

Crazy 1131

Chapter 1131: Strange Hexagram

“Boss... boss... are you awake?”

In the darkness, Zhao Yu heard Cui Lizhu’s frantic calling, but even realizing this he couldn’t resist the side effects of the Energy Booster and Invisible Recovery Potion and fell into a deep slumber.

He checked to see that his eyes were open. They were, but he couldn’t see anything. Everything was pitch black. It seemed like the generator had run out of energy.

Ugh...

Zhao Yu groaned. His mouth felt dry and he felt terrible. At that moment, a flash of light shone into his eyes. It was Cui Lizhu! She held a flashlight in one hand and a bottle of water in the other, placing it near his lips.

“Where... where did this water come from...?” Zhao Yu was in a daze, remembering that they had already finished drinking all the water that morning.

“It was flowing from the crevices of the debris. I’ve been collecting it for half a day! It’s all rainwater so it’s drinkable!” Cui Lizhu said.

“Oh...” Zhao Yu stretched his neck and took a sip. Even though the water was a little bitter it quenched his thirst.

Zhao Yu looked at his watch but because it was dark, he could not see clearly. “Lil Cui, how long have I been sleeping? What’s the current situation?” he asked.

“You’ve slept for over ten hours!” Cui Lizhu answered. “We’re still trapped here!”

“But... we did manage to find a relatively safe hideout in the deep tunnels. It’s far from that area and there are mud doors at the entrance, so even if the bomb explodes it should protect us pretty well!”

“That’s pretty long...” Zhao Yu said, slowly consolidating his thoughts as he recalled what had happened previously. “What about Li Jing and Xiao Hang?” he hurriedly asked.

“Li Jing is sleeping next to you! Xiao Hang has your phone and is communicating with the search teams outside!” Cui Lizhu said. “The people outside are digging through the entrance that exploded. If nothing goes wrong, we should be able to get out of this debris in a few hours!”

“Relax boss! We can definitely get out of this place alive!”

“Then... about this case...” Zhao Yu shifted his position while talking, but a rush of burning pain traveled through his body and he felt more sensitive than before.

“The girl doing the decryption is still in the midst of working...” Li Jing’s voice unexpectedly rang through the darkness. “They are still analyzing each photo and attempting to find related characters, words, or pictures...”

“But... because the photo is really old the resolution is poor. So even if there are minimal leads, we can't really do anything about it...”

“Then what about Jinping? Has it been confirmed that our secret's been leaked?” Zhao Yu asked.

“The other party used a new kind of technology in their attack,” Li Jing explained. “Only a part of the code can be read, after which we need to rewrite the codes ourselves. The technology is rather complicated.”

“The only thing we can confirm is that even if the other party gets the values, they will need a massive amount of time to restore the information,” Li Jing said. “So, we are not lagging behind our enemies by that much!”

“But the key is...” Zhao Yu frowned. “Based on a single picture, can we really solve this secret?”

“Lil Cui...” Zhao Yu began, turning to Cui Lizhu. “Try to recall what happened with Tao Xiang back in Huang Jin City. I'll get the local police to search the places you've stayed just to be sure. What if Tao Xiang buried the items? Even a small piece of information, no matter how broken, would be good...”

“Well, as for that... While you were sleeping, we already received an update!” Li Jing said. “But that place has been torn down, so our chances are slim.”

“Oh, that's right!” Cui Lizhu said to Zhao Yu, suddenly recalling something. “There is still one more thing you don't know.”

“The rescue team found two dead bodies in the cave outside...”

“Oh? That must be the Tian brothers!” Zhao Yu said without hesitation.

“Wow! You're really amazing, you guessed it in one try!” Cui Lizhu said, clicking her tongue. “Apparently they had already been dead for a long time. They were shot to death!”

“And...” Li Jing added. “After comparing the messages, we have already confirmed that some of the people who attacked us belonged to an underground organization. These people have participated in many commercial wars before!”

“Other than that, do you still remember the illegal informant, Meng Youbin?” Li Jing asked. “That group was part of this very same underground organization!”

“Ah, that makes things so much clearer!” Zhao Yu said. “Japan knew about the doll's secret and wanted to look for the treasure again, so they used an underground organization to infiltrate our country and started to search for the fortress.”

“But they realized that the fortress did not hold the answers they wanted, so they had no choice but to keep searching. It was then they found out the doll was in Tian Zheng's hands!”

“But Tian Zheng is dead, and the doll is missing!” Zhao Yu deduced, falling into deep thought like he always did when he was about to crack a case. “So, they captured Tian Zheng's sons and interrogated them.”

“Who would have thought that the Tian brothers knew there was an expert who bought the doll? But they had no clue which expert it was, so they began to question all of them until they finally found their answer! The doll was in Yuan Juncheng’s hands! That’s how everything happened!”

“They are so ruthless!” Cui Lizhu said. “They didn’t hesitate to collapse an entire fortress, and even detonated a bomb on me and the fortress just to catch me! They are simply terrible!”

“Right!” Li Jing said. “Although it can’t be considered treasure, the weapons and equipment in this fortress are still worth a considerable amount of wealth!”

“They obviously knew that they would not be able to bring them back, so they didn’t want to leave them for us either. They are so mean!” Li Jing said angrily. “We will not tolerate anybody committing evil deeds on our land!”

Just as Li Jing finished, there was a sudden ray of light at the door of the fortress followed by a flurry of footsteps.

“It’s clear, it’s clear!” Xiao Hang hurriedly ran into the room and reported the news to everyone. “The drill has broken a small path! In a while, we will be able to bring some food and water in! Then, in a couple more hours, we can all get out!”

After finishing, Xiao Hang shined his flashlight on Zhao Yu’s face. “Leader Zhao, are you awake? You sure can sleep a lot!” he greeted Zhao Yu excitedly.

“That’s great!” Cui Lizhu said, giddily clapping her hands. “Let’s all hope we can get out of here quickly! This is really starting to scare me!”

“Oh, right...” Zhao Yu suddenly remembered something again and hurriedly turned to Li Jing. “Leader Li, before I fell unconscious, I told you to do something. Have you done it yet?”

“Yup!” Li Jing nodded. “As per your request I have already leaked a fake piece of news, but I’m not sure if that’s enough to bluff our way past our enemies!”

“And... are you sure that the bombs in the fortress will no longer explode?”

“The fake news must not look like it’s real news!” Zhao Yu instructed. “Please don’t say anything about the explosions, just say that there were some unknown earthquakes and investigations are still going on, stuff like that...”

“I know, I know...” Li Jing nodded. “I don’t need you to teach me something like this!”

“Good!” Zhao Yu was finally relieved. “I know we might not be able to lie to the other party, but now that things have reached this point, we can only do what we can, and that is to hope!”

Just as Zhao Yu was about to pray, he recalled something else of importance.

That’s right! After the Kun Gan hexagram had ended, he had yet to open another hexagram! To know if the case was completed or not, wouldn’t he have gotten the answer just by opening a new one?

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu hurriedly entered the new system and opened a new hexagram. After all this time, Zhao Yu felt like he already knew the system well and was used to it. He thought that he

would not be shocked, no matter what hexagram appeared. But the system had a way of proving him wrong once again! It completely exceeded his expectations.

Looking at the hexagram, he had already expected Kun Zhen, but behind the words, there was a small black dot, followed by a smaller Gen word. It read as a Kun Zhen·gen Hexagram.

Holy sh*t! Zhao Yu froze. The hexagrams had always been two words, today... today there were suddenly three words? This... what was this strange situation?!

Chapter 1132: A New Friend

Four hours passed and the rescue team had finally carved out a small tunnel, rescuing Zhao Yu with and his companions one by one with a rope. It was already late into the night, and when everyone returned to the cave again Zhao Yu felt like they wouldn't be able to last much longer.

As they had received information about the bombs, once Zhao Yu and company were rescued, a professional bomb defusal squad went into the fortress to begin work on defusing them. Crawling out through the hole, the wind that blew still felt dense and humid even though the heavy rain from the night before had already stopped.

Out of the four people, only Li Jing and Zhao Yu had suffered heavier injuries, so the moment they reached the ground they were brought to an ambulance.

The rescue team was worried that the bomb had not been cleared properly, so they were quickly escorted to a safety zone after entering the vehicle.

Secret Services had initially requested for them to be sent to the hospital for a thorough check-up, but Li Jing insisted on staying on-site and described everything that had happened to them from beginning to end. She wanted everyone to return to their posts as soon as possible.

Although this was a fortress that had been sealed for ages, the mystery of the treasure had yet to be solved. Nobody knew what had become of the mysterious doll or the shocking treasure. What else would happen?

Whether it was Li Jing or Zhao Yu, or even Secret Services, they all knew the most important thing currently was to figure out the secret behind the Russian dolls. Thus, they had already arranged for people across the country to participate in this to crack the code, and they would work day and night to find a clue.

"I'm fine, I'm really fine..." Zhao Yu said as he lay in the ambulance. He forced himself to sit up on the stretcher in an attempt to prove to the medic that he was okay.

"Boss, stop fooling around!" Cui Lizhu said, immediately forcing Zhao Yu to lie down on the stretcher. The doctor had not dared to say anything. "This is no time to be forcing yourself! You have no idea how worried I was when you were unconscious. You even stopped breathing at some moments! I have been monitoring your pulse throughout!"

"Go to h*ll!" Zhao Yu shouted, pouting. "I thought you were just complaining earlier on that I was snoring too loudly? Lil Cui, how many times have I told you not to lie? You have to be a truthful person!"

“Come over here... over here...” someone said.

Just as Zhao Yu finished talking, he heard a loud scuffle outside the ambulance. Zhao Yu immediately heard Zhang Jingfeng and Wu Xiumin’s voices. It was undoubtedly the Special Investigations Team who had rushed over.

The door creaked open, but to his surprise, it wasn’t his colleagues who entered. It was Miao Ying!

“Miao... Miaomiao, what are you doing here?” Zhao Yu asked in surprise as he tried to sit up on the stretcher again.

“If I hadn’t come then you would have really gone to heaven!” Miao Ying said, rushing towards Zhao Yu and intentionally pushing Cui Lizhu aside. “You mischievous genius, I told you to wait two days for me, just two days! Then you could go ahead and create whatever mayhem you wanted. And you... you let me down again?” she asked, concerned.

“This...” Zhao Yu had no argument and froze for a bit before he weakly said “I didn’t want this to happen either! But it was a matter of utmost urgency. I was also forced onto a cliff, that’s why I had to do what I did to disrupt the enemy’s plans and return peace to this world!”

Hng... Cui Lizhu fake heaved.

Miao Ying had nothing to say and pinched Zhao Yu’s jaw, observing him carefully to see if he was actually conscious.

“Next time...” Zhao Yu declared. “I promise you, if something similar to this happens again, I will go over and discuss things with the bad guys so that they will execute their plans a little later. Then when you, Ms. Miao, get here, we can settle them together! Isn’t that such a great idea?”

“What the h*ll...?” Cui Lizhu was about to vomit.

“Aye!” Unexpectedly, Miao Ying could not care less about what Zhao Yu just said and raised both of her arms to lightly hold Zhao Yu. “I guess this is all fate!”

Although his whole body was aching in pain, Zhao Yu hugged his goddess contentedly. Seeing that the couple were having their moment, Cui Lizhu took her leave and pulled the dense doctor out of the ambulance.

“Anyway...” Miao Ying said with a smile as she hugged Zhao Yu. “I have already decided, next time, no matter what case it is, no matter how big or how small it is, I will not leave you so easily! Every time I leave you alone you go out and cause trouble!”

“Ah, if that’s the case then you have to watch me closely! Hehe...” Zhao Yu said. Miao Ying hugged him tighter and tighter until he couldn’t help but let out a groan. He had been shot by a fake model gun, and although the bullets were not deadly his body was still filled with aches and bruises. He had also been kicked and punched by numerous enemies, and although he had the Energy Booster active, he was unable to reduce the pain by much. The most painful thing was that his shoulder had been broken by someone, and although he had used multiple Invisible Bone Repair potions, his joints were still somehow affected.

“Alright!” Miao Ying said, sensing Zhao Yu’s pain and finally letting go of him. “Quick, tell me everything that happened!

“Rest assured, the Gao Lanqi case is finally closed. I am now back on the team and have the right to know the details of this case! I heard there were some new leads?”

“Yea...” Zhao Yu answered.

Miao Ying was right. Work was work and she had the right to know, so Zhao Yu slowly recounted the whole incident without leaving out a single detail. Of course, he left out all the details about him using the special tools.

The case was unusual and complicated, so Miao Ying listened with her heart pounding. When she heard that the fortress was armed with bombs, she was so anxious she cried out, “These enemies are so bad! They would rather destroy what they are unable to get than let us have it! We definitely can’t let them off easily!”

Eh... Zhao Yu thought in his heart that this phrase sounded familiar. It sounded exactly like something Li Jing had said...

Not to mention, the two of them did look pretty similar from certain angles. Although Li Jing did not look as strong as Miao Ying, skill-wise she was better than Miao Ying by a margin. Could it be, his father-in-law...?

“If that’s the case,” Miao Ying said urgently, “And we do not know when the bombs will explode, then won’t the bomb defusal squad be in danger?”

“Are you sure those are timed bombs and not remote-controlled bombs?”

“Probably!” Zhao Yu answered. “Li Jing said that there is no reception in the cave, so chances of it being a remote-controlled bomb are pretty low. Relax! The bomb defusal squad are professionals, they’ll definitely be able to settle this.”

“That is so dangerous!” Miao Ying sighed. “If just one bomb causes the other bombs to ignite, even the mountain will be blown to bits!

“Zhao Yu...” Miao Ying said seriously as she held Zhao Yu’s hands. “Since it’s come to this, we should leak some fake news and say that there were unknown bombs found in the mountain!

“If the enemies know that you’re still alive...” Miao Ying frowned. “Then they may halt their plan and we may never catch them again!”

“Relax, I’ve already done that!” Zhao Yu said happily. He didn’t expect Miao Ying and him to have the exact same idea, although it was as to be expected of a power couple!

While the two of them were talking, Xiao Hang suddenly opened the doors and greeted them. “Officer Zhao, are you in good enough condition? Leader Li needs you to meet with her for a while.

“We have a couple of new friends that she thinks you should meet!”

Chapter 1133: Three Doubts

What kind of new friend was this?

Zhao Yu had originally assumed that the people Li Jing wanted to introduce him to were higher ranked officials in the Secret Services team or some other incredible people, but to his surprise, they were just two foreigners!

After asking, he found out that they were Russian officers who were there to provide some information.

At the start, watching this movie-esque scene unraveling before his very eyes, Zhao Yu had gotten a little carried away and even pretended to seriously engage in small talk with them.

But as the conversations deepened, Li Jing blinked at him and Zhao Yu finally decided to get to the point.

Ah... On the surface, it seemed that these people were here to offer information, but in reality, they were still extremely concerned about the gold that they had lost and wanted to find out more about what had happened through Zhao Yu!

Li Jing appeared to be very sincere, but her eyes told Zhao Yu another story. It seemed like she was asking Zhao Yu to be selective with his information and avoid the topic of gold.

Zhao Yu had no experience regarding such formal level foreign interactions, but he was immediately an expert at dealing with the situation. After all, he had the thickest skin! Therefore, he decided to divert the topic and pretended he was clueless about the situation and it wasn't long before he managed to confuse the two Russians.

Zhao Yu relentlessly praised his own bravado and invincibility but left out any mention of the treasure, trying to steer clear of the topic completely.

Seeing how shameless Zhao Yu was in praising himself made it hard for Li Jing to stifle her laughter.

When she realized that things were spiraling out of control, she managed to excuse Zhao Yu by saying that his injuries were severe and that he had not properly come to his senses. Only then did she manage to send the two foreign officers away.

When the foreigners finally left, Zhao Yu couldn't help but scold Li Jing. "Leader Li, what is the meaning of this?! Are you using me as a shield? If you didn't want to let the Russians participate, then why even bring them here in the first place?"

"International relations are not as simple as you think!" Li Jing said with a laugh. "We are still in the midst of cooperation and need to show some form of sincerity."

"But... but you didn't have to bring me here!" Zhao Yu frowned. "Just say that I was sent to the hospital or something! You didn't need me to come here and tell them lies. I really don't get what you were trying to accomplish!"

"Who asked you to be so famous? They specifically requested to meet you!" Li Jing said, laughing as she opened the doors to invite in Xiao Hang and Miao Ying, who had been waiting outside.

He didn't know why, but when Li Jing and Miao Ying stood together, Zhao Yu felt a strange sensation and wondered if they might be related by blood.

"But then again..." Li Jing told Zhao Yu, "The Russians have helped us quite a bit! Many top-secret tipoffs were given by them. Take a look..." Saying this, she opened the screen in the command vehicle to display some information.

"Take a look. According to the tips we received from both parties, we can basically confirm that the mastermind behind this entire treasure case is an international crime organization called Seraph," Li Jing said as she pointed at the screen. "It's said that this organization thrives off corporate assassinations and the sale of illegal information and that they are involved in the Asian Pacific and Southeast Asian regions..."

"Seraph?" Miao Ying repeated. "Like the blazing angel..."

"That's right!" Zhao Yu said, furiously nodding his head.

"You... understand English?" Miao Ying asked, raising an eyebrow. Zhao Yu shook his head, causing Miao Ying to roll her eyes and scoff.

"Apparently, their leader was named Daniel. He is a Bruneian magnate!" Li Jing said. "Although there is no evidence, we believe there are some links between Seraph and the Japanese. This matter regarding the treasure was probably started because of the Japanese!"

At that point, Zhao Yu saw a tanned Asian man appear on the screen. The man had a bloated physical appearance and one glance would tell you he was not the masked man. Zhao Yu deduced that if this was really done by Seraph, then the masked man would either be a puppet master within the organization, or a spy sent by the Japanese.

"Apart from that, we have also found something new!" Li Jing said. "Seraph once participated in the Philippines Trade Building Kidnap case! At the time, that building was the very same place they were producing Pitidebin!"

"So... it was possible they staged the whole thing for Pitidebin?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Hng..." Zhao Yu lazily held on to Miao Ying's shoulders. "Leader Li, thank you for helping us understand all that happened, but is there any information that is more relevant?"

"If there isn't then you might as well start researching the Russian doll!"

"That's right!" Miao Ying said solemnly. "Did the Russians not say anything about the dolls?"

"Nope," Li Jing shook her head. "We still haven't told them. Let's not tell them things like that so easily at the moment."

"Why not?" Miao Ying frowned. "What if the Russians know something? Then we will be able to find the treasure before our enemies do!"

"Uhm, this... let's wait until we figure out some real clues and discuss it again!" Li Jing said, shaking her head. "This is not something within our control!"

Miao Ying appeared to want to say something, but Zhao Yu knew there was no point in saying anything else and quickly interjected.

“Alright, since it’s like this, let’s make use of this time to figure out the secrets behind the Russian dolls!” he said.

“There is one more thing, just for you to know...” Li Jing said with worry in her voice. “According to the information we have, Seraph had deployed their entire team for this. So, perhaps the people we met in the fortress wasn’t everyone!

“I’m scared that once they know where the treasure is things will escalate to an even larger scale!” Li Jing let out a sigh. “Our people are trying to catch them as best as they can, but it’s not easy at this point with no information to work from.”

“I know... we will think of something...” Zhao Yu said. Hearing this piece of news, a sliver of darkness flashed through his mind.

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Coming out of the command vehicle, Zhao Yu finally met his team members. Miao Ying and the rest of the team were all friends, so there was no need for further introductions.

Because Cheng Lingfei’s case required a little more tidying up, Zeng Ke and Ran Tao could not follow Miao Ying over. After some discussion, they decided that there was not much reason for them to stay on Mount Yi and they prepared to drive back to the Feng Ping Police Station to continue investigating.

At that point, it was already 3:00am and the team members were all tired beyond belief. They quickly fell into a deep slumber. Zhao Yu had just slept for over ten hours and his mind was now more alert than ever. Thus, on the way home, he kept thinking about what happened.

Very quickly, he found three points of suspicion.

Firstly, Tao Xiang had stolen Yuan Juncheng’s items, including the Russian doll, because he wanted to find the treasure. Since he knew he could find clues in the items he obtained, why did he destroy the Russian dolls so easily? Was it because he... found a different secret?!

Secondly, after finding the fortress, Zhao Yu had a huge cloud of doubt looming over him. If Japan wanted to hide the secret in the first place, then the fortress was obviously the best place to do so. So why didn’t they put the treasure here?

Apart from the fortress, was there another place more suitable and less inconspicuous? If not, the treasure was actually hidden in the fortress, it was just in a place people could not find!

Thirdly, his last doubt was naturally over the hexagram! Whether it was the Kun Zhen hexagram or the Kun Gen hexagram, at least one of them was within Zhao Yu’s understanding.

But... what did Kun Zhen-gen mean? Kun meant a big matter, Zhen was geographical, and Gen was related to the present moment of the case... maybe what was about to happen would be linked to all three words...?

While Zhao Yu was deep in thought, he realized something unusual!

If this case really could be cracked and they could find the treasure, then the hexagram should contain a Dui character to represent wealth! Could it be... the hexagram was foreshadowing that he would ultimately not find the treasure, but instead, be met with something even bigger?!

Chapter 1134: It's Not that Complicated

It was now 10:00am at Feng Ping Police Station in the Special Investigation Unit's Office.

Ma Jichun, who had just completed his tasks, pushed the door open and barged into the room only to be met with a surprising scene.

Zhao Yu was not standing in front of the whiteboard engrossed in deciphering the case like he normally would be. Instead, he and Miao Ying were sparring against each other like they were sizing each other up.

Noticing Ma Jichun's arrival, Miao Ying's shoulder shook and her fist pierced through Zhao Yu's defense, hitting his chest.

"That's it!" Miao Ying said, her eyes lighting up. "Zhao Yu, from what I can see, that person was not using normal fighting techniques! He was using our traditional Chinese wushu!"

"That's right!" Zhao Yu said, patting his chest. "When I interacted with him, I felt like something was weird. His actions did not appear to be particularly violent, but they were hard to withstand. It was similar to what Secret Service agents normally use!"

"What's even more amazing is that it's a little ironic! Did you know? The fighting style the masked man used is famous!" She made a move and introduced it. "This is indeed the lost fist Huo Yuanjia used in the past!"

"Wow... the lost fist?" Zhao Yu exclaimed. "That sophisticated, huh?"

"The lost fist uses repairment as its goal. It trains your internal energy, the ease of arm strikes and the movement is agile, so it is known as a formal competition segment in martial arts!" Miao Ying said. "But... now there are very few people who can put the lost fist to practical use!"

Listening to Miao Ying's explanation, all the officers felt a little surprised.

"It's a little ironic!" Zhao Yu laughed. "In the past, Huo Yuanjia used the lost fist to beat the Japanese, but now the Japanese have mastered the lost fist and used it to beat me. They really did learn from their mistakes!"

"China's martial arts are amazing. If learned properly, they are compared to the professional techniques employed by Secret Services!" Miao Ying said. "There are many disciples who have learned the lost fist, so it's not an exaggeration to say that it has a far reach. Plus, some of the real experts are typically pretty low key. We can't pursue this lead, it's too late!"

"Right..." Zhao Yu nodded and waved his fist. "But there may be a chance in the future, so teach it to me too! This technique is good..."

“Uhm...” At that moment, Ma Jichun saw that Zhao Yu and Miao Ying’s discussion had ended and hurriedly cut in. “Leader Zhao, I have brought the results of the decryption. Have a look!”

“From the looks of it, it does not seem too optimistic. There are no visible hints in the photo!”

“Eh!” Hearing this, Cui Lizhu couldn’t help but feel a little deflated. “I have already said this, but my dad is the master thief Tao Xiang. If there were really any leads on the Russian doll, he would definitely have found them!”

When this was brought up, Ma Jichun passed some information over to Li Beini and continued, saying “Leader Zhao, all the bombs in the fortress have been completely removed. There was a total of eight C4 bomb compounds in the fortress. Can you believe that?!”

“What?!” Cui Lizhu was scared stiff. “That many?”

“You guys were really lucky!” Ma Jichun said. “Apart from the one that Leader Zhao defused, the other bomb ignition systems on the others had problems. If even one had gone off, the consequences would be hard to imagine!”

“Oh, f*ck!” Zhao Yu ran forward when he heard this. “Wow, that’s pretty sick! Is it because the cave was wet? Were the bombs affected because of that? Hahaha...”

Zhao Yu’s dry laughter made the whole atmosphere even more awkward.

“This... this isn’t about luck!” Zhang Jingfeng said, pinching his nose. “The chance of this is less than the chance of winning the lottery, right?”

“The way I see it...” Wu Xiumin said, “It’s not that the bombs weren’t working, but the enemies planned it on purpose! Maybe they have some other motive...”

“Then... what about the treasure?” Miao Ying asked. “Are there any new discoveries?”

“The search team has already searched the area thoroughly once,” Ma Jichun answered. “There is definitely no more treasure in the living areas. But, inside they found six secret passageways. Some of which were blocked, while some were bombed to pieces. We still need to clean up the debris before we can continue with our search!”

“It’s probably not there!” Liu Zhanbing said. “That group of people has been searching the fortress for so long, if the treasure was there, they would definitely have found it by now!”

“Oh, right...” Ma Jichun suddenly remembered something else. “We have also investigated the Tian family and found out that Tian Zheng’s grandfather is a really highly ranked Japanese official!”

“His name is Bao Tiantai. He is an internal affairs officer and also the secretary!” Ma Jichun said. “From the looks of it, there is a chance he would have dealt with the innermost core secrets of the Guan Dong army!”

“Japan hid hints about the doll and gave it to Bao Tiantai to safeguard...” Cui Lizhu guessed. “Bao Tiantai stayed in China, so...”

“According to the information we have on hand,” Ma Jichun said, interrupting Cui Lizhu, “After the war, Bao Tiantai has been staying in China, probably as a spy and possibly preparing for a comeback!”

“But due to some unknown reasons, it wasn’t long before Bao Tiantai passed away. The Russian doll was left to his son, who was Tian Zheng’s father. But by the time it reached Tian Zheng’s hands, the secret behind the Russian doll had already been leaked!”

“I think...” Wu Xiumin began, proffering his guess, “For a secret as important as this, the Japanese army wouldn’t have entrusted it all to one person. They must have left other clues in the country!”

“But because of one political incident where there was a misunderstanding, they themselves now can’t find it!” Ma Jichun said. “So, the Japanese side’s only hope was to find Bao Tiantai’s descendants to retrieve the doll.”

“We have been going around in circles, but at the end of the day we still need to find the doll!” Zhao Yu said, displaying the information Ma Jichun brought on the big screen. “So, our current task of the utmost urgency is to solve this mystery!”

“But...” Zhang Jingfeng said sounding worried, “If so many experts at decryption couldn’t solve this, could it be this lead is no good?”

“Regardless of whether or not there’s been a mistake, the Russian doll is our only chance!” Miao Ying said, putting her foot down on the matter.

“Actually...” Zhao Yu flipped through the details on the screen and thought about the case carefully. “I think there really is a secret within the doll. Maybe things are not as complicated as we think they are!”

“Oh?” Everyone looked at the doll on the big screen.

“Think about it,” Zhao Yu said. “Japan lost the war quickly, which would mean they had very little time to hide the treasure. They still had to choose someone to keep the treasure and leave clues behind. Where did they find the time to plan and execute such an intricate plan?”

“Therefore...” Zhao Yu said, using a laser pen and pointing at the dolls on the screen, “I think the secret may be on the doll itself!”

“Oh?” Everyone was confused and looked on seriously.

“Look at this,” Zhao Yu pointed at the dolls. “These five dolls look exactly the same. That might mean they are referring to the same person! Now look, this doll is dressed in red from head to toe and looks very mature. I think she is about to get married!”

“What you’re saying is...” Miao Ying asked with uncertainty, “If we know who the woman depicted in the dolls is, the mystery will be unraveled?”

Chapter 1135: A Familiar Feeling

“Leader Zhao...” Ma Jichun said awkwardly. “Our decryption experts have already looked into the identity of the woman on the doll, but they have found nothing! You see... this woman seems to have been drawn so abstractly that even if it was a realistic drawing, it would be impossible to compare!”

“Not a comparison!” Zhao Yu said. “Think about it, if the Japanese wanted to draw a Russian beauty on this doll, then the woman would have close ties to them, right?”

“If they buried the treasure in Dong Bei, then could this woman possibly have been linked to Dong Bei?”

“Eh? I just thought of something!” Li Beini blurted. “In the 1900s, Russia once invaded Feng Ping, and it became the Cossack troop’s nest. They were there for nearly two-and-a-half years!”

“At that time, the Japanese movement in the Dong Bei area was very normal, and it even erupted into the Russo-Japanese war. Do you think this woman was from that era?”

“I... I’ll check it out now!” Zhang Jingfeng said in a hurry, opening his computer to investigate.

“Leader, this deduction...” Wu Xiumin said, seemingly opposed. “It doesn’t seem very likely. Would the Japanese really leave all their treasures to one Russian woman? And this lead seems a little too easy...”

“As long as there’s a sliver of hope we should still pursue it!” Miao Ying said, supporting Zhao Yu. She then turned to Ma Jichun. “You should quickly get in touch with your leader Li Jing. We need to ask those Russian guests to take part. If there really is such a person who existed, then the Russians would know better than us!”

“This...” Ma Jichun appeared to be in a tough spot.

“What’s with the hesitation?” Miao Ying urged. “The longer this drags on, the slimmer the chance to find the treasure gets! If you are still concerned about your international relations at this point, then we will lose an opportune lead!”

“That’s right!” Zhao Yu said. “These terrorists have bombs! I am scared that they may not be finding the treasure to keep it, but to destroy it! Just like at the fortress, they want to detonate the entire area so we will get nothing!”

“Okay, okay...” Ma Jichun said, his temples drenched with sweat. He hurriedly rushed out to make a phone call and ask Li Jing for permission.

Zhao Yu zoomed in to the picture and took a closer look. It felt a little strange. The more he looked at the doll, the more he felt that the details between the dolls’ eyes were drawn with care and did not look like a simple cartoon character. She would definitely be distinguished from the other characters.

She also had a beautiful red veil on her body. No matter how he looked at it, she looked like a bride who was about to get married. This woman... did she really exist? What was the link between her and the treasure?

A few hours passed and Zhao Yu and company faced the huge screen, analyzing the photo of the doll in detail in an attempt to find new clues. Zhang Jingfeng looked through the materials but did not find anybody close to who they were looking for. Just to be sure, Zhao Yu had used an even better search tool, but still found nothing suitable.

Since they could not find any more clues, Zhao Yu opened the map of Feng Ping and thoroughly analyzed Lin She, Jiang City, Yu Ning, and even the distant Huang Jin City. He wanted to find a place that was more secretive and suitable for hiding the treasure than the fortress, but after searching for half a day he still could not find anything.

No matter what angle they looked at this from, the fortress that they found was the best place to bury the treasure. If it hadn't been hidden there, then where else could it be?

Also... the more Zhao Yu thought about it, the more he felt something was strange about the treasure. The enemy expended so much effort, it was obvious that the treasure really existed!

But to have hidden 19 boxes of gold, plus the rare treasure and gems the Japanese had gathered over the decades, seemed impossible. If they had really hidden this shocking amount of treasure somewhere for over 80 years, would it really have flown under the radar?

From the first person, Bao Tiantai, to the last person, Tao Xiang, so many people had interacted with the Russian dolls, how could there be no leads? Or could there be... another possibility?

Keeping that in mind, Zhao Yu took out the map that depicted the land during the war to compare. Then out of habit, he began to add more information to the whiteboard while adding his own case analysis. He didn't know why, but the minute he thought about how he had opened such a unique hexagram, the truth behind the treasure seemed to be right in front of his eyes.

Kun Zhen-gen...

The Gen hexagram only appeared at the end which meant that the Zhen hexagram would appear only after a certain point. The Zhen hexagram represented a geographical location. The case details and locations were equally important, yet not more important than the location...

Kun Zhen-gen...

What did such a hexagram represent?

Time was ticking and although both the Special Investigations Team and Secret Services were doing all they could to find any information they could about the Russian dolls, they ultimately found nothing.

At noon, Xu Hai bought lunch for everyone, but nobody had an appetite. They were all busy with their own work.

At that moment, the huge screen was playing a compilation of the details the decryption experts had found. They split, rotated, magnified, made puzzles of the photos, and so on. A lot of the photos seemed to be a mess and had no sequence.

"Lil Cui..." Wu Xiumin said, placing her phone down. "The Secret Services psychologist is here, prepare yourself!"

"Oh..." Cui Lizhu nodded to show she understood, but her eyes darted around nervously.

"It will be fine. I will accompany you throughout the whole process later!" Wu Xiumin said.

"What?" Zhao Yu teased Cui Lizhu when he saw how pale her face was. "Didn't you do hypnosis last time? What's there to worry about? Don't tell me there is something weird you're hiding from us?"

"No..." Cui Lizhu said, staring at the screen with uncertainty. "I just feel like something is off..."

"Oh?" Zhao Yu asked in a hurry. "Is there? What's so strange?"

"If I knew would I still be thinking about it?" Cui Lizhu asked, frowning. "Boss, I think... there's something strange about the doll. From the photo, it seems different from what I played with in the past!"

"What?!" Zhao Yu froze. "What the h*ll! Why didn't you say something as important as this earlier?"

"But I can't be sure!" Cui Lizhu said, pulling her hair. "After so many years, my impression has faded. But... I feel like the dolls I played with were a little older, the color was not as vibrant, and at the top, there was a part where the paint was chipped off... wait..."

When she said this, Cui Lizhu seemed to remember something and quickly closed her eyes to urge the memory to come forward. "Right! That's it! They scratched one of the corners! And... that mark had been made with a small knife!"

"What?" Zhao Yu hurriedly zoomed in on the image, but the photo of the doll was completely fine. There were no marks or chipped paint.

"About that..." Miao Ying said. "It shouldn't be that hard to figure out, right? Tao Xiang stole the doll, then took a photo of it before deciding to do some research. So, Tao Xiang scratched the part where the paint is chipped."

"Ah, that's true!" Cui Lizhu said, nodding. "After scratching it open there was probably nothing, right? If my dad had found a clue, he would have already searched for the treasure!"

"Oh..." Everyone let out a sigh, relieved it was all a false alarm.

"All right, almost here..." Wu Xiumin pointed at the door and signaled to Cui Lizhu. "We need to go!"

Cui Lizhu seemed engrossed in her thoughts and stared, fixated on the screen.

"Lil Cui..." Zhao Yu noticed Cui Lizhu acting strangely and asked, "What happened, did you remember something else?"

"No, no... it's not that..." Cui Lizhu shook her head without blinking. "It's more like... familiarity? I feel like I've seen this woman's clothes somewhere before..." she said, pointing at the lady on the doll.

"Ah? That can't be?" Zhao Yu was shocked and asked urgently "Where have you seen it before? When you were younger?"

"No, not that long ago!" Cui Lizhu turned her gaze towards Zhao Yu and said with certainty. "I saw it recently! And boss, you were there as well!"

"What?!" Zhao Yu was confused. "When was this? How do I not have any recollection of it?"

Chapter 1136: Is it the Correct Answer?

"What do you mean?" Miao Ying asked, her eyes widening with shock as she looked at Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu suspiciously. "What do you mean you two have seen it before together?!"

"Uhm... yea!" Zhao Yu hurried towards Cui Lizhu. "Xiao Cui, this matter concerns my innocence, you better explain it clearly!"

Cui Lizhu was speechless and said nothing. Instead, she continued to stare at the picture on the big screen. After a few moments, she closed her eyes in an attempt to remember.

Not quite sure of herself, she began, "I remember... the clothes of the woman on the Russian doll... they look really familiar... I just saw it recently, and boss was there as well! And also... also... Li Beini and Old Zhang..." She breathed heavily, clasping her hands with a pained look on her face.

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu said, relaxing after he heard this. Pointing at Li Beini and Zhang Jingfeng, he said, "Hurry! Both of you, try to remember!"

"Impossible!" Li Beini said. "There is no way we saw this dress. We have no memory of it!"

"Yeah!" Zhang Jingfeng said, nodding. "My memory isn't that bad!"

"Wait... the four of us... when did we ever go to a fashion store together?" Zhao Yu asked, recalling something.

"Oh, wait!" Zhang Jingfeng said, hitting his thighs and turning to Zhao Yu. "A while ago when you tried to lure the enemy out, didn't you bring us out to travel? We strolled the streets! Could it be from back then?"

"Oh!" Cui Lizhu said, opening her eyes and clapping her hands together excitedly. "Qing Dynasty Palace! That's where I saw it!"

"Wait, what?" Zhao Yu whispered, shocked. "Wouldn't it be Universal Studios? Why would such clothes be inside the Qing Dynasty Palace?"

"Right?" Li Beini said, scratching her head. "Why do I not have any recollection of this at all?"

"They're not clothes!" Cui Lizhu said, running to the big screen and pointing at the red dress in the photo. "Look! The doll's clothes are red, and the bottom has regular green patterns and wavy lines. Think about it... isn't it similar to the inner walls of the Qing Dynasty Palace?"

After hearing this, Zhao Yu and the rest said nothing because they felt that Cui Lizhu was grasping at straws. How could clothes be associated with walls?

"This is a common habit in our line of work!" Cui Lizhu said. "We make some marks before making a move. This red dress is certainly one of such markings!"

"It might seem a little abstract, but look at it from another perspective..."

Seeing Cui Lizhu's gestures, Li Beini quickly flipped the picture. When everyone inspected just the dress, they could see it somewhat resembled the walls.

"Look!" Cui Lizhu said, pointing at the green embellishment. "These are all the green tiles at the top of the wall, these wavy lines are exactly the same as the patterns on the roof!"

"Boss, boss!" Cui Lizhu spoke to Zhao Yu again. "Weren't you just saying earlier how the secret behind these Russian dolls was right in front of our eyes? It can't get any simpler than this!"

"Uhm..." Zhao Yu still could not believe it. "Isn't this a little too... simple? The dress represents the inner walls of the Qing Dynasty Palace? I mean..."

“Yea, isn’t that way too simplistic? Almost like child’s play?” Wu Xiumin asked as she shook her head. “It’s a matter related to the treasures. Would the clues on the dolls be this childish? Could it just be a coincidence?”

“Long dresses are usually narrow at the top and wide below. It wouldn’t be odd if it were shaped like a triangle,” Cui Lizhu said, insisting on her stance. “But the dress on the doll isn’t like that! Have you ever seen a squarish dress?”

“I have, it’s called an apron!” Zhang Jingfeng said. He realized he had misspoken and quickly leaned back into his seat.

“Everyone...” Li Beini suddenly said. “I just checked. The roofs of the Forbidden City and the Ming Palace don’t have patterns like these. There are beasts on those walls!”

“This...” When they heard this, everyone fell silent.

Wait a minute, just wait... Zhao Yu said silently in his heart. The palace of the Qing Dynasty... the palace of the Qing Dynasty... could it be...?

Zhao Yu had thought about this a hundred times. Where would the safest place be for the Japanese to bury their treasures?

Now that he thought about it, what happens if they had really buried the treasure in the Imperial Palace of the Qing Dynasty? It was the shadow under the light! The most dangerous place was probably the safest! No one would have thought they would bury the treasure in such an obvious location.

God f*cking d*mn it! Zhao Yu couldn’t help but shiver. Cold sweat began to form on his brow. The Qing Dynasty Palace was an important historical architectural site, people in the future would protect it and it was impossible to carry out any digging. Therefore, if the treasure was hidden there, it would never have been exposed!

The Japanese had seized Feng Ping for such a long time that it wasn’t inconceivable that they had built a secret hideout in the palace. Could it be? Was the answer really that simple?

Were the instructions on the doll really pointing to the Qing Dynasty Palace? Were the shocking treasures really hidden there?

Everyone present in the room were great detectives, and if Zhao Yu could come to this conclusion, so could they. Li Beini had already begun furiously typing on her keyboard.

“When the Japanese seized Feng Ping, they maintained and repaired the Qing Dynasty Palace for several years. There were quite a few rooms that they had maintained and built, so...” Li Beini said.

“Zhao Yu...” Miao Ying turned to Zhao Yu and they shared a look.

“Yup,” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “It doesn’t matter if Lil Cui’s guess is correct or not, we all have to take a trip to the Qing Dynasty Palace!”

“But...” Li Beini said, looking at the information, “The Qing Palace Museum is over 60,000 square meters and contains over 500 houses. How are we supposed to comb through such a big area?!”

“I’ve been there!” Cui Lizhu said with excitement. “Not all the houses have that pattern!”

“And...” Ma Jichun said. “We can find experts!”

“Then we can’t wait any longer!” Miao Ying said, snapping at Ma Jichun. “If our guess is correct, then Seraph’s people are probably near the Qing Palace as well!”

“I get it, I get it...” Ma Jichun quickly pulled out his mobile phone. “I will report this to Leader Li and get some support!”

“Wait a minute!” Zhao Yu said, unexpectedly stopping him. “Tell Leader Li that everyone is going there in plain clothes. Don’t create a scene! The masked a**hole has already run once, I don’t want him escaping a second time!”

“Got it!” Ma Jichun nodded and was about to make the phone call, but his phone rang first. After answering, his face paled and he hurriedly passed the phone to Zhao Yu.

“Zhao Yu!” Li Jing’s voice was loud and clear. “The Russians have replied! The clue on the doll is most likely to point to Feng Ping’s Qing Dynasty Palace!”

F*ck... Zhao Yu was stunned. “What do you mean?!”

“The Russians told us after checking that the woman on the dolls is most likely a real person!” Li Jing said quickly. “She was the wife of a Russian military officer who lived in the Cossack military camp with her husband.

“When the Russo-Japanese war broke out, the Tsarists were defeated, and the woman was stuck in the military camp. In order to not be humiliated, she committed suicide by jumping into the well!

“The Russians have recorded this story and the Japanese army have also recorded that Japanese soldiers living in the Cossack military camps often report seeing a female ghost in a red dress!

“Zhao Yu!” Li Jing’s tone had changed because of her excitement. “The Cossack military camp is the Qing Dynasty Palace! The treasure of the Japanese should be in the vicinity of the well where the woman in the red dress jumped!”

Chapter 1137: Can’t Take Risks

“This is next level!” Xu Hai said on the drive towards the Qing Dynasty Palace. “To think they would use a story of a female ghost as a clue... only the Japanese are capable of something this depraved!”

“Leader Zhao,” Liu Zhanbing said as he loaded his pistol. “I don’t think we’re wrong this time! Since the characters and clothes all point towards the Qing Dynasty Palace, it must mean that the world-shaking treasures are there.”

Yeah... Zhao Yu didn’t know how to answer. Although the clues were obvious now, he still felt like something was not quite right.

“The Qing Dynasty Palace was the palace that was used until the collapse of the Qing Dynasty!” Xu Hai added. “In the period of the Russian and Japanese invasion, tens of thousands of precious cultural relics were lost!

“Who would have thought that the Japanese would really hide their gold treasures here? It’s really unexpected. Too cunning!”

“It’d be great if everything could really be found!” Liu Zhanbing said with enthusiasm. “We can really make a name for ourselves! All thanks to Leader Zhao’s good fortune!”

“D*mn it!” Cui Lizhu said angrily as she crossed her arms. “You haven’t even seen anything yet, and you’re already thinking about the end result? You haven’t crossed hands with these people!”

“All right,” Miao Ying said after looking at her watch. “We are almost there! We will definitely arrive before Secret Services, so all of you keep an eye out. The enemy may appear at any time!”

“If that’s the case...” Xu Hai said, concerned, “Since there are tourists everywhere, should we at least evacuate the crowd first?”

“Of course not!” Liu Zhanbing said, shaking his head. “Everything is just conjecture at this point. If you evacuate the crowd, you will only cause panic. And furthermore, once you do that, you will inadvertently alert the enemy!”

Zhao Yu, who was listening to the two debates, suddenly thought of something important. This wouldn’t do! He remembered his hexagram. No matter what was about to happen, the Kun in his hexagram represented a big event that was about to happen. Since he knew that, he couldn’t be selfish! As much as he wanted to use this opportunity to catch the masked man, thinking about the hexagram made him realize he had to give that plan up.

“Leader Miao!” Zhao Yu said seriously to Miao Ying. “We have to change our plan! We must evacuate the crowd.”

“What?!” Miao Ying frowned. “Why? Once the crowd is evacuated, we may never get the chance to catch Seraph again!”

“No...” Zhao Yu shook his head. “Think about it, let’s say the treasure really was buried in the palace. Do you think they’d be able to transport such a huge amount of treasure?”

“Uhm...” Zhao Yu’s words had rendered everyone speechless.

“It’s like their secret base,” Zhao Yu said seriously. “Their purpose is not to keep it, but to destroy it! We can’t put the lives of so many people at risk.”

“Th... that...” Miao Ying was at a loss.

“Even if we cannot catch the criminal, at least there is a chance!” Zhao Yu said. “We cannot afford to let something bad happen. If they even manage to get a few hostages, it will hinder us greatly.”

“Hmm...” Miao Ying nodded.

Zhao Yu quickly pulled out his phone and got in touch with Li Jing. Li Jing and Zhao Yu had the same thought. She too believed that they couldn't risk the lives of innocent people and would rather shoot themselves in the foot and face criticism. They had to move the crowd.

However, this was easier said than done. Although they had decided to move the crowd, it was still the middle of the tourist season and there were many of them in the palace. The area was large, and the evacuation wouldn't be possible on such short notice. When Zhao Yu and the rest rushed to the ticket office, they saw that tickets were no longer being sold, but they did not see many people leaving.

Since this was a field operation, Zhao Yu only brought Miao Ying, Cui Lizhu, Xu Hai, and Liu Zhanbing. Although Cui Lizhu was not exactly a field operative trained to fight and kill, she played an important role in cracking the treasure case and he naturally couldn't leave her behind.

Secret Services had contacted the management office of the tourist location in advance. When Zhao Yu and the others arrived with their identification, the staff were already waiting at the door to let them in.

It was only then that Zhao Yu saw that the tourists were beginning to be evacuated. Some of them were cooperative, while others were visibly angered and rushed to the management office to ask for a refund.

Zhao Yu held his pistol and carefully watched each visitor, paying attention to their every move. At that point, the expert guide recommended by the palace came and Miao Ying hurriedly asked about the woman in the red dress and the story of the well.

"Well?" The tour guide asked, stunned. "There is an eight-treasure tiled well pavilion in the palace, but because of safety concerns, it's already been sealed! As for the red-dressed woman you were mentioning..." The tour guide shook his head. "I have never heard of her before! I have read all the historical materials related to the Cossack invasion, but none of them mentioned a story about a woman!"

"If not a woman, then what about a female ghost?" Cui Lizhu asked hurriedly. "The Japanese had a rumor that they often saw a Russian woman in red near the well. Have you heard anything about that?"

"This..." The tour guide was instantly stumped. "Are you guys really from the Special Investigations Team? How could you believe this nonsense?"

"Forget it, let's not waste our time with him!" Cui Lizhu said to Zhao Yu, shaking her head. "Let's hurry and go in, we'll have a look ourselves!"

"Let me ask you!" Zhao Yu asked the guide. "How many wells are there inside?"

"Uhm... we have over 20 wells," the guide said uncertainly. "But all of them have been sealed!"

"That's good," Zhao Yu said, raising his hand. "Hurry and lead us to them. Now!"

"Alright, alright..." Seeing how on guard Zhao Yu and the rest were, the guard wasted no time and hurriedly brought them into the palace.

"Hmm..." Cui Lizhu nodded.

Just as they were approaching the first well, two security guards came running in from the front door. They appeared flustered and one of them held a fire extinguisher.

“Oh? What’s wrong? What happened?” Zhao Yu asked, hurriedly pulling them to one side as he felt something was wrong.

“We just got a report that the Chao Feng building area started smoking!” the security guard said in a panic. “I’m afraid it’s on fire!”

Sh*t!

Hearing this, Zhao Yu and the rest were shocked. After exchanging glances, Miao Ying readied her gun and gave orders to the guide. “Tell your superior to speed up the evacuation, it’s dangerous here!”

Zhao Yu and the rest took out their pistols. Together with the two security guards, they rushed into the depths of the palace...

Chapter 1138: Invisible Drone

Chao Feng Building was at the center of the entire palace and was the tallest building amongst it. You could see almost half the attraction if you stood on the top floor and looked out.

Zhao Yu and the team had yet to reach the front, but from a distance they could already see thick smoke rising from the platform. It seemed to be a really big fire.

The security guard holding the fire extinguisher was frightened. The Chao Feng Building was the most important historical building in the country. The consequences of it catching on fire were unimaginable.

Looking at the thick smoke, he could not care less about the dangers and rushed in headfirst.

This smoke... Zhao Yu looked up and felt really bad. If the smoke was really related to the criminals, that meant that they were alerted by the emergency evacuation ordered for the tourists and were following through with contingency plans.

The actual number of enemies out there was unclear, but many tourists had yet to be evacuated. If this fire had been set with the intention to kill, the consequences would be unimaginable.

However, the situation was of the utmost urgency and Zhao Yu didn’t have time to formulate an actual plan. He rushed in with the security guard.

After rushing up the steps to the front of Chao Feng Building, they realized that the smoke wasn’t coming from the tall building, but from a random trash can on the ground. The rolling smoke in the trash can was very pungent. Everyone knew that a normal trash can would not emit that much smoke, unless...

“What’s happening here?” the security guard asked. He thought the situation was weird but still proceeded to pull the latch on the fire extinguisher and aimed it towards the can. As the fire extinguisher powder entered the can, the smoke substantially subsided.

“Cough... cough...”

While they were putting out the smoke, a coughing sound could be heard from the flower bed next to it. Miao Ying, who was closest, immediately stepped forward to look and saw another man in a security uniform lying in the flowerbed.

“Ah? Xiao Liu? What happened?” One of the security guards recognized him and ran forward to ask, “What’s going on?”

“I... I was attacked by someone!” the security guard said, holding his head in pain. “I don’t remember anything after that!”

Hearing this, Miao Ying immediately cocked her gun and stood up, looking around at their surroundings. There was no doubt that the smoke and the assault on the security guard were the doings of the mysterious enemies.

It seemed like the mysterious Seraph organization had infiltrated the Qing Dynasty Palace. They, too, had cracked the mystery behind the doll and found their way here!

But what they didn’t understand was why they had put smoke bombs under the Phoenix Building. Was this a signal or were they asking for reinforcements? No, that couldn’t be. They were all terrorists, who could they call for backup?

The Chao Feng Building was located on a four-meter-high platform. From the platform, it was possible to see some distant places.

“Hey, look!” Miao Ying said. She was scanning the surroundings and suddenly found that there was exactly the same kind of smoke coming up to the west.

“F*ck!” Zhao Yu scolded, frowning. “What do these people want? Are they playing some sort of fire beacon game in the palace?”

“Quick!” Miao Ying gestured to Zhao Yu, wondering why he wasn’t rushing over.

“Wait!” Zhao Yu stopped Miao Ying. “Miaomiao, no! I think the smoke bomb was used as a form of cover. I suspect this is part of their plan to lead us there. Let’s not be fooled!” As he said this, Zhao Yu squatted down and took a look around. “Either that or... they want to create a diversion!”

“This is our motherland; we can’t let them commit such blasphemous acts!” Miao Ying said angrily. “Secret Services will be arriving soon. They will not be able to escape then, even if they have wings!”

“How about this? Let’s split up! Xu Hai and I will go have a look. Liu Zhanbing, Cui Lizhu, and you will go check out the other suspicious locations!” Miao Ying said, pulling Zhao Yu’s arm. Without waiting for his agreement, she immediately jumped off with Xu Hai and ran towards the area that was smoking.

“Then...” Liu Zhanbing asked, “Leader Zhao, where should we go?”

“You don’t go anywhere. Stand guard here with Cui Lizhu! I’ll go alo-...” Before Zhao Yu could finish his sentence, the invisible detector in his brain caught something.

What? A gun! A... pistol? Zhao Yu was shocked and hurriedly checked the detector in his brain. The signal of the pistol was coming from the northeastern corner of the Phoenix Building and was moving from east to west in the back!

F*ck! Zhao Yu knew that the Secret Services team wouldn't be able to arrive in time, and a pistol moving meant that the enemies were there!

As long as he could catch this person, he would be able to find out what they were trying to do. Following the signal on the display, Zhao Yu immediately turned towards the northeast corner. However, it was still covered in smoke and nothing could be seen.

What was worse was that the pistol had only appeared for a few seconds before disappearing from the display, which meant that it had gone out of range of the detector. This wasn't good!

Zhao Yu felt his heart constricting. From the last enhancement, the detector's range had already been extended up to 70 meters. Since the signal was out of range it meant that the person was at least 70 meters away from him.

Moreover, watching the speed of the signal, it was clear that the person with the gun was moving very quickly. If Zhao Yu didn't hurry and give chase, he wouldn't be able to catch up.

"You two stay guard here!" Zhao Yu ordered Liu Zhanbing and Cui Lizhu. "Don't go anywhere and quickly get in touch with Secret Services. Wait for their support, understand?"

"Understood!" Liu Zhanbing said, nodding.

"But... boss... where are you going? Why don't we go together?" Cui Lizhu asked with worry, both for her own safety and that of Zhao Yu.

"Xiao Cui, be obedient!" Zhao Yu didn't know how to explain the situation to Cui Lizhu but seeing her face full of worry made his heart fill with warmth.

Although Zhao Yu knew that the enemies' goal was no longer to kidnap Cui Lizhu, he released an Emergency Evacuation Ball on her just in case. After placing that, Zhao Yu felt relieved as he entered the thick smoke, running to where the pistol's signal had disappeared.

Zhao Yu initially thought that he would quickly be able to catch up with the signal of the pistol with the enhanced detector range, but when he ran down the steps and rushed out of the thick fog, he suddenly felt a bad omen.

When he saw he was surrounded by walls with entrances and exits extending in all directions that blocked his view, he was not sure where the enemy would have gone.

What now? If Zhao Yu gave chase in the wrong direction, then this was all pointless. In a hurry, Zhao Yu looked back at the towering Chao Feng building and wished with all his heart that he could fly so he could see further!

But... there were so many people here he couldn't possibly use the Flying Equipment! He could use the Invisible Coat, but that would be a waste of resources, right? Such precious tools should be saved for a critical time!

Wait! That's it! At that moment, Zhao Yu remembered he had just received another device around the time his last Kun Gen hexagram ended: The Invisible Drone!

As the name suggested, the system would release an Invisible Drone that couldn't be seen. It was perfect for the situation, right?

Chapter 1139: Bluetooth Earpiece

The drone successfully rose into the sky. The body itself was invisible, so not even Zhao Yu could see it. As the drone flew higher, a new control panel appeared on Zhao Yu's system, and he could clearly see the video the drone captured.

Good, good... this is awesome! Zhao Yu was controlling the drone and looking attentively for his target.

With his newly widened field of vision, Zhao Yu quickly saw on his screen an overview of the area and the many well-connected paths behind the Phoenix Building. Other than the small group of people gathered outside the palace, there was no one.

Zhao Yu estimated that based on the direction and distance the person with the gun was most likely within this group.

They were probably tourists. Amongst them was a tour guide, holding a flag standing right at the front, guiding them. Their footsteps were hurried. They were probably looking for the exit since they had received a notice to evacuate.

Ah! So sly! Zhao Yu understood now. The enemy had used the smoke bombs as a distraction so they could pretend to be tourists and escape amidst the chaos.

Hmph! In your dreams, little boy. No matter who you are, you have met the great Zhao Yu, and that's your own bad luck! Zhao Yu picked up his pace and ran towards the group of people.

Because of the drone, Zhao Yu naturally was able to take shortcuts, and it wasn't long before he ran into an empty field in front of the palace.

Now that he was right in front of the crowd, he was able to see the group of people walking towards him as well as the tanned tour guide standing at the front of the group. He was explaining the situation to the tourists.

"Here! We are closest to the east gate, so we should exit from there!" The tour guide's words were a little unusual because he was unable to say some words and his pronunciation was off. Hearing the voice rushing them, he was probably anxious to get everyone out safely.

"Guide, is this place on fire?" A fat lady asked loudly. "Look at all the smoke! Are we in danger?"

"No, we're not, we're not..." While the tour guide was explaining, Zhao Yu had already run up to them and brushed shoulders with them. Zhao Yu was scrutinizing the many tourists, while the detector in his head was trying to find the location of the pistol.

Eh, it's here! Zhao Yu quickly found the location of the pistol. It was still moving away from him. Thanks to the detector, Zhao Yu realized that the person holding the pistol was indeed with the group of tourists, except he was headed west.

He lifted his head to take a closer look and saw a man of a middle-sized build appear at the side of the palace furthest away from him. The man had kept his body close to the huge stone pillars and was making his way back toward the palace.

Although Zhao Yu did not see the person clearly, based on the person's profile and the way he walked, Zhao Yu felt goosebumps on his body and his heart began to beat rapidly.

His silhouette was familiar! Could this be the masked man? Zhao Yu laughed manically in his heart. As they said, enemies were bound to meet!

Ha! Little boy, you probably didn't think that I would find you so quickly, right?

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu raised his gun and aimed at the man, intending to take him by surprise. He wanted to shoot the man first and consider the consequences later!

Although it may not be the same masked man, it was undeniable that he had a gun and was walking suspiciously. Thus, Zhao Yu had already made his decision and was prepared to make the first move in order to gain an advantage.

But just as he was about to take a shot, his heart trembled.

Wait, no! He suddenly recalled something and his face turned pale. This was bad! When Zhao Yu had brushed shoulders with the tour guide, he noticed that the tour guide had a Bluetooth earpiece in his ears.

Although he had thought the earpiece looked a little familiar, because all his attention was on the masked man, he had not given it a second thought. But now that he was about to take a shot, he suddenly realized the Bluetooth earpiece looked exactly the same as the criminals back in the fortress! Back then, Zhao Yu had taken off one of the criminal's earpieces, so it had left quite a deep impression on him.

The tour guide with the tanned skin and subpar Chinese... sh*t!

It was too late. When Zhao Yu realized this, he had already raised his gun and aimed at the target. The tour guide, who was standing to the side, suddenly got up and threw his body at Zhao Yu, causing Zhao Yu to fall to the ground.

Zhao Yu rolled on the ground a few times due to the impact and turned around, wanting to use the gun to shoot the fake tour guide. But the tour guide was an expert fighter and before Zhao Yu could even fully turn, he had already kicked Zhao Yu and put a stop to his plans.

Bang! The gun fired, but the bullet launched into the air and hit nothing. The fake tour guide kicked the gun away. All the tourists and guests didn't know what was going on and the moment they heard the gunfire they began running in all directions, scared out of their minds.

The fake tour guide did not have the most agile of bodies, but he had a lot of strength. He punched Zhao Yu a couple of times. Zhao Yu almost couldn't breathe.

If Zhao Yu had not suffered a bad injury earlier, he might have felt up to fighting this man, but Zhao Yu's old injuries had yet to heal and he could not use that much strength.

What was more life-threatening was that in the distance, the masked man who had seen what happened had already taken his gun out and was walking in their direction. If he was still stuck in this struggle when the man reached them, Zhao Yu would not meet a good ending!

Zhao Yu had no intention of continuing the brawl and hurriedly scrambled to get the gun, but the fake tour guide was already one step ahead of him. He lunged forward and waved his arms in the air, successfully grabbing Zhao Yu by the waist.

The two of them fell to the floor with a thud. Just hearing the sound was enough to know how painful it was.

The masked man in the distance had taken aim at Zhao Yu and was about to shoot. At that moment, Zhao Yu positioned his palm on the tour guide's face and flipped his arm outwards, revealing a taser under his sleeves!

Bzztttt!! The taser released a flicker of blue light and hit the tour guide's face. The fake tour guide's body trembled for a while and he had fainted in the blink of an eye.

Zhao Yu had already prepared the taser before he left, taking a page out of Jiang Ke and Cheng Lingfei's book. Logically, since he and the tour guide were touching bodies, if the fake tour guide was electrocuted then Zhao Yu should have been as well. But, Zhao Yu had the lighting insulator equipped and once it was activated, the electricity was drawn away and he wasn't affected at all.

What? At that moment, the masked man in the distance looked shocked, as he had not expected such a sudden change in the situation. He was completely perturbed.

Zhao Yu made use of the man's shock and snatched for his own gun, turning around and firing.

Bang, bang! The gun sounded and the masked man came to his senses, immediately running behind a stone pillar and shooting at Zhao Yu from the other side. The opponent's gun had a silencer attached, but the impact of the bullet was massive.

Zhao Yu laid low and rolled across the floor, hiding behind the barriers of the palace. But as he was hiding, he scolded himself.

Are you stupid? Earlier during the brawl with the fake tour guide, he was worried that the masked man might sneak up and attack him, so he had already activated the Invisible Bulletproof Vest.

Since he had that equipped as protection, why did he still hide? Thinking about it, Zhao Yu wanted to run towards the bullets. Plus, there was nobody around to see. If he really wanted to catch the masked man, he might have to resort to such methods!

Just as Zhao Yu was about to move, the masked man made a shocking move. He actually aimed the gun towards the fake tour guide who was lying on the floor.

What?! Zhao Yu cursed under his breath and opened fire to interrupt the man, but everything had happened so suddenly that it was already too late. With the sound of two shots, the tour guide's head had two new holes in it and a sea of red formed...

Chapter 1140: A Hot-Blooded Chase

Holy sh*t! That was too ruthless! Zhao Yu began to swear to himself. He knew his opponent was evil, but he didn't think he would stoop to killing his own companion.

It was obvious that the opponent was worried the fake tour guide, who had been tasered unconscious, would spill their secrets and thus decided to silence him. That was inhumane!

After killing the fake tour guide, the masked man immediately ran towards the stone pillars and fled to the back of the palace. Zhao Yu had his bulletproof vest on to protect himself and ran through the barriers without fear chasing after the man.

But before Zhao Yu ran off, he paused. He still had a bit of humanity inside him and didn't immediately give chase. Instead, he went to the fake tour guide and checked to see if he was really dead. After that, he took the Bluetooth earpiece out of his ear. With the Bluetooth earpiece, Zhao Yu would be able to know the exact movements of the enemy!

Although it was a good idea, Zhao Yu froze after putting on the earpiece. The voices coming from it weren't Chinese, nor were they even English. Listening to it, it sounded like Thai or some other Southeast Asian language!

F*ck!

Zhao Yu understood at that moment that the enemy must have been worried their communication devices would be compromised, so they used Southeast Asian languages to communicate. They were really too cunning!

Although he couldn't understand, Zhao Yu still patiently listened. Even if he didn't understand what they were saying, he would still be able to deduce the number of opponents he was facing. While listening, his legs hadn't stopped moving for even a moment, and he was hot on the trail of the masked man.

Due to the 50-meter gap between the two, by the time Zhao Yu entered the palace, he had already lost track of the masked man.

Just like before, behind this palace there was an open field with exits, entrances, and paths leading in all directions. At first glance, it was impossible to tell which direction his opponent had taken.

Fortunately, Zhao Yu had nothing to worry about because his invisible drone had already captured everything! The masked man had run towards the northeast end of the field.

Hmph! Little boy, let's see where you ran off to! Zhao Yu thought to himself. He directed the invisible drone to fly in that direction. With his unmanned machine that nobody could see, Zhao Yu wasn't afraid the masked man would pull something clever and escape.

But after a quick check, Zhao Yu frowned. Tsk! Zhao Yu had noticed something unusual. Near the field, there was a path that led to the west. If the masked man had wanted to escape, going down that path would have been faster and close. In that case, why did he purposely choose to run northeast?

To head northeast, he would have had to run through the entire field. If Zhao Yu had caught up in time, he would have been able to shoot him! So why did he not take the closer route and instead choose to run so far?

Zhao Yu recalled that earlier when the detector had picked up the pistol's signal, the masked man had been attempting to run to the west. It was like his path had been clearly defined. So why did he change directions this time?

Before coming to the palace, Zhao Yu had looked at a map of the area. The Qing Dynasty Palace's East entrance was in the southeast, but the masked man had run northeast, where there were no exits! What was he trying to do? Was he trying to escape by scaling over the walls, or was he plotting something else?

Although Zhao Yu had his doubts, capturing the masked man was his utmost priority so he did not dare waste too much time considering this, and ran through the field towards the masked man. In the midst of the chase, his phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Miao Ying. Zhao Yu remembered at that moment that he had yet to report what had happened to his superiors.

The Special Investigations Team were not super particular on rules, but still, they were an active unit and were not like the Secret Service, who participated solely in special missions. Since they came in a hurry, they had not brought much equipment, and instead relied on their phones to get in touch with one another.

After picking up the call, Zhao Yu hurriedly informed Miao Ying of what had happened. After hearing what he had to say, Miao Ying was shocked and urgently instructed Zhao Yu that Secret Services had arrived, and they would meet up with him soon to provide aid.

"Zhao Yu, you should just follow them!" Miao Ying said. Knowing his character, she begged. "But please! Don't do anything too impulsive and wait until we get there, then we'll decide what to do."

"Miaomiao!" The moment Zhao Yu heard that Miao Ying was coming to meet him, he frantically said, "Don't come here yet! Bring Xu Hai and a few others to the west and see if there's anything there. I suspect that there's something fishy going on!"

"Oh? The west side?" Miao Ying asked. She didn't understand.

Zhao Yu remembered his own suspicions earlier. "Miaomiao, remember, keep a lookout for people wearing Bluetooth earpieces! You have to be careful as well!"

"Understood!" Miao Ying realized what Zhao Yu meant. "You too! Get in touch with Xiao Hang and ask him to follow your phone's GPS to meet up with you. If anything happens, you have to get in touch!"

"Okay!" Zhao Yu had just finished his sentence when he heard a scream come from outside the yard. He hung up the phone and quickly ran over.

Zhao Yu hadn't even reached the area where the scream had come from when he saw the situation behind the walls using the invisible drone. There were two men wearing security guard uniforms who had been shot and were lying on the floor, moaning in pain.

It was a small flower garden, and in the garden, there were a couple of tourists who had yet to evacuate. When they had heard the command to evacuate, they had pretended nothing had happened and continued to leisurely take photos. No matter how hard the security guards had chased them, they wouldn't leave. But now that they had seen the security guards get shot, they were shocked and began to flee. One of them even tripped and fell into the fish pond.

“What happened?” Zhao Yu asked as he charged towards the front to search. He realized the two officers had been shot in the leg and it was nothing major.

“There... that way...” The two officers pointed toward the northeast. Even though they were in a lot of pain and about to pass out, they held on.

Of course, Zhao Yu already knew that the masked man had fled in that direction thanks to his invisible drone. He immediately straightened his legs and gave chase.

First, he sprinted through the fake hills and left the garden, then he jumped over multiple closely packed yards. Because the invisible drone was guiding him, he managed to speedily traverse through houses and over roofs, even managing to find shortcuts.

In no time at all, he met the masked man in a narrow alley. The masked man’s reaction speed was just as fast as his, and the moment he saw Zhao Yu, he raised his arm to shoot. Zhao Yu hurriedly jumped to the side and hid in the entrance of the alley.

The f*ck!?! Zhao Yu slapped himself. You’re wearing a bulletproof vest, why are you hiding? Remembering this, he bravely rushed out and chased after the man without hesitation. But the masked man was unusually sly and after taking one shot, he was already on the run again.

Zhao Yu followed him out of the alley and saw that the man was running towards a very wide road. The man opened fire once again, but because they were so far away, the bullets missed.

The masked man ran really fast, like an arrow piercing through the air. Zhao Yu chased him relentlessly, but after running around another bend, he noticed something strange. His detector had spotted another gun! The two guns had passed each other and stopped momentarily, but nothing else happened.

Zhao Yu realized that this new gun must have belonged to the masked man’s partner. At that moment, the system flashed a red warning.

Oh, f*ck! Zhao Yu was shocked. The red warning could mean only one thing; the enemy was carrying bombs!

Holy f*cking sh*t! he thought.

There was no time left, the situation had escalated and become dangerous. Zhao Yu could not care less and rushed into the street. In the end, he came face to face with the criminal dressed as a foreign tourist. The gun was already aimed, and he shot immediately.

Pew, pew!

The bullets scraped past Zhao Yu. Because the invisible bulletproof vest was so strong, Zhao Yu wasn’t sure if he had even been shot.

He knew that his own shooting skills weren’t anything to write home about, so he used his training and experience from the past and did not return fire immediately. Instead, he aimed at them and charged forward until he was close before he started firing furiously.

At such a close distance, the enemy couldn’t have avoided the shots, and fell to the floor, dead!

The person had died, but his face still showed shock. He would never be able to understand how after firing multiple shots, Zhao Yu remained alive and unscathed?!