

First Order 801

Chapter 801: Failed rescue!

The warden was standing in the control room and watching Wang Yun and the Great Hoodwinker whispering to each other onscreen. It was an extremely strange sight to behold.

However, the warden realized Wang Yun must know he could read lips. That was why he covered his mouth when he was speaking.

In the past, when he looked at the surveillance footage, he would know what the prisoners were saying even if he could not hear their voices. The prisoners unknowingly revealing their own secrets was the reason why he was able to remain as the warden for more than a decade, because he could always pass on extremely important information to the higher-ups.

But Wang Yun was actually aware of his secret.

As expected, Wang Yun, who was capable enough to become the intelligence agency's director, was outstanding.

Back when Wang Yun was still the director of the 2nd Military Intelligence Division, the warden realized not even the 1st and 2nd Military Intelligence Divisions combined could capture as many criminals as Wang Yun had. It seemed the man was always able to uncover other people's secrets from the simple clues he found.

The warden said with a cold expression, "There's definitely a problem with these two. When will the 1st Military Intelligence Division get here for the interrogation?"

"They said they'll be here soon," a prison guard answered.

"Zoom in on them and listen to what they are saying with the audio pick-up equipment," the warden said.

The prison guard answered, "Sir, it's too noisy in the chow hall. Besides, there's no audio frequency detected around them. We can't hear what they're saying."

"Send in the riot squad to maintain order and bring those two out. And be careful. If they encounter any resistance, just open fire on them," the warden said.

With that, tear gas was released from the ceiling, and white smoke quickly filled the entire chow hall.

The riot squad downstairs began streaming in with their gas masks on and started beating up anyone they came across. There was also a group of 10 other troopers who rushed towards Wang Yun and the Great Hoodwinker.

The Great Hoodwinker shouted, "Why don't we charge out and bring that warden under control first? I feel that we still have a 50% chance of success at that."

“No, the warden is a superhuman. It won’t be that easy.” Wang Yun shouted, “Besides, I still have more than 200 subordinates locked up in another prison. If I take any action here, they’ll be killed!”

The Great Hoodwinker muttered, “Let’s just surrender then. Why are you so troublesome?”

Wang Yun’s eyes reddened from the tear gas. Fortunately, he managed to control the air in time and isolated the remaining tear gas. As such, he and the Great Hoodwinker did not get affected too badly.

Wang Yun stared at the Great Hoodwinker. “If you want me to join the Prosperous Northwest, you’ll have to rescue my subordinates first. I’m not leaving by myself!”

“Are you kidding me? There’s more than 200 of them. How are we going to bring them with us?” The Great Hoodwinker nearly went crazy when he heard that. This was the Kong Consortium’s territory, after all. It would not be too difficult to sneak one person away, but to bring more than 200 people with them, wasn’t that as good as declaring war with the Kong Consortium!?

Wang Yun ignored the Great Hoodwinker’s grousing. He looked at the riot squad that was rushing over and said, “We’ll talk after we make it through the beating. You don’t even have a concrete plan yet, so why did you come and talk to me? For that, we’re both gonna get beaten up!”

However, after Wang Yun mentioned they were going to get beaten up, he realized the Great Hoodwinker did not really seem to mind.

He said in surprise, “Aren’t you afraid?”

“Oh, about getting beaten up?” The Great Hoodwinker said, “It’s not like it’s gonna hurt me anyways.”

Wang Yun was stunned. Oh right! This Great Hoodwinker had such thick skin that not even the anesthetic injection had any effect on him, so of course he wouldn’t be scared of taking a beating.

But Wang Yun would feel pain!

Fuck, so after the Great Hoodwinker got him into all this trouble, he would be the only one suffering?

Wang Yun said through clenched teeth, “Can you people from the Northwest not be such nuisances?!”

The Great Hoodwinker coughed, “All the best.”

The riot squad troopers had already rushed in front of the two of them. They raised their rods and swung down on them.

The Great Hoodwinker lay on the ground and simply allowed the people to carry him out.

Seeing that the Great Hoodwinker and Wang Yun did not resist, the leader of the riot squad decisively administered anesthetics into their necks before taking them out of the chow hall.

Wang Yun tried his best to speak sincerely to the riot squad troopers while he was still conscious. “I have a tip about this man. He’s not afraid of normal torture, so you’ll need to use electrocution on him, please!”

The Great Hoodwinker was speechless.

When Wang Yun came to in the interrogation room, he could hear the Great Hoodwinker's screams ringing in his ears. Only then did he feel some comfort.

The Kong Consortium had placed the two of them in a special two-person inquisition room and not a normal interrogation room. This was where they conducted special interrogation through the use of torture.

In this kind of inquisition room, one could hear the torture being carried out next door. The Kong Consortium would use the screams of a person to break down another person's psychological defense.

The director of the 1st Military Intelligence Division stood in front of Wang Yun, wanting to examine his expression. He could only see a gratified smile on Wang Yun's face.

This puzzled the director of the 1st Military Intelligence Division a little. Didn't they say the two of them had a good relationship? Didn't they say the old man was likely to be Wang Yun's handler?

But now, it did not look like that at all. Wang Yun's gratified smile seemed to be coming from the bottom of his heart. It felt extremely sincere.

This bewildered the director of the 1st Military Intelligence Division. He asked, "Is there anything you want to confess now?"

Wang Yun said in seriousness, "You must be Zhong Zhen, originally of the 3rd Military Intelligence Division, right? When I was still in charge of field operations at the 3rd Division, we worked together once on an operation."

Zhong Zhen narrowed his eyes. "Senior, now is not the time to be reminiscing."

Wang Yun smiled. "It doesn't matter. You've been promoted to director of the 1st Division, and you might even become the director of the intelligence agency in the future. How about this? I'll share with you the secrets of the intelligence agency, including some information about the current intelligence director. How does that sound?"

Zhong Zhen smiled and said, "Then what do you want in return, Senior? If you want me to release you, forget it. No one can get you out now."

"I'm not asking to be released." Wang Yun shook his head. "I just need you to turn up the voltage next door."

Zhong Zhen was astonished. How could that person next door be his fucking handler? He was clearly an enemy!

It looked like there was some mistake in the intel!

On the night of the fourth day, the interrogators from the 1st Military Intelligence Division were still unable to get anything out of them after three straight days of torture and questioning.

Based on the usual practice, such enhanced interrogations would last for several months, and they would even resort to tiring the subject out until they broke down mentally.

In the end, the 1st Military Intelligence Division encountered an unexpected situation and decided to end the interrogation.

Wang Yun and the Great Hoodwinker were also put back into their individual cells. This time, the warden simply arranged for other inmates to be around their cells so he could find out some clues from their behavior.

In this interrogation, Wang Yun and the Great Hoodwinker both suffered greatly. Zhong Zhen, the director of the 1st Military Intelligence Division, ended up as the biggest winner. When the man left the secret prison, he was all smiles.

However, this did not go unnoticed by the warden whose expertise was lip reading.

The warden picked up the landline in his office and made a call. "Sir, Zhong Zhen has gotten quite a lot of information about you from Wang Yun."

There was a snort on the other end of the line. "Looks like I promoted him in vain. He's really an ungrateful dog."

After that, the warden hung up the phone. As he sat in his office, he suddenly had a thought. Since Wang Yun knew that he could read lips, was he trying to use him to sow discord within the intelligence agency?!

Chapter 802: Trump card

The warden considered this matter seriously. In his opinion, Wang Yun would not benefit himself at all if he told Zhong Zhen about the dirty dealings the intelligence director was involved in. So the behavior was a little odd.

Could Wang Yun be thinking of having Zhong Zhen get him out of prison? But Zhong Zhen definitely couldn't do so.

The warden fell deep into thought.

So was Wang Yun doing this to benefit himself? No, he was just trying to make things difficult for the Great Hoodwinker, that was all.

That night, Wang Yun carried his meal tray with his face all bruised and swollen. There was a long line in the chow hall, but when he arrived, he just pushed everyone aside with a blast of air, leaving them so scared they could only keep quiet. Only the three prisoners who were supernatural beings looked on coldly as they ate in silence.

These three people already had their own sphere of influence in the prison, and Wang Yun knew them as well. One of them was from the Zhou Consortium, another was a former intelligence agent of the Kong Consortium, and the last one was an independent mercenary who had roamed the wilderness.

The three prisoners had been locked up here for at least two years now. After they had answered for whatever they needed to, they were able to lead a comfortable life in the secret prison and enjoyed a good relationship with the prison guards.

The social structure in the prison was relatively special. Sometimes, if the prison guards wanted less trouble to deal with, they would have to rely on these three prisoners to manage the order of the lower-ranked prisoners under them.

The three of them had already received news that Wang Yun would definitely be dead within two months, and Wang Yun himself was very clear about this as well. So there was no need to provoke someone who was already on death row. A dead man walking had no reason to cherish his life.

Wang Yun carried his meal tray and sat down to eat. His body was riddled with wounds, and each time he swallowed a mouthful of rice, his entire body would ache.

The Great Hoodwinker also came over. Wang Yun's eyes were bloodshot as he looked at the Great Hoodwinker whose medium-length hair was a mess.

Only at this moment did he feel better.

Fortunately, the two of them were supernatural beings. At the very least, their recovery capacity was much better than others. If it were a normal person who suffered this ordeal, they would have lost control of their bladder and been unable to take care of themselves. For them to still be able to come and dine was very impressive.

When Wang Yun saw the Great Hoodwinker, he followed the usual practice of creating chaos first and waited for him to speak.

The Great Hoodwinker dropped his tray down in front of Wang Yun and sat in carefree fashion. When he picked up the food with his chopsticks, his hands were trembling.

Even after a long time, the Great Hoodwinker could not put the food into his own mouth. He was so angry he slammed his chopsticks on the table. "You bitch, you've got no team spirit at all. If I didn't come here to save you, would I have to suffer like this?"

Wang Yun raised his eyebrows. "Then who was the one who put me here in the first place?"

"Go take that up with the Wang Consortium and the Anjing House." The Great Hoodwinker said awkwardly, "I was only hoping to make you lose favor with your boss so that he wouldn't place you in an important position. Ultimately, it was that woman from the Anjing House who tricked you. If Kong Erdong doesn't kill you, the frontline soldiers will certainly protest."

"Don't talk about that anymore." Wang Yun said coldly, "We're even now, understand? Instead of fighting, why don't you think about how to get us out of here?"

"You don't have to worry about that. You didn't even let me finish my sentence before setting me up to be tortured in the electric chair." The Great Hoodwinker explained, "Do you think I don't have a backup plan? I'm also capable of having one, alright? Although I can't get out by myself, I have a backup!"

Wang Yun's eyes lit up. "What backup?"

The two of them were still covering their mouths as they spoke. The Great Hoodwinker said in a low voice, "Our future commander sent a message to me a week ago saying that he's coming to the Kong Consortium. Judging by the time, he should already be here!"

Wang Yun's face darkened. "Don't refer to him as 'our' future commander. Are we on the same side? It's *your* future commander!"

The Great Hoodwinker glanced at him. "Isn't it only a matter of time? You are destined to prosper in the Northwest!"

"Don't bullshit me." Wang Yun frowned. "Even if he comes, he might not be able to save us, right?"

"Don't worry, I'm serious when I say that I have a backup plan." The Great Hoodwinker said, "Do you think our future commander's reputation is just for show? As long as he knows that we're being held captive in this secret prison, he'll definitely save us even if it means demolishing Stronghold 31."

Wang Yun said in a low voice, "Then our future commander... ptui! Then I'm afraid your future commander isn't aware there's a bomb in the passageways either, right? Besides, does he know about my terms for being rescued? He has to bring all of my subordinates along as well!"

"Then do you have any other way to send out this message?" The Great Hoodwinker looked at Wang Yun. "I'll give you an address, so you can just arrange for someone to send this message there."

Wang Yun fell silent. It seemed like he did not want to reveal what his trump card was.

The Great Hoodwinker sneered and said, "Why are you still hiding your trump card at a time like this? Who knows if Kong Erdong will kill you on a whim tomorrow? I advise you not to hold back anymore. Your subordinates are all loyal to you, and you've been working in the intelligence field for many years. I don't believe that you don't have any trusted personnel working inside this secret prison."

"Give me the address." Wang Yun said, "You don't have to worry about the rest."

After that, Wang Yun ate two mouthfuls of rice before heading back to his cell. On the way back, his expression slowly relaxed.

For some reason, he felt much more at ease when he learned from the Great Hoodwinker that Ren Xiaosu had also come to Stronghold 31.

Wang Yun no longer had a way out. He needed to take a bet and place all his hopes on Ren Xiaosu this time.

In the middle of the night, Wang Yun lay in his cell. When everyone had fallen asleep, he quietly opened his eyes, which turned a silver-gray.

In the narrow ventilation duct above his head, a ball of air wrapped around a pen and a sheet of paper and started floating down towards him. Wang Yun quickly wrote something on the paper and wrapped it with a ball of air again. He then moved it freely through the ventilation duct as he wanted.

The secret prison was located underground, and the ventilation system was as complicated as a huge maze. It would be extremely difficult for normal people to send a note to their destination via this method.

Moreover, the ventilation duct was only 10 centimeters in diameter. Not even a child could fit through that.

Yet Wang Yun was not stumped by something like this.

The note was like a traveler in a maze. It flew off into the distance according to the precise route Wang Yun had memorized.

It finally came to a stop at the ceiling of a room where the ball of air disappeared. Then, someone in the room quickly caught the crumpled paper ball.

The person in the room scanned through the contents of the note before swallowing it into his stomach. Only then did he walk out of the room as though nothing had happened.

Just as the Great Hoodwinker had said, Wang Yun was such a smart person, so how could he not have any backup plans in the secret prison?

Many of the important figures in the intelligence agency would plant their own spies within the secret prison. Such a basic move was only to be expected.

However, none of the spies would go out of their way and remain so loyal once their handlers lost their influence as Wang Yun did.

As a matter of fact, the reason the Great Hoodwinker was willing to risk his life for Wang Yun was because of this. The people in the Northwest were all fond of such loyal geniuses.

As for whether he could rescue Wang Yun's subordinates as well, that would have to depend on how capable Future Commander was.

Chapter 803: Resolute Doctor Ren Xiaosu

Ren Xiaosu, whom the Great Hoodwinker and Wang Yun were looking forward to seeing, had already arrived at the entrance of Stronghold 31.

However, they had to deal with some hiccups. After the garrison troops at the gate found out about their identities, they did not immediately let them through. Instead, they politely stopped everyone outside the gate and said they were waiting to verify the paperwork.

The wait lasted two hours. But even after two hours had passed, the Kong Consortium was still not done with the verification.

Wang Jing smiled and said, "It looks like they're planning to stop us here. It's fine, we'll just wait."

In the end, Ren Xiaosu looked out at the boulevard in town and suddenly said enthusiastically, "Since the Kong Consortium isn't allowing us to enter the stronghold, we might as well hold a consultation in town and help the refugees outside Stronghold 31!"

Wang Jing was stunned for a moment. He looked at Ren Xiaosu with an even kinder gaze now.

Yang Xiaojin looked at Ren Xiaosu quietly. She knew the boy had already forgotten all about rescuing Wang Yun.

As for the assassination of Kong Erdong, there was even less of a need to talk about that.

However, Yang Xiaojin made no further mention of it to Ren Xiaosu. Instead, she sat in the vehicle and quietly looked at his profile. She suddenly felt that he looked rather cute at this moment.

At some point, Yang Xiaojin could sense Ren Xiaosu had really gained some joy and a sense of achievement during the treatment process that had nothing to do with benefits at all.

Actually, Ren Xiaosu himself had mistaken this joy to be from receiving the gratitude tokens. As such, he simply brushed it aside.

However, a middle-aged doctor hesitated and said, "I don't think we should do that. This is the Kong Consortium's territory. If the Wang Consortium finds out about this, I'm afraid it'll be difficult to hold our donation drives in the stronghold in the future. Besides, will the Wang Consortium accuse us of colluding with the enemy?"

Ren Xiaosu shook his head righteously and said, "The consortiums might be concerned about territorial divisions, but should doctors care about that when it comes to treating patients?"

"Well said." Wang Jing applauded. "Then I'll stay in this town and treat patients until we're out of medicine, until the Kong Consortium is willing to let us into the city! I believe that our fellow doctors in the stronghold are also running around tirelessly for this. Rather than waiting anxiously, why don't we display the grace of our Trinity Institute and show the Kong Consortium what it means to be a benevolent doctor?"

At this moment, the more Wang Jing looked at Ren Xiaosu, the more he liked him. He felt that an ambitious young man like him should dedicate himself to a greater cause in medicine.

Now that order had collapsed, it was really rare to see someone with such a kind heart!

Wang Jing got distracted in his thoughts. When he turned around and looked at Ren Xiaosu again, he realized Ren Xiaosu had already put on his white coat and was starting to help Liang Ce and the others set up a temporary consultation tent.

When Wang Jing saw this sight and how everyone was so enthusiastic, he felt like he had turned back the years as well. His blood was racing with fervor!

In just one morning, news of the Trinity Institute's free consultation session spread through the town. The news even slowly made its way to the factories.

Initially, Ren Xiaosu was a little worried. This was not a place where the Trinity Institute had held free consultations before. Would the refugees not feel any gratitude for what they did here?

In the end, he realized his worries were unfounded. As long as they sincerely gave treatment, most of the patients would sincerely thank them for it.

Of course, some strange incidents happened as well. For example, when some refugees discovered the medicine would be given out for free, they lied that they had a fever, cold, or sore throat in order to get some anti-inflammatory medicine to sell.

Some doctors exposed the refugees who tried to do this, but Wang Jing waved it off and allowed them to leave. He said, "This place is different from the previous consultation camps we held. We've operated those consultation camps for decades, and those refugees have been properly taken care of by the Trinity Institute for generations, so they won't try to cheat us of our medicine. But don't be discouraged, and don't complain either. In a few decades, the people here will also learn to respect what we do from the bottom of their hearts."

Actually, it was not just purely the refugees trying to cheat them. There were also other injured refugees who did not dare to come forward to seek treatment. They were afraid this might be another scheme by the consortium.

When Wang Jing and the others found out about this, they decided to hold a quick meeting to discuss how to resolve it. Wang Jing looked at Liang Ce and asked, "Where's Ren Xiaosu? Have him come over for the meeting as well."

Wang Jing looked around but did not see Ren Xiaosu anywhere.

Liang Ce was taken aback. "Ren Xiaosu has already gone to those people's houses directly to treat them. He said we can't let such people slip through the net...."

Wang Jing gave an awkward laugh, "Haha, the way the kid describes things is really quite novel.... Let's go and have a look as well."

With that, Wang Jing led two doctors into the town. But before they could get far, they heard someone wailing in pain. When they got closer, they were surprised to see Ren Xiaosu forcefully pinning down a patient on the ground and applying medicine on him.

The other doctors looked at Wang Jing speechlessly. The corners of Wang Jing's eyes twitched as well. He did not know why this young man was so passionate about saving people.

But the stronghold's gate went up slowly at this time. Wang Jing turned around and saw the Kong Consortium's garrison troops coming out of the stronghold with several doctors in white coats.

Wang Jing said with a smile, "Our old friends are here to welcome us. Let's go." He then turned and said to the doctors walking out of the stronghold in their white coats, "Yang Shiruo, Su Wan, long time no see!"

The two middle-aged doctors at the front of the group were grinning from ear to ear. "It's been three years since last we met, but Elder Wang is still looking as glorious as ever."

But just as the two of them were about to welcome Wang Jing, they were stopped by a young man next to them. He said to Wang Jing with a smile, "Hello, Elder Wang. I've heard a lot about you. My name is Zhong Zhen, and I'm the current director of the 1st Military Intelligence Division."

Wang Jing was stunned for a moment. His enthusiasm clearly faded a lot as he said politely, "Director Zhong, how are you?"

"Fine." Zhong Zhen nodded and said, "The higher-ups have agreed to let you into the stronghold for the medical exchange, but there's still some procedures we have to go through."

"What procedures?" Wang Jing asked puzzledly.

"We just need everyone in your group to answer a few questions. The questions are not difficult and they're all related to your profession. I doubt it will trouble any of you." Zhong Zhen said with a smile, "After all, these are extraordinary times we live in. I hope you all can understand."

Everyone looked at each other. It was no wonder so many doctors had come out to welcome them this time. It turned out they wanted them to help verify the identities of the doctors in the group.

If a spy wanted to sneak in, no matter how much training they were given beforehand, a fake doctor would be found out immediately with just a few questions. After all, a spy could not possibly spend several years learning medical knowledge for this, right?

This time, the Kong Consortium's intelligence agency had struggled for a long time over the matter of the Trinity Institute coming for the exchange. It was even Zhong Zhen who suggested how they should verify the identities of these people. If they could pass their screening, it would put everyone's minds at ease.

When the higher-ups thought about it, they realized it made sense. There had never been any problems with the Trinity Institute's medical exchange program in over three decades. If they were all doctors, they would be allowed to enter the stronghold as usual.

Zhong Zhen smiled and said, "Elder Wang, what do you say?"

Wang Jing felt his side would not have any problems, so he said confidently, "I totally understand. Let's begin then."

Chapter 804: Crisis

"What is your specialty?" Zhong Zhen asked as he looked at Liang Ce.

Liang Ce answered, "Cardiovascular surgery."

"Dr. Yang, we'll let you ask the questions then," Zhong Zhen said to a middle-aged doctor with a smile.

"Of the small saphenous vein, ulnar artery, and left gastric artery, which can't be used as a transplant material for vascular bypass during surgery?" the doctor named Yang Shiruo asked straight to the point.

Liang Ce answered without hesitation, "Left gastric artery."

"Please list three possible symptoms of cardiac tamponade," Yang Shiruo asked calmly.

Liang Ce answered without hesitation again, "Distention of the jugular veins, muffled heart sounds, and collapsed ventricles on a chest X-ray."

Ren Xiaosu watched from the side as everyone answered their questions independently. If anyone tried to give them a hint, their answers would be invalidated. Everyone would have to answer their three questions in an extremely strict manner.

There were doctors here who specialized in cardiovascular surgery, general surgery, and burn surgery. In order to identify any spies within the group, Zhong Zhen brought along over a dozen doctors from the stronghold to ensure no one could slip past their checks.

Wang Jing looked at Ren Xiaosu and said with a smile, "Why do I feel that you're a little nervous?"

"Oh." Ren Xiaosu replied, "This feels a little like taking exams when I was back in school."

"A simple test like this won't trouble you at all. Don't worry." Wang Jing patted Ren Xiaosu on the shoulder.

Liang Ce had already answered the three questions posed to him. Yang Shiruo looked at Wang Jing, who was standing next to Liang Ce, then said to Zhong Zhen, "There won't be a need to ask Elder Wang any questions. With my limited knowledge, I'll just be making a fool of myself in front of him."

However, Zhong Zhen said with a smile, "Go on, ask him. How can you not? I happen to want to learn more so I can broaden my horizons as well. I have a lot of respect for Elder Wang, so let me take this opportunity to listen to his lecture."

Nearby, Sima Gang said indignantly, "What? Do you think Elder Wang would be a spy?"

Zhong Zhen turned to look at him and said, "There's spies who are experts at disguising themselves these days, after all. There's even superhumans who can take on the looks of others too."

Wang Jing smiled calmly and said, "Ask away then. We should all be treated the same. For the sake of the medical exchange, there's no need to take this small matter to heart."

When everyone heard Wang Jing say that, they did not protest any further. At the end of the day, there was no reason for them to be afraid of these questions anyway. After all, those who could participate in the exchange were all outstanding talents in their respective specialities. Even Liang Ce and Meng Nan, the two interns, had scored the best grades during their school days.

The Q&A session proceeded very quickly as Ren Xiaosu quietly watched the progress. After Wang Jing finished answering his questions, Zhong Zhen suddenly turned to Ren Xiaosu and said with a smile, "And what is this young man's specialization?"

Ren Xiaosu answered calmly, "Cardiovascular surgery."

This time, even Liang Ce and the others were stunned. On the journey thus far, they had seen Ren Xiaosu skillfully treating external injuries, so everyone thought he specialized in general surgery. They did not expect him to specialize in cardiovascular surgery instead!

Zhong Zhen said with a smile, "I'll have to trouble you to ask a few questions this time, Doctor Liu. You can ask a few more questions this time. I heard this young man is extremely enthusiastic about treating and saving people in our town at Stronghold 31. I'm sure his medical skills should be really superb."

Wang Jing and the others were stunned. They were stunned that Zhong Zhen seemed to be targeting Ren Xiaosu and wondered what had happened between them.

Ren Xiaosu gave Zhong Zhen a glance. He was the only one who knew Zhong Zhen was deliberately targeting him. That was because he was the one who had shot dead the deserter. The recon platoon lurking in the wilderness had witnessed everything.

So, if their positions were switched and Ren Xiaosu were responsible for finding the spy, he would also think he was the most suspicious person in the group.

Zhong Zhen was eyeing Ren Xiaosu like a tiger stalking its prey. His subordinates around him were casually putting their hands on their holsters.

Doctor Liu asked, "A female patient aged 38 suffers from heart palpitations after performing physical labor. She has been experiencing shortness of breath for 10 years, and it's getting worse by the year. For nearly a year now, she has had to take digoxin daily for her medication. Sometimes, she takes a diuretic as well and can walk for up to a kilometer without any problems. She has a history of knee arthritis pain from 15 years ago... Her electrocardiogram shows atrial fibrillation, with fatty infiltration in her right ventricular wall. The echocardiogram found that she has mitral stenosis and a left ventricular thrombus. If she was under your care, what treatment would you choose for her?"

Ren Xiaosu said calmly, "Open mitral commissurotomy."

Doctor Liu asked, "Why?"

"This patient has both a long-term and long history of illnesses. She's also suffering from thrombosis in the left ventricular wall, so performing an open mitral commissurotomy operation will be the most suitable. Moreover, this method can also remove the narrow obstruction under the valve and completely treat her mitral valve stenosis. In addition..." Ren Xiaosu said slowly, enunciating each word clearly.

Wang Jing looked at Ren Xiaosu in surprise. He had not expected this young man to think the same as him. If he were the chief surgeon, he would also make the same choice as Ren Xiaosu after hearing about the case. His reasons for doing so would be the same as well!

This feeling was as though someone was speaking his mind for him. It even made Wang Jing feel like he was a confidant.

The smile on Zhong Zhen's face gradually disappeared. He did not expect the person he was most suspicious of could actually answer the question so smoothly.

Doctor Liu turned to look at Zhong Zhen. "I'm done asking. There's no problem."

Zhong Zhen said, "You can ask a few more questions."

Doctor Liu was dumbfounded. At this moment, everyone understood that Zhong Zhen was targeting Ren Xiaosu.

However, Doctor Liu did not argue with him. As a member of the Kong Consortium, who would be willing to offend these devil incarnates of the intelligence agency? He asked Ren Xiaosu five more questions, but Ren Xiaosu still answered all of them smoothly without any problems! He answered them flawlessly!

If it weren't for the fact that Ren Xiaosu was young, the cardiovascular specialists like Doctor Liu and Yang Shiruo would almost think the young man in front of them was an experienced surgeon who had been working at the operating table for many years!

He might not be the best surgeon, but he was definitely at the level of a chief physician.

The way that Wang Jing was looking at Ren Xiaosu had completely changed. Previously, he only admired him. But now, it was as though he had discovered a treasure.

"My apologies." Zhong Zhen said with a fake smile, "I didn't expect you to be such an amazing doctor."

When Ren Xiaosu heard this, he finally breathed a sigh of relief. It was not a fluke that he was able to pass the questioning today. Ever since "Old Xu" discovered those reconnaissance troops in the wilderness, he felt there would probably be others coming to make things difficult for them when they arrived at the city. So he used Basic Skill Duplication Scrolls on Wang Jing.

The skill the first scroll had copied was Advanced Accordion Playing, the second scroll copied Intermediate Sketching, while the third skill he copied was Tai Chi for the Elderly. When Ren Xiaosu copied the skills to this point, he nearly lost all hope. He could only think to himself how multitalented Elder Wang Jing was. Besides, why was the Tai Chi skill even annotated with the word "elderly"? What? Do you mean to say that youngsters cannot practice tai chi?!

It wasn't until the fourth skill duplication scroll was used that Ren Xiaosu was finally relieved: "Advanced Cardiovascular Specialty."

Suddenly, Zhong Zhen picked up the list and said, "Eh, I saw from your list that 13 people will be entering the stronghold. There's only 12 of you here. Where's the last girl? Can you please get her to come and answer the questions as well?"

Chapter 805: A close shave

When Zhong Zhen said that, everyone fell silent. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu tensed up.

Before this, Yang Xiaojin had deliberately kept herself out of everyone's sight. Even during the consultation, she would quietly stay in the vehicle and sleep. However, he did not expect the Kong Consortium to be so strict. They actually planned on checking every single one of them.

In any case, Ren Xiaosu did not exhibit any odd behavior. He was thinking of how he should resolve the matter at hand first. If Yang Xiaojin could not answer the questions and ended up getting arrested by the Kong Consortium, what should he do?

He would not hesitate to lead Yang Xiaojin to break out of their encirclement and get out of here.

As for the mission, they would just have to secretly come back again at a later time to complete it. Although that would make it much more difficult, it was fortunate the Kong Consortium did not have an artificial intelligence of their own, so their presence would not be discovered immediately after they climbed into the stronghold.

The only thing that worried Ren Xiaosu was what would happen to Wang Jing and the others if they escaped. If it were anyone else, Ren Xiaosu would have just abandoned them and left. But if these real doctors were to be detained by the Kong Consortium, they might be put through interrogation, and that made Ren Xiaosu a little uneasy.

But at this moment, Yang Xiaojin's voice rang out from a ways away. "I'm over here."

Ren Xiaosu spun around and saw Yang Xiaojin walking over in a white coat. "Who's looking for me?"

Zhong Zhen looked at Yang Xiaojin and said, "Oh, we have a few questions for you. As long as you can answer them, everything will be fine. The others have already passed the screening."

Ren Xiaosu watched quietly from the side as he prepared to bring out "Old Xu" at any moment.

But Yang Xiaojin spoke as though it were no big deal, "Go on and ask then."

"What is your specialty?" Zhong Zhen asked.

"Orthopedics," Yang Xiaojin answered calmly. "Who will be asking the questions?"

Zhong Zhen turned to look at a doctor and said with a smile, "Dr. Wang Yao, please ask the questions. This is your area of expertise."

The doctor named Wang Yao nodded and said, "What are the late complications of a fracture? You just need to list three of them."

Yang Xiaojin answered, "Post-traumatic arthritis, muscle contracture, fat embolism, bedsores, hypostatic pneumonia, osteochondritis, joint stiffness."

The doctor named Wang Yao was taken aback for a moment. He said to list three, but the woman actually listed seven in one breath!

"Then what are the common complications after the cast has been applied?" Wang Yao asked again.

Yang Xiaojin answered firmly, "Pustular dermatitis, disuse osteoporosis..."

This time, she gave five answers.

Wang Yao asked five questions in a row, and Yang Xiaojin answered all of them as smoothly as Ren Xiaosu did. Zhong Zhen did not give up. He somehow felt a little indignant about this.

Although it looked like there was no problem at all, he still felt a little humiliated that no spies were identified even though he had mobilized over a dozen doctors to come out of the stronghold.

So Zhong Zhen got Wang Yao to ask a few more questions, but it still did not pose a problem to Yang Xiaojin.

Ren Xiaosu watched quietly. He was surprised Yang Xiaojin could answer the questions so flawlessly. She looked just like a real orthopedic doctor.

He asked the palace in his mind, "What's Yang Xiaojin's proficiency in orthopedics?"

"Advanced," the voice from the palace answered.

Ren Xiaosu sighed. Earlier, he was thinking that Wang Jing was truly multitalented. But actually, it was his girl who was the multitalented one!

However, Ren Xiaosu could guess why Yang Xiaojin was so well-versed in orthopedics. Back when he was learning close combat at Stronghold 88, Lu Yuan had specifically mentioned that joint lock techniques and counter lock techniques were an art form. Sometimes, they could even be used to deflect a heavy blow. When fighting an enemy, they could be used to easily immobilize them and dislocate their joints.

Lu Yuan also said that if he wanted to master these two techniques, he would need to have some knowledge of orthopedics first.

At that time, Ren Xiaosu answered he did not have to learn any joint locks or counter locks. That was because he would just break the opponent's joints.

Thinking about it now, Yang Xiaojin must have learned her orthopedics knowledge at that time. Furthermore, she had learned it very systematically.

As an ace student, she was indeed much better at learning than Ren Xiaosu. After all, when Ren Xiaosu asked her how he could score 140 points in mathematics, her answer to him was that he could just skip a few multiple-choice questions.

And Yang Xiaojin gave Ren Xiaosu yet another big surprise. She did not have to rely on any external help to pass the Kong Consortium's screening.

In the end, Zhong Zhen gave a fake smile and said, "It looks like everyone here is really capable. In that case, I won't hold you all up any further. You may carry on to your medical exchange program. On behalf of the Kong Consortium, I welcome all of you. Here's to the continued improvement of our Kong Consortium and Wang Consortium's medical standards."

Wang Jing smiled. "We'll be going in then."

With that, he looked over at Yang Xiaojin. Before this, Wang Jing had thought that Yang Xiaojin had only tagged along as Ren Xiaosu's girlfriend and was not a doctor. At the time, Wang Jing felt it was quite a shame. They were here for work, so everyone should not have any distractions. What was with Ren Xiaosu bringing his romantic interest along?

This was probably the tiniest bit of dissatisfaction Wang Jing had towards Ren Xiaosu. As Ren Xiaosu treated more and more patients, the dissatisfaction faded.

But he was pleasantly surprised to discover the young lady was also a doctor. Moreover, she seemed like she excelled in her virtue and learning as well. Thus, he started to take a liking to her too.

"You two are a really good match," Wang Jing praised before leading the way to the vehicles.

Ren Xiaosu chuckled at Yang Xiaojin and said, "Elder Wang is right."

Yang Xiaojin glanced at him before turning around to get into the vehicle. Several meters away, Ren Xiaosu heard her voice drift over. "I think so too."

Zhong Zhen stood outside the stronghold and watched the convoy drive in. His deputy next to him asked, "Sir, what do we do now?"

"What else can we do?" Zhong Zhen thought for a moment and calmed himself before saying, "Since we've confirmed they're not suspicious, let's not bother with them anymore. Send two people to take turns to keep tabs on them and ensure they don't run around. The rest of you, follow me back to the secret prison. We'll continue interrogating Wang Yun and that old man!"

It was quite difficult for Zhong Zhen to coordinate with so many medical specialists to make a trip out of the stronghold, but he had told his superior very clearly there was a high chance that spies were traveling with this group.

Now that the spies had not been found and there was nothing suspicious with the other party, he had to quickly find another way to gain merit so his competitors would not have something on him.

His deputy next to him said, "But those two are too stubborn. I'm afraid they won't open their mouths and speak anytime soon."

“Then I want you to make sure they do. Isn’t that old man afraid of electricity? Keep electrocuting him. As for Wang Yun, continue torturing him. I don’t believe we can’t pry open their mouths,” Zhong Zhen said ruthlessly.

The reason the Kong Consortium’s intelligence agency could become the devil incarnate of the Kong Consortium was because these ruthless officers had always been unscrupulous. Yang Shiruo and the others had also been forced to cooperate with their screening of the visiting doctors. Everyone knew the flames of war had already been ignited, and the authority of the intelligence agency would only increase, becoming an indispensable part of the war machine.

Chapter 806: Wang Jing’s thoughts

Be it Liang Ce, Meng Nan, or Wang Jing, all of them had lived in the Wang Consortium’s strongholds. Therefore, they could not really empathize with the wars happening in the outside world.

In their world, war seemed to be just words that appeared in the newspapers. It was something that was very detached from them.

But now, they first got threatened by a deserter in the wilderness and almost had a glimpse of how tragic the war was. What made these elite soldiers unwilling to go onto the battlefield again? It was as though they were so scared out of their wits that they wanted to flee all the way to the South.

After that encounter, everyone realized the world was about to change.

Wang Jing kept lamenting to himself that a chaotic era was about to arrive.

After that, they were required to go through a spy screening by the Kong Consortium’s intelligence agency. The heavily armed troops from the 1st Military Intelligence Division looked extremely fearsome, and they pointed the barrels of their guns at them too.

All of this was very common for Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin, but it was still quite a cruel reality for the doctors who lived in the stronghold all year round.

Ren Xiaosu clearly noticed one of the doctors speaking in a trembling voice when he was answering the questions earlier. He was afraid that if he answered them wrong, he would get pulled aside and be executed.

When the convoy entered the stronghold, Wang Jing sighed in the vehicle and said, “I’m not sure now if it was right to bring you all to the Kong Consortium.”

Liang Ce said, “This isn’t your fault. Why blame yourself for other people’s mistakes?”

Wang Jing looked at Liang Ce and said with a smile, “Young man, you’ve performed very well. In the past, I only thought you had an excellent moral character. But after going through so much this time, I finally saw the bravery in you.”

Truthfully, Liang Ce had done quite well. When he encountered the deserter, he did not cry or make a fuss about wanting to go home. In fact, he even regained his composure very quickly. When he answered the questions earlier, he also remained very calm throughout.

In Wang Jing's opinion, Liang Ce was a potential candidate to become a chief surgeon in the future.

Liang Ce was a little embarrassed by Wang Jing's praise. He said modestly, "No, I think Ren Xiaosu performed much better than me."

Wang Jing nodded. "Yes, he did perform better than you, but you don't have to compare yourself with him. Just be yourself."

These words sounded like: "Ren Xiaosu is a genius, so there's no need for mortals to compare themselves with him. Otherwise, it will only add to their worries."

Liang Ce did not know whether to laugh or cry. He turned around and looked at the off-road vehicle Ren Xiaosu was in. He thought to himself that Elder Wang was really good at consoling people.

Wang Jing looked at Liang Ce with a smile and continued, "He's an anomaly. When I was his age, I was still only an intern like you. So long as you're willing to work hard in the future, you can reach my current position too. As for him... I don't know where he'll end up either."

Liang Ce smiled and said, "I'm happy if I can become a doctor like you."

What Wang Jing did not say at this moment was that he was not even sure if Ren Xiaosu would be a doctor in the future.

Although Wang Jing was old, he was not foolish.

On the night the deserter appeared, when Ren Xiaosu had asked to see his pistol, he remembered very clearly that he had kept the firearm's safety on so that a "novice" like Ren Xiaosu would not accidentally fire it.

But when Ren Xiaosu fired it, the safety had been switched off.

For someone who had never handled a gun before, he would probably not know how to flip off the safety, right?

Moreover, he realized that Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin were the calmest of them all now that he had calmed down as well and recalled the events earlier when Zhong Zhen was trying to identify the spy. It could be said that Ren Xiaosu's calmness was due to his talent, but Yang Xiaojin should not have acted that way as well.

There were only two girls in the group, Yang Xiaojin and Meng Nan.

At this moment, Meng Nan was sitting in the front passenger seat without saying a word. Wang Jing and Liang Ce could tell that Meng Nan still had some lingering fear after the intelligence agency's screening.

Therefore, in comparison, Yang Xiaojin's composure made Wang Jing realize Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin's reason for joining the group was not that simple.

However, Wang Jing was thinking that since the two of them looked so young, their mission at the Kong Consortium should not be anything particularly dangerous, right? If he were to guide them carefully along the way, he might still be able to pull Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin back onto the path of becoming doctors.

The convoy drove for more than 30 minutes in Stronghold 31 before coming to a stop. At the front, Yang Shiruo got out of his vehicle and said, "Elder Wang, this is the residence we've arranged for you all. It's rather simple and crude, so we seek your understanding if we haven't been a good host."

Ren Xiaosu looked at the residence and saw it was clearly a terraced villa that occupied more than a 1,000 square meters.

Wang Jing sighed and said, "It's still the Kong Consortium's hospitals that make good money."

Yang Shiruo laughed a little awkwardly and said, "You're teasing us. The medical exchange will officially begin tomorrow afternoon. It will go on for seven days straight, so you should rest well today. We'll see you all tomorrow."

"Alright, thank you for your hospitality," Wang Jing said with a nod.

After saying their goodbyes, Liang Ce and the others felt hot air blowing at them the moment they stepped into the villa. Someone said in surprise, "There's even a heater in the house?"

"Alright, everyone, rest early." Wang Jing said, "We still have a meeting to attend tomorrow afternoon. That's our main business here in the Kong Consortium."

Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin carried their luggage upstairs. There were a total of 17 rooms in the terraced villa, more than enough to house all of them in the group.

As Liang Ce watched the two of them head upstairs, he suddenly felt envious.

While they were upstairs, Ren Xiaosu said to Yang Xiaojin in a low voice while the others were still checking out the place, "I'll head out for a while later tonight. There's only two sentries keeping watch outside, so they won't discover that I've left the house. If anything happens here, you'll have to cover for me."

Yang Xiaojin nodded. "Can I use the black bullet if the situation calls for it?"

"Yes." Ren Xiaosu said generously, "If you really encounter any danger, feel free to use it!"

Yang Xiaojin looked at him in surprise. "You're quite generous today. Don't worry, I won't use it recklessly unless I encounter a difficult-to-deal-with supernatural being."

Ren Xiaosu would of course be generous at this moment. When he left the Wang Consortium, his gratitude tokens had already reached over 3,000. After he finished with the consultation at the Kong Consortium's town this morning, his gratitude tokens had almost broken through the 4,000 mark!

Calculating based on Yang Xiaojin's strength alone, that equated to the lives of 40 supernatural beings. No one could avoid her attacks!

Of course, it would definitely not go as expected in actual combat since there would always be unforeseen circumstances.

In the middle of the night, Ren Xiaosu opened a gap in the curtains and reconfirmed the positions of the sentries outside the villa. He found a blind spot in the villa where they would not spot him leaving and went out through the kitchen window on the first floor.

In the villa, Ren Xiaosu could hear snoring coming from the other rooms. Perhaps no one would have expected that a supernatural being like Ren Xiaosu would be hiding in this villa.

In the night, Ren Xiaosu pulled up his hood and headed north to where the Great Hoodwinker had agreed to meet him.

Chapter 807: Recognition phrase

At 12 midnight, the Kong Consortium's patrols were spread out all over the streets in the stronghold. As the Kong Consortium was currently engaged in a war, they maintained a Level Two alert even though Stronghold 31 was located in the core of the Kong Consortium.

After all, one of the strongholds in the north had already been taken by the Pyro Company, and there was only one defensive line left at the moment. Stronghold 31 was only 170 kilometers away from that defensive line. Once another stronghold in the north got taken, the Pyro Company's armored troops would most likely march straight down south, and Stronghold 31 would not necessarily be safe at that time.

This was probably what angered Kong Erdong the most. The hard drive Wang Yun sent over had actually put the entire Kong Consortium in danger.

The Pyro Company must have been planning for a long time for this day.

Suddenly, a patrolman in the streets looked up and said doubtfully, "Did something just fly overhead?"

A colleague of his also looked up and said, "Don't overthink things. There's nothing there."

On the rooftop of the building, Ren Xiaosu lay on the floor and made sure the two patrolmen had not discovered his presence before continuing to head northward.

Ren Xiaosu was thinking about the direction of Lishan North Road. The Great Hoodwinker had gotten someone to send him a map of Stronghold 31 and told him to meet up with an agent outside a small hair salon. From there, they would discuss how to rescue Wang Yun from the secret prison.

Very few people were on the streets of the Kong Consortium at night. Even if there were, it would be the Kong Consortium's own people. The garrison troops stationed in the stronghold were responsible for patrolling the place while the Public Order Division coordinated the defensive operations.

After the war started, the Kong Consortium's troops naturally took over all of the prevention and control operations.

But with Ren Xiaosu's current skills, it was not difficult for him to leap over roofs and scale walls.

After arriving at Lishan North Road, Ren Xiaosu headed east until he saw an alley where he turned in.

This place was already different from the time when the Great Hoodwinker was here. The salon was closed, and the perimeter had been cordoned off by the intelligence agency. A soldier was standing guard at the bottom of the building like a tiger on the lookout for its prey. The entire residential building was placed under lockdown.

The residents in the building had already been taken away by the intelligence agency and interrogated one by one. This was the authority the intelligence agency had in wartime. They could simply do whatever they wanted.

Ren Xiaosu frowned. However, he did not immediately turn around to leave. Instead, he continued approaching the perimeter.

The soldier in charge of keeping watch had already discovered Ren Xiaosu's presence. He pointed his gun at Ren Xiaosu and said coldly, "Don't get any closer. Put your hands behind your head and lie on the ground."

However, Ren Xiaosu kept walking forward. He said in a low voice, "How about I read your fortune for you?"

That soldier was stunned. "The Prosperous Northwest?"

Ren Xiaosu said firmly, "The Prosperous Northwest!"

The soldier eased up. Then he took out an envelope and handed it to Ren Xiaosu. "The Great Hoodwinker instructed me to pass this to you. He said that everything will be explained in the letter."

Ren Xiaosu nodded. "Alright, thanks for your hard work."

The soldier said excitedly, "For the Prosperous Northwest, this is nothing!"

Just as Ren Xiaosu was about to turn around and leave, he nearly lost his footing when he heard the lookout speak so enthusiastically.

He wondered how many people had their fortunes told by the Great Hoodwinker and how many had been tricked by him over the years.

Before this, the Great Hoodwinker already knew the informants here had been secretly arrested, and he had only come here so he could gain entry into the secret prison.

Therefore, the previous arrests by the intelligence agency and the Great Hoodwinker getting shot by a tranquilizer in his face were all just an act.

Meanwhile, the agent he had stationed in the stronghold for Ren Xiaosu to contact was someone who had somehow infiltrated into the Kong Consortium's intelligence agency.

And it was precisely to this soldier, who happened to be in charge of the security at the scene, that The Great Hoodwinker made Wang Yun think of a way to relay out the information to.

Honestly, Ren Xiaosu had not expected the Great Hoodwinker to not only be so good at telling fortunes, but even the methods he used to pass on intel were really reliable as well.

Ren Xiaosu rushed back in the direction of the villa and opened the envelope. There were three matters mentioned in the letter.

The first was that the Great Hoodwinker and Wang Yun were currently locked inside the secret prison. Initially, that dumbass Great Hoodwinker had planned to force a way out with Wang Yun in tow. But after he got in, he realized his preparations were not in place. He did not know the gates to the secret prison had been changed. Not only was it thicker now, but there was also an additional gate installed.

Moreover, there were even explosives buried in the passageway between the gateways, with the detonator kept on the person of the sitting director of the intelligence agency. Hopefully, whoever was reading this letter in the outside would not be as stupid as the Great Hoodwinker to make such a low-level mistake again.

When Ren Xiaosu saw the first message, he was stunned. It was not him who said that the Great Hoodwinker was a dumbass; that was what the original writing of the letter referred to him as.

This left Ren Xiaosu a little unsure. Who was the one who sent this message? Was it not the Great Hoodwinker? Why did it sound like whoever wrote it despised the Great Hoodwinker?

The second matter regarded Wang Yun's request. He was willing to go to the Prosperous Northwest, and also dedicate his entire life to the advancement of its ambitions, but the prerequisite was that his 200-odd subordinates would have to be rescued from the other prison as well. It was either they all escaped together or died together here, and no one should be privileged enough to get away on their own.

Seeing this, Ren Xiaosu more or less understood that this message was probably sent by Wang Yun.

So Ren Xiaosu felt that Wang Yun and the Great Hoodwinker's relationship in the secret prison was really worrisome.

However, Ren Xiaosu's concerns were the same as the Great Hoodwinker's. Although saving Wang Yun might seem like a simple task, it would be a little difficult if he wanted his 200-odd subordinates to be rescued as well.

First of all, rescuing more than 200 people from a prison was almost as difficult as tearing down the prison itself. Then they would have to send them all to safety under the pursuit of the Kong Consortium, making it an even more difficult task.

Furthermore, after rescuing over 200 people here, the secret prison Wang Yun was kept in would definitely tighten their security. At that time, it would be really dangerous to try to get them out of there.

Therefore, he would have to plan the sequence of the rescue properly and discuss it with Yang Xiaojin when he got back.

As he was pondering that, Ren Xiaosu stopped in his tracks and jumped off the roof.

A bullet flew over from his 3 o'clock and hit the spot where Ren Xiaosu was originally traveling!

It was a sniper! Positioned 300 meters away!

The sniper said on the radio, "A suspicious target has been discovered near Honghu Road. It's likely a superhuman, someone very skilled. My shot missed! Requesting reinforcements! I repeat, requesting reinforcements!"

Ren Xiaosu frowned as he hung from the ledge of the rooftop with one hand. He did not expect that Stronghold 31's security measures would be even stricter than he had imagined. There were even snipers looking out for suspicious persons from the top of the high-rise buildings!

So what should he do now? Kill this sniper?

Ren Xiaosu shook his head. Even if he were to kill the sniper now, it would not affect the overall situation. And it could even lead to his identity getting exposed. If that happened, Wang Jing and the others would be in deep trouble.

Thinking of this, Ren Xiaosu jumped down to the streets and ran in the opposite direction of the villa.

He could already hear the sound of vehicles driving through the quiet streets.

Chapter 808: It won't kill you to take a look

The previously quiet Stronghold 31 livened up. At almost the same time, countless troops started gathering towards Honghu Road.

As it was currently wartime, all of the stronghold's garrison troops were in an extreme state of alert. If there were even the slightest commotion, it would kick up a storm.

If they were to discover that the target had not been apprehended, all of the patrolling troops, from top to bottom, would probably get punished for it.

As the off-road vehicles drove through the streets, some of the mobile columns set up roadblocks on the main traffic arteries.

The residents in the stronghold were jolted awake. Many of them did not know what was going on and thought the Pyro Company had invaded Stronghold 31.

The most amazing thing was that some of the stronghold residents ran out in their long johns before they could even figure out what was going on. Then they headed straight for the nearest shops to snap up food and daily necessities.

After these stronghold residents came running out, they ended up staring at the patrol troops in the streets downstairs. Then, with the black muzzles pointing at them, they retreated back to their homes.

Ren Xiaosu was not hung up on fighting. He made a run for the north before making a big detour and turning back towards the residential neighborhood.

At this moment, two members of the Public Order Division were walking in the opposite direction of Honghu Road. One of them said, "I'm sure that I saw a black shadow fly over my head just now. You didn't believe me when I told you earlier. Now look, something has happened!"

The other person slapped him upside his head exasperatedly. "Enough of that nonsense! I saw it too, but I don't want to die!"

The person who spoke earlier was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

"Our salary in the Public Order Division is not as high as what the troops are getting. Do you think we can afford to provoke someone who can fly around in the sky like that?" The other person said, "Think about it! If you alert everyone with your shouting, he might just jump down and silence us. Could we escape that?"

"That sounds valid..." Halfway through his sentence, the person speaking started trembling. He said in a shaky voice, "Look at that person up ahead..."

When Ren Xiaosu, who had stopped in his tracks to orientate himself, heard their voices, he turned around and looked at the two of them with his face hidden under his hood. The two Public Order Division officers immediately turned around and walked in the other direction. "Hahaha, it's so dark tonight."

"Yeah, why's there suddenly fog? I can't see anything at all..."

Ren Xiaosu glanced at the two of them and calculated the distance between them. He was silently planning something in his mind.

Tonight's pursuit had happened rather unexpectedly, but Ren Xiaosu was not flustered in the slightest.

The two officers who had encountered Ren Xiaosu were walking with their backs facing him. They muttered softly between themselves, "Has he left? Why don't you turn around and have a look?"

"Why don't you fucking turn around and have a look instead?" the other person snapped. "What if he's right behind us?"

"Come on, it won't kill you to take a look..."

Suddenly, Ren Xiaosu's voice rang out behind them. "Stop arguing! Why don't you two turn around and have a look?"

The two officers reacted quickly. When they heard the voice behind them, they wanted to make a run for it. But before they could do so, they felt their vision turning dark as they were knocked unconscious to the ground.

Ren Xiaosu quietly picked up their walkie-talkies and said in a nasally voice, "Suspicious person discovered at 172 Hero Hill Road. I repeat, suspicious person discovered at 172 Hero Hill Road!"

After saying that, Ren Xiaosu quickly climbed to the top of a tall building and quietly looked in the direction of 172 Hero Hill Road.

He was currently about 400 meters away from Hero Hill Road. In a street fight, this was already considered a very far distance.

The reason why Ren Xiaosu did that was so he could observe from the best possible vantage point how the patrols in Stronghold 31 would react.

After the walkie-talkie crackled, the troops who were patrolling the stronghold quickly assembled. Some of the stationary troops also advanced towards Hero Hill Road.

Ren Xiaosu took out his sniper rifle and aimed it at an off-road vehicle 600 meters away. When he pulled the trigger, the bullet pierced the air and hit the fuel tank of the vehicle. With a loud explosion, the entire off-road vehicle turned into a ball of fire after being hit by the incendiary bullet.

Ren Xiaosu shouted into the walkie-talkie, "A vehicle north of Hero Hill Road is under attack. I repeat, a vehicle north of Hero Hill Road is under attack. The enemy is an individual!"

The sound of the vehicle exploding stirred up a hornet's nest. Some of the tactical troops hiding in the shadows could no longer stand by and started moving out.

Meanwhile, the perpetrator, Ren Xiaosu, quietly returned to the villa amid the chaos he created.

The troops in charge of pursuing and intercepting the attacker could not find any trace of Ren Xiaosu. Almost all of them had headed straight for Hero Hill Road.

But just as Ren Xiaosu was thinking the Kong Consortium's troops were not that great, he noticed some tactical troops still lying in wait on his way back to the villa. They all kept their vigilance up, and there was not even a single person chatting or taking a smoke break.

Fortunately, Ren Xiaosu remained very cautious while he was heading back, or he could've gotten caught in a surprise battle.

He silently noted the locations of the troops so he would not accidentally run into them later.

Ren Xiaosu sighed. The garrison troops responsible for guarding Stronghold 31 were definitely the Kong Consortium's elites. In that case, it would make it even more difficult to rescue Wang Yun's 200-odd subordinates from the prison.

However, he still gained some insight tonight. Ren Xiaosu confirmed there was at least a brigade garrisoned in Stronghold 31, and if he counted those who were hiding in the shadows, there might be even more. This could very well be a reinforced brigade.

Moreover, he had also gotten an understanding of the garrison troops' encirclement and suppression tactics. He considered this as making preparations for the subsequent operations.

Not long after Ren Xiaosu returned to the villa, something unexpected happened.

Through the windows, Ren Xiaosu could see it had suddenly turned bright outside. There were dozens of vehicles parked at the villa's entrance. Moreover, the people did not knock on the door right after they arrived. Instead, they surrounded the entire villa!

Due to this unexpected incident, everyone in the villa walked out of their rooms. Yang Xiaojin gave Ren Xiaosu a quiet look as if to ask, "You were followed?"

Ren Xiaosu shook his head and expressed that it was unlikely.

Yang Xiaojin stood quietly at the window and watched through a gap in the curtains. She whispered, "It's not the garrison troops. These people should be from the intelligence agency's field operations division. It's an entire company of troops. If we need to bust out of their encirclement, we can do it from the north. I've already identified their commander, so we can kill that person first before breaking through."

"Mhm." Ren Xiaosu said, "Once we start fighting, I'll use Old Xu first to distract them before breaking through their encirclement. But let's watch and wait. I think they're just here to check on some suspicions."

With just a few words, the two of them came up with a battle plan. It was not that detailed as they both trusted each other's ability to adapt to the situation.

Honestly speaking, if not for the consideration that the Kong Consortium might have more reinforcements waiting, they would have just killed all of these people here.

When the troops outside had fully surrounded the villa, a young man in a black suit walked up and knocked on the door. Behind him were heavily armed field troops.

Chapter 809: Too unlucky

Knock, knock, knock. Someone was knocking on the door outside the villa.

Everyone in the house came out to the main hall and looked at Wang Jing. "Elder, what's going on? Is the Kong Consortium here to arrest us?"

To be honest, everyone got a little panicky when they were accused at the city gate of having a spy in the group. Now that they were faced with a situation wherein the entire villa was surrounded by soldiers with loaded guns, it was impossible for them not to panic.

They were doctors who treated patients and saved lives. They might be able to remain calm at the operating table, but they had really never experienced a situation like this before.

Everyone knew the Kong Consortium soldiers were not kidding. Something must have happened!

So when they heard the knocking on the door, everyone looked at one another and did not dare to open the door.

Wang Jing sighed and said, "If it's a blessing, it won't be a disaster. If it's a disaster, we can't avoid it. Let's cooperate with them and see what they want. All of you, stand back so you don't get injured accidentally."

With that, Wang Jing was about to open the door when a middle-aged doctor tried to stop him. This middle-aged doctor wanted to volunteer to open the door, but he hesitated for a moment and did not have the courage to speak up.

Liang Ce gritted his teeth and prepared to step forward bravely. However, he realized someone else was a step faster than him.

Ren Xiaosu tugged at Wang Jing's arm and said, "Elder, you're too old, so don't burden yourself over such matters. Let me do it instead. Besides, I don't think there'll be any danger. If they were really here to arrest us, there wouldn't be a need to knock so politely. They would've already broken in."

Liang Ce and the others all looked at Ren Xiaosu. They did not expect the person who looked the youngest would suddenly step forward.

Yang Xiaojin also looked at Ren Xiaosu in surprise. However, she did not say anything and got ready for battle.

Ren Xiaosu walked over and opened the villa's door. When the young man in the black suit outside saw Ren Xiaosu, he said with a smile, "Hello, I'm Pei Wenjin, the person temporarily in charge of the 1st Military Intelligence Division. I apologize for the late visit."

"May I ask why you're here?" Ren Xiaosu asked calmly.

"Can I go inside and talk?" Pei Wenjin smiled and said, "It's a little cold outside."

"Of course." Then Ren Xiaosu stepped aside and let him enter.

However, Pei Wenjin did not step into the villa alone. There was also an entire platoon of 30 soldiers following him. These people entered orderly and immediately headed for the various passageways after entering the villa. They stood guard at the positions in a stern manner.

After Pei Wenjin entered the villa, he shook hands with Wang Jing first. "I've heard a lot about you, Elder Wang. I hope this visit isn't too abrupt. Please have a seat. We'll be here in the villa for some time."

Pei Wenjin invited Wang Jing to take a seat on the sofa. Ren Xiaosu asked from nearby, "Wasn't it an officer named Zhong Zhen who entertained us? Where did he go?"

Pei Wenjin said regretfully, "Director Zhong Zhen died in the line of duty just now."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He had only butted in to ask a question, and he did not expect that answer!

Even even Wang Jing could not help but get curious. "We saw him earlier today, so how did he die in the night? What happened exactly?"

Pei Wenjin stared intently into Wang Jing's eyes and said, "Don't you know what happened?"

"How would I know?" Wang Jing looked back calmly. He really did not know!

Pei Wenjin examined Wang Jing's expression and realized he could not get anything out of him. He explained, "An expert sneaked into our Kong Consortium stronghold tonight. After he was discovered by our patrols, he started a massacre. Director Zhong Zhen was rushing over when his vehicle was blown up by the enemy's sniper rifle. He died inside the vehicle."

This time, Ren Xiaosu was speechless. He had just blown up a vehicle to use it to catch the attention of the Kong Consortium's troops, but he actually ended up killing Zhong Zhen.

Zhong Zhen was really too fucking unlucky!

As a result, Pei Wenjin took over as temporary director of the 1st Military Intelligence Division under the Kong Consortium's orders. Ren Xiaosu knew the 1st Military Intelligence Division was responsible for overseeing internal affairs, while the 2nd Military Intelligence Division took charge of external affairs. Meanwhile, the 3rd Military Intelligence Division was purely a violent group that provided firepower support.

Pei Wenjin looked at everyone. "As such, we have to thoroughly investigate the reason behind such a major incident that happened in the stronghold. You all have just arrived at Stronghold 31, and an incident like that has already happened. Although we feel that everyone here is a proper doctor, we still have to carry out a routine investigation."

Wang Jing nodded. "We understand that, but I guarantee that none of the doctors in this villa are criminals as Director Pei suggested."

"Alright, it is best if you can understand." Pei Wenjin stood up and said to the soldiers in the villa, "Search all the rooms and check for any suspicious items."

The soldiers rushed forward and rummaged through cabinets and drawers as they conducted the search. Ren Xiaosu roughly had an idea that they were looking for a sniper rifle.

However, Ren Xiaosu was curious. If something as big as a sniper rifle were hidden in the villa, it would definitely be very conspicuous. It would be impossible for a criminal to carry it back after using it, and Pei Wenjin should also understand this logic. No matter how valuable a sniper rifle was, no one would carry it with them at a time like this.

After a while, the soldiers upstairs all gathered downstairs. The platoon commander reported, "No suspicious items found."

"Search the surrounding area within a kilometer and see if there are any suspicious items," Pei Wenjin said slowly and walked out of the villa.

Wang Jing followed Pei Wenjin, with Ren Xiaosu catching up to them from behind.

Seeing that Director Pei was taking a walk around the villa premises after stepping out, Wang Jing could not figure out what Pei Wenjin was doing.

Ren Xiaosu saw Pei Wenjin carefully looking at the windowsills outside each window. He now understood that Pei Wenjin was trying to see if anyone had climbed out of the villa.

The windowsills were covered in dust. As long as someone stepped on one, there would definitely be clues left behind. Furthermore, this was a detail very few people would notice. Who would check such places for no reason?

Pei Wenjin took a look at several windows but he did not check every one of them.

Yang Xiaojin thought about it for a moment and realized the windowsills Pei Wenjin was checking on were also very particular. They were all located in the blind spots of the sentries that were keeping watch.

If anyone tried to leave the villa quietly after discovering the location of the sentries, they could only do it via a few of the windows.

Looking at Pei Wenjin's expression, he was clearly very confident about finding some clues. Previously, Yang Xiaojin was wondering why there would be a blind spot of almost 60 degrees between the two hidden sentries. She had felt it was way too unprofessional.

They could clearly have the entire villa under surveillance from a distance if they had positioned the sentries in a staggered formation.

But only now did Yang Xiaojin realize this was a trap by the other party.

Pei Wenjin slowly walked towards the kitchen window where Ren Xiaosu exited and entered from. He examined the dust on it so carefully it almost looked like he wanted to stick his face in!

Yang Xiaojin looked at Ren Xiaosu quietly and got ready to pull out her gun at any moment.

But a second later, Pei Wenjin smiled as he looked up and said, "It seems like all of you are really law-abiding doctors."

There was not a trace of any disturbance on the windowsill. That was because Ren Xiaosu had noticed the trap before he left the villa.

Chapter 810: You don't need a brain

Yang Xiaojin knew that Ren Xiaosu had jumped through the kitchen window. So when Pei Wenjin started checking the kitchen windowsill, she got really worried for him.

However, Pei Wenjin did not find anything suspicious.

If not for the fact that there were so many people watching, Yang Xiaojin would have applauded Ren Xiaosu. This was the Ren Xiaosu she was familiar with. He was always vigilant and cautious to the end.

Ren Xiaosu had always acted calmly since Yang Xiaojin first met him. When Yang Xiaojin looked back on her trip to the Jing Mountains, she had a feeling that Ren Xiaosu would not die no matter how bad the situation.

But after Ren Xiaosu became a supernatural being, he started letting up a little.

It was just like how a person who suddenly received a large sum of money would unintentionally show off their wealth and feel a little conceited.

Ren Xiaosu was not a saint, so he could not avoid having such a mentality. He even got used to resorting to solving problems with his strength.

To be more precise, after becoming more powerful, the brave and fearsome side of his personality got magnified. For example, the determination he had when he thanked himself seven times.

Later on during their trip to the Sacred Mountains, Ren Xiaosu even acted a little impulsively because of Yan Liuyuan. This left Yang Xiaojin with no choice but to remind him to stay calm.

But Yang Xiaojin realized Ren Xiaosu had started changing his mentality ever since her reminder to him.

He was able to wait patiently for the right opportunity to arrive in the Sacred Mountains during the later stages of the expedition. After that, when traveling together with the Trinity Institute, Ren Xiaosu was also able to promptly detect the presence of the deserter and the Kong Consortium's reconnaissance troops, helping him anticipate Zhong Zhen's screening of the spies.

And now, Ren Xiaosu even made sure not to make any mistakes when he headed out in the night. Yang Xiaojin was sure the Ren Xiaosu she knew had finally returned.

This was his growth after gaining power. His mentality had become completely different.

Yang Xiaojin believed Ren Xiaosu had found a new balance between caution and bravery.

At this moment, Wang Jing looked at Pei Wenjin and wondered, "Director Pei, what were you looking for just now?"

"Oh, nothing much." Pei Wenjin smiled and said to his subordinates who were standing guard around the perimeter, "Let's fall back. There's still other places we need to check. Looks like we won't be getting any sleep tonight."

After that, Pei Wenjin decisively left the villa. He even took the two sentries who were watching the villa away with him!

Only at this moment did Ren Xiaosu finally breathe a sigh of relief. Moreover, he was sure Pei Wenjin only had some suspicions of the Trinity Institute and did not have any actual evidence against them.

Honestly, Ren Xiaosu was a little annoyed by Wang Shengzhi's arrangement now. Although joining the Trinity Institute helped him keep his identity better concealed, Wang Jing and the others should not have to get involved in the war for no reason.

Ren Xiaosu made a decision. The medical exchange would officially last for seven days, so he would convince Wang Jing to leave the Kong Consortium immediately when it finished. After that, he would sneak into Stronghold 31 and continue with his plan to rescue Wang Yun. This way, Wang Jing and the others would not be implicated.

At that time, even if he were to turn the Kong Consortium upside down, Ren Xiaosu would not have to restrain himself anymore.

However, what Ren Xiaosu did not know was that the Pyro Company's troops in the north had embarked on a new battle plan tonight. Meanwhile, farther north, a new enemy was waiting for their opportunity.

At this moment, Wang Jing said to everyone who was still in a state of shock, "Everyone, please go back into the house. I know you guys have a lot to say, so let's go in first."

Everyone returned to the warm house. All of them had a lot to say, but they did not know where to start.

Wang Jing gave it some thought and said, "I really regret bringing all of you to the Kong Consortium now. It's not that I'm giving up on the medical exchange being held, but the current situation is not something you all should risk your lives over. I would like to apologize to all of you." Wang Jing surprisingly bowed to everyone.

Ren Xiaosu was silent for a while before saying, "You didn't do anything wrong. There's no need to apologize."

Sima Gang looked at Wang Jing and said firmly, "Actually, I only realized how much effort you and the other veteran doctors have put in for the progress of medicine after making this trip with you. I don't regret it at all. In fact, I'm even more determined now."

"I don't regret it either," Meng Nan said.

“Me neither!” Liang Ce said.

Wang Jing was stunned. He did not expect the fire in his heart would actually get ignited despite the immense stress. He burst into laughter. “It’s my honor to be able to work with all of you. Everyone, rest early. We still have a meeting to attend tomorrow.”

Then Wang Jing straightened his back and returned to his bedroom. He did not look like an old man in his sixties at all. And the others also became a little more motivated when they saw his back.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly realized the power in one person could really influence and motivate another person, and within a group, that power would spread to even more people. It was just like how a single spark could start a prairie fire.

The others also returned to their rooms, leaving only Meng Nan, Liang Ce, Ren Xiaosu, and Yang Xiaojin behind in the hall.

Ren Xiaosu saw Meng Nan sitting in the nook of a couch and not returning to her room. She was clearly feeling a lack of safety at the moment.

He whispered to Liang Ce, “Don’t say that I didn’t remind you. Now’s your chance. If you grab it, you’ll see hope.”

In fact, although Liang Ce often acted foolishly on the journey thus far, he was always a very responsible person. Although Meng Nan did not say anything, her attitude towards Liang Ce had indeed relaxed a lot over the past two days.

When Liang Ce saw Meng Nan sitting alone in the corner, he quickly went over to talk with her. When he got closer, he realized she was looking at a photo. It was a portrait of a family of three. In it were Meng Nan’s parents and her childhood self.

Liang Ce asked in a low voice, “You miss home?”

“Mhm,” Meng Nan grunted. Girls often did not have a sense of safety when they went traveling outside. Besides, after all the recent incidents, this was probably when Meng Nan was feeling her most vulnerable.

Liang Ce sat next to Meng Nan and looked at the photo. “Are these your parents?”

“Yes.” Meng Nan said, “Before we left for this exchange, my mother cried for three days. She said she was worried I wouldn’t eat or sleep well outside. If she knew what we were going through now, she would probably cry again.”

“Don’t worry, we’ll definitely return safely. As long as I’m here... never mind.” Liang Ce was a little discouraged.

Liang Ce wanted to say something that girls liked to hear, but when he realized he did not have any useful skills and did not even know how to fire a gun, he could not bring himself to say those sweet words. He was the kind of person who would not easily make promises if he could not do it.

Meng Nan had a rough understanding of the kind of person Liang Ce was. She did not want to make things too awkward for him, so she changed the topic and asked, "By the way, it'll be Valentine's Day in a few days. What are you going to do since you don't have a girlfriend yet?"

Liang Ce chuckled and said, "Do we have to kill a family member in advance if we have no one to visit during the Qingming Festival? If I have no girlfriend, so be it."

Even with Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin's wits, they were not expecting an answer like this!

Meng Nan immediately stood up and went back to her room, leaving Liang Ce, who was still hesitating to speak, sitting alone on the sofa.

Ren Xiaosu walked over and patted Liang Ce on the shoulder to comfort him. "If you don't need a brain, donate it to those who need it."

Liang Ce was speechless.