottom had sunk into the ground. Hence, the first blow had merely caused the tank to sway but not topple.

However, the first hit was swiftly followed by the second!

Chapter 12

The sudden change caused goosebumps to appear all over Song Qingxiao's skin. Before she could react, the loud knocking sound began to ring out repeatedly. It only took one or two hits before the large tank toppled over under the force.

As soon as the tank began to tip, its heavy lid started to slip off, and the water inside rushed out of the tank. Song Qingxiao—who hid inside the tank—began to slip out along with the flow of the sewage water. She held her head with both her hands as her shoulder crashed into the side of the tank forcefully.

However, in a dangerous situation like that, Song Qingxiao endured the pain to avoid being killed as soon as she fell out. Song Qingxiao did not stand up when she was out. Instead, she did two body rolls on the ground to put some distance between her and the threat that had knocked her out of the tank in the first place. She gripped the mouse in her hand tightly and leaned against the toppled tank beside her as she stood up.

“You were hiding in that tank after all.”

The doctor who had previously said that he was leaving turned out to have stayed. The both of them merely pretended to leave to make Song Qingxiao lower her guard and force her out of her hiding spot.

The doctor and the office lady were prepared to rush up and catch hold of her the moment she tumbled out of the tank. However, since Song Qingxiao had rolled on the ground and put some distance between them, they had lost their one shot at catching her. They remained still and did not rush forwards.

The doctor's eyes revealed a hint of disappointment and regret because he had lost his golden opportunity to kill Song Qingxiao. He assessed Song Qingxiao, who stood before him.

Outwardly, Song Qingxiao looked as disheveled as before. Her patrol guard uniform was covered in blood, and it clung to her body tightly as it was drenched from the sewage water in the tank. Her hair was a veritable bird's nest, and her complexion was as white as a sheet. Her lips were pursed tightly, and her nostrils flared from her rapid breathing. Her eyes shone brightly, and it revealed a deep sense of vigilance, caution, and her infinite desire to live.

When Song Qingxiao entered the space, she was the person that everyone ignored and underestimated. After all, her outward appearance was unimpressive, and she did not stand out. Apart from the fact that she was covered in blood when she appeared, she was utterly unmemorable.

Despite all that, Song Qingxiao had managed to eliminate the other two members in her team and survived up to that moment, becoming a nuisance to the doctor.

"I have underestimated you."

The doctor kept both of his hands in his pocket. His gaze landed on the arm that Song Qingxiao used to support herself against the water tank. Her arm was extremely skinny and was covered in wounds.

However, she did not seem to feel the pain since she clutched the mouse so tightly that her knuckles were extremely visible. The cord of the computer mouse swayed leisurely. The mouse seemed to be missing a corner, and if one looked closely, there were still traces of blood on it.

As the doctor took stock of Song Qingxiao, she also appraised the two people before her. She could see that it was no easy feat for them to kill the burly chap who was number seven. Both their faces were decorated with colorful bruises from their encounter with him. The doctor's white coat was tattered, and the office lady did not fare any better. Her body and face were covered in blood.

One versus two. It was not an advantageous situation for Song Qingxiao, and it made her heart sink. However, in this pivotal moment, she could not lose

her focus. If she let herself panic, she would be killed easily at the hands of these two people.

She noticed that the doctor and the office lady did not stand closely together as she stood facing them. There was a small gap between them. She quietly slowed down her breathing to force herself to calm down. Her arm that had been knocked was still extremely sore and powerless from the pain. It trembled so much that she nearly lost her grip on the phone in her hand.

“Number two.”

Song Qingxiao forced herself to smile and lifted her head. Her entire life, she had grown used to being cautious and meticulous. She was also not the type to speak much; however, she had no other choice in that situation. She spoke up in an attempt to break up the circumstantial alliance of the two people in front of her.

“I’m so surprised that you’re still alive.”

The doctor did not expect Song Qingxiao to say something like that as soon as she was discovered.

“When the nine of us split off into four groups, each group was left with only one survivor. All except for yours.”

She stuck out her tongue and licked her lips nervously. Her sopping wet body highlighted how dry her lips were. A long time had passed since she last had something to drink. Not to mention that she had lost a lot of water from all the times she had broken out in cold sweat. Her body was in a state of extreme dehydration. As she licked her dry lips, Song Qingxiao could feel the stinging pain from the cracks in her lips.

“To leave this space, killing each other is our only resort. Why didn’t the doctor kill you? Instead, he spared your life.”

She stared at the two people before her vigilantly, keeping her eyes on the face of the office lady, watching out for minute changes in her expression. At the same time, she continued to pay attention to the doctor.

As soon as the doctor heard her words, his eyes narrowed. His expression was extremely menacing. However, in the next second, he regained his

composure and smiled as he said, "Did you receive the instructions that we needed to kill one another to leave this space?"

He swung his hand and walked up to her casually. However, Song Qingxiao reacted quickly to his movements. As soon as he started walking towards her, she retreated to maintain the distance between them.

The doctor's gaze landed on the object in Song Qingxiao's hand. After Song Qingxiao had rolled out of the tank, he noticed that she had not moved that arm, letting it hang limply beside her.

Was it because she had hurt that arm in the process of killing number one and number six? Or was it because she had injured it when she fell out of the tank?

Ever since number nine had entered the space, she did not speak much apart from when she introduced herself. Yet, she spoke up then. Was it because she wanted to strain his relationship with number two, or was she trying to stall for time because she was injured?

As he remained deep in thought, the doctor continued to approach Song Qingxiao slowly. The office lady watched him and copied his movements. Soon, the both of them had taken a position to outflank her and forced her into a corner.

"I received the instructions when number one and number six died."

When Song Qingxiao noticed their motions, her anxiety hit the roof. Despite that, she did not dare to show any fear on her face. In that situation, if she displayed the tiniest hint of fear, panic, or terror, the two people before her eyes would leap forward and shred her to pieces like wolves.

She gritted her teeth tightly and endured the pain in her shoulder as she lifted her left arm, which had been injured when she crashed into it. The sharp pain caused her facial muscles to twitch, and a cold sweat broke out on her back. However, she did her best to stop her arm from shaking and pointed at her brain.

"You both should have received the instructions as well," she added.

As soon as the doctor saw her action, he looked stunned. He stopped in his tracks. The office lady also stopped in her tracks cautiously and looked at the doctor in confusion.

“Currently, there is no indication proving that we need to kill other people in order to leave this place.”

The doctor moved his hands that were still in his pockets and continued, “I have my status and position. There is no need for me to kill anyone and bring trouble upon myself.”

“However, number seven is dead,” stated Song Qingxiao.

It seemed that the doctor had expected her response and even had an answer prepared. He said without any hesitation, “That was because he was about to kill us, so we acted in self-defense.”

Even if Song Qingxiao did not believe his words, it appeared as though the office lady believed him. Song Qingxiao pursed her lips, and that tiny movement caused her dry lips to crack open. A trickle of blood seeped out of the wound and moistened her lip.

“You’re lying. You spared number two because you knew that if you acted alone in a place like this, you would never be able to beat number seven.”

In other words, the doctor did not kill number two and spared her life merely because he was using her as a live bargaining chip.

Chapter 13

Song Qingxiao was deep in thought. She wondered why the doctor had not killed number two—the office lady. Number seven’s death cleared up the issue for her.

When the game officially started, Song Qingxiao had pinned the doctor and the burly chap as the most difficult people to beat. Similarly, the doctor had made a similar deduction about the trial situation. Number seven’s muscular physique made him everyone’s biggest foe.

If it were a game based on logic, the doctor would definitely not lose. However, in that game, the trial was not merely a test of intelligence but also physical strength and combat skills. If the doctor killed number two, he might not be able to win if he encountered number seven.

Even if he managed to kill number seven by sheer luck, the force of number seven's retaliation would surely leave him severely injured. In that environment, his chances of survival would decrease once he was injured. He might lose his life in the hands of another survivor if he bumped into them. In that situation, if both of them formed an alliance temporarily, their chances of surviving would significantly increase.

None of the three survivors believed the nonsense uttered by the doctor earlier. It was complete nonsense for him to say that he did not set out to kill anyone because he did not want to bring trouble upon himself and that they only killed number seven because they were forced to. The fact that he had come searching for Song Qingxiao betrayed his words.

However, it was possible that number two completely understood the situation. She was not as naive and innocent as number one, nor did she have beauty on her side like number eight—the lady in the red dress. She must have been willing to partner with the doctor because she knew that if she went against him and set off alone as a woman in the space, she might not be able to survive.

To deal with a woman like that, a simple and straightforward provocation would not be enough to change her mind. She needed something more concrete! Song Qingxiao swallowed nervously and forced herself to be calm.

In the situation where the three of them faced each other, the only reason that she was still standing was because of her sheer willpower. After all, she had injured herself when she fell out of the tank, severely limiting her range of movement. In addition to that, she was tired and hungry. After she had spent so much time submerged in the sewage water in the tank, she feared that most of her strength had withered away.

The doctor and the office lady were injured from their fight with number seven, but their injuries did not seem to affect their ability to move. Even though the two of them were possibly suffering from hunger and tiredness like Song Qingxiao, their position was still superior compared to her. After all, the doctor was a guy, and the office lady was much stronger physically than Song Qingxiao's skinny build.

“Number two, there’s only the three of us left in this space.”

Song Qingxiao thought carefully about what she wanted to say. She was afraid that if she said the wrong thing, it would lead to her doom. As she spoke, the doctor and the office lady continued moving towards her. The distance between the three of them shrank. At that moment, running away was not a smart decision for Song Qingxiao.

Song Qingxiao became more anxious. She thought about taking out her dagger numerous times. However, each time the idea popped into her head, she firmly quashed it down again.

If she revealed her dagger, all she would achieve was to startle the doctor and the office lady momentarily. However, once they knew that she possessed a weapon, she would instantly become a dangerous target, forcing them to stay in their alliance.

The dagger would only be able to help her achieve victory through the element of surprise. Based on her strength and ability, there was no way that she would be able to beat the two people before her and kill them.

“We’re both women. It would be extremely easy for the both of you to kill me.”

In that precarious situation, Song Qingxiao appeared calm. She continued to speak, “However, once I’m dead, how are you going to stay alive, number two?”

Song Qingxiao’s crisis was the problem that number two would have to face later. The doctor would have the upper hand against the office lady.

“Have you ever considered cooperating with me? You can think about what you’re going to do after we’ve killed the doctor, and there’s only the two of us left.”

Song Qingxiao discussed her fate calmly as she objectively broke down the situation for the office lady.

“Number two, you can see that the threat I pose is clearly much less compared to number four. You’re stronger than me. Hence, it would be much easier for you to kill me instead of number four.”

Her words made the doctor speechless. Number four seemed to be caught between laughter and tears. Out of the corner of his eye, the doctor saw that the office lady—who had been inching closer to Song Qingxiao—had stopped in her tracks.

This action proved that Song Qingxiao's words had touched on a nerve. She had hit the point that number two was most worried about.

The smile on the doctor's face froze. He said, "Oh? So it's easy to kill you?" He turned to look at the office lady and said, "Number two, surely you don't believe her do you?"

The doctor noticed that while speaking to Song Qingxiao, the office lady took a step back, increasing the distance between them. Initially, the doctor and the office lady were the closest to each other between the three of them, and they had been moving towards Song Qingxiao.

However, Song Qingxiao's words had ruined the delicate balance, causing the office lady to put up her guard towards the doctor.

"She was in the same group as number one and number six. However, they are both dead now, and she is the only one who survived. She was also the first person to act by killing her teammates. Do you really think a dangerous person like her will be an easy opponent to face?"

The office lady took another small step back. The three of them stood in a triangle formation. There was an equal distance between all three of them, and the situation was a stalemate.

The doctor continued to speak, but he cursed inwardly. Number nine had been able to survive after killing number one and number six. It proved that she was not someone to be underestimated. He should not have been overthinking the situation and given her the chance to speak.

He should have gone ahead with the original plan to focus on killing number nine with the help of number two. After that, he would get rid of number two and leave the d*mn place.

Number two was full of uncertainty. It was not a normal betting situation where one would lose a couple bucks. If she placed the wrong bet, the thing that she would lose was her life.

Song Qingxiao looked at the situation and quickly piped up.

“Number six had the intent to kill us, so number one and I were forced to defend ourselves.”

Her words were intended to reveal that number six’s death resulted from her teaming up with number one. Her survival was merely a stroke of luck.

Her words seemed to give number two an idea. If she and number nine joined forces to kill the doctor, there was a chance that she might be as lucky as number nine. While they cooperated in killing the doctor, the doctor and number nine might become gravely injured and die. In that case, number two would become the final victor in this trial!

Number two finally made up her mind. Her confused and undecided expression became one full of killing intent and wariness.

The doctor sighed and looked a little disappointed. He said, “It looks like you’ve made up your mind.”

Number two’s eyes were as cold as ice. “I have no choice. I want to live too. After all, you intended on killing me too. Otherwise, why haven’t you asked for my name even though we’ve been working together for so long?”

The doctor did not ask for her name because he already knew that after he killed her, her card in his consciousness would flip over. Hence, he would learn her name sooner or later.

Since everyone had revealed their true colors, there was no longer any need to pretend. The situation was disadvantageous for the doctor, but it could not be avoided. The two women started to close in on him.

The doctor slowly retreated until he was backed up against the large water tank containing number six’s corpse. He could no longer retreat any further. The two women drew closer and closer. The doctor turned, and his gaze landed on Song Qingxiao.

He no longer concealed the killing intent within him. In that instant, Song Qingxiao felt as though she was staring right into the eyes of a serpent. She understood that the doctor had chosen her as his target because of her weak appearance.

He prepared to get rid of her first before he turned to deal with the office lady to reduce the pressure of being attacked by two people at once.

In the doctor's eyes, she was a pushover that he would deal with first.

That was Song Qingxiao's true crisis!

Chapter 14

Song Qingxiao noticed that number two—the office lady—wore an unmistakable grin because of the doctor's choice. After the situation progressed to that stage, they were past the point of no return. No one would be willing to show mercy.

They were too focused on preserving their own lives.

Even though only the last person alive could leave the place, her alliance with number two was highly fragile. Hence, she could only focus on saving her own life. She could not rely on someone else to save her.

Running away was not an option for Song Qingxiao. If she gave up and ran away then, the office lady would retreat as well, and their impromptu alliance would be completely destroyed. It would be highly disadvantageous for her.

As soon as Song Qingxiao thought of that, her eyes flashed with determination. All she hoped for was for the office lady to be more intelligent and realize that it would help the doctor conserve energy if she died too quickly. It would not be advantageous for the office lady whatsoever.

If the doctor could conserve his energy, the office lady would not be in a good position. If number two could piece all of that together before the doctor prepared to kill Song Qingxiao, she could help her get some respite and buy her some precious time.

"Number two..."

Song Qingxiao had just begun to speak when the doctor made up his mind. He would not give her another chance to complete her sentence. After all, his carelessness earlier allowed Song Qingxiao to influence number two and

caused no end of trouble for the doctor. Hence, as soon as Song Qingxiao's lips began to move, the doctor lunged towards her.

When she killed number six, Song Qingxiao had only managed to succeed because she ambushed him with her dagger when he was not paying attention. Since she faced a true opponent, Song Qingxiao truly felt what being under real pressure was like. Her body had already reached its limit a long time ago, and she barely kept it together through sheer willpower. Her legs felt like lead blocks—heavy and immobile.

The doctor finally took out his hand, which he had kept inside his pocket during the entire ordeal, and clenched it into a fist. He looked like he was about to aim for her eye. In her panic, Song Qingxiao turned her head and planned to flee from his attack. However, her exhausted legs were not up for that level of exertion.

In that moment of crisis, Song Qingxiao held the mouse in her left hand and aimed it at the doctor's fist. She hoped that she could take advantage of the doctor's attacking force to stabilize herself.

In their first exchange, Song Qingxiao revealed that she was in a state of complete weakness, showing the doctor that she was entirely out of energy. Even though the doctor's first attack did not make its mark, Song Qingxiao did not gain any advantage from it either. The sharp edge of the broken mouse merely left several bloodstains on the back of his hand.

Even though she had managed to avoid the doctor's punch aimed at her eyes, his fist managed to brush against her cheek. The doctor staggered forward. Song Qingxiao turned around warily and took two deep breaths. She then took a step in the direction of the office lady only to notice a dull tingling sensation in her cheek.

At that moment, she did not dare to reach out and touch her cheek. She could faintly feel that the skin on her cheek was grazed and that blood was gushing out of the wound. When the doctor attacked her, she vaguely noticed the object that the doctor was holding onto. It was likely the secret weapon that the doctor had been hiding the whole time, only to reveal it then.

Song Qingxiao resisted the urge to reach for her dagger. She panted breathlessly. The doctor's attacks did not achieve its intended outcome. As he brought his momentum to a halt, he turned about, and she could see that he wielded an uncapped fountain pen in his right hand. The fountain pen's tip

was covered in blood and skin. He must have used that pen to scratch her cheek.

After she noticed that, Song Qingxiao realized how dangerous the situation was. The doctor had rushed towards her, aiming for her eye. Luckily, she had avoided his attack. Otherwise, the outcome would be too gruesome to imagine.

The both of them had swapped positions. The doctor did not rest and once again lunged towards Song Qingxiao. He learned from his previous mistake and crashed into her with his body. Song Qingxiao was less fortunate that time. Her body was utterly unable to keep up with her mind. As soon as the doctor collided with her, she collapsed and fell backward.

If she was knocked to the ground, there was no need to explain what would happen next. Thankfully she stood not too far away from the large water tank where number six's body was kept. When the doctor crashed into her, she fell backward, and her head knocked against the tank, making a loud noise.

Even though it was a pretty bad fall, the tank was able to support her body. The doctor bent his arm and heavily pressed his elbow into her. Her instinct to survive was triggered. She hit the doctor in the face with the mouse and the phone in her hands. However, her strength was so weak that it had a negligible effect on the doctor.

The doctor pinned Song Qingxiao down to prevent her from struggling and forcing him to expend more energy. The doctor hit her temples forcefully, causing Song Qingxiao to go dizzy. Her hand that held the phone began to go limp.

The phone fell to the ground, and the doctor reached out to remove the mouse from her other hand. For some strange reason, her grip in that hand was unyielding. The doctor tugged at the mouse forcefully a couple of times before he retrieved it.

Her head was super dizzy from being hit. The factory seemed to spin around her, and her stomach felt incredibly upset. She could hear the pulsing of her arteries in her head. At that moment, she had a vivid feeling that her death was imminent.

Her eyes must have been filled with blood because she could not see the doctor's savage face clearly. His features seemed to merge with her killer's in her memory, the one who stabbed her to death with a dagger in the dark alley.

She was in two life-threatening situations in one day. She did not think that anyone else in the history of time would ever experience such an extraordinary encounter. Her arms felt like they weighed a ton, and her body felt like it did not belong to her. Her consciousness seemed about to leave her body. If it were not for her last remaining breath, Song Qingxiao felt like she would have fainted long ago. She would already have died in the hands of the doctor.

The hand around her neck began to squeeze tighter. It felt like the force of it was about to snap her neck. The choking feeling seemed familiar. She moved her fingers which were dangling at her sides, towards the dagger hidden in her sleeve.

She opened her mouth and tried to breathe. Her chest heaved slightly as she tried to push the doctor off her to give herself a chance to breathe. However, her struggles were so pitifully weak that the doctor completely disregarded them.

On the contrary, the office lady who stood aside was shocked as she watched the scene unfold. She was an intelligent woman, and her thought process was precisely what Song Qingxiao had thought before.

She knew that once Song Qingxiao was dead, she would be next on the kill list for the doctor. Even if the rules allowed more than one person to get out alive, the doctor would not let her escape alive since she had witnessed his murder. She needed to seize the opportunity to save Song Qingxiao and work together to deal with the doctor.

That was her initial plan. However, after seeing the scene in front of her, her determination began to waver. The doctor seemed to retain his strength. He had kept his hand in his pockets not because it was injured. Instead, it was because he hid a fountain pen that could be used as a weapon.

She looked indecisive, and in the next moment, she began to step back. Even though she expected that outcome for Song Qingxiao, it sent chills down her spine since it was happening.

Song Qingxiao felt extremely resentful at the office lady's cold feet at the last minute. However, at that moment, she could neither shout nor scold because her chest had begun to ache from the lack of oxygen. She moved her arms, and she felt that the dagger hidden in her sleeve had started to slide downwards.

If her trump card was revealed then, she would be in hot water. However, Song Qingxiao had no other choice. If she continued to endure it, she feared that she would die in the hands of the doctor before she could take the dagger out!

Since the situation unraveled that way, all she could do was give it her best shot. Whether she lived or died, it would be up to fate. However, in the next second, everything changed.

Luck was once again on her side.

Based on the doctor's assessment, Song Qingxiao was not a threat to him at all. Since she was in that situation, there was no way that she could retaliate with a powerful attack. Hence, the doctor had let down his guard and loosened his grip on her arm to stop the office lady who tried to escape!

Chapter 15

The space covered an extensive area. The doctor knew that because he had walked quite a distance to get to his location. If he did not take the opportunity to kill number two, allowing her to escape, it would be hard to take her down. After all, it was such a vast space.

Since he did not have access to water or food, he could not hold out for much longer. Allowing the problem to drag on would not be beneficial to him at all. Hence, he had to take the chance to kill the office lady right there and then. Once that was taken care of, he could figure out what to do next.

As for Song Qingxiao, she was close to death. It would be a simple feat to settle her after he had dealt with number two. She was not standing too far away from the doctor, which was why he was able to catch up with her in no time. He caught her hair and pulled hard, causing her to fall backward.

She shrieked in surprise. In her panic, she flailed her arms madly in an attempt to grab hold of something to steady herself. However, the doctor did not give her a chance. He thrust the fountain pen that he had previously used to graze Song Qingxiao's face and stabbed the office lady's face and neck.

At that point in time, everybody fought for their lives, so there was no reason to hold back. The office lady uttered a shrill cry of misery and reached out to attack the doctor's eye. The power possessed by people on the verge of death was terrifying.

The doctor's judgment was correct. The office lady's ability to fight back was far stronger than Song Qingxiao. Her legs kicked out violently, and soon, two long tracks appeared on the ground.

Her body wriggled like a fish. Her hips moved up and down forcefully. The doctor could hardly keep her under control as she fought back in the face of danger. She had long fingernails, which she used as a weapon in that critical moment as she aimed them toward the doctor's eyes.

The doctor gasped as his eyes were attacked. He pulled the office lady's hair forcefully in retaliation. It was as though he wanted to pull her scalp off. She was forced to turn her head to one side, exposing her neck that had already been pricked several times by the fountain pen.

The nib of the pen was sharply curved, and there was some flesh on it. A great deal of blood gushed out from where the pen had pierced the office lady. The office lady let out a pitiful cry. Her chin was clenched tightly, and she swung her head violently in an attempt to get out of her predicament.

In a turn of fate, the crisis that Song Qingxiao faced had befallen the office lady. Each time the pen entered her flesh, her body stiffened. The veins in her neck bulged, and blood flowed more rapidly out of the wound each time the pen was withdrawn.

She should not have fallen prey so easily. However, she lost her chance when she chose not to escape the situation earlier.

Song Qingxiao fell to the ground limply as she slid along the tank. She felt like her limbs did not belong to her. After her temples had been hit, she felt as though she could not catch her breath. She opened her mouth wide as she tried to take deep breaths in, looking like a dying fish gasping for air.

She could hear the office lady's shrill screams and the sound of the moving grass as she struggled. Through Song Qingxiao's blurry vision, she could see the doctor in the midst of killing the office lady with his back facing her.

The both of them were fighting fiercely in their struggle for survival. They fought for their lives, so neither of them noticed Song Qingxiao—who leaned against the tank—had begun to open her eyes. Her bloodshot eyes were filled with killing intent.

After she had experienced the threat of death, Song Qingxiao was unbelievably calm in that critical moment. She knew that she was like an arrow at the end of its flight. Her energy was completely spent. Even though the doctor had his back towards her, if she tried to attack him with her dagger, it was unlikely that she would be able to kill him. At the most, she would just injure him.

At that moment, the lady's voice became weaker and weaker. She was suffering a significant loss at the hands of the doctor, and it was only a matter of time before the doctor killed her. It would be better for Song Qingxiao to conserve her energy and wait for her next opportunity to come!

She once again tried to calm herself down. Apart from breathing, she minimized all other motions in an attempt to recover her strength. The doctor had already considered her a goner. However, he did not notice that her trembling arm concealed a dagger in her sleeve, and it slid down bit by bit. In the end, it finally slipped into her palm, and she gripped it tightly like she held on to a lifeline.

After the office lady's neck had been stabbed seven to eight times, her entire neck looked like a pincushion. Her struggles grew weaker, and her cries gradually became softer. Blood poured out of each stab wound and joined to flow down her neck in a stream. Her pupils dilated as her body twitched involuntarily. The life disappeared from her eyes.

The card that belonged to number two in their consciousness flipped over. Only after the doctor was sure that she had stopped breathing did he release his arm. He supported himself with both his arms as he lay on the ground panting hard.

The fountain pen had been completely deformed after he had used it to kill number two. He glanced at it and casually tossed it aside. His palms were

covered in blood. The doctor panted heavily as he wiped his palms on his shirt.

The doctor turned back to look at Song Qingxiao, who leaned against the large tank. Her arms were on the ground. Her breathing was shallow, but she was clearly still breathing. He never thought that the woman he assumed would be an easy target would somehow avoid death ages ago and still be alive then!

The doctor closed his eyes forcefully, enduring the sharp pain in his eye that had been scratched.

There were a total of nine cards, and seven of the cards had flipped over. The only ones remaining were the one in the center and the card to the right of it. Both still showed a red pattern on a black background. It seemed to indicate that once the card on the right had flipped over, only then would the person on the card in the center be able to survive.

The doctor did not want to spend another second in that blasted place. Even if the chance of leaving the space was only a guess, the doctor was not willing to give up. He pushed himself up, holding the mouse in one hand as he crawled in the direction of Song Qingxiao.

Since the doctor had killed the office lady he considered the biggest threat to him, his guard against Song Qingxiao was low. He considered her no more dangerous than an ant since she had lost all ability to retaliate.

He planned to leave the place quickly after he had killed Song Qingxiao. The office lady's scratches had injured his eye, and he was worried about the risk of infection. He could not wait to get back to the real world. He wanted to live and was concerned about losing his sight.

His impatience caused the doctor to let down his guard. When he wrapped the mouse cord around Song Qingxiao's neck, he did not notice that her body was wound up tightly.

Since the cord was wrapped around Song Qingxiao's neck, the doctor tied a knot in a well-practiced manner. Joy appeared on his face as though he had already completed the job. In the next moment, he forcefully tugged the cord as he prepared to end Song Qingxiao's life. However, the person who was like a bag of sand, which should have completely lost all ability to resist, suddenly used her legs to hook his thighs.

Song Qingxiao had saved up all her energy for that one move. The doctor had not expected it, so his body fell directly toward Song Qingxiao. In his panic, he noticed that Song Qingxiao had opened her eyes, which had been shut the whole time until that moment.

His terrified expression was reflected in her bloodshot eyes. He had no time to stretch out his arms to break his fall. Song Qingxiao had raised her hand that held the dagger and stabbed it into his neck.

As the dagger plunged into his flesh, the doctor heard a sound that he was familiar with. The faint, almost imperceptible sound of human flesh being sliced. He would not have heard it if he was not stabbed in a location that was so close to his ear.

The doctor wondered where Song Qingxiao had gotten hold of her weapon. He regretted his earlier carelessness because he was so sure that victory was at hand. He never expected that he would die at her hands.

Since the danger was over, he could only feel his neck swell up. He did not feel any pain. Instead, it felt as though he had been punched, and his entire body was powerless. Subconsciously, he let go of the cord that he had wrapped tightly around Song Qingxiao's neck. He wanted to touch his wound. However, Song Qingxiao's attack left him with no chance to react.

She gritted her teeth and forcefully twisted the dagger to enlarge the doctor's neck wound. The sensation of pain finally came and caused the doctor to break out in cold sweat. He understood the situation and reached out to grab Song Qingxiao's hand in hopes of stopping her from making the wound bigger. At the same time, he used his other hand to tighten the mouse cord wrapped around her neck.

At that point, the struggle would be determined by who could hold on until the very last second. The person who gave up first would die!