Crazy 1151

Chapter 1151: Enforced Superman

What Zhao Yu had told the masked man at Guan Qing Hall was not really baseless conjecture. Everything he said was basically true.

However, because of all the tools he had used, what had actually happened was much more exciting than what Zhao Yu had said.

Rewind to twenty minutes ago, when Zhao Yu saw the masked man running into Guan Qing Hall.

After Xiao Hang had told him about the hostage situation, Zhao Yu felt even more uneasy. He had already seen the digging situation inside Guan Qing Hall with the Invisible Drone. When Zhao Yu saw this, he didn't for a second believe that the criminals were digging to find the treasure.

First, that was not really plausible. The thugs obviously knew the location of the treasure. It would be impossible for them to dig for it under the eyes of a watchful audience.

Second, there were also discrepancies with the timing. Looking at the excavation site, it was obvious that the digging had just begun. Even the ground looked like it had been recently drilled open. The criminals had already been at the tourist attraction for a while. If there was really treasure there, they would have begun digging long ago.

Third, and most importantly, even though the outer walls of Guan Qing Hall were red, the roof tiles were not glazed and did not have the pattern from the nesting doll. Moreover, Guan Qing Hall was a room used for government business and not a living area. The possibility of there being a well was very small, which meant it didn't match up with the clue on the Russian doll.

For these reasons, combined with previous doubts, Zhao Yu felt like the situation was strange and had already become aware of the possibility that the masked man was hiding something.

This was a matter of national importance since it concerned the treasure, and it had already escalated to such a high level. If something were to go wrong, the consequences would be dire. A war might even break out.

Zhao Yu knew very well that he had to do his best, so he decided on the spot to solve the situation properly.

So, he faced the camera of Guan Qing Hall and the Secret Service Agents who were about to arrive at the scene and with no hesitation, pulled out his best and most precious equipment. This was his Invisible Cloak, Invisible Aircraft, Back-Camera and Duplicate Camera, and the Hacker's Command.

With these items, Zhao Yu felt like he had already become Superman. He felt as though he was currently in the midst of completing an extremely intense and exciting special mission.

Although the situation was rather dire Zhao Yu was a detective, so his thoughts were extremely clear. He had figured out earlier on that since the masked man and his accomplices had chosen Guan Qing Hall to start operations, that meant they had probably scouted the area earlier.

Hence, after using the Invisibility Cloak, the first thing Zhao Yu did was to use the Duplicate Camera and copy the surveillance cameras around Guan Qing Hall so he could watch them on displays in his internal system.

Of course, watching through all the footage was a time-consuming and labor-intensive job. In such an emergency situation, he didn't have time to check the footage thoroughly.

Thus, he used the aircraft to fly quickly back to the street where he had shot a criminal dead, and using the built-in camera, he took a photo of the man. He used the Hacker's Command to insert the photo into the captured video and began to search for a match.

At that time, with the Hacker's Command at work, Zhao Yu was spent a huge amount of adventure points to strengthen his Invisible Detector by another level.

This time, the Detector's range went up to 100 meters in diameter instead of 50, and there was also an enhancement in the detection accuracy. The duration also extended to several days.

Just as Zhao Yu had told the masked man, the smoke bombs had erupted in the middle and southwest of the tourist spots, and Guan Qing Hall was in the northeast. So, if these were all decoys set by the thugs, then the real target would be either in the northwest or southeast!

However, there were many quadrants in the southeast and it had all been allocated for government affairs, far from the living quarters. So, Zhao Yu believed that the real target was probably the northwest part.

Most of the harems were in the northwest. The area was better suited to the hint they found with the Russian nesting doll. Also, under the Chaofenglou Building, Zhao Yu clearly saw that the masked man had originally intended to go west. That meant that if not for his interception, the masked man would have continued going west.

Based on all these clues, Zhao Yu immediately took flight towards the northwest of the tourist spot. From the looks of it, with his flying device, an invisibility suit, and the back-camera, Zhao Yu was like an invisible Superman.

Unfortunately, there was one major fault in the Invisibility Cloak, and that was that it didn't work well during the day. Especially when moving at high speeds. This caused a mosaic phenomenon or light refraction, and if anyone were to observe closely, they would be able to spot it.

But this time, Zhao Yu had put in his all. To make up for this flaw, he spent another 2,000 adventure points to strengthen and enhance it to a stage where the cloak would no longer be easily discovered by people.

However, Zhao Yu quickly realized that the 2,000 points he had just spent might have been wasted. While he was flying in the sky, the evacuation was almost complete and few people would have been able to see him. He was flying at such high altitudes and at such a fast speed that even if the cloak really was defective, he wouldn't have been easily exposed.

Time was of the essence and Zhao Yu did not have time to be distressed or upset. As he was flying, he used the Detector and scanned the area. Just then, the Hacker's Command in his mind had found a

match. The camera outside of Guan Qing Hall had captured the image of the criminal who had just been killed.

Zhao Yu took a closer look and found something else that was shocking. The surveillance hadn't just captured the location of the dead criminal, but it showed that of the masked man, fake tour guide, and the other associates.

What was even more puzzling to him was that the captured footage was from very late in the night. They had already found the place earlier and had come in without buying tickets. On further review, he found something even more amazing.

In an earlier video, he was surprised to find the first time these people appeared; they had come out of Guan Qing Hall. But the cameras had not captured them entering at all.

Oh! It was then that Zhao Yu understood that there were probably secret passages located in Guan Qing Hall, and they had used these passages to enter the tourist area. From this, he figured that the reason the masked man and the others were digging the hole was just for digging's sake. They already had an existing secret tunnel!

This way, after they escaped, the police would definitely think they exited through the newly dug hole and search in the wrong direction.

Amazing! They were too cunning!

After figuring everything out, Zhao Yu was even more certain that their real objective was not in Guan Qing Hall! They created such a large and complicated decoy that they must have been covering up something truly amazing. But there was nothing aside from the treasure, right?

From that, Zhao Yu deduced that the treasure that had been lost for 80 years was really hidden here. Was it about to see the surface?

Just as Zhao Yu became excited, the enhanced Detector located an abnormality. A scenic spot near Wen Yuan Pavilion displayed pistols and explosives!

Chapter 1152: Treasure! Treasure!

It was just as Zhao Yu had expected!

Zhao Yu immediately flew towards the target when he detected the explosives and firearms.

Just as he was descending, he saw Miao Ying and Xu Hai. The two of them were both headed there under Zhao Yu's orders to look for criminals.

However, the northwest area of the tourist spot was the most densely populated area, and the criminals were all in disguise and hiding. The two of them had looked for a long time and still hadn't found any suspicious personnel.

Zhao Yu was invisible and flying, there was no way he could call out to them. To be on the safe side, he flew alone to a spot near Wen Yuan Pavilion and successfully found his target location.

There was a small house that was not particularly outstanding, and since it was not open to tourists, the door was locked from the outside. Nobody would notice it.

However, Zhao Yu noticed in one glance that this small house had red walls with green patterns on the roof tiles. It was the exact same pattern found on the Russian nesting dolls!

But the small house had only one door and no windows, so Zhao Yu couldn't see the situation inside. He could only circle around the periphery of the house before turning back.

As he entered the middle of the overgrown deserted courtyard at the back of the house, Zhao Yu spotted something that gave him goosebumps.

He hadn't expected that there would be a well in the middle of the grass!

The f*ck!?

At first glance, looking at this dried-up well, Zhao Yu felt a sudden gust of eerie wind blow and his back felt cold.

Amitabha...

Zhao Yu clasped his hands together and chanted Buddhist mantras repeatedly. He didn't expect that there would really be a well!

Could it be? Was the Russian female ghost with the red shirt really from this place?

Rustle, rustle...

Zhao Yu felt a cold air around him. He didn't dare think about it any further. He quickly turned around and continued to look at the house.

Although the back of the house had no doors or windows, he heard an unusual sound coming from inside.

The sound was dull and appeared to come from underground.

If it wasn't for the Detector in his brain, Zhao Yu probably would have thought the sound was coming from the well, which would have been terrifying. The Detector, however, clearly showed that the pistol and explosives were all located underground!

Treasure, treasure! Zhao Yu thought.

The idea of the treasure chased away all the scary thoughts he had and adrenaline filled his body.

Without a doubt, these were the masked man's comrades digging for the treasure underground. Who knew how far they had dug and whether or not the treasure had already been found?

Although Zhao Yu didn't know the exact number of criminals that were below, through the detector, he knew that there was a total of two pistols and two bags of explosives!

The composition and weight were almost the same as those back at the fortress. If it were to explode, the result would be catastrophic. Not just the treasures below, but even the buildings on the surface and the side of the Wen Yuan Pavilion would be severely damaged!

The more Zhao Yu thought, the more he felt like the enemy would be unable to carry such a large treasure away. Their true motive was probably to blow it up!

If that happened, it would be considered a terrible terrorist attack!

Although the treasures wouldn't be entirely blown up by the explosives, other precious cultural relics would undoubtedly be wiped out. The losses would be huge!

And so...

No matter what, the criminals could not be allowed to succeed!

Zhao Yu stopped and seriously considered everything for a moment. Although he was invisible, he would still need to find a safer method.

Or else, if they detonated the explosives, it wouldn't be a pretty sight.

The door was locked and there were no windows. In Zhao Yu's current invisible state, how was he to barge in? Storming in was probably not difficult, but there was no way he could successfully remove the explosives. It was not that simple, this...

Five seconds later, Zhao Yu thought of something.

What an idiot he was!

He remembered that although the house had been locked from the outside, he had the master key. What was he waiting for?

He didn't need to think up any fancy plan. He headed straight for the front of the little door, unlocking it with the master key. Gently, he opened the door and entered.

Although the heavy wooden door made a slight squeaking sound, the people inside the house were all digging underground and couldn't hear it.

Hehe! Be positive! he thought to himself.

Zhao Yu saw the situation in the house and immediately closed the small door, restoring everything to its original state.

Through the dim light, he could see a huge, deep hole had been dug out at the corner of the house. The sounds of digging came from inside the deep pit. This let Zhao Yu know that the people below were all busy at work.

Zhao Yu thought about it and figured that whatever came next, he would let nature take its course.

All he had to do was enter the pit without his disguise, remove the bomb, and he would be able to catch the enemy.

However, when he walked to the entrance of the hole, he suddenly remembered something depressing. The last time he was at the fortress he had used up the last of his Invisible Bomb Disposals!

D*mn it!

Zhao Yu quickly opened his equipment tab and saw that after the previous encounter, the system had rewarded him with another Invisible Bomb Disposal! But he only had one!

F*ck this sh*t...

There were two bombs below and Zhao Yu only had one Invisible Bomb Disposal. What was he to do?

He quickly realized that the masked man also had a bomb on his body. That bomb was definitely being used to threaten the hostages. Wouldn't it be better to keep the bomb disposal for that instead?

Tsch!

Just as Zhao Yu was stressing over this, the digging underground stopped suddenly and there was a low murmur of excitement.

What the f*ck!?

Zhao Yu suddenly realized that if they dared to stop and exclaim this way, they might have found the treasure.

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu didn't dare to take any more time thinking about it. Once they found the treasure, they could detonate the explosives at any moment. He rushed into the hole!

The pit was very deep, and it had been dug quite far. It was almost like it was an air-raid shelter.

There was a light deep in the cave and two shadows could be seen.

Two people were talking excitedly in a Southeast Asian dialect. One of them was tinkering with a walkie-talkie and it was making a squeaking sound.

Although Zhao Yu couldn't understand what they were saying, he could at least figure out that they were going to send a message to the masked man.

Once the masked man knew that the treasures had been found, they would inevitably retreat. If that was the case, not only would it be bad for the hostages, they may not even let them escape!

Keeping that in mind, Zhao Yu quickly took the Signal Jammer out and used it.

Hmph!

He sneered. This time he would give them the taste of the pain caused by having no signal!

Sure enough, when the criminals saw that the walkie-talkie did not respond, they turned and walked towards the entrance of the cave. They assumed it was just bad reception due to being underground.

At that time, Zhao Yu saw that they had dug out a decaying iron gate deep within the hole.

The iron gate was not very high and the rust was grayed out. It was clearly very old. A Japanese flag was plastered on the gate, clearly visible.

Wah!

Zhao Yu was in shock.

They really... they really found it!

At that point, another criminal was studying the iron door, trying to find how to open it. Through his Detector, Zhao Yu found that the two explosives were in a black bag under his feet.

Phew...

Zhao Yu was relieved, but since the explosives were not being carried, what was he waiting for?

Furthermore, since it was so dark in the cave, they wouldn't be able to see him. Why not just pull a fast one on them? Or should he wait?

Zhao Yu pulled out the taser with the bullets in his right hand, and with a flash of light in the cave, the two criminals quickly fell to the ground...

Chapter 1153: Cruel Plan

Ever since experiencing Jiang Ke's jailbreak, and later on the incident with Cheng Lingfei, Zhao Yu had unconsciously become interested in the type of tasers they had used.

First of all, the tasers had been mounted to their wrists, hidden in their sleeves. This made them very concealed.

Second, when shooting you only needed to raise your wrists, like Spiderman shooting his webs. Zhao Yu could shoot out electrified bullets that were able to achieve unexpected results.

Lastly, these electrified bullets were so powerful that as long as they touched the opponent, they would instantly lose their combat abilities but would not kill them.

Thus, to Zhao Yu, who often came in contact with danger while catching criminals, this taser was indeed the perfect weapon.

Therefore, after the incidents at Gao Lanqi, he learned Cheng Lingfei's techniques and, together with the technical staff of the Criminal Department, he created a set of sleeve pocket tasers for himself. These were not only better than the previous versions, they could send out two bullets consecutively.

Because of his busy schedule, even though the gun had been made for Zhao Yu, he had not developed the habit of wearing it daily. So, when they were at the fortress previously, he had not used it.

However, it was also precisely because of that incident that Zhao Yu was more careful. So, before traveling to Qing Palace this time, he not only remembered to bring his taser, he also brought a whole magazine of bullets with him.

He didn't expect that the taser would have come in handy back in the square when he was brawling with the fake tour guide. It had really stunned the man and rendered him unconscious.

At that moment, in the dimly lit hole, Zhao Yu decided to use the trick again. With the Invisibility Cloak on, he shocked the two criminals and caught them off guard.

The two men had noticed nothing in advance, and even after Zhao Yu had shot the two bullets and rendered them unconscious, they still didn't know what had happened.

After the two fell unconscious, Zhao Yu immediately opened the black backpack and saw the two sets of explosives inside.

Judging based on the Detector, the two explosives had not yet been activated and there was no danger present.

Phew...

Zhao Yu was finally relieved and immediately after, his eyes inevitably rested on the iron gate in front of him.

He saw that the iron gate was rusty and severely corroded. The Japanese flag had been painted on with red paint. Most of it had peeled off, and it was almost no longer visible.

Tsk, tsk! Treasure, hehe, treasure!

Zhao Yu's mood was simply indescribable. When he first took on this treasure case, his main purpose was nothing more than to figure out the cause of the deaths of the experts. He never thought one day he would be able to actually find the lost treasures from 80 years ago.

However, fate makes a fool out of people and at that moment, the pathway to the treasure had appeared before him!

Treasure, hehe!

After a few smirks, Zhao Yu returned to his senses.

Not like this...

Although the treasure was near, he didn't have time to open the iron door and see what it contained.

There was still a hostage incident over at Guan Qing Hall!

Zhao Yu wanted to get the hostages out before he could rest easy, especially since he had already used his Invisibility Cloak and various flying equipment. While the tools had not disappeared, he still needed to act quickly.

And... the masked man was there with access to a secret passage. No matter what, Zhao Yu couldn't let the cunning guy get away!

Keeping that in mind, Zhao Yu had to first forgo the treasure. Taking the two criminal's pistols, he left the house with the explosives. After that, he first had to get rid of the signal jammer so he could give call Miao Ying and explain the situation.

Zhao Yu went ahead and disabled the signal jammer, calling Miao Ying to inform her of the situation at hand. They could gain control of the situation before the criminals were able to wake up.

After receiving Zhao Yu's call, Miao Ying and Xu Hai rushed over to the Wen Yuan Pavilion.

Zhao Yu put down his things and was ready to complete the next task.

At that point, the time on the Invisibility Cloak and flying equipment had ended. Zhao Yu did not want to consume even more adventure points to extend their duration, so he connected some new tools and continued his journey as a stealthy Superman.

He flew off as fast as he could to Guan Qing Hall.

It was actually completely possible for him to enter the hall while flying invisibly, and then quickly use the taser to take down all the criminals and rescue the hostages.

But... Zhao Yu weighed the options briefly and realized that would be too over the top. To explain it afterward would also be a nightmare, and he wouldn't be able to justify himself at all. Who knows, it might even cause some larger troubles.

Therefore, during the flight, Zhao Yu used the time afforded to him to come up with some plans.

Zhao Yu was naturally also an expert at using dirty tricks, and halfway through his flight, he thought of a perfect plan. It was so vicious it made him want to laugh.

Alas, he didn't reveal himself. Instead, he quietly flew to the back of Quan Qing Hall and entered silently through an open window above the hall.

This time, he no longer regretted spending the 2,000 points to strengthen the cloak. Because the cloak was so powerful, even pros such as the masked man were unaware of his presence.

Below the window was a wooden screen. Zhao Yu quietly landed behind the screen and was perfectly concealed.

Then, he hid his loaded taser behind the screen.

After that, he began to look for the bomb with his Detector. He found that the bomb had been removed from the hostage by the masked man and was now hidden on a foreign male tourist.

However, Zhao Yu clearly saw that while everyone was unguarded, the foreign tourist made brief eye contact with the masked man. From that moment on, Zhao Yu had suspected the man might have been a traitor!

Coincidentally, the traitor was very close to the screen. Zhao Yu didn't need to spend much effort. He only had to use the Invisible Bomb Disposal device to defuse the bomb on the man's body.

After he was done, Zhao Yu took the opportunity and flew out of the hall, far away.

Everything that happened next was basically just for show.

First, he removed all his equipment in a deserted place and restored his true body. Then, he rode the buggy over and returned to the command center of Guan Qing Hall, walking with a swagger.

He was wondering what reason he could give to go into the hall to save the people. Just then, Liu Zhanbing suddenly told him that the thugs had called him out and threatened to kill the hostages if he did not enter!

Hehe!

Zhao Yu couldn't have asked for a better opportunity. Acting like he was being righteous and heroic was just up his alley!

Of course, the criminals still had pistols in their hands, so body armor was needed.

Everything, except his pants being ripped off by Cui Lizhu, had been orchestrated perfectly by him in advance!

Zhao Yu's intention, other than safely rescuing the hostages and seizing the criminals, was to use this opportunity to get some information out of the masked man and to understand everything. To understand the truth!

Chapter 1154: Truth Serum

Other than the incident where Zhao Yu's pants were ripped off, there were two other things that happened that were not within his plans.

The first could be considered a rookie-level mistake. Zhao Yu had known that there was a total of four criminals within Guan Qing Hall, including the mole. However, he had only left one taser behind the screen.

Zhao Yu couldn't begin to fathom what his thought process had been at that moment. There were only two bullets inside the taser, how could he use it against all four scoundrels? He should have at least gotten another gun!

Because of this, when the strong criminal had charged towards Zhao Yu with a knife, Zhao Yu was flustered.

However, the courageous hostages who believed in justice turned the situation around with their trusty iron shovels!

The second issue was something Zhao Yu had not foreseen. The masked man had a truth serum with him and had intended to get some information out of him with the serum.

Thus, when Zhao Yu saw the truth serum, he came up with an impromptu plan and purposely allowed the masked man to inject him with it.

The purpose of this shot was not only to catch the other party off guard. It was also because Zhao Yu wanted to see how the truth serum worked.

Zhao Yu wanted to see how to draw out the medicine with the syringe, how to inject it, and also how to ask the right questions in order to extract information from the other party.

Beginning at that moment, the idea of giving the masked man a taste of his own medicine began to form in Zhao Yu's mind. He wanted to make use of the truth serum and get some information out of him.

The order of events flowed just as Zhao Yu predicted. After getting rid of the four criminals, he dragged the masked man to a wall in the corner of the room and injected him with the truth serum.

Even a determined person like the masked man eventually fell to the effects of the truth serum. Not long after the shot had been administered, he began to spill the truth...

After that, the situation developed like the old saying. If you don't ask, you don't know. But once you asked, you'd be in for a surprise.

Zhao Yu's jaw dropped once the masked man revealed the truth about everything that had happened.

Even though he had already figured out the gist of the matter in regard to this Treasure case, he realized that the case was more complicated than he thought after the masked man revealed the truth. Not only had he been too careless with his thoughts, but his thinking had also steered him further from the truth!

How... how could this be...?!

In Guan Qing Hall, Zhao Yu had already asked everything that he had wanted to know. Facing the wall, he let out a sigh of exhaustion.

Sigh...

After that, he once again thought of a few other questions. However, the effects of the truth serum were wearing off, and once that happened, the masked man stopped talking.

A few seconds passed and the masked man showed signs of awakening from his slumber.

Zhao Yu knew that the masked man was not to be trifled with, and he quickly called Xiao Hang to let the professionals handle the rest.

"Be careful..." Zhao Yu ordered as he faced the agents arresting the masked man. "This guy is different from the other terrorists. He may not have hidden any poison in his teeth, but he still knows about a hundred ways to kill himself.

"Wrap him up like a dumpling and don't let him move even an inch!" Zhao Yu urged. "This guy is basically a living treasure. He knows a lot of information that could be beneficial to us, so no matter what, we have to keep him alive!"

"Rest assured!" Xiao Hang said. "This is just a usual day in Secret Services!"

Following Xiao Hang's gestures, the Secret Service agents worked together and quickly subdued the masked man using professional equipment. It really looked like they were wrapping a dumpling...

"Boss! Boss!" Cui Lizhu could no longer contain her feelings of excitement and rushed toward Zhao Yu to hug him. "That was so awesome, so exciting too...." she said, lifting her head up. Tears were welling up in her eyes. "How did you manage to survive? How is that possible?"

"Hahaha...! Nothing is impossible!" Zhao Yu said, grinning. "I have said this before, but your boss has a resolution made of steel! Trying to kill me with these little snobs? Ha! They're in over their heads!"

"Hmm... hehe..." Xiao Hang said, standing in front of Zhao Yu. Despite her eagerness, she calmed herself and politely asked, "Leader Zhao, did you manage to use the truth serum on that guy? How was it? Did you manage to get information?"

"F..." Zhao Yu began to mutter a phrase. "Fa... ni..."

"Huh? What are you saying?" Xiao Hang asked. He thought Zhao Yu was cursing and the expression on his face became awkward.

"F-I-O-N-A!" Zhao Yu read out the English letters one by one. "Fa Luo! That's the guy's name! His dad is from Guam and his mum is from Japan, so he's mixed!"

"Huh!?" Xiao Hang's eyes widened. "So... so... he really said that? Zhao Yu! Mm... Leader Zhao... Godly Detective Zhao!" At this point, Xiao Hang was almost on his knees. "Quick, tell me! Who was the mastermind behind this group? Was it Seraph? Or Daniel?"

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu said, frowning slightly. "Leader Xiao, I'm not picking on you! But... as for the identity of the mastermind... I really can't say! If I do, this matter would become a big deal! So... I need to find some free time and see the head of the Secret Service..."

"This..." Xiao Hang's expression became grim. "What about Li Jing? Not even Leader Li?"

"I'll put a stop to this conversation now! Not even my father-in-law!" Zhao Yu said solemnly. "You are an understanding person, so please, quickly make the arrangements!"

"Hmm..." Seeing how serious Zhao Yu looked, Xiao Hang softened his expression. He viewed Zhao Yu as a living God, so how could he be disrespectful?

"Come..." Zhao Yu said, wrapping his arms around Cui Lizhu and walking toward the dragon seat in the Guan Qing Hall. "Come here for a moment, I'll show you guys something good. Move this!"

Xiao Hang saw that Zhao Yu pointed toward the dragon seat, and hurriedly gestured toward his men.

When the dragon seat moved, a secret passageway was revealed...

"What?!" Xiao Hang and Cui Lizhu frowned at the same time. "How can there be an underground passage here?"

"The passage here is connected to many places in the Imperial Palace. In the early days, this palace was built together with the palace by the ancient people!" Zhao Yu explained. "Afterwards, when this place was occupied by the Japanese, they repaired and cleared the passageways. The passage's exit is located outside of the palace, at the Tian Wang Temple! Fa Luo and the rest snuck in from there!"

"Ah, how cunning!" Cui Lizhu said. She quickly came to a realization and hurriedly pointed towards the newly dug pit in the distance. "The pit there was made to deceive us?"

"Below that is a sewer that has long been abandoned. But it goes on for quite a long way..." Zhao Yu said, "Fa Luo intended to open the sewers and let the hostages jump in there in order to attract the police's attention, while they themselves would escape from the real exit!"

"Oh..." Xiao Hang nodded. "I see... so the hostages here at Guan Qing Hall were part of the plan, and their ultimate motive was still the treasure!"

"Oh sh*t! I almost forgot about something important!" Zhao Yu's eyes widened and he hurriedly pulled out his phone. "Miao Ying! Has Miao Ying sent you any messages? How's the situation with the treasure?"

"Oh, rest assured!" Cui Lizhu replied quickly. "Sister Miao said that they have already gained control of the criminals and the explosives. They also saw the door to the treasure and are in the midst of opening it!"

"No! No! Definitely not!!!" Upon hearing what Cui Lizhu said, Zhao Yu almost hit the ceiling and shouted urgently, "Hurry up and tell them that nobody is to open that door! What's in there is something special. It's the treasure!!!"

Chapter 1155: Treasure Plan

After a few hours, the sky had completely darkened.

Without warning, dark clouds began to form in the sky, rolling in as if it were threatening heavy rain.

At that moment, inside Feng Ping's Qing Dynasty Palace, there were crowds of people everywhere near Wen Yuan Pavilion!

Under the illumination of huge searchlights, everyone could see both inside and outside of the little house where the secret passageway to the treasure had been found. White isolation tents had been set up and everyone who entered the area was wearing heavy biochemical uniforms.

The only thing that could be seen held in these workers' hands were opening or cutting devices. Some were holding sterilizers. Everyone looked extremely nervous and tense.

Zhao Yu, Miao Ying, Cui Lizhu, Xiao Hang, and Li Jing, who had purposely rushed over, were all sitting in the command car and monitoring the situation underground on the big screen.

"Soon. Soon it will be open, right...?" Cui Lizhu asked as she watched the staff working in the pit drill through the iron door. "This will destroy all the locks' cores! I've said this so many times but if I were the one going down, I'd make sure that the door would be returned to its original state..."

"Idiot," Zhao Yu said, almost spitting as he messed up Cui Lizhu's hair. "Even the forensics department doesn't know what's past the door, how can I let you go?"

"According to our remote sensors ..." Li Jing said, holding a tablet computer. "The space below is less than 50 square meters, and the metal content is extremely high. I didn't expect that this small house would have gone unnoticed despite being renovated several times!"

"I think the point is that no one could have thought of it!" Xiao Hang said, shaking his head. "We've been so tunnel-visioned by this legendary treasure and thinking that it must be hidden in a massive place. Maybe somewhere the size of a football field! But who would have thought that it was just this little... and, it was hidden in such an unexpected place...?"

"Zhao Yu..." Li Jing began solemnly, closing the tablet computer. "There are no outsiders here. Can you please tell us where this group of criminals came from?"

"Uhm... Leader Li, I have already told you just now, so ..." Xiao Hang said upon hearing this, hurriedly reminding her.

"I know, but..." Li Jing said, sighing softly and looking at Zhao Yu with confusion. "Since you refuse to say it, it must not be Seraph! If it is some other organization, then at the very least we need to be prepared!"

"Hehe!" Zhao Yu smirked, spreading his arms. "Rest assured, the real situation is a lot more complicated than you think!"

"Alright, I get it! It seems like... it really seems like..." Li Jing said, "The thugs knew the location of the secret fortress of Yi Shan, the secret passages in the Qing Palace, they had a kaleidoscope in their hands, and they even knew the secrets of the Russian nesting doll! Needless to say, they must have been sent by Japan!"

"Yeah, that's what I thought too!" Xiao Hang said, shrugging. "If it were anyone else, they probably wouldn't resort to blowing up the treasures, right?"

"No matter the case, good job Zhao Yu!" Li Jing said, praising him. "This is a matter of international importance so it must be handled with care!"

"Aha, so that's what this is!" Cui Lizhu said, patting Zhao Yu on the shoulder and praising him. "Wow boss! You really have courage and foresight. You have the potential to be a general!"

"Not just a general, I can be a chef!" Zhao Yu said, grinning. "After this, we should all take a trip to the market! Let me tell you something, if this matter was really so simple, I wouldn't be keeping quiet about it!" [1]

"What? Do you mean...?" the others asked in surprise.

"Are you curious?" Zhao Yu asked, smiling. "Well, alright then. Let me tell you a couple of things.

"The masked man told me if that they could successfully retrieve the treasure and give it to the person behind the scenes, each of them would get, at the very least, around 200 million euros!!

"If they failed to obtain it but blew it up, then each of them would get 50 million euros!" Zhao Yu said, snapping his fingers. "In addition, there was also a consolation reward, which all the participants got. That was, if any of them were killed, their families would still get the money!"

"Wow, that's surprisingly humane..." Cui Lizhu said in surprise. "We don't have contracts like that within our thief circle! If we die, that's it!"

"But there is a clause!" Zhao Yu said. "They first had to find the treasure they were talking about..."

"Ah, so that explains the treasure part... but what about the fortress?" Li Jing asked, frowning. "Blowing up the fortress was part of their plan, right?"

Zhao Yu nodded, admitting it was true. "Yes, I asked him about that. He said that it was something like an extra reward, a bonus tier if you will. The reward started at ten million euros!"

"Ah, I see!" Li Jing said, nodding. "You repeatedly mention the euro. It seems like this plot to find the treasure is really more complicated than it seems! No wonder, uhm..."

Before Li Jing could finish her sentence, something new appeared on the monitor. The staff had opened the rusty door!

When everyone saw this, the room fell silent and everyone stared at the screen intently. Nobody even blinked.

As the lights came on, a narrow and cluttered space appeared on the surface of the iron gate.

The floor was paved with cement and there were shelves stacked on either side. The shelves were filled with various bottles and jars, and various books.

Walking further in, many large boxes lay strewn on the ground. Most of the boxes were old-fashioned crates. The staff opened the crates and found piles and piles of documents.

Further up, the small house seemed slightly more spacious. On the screen, there were many things that looked like storage shelves. Or perhaps they were small refrigerators? After opening them, were small colorful culturing bottles that contained unknown liquids could be seen.

The house was small and soon they came to the end. On the last storage rack, they spotted some strange guns. The guns looked like water guns and had huge plastic barrels attached.

In the deepest corner of the house, there were also some scattered artillery shells.

"What is all of this...?" Cui Lizhu finally said to break the silence, unable to hold in her curiosity after watching through the whole thing. "Who wants to spend billions of euros on this garbage? Fortunately, the thugs didn't go in. If they had seen how torn and tattered everything was, they would probably vomit blood from frustration!"

"No!" Zhao Yu said seriously, patting Cui Lizhu's shoulders. "You are wrong, these things are treasures!"

Hearing what Zhao Yu said, everyone turned their attention to him.

"Fate makes fools of people. In fact, from the distant traitor Liu Dianchen, the world has been misunderstood, and the misunderstanding carried on for eighty years! They even let Secret Services set up a department..."

"This..." Everyone frowned, not understanding what Zhao Yu meant.

"Actually, Liu Dianchen overheard everything correctly!" Zhao Yu said again. "When the Japanese war was about to end, the Japanese army did indeed hide a bunch of important things. However, that stuff was neither gold, nor was it treasure. It was what you see in front of you!"

"What?!" Cui Lizhu seemed to realize. "These are the treasures?!"

"Close!" Zhao Yu nodded. "At that time, Liu Dianchen hadn't heard the last word. The word plan followed the word treasure!"

"Treasure plan?!" everyone repeated.

"Yep!" Zhao Yu said. "The treasure plan was just the codename of the emergency operation at that time. In fact, it was not really a treasure..."

Chapter 1156: Heaven's Will

"Then... what... what are these?" Cui Lizhu asked, sounding surprised.

"I'm not too sure what they are specifically either, hmm..." Zhao Yu said, shrugging his shoulders. "Of course, these were all revealed by the masked man, and he himself wasn't too sure about it. After all, it was all a job to them, so naturally, they wouldn't have asked unnecessary questions.

"But... Fa Luo is not an ordinary person. He said he could probably guess some of these answers, and he was very clear their ultimate goal was not the golden treasure or anything of that sort, but it was these items..." Zhao Yu gestured to the screen. At this moment, the staff had finished checking the secret room and were in the midst of clearing it out.

"Please!" Li Jing said. "Stop talking about Fa Luo this, and Fa Luo that! I'm sick of it! Fiona in Chinese is translated as Fi-Ou-Na!"

"Fi-Ou-Na?" Zhao Yu asked, rolling his eyes. "A woman, this..."

"Maybe..." Cui Lizhu said, trying to meditate the solution. "Maybe international criminals like to mix up their genders?"

"No!" Li Jing said sternly. "The Malay peninsula and Iranian region [1] in Southeast Asia like to use the names of biblical saints, so Fiona can also be pronounced as Fei-Ou-Na!"

"Alright, then we'll stop referring to her as Fa Luo... anyway, this Fei-Ou-Na person..." Zhao Yu continued. "Fei-Ou-Na said that the 'treasure' they referred to with the treasure plan was actually all kinds of confidential materials the Japanese Imperial Army used during the Tohoku era. These materials documented various fields of research, in addition to all kinds of weapons, biochemicals, bacteria, etc... it also included the results from the various research and technological innovations..."

"Oh..." Everyone was surprised and held their breath.

"So," Zhao Yu said. "I was worried that there would be some kind of virus or chemical weapon inside. I implore you to maintain a safe distance before you open anything!"

"Ah..." Everyone nodded. Even though what he said sounded like an exaggeration there was some truth in Zhao Yu's words. When facing something as unknown as this, preventive measures had to be taken.

"Of course, I think..." Zhao Yu said, spreading his palms apart. "Since someone is willing to purchase these at such an exorbitant price, there must be something great inside, right?"

"Yeah!" Miao Ying replied. "For example, the notorious unit 731? Or maybe we can find some evidence of criminal activity here?" [2]

"Wow, or human experiments!" Cui Lizhu said, wrapping her arms around herself. "No wonder there are so many bottles and cans! There must be some kind of extremely potent virus, right...?"

"That's not entirely impossible per se..." Zhao Yu said, nodding. "The scoundrels actually wanted to bomb this place. Perhaps they wanted to destroy any evidence that had been left behind?"

"It's not just that..." Li Jing said, glancing towards the screen. "Although this all happened more than 80 years ago, the Japanese Imperial Army possessed technological research that was world-class at that time! Even after all this time, it still probably wouldn't be outdated! Perhaps these things still hold some value to them?

"Perhaps the reason they wanted to blow everything up was the same reason they had back at the fortress!" Li Jing explained eloquently. "They didn't want us to get the real 'treasure' so we couldn't benefit from it!"

"Ah, so whether it's evidence of crimes against humanity by the Japanese Imperial Army, or the importance of the data itself..." Xiao Hang said, slightly agitated. "I guess we can deem this a huge victory?"

"Aiyo..." Cui Lizhu didn't seem to care that Miao Ying was right beside them and grabbed Zhao Yu's arms affectionately, exclaiming. "Boss, you were really awesome this time! Not only did you foil their plans, you even turned the tides in our favor. I've run out of ways to praise you, to be honest!"

Seeing how intimate Cui Lizhu was being towards him, Zhao Yu glanced at Miao Ying uneasily. However, Miao Ying was still in a state of excitement. She looked at Zhao Yu with an encouraging gaze, completely overlooking what Cui Lizhu was doing.

"But..." Cui Lizhu paused for a moment and her tone changed as she thought of two important issues. "If the 'treasure' is not even real treasure and was just a codename... then what about the gold from that year? The gold that those Japanese b*stards found? Could it be, that there's still a chance...?"

"No!" Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu sighed and his eyes dimmed. "Fa Luo, erm... Fei-Ou-Na said that he already found the whereabouts of the gold a long time ago..."

"Huh?!" Everyone was shocked by Zhao Yu's words and an indescribable glimpse of hope appeared in their eyes.

"The gold..." Zhao Yu said, lifting his head. "It's already been spent by the Japanese! They used it during the war as Japan progressed towards being a developed country. There's none of it left!

"Furthermore, these gold and treasures are basically nonsense. Back then, during the turmoil and chaos of the war, the gold and treasures were long lost, therefore..."

"Huh?" Xiao Hang said in disappointment. "So... are you telling me that for the past 80 years we have been hard at work for nothing? All this talk of gold and treasures was nothing but a fantasy, a pipedream?"

"I'm afraid so!" Zhao Yu replied. "The higher-ranking officials of the Japanese Imperial Army actually knew about the gold. Actually... the amount of gold, in reality, was far from the exaggerated rumors. They did manage to get a small batch of Tsarist Russia's gold, but those were not even worth 100 tons in reality!

"Afterwards, the rumors of it being 600 tons worth probably came from the eagerness of the owner who wanted to have the gold returned, so he created them himself. The purpose was to rile up the Japanese and make them jealous of one another so they would search for the gold!

"But in fact, once they obtained the gold, it was quickly spent during the war. There's no way to trace it!" Zhao Yu said helplessly. "So, the gold that was lost, and the treasure plan, were all devised after the Anti-Japanese war period and are two very different things!"

"That means to say..." Li Jing nodded regretfully. "That the thing we've been searching for over the past 80 years is merely their codename. This is really..."

At that moment, Li Jing couldn't find the right words to describe her overflowing emotions.

"That Fei-Ou-Na said," Zhao Yu continued, "that the news of the Japanese defeat came too fast. That they were worried this crucial information would get into the hands of the Russians or Chinese and that it could spell trouble. Therefore, they didn't dare to risk anything and sent them back to their home country.

"But all this information was crucial! How could they bear to leave it like that?

"So, in desperation, they came up with the treasure plan to hide all of their important documents and files in a secret place. This way, they could eventually use it when they made a comeback!

"Actually," Zhao Yu paused. "Other than the fact that the hidden stuff isn't actually gold or treasure, our predictions were not too far off from the actual series of events.

"In order to keep the secrets safe, the enemies not only killed the soldiers who buried the treasure, which was a fact only known to a few high-ranking officials.

"To remember the location of the hidden treasures, they also made two sets of maps using Russian nesting dolls and kaleidoscopes. The exact location of the buried treasure will only be revealed if you look through the kaleidoscope at the Russian nesting dolls!

"Little did we know that during their great defeat, one of the bombs hit a plane and it turns out, the few high-ranking officials who did know about this were on the plane and all of them died. In the end, the only thing left behind was the kaleidoscope!

"Say, you guys..." Zhao Yu said, smirking. "Isn't this basically heaven's will?"

Chapter 1157: You Should Have Said so Earlier

"Oh... okay, understood! Alright, I'll report to you immediately if there are any new discoveries!" Li Jing said. Having said her piece, she pressed a button on the earphones and turned towards the rest of the people in the command vehicle. "After checking, the staff found a total of 19 big boxes inside the secret room! The boxes contain documents and information..."

"Hmph! You know what they say," Zhao Yu whispered. "Culture is the scariest thing in the world. Even at the brinks of their defeat, the Japanese were okay with leaving everything else behind but insisted on saving these documents. These are obviously really important!"

"19 boxes...!" Cui Lizhu said, remembering something. "These 19 boxes were also written about in Liu Dianchen's notes. It looks like everyone thought these 19 boxes contained gold!

"There's a ton of documents here. If we consider everything together, it would easily have confused a lot of people!"

"Zhao Yu's right!" Miao Ying nodded. "If you consider this from a different perspective, then the value of these 19 boxes of documents could far exceed the value of 19 boxes of gold!"

"Indeed!" Li Jing said. Her face was pale, having just undergone surgery for her leg. She quickly rushed over to Zhao Yu and said, "Leader Zhao, Fei-Ou-Na actually knew a large amount of information about the Japanese Army, and he himself is part of the Japanese, so..."

"Big sis, stop making these baseless assumptions!" Zhao Yu said. "The Japanese can't deny their involvement, but you of all people should understand. These things are not things you can simply assume responsibility for."

"Understood, understood!" Li Jing said. "Since the backstory can't be explained clearly, shouldn't you at least pick something that we already know and explain it to us in general terms? At the very least, we need to know the order of events so that we can properly deal with it!"

"Alright, fine!" Zhao Yu continued. "Everything that I know came from Fei-Ou-Na, so, as long as the truth serum is the real deal, all the information should be correct!

"What happened is that the Japanese have known about this treasure trove of information for all these years. But... ever since the plane crash, they were only left with the kaleidoscope. Nobody else knew where the information was, so others couldn't look for it either!

"On top of that, they didn't even know about the Russian nesting dolls, so they gradually forgot about the whole thing.

"But who would have expected that as time passed, some people from the far-off reaches of Southeast Asia began talking about the treasure plan.

"Although Fei-Ou-Na is indeed related to Seraph, he wasn't fully a part of the organization. He had a more unique identity and was slightly more powerful. How do I say this, hmm...? He was basically the winner-takes-all type!

"In the end, he won the bid and took control of the business that was worth billions of euros! As for Seraph, he only helped them with their manpower and material resources, kind of like an investment!

"However, don't think of Fei-Ou-Na as some private operative. In fact, the information he had obtained was far more than what China, Russia, and Japan knew combined!

"From the very beginning, he already knew two things. Firstly, he knew that the kaleidoscope and the Russian nesting dolls were a map to the treasure. He also knew the people in possession of those two items!

"Of course, the kaleidoscope was in Japan. The first plan Fei-Ou-Na carried out went smoothly. He didn't have to kill a single soul, and he managed to get the kaleidoscope without anyone noticing!

"All he would need after that were the Russian nesting dolls and his mission would be accomplished!"

"Hehe, but unexpectedly..." Cui Lizhu couldn't help but add on at this point. "The Russian nesting dolls began to play hide and seek with them, and they couldn't manage to catch the dolls, haha!!" Cui Lizhu let out a laugh but realized that making a joke in this current solemn situation was inappropriate, so she quickly stopped laughing.

"That's why I guess it all boils down to me, the greatest detective of the century who can foresee the future!" Zhao Yu said with a whisper. "I already guessed the entire situation perfectly!"

"Pfffftttttt," Xiao Hang, who was sipping on his water, choked and spat it out upon hearing Zhao Yu praising himself.

"Zhao Yu, be serious will you!" Miao Ying said, trying to get back on topic. "You mean that the criminal found Tian Zheng, and that the series of events that happened after that is what we already know?"

"Exactly!" Zhao Yu said, snapping his fingers. "But with regards to the fortress, I guess I was a little bit off with my predictions!

"Fei-Ou-Na and the rest knew that the Russian nesting dolls had fallen into the hands of Bao Tiantai, but they didn't actually know who Bao Tiantai's successor was. So, they spent many, many years trying to find him...

"But, during their search, even though they didn't manage to find Bao Tiantai's successor, they managed to find another trail, and that is..."

"Oh!" Cui Lizhu, who immediately knew what Zhao Yu was referring to, nodded. "So that's how the whole fortress thing came about!"

"Amazing!" Zhao Yu said, raising his thumb towards Cui Lizhu. "Actually, the fortress had been opened by them a year ago. They all came for the gold and had thought that the base would hold some valuable treasures. Little did they know that even after searching every corner of the base, they would only manage to find strategic documents used during the war!

"They couldn't bring these with them, nor could they possibly sell them... it wasn't of any value to them at all!" Zhao Yu continued. "Of course, no matter what they thought about the documents, they lacked the courage to actually blow up the base. So, they could only leave things as they were...

"Then, everything that happened afterward had to be changed because..."

"Because they found the successor to Bao Tiantai, which was Tian Zheng!" Li Jing said, quickly interrupting Zhao Yu.

"Yes!" Zhao Yu said, "I have yet to ask them how they managed to find Tian Zheng.

"I only know that everything that happened after that was within my predictions!

"Tian Zheng died and they couldn't find the Russian nesting dolls, so they kept Tian Zheng's two sons confined," Zhao Yu said, gesturing as he continued. "However, too much time had passed. Tian Zheng's sons could only remember that the Russian nesting dolls had been left with one of the elderly experts, but they didn't know which one.

"And so, they communicated with Meng Youbin's intelligence organization and retrieved a list of names. From there, they narrowed it down to the five elderly experts!

"However, they searched through the homes of these five experts and found no trace of the Russian nesting dolls! Coincidentally, these five experts all had the same hobby of collecting antiques, and they had all visited Tian Zheng's house before. So, they themselves didn't know who had bought the Russian nesting dolls.

"And that's how the murder of the experts came about!" Zhao Yu said, sighing. "The masked man has already confessed to that crime, so the murder part of this case is as good as solved!"

"Then..." Li Jing asked. "How did they get their hands on Pitidebin?"

"I have yet to ask that!" Zhao Yu said. "Time was of the essence, so I had to prioritize and ask the important questions first!"

Upon hearing this, Li Jing gestured for Zhao Yu to continue.

"Thinking back, they had such bad luck," Zhao Yu said, shaking his head. "They kept killing all the way to the last person, which was Yuan Juncheng, until they finally got their answers. Yet, even though they had managed to get the information, a new obstacle appeared. That was that the Russian nesting dolls had been stolen!"

"Yeah..." Cui Lizhu said, frowning. "Thanks to my dad's capabilities, Yuan Juncheng could never have known who stole the Russian nesting dolls. These people... how did they even find my dad?"

"For this, you'll need to go all the way back to the beginning!" Zhao Yu said, laughing. "When they hit a wall, they had to go back to Meng Youbin and ask him again. They had to pay a high price!"

"My goodness..." Cui Lizhu said, freezing. "These guys are terrible! If he had revealed that information earlier, then all those experts wouldn't have died needlessly!"

"If he had revealed the information earlier, he wouldn't have been able to earn money!" Miao Ying said, pouting.

"Hehe," Zhao Yu said, grinning slightly. "Actually, if they had revealed it earlier, they could have even raised the price. But they had revealed it too late. Not only did they lose the chance to profit off of it, they even lost their lives!"

"Oh, you mean..." Li Jing began.

"Fei-Ou-Na told me..." Zhao Yu said, nodding. "After the humiliation they faced, they became enraged. They ended up massacring the entirety of Meng Youbin's organization, leaving not a single soul alive..."

Chapter 1158: Pushing Luck with Murder

"Generally speaking, they didn't check the fengshui properly before starting their plan!" Zhao Yu said, gritting his teeth. "During that time, their plans had already been delayed for over half a year. By the time they turned their attention to Tao Xiang, Tao Xiang had already passed away." [1]

Upon hearing this, Cui Lizhu's eyes dimmed.

"What ultimately ruined their plans, however, was that the only person left who could help them find the Russian nesting dolls was Cui Lizhu..." Zhao Yu said, patting her on the shoulders. "But she was transferred over to the criminal division's special department! To make matters worse, they unwittingly attracted the attention of the people they least wanted to provoke – Secret Services!

"This time, not only did they have to admit they were unlucky, they even backed down and retreated," Zhao Yu continued. "Fei-Ou-Na said that they were well aware of what the intervention of Secret Services meant. If they continued their plans, they would have no chance of escaping unscathed!

"However, the boss above Fei-Ou-Na did not think the same way. They kept pressuring Fei-Ou-Na and his group and helped them come up with the great plan of blowing everything up. They even sourced the bombs for them!"

"Oh..." Miao Ying said, nodding. "So, what you're saying is that it wasn't them who came up with the plan to bomb the fortress?"

"Of course!" Zhao Yu said, nodding. "It was all Seraph and had nothing to do with Fei-Ou-Na! However, he had no choice!

"Finally, they settled on a compromise," Zhao Yu said. "Of course, the motive behind bombing the fortress was not only to deal a heavy blow to our country. It was also for us to take the bait so they could kidnap Cui Lizhu and find out some information about the Russian nesting dolls!

"At that point, after kidnapping Cui Lizhu, Fei-Ou-Na wanted to take things one step at a time and deal with the situation accordingly. But, alas! Their well-thought-out surprise attack plan did nothing to deter us. It even got us on the offensive when we launched a counterattack, and things spiraled out of control for them!

"Left with no choice, he had to give Cui Lizhu the truth serum, and they finally managed to get some information about the Russian nesting dolls!" Zhao Yu said with a shiver. "Even when they had lost half their men, that guy still looked so smug!

"Because after their fortress had been bombed, every secret in there would also disappear with the sound of the bomb! We would then no longer be an obstacle to them!"

"Wow..." Cui Lizhu said, patting her chest. "How scary! Luckily, their bomb failed for some reason. If not, we would not even have been able to make it out alive. This must... this must be heaven's will? Thank the lords..."

"This is what they mean when they say that good men will lead good lives [2]," Zhao Yu said. "During that time, they used new technology to attack the police network, but it was all because they bombed the fortress!

"Think about it. The fortress bombing came about so suddenly, who would have time to go check on our network? So, they managed to get the photos of the Russian doll nesting and thought we wouldn't find out about it...

"Then, they used 3D technology to remake the Russian nesting dolls and managed to figure out the location of the treasures first-hand! Hmm..." Zhao Yu said, recalling what Fei-Ou-Na had told him. "Fei-Ou-Na told me that the hint was the Japanese characters, which in turn pointed to the name of that house!

"That also means that the house used to have a name, even though it doesn't anymore. Even if we had been able to get our hands on the Japanese characters, it wouldn't have been easy to find!"

"This whole incident is actually... so strange..." Cui Lizhu said, scratching her head. "Does that mean that the red walls, green tiles, and cloud motifs that I pointed out were all just lucky guesses?"

"That's hard to say..." Zhao Yu said, consoling Cui Lizhu. "Maybe the guy who drew the Russian dolls back then had that in mind as well? Based on my gut feeling, the red-clothed girl mentioned by the Russians did have some basis! There really was a well behind the small house too... wait..."

As Zhao Yu thought about the well, he felt a cold wind come from behind him.

"Zhao Yu..." Li Jing said, gesturing for him to continue.

"Okay..." Zhao Yu began. "Originally, Fei-Ou-Na was full of confidence. If the fortress was bombed, it would mean that the entirety of Feng Ping's police force would be directed there. Moreover, they had the secret passage as a shelter, so they could relax and search for the treasure!

"Even after they dug up the treasure, they would still have time left to transport it away. Also, the socalled treasures were all documents, so they would easily be able to pass security. No one would have blinked an eye!"

"Hehe," Cui Lizhu couldn't help but burst into laughter. "It obviously didn't go according to their plans!"

"Zhao Yu, so this secret passage..." Li Jing couldn't help but probe.

"Fei-Ou-Na said that, with regards to the map of the palace, he used money he got from his superiors to buy it," Zhao Yu said, understanding what Li Jing had meant and answering her question. "But they also understood that someone, somewhere had also helped to support them! As for who it was, I don't have to name them, do I...?"

"Understood!" Li Jing replied. "It's no wonder they knew about the secret passage and the abandoned sewage below the palace!"

"Who would have known..." Xiao Hang said, folding his arms. "There are so many things we still don't know about the palace!"

"After that, even when we released the fake information..." Zhao Yu said, shaking his head. "We still couldn't fool them! They got a heads-up somehow and knew that the bomb in the fortress didn't go off!"

"Haha, good riddance!" Cui Lizhu laughed. "I can imagine what awkward expressions they had at that time. Do you guys think they would suspect that the bombs deliberately failed because of their superiors?"

"The bomb not going off meant that we were still alive," Zhao Yu said, continuing. "And Fei-Ou-Na knew that the situation would call for them to retreat immediately!

"On one hand, there was the issue of humiliating himself and his ego. On the other hand, there was the temptation of the money. Also, the fake news did confuse him a bit, which eventually convinced him to persist until the end!

"He hoped that even if we managed to live, we would not discover their real motives or figure out the secret behind the Russian nesting dolls. He figured that we would most definitely not be able to solve the mystery behind the Russian nesting dolls and locate the palace!"

"Wow, he really pushed his luck..." Miao Ying said, sighing heavily. "In the end, we still managed to make it here!"

"But..." Zhao Yu said. "Even though we took a lucky bet, Fei-Ou-Na still prepared for the worst. At that point, he already had a feeling that even if he had found the treasure, he would not be able to move it. So, he had already prepared the bombs, and once he found the treasure, he would blow it up on the spot!

"That way, even if he had lost a few hundreds of millions of euros, the effort would still keep him satisfied!" Zhao Yu said. "Furthermore, he also thought about using a smoke bomb to distract the target, as well as planned out the abduction of the hostages. All of this was so they would have enough time to blow up the treasures!"

"Oh..." Upon hearing Zhao Yu's explanation, everyone heaved a sigh of relief, their palms all drenched in cold sweat.

When everything was going on, the feeling of danger wasn't that strong. But, looking back now, the situation back then was indeed dangerous, with fate hanging by a single thread. If they had been even a tad late, even a few minutes, the consequences would have been unthinkable...

Chapter 1159: A Sense of Foreboding

"Hehe!" Zhao Yu gloated. "Alas, their greatest misfortune was crossing paths with the invincible and fearless Detective Zhao!

"When I spotted the smoke bombs and hostages, I already saw through their conspiracy, and knew that their real target was the northwestern zone of the palace!

"That is why I went to the northwest after dealing with the two vicious thugs. Fortunately, I managed to find that little cabin and used my stun gun on them. After dealing with the thugs, I then dismantled the bombs. Wahaha... I don't even know how to praise myself anymore..." Zhao Yu said.

Ptooey...

Xiao Hang had just taken a drink of water but ended up spitting it out again. He really took his hat off to Zhao Yu. While he admired Zhao Yu's candor, he had never met anyone with such thick skin!

"Great!" Miao Ying gently laid her hand on Zhao Yu's shoulder, saying softly, "Darling, you were so awesome! Tell us, how did you apprehend the thugs in Guan Qing Hall and rescue the hostages?"

"Hm... about that..." Zhao Yu said.

Zhao Yu had a sudden sense of foreboding. He attempted to protect his ears, but they had already been yanked by Miao Ying.

"Humph!" Miao Ying reprimanded him. "You heartless person! Did you forget your promise to me? Why did you put your life at risk again! Huh!?"

"Aiyo... yoyo..." Zhao Yu had been hit in his weak spot and immediately begged for mercy. "My dear, I didn't put my life at risk. I had a stun gun with me and was sure I could handle them!"

"A stun gun?" Miao Ying shook her head. "Are these people fools? Wouldn't they have conducted a body search?"

"I hid it in the most discreet spot. That guy wasn't gay, he wouldn't have found it... yoyo..." Zhao Yu said while wringing his hands. "Besides, I knew they weren't trying to kill me for revenge. They must have been puzzled about many things and wanted answers from me... so..."

With bated breath, Xiao Hang watched the usually high-spirited Zhao Yu become an awkward, squirming mess.

Even Cui Lizhu dared not interfere, merely grinning to herself.

"Hugh!" Miao Ying fumed but eventually released Zhao Yu, cognizant of the others' presence. She continued to scold Zhao Yu. "I don't believe you! They were armed, how did you know they wouldn't have taken you out with a bullet?"

"I was 100% certain that they wouldn't have killed me," Zhao Yu boasted. "The thugs weren't stupid. They knew that I would make a good hostage!

"Therefore, they definitely wouldn't have killed me!"

"Even so, that was far too risky!" Miao Ying's eyes became teary. "Did you stop to think how I would feel about all this? Have you forgotten what you promised me before?"

"That's..." Cui Lizhu interjected while glancing at Zhao Yu's pants. Of course, Zhao Yu had stopped parading around in his red boxers by then. He had already changed into another pair of pants.

"Captain Miao," Li Jing suddenly interceded on Zhao Yu's behalf. "Erm... regardless of how dangerous it had been, everything has worked out! Team Leader Zhao was fearless in the face of danger, and took on the thugs on his own. Even professionally trained agents like us have been won over by his acts. So... erm..."

Li Jing gave Xiao Hang a look. Taking the hint, he quickly added, "Yeah, that's right! The thugs requested Team Leader Zhao's presence. If he hadn't gone in, they would have killed a hostage every 10 minutes! The situation was critical! Team Leader Zhao didn't have a choice! Props to him!"

"Humph!" snorted Miao Ying. She wasn't done with her rant but was compelled to stop, since Li Jing and Xiao Hang had already spoken up on Zhao Yu's behalf.

Zhao Yu was relieved to be let off the hook. He had indeed forgotten about the fact that, if it had been Miao Ying standing outside of Guan Qing Hall instead of Cui Lizhu, he would never have been permitted to go in!

Of course, he also understood that Miao Ying had gotten so angry because she cared deeply about him. If the other party had wanted Miao Ying instead of him, he would have fought tooth and nail to stop that from happening!

Besides, they were about to get engaged...

"Erm..." Xiao Hang broke the ice by saying, "Captain Li, see? The 600 tons of gold was just a rumor created by the owner of the lost treasure!

"All these years, the Russians have been putting up an act!"

Li Jing nodded in agreement. "I think they were trying to take advantage of the situation, so as to get a slice of the pie. If some remnants of the gold left behind by the Russian Empire had been discovered, they would have been able to seek a significant amount of compensation from the Japanese! Why not? They had nothing to lose!" she said.

"Sigh!"

Zhao Yu inwardly sighed. People say that the underworld is treacherous, but it seems that things that are far more treacherous exist...

Just as he was musing, something exciting broke his reverie.

The Miracle System came to life in his mind. The latest Adventure was now over!

Zhao Yu reviewed it expectantly. After the Kun Zhen Gen Hexagram concluded, he had achieved a special completion rate of 334% plus 75%, once again achieving a total completion rate exceeding 400%!

Oh...

Zhao Yu finally understood the significance of this Hexagram! No wonder the Dui Trigram, which would have represented the treasure, hadn't appeared.

The 'treasure' was nothing like what they had imagined, that's why it hadn't corresponded with the Dui Trigram.

However, there was the Kun Trigram indicating something major had happened, the Gen Trigram suggesting that the case had been cracked, and the Zhen Trigram representing Zhao Yu's heroic behavior. That must be why the Miracle System had generated such an unusual hexagram?

It appears that the Miracle System had long predicted what was going to happen!

Zhao Yu then proceeded to check the number of Miracle Points accumulated. The accumulated points were still based on the computation of 400 times four. Once again, he had been rewarded with almost 2000 points.

As for the items...

Although the 30 items awarded were less than he had expected, these items were all premium...

Inside the command vehicle, everyone continued their discussion while observing the cleaning up of the hidden chamber. Zhao Yu was busy enthusing over the items he had received.

Although nothing dangerous had been discovered so far, who knew whether the bottles and cans contained any lethal viruses?

As such, the staff was careful and very meticulous in dealing with every object, ensuring that everything was safely taken care of.

"Fuwaa..."

Zhao Yu couldn't help but yawn. He had barely gotten any sleep the night before, and after an intense day, he was feeling extremely fatigued. Besides, he was also starting to feel the side effects of the Energy Booster...

Zhao Yu was about to find a spot for resting, but two things suddenly happened.

First, the skies rumbled, and it started drizzling...

And second, Li Jing informed Zhao Yu that the chiefs of the Secret Service Agency had arrived and wanted to talk to Zhao Yu right away...

Chapter 1160: I Wanna Be the Bridesmaid

Night had fallen.

Light rain was still trickling down, and a police SUV was parked on the limestone driveway outside Wen Yuan Ge in the Qing Imperial Palace.

The lines formed by the rainwater on the window resembled tiny meandering rivers...

At that moment, Miao Ying was sitting upright, eyeing the command vehicle in the distance. This was because the chiefs of the Secret Service Agency had been consorting with Zhao Yu in the command vehicle ever since they arrived...

"Zzz... zzz..."

Sounds of snoring were being emitted by Cui Lizhu, who was fast asleep and curled up on the passenger seat.

Miao Ying glanced at her. Looking at Cui Lizhu curled up in the fetal position, Miao Ying figured that she must have been feeling cold. She grabbed a set of uniforms from the backseat and placed them on Cui Lizhu.

"Oh, oh..."

It turned out that Cui Lizhu was actually a light sleeper. She roused as soon as the uniform was placed on her. Upon realizing that it was Miao Ying who had put it on her, she closed her eyes again and spoke sleepily.

"It's already been a couple of hours, why is Boss not out yet...?" Cui Lizhu asked.

Miao Ying did not answer. She continued staring at the command vehicle, seemingly anxious.

Ordinarily speaking, if the chiefs of the Secret Service Agency had merely wanted to consult with Zhao Yu on what had happened, it wouldn't have taken this long. She couldn't help but worry about whether or not something else had happened.

"Don't worry..." Cui Lizhu said, even though she appeared to be sleeping. "Boss has made so many contributions. The chiefs of the Secret Service Agency are probably complimenting him. What else would they possibly do to him? Worry not, Boss is such a smooth talker, he's probably singing praises about himself at the moment!"

"Hai!" Miao Ying couldn't help but sigh. "That's not what I'm worried about..."

"Eh?" questioned Cui Lizhu. Her eyes were still closed.

"What am I worried about?" Miao Ying shook her head and said bitterly, "Did you forget why I chose to leave back then?"

"Ah?" This time Cui Lizhu finally opened her eyes, appearing to understand what Miao Ying was referring to. "You mean..."

"You guys are too simplistic!" exclaimed Miao Ying. "Have you ever wondered why Zhao Yu refused to discuss the mastermind behind the case of the hidden treasure? Why he had to wait for the chiefs of the Secret Service Agency to arrive? Why he couldn't tell even Xiao Hang and Li Jing?"

"Oh... well..." Cui Lizhu ran her hands over her face, saying with eyes widened, "Why? I really haven't thought about it..."

"You still don't get it?" Miao Ying shook her head. "A conspiracy on such a vast scale couldn't have been conceived by a single person or organization, even if the evidence seems to point toward the Japanese!

"Zhao Yu has insinuated that they wouldn't be capable of pulling off something like that on their own!"

"So... wow..." Cui Lizhu said nervously. "This must be bigger than just a single country. It must involve a few nations... isn't it practically a war, then!?"

"So..." sighed Miao Ying. "This is similar to my predicament back then! And it seems to be even worse!"

"Ah?" Cui Lizhu covered her mouth and whispered, "Does that mean Boss has to vanish without a trace in order to avoid retaliation from the enemy? That... that's..."

"Did you see the Rolls Royce just now?" Miao Ying suddenly asked. The question seemed utterly irrelevant.

"Oh yeah!" Cui Lizhu looked around and found no trace of that car. "I think that was the car the chiefs arrived in? It must cost tens of millions?"

"That's why I'm worried!" said Miao Ying. "Zhao Yu's disappearance has become a virtual certainty!"

"Ah? Why?" Cui Lizhu was puzzled. "Are they trying to convince Boss with a Rolls Royce? Given his greedy nature, he might just agree!"

"What are you talking about!" Miao Ying pouted. "That Rolls Royce belongs to my family!"

"Chey..." Cui Lizhu almost bit her tongue. "It belongs to your family? What... what does that mean?"

"It couldn't be any more obvious!" said Miao Ying. "My dad must be here! If the Secret Service Agency got my dad to come, it means they must be discussing how best to protect Zhao Yu. So..."

"Oh... got it!" Cui Lizhu heaved a sigh of relief. "But... isn't that a good thing? That the Secret Service Agency allowed Uncle Miao to come protect Zhao Yu? You guys could go on a holiday together and relax for a bit. Isn't that great?"

"Great?" Miao Ying grimaced while shaking her head. "Don't you know what Zhao Yu is like?"

"Well..." Cui Lizhu furrowed her brows.

"In Zhao Yu's notebook, there's just one last case remaining! The five major unsolved mysteries. There's just one left... do you..." Miao Ying asked, "Do you think he would willingly give it up?"

"I know, I know, the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case!" Cui Lizhu said. "You're right. Boss is so devoted to the cases... and that temperament of his... is really unpredictable..."

Cui Lizhu craned her neck, glancing anxiously toward the command vehicle in the distance.

The rain continued trickling, and a sudden silence filled the police SUV.

The two females have been watching for more than 10 minutes, but there was still no sign of activity from the command vehicle.

"Sigh!" For some reason, perhaps out of fatigue, Cui Lizhu fell toward Miao Ying, and lay on her lap. Sounding as if she were on the verge of tears, Cui Lizhu said in a low voice, "Sis Miao... I'm sorry... I'm sorry..."

"Huh? What?" Miao Ying was startled and didn't understand why Cui Lizhu was acting like this. She quickly asked, "Xiao Cui, what are you talking about?"

"Uwu..." Cui Lizhu started crying for real, saying regretfully, "I failed to stop Boss even after getting his pants torn! Uwu... if only he had not entered Guan Qing Hall! The thugs were armed... I don't know what I'd do if something did happen to him! Uwu..."

"Well..." Not knowing what to do, Miao Ying patted Cui Lizhu on her back, comforting her. "This isn't your fault. Even if I were present, I might not have been able to stop him myself!"

"Uwu..." Cui Lizhu's tears fell like rain. Hugging Miao Ying, she cried, "Sis Miao... I admit, I like Boss! I really like him! But don't get it wrong, it's just that he's the closest thing I have to a family after my dad died. I don't know what I'd do without him... So, it's not what you think... do you get it? Uwu..."

"Mm..." Miao Ying was a little taken aback, but couldn't help but smile at Cui Lizhu's candor. "Alright, Xiao Cui! I get it, I do! Don't worry. I won't misunderstand or anything. We wouldn't have gotten this far if I had no trust in him!"

"Uwu... uwu..."

What Miao Ying said must have triggered something in her, because Cui Lizhu cried for a long time as she held onto Miao Ying. After she was finally done crying, Cui Lizhu begged Miao Ying. "Sis Miao... when you guys get married, could I be the bridesmaid?"

"That's... not a problem!" Miao Ying was quick to agree.

"Oh... that's great..." The younger female finally broke into a smile and fell asleep in Miao Ying's embrace.