

Chapter 401: At Least Better than the World's Third

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His body was shaking uncontrollably...

This strange reaction of his brought about curious looks from Munan's group. They were also excited but why was his excitement on a different level than theirs?

"Yes! Good! Perfect, well done, exceptional job!" Gu Li screamed excitedly, scaring everyone present. Sun Yu almost jumped out of his seat, in that instant, his heart was swallowed by anxiety.

The next second, Xinghe stopped her hands and announced like a queen, "KO!"

The crowd was stunned. Sun Yu was the first to turn towards Xinghe with bulging eyes, he saw that Xinghe had actually hacked through the system. His eyes were as big as they could be. He couldn't believe what he saw!

"This is impossible..." Sun Yu wheezed out like he was landed a physical blow. How is this possible? I'm already so fast, how can she be faster than me? Plus, I even already knew the answer beforehand! This can't be happening!

"Cheating! You people must be cheating!" Sun Yu exclaimed. "She couldn't be faster than me, this is your site so you people must have done something in the back end. The system can't be broken so fast, I won't believe it!"

"F*ck!" Yan Lu growled angrily, "You lose so we must be cheating? Who the hell do you think you are? Do you think you're really unbeatable?"

"Miss Xia beat you fair and square. You have lost, please admit defeat!" Gu Li also added sternly.

Sun Yu scoffed in anger. "Of course, the lot of you would say something like that but I know she must have cheated, she couldn't have hacked through the system faster than me!"

Sun Yu glared at Munan as he stood up. "I demand an open investigation, there must be something fishy going on. Don't

try to swindle this victory away from me, no one can finish the mission so fast!”

The time was indeed so very short, the system was hacked in just minutes. Of course, Munan ignored his complaint. He turned to Saohuang with a smug smile and asked, “Major Feng, what do you think? Do you suspect us of cheating too?”

Saohuang indeed suspected something was going on because he knew Sun Yu’s capability, Xinghe shouldn’t have been faster than him. However, for some reason, he felt that Xinghe only relied on her own ability to defeat Sun Yu.

“I... can’t tell for sure but since my subordinate has suspected thusly, I guess perhaps there is indeed something fishy going on?”

“Major, there definitely is! No matter who it was, they couldn’t hack through the security in such a ridiculous time! I guarantee with my life that this is a dishonest competition!”

“I think you’re the one being dishonest.” Xinghe’s calm voice rang out. Everyone turned to her in surprise.

Xinghe studied Sun Yu’s computer and said with a smile, “You have almost broken through the system as well. You’re just a few minutes behind me.”

Sun Yu was shocked, he felt subconsciously that Xinghe had found out something. Xinghe stared at him with a sharp gaze and asked slowly, “You just said that, no matter who it was, they couldn’t hack through the security in such a ridiculous time, but you’ve almost done it yourself. Why is that only you are allowed to do that?”

“My ability is ranked third in the world! Therefore, I can be so fast but you can’t! Don’t tell me you’re first in the world!” Sun Yu retorted angrily, all sense of decorum was tossed out the window. He just wanted to prove himself, to prove that he was better than a woman!

Xinghe scoffed. “Well, I’m not conceited enough to claim I’m the best but...

“I’m at least better than the world’s third best.”

Chapter 402: Defeat Him, Defeat Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

There were instantly snickers from the crowd. Yan Lu chided him loudly, “So this is the standard of the world’s third best!”

“You can’t say that. Mr. Sun is indeed very good at his job but alas, he’s just a smidge weaker than Miss Xia,” someone purposely added.

Xinghe suddenly said, “Not just a smidge weaker.”

The crowd was shocked, what did she mean by that. Xinghe stared at Sun Yu. “I think you yourself know what I mean by that.”

Sun Yu’s face blanched. This was the first time he felt so uneasily. How does she know that I have hacked through the system before? Could she have spotted some evidence? No, impossible, I’m too good to be found out by her.

“What do you mean by that? Don’t think that just because you’ve won by cheating, you can insult me!” Sun Yu retorted with anger.

Xinghe laughed humorlessly. “Just who exactly was cheating?”

“Xia Xinghe, what do you mean by that?”

“The meaning’s simple, I never considered you a threat but you forced me to use seventy percent of my power.”

Sun Yu understood what she meant. Xinghe spotted something wrong in the middle of the competition, which was why she sped up. He was indeed found out...

However, the thing that was even more difficult for Sun Yu to stomach was she only used 70 percent of her ability to defeat him! In other words, she had even held back. This was not Xinghe giving him face, instead she didn’t think he deserved for her to get serious. This was such a gross humiliation for a conceited person like Sun Yu. He couldn’t accept that there was such a stark difference in ability between the two of them.

Sun Yu's face was twisted from anger. "Xia Xinghe, do you really think you're that great? How about another match then? If you look down on me so much, show me that you can defeat me easily again!"

"Should I accept his challenge?" Xinghe turned to ask the crowd.

Yan Lu replied excitedly, "Of course! Why not? Let him taste utter defeat!"

"That's right, defeat him, defeat him, defeat him..." Munan's camp was completely riled up, they couldn't stop chanting these two words.

Sun Yu's face was at its ugliest and Saohuang's face was so dark it could eclipse the sun. However, they couldn't bow out now. If they did, it would be worse than losing. However, continuing this contest didn't bode well for them either.

Saohuang cursed Sun Yu's stupidity internally. He should have cut his losses when he lost, why did he have to be so stupid to ask for another humiliation? Shouldn't he have known it wouldn't be his own face he would be losing if he lost again? The whole team would be shamed because of him. However, the challenge had been issued, there was no backing down now. He could only pray that Sun Yu could defeat Xinghe this time.

Xinghe smiled. "Fine, I shall entertain you for one more round since it will help raise the troop's morale."

"It's still too soon to say that!" Sun Yu breathed through gritted teeth. The comparison was simply too unflattering for Sun Yu. Xinghe was calm and collected, while he was almost at his wit's end.

"I shall let you decide the subject of this second round as well."

"Fine!" The word squeezed through Sun Yu's teeth. This was another degradation for Sun Yu because he had decided the subject for the first round, if he lost again, the humiliation would be hard to live down.

Chapter 403: Mission Impossible

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

But he had no choice to lap it up, he had every advantage he could get to increase his odds. To win, Sun Yu had given up on his decency. To win, he gave the mission that even he himself couldn't complete, to hack into 100,000 normal IPs in less than 10 minutes.

In other words, the winner had to hack into an average of 10000 IPs every minute, which translated into several hundred IPs per second! Even those who were not familiar computer science knew how impossible the mission was.

Therefore, Munan's camp all started scolding when they heard the mission he issued!

"F*ck, the man's crazy."

"Sun something, just because Miss Xia allowed you to come up with the subject, doesn't mean you can do anything you want. Do you think the rest of us are idiots?"

"Sun Yu, your task can't be completed. Even you can't do it!" Gu Li also objected feverishly. If not for decorum, he would've given the man a punch to the face.

Even Munan couldn't stand it anymore. "Feng Saohuang, this is how your people act? Such sore losers?"

Sun Yu smiled smugly watching their extreme reactions.

"You're the one who asked me to come up with the subject, I did. What, if you can't do it, then f*cking surrender!"

"F*ck you too! Watch your tongue or I'll shoot a bullet right in between your eyes!" Yan Lu cursed in return.

Sun Yu taunted him like a child, "Do it if you dare, I welcome you to! Come on, I'm standing right here!"

"Sir, I plead that we throw this group of garbage that belittles us soldiers out this instant!" Yan Lu turned to Munan.

Munan smirked. "Toss hi—"

“Xi Munan, even when you hit a dog, you have to pay notice to its master,” Saohuang said coldly.

Munan replied sarcastically, “What if the dog’s owner is not worth respecting?”

Saohuang’s face turned severe. “Do you think so little of me?”

Munan was not afraid of him, he retorted, “If you want to see it that way, I can’t help it.”

The two started to stare each other down. Even their subordinates began to butt heads. The atmosphere was highly tense, a battle could break out at any time.

Xinghe was the only one holding her own. She opened her mouth to say, “Sun Yu, you think having both of us lose via a tie will help salvage your reputation?”

Sun Yu was pulled back into the competition...

He started smirked viciously. “What, you also think you can’t finish it? Aren’t you the best in the world? From how I see it, still a trash!”

“Then, let’s do it,” Xinghe took him up on the challenge, “I don’t like to spend time bluffing, actions speak louder than words.”

Sun Yu’s face changed. “What, you really think you can do this? Don’t make laugh, even God can’t accomplish this!”

“You can tell me that after this whole thing’s over.”

Xinghe was tired of dealing with him already.

Sun Yu huffed. “I’ll be sure to remind you then!”

He couldn’t wait to laugh at Xinghe’s loss, he had to teach her a lesson for crossing him!

However, Munan and the rest were worried.

“No, you can’t do this. You don’t need to agree to such a crazy competition rule!” Munan moved forward to stop her.

Chapter 404: Winner's Pride

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Gu Li also nodded. "Miss Xia, you've already beaten him. There's no need to accept any more challenges, no one will contest your victory."

"That's right, Miss Xia, ignore the bunch of loons! Don't worry, I'll personally smack anyone that dares to say you didn't win!" Yan Lu added angrily.

Xinghe sat back down and stated calmly, "Don't worry, I can handle myself just fine."

Sun Yu chided, "We'll see about that!"

"Let's start then," Xinghe turned to look at Saohuang, "You also open your eyes and watch closely because it might be you next."

Saohuang narrowed his eyes and smiled. "Miss Xia sure is an amusing person."

"You'll find me more interesting later on." Xinghe returned his smile before turning back to the computer screen. She ordered Gu Li, "Leader Gu, please start the time."

Gu Li saw her determination so he stopped advising her. "Alright, please be ready, I will start the timer soon."

The room started to get quiet again. Sun Yu quickly prepared himself. After Gu Li's "Start!", they both started operating their computers once more.

However, the difference this time was that Xinghe gave it her all from the very beginning!

Sun Yu who was lagging behind laughed bemusedly when he saw Xinghe being so serious. This meant that Xinghe had begun to treat him seriously but regardless, she wouldn't be able to finish!

Sun Yu was not in any hurry because he knew he couldn't finish it. That was what he was aiming for, to lose together! Even if he lost, he needed to drag her down with him! This kind of person was the worst. They couldn't bear to see other

people happy; they had to ruin everything so that everybody was as miserable as they were. Alas, this time, he had kicked against an iron plate.

...

At the three minute mark, Xinghe finished designing a small software.

At the six minute mark, Xinghe used the software to hack into 100,000 IPs.

At the nine minute mark, Xinghe stopped typing completely.

When she did so, the room was hauntingly quiet. Sun Yu's body was frozen solid but his heart was beating uncontrollably. No one knew why Xinghe suddenly stopped working.

Was it giving up because the time was up... or... had she finished everything?

No one could tell for sure and their hearts were at their throats. Munan and Saohuang had unconsciously stopped breathing from sheer anxiety. Sun Yu started praying vehemently, praying that Xinghe had lost.

“KO!” Xinghe suddenly said those two letters.

KO, or knock out, meant that she had won. Xinghe rarely used this term but that day she had used the term twice against Sun Yu.

She... had won! Not once but twice against Sun Yu that day!

Sun Yu shivered involuntarily. He turned his head awkwardly, his face as pale as snow. His lips were quivering when he objected, “I don't believe...”

“I don't feel like explaining myself to the person who has lost to me twice. The only thing you need to know is that... you have completely lost!” Xinghe enunciated word by word, each syllable filled with the pride of a total winner.

Chapter 405: Made With My Own Two Hands

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Her gaze moved to meet Saohuang's. Saohuang's own eyes darkened, he understood what Xinghe meant. If Sun Yu had lost completely, he too had lost completely!

Xinghe stood up slowly and said, "Well, are you people satisfied now?"

"I don't believe..." Sun Yu rushed to look at Xinghe's computer to check. He couldn't believe that she'd really done it, how could she possibly have done it?

As he expected, when he saw Xinghe's software, he laughed from sheer excitement. "You didn't complete it, you cheated! You failed because you only succeeded through a cheating software. Xia Xinghe, you didn't win!" Ha laughed, pointing at Xinghe. "Don't think you can lie to me, you liar, you didn't win!"

If he felt sent into the depths of hell earlier, now he was floating in the clouds of the heaven. In any case, it felt exceptionally good having evidence of cheating against Xinghe.

Xinghe was unfazed. She stared curiously at him like she was looking at an idiot. "Is there a rule that states I can't use any software?"

Sun Yu was taken aback but came to his point of argument quickly, "There might not have been an explicit rule but it is common knowledge that software is off limits. If not, I could have use one as well, right?"

"No one was stopping you."

"No matter, this is cheating, this whole competition is unfair! Xia Xinghe, you relied on external program to help your case, and that undermines the validity of this competition!" Sun Yu held on to this argument, no matter what, he couldn't let Xinghe win.

Xinghe suddenly laughed. "First round you suspected there was an insider job and this round, you suddenly decide we

can't use external program. If you want to be this unreasonable, you might as well name yourself the winner then.”

“I don't care, it is a fact that you've borrowed aid from an external program. Your win is disqualified,” Sun Yu concluded. His people also supported him.

“That's right, winning through the use of external support is definitely unfair!”

“And we thought you were so good, but you've been cheating all along.”

“This round and the one before it don't count because you've been disqualified for cheating and lying.”

“I used my own two hands to write this software, so how is it counted as external support?” Xinghe asked suddenly. Everyone was stunned.

Gu Li who saw everything added triumphantly, “That's right, Miss Xia wrote the program software in the middle of the contest, so how can that possibly disqualify her? You can only blame your own people for not thinking about that.”

Yan Lu, after he learnt the situation, also added with a guffaw, “Now, what else are you loons going to say? Our Miss Xia used her own ability to finish creating the software during the contest. Your guy was too stupid to realize that he could also do something like that. Kick him out because the military doesn't need someone who doesn't know how to use his brain!”

“Xinghe has both ability and brains, her victory is fair and square, who dares to object?” Munan asked with authority. The crowd was silent.

Sun Yu wanted to say something but was cowed by Saohuang, “Enough, or do you think we've not been humiliated enough? The fact is we have lost and we have to admit our defeat with dignity!”

Gripping his fists, Sun Yu admitted sourly, “Fine, this time I've lost on a technicality!”

Words tumbled out of Yan Lu's mouth unfiltered. "What do you mean by 'on a technicality'? You have lost completely! If we had known you're such a sore loser, we wouldn't have allowed Miss Xia to accept your stupid contest. Being associated with you only lowers our Miss Xia's name!"

Chapter 406: Bottom of the Barrel

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He might have been scolding Sun Yu but everyone from Saohuang's camp felt the sting of his every word. Saohuang, who was the most stable, also had difficulty maintaining the smile on his face. He smiled eerily and hissed, "Miss Xia has truly opened my eyes today. Since the competition has already been concluded, then we're not going to disturb anymore, goodbye!"

He turned to leave when Munan suddenly opened his mouth to say, "Feng Saohuang, I've not even said my piece, why are you in such a hurry to leave?"

Saohuang turned around slowly and grinned chillingly. "Is that so? I wonder, what else are you going to say? Do you also plan to humiliate me?"

Munan smirked. "Why would Major Feng think that, and I thought Major Feng was not someone who would take a minor defeat to heart."

The last trace of a smile on Saohuang's face was fading. The eyes that glared at Munan were as cold as the bowels of hell. The atmosphere was intense...

At that moment, everyone could see the warning signs radiating off of Saohuang but Munan was unfazed. Holding Saohuang's eye contact, he said coldly, "Since you've come all the way to challenge us, shouldn't we return the kindness?"

"Kindness?" Saohuang chuckled. "I see, you too want to issue a challenge, fine, what kind?"

"Naturally, a battle between two parties!" Munan said with solemnity, "Feng Saohuang, now I represent my entire platoon in extending a challenge to your platoon! The battle will be held in two days' time, do you accept the challenge or not?"

Saohuang's men were stunned. He actually dared to challenge them. Last time, it was them who issued the challenge so they felt pleased with themselves. Now that the tables had turned, for various reasons, they felt pressured and face-slapped. The

feeling of sending and receiving the challenge was completely different.

Saohuang's lips curved into a smile. "Of course, I accept, why wouldn't I? Major Xi, let's have a real competition this time! I'll see you two days later."

Munan replied with a thin smile. "We'll see you then."

"Let us go—" Saohuang turned to leave, he didn't want to spend one extra second there. They were supposed to go deliver humiliation but were utterly humiliated in return. This was only a computer contest, not even real combat, but he felt completely face-slapped. The men that he brought along felt the same way. One Xia Xinghe made them leave feeling fully disgraced. This was not something expected by Saohuang or Munan.

The moment Saohuang's men left, Yan Lu started to cheer in celebration.

"F*ck, that was too bloody satisfactory! Even better than trumping them on the actual battlefield!" Yan Lu guffawed.

Everyone else was equally excited. "Did you see that Feng Saohuang's face, it was as dark as the bottom of a pot!"

"Every one of their faces was the color of pots and kettles. Getting to humiliate them without lifting a finger, this sensation is simply the best in the world!"

"We would have done this earlier if we'd known it would be so easy."

Gu Li couldn't help but laugh. He chided them jokingly, "Bunch of dummies, if not for Miss Xia, we wouldn't be celebrating."

Chapter 407: The Official Battle

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The satisfaction came from face-slapping them so completely, and that was possible only through enough capability. The easier Xinghe defeated Sun Yu, the more humiliated they would be. Then again, it was Saohuang who came to challenge them first. They deserved everything they got and more!

Furthermore, Xinghe did everything right, she helped them release the anger they had been holding in since their earlier defeat.

Yan Lu nodded in quick succession. “That’s right, this is all Miss Xia’s contribution! Miss Xia, you’re our hero; you’ve helped win back the morale we lost earlier!”

Munan also nodded. “That’s right, this small competition has greatly boosted our morale. We shall ride this wave of morale and crush them during the upcoming battle!”

“Yes, sir!” Everyone answered in an echoing boom.

...

Similarly, after he returned, Saohuang started threatening his men. “This time, I want you people to wipe the floor with them. Remember, in this battle, we can only win!”

“Yes, sir!” His men replied in unison. They might have lost the contest but it didn’t mean that their ability was worse than Munan’s men’s ability. Since they had lost face during the contest, they would get it back on the battlefield. They would let Munan’s men know what they were really made of!

After everyone had left the war meeting, Saohuang was still furious. That day’s humiliation was well past his acceptable threshold.

Sun Yu tried to salvage the situation, “Boss, do you want me to steal their war strategy again?”

A stack of document slapped him harshly on his face. Saohuang glared at him severely. “Have you lost your mind? You want to hand them the evidence of us meddling?”

“Boss, that’s not what I meant but if we do not know their strategy...”

“You lost so badly to Xia Xinghe yet you still want to do something so risky? You think that, with her ability, she wouldn’t find out?”

Sun Yu was struck with fury. “That woman is so in the way!”

Saohuang smiled chillingly. “So what if we don’t know their strategy, we will win. I have faith in my capable men. We will win regardless, just that it’ll be a little bit harder.”

“That’s right, our training is more stable than theirs, defeating them is not a problem. They wouldn’t be able to defeat us so easily this time.”

Saohuang’s gaze turned cold. “I will not tolerate the word defeat, because, remember, I only allow victory and not defeat!”

Sun Yu was spooked by his chilling stare, he nodded in a hurry. “Yes, we will definitely win!”

...

“For victory! For victory!” Munan’s men were also cheering each other on. After two days of intense preparation, the battle between the two platoons was about to begin. Since both units were high-tech units, other than actual fighting, the battle included also competitions operating various high-end equipment.

However, before the actual battle, there were two wrestling matches. Munan’s side was represented by Yan Lu. He was the wrestling king of their unit after all. Saohuang’s team had someone impressive as well. The wrestling matches were friendly matches, it ended with a tie, each had one win and one loss.

After all, it was the air drill.

This was the first time that Xinghe had been fortunate enough to spectate such a formal drill.

Chapter 408: Losing Situation

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

On the screen, she saw both sides' fighter jets tussling with each other. Even though this was not a real war, but each time the jets brushed past each other, she could feel her heart skip a beat.

The jet pilots were very good. The jets tipped, careened, tossed, and turned on screen like performing high-tech acrobatics. However, it seemed like Saohuang's pilots were better trained as their planes were faster and more stable.

Yan Lu was anxious watching the scene. "Quick, you have to evade them, evade their attacks and attack actively!"

"It's no use, the enemies are simply too fast. Our strategies couldn't keep up, the pilots can't determine a precise coordinate," Gu Li said seriously.

Even those watching the screen and commanding couldn't keep up with the enemies, much less the pilots themselves. Their warnings were always one or two seconds too late. If they kept on evading, it would only be a matter of time before they lost. Even though the cannon fires were only plasma shots, everyone treated this like an actual war.

However, Munan was optimistic. "You don't need to rush, we've improved a lot this time. At least, we won't lose so completely like last time. Furthermore, we have to believe in our men, I'm sure they will pull through in the end."

"But we've just finished with this kind of battle simulation. The pilots haven't had the time to familiarize themselves with it before doing it for real, there is bound to be some disadvantages," Gu Li said.

Munan replied in a low voice. "That is simply unavoidable. If we have to rely on preparation for every battle, then there will never be enough improvement. This time, we'll let them practice in real time."

He might've said so but there was no way he would allow them to lose. They had already lost once; another loss would

cause a giant blow to their morale. However, the reality was that Saohuang's men were better trained for the battle. After all, they'd had a long period of time to prepare, Munan's men had been playing catch up, and they only caught up recently. In other words, the foundation for Munan's men was weaker compared to Saohuang's. However, Munan would not give up on them until the last moment!

After all, the improvement was obvious; at least, they didn't get slaughtered like last time. Regardless, it was also true that two of their jets had been 'shot down', while Saohuang's side had lost none.

The atmosphere was increasingly glum on Munan's side, needless to say, it was the opposite on Saohuang's side. They were enjoying the time of their lives because they had the advantage. If this was allowed to continue, victory would be theirs. The only regret was not knowing Munan's team strategy or the victory would have come a lot easier and they would've had the chance to rub it in sooner.

...

"F*ck!" Yan Lu slammed his fist on the table out of frustration. "No matter the result, I swear to teach them a lesson when it's on the grounds combat!"

Land combat was his wheelhouse, even if it took his life, he would try his best to win Saohuang's team.

However, the thing that frustrated them was that neither of them were good at aerial combat. If they were, they could have entered the drill themselves, and not fidget like ants on a hot pot behind the screen.

As usual, Xinghe was the one unaffected. She studied the combat that continued onscreen with rapt attention.

Chapter 409: Commanding a Combat Jet

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After studying it for quite some time, she had discerned the rhythm and pattern.

“Actually, each combat jet has a fixed pattern that we can exploit. As long as we can discern that particular pattern, then we can prepare ahead of time,” Xinghe suddenly said in her clear voice. Munan’s group all turned to look at her.

“Big Sister Xia, have you seen that pattern?” Munan asked, pleasantly surprised. Yan Lu and the rest were also looking at her with their eyes glowing. After spending some time together, they completely understood Xinghe’s capability. Therefore, they valued all of her input.

Xinghe shook her head. “I’m not sure. I can make an educated guess using triangulation of physics and mathematical formulae but it won’t be accurate.”

“Physics? Mathematics?” Yan Lu said in horror. Those two were his nightmare! He’d rather go out and kill than study those two things.

“Miss Xia, can you really calculate the pattern?” Gu Li asked excitedly. He knew Xinghe was a knowledgeable person, calculating the motion trajectory of a plane should be a walk in the park for her.

Xinghe nodded. “Calculating motion trajectory involves many variables, plus these are human-controlled combat jets so they can’t be calculated using preset formulae. The only thing I can do is to gauge the enemies’ trajectories within a short time period.”

“That’s more than enough!” Munan exclaimed. “Now, the gap between the two platoons is still crossable, we just need a slight advantage for our side. Big Sister Xia, give it your best; no matter what, it will be helpful to our men.”

“That’s right Miss Xia. You’ll be a big help to us.”

Xinghe asked them curiously, “You want me to take up the commanding mantle?”

“That’s right, give it a try,” Munan said surely.

“How I can command such an important drill, plus I don’t have faith in my calculation.” What if her calculations were wrong? That was something she would be unable to bear. However, Munan trusted her implicitly.

“Big Sister Xia, I believe in you. No matter the result, I will not regret passing the commanding reigns to you. Plus, you don’t need to command everyone, just one plane is enough.”

“Miss Xia, we have to try something now. Aerial combat has always been our weak spot, give it a try because we have nothing to lose,” Gu Li added seriously.

“Miss Xia, do it, if there are any consequences, I’ll shoulder them for you!” Yan Lu bumped his fist against his chest and promised.

“No, I will bear the responsibility, all of it,” Munan said firmly.

“We’ll all share it,” someone else also chimed in. They wouldn’t push the blame on her...

Xinghe didn’t expect they would have such a deep trust in her; she was a bit touched. Then, she dropped the pretense and took them up on their offer.

“Alright, I’ll give it a try. Don’t worry, I will not let you down.”

“We believe in you!” Munan smiled.

...

They immediately let Xinghe pick one combat jet to command. Xinghe picked the one in the most inferior position. After she familiarized herself with the commanding method, Xinghe entered a state of extreme focus quickly.

In the air, the most inferior combat jet managed to evade a series of enemy attacks at the last minute.

Chapter 410: Started Hacking

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Several times he was almost shot down. The pilot was a very young man. He had the least experience but piloting a combat jet had always been his dream. He had given his best to gain the opportunity to participate in this drill. He thought he could finally win honor for his team but he ended up being cornered from the very beginning. Basically, all he'd done since the beginning was evading, evading, and more evading...

However, the young man didn't give up. Until the very last moment, he would not surrender or lose hope!

As the man avoided another enemy attack, a clear woman's voice appeared in his ear mic, "I will be supporting you from now on, I don't know the code words so please listen to my orders closely, turn left immediately."

The man was still in shock when the order came. However, thanks to his training, he unconsciously turned left. Right at that moment, an enemy combat jet fired at the empty area he was just in a few seconds ago. This came as another shock to the man and at that moment, another order came.

"Fly up, then fire to your right!"

The man acted on his reflex even though he no idea why he should be doing all that, but after he did, his attack successfully hit an enemy combat jet!

The man widened his eyes in shock. Yan Lu and the gang's jaws were on the floor. This... This is too ridiculous!

Xinghe really managed to predict the enemy's trajectory and launched the counter attack beforehand. If they were a few seconds too late, their jet would have been shot down. However, in those few seconds, she saw through the enemy's movement. Even accomplished soldiers couldn't do that...

She must be like some kind main character in a novel because that is the only way to explain her over-poweredness!

Munan and the rest's feelings were complicated but, for the most part, they were feeling a sense of excitement. They felt honored being in such an impossible character's presence.

...

Once again, reality had proven Xinghe had a super computer for her brain. She could use her instinct and experience to predict the enemies' movements. Just like how a learned mathematician could predict the trajectory of a thrown object's arc, Xinghe was doing the same with the combat jets.

With her orders, the young pilot was completely reborn. He turned the whole situation around by shooting down more than a handful of combat jets himself. The tide of battle was changing, now Saohuang's team was cornered.

This sudden turn brought about an increase in fighting spirit in Munan's men, they showcased beyond normal levels of ability. Very soon, they were picking off their enemies one by one, it was a one-sided slaughter!

This result shocked not only Munan's team but also Saohuang's side as well.

"What is happening? How did it become like this?" Saohuang stared fixatedly at the screen and questioned in disbelief.

"We have no clue, it's like our opponent suddenly started hacking the competition or something," an adjutant replied anxiously.

"Just what the f*ck are you people doing?" Saohuang turned to rip into the people who were commanding.

One of them responded with difficulty, "Sir, for some reason, it's as if they have gained the ability to see the future."

Chapter 411: Xinghe Was More Handsome than Them

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Before we even begin to commit to our strategy, they’ve already reacted. We don’t have the time to evade their attacks.”

“Then, couldn’t you people do the same back to them?”
Saohuang asked chillingly.

“We could but we’re always a few seconds too late...” And that few seconds decides everything.

“I have to say, if we lose, none of you will leave this unscathed!” Saohuang didn’t care anymore, he threatened his men directly. The room was stunned but no one dared to say anything. Saohuang was infamous for his cold-bloodedness. No one dared to anger him or object because their ending would be horrendous. The commanders slapped themselves into alertness, trying their best to salvage the situation. The atmosphere was highly tense and urgency was in the air.

Under Saohuang’s threat, their commanding ability increased but it wasn’t enough to turn things around. Their combat jets kept getting shot down. The team formation was broken, all strategy thrown out the window...

The only thing they could do now was evade attack and tried to sneak in an attack. Their whole team was a mess, the attacks were sloppy. Munan’s side had kept their discipline, the role of bait and trap was clear. In fact, the more they fought, the better they became. On Saohuang’s side, no matter how much he threatened them, the writing was already on the wall. Finally, the battle was over!

When the last combat jet was taken down, Saohuang’s aura was so scary that it seemed it could swallow a man alive. They had lost in aerial combat!

This was a rude surprise to him because he had really lost...

...

“Yes, we’ve won!”

“We won!”

It was a completely different scenario on Munan’s side. Everyone was screaming at the top of their lungs; they were close to bringing their enemies down.

“Miss Xia, a job well done! I had no idea you would be so good at this, please take me as your student, I can’t wait to learn from you. My admiration for you can’t be suppressed anymore!” a commander said excitedly.

Everyone else was equally ecstatic. “Miss Xia, it was like you were playing a game just now, so how were you so good?”

That was accurate. When Xinghe was commanding the pilot, it sounded like she was playing a flight simulator. Many times, she gave off the impression that this was nothing but a game to her. This was because the thing seemed to come too easily to her.

Her every prediction was correct. Throughout the process, Munan’s gang’s attention was completely on her commanding skill instead of the screen. She was handsome as she rattled off her orders, even more eye-grabbing than most of them. The group of men had to admit, Xinghe had them completely bested...

“Miss Xia, I have nothing more to say. Next time, if you’re in any trouble, come find me. One word and I, Yan Lu, will go to hell for you!” Yan Lu promised with a bump on his chest.

Gu Li also nodded. “Miss Xia, I already considered you my comrade. Don’t hesitate to come to me as well, should you need my assistance.”

“Miss Xia, don’t leave me out of this!”

“Me too!”

Everyone fought to swear allegiance to Xinghe, this was something that had not happened before. Xinghe looked at them and couldn’t help but smile. “Thank you.”

Little did she know, none of them were kidding.

Chapter 412: Burning Blood, Burning Passion

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

When she needed their help in the future, they really would throw themselves into the line of fire for her...

Munan was glad witnessing Xinghe's growing popularity; he was proud of his sister-in-law!

If not for this crisis facing the Xi family, Munan had a sneaking suspicion that Mubai would've kept Xinghe from prying eyes and to himself forever. If he had met such a wonderful woman himself, he probably would do the same...

She was like the world's best treasure, having her is not much less than having the world. Munan felt happy for his brother for having found such an important person in his life.

He smiled and tried to control the rowdy crowd, "Alright, let's calm down because the battle is not yet over. We might have won this round, but there are two more rounds to go. Be alert and don't let your guard down! We must take advantage of this heightened morale and beat them in one go!"

"Defeat them! Defeat them!" Everyone started chanting, their blood boiling. Xinghe was also influenced by their inflamed passion. She followed along for the next two rounds, supporting the troops from the side lines.

After Munan's men won the aerial combat, it started a domino effect, the naval combat and land combat were a one-sided sweep as well! Like a sharp arrow, Munan's platoon shot through their enemy with ease.

...

The drill that lasted for a few days finally came to an end. The victory was Munan's!

At the moment that was announced, everyone cheered. They didn't think they would win so overwhelmingly. There were no losses, they had won everything! A perfect victory so to speak.

This wiped out the memories of their earlier loss. Revenge was theirs.

This battle also brought them many epiphanies and much experience. The whole platoon understood that a small loss was not forever, with enough determination and hard work, success would eventually come. They had gotten psychologically more mature. Munan believed his team would not be brought down so easily no matter what disaster came their way in the future.

Similarly, they had learned to not gloat or let their guard down after a win. In conclusion, no matter what happened in the future, they would continue marching on, proud of their team and themselves!

Therefore, this match had not only brought them a victory but also a change in attitude, and this was the more important reward because attitude decided everything.

Of course, the victory had to be celebrated as well. To celebrate this victory, the whole camp decided to throw a party. From Yan Lu and the rest's perspective, Xinghe was the biggest contributor, so they wanted to make use of this opportunity to thank her but she rejected them.

“Miss Xia, you have to come to the party; how can we throw a party without its hero?” Yan Lu tried his best to change her mind. Gu Li joined in but she was unmoved.

“First, I don't think I've contributed anything, I only gave technical support. The victory is because everyone contributed their fair share. Second, I don't like crowded environment like this but I thank you for thinking of me.”

Chapter 413: Plan Completely Ruined

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“But you have to come, everyone’s waiting for you.”

“I think I’ll bow out of this one, have fun on my behalf.”

Xinghe’s attitude was just as determined as before. It was not that she minded hanging out with them but she really didn’t like overly crowded occasions. She didn’t want to be the hero because she didn’t know how to handle the attention. She’d prefer it if they just left her be. Noticing her determination, Yan Lu and the gang chose to respect her decision.

However, Munan still took all of them along to a scrumptious dinner before leaving her be. Xinghe turned back to rest. It had been a hectic few days for her. She wanted to take the opportunity to rest and recharge. This was because, after this short celebration, there would another battle coming. They couldn’t relax completely because this was not the end. That night was only a breather...

While Munan’s camp was celebrating, Saohuang’s camp was suffocating in a depressing haze.

“Bunch of idiots! All useless!” Saohuang was furious after he had lost the drill. He was trashing his office.

Sun Yu stood beside him carefully and tried his best to console him, “Boss, Munan was only lucky this time to have won. They are not our competition, don’t worry, we’ll get them next time!”

Saohuang glared at him ruthlessly. “Lucky?”

Sun Yu nodded with a shaking heart. “That’s right, they were only lucky this time...”

“Good luck can bring them a landslide victory? I also want such luck then!”

“ ... ”

“Bunch of idiots! What did I tell you people before the drill? I said we can only win, and the results? We won nothing! Bunch of idiots, you’ve ruined everything!” Thinking about his

master plan that lay in tatters, Saohuang was so furious he could kill someone. No, not just someone, he wanted to kill Xi Munan and that Xia Xinghe! If possible, he wanted to shred them into pieces.

“Boss, this is all that Xia Xinghe’s fault,” Sun Yu added with a snarl, “If not for her, we wouldn’t have lost. Everything changed the moment she arrived!”

Saohuang narrowed his eyes with lethal intent. That’s right, this is all that b*tch’s fault!

“Boss, we must remove her somehow or she’ll keep getting in our way,” Sun Yu stepped forth and lower his voice to say.

Saohuang looked at him and replied, “You think I don’t know that? You think it’s so easy to do that?”

Xinghe was surrounded by a whole army, he couldn’t do anything even if he wanted to. If he could take her out easily, he would have done so a long time ago.

“Then, what shall we do? Just leave her be?”

Saohuang smirked. “Of course not! There are more than one ways to remove someone.”

“Boss, what good idea do you have in mind?” Sun Yu asked in shock. Before Saohuang could answer, his phone rang. It was from Lin Yun...

Saohuang’s dark eyes shone for a tiny bit as he picked up the phone. “Hello.”

“Big Brother Feng, I heard you lost this time, right?” Lin Yun asked nonchalantly but her tone was forceful.

“You heard right.”

Surprised that he still had the audacity to admit that, Lin Yun laughed mirthlessly. “You lost? Big Brother Feng, didn’t I tell you that you have to win both competitions? Your loss has thrown our plan into a complete disarray!”

Chapter 414: Bad Luck, Coming Again

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

More than thrown into disarray, the plan was completely ruined. If Saohuang could win two matches, then the Lin family had a way to immediately make him the leader of Flying Dragon Unit. The supposed half year limit would be cancelled and they would get him named the leader as soon as possible. That would enable them to deal with the Xi family faster...

But he lost!

Now that he did, there was no reason for them to keep on supporting Saohuang. Lin Yun scolded herself for having placed a bad bet on Saohuang. The man was not as good as he claimed to be.

Saohuang didn't sound cowed at all, he replied, "This loss is indeed beyond my expectation but please believe me, this is not my intention."

"The fact is, you lost! You let go of such a valuable opportunity, I'm hesitant to continue our collaboration if I'm perfectly honest. Therefore, Feng Saohuang, I'm giving you one last chance. If you can't salvage this situation, our cooperation is over."

A flash of chilliness appeared in Saohuang's eyes but it was not reflected in his words. "Miss Lin, please do not worry, I will definitely resolve this problem as soon as possible. Please await my good news."

"You'd better. Don't disappoint us or you know what will happen to you!" With that, Lin Yun hung up on the phone. Saohuang put down his phone slowly, his eyes burning with hatred.

No could threaten him like that, not even the Lin family...

No matter, one day, he would have those slimy people under his feet! For now, he would make use of them to deal with the Xi family first. But before that, he needed with deal with that Xia Xinghe!

As the plan formed in his mind, Saohuang's lips curved into a blood curdling smile, the air around him bristling with a bad omen...

...

After a night of partying, Munan's platoon threw themselves back into training. Even after a victory, they didn't lax on their training. If anything, their training was much more efficient than before.

Xinghe was still leading the tech team, fighting relentlessly. Just when Munan thought everything was moving towards a positive growth, bad luck struck them so suddenly!

City T's police had unearthed yet another case of stolen military munitions. This was supposed to be something celebratory but the police found a certain person's name in the lead smuggler's secret file...

...

Back in Munan's camp, Xinghe once again helped the soldiers create some new software. The entire team was in a good mood. Their admiration towards Xinghe had increased leaps and bounds.

"Miss Xia, why don't you just join the military? It'll feel so empty after you leave," someone suggested, a suggestion which garnered many people's assent.

"That's right. Miss Xia, why don't you stay? We can work along each other in the future!"

"Miss Xia, we love working for you! Please stay, we promise to be loyal to you forever!"

Xinghe didn't think they would be so reluctant to see her leave. She smiled. "I also enjoy working with you guys but I don't belong here. However, I do thank everyone for making me feel so welcomed."

"Why would you say that? No one belongs here more than you!"

"That's right, Miss Xia, you should stay..."

Chapter 415: Found Your Name

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“The military will definitely treat you well.”

“In future, you might be recruited into the nation’s highest committee,” someone said confidently. From their perspective, Xinghe did have the capability to do so. Therefore, if she stayed, her future would be bright. Xinghe understood their kindness but this was really not where she belonged...

At that moment when she was overwhelmed by their enthusiasm, Munan walked into the room with a few people.

“Please follow me, something’s happened,” he told Xinghe seriously. She saw the solemnity in his eyes and her heart pounded from a bad feeling.

“Okay.”

She left without asking any question. The moment they departed, the room started speculating.

“What happened, looks like it wasn’t something good?”

“Could it be that something bad really happened?”

“Who knows...” Shu Mei replied softly but her tone was laced with glee. She prayed that something bad had truly happened to Xinghe!

...

“What is it?” Xinghe asked Munan when they left the tech building.

Munan said through clenched teeth, “Something bad! Big Sister Xia, you have to prepare yourself because the problem’s big this time.”

“What’s wrong?”

Munan stopped and stared at her as he said, “Yesterday the police captured another case of stolen military munition but in the leader’s secret file, they found... your name.”

Xinghe widened her eyes in shock. “My name?”

“Yes! The secret file has a list of internal staff and you’re in it. Of course, I know you have nothing to do it but your name is really there.”

“Where’s the leader then?” Xinghe asked after she calmed down.

“Dead, he was killed with a shot to the head during the operation.”

“That means there’s no witness.”

Realization struck Munan. “That’s right, so you think this is a set up?”

“Most likely and it’s by Feng Saohuang.” Xinghe’s eyes narrowed. “The group’s internal security is very well done so the only person who can verify that list is the dead leader. In other words, suspicion about me won’t be cleared that easily.”

“F*ck!” Munan cursed angrily, “What is this Feng Saohuang up to? Why is he coming after you? I’m his competition, why didn’t he put my name?”

“That wouldn’t work,” Xinghe attempted a guess, “The leader has no idea about Saohuang’s identity as well. If he put in your name, the leader might get suspicious but a civilian’s name like mine won’t raise any eyebrows.”

“What’s the point of framing you?”

“I’m related to the Xi family.”

Munan was stunned. She was right. Xinghe was obviously related to the Xi family and she was in the military due to the Xi family’s influence. If something happened to her, the Xi family would be dragged down by it as well.

Now was a critical period, if something happened to Xi family, then he would lose the chance to become the leader of Flying Dragon Unit. Saohuang’s scheme hit two birds with one stone.

He could get rid of Xinghe and implicate the Xi family...

He operated all of this from the dark. Munan’s heart burned with fury thinking about how despicable this Feng Saohuang was. He was ready to rush into his camp to murder him!

Chapter 416: You're Under Arrest

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Big Sister Xia, what should we do now? There are already people here to detain you, Yan Lu and the guys are trying their best to stall them!” Munan said anxiously. For various reasons, Munan still had great trust in Xinghe at a time like this. With her brilliance, she should definitely have a solution.

Xinghe shook her head. “I have no idea what to do either. I didn't expect Saohuang would make such a big sacrifice to frame me.”

Indeed, Saohuang had made a giant sacrifice. He had made his comrade a sacrificial lamb just to frame them...

In a way, he sure did think a lot of them.

“You're also at a loss? But we don't come up with something soon, they'll take you away. We cannot allow that to happen, who knows what will happen to you in custody,” Munan said worriedly.

Xinghe looked at him and said calmly, “Don't only worry about me, you will also be in trouble. They're coming after me to get to the Xi family. Even though your name was cleared last time, it is no guarantee that you will not get dragged into this mess again.”

Munan was not worried about that.

“Don't worry, we can figure that out later. The key thing now is you, your name has appeared directly on the list, your suspicion will not be cleared so easily. It is our family who have dragged you into this mess, what if something happened to you, how could we sleep at night?”

Xinghe consoled him, “Don't worry, this is not the end of the world. I'll cooperate with them for now and we'll try our best to clear the suspicion. Let's not forget, we still have Mubai to rely on.”

Munan understood what she meant. He said happily, “That's right, we can still rely on Big Brother. If he has found some information on his side then your name will be cleared. But...

Big Brother has found nothing even though he has utilized so many of his assets. I'm afraid that when he does find something, it'll already too late."

"That's the only choice we have. If all else fails, then..."

Before Xinghe could finish, they saw a group of police walking her way. Yan Lu and the rest followed and they looked at her with concern in their eyes. The group eventually stopped before them.

The leading officer said authoritatively, "Xia Xinghe, you're suspected to be involved in an international case of military munitions thefts. You're under arrest, please follow us now."

"Are you people deaf?" Yan Lu scolded, "We've already told you, Miss Xia has spent the past few weeks in the military camp, she has not left the compound, so how can she be involved in this smuggling case? Miss Xia is also not in need of money, this is such an obvious set up!"

"That's right. All of us can be her witness," Gu Li added. The rest of the camp vouched for Xinghe as well but the leading officer ignored all of them.

"Your words will not change my mind! All we know is that Xia Xinghe's name appeared on the list, that means she is a suspected criminal. Furthermore, she doesn't need to leave the camp, she only needs to move her fingers. I hear that Xia Xinghe is very good with computers, right?"

Munan narrowed his eyes. "What do you mean by that?"

The officer replied coldly, "According to our investigation, this crime syndicate has been operating and committing their crimes through the use of internet."

Chapter 417: Being Good Is also a Sin

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Their digital footprints have always been well taken care of, we believe Xia Xinghe is capable of doing that.”

After Xinghe heard that, she nodded. Gu Li and Yan Lu were confused by her gesture, but Munan understood it. Saohuang had considered everything when framing Xinghe. If Xinghe were just a normal civilian, leaving her name on the list would be nothing but things were different if she also happened to be good on computers...

Her suspicion would be even harder to explain. Furthermore, the Xi family was once suspected of the same crime and Xinghe was related to the Xi family. They implicated each other.

“Therefore, please follow us obediently, don’t force our hands,” the leading officer said coldly.

Munan argued, “Xinghe is innocent until proven guilty, you people can’t arrest her based on suspicion, we will get her a group of lawyers! Our Xi family will personally guarantee that she is innocent.”

The leading officer gave him a look that was equivalent to a shrug and said, “No matter what, she has to follow us.”

“Then, I’m going with her.”

“Perfect because we have some questions for you as well.”

That was how Munan was roped into the investigation.

Munan had no issue with that, he looked at Xinghe and said determinedly, “Come on, let’s go.”

Xinghe nodded and they left in the police car. The Xi family was highly efficient because when they arrived at the precinct, around ten lawyers were already there. Even Munan’s father, Jiangnian was there. Due to their presence, the police didn’t dare to do anything out of line against Xinghe but the interrogation had to go on.

Xinghe was fully cooperative, she answered everything the police asked. However, no matter how hard she argued for her innocence, even after she surrendered her personal computer to be scanned, it was no use. This was because she was too good, the police believed firmly that she could manipulate the internet without leaving a trace. Xinghe had no clue that, one day, her own ability would be her biggest downfall. Being good at what she did was also a sin!

“In other words, no matter what I say or what proof I provide, you people will not believe me?” Xinghe ask.

The interrogating officer asked in return, “Do you think we should believe?”

“You should, but I can only tell you, I’m being framed.”

“Who framed you? What’s the benefit of that?”

“Who knows,” Xinghe answered with a shrug. She couldn’t say Saohuang because that would add another charge to her name. In other words, she had to find a reason and proof that she had been framed before she could clear her name...

...

In the other room, Munan was also giving his statement.

“Someone is definitely framing Xinghe. The person’s purpose should be to target our Xi family. Last time, I was framed the same way but the person’s plan ultimately failed so this time they tried to do the same to someone related to our Xi family because this will implicate our Xi family in the process.”

“Then, does Major Xi has any idea who would do something like that?” the police officer asked.

Like Xinghe, Munan knew who was doing all this but they couldn’t say.

“I will not say anything without proof, but it should be someone who has a bad history with our Xi family, that should be your line of investigation.”

Chapter 418: Paying Her Bail

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After giving their statements, Munan was free to go but not Xinghe. Her suspicion was the biggest so the police wouldn't let her go, she still had to endure multiple interrogations. The ten lawyers were by her side at all times, they would take turns representing her. Munan returned to his family to figure out a solution. It was not easy for the Xi family to shake off the earlier suspicion, being slapped with another so soon was making everyone more than a bit jumpy.

After thinking that his grandfather would sacrifice Xinghe, he said directly, "Grandfather, Saohuang is targeting us. Sister-in-law Xia is a complete innocent, we cannot leave her to fend for herself, we have to save her. Only after she's safe we'll be free from implication."

Grandfather Xi looked at him and said authoritatively, "You cheeky lad, what kind of person do you think I am? Do you think I would sacrifice her to save our own hides?"

Munan quickly placated, "That's not what I meant, grandfather. You're the best and the most kind person, I know you will not leave sister-in-law hanging dry."

"She's still not your big brother's wife, what kind of impression are you giving others by calling her sister-in-law left and right?"

Munan shrugged. "She's the ex and soon-to-be, what's the difference?"

"Mubai really cares for her. I've contacted him and he'll be home soon," Jiangan said seriously.

Grandfather Xi harrumphed, "What's the point of him coming back? He should have focused his energy on finding proof of that Feng's criminality."

"The organization is too powerful and mysterious, whoever gets too close is silenced if they're not careful, therefore, progress has been slow."

“I’m afraid we’ll crumble before they do if the progress continues at this speed,” Grandfather Xi’s face was drawn, “The fact that Feng boy dares to openly challenge us like this means that he has fully prepared. I suspect he has some kind of deal with the Lin family that we don’t know about.”

“Definitely! They must have ganged up on us,” Munan agreed.

Grandfather looked at him and said, “Munan, I fear that leadership position is not yours to have anymore.”

Munan’s eyes shook for a little bit. “What grandfather means is that the post will fall into Saohuang’s hands soon?”

Grandfather Xi nodded, “Most likely, the Lin family will help him get there as soon as possible. The only reason they’re helping him is to use him to get to us. Now that we’re implicated, the post will not be yours anymore... unless we distance ourselves from this mess fully and completely.”

“We cannot do that!” Munan quickly objected, “Grandfather, I would rather lose the position than have sister-in-law take the fall because of us! She’s in this mess because of us to begin with and she has helped us a lot, I cannot silence my conscience and be ungrateful.”

“Grandfather cannot either. Therefore, if we are to save her, you must be prepared to lose that post.”

“I’m ready to give it up,” Munan said directly, there was no reluctance in his tone. There was no objection from other people, they were all silent.

Grandfather Xi nodded and said, “Then good. Let’s focus on getting her out first.”

The Xi members answered in unison. “Yes!”

...

Even though the Xi family was implicated, their power and influence was still there. With their full intervention, Xinghe was finally given bail. Not only did the Xi family try their best to save her, even Gu Li and Yan Lu used every connection they had.

Xinghe was surprised that she received help from so many people. After all, Saohuang only came for her alone.

If they wanted to save themselves, they could have left her to die.

Chapter 419: Paid Bail

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, none of them did, they all stood on her side. They were not afraid of being implicated by her charges. If she wasn't acquitted in the end, their reputation and future would go down with her. Xinghe was touched by their concern for her, they had given up many things to side with her.

Even the Xi family which was, in some ways, obligated to help her did more than that. They had more to lose by coming to her aid. They would be implicated and there were more losses in the future, like the Flying Dragon Unit's leadership post...

This post was instrumental to the Xi family's future. With Munan sitting at that position, their glory would be extended for at least a few more decades. A few more decades of glory... even an idiot would know to choose that, much less the Xi family who got where they were through a bloody history. They had a lot more to lose if they chose to help her. Glory was built upon blood and sacrifices, which was why each opportunity had to be treasured. Alas, for her sake, they had given up on an opportunity so important.

Things would be a lot easier for them if they just distanced themselves from Xinghe. However, that easy route was not the route they chose. Instead, they walked on this path that could cause their own destruction. This was not only because of their kind-heartedness but importance that they had placed in her, which was why when Xinghe was given bail, she swore to help the Xi family unconditionally in the future should any trouble befall the family!

...

Before being given bail, Xinghe and Munan were pulled into one last interrogation. After the thing was over, both of them walked out of the station together. Munan saw Xinghe's pale face and asked with concern, "Big Sister Xia, are you alright? Did they do anything to hurt you?"

Ever since she was arrested, Xinghe spent two full days in interrogation, there was no time for her to even rest. She shook her head. "I'm fine, just a little tired."

"Then, let's go back now, everyone's waiting for you."

Xinghe turned to look at him and nodded. Just as the two of them prepared to leave, a military Hummer suddenly stopped in front of them. The door opened and Saohuang in a military coat stepped out from it.

He turned to them and asked with a villainous smile, "Major Xi, I heard something happened to you so I purposely came to pay you visit, are you alright?"

Of course, Xinghe and Munan weren't naïve enough to think he was being sincere. It was obvious he was there to gloat. Munan's hatred flared up looking at Saohuang in person.

He laughed. "Thanks for your concern, I'm still alive, but the person who did this to us won't be for long!"

Saohuang naturally knew he was talking about him. He chuckled. "Is that so? Might I ask who Major Xi think that person is?"

Munan took a step forward, suppressed his voice and issued threateningly, "I believe we all know who that person is!"

"Well, do tell."

"Don't act dumb, Feng Saohuang, this is not over, you just wait and see!"

Shrugging off his threat, Saohuang's smile disappeared as he said, "I can wait just fine but I'm not sure you can say the same thing."

Chapter 420: Wait for Big Brother to Come Back (End of Military Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“...”

“You had the perfect opportunity to launch a counter but alas, your whole family has chosen death...” Saohuang continued as his eyes moved to fall on Xinghe. His meaning was well understood. By choosing to help Xinghe, the Xi family had chosen death. If the Xi family cut all ties to her then most likely they would be able to survive this unscathed. However, they didn't and Saohuang couldn't say he didn't appreciate that.

His smile grew bigger. “However, I have to say, I'm mighty impressed by the Xi family, sacrificing so much just to save a woman. That's rare, don't you feel honored, Miss Xia?”

Xinghe stared coldly at him and her clear voice rang out, “I feel honored that someone would sacrifice so much just to frame me, that much is true.”

“Miss Xia is someone unique so you deserve all the honor others are willing to lavish on you,” Saohuang replied with a thin smile.

“I assure you, I will repay certain people with equal recognition.”

“Oh, what might that be?” Saohuang asked with a shrug. From his perspective, Xinghe and the Xi family were on death row. These were all losers, he was not one bit afraid of them.

Xinghe answered coldly, “You'll know soon enough. It might not be soon but it'll definitely come.”

Saohuang suddenly started laughing. “Miss Xia, you know what? I admire the way you talk because it doesn't allow others to underestimate you.”

“That's right but sadly, you have been underestimating me.” Xinghe looked at him one last time before climbing into the car. She was done talking to him. She was not one to huff and

puff in front of her enemies. To her, actions spoke louder than words and a face slap spoke a thousand words!

She was willing to let Saohuang have a brief moment of glory but his end would eventually come like all who had crossed her before. Munan had lost interest in chewing words with Saohuang as well, so he too climbed into the car.

“Get moving,” he ordered the driver and the car sped away. Saohuang watched their leaving car and his eyes were filled with derision and viciousness.

...

“I want to speak with Mubai,” Xinghe told Munan.

Munan was surprised. “Big Brother? He is probably unreachable now.”

“Why?”

“He’s coming back, so he’s probably on the plane now,” Even at a time like this, Munan did his wingman job. “He found out what happened to you and rushed back as soon as possible but he was a bit far away so it would take him some time before he arrived.”

Xinghe’s eyes glistened for a bit and shook her head. “He shouldn’t have come back...”

“Big Brother couldn’t stop worry about you. Big Sister Xia, don’t worry, after Big Brother’s home, we’ll keep you safe.”

“But I’m worried your family will be implicated by aligning yourself with me.”

Munan laughed. “What are you talking about, you’re in this mess because of us to begin with. Big Sister Xia, our Xi family might not be the most morally upright citizens but we’re not so despicable as to use you as a scapegoat. This whole thing started because of our Xi family so we will do everything we can to keep you safe. Don’t worry about us, if there’s time then there’s a way we can stop it.”

Does this mean the Xi family is willing to fight for me to the bitter end? I know this involves their livelihood as well, but by

ditching me, they would have a better chance of survival. Why would they choose me over that? Is it really worth it...

Chapter 421: Sleeping Beside Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe understood their thoughts so kept her own to herself. Words were nothing but a waste of time. She needed to start working soon. The car soon reached the Xi family's old mansion. Since Munan brought her there, she treated the place like it was her home, she walked in liberally. The Xi family was indeed waiting for her. After they asked about her current condition, their questions moved into more serious territories and Xinghe answered them all.

“Stay here for the next few days, and don't go anywhere. We will handle the rest, thank you for your help earlier,”

Grandfather Xi told her with a light tone. They already knew about Xinghe's contribution in the military. They felt she had done more than her fair share, so they didn't want to trouble her anymore. However, Xinghe had her own plan but it was not the time to divulge it to them.

There was only question she needed to ask. “When will Mubai return?”

Munan answered, “Big Brother should be home today but we're not sure on the exact time.”

Xinghe nodded and said, “I think I will go rest for now, is that okay?”

“Of course. Maid, please take Miss Xia to her room,”

Grandfather Xi called out. A maid walked over and led her away. Munan was glad because Xinghe didn't seem to have any aversion to their presence. In fact, she seemed rather comfortable there. He thought she would reject their kindness but thankfully she didn't. It looked like she was starting to warm up to them...

He believed it was only a matter of time until they were a real family. After Xinghe left, the rest started discussing other matters. Xinghe cleared her mind of everything, she took a bath and slept after she reached the guest room. She understood what her body needed; what she needed then was a

good rest. After all, only with a good rest could she have enough energy to do more things.

...

Two days of back to back interrogations had exhausted Xinghe. She fell asleep quickly. The sleep was long because when she woke up next, it was already midnight. She opened her eyes to realize someone was lying beside her. Xinghe was slightly taken aback when she saw that familiar face.

It came as a surprise to her to find Mubai sleeping next to her when she woke up. He also seemed rather worse for wear. He was deeply asleep and breathing steadily, he was still in the clothes he'd arrived in. When did he return?

She was so out of it that she didn't realize when that happened. However, it was good that he had returned because she had something to discuss with him.

Just like that, Xinghe lay there without moving. She took occasional pauses in her thinking to look at Mubai.

For some reason, perhaps it was because they hadn't seen each other for quite some time, the lines around his face had gotten deeper. Xinghe even admitted he had gotten rather charming...

As to what kind of charm she was unable to tell but she found that her gaze kept returning to him. Plus, this was the first time she'd had the chance to study his features at such a close distance. Xinghe realized many details that had missed her attention before, for example, Mubai's lashes weren't only thick but also long. He had good, almost flawless skin, his nose was more aquiline than she thought and his lips seemed to always be curved into an amused expression...

Being asleep softened his features and stripped away his usual unapproachable aura. Xinghe felt... comfortable in his presence.

She wondered, how come before she had the impression that Mubai was a robot-esque creature with a shield that deterred others from getting close?

Chapter 422: Dreaming

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe studied him closely to understand these new observable changes in her mind. At that moment, the sleeping man suddenly opened his eyes. Xinghe was shocked once more suddenly looking into his rather confused yet deep eyes. However, the awkwardness didn't last, she moved away from him and said, "You're finally awake. Good, I have something to discuss with you..."

Before Xinghe could finish, she saw Mubai's handsome face approaching her. He was... going to kiss her!

As the gentle and familiar touch fell on her lips, a shock of electricity shot through her body, frying her brain in the process. Other than the widening of her eyes, Xinghe's whole body had went into shut down. Of course, she knew what was happening but for some reason, her usual astute brain, seemed to have entered a state of inactivity. She felt Mubai's teeth on her lips and his hot breath on her face...

Like before, it was until his tongue started advancing that she recovered with another jolt of electricity! Reflexively, she averted her face and her eyes were shaking with... anxiety?

The atmosphere suddenly became unspeakably awkward. The next second, Mubai sat up and yawned. In his magnetic voice, he said, "Sorry, I thought I was dreaming just then."

Xinghe stared at him and felt the rush to hit him arose in her heart looking at his serious countenance. Mubai offered a wicked smile. "Sorry, I haven't had a good night sleep in the past half month and just came off the plane, so fell asleep here but I'm wide awake now."

"..."

Xinghe knew that was a straight-faced lie. However, she didn't want to dwell on it and open another can of worms. She also sat up and asked naturally, "How's your progress?"

"Not bad. Also, I want to apologize for dragging you into the mess. I'm sorry." Mubai stared gently at her and said softly,

“You can keep your hands clean for the rest, I will handle everything. You don’t need to worry about the criminal charge....”

“I’m not,” Xinghe answered softly, “I’m not a worrier but you should know I can’t sit still and do nothing.”

Mubai held her eye contact quietly for two second and changed the subject, “Are you hungry? I am, let’s get some food first.”

“Okay,” Xinghe agreed, she was rather hungry herself. Mubai smiled and quickly ordered for food to be sent in. The maid quickly sent in a lot of food, every single plate was piping hot. It was obvious the food was prepared beforehand and kept hot until they woke up. The two were hungry so they enjoyed the meal in silence. Mubai, like usual, kept helping Xinghe take the food...

Xinghe didn’t want to waste time so she focused on eating. She finished soon. They put down their chopsticks at almost the same time.

“Why don’t you have more?” Mubai asked with concern. “You had so little.”

“I’m full. How about you?” Xinghe asked.

Mubai didn’t answer, instead he poured her half a glass of red wine. “Let’s have a drink then.”

Chapter 423: Take Me with You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe accepted the offered glass and clinked it with his. The wine went down smoothly, she couldn't remember the last time she was so relaxed. Mubai seemed to share the same thought. He took a sip of the wine and offered a luxurious smile. "This feels nice."

It's nice drinking with her.

Well, it's nice doing anything with her.

The period he was away, he missed her dearly. He was gratified now that he saw her in person, but somehow, he felt it wasn't enough...

Mubai sipped on his wine slowly while staring intensely at Xinghe. Xinghe saw a mess of emotions in his deep dark eyes. She felt they were communicating some messages to her, precisely what she couldn't be sure. She could read other people's thoughts fairly well but she had difficulties when it came to relationships. It was a lot more complicated than she would have preferred. It was as if her brain was born without the faculty to dissect relationships even though her mental acuity on other subjects was surprisingly inhuman.

Mubai saw Xinghe's disinterestedness.

"I'm done drinking, what about you?" Xinghe put down her glass and became all business again.

Mubai sighed helplessly, "Then why don't you go back to sleep, the sun hasn't even risen yet, you can still afford some shut eyes."

"That's fine, I'm well rested, how about you?"

She kept asking that question but it was not out of concern; she just wanted to talk business with him!

What kind of business, Mubai could only guess.

"Xinghe, it's not often we get the opportunity such as tonight to rest, why don't we savor it?" Mubai hinted but Xinghe was like a block of wood.

“I’ve savored more than enough. Let’s talk business and not waste time.”

“...”

“When do you plan on leaving?” Xinghe looked at him and asked directly. She knew Mubai had only come back temporarily, he had to leave soon.

Mubai found himself unable to lie under her scrutiny. “...In a bit.”

In other words, he was leaving tonight. Xinghe nodded before adding, “Take me with you.”

“Do you think that’s possible?” Mubai asked rather angrily.

Xinghe answered consolingly, “I know my departure will be troublesome for the Xi family but we’re running out of time, we have no other choice.”

This was her last resort. If she couldn’t clear her name, then she needed to find out Saohuang’s proof of criminality as soon as possible. Only then could everything be fine again.

Even though eventually they would find that out but time was not on their side. The longer this dragged on, the more the Xi family stood to lose. Time was a crucial variable.

For example, Saohuang might be brought down in the future, but the leadership post of Flying Dragon Unit might not go to Munan anymore. Things changed and they had to act fast to catch up. The only thing she could do was to try her best, to not give up until the very last moment. For that purpose, she had to follow Mubai overseas, she had to find Saohuang’s proof of criminality as soon as possible.

Mubai understood all of this as well but he didn’t want to involve her in any more danger. He would handle everything and she would be safe, but could her decision be changed?

He knew full well it couldn’t because she was Xia Xinghe.

Chapter 424: A Constant Part of Your Future

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

She was a woman who knew her own mind and set her own goals, a woman who didn't want or need to rely on others. If she did, she wouldn't be Xia Xinghe. He understood that, from many regards, she was more responsible than the common man. Her pride was not less than others.

Of course, she wouldn't just sit patiently and leave everything for him to handle. She wouldn't leave her own fate in other people's hands. Even if that other person was him. Even God couldn't dictate her fate, much less him...

He understood Xinghe fully because he was her kindred spirit. He cherished her but above all else he respected her, which was why he came to a decision after a beat or two.

"Alright, you can come with me. I will support you in every one of your endeavors."

Xinghe didn't expect him to cave so easily. She pressed, "Aren't you afraid that things are going to be difficult for the Xi family after I leave?"

Mubai laughed. "Our Xi family can handle that bit of trouble. If we couldn't, we wouldn't have survived to this day. Don't worry, the family won't die yet."

Even if she left, the Xi family wouldn't crumble overnight. Plus, every transaction had a loss and gain. As long as there was net gain, Mubai was satisfied! To run a big business, one shouldn't be too concerned with details.

Xinghe smiled. "Right, then it's decided. Don't worry, I will make sure the Xi family does not regret this decision."

Mubai laughed. "As long as you're alright in the end, there will be no regret."

Xinghe rolled her eyes. She stood up and said, "Come on, let's go now and not waste time."

Mubai gave her a helpless expression. "I'm curious, are you ever tired?"

Why is she always so energetic? Even if the place she is heading towards is filled with danger and trouble?

Xinghe looked at him and answered, “I will never feel tired with a goal in mind. If I do, I wouldn’t have selected that goal to begin with.”

Mubai stood up slowly but with a curious look in his eyes. He suppressed the urge to caress her face. As Xinghe looked at him with confusion in her eyes, he explained gently, “You might not be tired but know that I will always be around to be your rock.”

Xinghe was stunned, and before she could recover, Mubai had dragged her out of the room. She had a hard time calming down. No one knew how impactful Mubai’s words were to her.

At that moment, she realized her life had always been incomplete. She was not in need of love or marriage or anything materialistic.

She was in need of a spiritual partner that could be on the same level as her and challenge her!

Ever since she swore to take her fate into her own hands, she knew the journey of her life would be treacherous. After all, it was not easy going against destiny. It was as if the whole world was standing in her way.

However, she felt the weight that had been pressing down on her shoulders lifted a tiny bit. She had no complaints no matter how hard the journey was but once in a while she would be assaulted by feelings of loneliness.

Loneliness... that was probably God’s punishment for her defying his will.

Chapter 425: Don't Leave My Sight

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It was not a symbolic loneliness but a spiritual barrenness. Xinghe thought she was fated to face life alone...

Who would have thought Mubai would promise to be her rock? She knew he was capable of doing that... but she wondered, how long he would persevere.

“What’s on your mind?” Mubai had already dragged Xinghe out of the mansion. The cold wind hit her face, freshening her mind.

She didn’t answer but asked, “We’re leaving just like that? We’re not telling them first?”

Mubai shook his head. “I will explain on the phone. Since we’ve decided then it’s better to act fast.”

“Okay.” Xinghe nodded, he was right, they were on a race against time. The car drove them to a private airport where a private plane already sat waiting. Mubai escorted Xinghe up into the plane.

Before entering, Xinghe turned back to look at the darkness behind her and a determined look crossed her eyes.

When I see this place next, it will be the end of Feng Saohuang! I will make him regret ever coming after me and everything that I love!

...

Just like that, Mubai took Xinghe out of the country. This created quite a problem for the Xi family who’d paid her bail. However, they didn’t have the time to care about that anymore. The Xi family was also in a troublesome situation, like Xinghe, they had no other choice but to find out Saohuang’s proof of criminality as soon as possible. In other words, this was the last resort for both the Xi family and Xinghe.

Even though this wouldn’t end the Xi family but it would create a chain reaction that would cause great losses for the

family. Regardless, this was a risk they had to take to overcome this particular crisis.

Little did Xinghe know that what awaited her was a cruel and dark reality.

...

The country Mubai was taking Xinghe to was Country Y. They needed to change two planes and spent two days and two nights in the air before landing at Country Y.

On the plane, Mubai took out a handgun and taught Xinghe the basics.

“Country Y is in a critical condition at the moment, there will be riots. There are even rumors of a large-scale war breaking out soon. I really didn’t want to bring you along because it is simply too dangerous,” Mubai told her.

Xinghe nodded. “I know, but there is nowhere that is one hundred percent safe, I’d rather chance it with you.”

Mubai smirked. “Don’t worry, just stick around me and I will keep you safe. After we land at Country Y, please follow me closely and don’t wander out of my sight.”

Xinghe nodded to show understanding. She knew the gravity of the situation and knew how to act accordingly. Her sole goal of going to Country Y was to use her computer skills to unearth Saohuang’s proof of criminality. Everything else she would leave to Mubai.

Mubai continued to bring her up to date on his investigation.

“I’ve found out more information about this illegal organization but their base’s location is still unclear. According to my collected information, their group is incredibly large, so much so that we can’t take them down unaided, which is why I’ve formed a cooperative relationship with an important person in Country Y. The moment we find out the location of their base, you can hack into their internal system.”

Chapter 426: Your Contribution Will Be the Biggest

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe nodded, thinking it was simpler than she thought. “Looks like, if everything goes according to plan, we will be able to take care of them very soon.”

Mubai smiled. “This is all thanks to you, because you’re the play maker. Without you, this would take a lot more time because if we can’t take them down with one fell swoop, they might go into hiding or worse, retaliate.”

Xinghe nodded with understanding. “Therefore, my work is basically to siphon away all their internal information in one go without tipping them off?”

“That’s right, it’s quite a difficult task, are you up for it?” Mubai asked concernedly.

Xinghe nodded confidently. “You don’t need to worry about that. Unless their internal system is better defended than our country’s highest intelligence unit’s, it’ll be no problem. However, even if it is, I’m more than willing to give it a try.”

Mubai knew she would say something like that. He replied happily, “Alright, we’ll depend on you then. If this is a success, your contribution will be the biggest.”

Xinghe looked at him and said softly, “I don’t think that’s true because you must have also faced a lot of difficulties when you were at Country Y.”

Or else, he wouldn’t have taken so long to look into the organization.

Mubai indeed had been through a lot. Country Y was in its most rocky time and he had no influence there so he had to watch his every step. One wrong step could mean death. Several times, when he was out looking for information, he had attracted the attention of the wrong party. A few men that he brought along with him had even been killed in the line of duty. He had brushed by Death’s embrace many times before finding his footing and getting the collaboration with this

important person from County Y. He did all that in two months, an impossible feat if carried out by anyone else.

The reason Mubai could accomplish so much so soon was because of two things, his brains and his money. In an unstable country, money could open many lips and doors. It was also because of money that he managed to secure cooperation to take down the illegal organization so soon.

In other words, Mubai had set up everything for Xinghe. Her job, albeit technically demanding, was free from danger. Mubai was satisfied with this arrangement because no matter under what circumstance, he was not willing to put her in harm's way.

However, the thing that gladdened him the most was her giving him such a degree of understanding...

Of course, Mubai spared her the details, he said with a wicked smile, "I didn't do much because, at the end of the day, we still need to rely on you. You're our trump card."

Xinghe rolled her eyes at his modesty but she didn't say anything more, she only promised, "Don't worry, I will give it my best."

Mubai nodded. At the same time, he swore to do his best to ensure her safety, to clear all the obstacles that came her way. The only thing she needed to do was to swoop in at the last minute and shine her brightest!

However, things didn't go according to his plan!

Fate just had to throw them a curve ball. Something unpredictable happened.

The moment their plane entered Country Y, they were attacked. Anarchy had erupted and war was tearing through Country Y!

Chapter 427: Will to Survive!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After the plane was struck, Xinghe had her first experience of free-falling and how fast it was. It happened so quickly that a normal human wouldn't have the reflexes to do anything else but careen down following the plane, pulled by gravity. Of course, Mubai was not someone normal. Xinghe couldn't understand how he managed to fit a parachute on her in such a short and high-tension moment. Not only that, he even managed to open the plane door and shoved her out, giving her a chance at survival.

Xinghe's thoughts couldn't keep up with his actions. She was still reeling from the attack when she was pushed out the door. She didn't even have the chance to look at him one last time. Her mind couldn't work out the possibility that this might be the last time they saw each other.

Before she knew it, her parachute opened and the sudden air pressure smothered her face, and dried the single tear that fell out of the corner of her eye. However, the winds did nothing to dampen the shock and sadness in her heart.

From her vantage point, she couldn't see where the plane went but she could hear the explosion clearly. The plane had exploded!

Is Mubai still alive? The thought tore at Xinghe's heart. It was a visceral type of pain, a pain at an intensity that she hadn't experienced before. The pain was so overwhelming that it eclipsed her senses as she crashed through the jungle. Her parachute was torn apart by the branches and she crashed into the ground!

Xinghe's consciousness faded, but before that, she told herself that she must survive! She must live, she mustn't die!

...

Xinghe eventually did survive. After being unconscious for who knows how long, she opened her eyes in a daze. The sky was no longer blue but an ashen grey. The light filtering through the foliage was weak. Xinghe closed her eyes and she

could hear the sound of birds chirping, and the earthly smell of trees and soil around her.

She gripped her fists and breathed in deeply. Good, she was still alive.

As long as she was still alive, she could launch a comeback but before that, she needed to make sure whether Mubai was still alive or not.

Xinghe didn't cry or scream. Clenching her teeth through the nausea and physical pain coming from her chest, she stood up and walked slowly out of the underbrush. However, she was deeply wounded; there were bruises all over and she felt she had broken some ribs. Every step was like a step towards death. She was so weak that her senses started to wane, she could no longer hear the sounds around her and her sight was getting increasingly blurry. Her breaths were labored and her throat burned with every breath.

Like a wounded animal, she pressed on with sheer animal instinct alone. The only thing holding her up was her will to survive. Eventually, she walked out of the forest...

However, the moment she did, she collapsed onto the floor. The darkness consumed her for only several minutes this time. Xinghe opened her eyes again because she heard the sound of car engine coming her way. It gave her a burst of strength.

Xinghe lifted her head hopefully but her gaze dimmed when she saw it was a group of men walking towards her carrying firearms on their backs...

Chapter 428: Take Their Lives

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

They were wearing civilian clothes and not a military uniform; they didn't have the mannerisms of soldiers. Xinghe darkened her eyes because she realized these men were definitely not good Samaritans!

Then again, in a country like Country Y, the military wouldn't all be good people anyway. Xinghe's prediction was proved right soon after...

"Hey, she's still alive!" The men ran to stop in front of her. The first thing they did was not to apply first aid but cheer that she was still living.

"An eastern beauty, why would she be here?"

"You heard the plane explosion, right? She must have fallen from it."

A dark-skinned man squatted down to inspect Xinghe's body. "Her wounds are not that serious; she might have some uses. Quick, pack her up before the military arrives."

The few men quickly hauled Xinghe onto the car and then they sped away. They kept throwing her questions but Xinghe remained quiet like she couldn't understand what they were saying. The men were curiously looking at her calm countenance.

"How come it feels like she is not afraid of us?"

The other man laughed. "Perhaps she thinks we're here to save her."

"Haha, I think you're right, but even so, she should have given us an appreciative smile."

"Probably still in shock from the rough tumble."

"Such a shame then," the man tutted and his fingers teased Xinghe's chin. "A gorgeous face, if not for the fact that she will fetch a good price, I wouldn't mind doing her here and now."

“Hey, get in line, me first...”

“Last time, you got the first taste, this time it’s my turn.”

“Stop arguing, we’ve caught quite a few, everyone will have their chance, no one will be left hanging dry.” After the man finished talking, everyone burst out laughing salaciously.

Xinghe lowered her vicious gaze as the unsavory words drifted into her ears. She was not afraid of these men, if anything, she was plotting to take their lives!

She would never show kindness to the scum of the Earth, especially those that bullied women. Even if these people hadn’t come after her directly, she wouldn’t have let them go so easily. Little did Xinghe know that the chance to decimate this group of scum would arrive faster than she’d imagined.

...

The car drove until the night fell and they had reached a secluded base. The base was small, guarded by twenty to thirty men. They were overjoyed when they saw the car had a woman in it.

The fat leader scanned every inch of Xinghe’s body and nodded satisfactorily.

“This one is not bad; this type of Eastern beauty always fetches a good price. Auction her tomorrow. Well done, this time you guys have done a good job!”

A thin man who had been salivating on Xinghe on the car ride over asked lecherously, “Boss, can the boys have a little taste before the auction?”

The boss rejected him outright, “No, her body is too frail. Are you going to pay if she gets broken? However, there are some that are in quite serviceable condition, your whole gang can take your pick! But remember to not overdo it.”

“Thank you, Boss...” The group of men cheered.

After that they grabbed Xinghe and pushed her into a room roughly. They shoved her to a corner. Then, like a pack of hungry wolves, they jumped on the other women in there.

Chapter 429: Loss of Humanity

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

As if sensing their impending doom, the women became crazed, struggling from the men's grips as they wailed and screamed uncontrollably. The group of men didn't expect such a violent reaction, resulting in a few women managing to get away from their grip. However, they didn't get mad, instead they started laughing amusedly. They continued the cat and mouse game. The women continued struggling with all of their might, sending the room into utter chaos.

The men's laughter and curses combined with the women's screaming and crying was intense enough to bring the roof down.

Some of the men went straight to business, trapping the women with their bodies. The women who were assaulted struggling like crazy but the more they struggled, the more inhumane the men became...

The men had lost all traces of humanity and rationality. Some of them grabbed the women's heads and pounded them against the walls or the ground, grinding them figuratively and literally.

One of them forwent the boss' order and jumped at Xinghe viciously. "Get lost—" Xinghe kicked at him, the unexpected kick sent the man tumbling to the floor.

"F*ck, b*tch, I'm going to make you pay for that!" The angered man advanced on Xinghe again. This time, he pinned down Xinghe's limbs and started to tear away at Xinghe's clothes as his other hand slapped her continuously to keep her obedient.

At that moment, a man's ragged scream rang out among the crowd. Everyone was stunned by the sudden scream. Then, they saw a short-haired woman with an Asian face, used the thin razor in her hands to slit the throat of the man who assaulted her. The man held on the neck wound with dear life as his eyes bulged in disbelief. He didn't expect the harmless woman to be so ruthless and fast...

So fast, he didn't have time to defend himself. However, it was too late for regret. An artery was ruptured, the pain made his eyes bulge in fear. He glared angrily at the woman before him, his eyes burning with lethal intent. However, the next second, he crumbled to the floor like wet laundry.

He was dead...

That sobered up the rest of the men, they pulled out their guns.

"F*ck, kill her!" One of the men shouted angrily. The short-haired woman took a defensive step back, staring at her attackers with a pair of vengeful eyes. Minutes before the men pulled their trigger, they heard a gunshot coming from outside. This sent another shock through the crowd. Before they could recover, a series of gunshots rang out.

"Sh*t, we're under attack!" someone shouted from outside. The faces of the men in the room changed, they left the women behind and rushed out.

However, at the last minute, one of the men stopped and walked back in, his gun aimed directly at that short-haired woman's head.

The woman who'd just sighed in relief tensed up again and her face blanched. The man's face lit up with an evil smile as his finger applied pressure on the trigger...

The shot was fired but it missed its mark because Xinghe tackled the man at the last minute. The short-haired woman was surprised that someone had come to her aid. However, she quickly recovered and also charged at the man.

Chapter 430: Death in Xinghe's Hands

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Sh*t, I’m going to kill you b*tches!” the toppled man cursed angrily.

The short-haired woman straddled his body and rained down punched on the man. “You’re the one that’s going to die!”

They started tussling, however, the woman was at a physical disadvantage and she was knocked off the man. The man took the opportunity to grab at the gun that had fallen away during tussle...

However, someone else picked up the gun first. The man was stunned, he raised his head slowly to see the dark end of a gun barrel aiming right at his head. It was the woman who first tackled him holding the gun. Xinghe’s eyes were cold and completely devoid of emotion. The man held up his hands in surrender.

“Hey, put down the gun, don’t be crazy.”

The man stood up slowly, his eyes scanning for a lapse in Xinghe’s concentration, attempting to grab the gun away from her.

“Shoot him!” the short-haired woman screamed.

A flash of anxiety crossed the man’s eyes and he said with a smile, “Babe, you don’t want to take someone’s life. Murdering is bad, so put down the gun, or better yet, give it to me, I’ll keep it safe...”

He reached out towards Xinghe cautiously. Xinghe’s smiled. “Fine, here, take this!”

With that, she fired a shot. The shot tore through the man’s body, making it convulse unnaturally. He stared at the gaping wound on his chest that was leaking blood. All the women in the room were shocked, they didn’t think that she would fire so suddenly. Even the short-haired woman was stunned because it was her impression that normal women didn’t have it in them to operate a firearm...

The man who'd been shot was the most surprised. He didn't think he would die at the hands of a woman who they had been treating as livestock. How is this possible?

"You..." The man glared at Xinghe with bloodshot eyes. Xinghe's expression was calm, so calm that it was frightening.

"You should feel honored to be the first man to die by my hand. Goodbye!" Xinghe fired another shot at the man without blinking an eye. The man crumpled to the floor in a heap, his eyes still wide open from disbelief and regret.

"Nice shot!" the short-haired woman praised.

Xinghe nodded as she scanned the room of women and said, "Now is the perfect chance for us to escape, follow me if you want to live."

She then turned to look out the door to check their surroundings. She had no idea who had attacked the base but all the guards had been dispatched to deal with the attackers. There were gun shots all around and the sound of rushing footsteps.

Xinghe looked to the short-haired woman and after they had confirmed that there was no one around, they rushed out of the room. At that moment, a large man came running their way. Xinghe's expression shifted and cocked her gun subconsciously.

"It's a friend!" the short-haired woman said happily. She waved at the man. The man saw her and increased his pace.

The short-haired woman grabbed at the man's arm and asked excitedly, "Wolf, the group's here to save me?"

The man called Wolf nodded. "That's right, Ali, are you alright?"

"I'm fine, we have to go now before reinforcement comes."

"Wait!" Wolf's brows furrowed in consternation as his eyes fell on the group of women behind them, "We're escaping with so many people?"

"They were all captured and placed here, so of course we have to escape together," Ali said.

Chapter 431: A Bet

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“No way!” Wolf opposed solemnly, “This group of people is too large, we’ll make such easy target and they’re a bunch of defenseless women.”

Ali’s face fell because he was right. Wolf continued, “Ali, the three of us only came to save you; Cairn can’t hold on any longer. I can only save you or else every one of us is going to die.”

“But...” Ali turned to the women’s scared faces with difficulty. Can we really leave them behind?

Wolf said through gritted teeth, “You guys can try escaping on your own but I would advise against that because it’ll only invite death.”

“No, I have to leave this place, I don’t want to be sold,” a woman wailed. This started a chain reaction and they begged Wolf to lead them to safety.

Wolf’s face was drawn. “I’m sorry, I cannot guarantee the safety of so many people when I cannot guarantee my own safety.”

“Then we shall try to escape on our own; it’s either death or hell on Earth!” one of the women said with determination. The group of women was ready to charge outside but was stopped by Xinghe.

“Everyone stay put for now, you leave after all the guards are dead,” she told them. They were confused by what she meant. Xinghe didn’t explain but she turned to Wolf to ask, “If there’s enough support, do you people have confidence to kill everyone here?”

Ali took the chance to elaborate. “Wolf, she saved my life earlier.”

Wolf was stunned before answering truthfully, “Definitely, these wusses aren’t our match, but we have too few men on our side.”

Xinghe looked at the surveillance room opposite them and said, "Follow me, let's hope this bet pays off."

With that, she rushed into the surveillance. "What are you doing?" Ali yelled but she still pulled Wolf along with her as she followed Xinghe.

The three of them entered the surveillance room safely. Wolf quickly shut the door, and berated Xinghe, "That was too risky, if someone saw us, we would be dead."

Xinghe ignored him and sat down in front on the computer and started working.

"What are you doing?" Ali moved forward to ask.

Xinghe's fingers worked the keyboard at lightning speed. She asked without taking her eyes off the screen, "You're wearing an ear-mic right?"

Ali and Wolf looked at one another before realizing what she was asking. Wolf touched the device in his ear and replied, "That's right, but why do you ask?"

"I can give your friends the location of all the enemies."

As she said so, small squares of surveillance footage appeared on screen. Other than the men of the base, Ali and Wolf also saw their friends. Xinghe noticed two men who were locked in combat with about fifteen men.

They were at a disadvantage even though they were obviously the more experienced ones. They were simply too short handed. However, if they knew where the enemies were hiding, things would be a lot easier. Wolf understood what Xinghe meant immediately. He rushed forward and without Xinghe's order, used his ear-mic to communicate to his comrades the hiding spot of their enemies.

With Wolf's orders, his men quickly turned the tables. They'd taken down many people already, but Xinghe didn't stop there; she started operating another computer. The surveillance room was actually very simple and crude, it only had two computers. The men on surveillance duty probably joined the combat as well, so there was no one around.

Chapter 432: Impressed by Her Resolution

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The surveillance footage was also stuck at a few constant locations. As she operated the computers, Xinghe realized that the surveillance crew was sloppy; they didn't know how to make use of the videos and blind spots. Even now, they had abandoned their post, making the purpose of a surveillance room pointless. However, this was a godsend for Xinghe. Thankfully, there were surveillance cameras posted all over the base, so Xinghe found the thing she wanted soon.

“This is... the weapon storage room!” Ali looked at the screen and exclaimed.

Xinghe nodded. “That's right, I'm assuming this will be useful for your friends.”

Ali suppressed the excitement in her voice. “It is. There might even be explosives in there. I'll go and check now!”

“No, I'll go, you help guide Cairn and the rest.” Wolf heard them, tossed Ali his ear-mic and ran out the room. Ali assumed her new role quickly. Xinghe operated both computers at the same time, she helped Ali look out for hiding enemies on one and help Wolf check out for traps and ambushes on another.

Ali was part of the group and had spent plenty of time fighting alongside the men so they cooperated well, what surprised her was how well she cooperated with this stranger. When enemies were on the move, she would change the footage seamlessly, it was as if the video was on motion control. Ali's commands even had difficulties catching up to her. She tried her best to keep up; she didn't dare to slow down.

On the other side, with Xinghe's help, Wolf successfully infiltrated the weapon's storage after taking down a few enemies. There were plenty of weapons within but they weren't really that advanced. However, Ali was right, there were explosives as well!

That was probably the most valuable thing in the base, it was kept locked within a large steel chest. Wolf shot the steel lock

and moved plenty of explosives into his backpack.

Ali saw that and exclaimed, “Great, we have the explosives!”

To her surprise, at that moment, Xinghe tossed her a gun.
“Someone’s coming!”

The screen showed a man approaching the surveillance room, he probably felt something went wrong so came back to do a check. Ali gripped the gun in her hands and smirked, “Perfect, I’ve been itching for some action myself!”

Ali tossed Xinghe the ear-mic and went to prepare for an ambush. Xinghe naturally put on the mic and assumed the reign of command. Thankfully, Wolf and the gang had already heard Xinghe’s voice in the background when Ali was talking so they weren’t surprised by the change.

Xinghe didn’t concern herself with the approaching man, she focused on commanding and operating the computers.

The man outside heard Xinghe’s voice and came in brandishing his gun. He yelled at Xinghe with his gun pointed at her but was kicked in the stomach by Ali who was hiding. He fell to the floor and before he could get up was shot three times by Ali. She stopped shooting when he stopped moving.

“Are you okay?”

Ali turned to check on Xinghe but was shocked what she was saw. Xinghe was as calm as a mountain, she didn’t look like she’d even flinched. It was as if the altercation that happened behind her didn’t concern her.

Ali was impressed by her resolution. She realized Xinghe was also better than her at commanding. She not only told Wolf and the gang where and how many enemies were near them but also gave them tactical suggestions on how to proceed.

Chapter 433: Leaving with Them

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Other than that, she would reveal to them where the enemy's blind spot was and how long it would take for reinforcements to arrive...

This precision shocked even Wolf and the others. They were already experienced mercenaries, but with Xinghe's commanding skill, they were unstoppable. The battle didn't exhaust them but only made them more spirited. Especially for Wolf who held a bunch of explosives on his back. He would shiver from sheer excitement every time he lobbed an explosive!

He used the explosives like they were free, which in a way, they kind of were. Even if he was facing off against only one enemy, he would give his opponent a grenade. Faced with a one-man explosive army, the men in the base either died or fled. In the end, the base was pockmarked with explosive craters and bullet holes...

Wolf and gang was overjoyed at winning a landslide victory, the women hiding in the jail cell were overjoyed as well. Ali quickly arranged for the women to evacuate. "There's an empty car in the courtyard and plenty of weapons in the weapon storage room; take some to defend yourselves and leave as soon as possible!"

"Thank you so much, thank you so much..." There were thankful tears in the women's eyes but they didn't waste any more time. Each picked up a gun and some grenades before leaving in the jeep.

Wolf and the rest also piled their own vehicle high with weaponry.

Of the four, a man called Sam called out to ask, "Where's our heroine?"

He hadn't seen Xinghe but was already impressed by her leadership skills. Without Xinghe's help, they wouldn't have

been able to destroy the base so easily, and leave with such excellent rewards. Xinghe was already a hero in Sam's eyes.

"She is still in the surveillance room..."

The moment Ali said that, Xinghe walked out from within.

Ali stared at her and asked, "What were you doing?"

Xinghe answered softly, "Shutting down this place's internal system."

The group understood finally. Even though they had cleared the base but there would be evidence in the computer server. If the men returned with reinforcements, they would hunt Wolf's gang down using the surveillance footage. Xinghe was helping her cover their tracks.

"Well done, you're even more thoughtful than our Ali." The young man praised Xinghe while giving her a thumbs up.

Ali wasn't not insulted, if anything she felt happy for Xinghe. She turned to Xinghe and asked with concern, "Why don't you come with us? It won't be safe for you to travel alone; it's much safer to stick with us."

Afraid that she might get the wrong idea, Wolf added, "Don't worry, we won't harm you in any way. Plus, as you can imagine, we could use someone with your skill in our group, so this is a give-and-take relationship."

Xinghe accepted quickly. The only reason she helped them was because she hoped they would take her along as well. She knew this was not a place she could survive on her own.

She decided to place her trust in Ali's group. Xinghe had shown them that she had something to contribute, she would be an asset to their group so they wouldn't sell her short for no reason. Xinghe agreed to travel with them because they might be able to help her find Mubai, or even better, they could help her find out more about that illegal organization.

Chapter 434: Ruined Bodies

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

In other words, no matter the outcome, there were only benefits for Xinghe travelling with them. Just like that, Xinghe hopped into their car. As they travelled, they started talking. They were curious about Xinghe's identity and asked her many questions, like where did she come from, why was she there, how did she get captured.

Xinghe answered these questions in broad strokes, then she asked about their ragtag group of people.

The talkative Sam answered, "This group of people? We're not a terrorist group but we're not the military either."

"Then, what are you?" Xinghe asked with a furrowed brow.

Ali smiled. "We are civilian mercenary group that the country allows. There are not enough soldiers to contain the riots so the government needs help from groups like us."

"The group's name is SamWolf, can you guess where the name came from?" Sam asked with a smile.

Xinghe looked at him and answered with a question, "Was this group started by you and Wolf?"

Sam feigned shock. "How did you know?"

"Isn't that a given?" Ali rolled her eyes. The shy and quiet Cairn stared at Xinghe and offered, "Miss Xia, if you don't mind, you can join us."

Wolf who was driving nodded. "That's right, we're lacking a technical member and you're a very good one."

"Of course, we're not forcing you to join us, plus you can leave at any time you want," Sam added, giving Xinghe a lot of leeway.

Ali who had a good impression of Xinghe, urged her, "Xinghe, just say you'll join us. Even though we can't promise you a life of luxury, we can ensure your basic safety!"

“This group will only grow bigger in the future and by then, you’ll have the pride of calling yourself the founding members,” Sam added.

Xinghe nodded. “I can join as a temporary member, but I need your help.”

“What kind of help, tell us,” Ali said happily.

“I have a friend...” Xinghe elaborated on the whole thing with the plane. “I have no idea whether he is even dead or alive so I need your help to find out.”

“No problem, we will help you ask around!” Sam promised with a bump on his chest.

Xinghe stressed, “I hope this is done as soon as possible because I need to find him soon. I will be providing the money involved of course, that is not an issue.”

Sam thought about it and said, “This does require some money but we will not swindle you out of your money since most of it will be used to grease some palms.”

“How much?” Xinghe asked directly.

“Hard to say, cash is not worth much in today’s climate. You might need to go to certain places to exchange gold bars first.”

“Then let’s go.”

Xinghe was anxious to find Mubai. As men of their words, Sam and the gang started calling for help in the car, however the answers they received was the same. The plane indeed exploded, this was common knowledge, and the crash site was a ruin.

The bodies found there were already beyond recognition. Furthermore, this thing happened way too often in their country for the government to really put any effort into the identification of the bodies.

Chapter 435: Couldn't Sense Mubai

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's heart dropped when she heard this; she couldn't believe that Mubai had died just like that. He was agile enough to put on a parachute on her, he must have time to put one on himself. Perhaps he had landed somewhere away from human activity...

Xinghe asked Sam and the gang to take her to the crash site. When they arrived, the day was already starting. The night before, a military unit had cleaned the place and carried away the bodies. Xinghe scanned the ruins high and low, leaving no stone unturned.

Ali reached her side to ask, "Xinghe, there's nothing here, what are you looking for?"

"I have no idea either..." Xinghe answered softly. She was looking around to see whether she could find any clue. Finally, after scouring the area, Xinghe found a half-broken watch. It was Mubai's...

However, this was his spare watch, she'd only seen him wear it once. Xinghe picked up the watch and there was unspeakable emotion in her eyes. The watch body and strap were made out of strong ingredient so it had more or less survived the crash. If this watch was fine, then the one Mubai was wearing should be recognizable as well.

Xinghe turned to ask Sam, "I want to look at the bodies, can you guys help me do that?"

Wolf answered, "That is doable, after all, we have quite a good relationship with the army."

"I wish to go now," Xinghe said with determination.

...

They took her to see the bodies which were stored in a nearby temporary camp. Xinghe had Wolf reveal only part of the truth, telling the military, she got lost with some friends and wished to check out their situation. The captain that led them to the bodies was impatient and annoyed.

“We’ve already told you these are all bodies from the exploded plane, they definitely have nothing to do with your people. The private plane came from overseas, we can’t even find out the identity of its owner.”

To hide the fact that they were travelling to Country Y, Mubai purposely switched plane during their journey. The last plane was one he purchased off the black market so it wasn’t registered to Mubai’s name. In any case, it would be difficult to trace the plane back to Mubai.

Xinghe was apprehensive about revealing Mubai’s identity. His identity was too unique, if discovered, this would probably be international news...

Therefore, the fact that he had gotten into an air accident had to be kept under wraps. To buy Xinghe more time with the bodies, Sam did his best to please the captain as Xinghe ran through the bodies.

All of the bodies there were missing a part of its legs or arms. Some even had their bones showing. Every single one of them could be someone’s nightmare but Xinghe studied them all without batting an eye.

The bodies made even Wolf and his men squeamish so they were impressed by Xinghe’s guts. Xinghe checked all the bodies and couldn’t sense Mubai among them. Furthermore, the numbers didn’t add up...

“So, how is it?” Ali asked her while looking away from the bodies.

“Let’s go, my friend isn’t here,” Xinghe said as she stood up slowly. She felt suddenly light-headed. Her face was pale as if drained of blood. Sometimes, no news was worse than bad news...

Chapter 436: He Is Our Teacher

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ali saw her face and asked with concern, “Are you alright?”

“I’m fine.” Xinghe shook her head slowly. After they got out the camp and climbed into the car, Xinghe felt suddenly exhausted. Her body was weak to begin with, she had been surviving on will alone since the day before. Now that she had confirmed some things, fatigue caught up to her. She eventually fell asleep on the car...

...

Xinghe opened her eyes blurrily to find herself inside a simple room. The room looked old and the furniture, possessing Country Y’s cultural uniqueness, had seen better days. There was a moldy smell in the air that wouldn’t disperse, but thankfully, the mattress she was lying in was clean. The back of Xinghe’s hand was attached to a drip and she realized she was in a safe environment.

Ali happened to open the door then. Her face lit up when she saw Xinghe awake. “Xinghe, you’re finally up, you know, you have been out of it for one whole day already.”

“This is the second day already?” Xinghe asked as she sat up with some difficulties.

“That’s right, the doctor said that your body is fine; you’ve got a few internal wounds, but nothing serious. Now that you’re awake, I will go get you something to eat,” Ali said before turning back out the door. She quickly returned with some food. It was a simple and rather coarse meal, two slices of plain bread, two slices of ham and a glass of milk.

Xinghe had no appetite for anything but in order to preserve her strength, she ate the food with great gusto and no complaints. Ali smiled. “I’m glad that you finished everything, looks like you’re really getting better. Rest well for a few more days, this place is our territory so no one will harm you here.”

“Ali...” Xinghe wanted to say something but was cut off by a man’s yelling from the outside.

“SamWolf members come out here! I know you can hear me, all of you get out and face me!”

Ali frowned. “That bunch of rats has returned again?”

“Who are they?” Xinghe asked.

“Similar to us, they are also a civilian mercenary group. You can guess their reputation from their name, the Grey Rats. The group poses no real threat but has the advantage of numbers. They’ve been trying to claim our territory since Charlie isn’t here.”

“Who’s Charlie?” Xinghe asked again.

Ali’s eyes glossed over with admiration with the mention of Charlie’s name. “He’s, I guess you would call, our teacher. A great man if there ever was one, but he has been missing for quite some time now, no one has heard from him in a while.” At this point, Ali’s smile had turned into a frown.

“Ali!” At that moment, Wolf barged into the room. “A lot of people came from Grey Rats today, looks like they’re looking for trouble. Prepare yourself because this might get ugly.”

“Alright! I’m going to teach them a lesson today!” Ali quickly picked up a nearby machine gun and threw Xinghe another. “Xinghe, take this and no man will ever threaten you again!”

“ ... ”

...

Around twenty Grey Rats came that day. They didn’t have many weapons, since only a few of them were armed with firearms, while the rest had clubs or knives.

The Grey Rats’ boss, Ryan, carried a machine gun on his side and hisropy body stood outside their gate. It was plain that he was not there with peaceful intentions.

When Ryan saw Sam’s group open the door with each of their member carrying a machine gun and two pistols in their belt, the corner of his right eye twitched involuntarily.

The f*ck? why do they have so many fire arms?

Chapter 437: IV Syndicate

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ryan's confidence faltered slightly but the realization that Sam's men wouldn't attack returned his previous smugness.

"Sam, since all of you are here, then listen to me carefully! This house is now mine, be smart and evacuate immediately!" Ryan ordered them rudely.

Sam laughed. "Ryan, have you lost your mind? What, your earlier lesson wasn't enough and now you're back for more?"

Wolf aimed his machinegun at their 'guests' and spat, "We don't have any houses we can give you but we have a plenty of bullets, do you want some?"

Ali and Cairn also cocked their machineguns. Xinghe stood at the back, watching this unfold calmly. Being reminded of his earlier failure made Ryan burn with shame.

"Sam, don't think you have won! This house was given to me by General Barron. There's too few of you SamWolves, so the general decided to toss you people out. Bottom lickers like your group should leave quietly and not waste the military's resources!"

Sam chuckled mirthlessly. "This house is not the military's but a place won by Charlie using his own ability. You think we're so easily bullied simply because Charlie's not here?"

Ryan smiled evilly. "It is not my fault that you want to think that way, regardless, the military has given us this house! If you have any issues, take it up with the general. Plus, Charlie is nothing but a coward that has gone into hiding, I don't believe one bit that he is capable of earning this house! This house belongs to the military!"

"Sh*t! The man can lie without blinking an eye!" Ali cursed out loud, "This house is Charlie's. If not for him stealing the munitions back from IV Syndicate, Barron would have lost his post a long time ago. This house is the military's reward to Charlie, who can argue that?"

Ryan laughed condescendingly. “I’ll admit that Charlie is a capable man, but so what? He has disappeared; he’s probably dead. A dead man is of no use to the military, so naturally the military is going to take back this house and not let it waste in the hands of useless maggots like you lot!”

“Who are you calling useless?” Wolf glowered at them darkly.

Even the taciturn Cairn said, “If you think we’re so useless, then come fight us for it. There is only one way you’re getting this house and that’s over our dead bodies!”

Sam also smiled chillingly. “That’s right, if you have the ability then kill us first!”

“Even without Charlie, we’re not pushovers! We’re all Charlie’s students and we will not lose to a group of ruffians!” Ali huffed with pride.

Xinghe stood in stunned silence.

IV Syndicate...

Isn’t that the name of the organization backing Feng Saohuang? This means that Ali’s teacher has had contact with IV Syndicate before!

Excitement rose in Xinghe’s heart. This meant that locating Charlie would mean them getting closer to finding out the location of IV Syndicate’s main base. Very soon, she would have Saohuang’s proof of criminality in her hands!

...

Sam’s group and Ryan’s group had reached a stalemate. Neither party was willing to fight for real since they were both still on the same side. However, neither party was willing to step down, especially Sam’s group, they would rather die than surrender the house.

Ryan was annoyed by their stubborn. With a grit of his teeth, he dashed at Sam. “Men, charge! Kill them all!”

Chapter 438: Valiant Women

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Things turned chaotic fast. Since Ryan's men had started the offensive, there was no reason for Sam's gang to hold back. Sam's gang had a disadvantage in terms of numbers but each of them was very well-trained, they could take on more than a handful each. That evened out the battle.

Ali pulled Xinghe back as she kicked away an opponent. She advised her loudly, "Stay close to me, I'll protect you!"

As she said so, five guys came at them.

"F*ck!" Ali cursed as she charged into the fray. However, she was ultimately a woman, and she was slowly getting overwhelmed. One of the men snuck up on her with a bat and when Ali noticed him it was already too late.

As the bat came down on Ali, suddenly a machinegun smacked at the man's head, knocking him out. Ali looked at the assailant with surprise and saw Xinghe with her usual calm demeanor.

"I'm not as defenseless as you might think," Xinghe said as she leaped into a jump kick, injuring another man. This shocked Ali even more. She broke into a smile. "Xinghe, I had no idea you're so kick ass! Come on, let's kick some butt together!"

Xinghe smiled at her and they both started to cooperate.

Sam watched the both of them and laughed. "We really have found ourselves a heroine. Good, at least Ali has a friend to watch out for her now."

Cairn also snuck a look at the both of valiant ladies and a light smile appeared on his face.

"Hey, no calling dibs okay?" Sam sidled up to Cairn and whispered in his ear. Cairn gave him a side glance before continuing to fight with more determination than before. Sam didn't want to get overshadowed and joined in soon after. Very soon, the situation started to tip in SamWolf's favor.

The Grey Rats were bloodied and bruised. However, as if unafraid of death, they picked themselves up and charged into the fray again.

“F*ck, you bunch of dirty rats are seriously stubborn!” Sam cursed, annoyed by the bunch of ruffians, “Comrades, let’s show them what we got! Teach these rats a lesson they’ll never forget!”

“Since they’ve crossed into our territory, there’s no reason for us to hold back!” Wolf growled. Cairn and the rest followed his lead, all prepared to skin these rats alive.

Sam tackled Ryan and rained a hail of punches on him. Ryan cried out like he was being slaughtered.

“Murder, the SamWolf people are murdering innocents—” Ryan screamed.

Sam pulled out a dagger and pointed it at Ryan. “Since you ask for it, I’ll give you a murder!”

“What are you doing?” Ryan asked with fear as his eyes fixated on the gleaming dagger.

Sam purposely scared him. “Killing you of course!”

As he prepared to plunge the dagger into his target, a gunshot fired into the sky!

The sudden shot brought everyone to a halt like someone had pressed a pause button. Following that was a series of footsteps, signaling the arrival of an army unit. The one who fired the shot was the leader.

The leader still held the gun in the air and ordered coldly, “Surround all the people and confiscate all the weapons!”

“Yes, sir!”

Sam and the rest was quickly surrounded by the soldiers. Any movement was rewarded with a gun barrel to the head.

Chapter 439: General Barron

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Stand down or die!” the general ordered again. This time, no one dared to move anymore. Everyone’s firearms were confiscated. Sam stood up and said, “General Barron, the Grey Rats started this clash first; it has nothing to do with us, we’re only defending our house.”

So, this is the General Barron they were talking about.

Ryan quickly explained himself, “General Barron, I came here to demand the house as you asked but the SamWolf refused to obey your order. They said they’d rather die than give up the house. I was indignant on your behalf and that’s the reason behind my group’s outburst.”

“General, this is our house, why should we hand it over to the Grey Rats?” Wolf stood forward to challenge.

“Why should the general explain himself to the likes of you? You only need to know that everything the general does is right!” Ryan was quick to curry the general’s favor. Ali had to suppress her urge to vomit.

Sam also stared at Barron and asked, “General Barron, what is the meaning of this?”

Barron was tall and imposing. He struck a fine figure of malevolence.

Barron widened his smile and stared back at Sam to ask, “You’re questioning me?”

“That’s right.” Sam nodded. Even though they needed to get into his good books as well, this was their house, they would not give it up without a fight. This was their only house...

Barron was surprised by his audacity and his presence became more imposing. “Who are you to question your superior’s decision? Pack up and get lost, I’ve given this place to Grey Rats. I’m willing to let the lot of you go free because of Charlie. If not for Charlie, I would send all of you to jail!”

The expressions on SamWolf's faces fell. Barron was being unreasonable, but he could afford to be so with his power and influence.

"General, this house was your personal present to Charlie, even the name on the proof of ownership is Charlie!" Wolf retorted angrily. "You have to give us a valid reason before you take it away!"

Barron pointed his gun at Wolf's head and hissed dangerously, "One more word out of you and I'll make sure you never speak again!"

"Wolf..." Sam and the rest took a cautious step forward.

Wolf was a stubborn mule, he glared at Barron and asked again, "General, please give us a valid reason!"

"You f*cker!" Barron cursed and pulled the trigger.

"Be careful!" Sam jumped to push Wolf away as the bullet grazed the right of Wolf's face. They didn't think that Barron would really fire so their faces were drawn. Cairn and Ali's fists were tight.

Sam suppressed his mounting anger and said to placate, "General, please don't be mad, this is all Wolf's fault. No, this is our fault, please forgive us."

Wolf wanted to add something else but was held back by Sam. Barron looked at Sam's attempt at bootlicking and he smirked. "This group is both useless and stubborn, imagine if everyone acted the way you do."

"General, you also know we're not all born for greatness so we are, of course, useless in your brilliant eyes."

This greatly satisfied Barron's ego.

His face softened and said, "Since you know that you're useless then you should be clever and leave this place now, this house already belongs to the Gray Rats. If not, I can't say what will happen next!"

Chapter 440: Charlie's Sister

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“But...” Ali wanted to say something but Xinghe tugged on her sleeve. Ali turned back with a confused look. Xinghe shook her head slightly, telling Ali not to do anything. For some reason, Ali decided to heed Xinghe's advice. Sam came to the same conclusion: staying would only put them in worse fate. Even though they didn't want to lose the house, their lives were more important.

“Okay, General, we will leave now, but please allow us to collect our stuff and can you please return our weapons?”

“Leave everything behind!” Barron rejected him outright.

Sam was stunned. “Everything? Our weapons...”

Barron stared hard at him and yelled, “Not only your weapons, everything has been confiscated by the military; this is a lesson for you lot! If you dare to oppose my orders again, I will confiscate your lives, understand?”

Sam's expression darkened. Beside him, Wolf tensed up...

They'd given Barron an inch and now he was taking a mile. This was stretching the limit of their patience. The atmosphere became serious. Barron's soldiers read the situation and every single one of them pointed their guns at Sam's group. Ryan was feeling happy inside, he wanted Barron to kill them all.

If Sam did anything, they would definitely be killed. A few seconds later, Sam took a deep breath and said with a smile, “Alright, then we will leave now.”

With that, he turned to order Wolf and the rest, “Let's go before things take a turn for the worse.”

Wolf and the rest saw the pleading in Sam's eyes. They didn't voice the anger, melancholy, and helplessness in their hearts. They couldn't do anything but leave quietly...

Just as they were going to leave, Xinghe who was last was stopped by Barron.

“Wait...” Barron scanned Xinghe with a salacious smile and asked Sam, “This one is new. What’s her name?”

When that happened, Sam and the rest’s faces shifted.

Sam quickly rushed to stand in front of Xinghe and said with an obsequious smile, “General, she is Charlie’s sister, but she just returned from overseas.”

“Charlie’s sister?” Barron questioned with a laugh, “You people think I’m an idiot?”

He shoved Sam away and grabbed Xinghe by her waist. With a lewd smile, he said, “Give me the woman and you can have the house.”

Of course, Barron harbored lustful intentions toward Xinghe. Xinghe was an exotic beauty, a rare find in their country. Furthermore, Barron was a known womanizer; they should have known this will happen.

Sam was afraid Barron would forcefully take Xinghe away so he quickly pulled Xinghe out of his grasp. He said with unmovable attitude, “General, she is really Charlie’s sister! We promised Charlie that we would protect her with our lives.”

“That’s right, we swore on our lives to protect her!” Ali also stepped forth to add. Wolf and Cairn nodded in quick succession as well.

Witnessing their determination, Barron’s conviction faltered. Could she really be Charlie’s sister?

He squinted his eyes in contemplation, alternating between suspicions.

“General, can we go now?” Sam asked in a low growl but his eyes were shining with resolve.

Barron could see if he forced the woman to stay, they would really fight to the death to protect her.

Chapter 441: Pair of Disgusting Eyes

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It was not yet time to eliminate the SamWolf group or it might cause a ruckus among the other civilian groups. However, he had to find a way to make that woman part of his collection!

His pair of viper-like eyes swept over every inch of Xinghe's body and Barron said with a creepy smile, "You people can go now, but remember to come find your general if you're in any type of trouble."

"..." Who's going to believe that?

"Don't forget about me," Barron said that while blowing Xinghe a slurping kiss. There was a dangerous message in his pair of lascivious eyes.

Ali quickly pulled Xinghe away, afraid that Barron would suddenly change his mind and do something against Xinghe. Xinghe took a few steps forward before turning back to meet Barron's pair of disgusting eyes. Hers, on the other hand, were clear and devoid of emotion. She eventually looked away.

After they left, Ryan quickly moved forward to placate Barron, "Sir, that was brilliant. If not for you, that bunch of people wouldn't have left this place willingly."

Barron responded coldly, "How can I entrust you something more significant if you can't accomplish something so easy?"

"Sir, this wasn't our fault. As you know, my group has nothing so we have no way of growing stronger. But now that we're your men, we're definitely heading towards glory, guided by Your Excellency. We swore our lasting loyalty to you, no matter what you order us to do, we will do it without asking any questions!"

This kind of loyal dog was what Barron wanted. He said, "Everything that belonged to SamWolf including the weapons, are now yours. Remember to not disappoint me again."

"Yes, sir!" Ryan gave him a military salute. Barron looked at him and smiled satisfactorily.

...

Sam's gang took Xinghe a fair distance away and made sure no one was following them before they sighed in relief.

"Sh*t! F*ck!" Wolf cursed as he kicked at a roadside trashcan. "I will never forgive any of the Grey Rats! And that f*cking Barron, he deserves to rot in hell!"

Sam was equally furious. "We used to follow Charlie and did so much for Barron. Now that Charlie has disappeared, he has the audacity to turn on us like this; he is worse than an animal!"

"I so wanted to kill him," Ali wheezed in fury before she sighed despondently, "We've lost our house just like that..."

It seemed like Ali had a more emotional connection to the house than the guys. Cairn also lamented, "We'd just collected so many weapons and were forced to hand them over to someone else."

"The Grey Rats are the weakest among all the groups, the only advantage they have is numbers. Why would Barron have any use for them?" Sam asked after he had calmed down.

This confused Wolf as well. "He was willing to kick us out of our house to side with them. There is nothing in Grey Rats' record that will compel Barron to value them so."

Xinghe answered suddenly, "They must be in some kind of profit-based contract."

That was the only logical explanation.

"You're right." Cairn nodded.

"But what kind of contract will that be? The Grey Rats are poorer than us," Ali said confusedly.

"No matter what it is, there must be something between them. Regardless, it is not the time to worry about others. It is obvious that this is not the last time we'll see Barron, so what will we do in the future?" Sam said worriedly.

Ali had other worry. "I see that Barron will not let Xinghe go so easily as well. He will attempt something sooner or later."

Her words brought the atmosphere to an all-time low.

Chapter 442: Damn Everything, Looking for Change!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The group stared at Xinghe. Sam warned her, “Xinghe, you have to be careful. Women that Barron sets his sight on don’t end well.”

“The man’s a disgusting pig; the women he takes away never receive good treatment,” Ali added.

Wolf consoled her, “But don’t get too worried, we’ll protect you. You’re one of us now; we won’t leave you stranded.”

Cairn nodded. “That’s right, you’re one of us now; you can always rely on us.”

Xinghe was curious. How has this group of people retained their sense of trust in this war-torn country?

They’ve only known me for two days and they already treat me as one of their own.

Regardless, their sincerity touched Xinghe.

“You have nothing, how are you going to protect me?” Xinghe asked softly.

This stunned Sam and the rest...

She was right, they had lost everything: their home, their weapons and even their money. They were basically just refugees.

“We will find a way to earn money and get ourselves some weapons,” Sam stated confidently.

Ali excitedly suggested, “I can go back to my old job as a bartender, at least food will not be a problem.”

“I can too...” Before Cairn could finish, a gang robbed a nearby store.

The owner rushed out and yelled, “Thieves, help me catch them!”

Sam and the rest moved to pursue reflexively, but the gang leader turned back to fire a shot, yelling, “Scream some more and I will not miss next time!”

That shut the owner up. Sam and the rest also stopped...

They realized that giving chase was pointless, they didn't have weapons. In this dangerous climate, going about without weapons was akin to suicide. However, firearms were expensive, not accessible to everyone.

A low hum in the air signaled a low flying combat jet. Before Xinghe could react, she was pulled away by Sam. They started running. Before long, a series of explosions occurred behind them. Xinghe finally realized it was an airstrike. Sam dragged her into hiding. The plane dropped a few more bombs before leaving.

Xinghe's clothes was covered with a layer of dust, the original street was now a ruin. People were openly crying on the streets and there were bodies lying around.

Ali patted the dust on herself and asked, "Xinghe, are you alright?"

Xinghe looked at the bombing casualties and shook her head. "I'm fine... but does this kind of thing happen often?"

"You mean the airstrike?" Sam nodded. "Yup, it's a common occurrence. You'd think we'd have gotten used to it by now, but the sights..." He sighed.

Xinghe had no clue that, on this wonderful planet, there were places such as this. In comparison, her old life at City T was like heaven on Earth. She realized for the past two months, Mubai had been conducting his research on that illegal organization in such a country. He was in mortal danger every day...

Xinghe didn't want to die, and she also wanted to give her newfound friends a new beginning, away from the war. Therefore, she needed to find Saohuang's proof of criminality as soon as possible, locate Mubai, and leave the country!

To do that, she needed to strengthen her influence first.

Xinghe turned towards Ali and the gang and said, "From now on, I will help every one of you turn your life around and change this god forsaken reality!"

Chapter 443: Fulfil Your Dreams

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

There was a deep resolve behind Xinghe's eyes and Ali's group had heard every single word she said. There was only one question on their minds: Is she kidding? She wants to help us turn our lives around?

That was a pipe dream in Country Y, actually, that was a pipe dream anywhere in the world. People were born with a certain destiny, they just had to learn to live with it; there was no changing of destiny.

"Xinghe, what are you talking about?" Ali asked with a curious expression.

Sam laughed. "Your words are pleasing to the ears but you're the one who needs the most help at the moment."

Wolf continued expressionlessly, "Sam's right, you've been targeted by Barron and while you do know some self-defense skills, it's not enough. You need us to protect you, we can talk about the rest when this danger's over."

Cairn smiled good-naturedly. He also thought that Xinghe was just consoling them with empty words.

Xinghe noticed their reluctance to believe her but she didn't explain. She asked Ali, "What do you wish for now?"

Ali was even more confused. "Why do you ask?"

"Just humor me, what is your dearest wish at this moment?"

Ali answered, "Naturally a safe house, we need some place we can call home."

Xinghe nodded and asked Sam the same question. They decided to play along.

"I want weapons, lots of them because they're the only thing that matters in this country."

"What about you?" Xinghe turned to Wolf. His reply was, "Vehicle, the best armored car!"

Without waiting for Xinghe to ask him, Cairn answered directly, "I want money, because with money, everyone can get everything they wish for."

"Nicely said, I will fulfil your dream first," Xinghe stared at Cairn and said. Cairn was speechless with disbelief.

"Bring me to exchange gold bars now," Xinghe said calmly; the group felt a great presence behind her flat tone. With a suspicious attitude, they took Xinghe to an illegal private bank. Along the way, they couldn't shake the feeling that Xinghe was pulling their leg.

"Xinghe, you know that you'll lose half of your money if you exchange gold bars in this country, right?"

Xinghe nodded slightly.

"Therefore, even if you're loaded, you can't possibly exchange a ton of gold bars."

Xinghe nodded again.

Sam asked, "Xinghe, do you know how much money is required to buy everything we wished?"

Wolf answered for her, "At least several millions worth of gold bars."

"Several millions, Xinghe, are you really sure about this?" Cairn asked with a tone laced with concern.

"I've made up my mind, are we there yet?" Xinghe asked.

"We are, it's that building over there," Sam said seriously.

The private bank was located underground. Xinghe followed them into a building and took the elevator down to the basement. The bank was huge, and was filled with people who'd come to make trade. There were also attendants in uniform posted in the bank.

One of them saw them walk in and asked politely, "Are sirs and madams here to exchange gold bars?"

"That's right." Sam nodded. He might've been in a simple attire but it did nothing to hide his imposing presence.

The attendant was used to people like him, he could recognize Sam's group as people who lived by the blade. These people were usually poor, but if they had certain marketable skills, they would come across a windfall once in a while.

Chapter 444: Exchange One Hundred Million!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Therefore, the attendant was wise enough to force a smile. “How many gold bars do sirs and madams intend to exchange? If it’s over one hundred thousand, we will provide some exchange rate benefits.”

Sam looked to Xinghe. He had no idea how much she was going to exchange either. “How about one million?” Xinghe asked.

The attendant was shocked but he still answered politely, “Naturally, there will be better benefits. For one million, you can exchange six hundred thousand’s worth of gold bars.”

“What about ten million?”

“If I remember correctly, that will get you seven million worth of gold bars.”

“What about one hundred million?”

The attendant widened his eyes in shock, “You want to exchange one hundred million?”

Impossible, they don’t look like they have so much money.

“Just asking,” Sam stepped in to explain; he also didn’t think Xinghe had so much money.

The attendant’s face returned to normal. “If it’s one hundred million, you can get eighty million worth of gold bars. In any case, the greater the amount you’re willing to exchange, the better the exchange rate. The most we can exchange in one transaction is one billion but you have to book at least a month before that. The rest, we can exchange on the day itself but we have limited daily stock, we will close when the limit’s reached.”

“Then, lead us to exchange one hundred million,” Xinghe said softly but it was enough to shock everyone in earshot. Ali’s group looked at her with gaping mouth. What is she saying? Exchanging one hundred million? Does she know how much that amount of money is?

The attendant also looked at her with disbelief. He stuttered, “You, you want to exchange one hundred million?”

Xinghe looked at him. “Is that a problem?”

“Of, of course not...” We have no problem but the problem is... do you have so much money or not?

However, since Xinghe had said so, the attendant chose to believe her.

The attendant quickly led them to the VIP room. Ali and the rest were fidgeting following behind her. They were frazzled with nerves. If Xinghe didn't have the money to exchange, they would be thrown out. In other words, they were preparing themselves to get thrown out.

However, their imagination couldn't stop straying. If Xinghe really had that much money, what could they do to prevent eighty million worth of gold bars being stolen or targeted? If they had known Xinghe was really planning to exchange so much money, they would have come with disguises. They also looked around with guarded expression, afraid the world knew that they were going to stumble literally into a pot of gold.

The calmest was definitely Xinghe. It was as if exchanging such an amount of money was a daily business for her. The attendant looked at her and already believed she was really that rich. Only someone loaded could have the serenity she possessed.

“Miss, do you wish to go in alone?” The attendant pushed open the VIP room door and reminded her. After all, he didn't know what kind of company she kept.

“That's alright, we will all go in.” Xinghe strode in directly. Sam and the rest hesitated before following her.

The VIP room was lavishly designed. In such a political climate, there were still such luxurious pockets of heaven. It looked like the owner of the illegal private bank had a unique background.

Xinghe and the rest sat on the real leather chairs and waiters in black suits came to service them, ready to satisfy their every whim.

A manager who sat opposite them, operating a computer, asked Xinghe with utmost deference, “Nice to meet you miss. May I know what your name is?”

Chapter 445: Surprised by her Generosity

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“The name’s Xia,” Xinghe answered succinctly. The manager glanced at Xinghe to ascertain her nationality. He asked politely, “Miss Xia, you intend to exchange one hundred million, correct?”

“Yes.”

“Alright, but I have to explain something to you first. Due to exchange rate issues, one hundred million USD can only be exchanged for eighty million worth of gold bars. In other words, you’ll be losing twenty million USD, are you okay with that condition?”

That’s right, Xinghe was exchanging USD and not Country Y’s currency, which was why Sam’s gang was so shocked. The number was astronomical.

“Xinghe, let’s quit the exchange, it’s not worth it,” Ali blurted out. After all, Xinghe would lose twenty million in the transaction.

Xinghe looked at her and said, “Why should we, I’ve decided to do the exchange and I will go through with it.”

“But...”

“Some loss is inevitable since we need the money.”

“But we don’t need so much.”

“I do,” Xinghe answered. Since she had said that, there was nothing more Ali and the others could say even though they still felt that the bank was cheating them. Furthermore, could the five of them protect such a large amount of gold bars?

The thought of that made them both excited and nervous...

Honestly, this was more nerve-racking than killing people. Thankfully, Xinghe had thought of that as well.

“Is there any method I can employ to safeguard my assets?” she asked the manager.

The manager gave his professional smile. “Our bank offers mercenaries as well. They will use their lives to protect your safety and your assets’ safety. Furthermore, you can apply for our bank’s gold card to store your money and use it whenever you need.”

“Your mercenaries can stand up to the military?”

“Naturally,” the manager replied proudly. “The military needs to give face to the owner of our bank so they won’t come after the mercenaries that are affiliated with us. Miss Xia, you do not need to worry about that. However, the price of that service might seem a tad high.”

“What if I want to buy some weapons?”

“You can purchase those through us too, plus we can offer discounts.”

“What about housing and vehicles?”

The manager nodded with a smile. “Of course, we supply those too. No matter what you need, you can source it through us; it’s safe and protected.”

“Alright, I need a batch of high-tech weapon, a house that can safely and comfortably accommodate at least ten people, five armored cars, and twenty mercenaries. The rest of the money you can store in the gold card. Fix those for me now and you can get ten thousand worth as a tip.”

Xinghe rattled off her request without taking a breath. Sam and the rest were shocked beyond words. Even the manager who had been through a lot had to be impressed by her generosity. This kind of customer, frankly, he would only meet less than a handful every year!

“Alright, I will do it now!” the manager said eagerly. “But I wonder, which method does Miss Xia wish to pay through?”

Xinghe looked at him and said, “Find me a laptop.”

Even though he had no idea what she was up to but the manager still provided her with a laptop quick.

Xinghe didn’t have any credit or identification cards to allow her to make a money transfer, but with the internet, she could

access her bank account.

Although the account wasn't technically hers but Mubai's...

Chapter 446: A Family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It was an account set up by Mubai to facilitate his business in Country Y. It was not a personal account but corporate one. One couldn't trace the account back to Mubai. The only people who knew the account and password were Mubai and Xinghe. He'd told her about it on the plane.

He was afraid something unexpected might happen so he set it up for Xinghe to use whenever she needed it. It was a bottomless account!

Xinghe was able to transfer one hundred million USD out of it. It was small change for Mubai but it was crucial to Xinghe then. It was her leverage in Country Y, and she might need it to locate Mubai...

After the money was transferred, the manager started working. The house, cars, and weapons she asked for were quickly purchased. Twenty mercenaries were also bought into her service. The gold card was ready and it still had plenty of money within. Xinghe's business used less than one-fifth of the total. However, it had completely changed their situation.

Standing in front of the luxurious mansion, cars, and the troop of trained mercenaries, Sam and the gang felt like they were dreaming. They had to be. A few hours ago, they were penniless, but now they had everything! This was a contrast that was hard to stomach.

"Xinghe, is all of this yours?" Sam asked Xinghe with extreme caution like he was afraid it might wake him up from the dream. Wolf and the rest also stared fixatedly at her. They didn't know how to treat her anymore. In their eyes, Xinghe was suddenly very large and blinding, like the sun.

Xinghe nodded calmly. "Yes, it's mine... but also yours. The cars, weapons and house, it's all for you as well."

"For us?" Ali screamed in disbelief. Sam and the rest also widened their eyes in shock.

Xinghe smiled. “That’s right, it’s my present to you. I told you I would fulfil your wishes, didn’t I?”

“ ... ”

“Xinghe, why are you so good to us?” Ali was beside herself with excitement. No one had treated her so nicely before. Wolf and the rest’s feelings were complicated. Born orphans in a country as unstable as Country Y, they hungered the most for love and care but at the same time, those were things they didn’t dare hope for.

The most they had was each other’s support. Charlie treated them nicely, but he was also in a poor financial position.

Xinghe said seriously, “You guys have treated me as one of your own, right? That’s why what’s mine is yours.”

The term ‘one of your own’ shook Ali and the rest’s hearts. They let Xinghe into their fold because they didn’t want any harm to befall her due to Barron, they didn’t hope for any of this. However, Xinghe had changed their lives.

Xinghe thought she was lucky to have found them but they were the real lucky ones...

Sam and the guy’s eyes watered for a second before things became rather comedic.

“Xinghe, from now on, we’ll be sisters, a family; I will not take no for an answer!” Ali announced suddenly.

“No, she’ll be my sister.”

“Mine!” Wolf and Cairn fought to be her brothers.

Sam though shoved them all out of the way. He stared deeply into Xinghe’s eyes and proclaimed, “Xinghe, let’s get married!”

Chapter 447: Search

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Everyone was shocked by his sudden proposal. The only one unfazed was Xinghe.

“Because of my money?” she asked directly.

Sam nodded with a large smile. “That’s right! Of course, you’re a catch too and I’m not shabby myself, so why not...”

“Well, at least you’re honest,” Xinghe interrupted, “But I have to tell you, the money isn’t mine. If there’s chance in the future, I will introduce the both of you... maybe you two can get married instead.”

Then Xinghe walked away. However, she turned after a few steps and said, “By the way, it’s a he.”

Sam was silent, while Wolf, Ali, and Cairn burst out in mocking laughs. Xinghe turned back to walk away and a smile threatened to surface on her face. She was able to joke with Sam like that because she knew Sam was joking with her as well. However, she couldn’t help but wonder what Mubai’s reaction would be if he was around. With her thoughts rounding back to Mubai, she started to worry about his situation again.

It had been three days since the plane crash so there wasn’t any time for her to waste. Xinghe immediately had Sam and the rest go out to search for the man. They had a wide range connections so they could send out a lot of people to look for him.

Xinghe didn’t sit around doing nothing, she left Mubai a message on the internet. If he was still alive, he would have seen it. Furthermore, she had used a sizeable amount of his money, he would have noticed it. Xinghe tried searching for him while leaving traces for him to reach her.

...

However, other than Mubai, Xinghe was searching for another person. He was Sam and the rest’s teacher, Charlie.

Xinghe asked for Charlie's details from Ali and the rest. She only then realized how impressive Charlie was. Charlie was once a famed mercenary but was detained for many years due to an undisclosed reason. After he got out of jail, he made himself a living in Country Y.

He stayed away from mercenary groups, preferring to work solo until he found Sam and the rest. However, one month ago, Charlie had disappeared without a trace. Sam and the gang couldn't locate him no matter what. They suspected he had left the country on one of his assignments.

"However, it's been a month and whenever Charlie leaves on a job, he would tell one of us," Ali said worriedly. "Which is why I suspect that something has happened to him."

"We think so too, it's the only explanation why we haven't received any communication from him," Wolf added with a sigh.

Xinghe nodded. "Then we'll look for him together. After all, we have money now and everything has a price."

"Xinghe, why do you want to look for Charlie?" Cairn asked and the rest looked at her.

Xinghe answered softly, "I need his help with something; you'll see when the time comes."

"Alright, well, thank you for your help." Sam nodded. They were glad for Xinghe's help. Just like that, they'd mobilized a lot of forces to increase the search effort. The news quickly spread, there was no secrets among the many different forces. Furthermore, the reward of 3,000,000 USD had drawn in a lot of 'favors'. To their surprise, news about Charlie came as soon as the day after!

Chapter 448: You Guys Go First, I Will Bring up the Rear

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Everyone was shocked that news would arrive so soon.

“According to the source, they saw Charlie a month ago; Charlie was wearing black clothes and was heading to a location. The source refused to disclose the location until we meet them in person and hand them the reward money,” Sam told everyone.

Wolf smirked. “This is such an obvious trap. People will do anything for money.”

“It has to be. The person even told us to go with money in tow. Could they be any more obvious?” Ali also added.

Sam disagreed, “I don’t think so because it doesn’t sound like the person is lying. They said Charlie is going to some place special, a location he was too afraid to reveal through mail. They are only willing to come forward now because of the reward money.”

“Could it really be that something happened to Charlie?” Cairn asked and the atmosphere turned serious.

Ali grumbled, “What if Charlie needs our help?”

“That’s why we have to meet this person no matter what,” Sam concluded. He then turned to Xinghe and asked, “What do you think?”

After two days together, Sam and the gang had begun to treat Xinghe as their strategist. For some reason, they believed in her judgement and rationality. Xinghe nodded. “We should definitely go to this person but not directly. You guys go first, and I will bring up the rear.”

They understood what she meant immediately. They smiled in relief. Their request was spread to the public with them being anonymous. In other words, people knew that someone was looking for Charlie but they had no idea who that someone was.

Even their conversation was done through a voice changer. Of course, no one knew things had changed for the SamWolf but there was nothing called too careful.

Just like that, Sam and the gang decided to go meet this person, to check the validity of their news. In the message, the person had them meet at a rural area. Sam and the gang took a car and drove to the destination. Xinghe was on the lookout for them on the computer and followed them at a distance.

...

Sam and the gang reached the destination around afternoon. When they descended from the car, a group of people walked out from behind the ruined walls.

The leader was Ryan!

Both parties were shocked to see each other.

“It’s you!” Sam’s face darkened. “Ryan, you know where Charlie is?”

Ryan didn’t answer but his eyes swept over the armored car behind them and the weapons they were carrying. There was curiosity in his eyes.

“Sam, it has only been two days since we last saw each other and your gang has changed so much for the better? What, you guys found some influential boss to cling to?” Ryan asked guardedly.

Sam smirked but didn’t answer. Instead he said, “You’re the last person I would think was the source. Did you have something to do with Charlie’s disappearance?”

Ryan laughed. “How is that possible? I just happen to know where he is, that’s all.”

Sam and the gang’s faces were drawn.

“Where is he?” Wolf demanded.

Ryan’s gaze shifted and asked his own question, “Where’s the money? Show me the money and I will tell you everything.”

Chapter 449: Surround Them

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You really know where Charlie is?” Sam asked in a serious tone.

Ryan nodded. “Of course! I didn’t mention anything earlier because there’s nothing in it for me. Now that there is, I’m more than willing to tell.”

“Ryan, if you dare to lie to us, you’re a dead man!” Wolf pointed at him and warned.

Ryan laughed. “Don’t worry, I will not lie to you.”

“Okay, we’ll trust you this one time.” Sam nodded, signaling Wolf and Ali to go take the chest. The two produced from the car trunk a square silver chest. They put the chest on the floor and after they opened it; the glow of the chest full of gold was blinding. Under the glittering sun, the gold was bedazzling. Ryan’s eyes were practically glued to them. He didn’t expect Sam’s gang to be able to really produce so much gold!

Ryan rubbed his eyes and asked, “Where did you guys get so many gold bars?”

Sam smiled cryptically. “That has nothing to do with you. You only need to tell us Charlie’s location.”

“Sam, tell me honestly, did you guys find some get-rich-quick method? I don’t want the gold anymore, I want you to share your method with me instead,” Ryan said with an endearing smile. He was trying to tease out whether SamWolf had aligned themselves with some forces he couldn’t cross. Of course, Sam saw through his ploy.

He replied with a serious face, “There is no such scheme, we simply got lucky.”

“For real?”

“Real or not is none of your business. If you don’t tell us Charlie’s location soon, we’re leaving and the deal is over!” Sam turned to leave. Ali closed the chest and prepared to leave

as well. Ryan's eyes followed the chest and a cold intention drew across them.

"Get out here!" He ordered suddenly and many people appeared from behind the ruined house. There were at least thirty of them and each had a gun. They were all aimed Sam's group that was surrounded in the middle. Sam's gang also raised their guns instantly. They formed a defensive circle immediately. Ali even dropped the chest to grab at her weapon.

"Ryan, what is the meaning of this?" Sam demanded angrily.

Ryan laughed loudly, his eyes whirlpools of darkness. "Isn't it obvious? I'm robbing you! Leave the gold and weapons and I might consider letting you people go with your lives!"

Wolf spat condescendingly, "You think your group of ruffians can take us down?"

As he said so, the group closed in on them. Sam's group was instantly alerted.

Ryan replied smugly, "That's right, this group of ruffians is going to rob you blind! Your SamWolf gang has been looking down on us, right? Well, you'll have a taste of the Grey Rat's might today! What if you people are trained, can you take on so many of us?"

"I alone can kill half of your goons here!" Sam huffed with derision and Wolf added fearlessly, "Leave the other half to me then!"

"Bunch of stubborn oafs, show them what they're up against!" Ryan ordered and around eight of the men pulled out grenades.

Even Cairn had lost it then. "Sh*t, that's our stuff!"

Chapter 450: Stunned

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

That's right, the weapons and grenades in Ryan's men's hands once belonged to SamWolf. Those were salvaged from the house that belonged to them. The fact that their haul had fallen into Ryan's hands irked them greatly. They were chased away from their own house and were now being attacked by their own weapons; it made their hearts burn. However, there was nothing they could do. Their opponent had the number's advantage and grenades; they didn't dare to act flightily.

"Ryan, do you intend to kill all of us?" Sam asked him in a measured tone.

Ryan offered a slimy smile. "Don't be so melodramatic. As long as you leave the reward money and weapons, I swear I will let you people go. Trust me, I'm a man of my word."

"Only an idiot will believe you!" Ali scoffed with derision.

Ryan laughed. "What choice do you have? Either you leave the gold and weapons, or you leave everything behind, including your lives!"

"I think that was your plan from the very beginning," Sam said with a cold sneer.

Ryan smiled and dropped his pretentious façade. He admitted, "Fine, the plan is to claim your lives and take the gold. When I saw it was you people, I was overjoyed because I've been waiting to kill you people for a very long time!"

"So, you have no idea where Charlie really is?" Cairn asked quickly.

Ryan's eyes shifted ever so slightly. He used the butt of his gun to scratch his head. "Actually, I will give you a free information, I do know where Charlie is but I will not tell you. No worries, he'll soon meet you down there after you die."

"Since we're going to die soon, why not give us the satisfaction of knowing Charlie's location?" Sam egged him on but Ryan was too cunning to fall for that.

“I will not give you bunch of people any satisfaction. You’ll die never knowing where Charlie is. However, I promise your group will congregate down there! Men, aim and...”

Before the last word could get out of Ryan’s mouth, someone had already fired. The sudden shot made Ryan swallow his words and froze the atmosphere for about half a second. The next second, Ryan started wailing.

“My leg!” He crumbled to the floor suddenly, his eyes wide looking at the wound on his right leg. A bullet had shot through his leg!

“Who was it? Show yourself!” Ryan’s flustered men shouted. Everyone turned around to check for enemies hiding in the dark. They fired aimlessly into the dark, not caring whether the bullets hit their target or not.

This was a fatal mistake but now they had exposed their backs to Sam’s group. Sam’s group moved into action immediately. While Ryan’s men were shooting blindly, they took down the few people carrying the grenades.

When Ryan’s men turned back to deal with Sam’s group, this time their weakness was exposed to the people who ambushed them earlier.

The shots rang incessantly. In almost a blink of an eye, two-third of Ryan’s men were dead. Clouded by panic, a few of men even fell under friendly fire.

Eventually, only three of Ryan’s men left. They stared at the bodies piled around them in stunned silence.

What just happened?

A few seconds had passed but almost all of their men had died!

Chapter 451: I'm a Poor Shot

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

They didn't even have time to react to what had happened. Almost all of them had been wiped out before they even knew who their enemies were...

This sudden development scared the few remaining people. With no regards for Ryan, they escaped, begging for dear life. However, that was impossible.

"Don't leave even one rat alive!" Sam ordered. Wolf and the rest opened fire, and the escaping men collapsed into lifeless piles. Ryan looked at all these with a blank expression. Who can tell me what's going on...

However, he subconsciously lifted up his gun and pointed it at Sam. His dark skin frighteningly pale.

"Stay, stay away from me!" He demanded in a shaking voice. There were even tears streaming down his face. Sam and the rest shook their heads in derision while looking at him. They were not fazed by his threat.

"Ryan, I advise you to put down your gun..."

"Don't come near me!" Like a spooked bird, Ryan pressed on the trigger upon hearing Sam's voice. Sam jumped out of the way and the rest all cursed loudly.

"F*ck, he really fired!"

"Sh*t, I'll shoot him in the head!"

Wolf pulled out his pistol to end Ryan, but at that moment, Xinghe's clear voice rang out, "Stop."

Wolf froze and turned to see Xinghe walking into view with twenty mercenaries behind her. The mercenaries surrounded her, keeping her in the middle of their protective circle. They scanned the surrounding alertly before their gazes fell on Ryan.

Ryan was already out of bullets but he still pressed the trigger relentlessly like a mad man. Since everyone's attention was on

Xinghe, Ryan took the opportunity to crawl to reach a gun not far away from him.

The moment his hand reached out, a bullet was shot, grazing his arm, almost incapacitating him. Ryan retracted his arm with a scream and looked at Xinghe who fired the bullet.

Xinghe's pistol was aimed at Ryan. She said calmly, "I'm a poor shot, why don't you try your luck again?"

Ryan went as still as a statue. Even Sam's gang felt chilled by her words. The poor shots were the most dangerous because no one could tell who they would hurt!

Xinghe was satisfied with Ryan's reaction. She stopped before his cowering body and asked, "Do you want to die?"

Ryan shook his head vigorously. Who would want that?

Xinghe nodded. "Good, then answer my question, where is Charlie?"

Ryan swallowed hard when he saw the threat in Xinghe's eyes. She would not hesitate to kill him if he lied or refused to answer...

Ryan couldn't have imagined that this woman, who'd just recently appeared, would be so powerful. She even managed to get herself a group of mercenaries. Is it true that she is really related to Charlie?

No matter what, she was not someone he could cross. There were so many people hoping for his death; he was a lamb waiting for slaughter. However, Ryan was not so dumb as to give up everything.

He stared right at Xinghe and said, "It's not that I don't want to say, but even if I do, I'll still die."

Chapter 452: Charlie Is...

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe smiled. "Do you think you can live if you don't answer?"

"Since I'm dead either way, why should I give you the satisfaction?" Ryan flared up thinking about his men that had died.

"Fine, if that's your wish, then I'll fulfil it for you." Sam raised his gun.

Xinghe stopped him suddenly. "Give him the gold."

"What?" Sam was shocked.

Xinghe repeated herself, "Give him the gold bars as promised."

Sam understood what Xinghe's meant. Even though he was reluctant, he still heaved up the chest and dropped it in front of Ryan.

Ryan looked at the chest and asked, "What's the meaning of this?"

"Tell me where Charlie is and you can walk away with this chest of gold," Xinghe answered coldly.

Ryan widened his eyes in shock and asked with obvious disbelief, "If I tell you, you'll let me go with all this gold?"

"That's right, this is also your only chance so don't play any tricks on me."

"You'll really let me go?" Ryan was still skeptical.

"Do you have any other choice than to believe me?" Xinghe questioned. Ryan was quiet; she was right, this was the only chance he had.

"Fine, I'll tell you!" Ryan came to a decision. He grabbed at the chest and held on to it guardedly, "Charlie is in Barron's hands!"

“What?” Sam’s gang thought they heard him wrongly. Charlie is in Barron’s hands...

Even Xinghe was surprised by this revelation. After all, Charlie had helped Barron more than once before and Barron was a General. What kind of use he would have for capturing Charlie?

“Why does Barron have him?” Xinghe asked solemnly.

Ryan shook his head. “I have no idea. I only know that he has Charlie, I have no idea why.”

“Then what else you do know?”

Ryan thought about it before answering, “Barron is also selling drugs, the Grey Rats have helped him smuggle drugs once or twice.”

“No wonder he values your people so much!” Sam concluded. “What else?”

“That’s all,” Ryan hugged the chest and asked hesitatingly, “I’ve told you everything I know, can I go now?”

“You can.” Xinghe nodded. Ryan got up immediately and hobbled towards a car parked not far away with his injured leg.

Wolf stared at his retreating shadow and frowned. “Are you sure it’s a good idea to let him go?”

“He has so much gold on him. If he’s lucky, he might rise again – but I doubt he is that lucky,” Xinghe said softly, not at all worried that Ryan would come back for revenge. After all, he needed to be alive to do that.

“Let’s go, we will return to the house for now,” Xinghe said and turned to leave.

Suddenly, the leader of the mercenaries called her, “Miss Xia.”

Xinghe turned to look at him. “Yes?”

The leader whispered, “I have some business to deal with, I’ll be back in a bit. Can you give me some off-duty time?”

Xinghe stared at the leader and the leader didn't move his eyes away, not at all afraid that Xinghe could read his thoughts.

"Sure," Xinghe allowed without giving it much thought.

"Thank you," The leader nodded in appreciation and his gaze turned coldly down the direction Ryan had left.

Chapter 453: Torture

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe and Sam's group got into one car and the mercenaries another. In the car, Wolf asked, "Is he going after Ryan?"

Sam nodded with a smirk. "He's not hiding the fact that he is."

Ali said with worry, "Will he come after us then?"

"He won't," Xinghe answered, "We hired them through the private bank, they need the reputation and I've paid them quite a handsome amount for their service."

"That's right, these people will do anything for money but ruin their own reputation and credibility because that's their long-time meal ticket," Sam explained and Ali sighed in relief.

"Are we going to save Charlie?" Ali asked.

Xinghe nodded. "We will, but we have to collect more information first."

...

Xinghe started working after she returned home. Hacking into Barron's military system was a cakewalk for her. The surveillance in the camp was complete so Xinghe found the footage she needed quickly. There were a lot of cameras in and around the jail. Each individual jail had a camera probably because they housed some dangerous people. Xinghe found Charlie in a matter of minutes.

"Charlie! That's Charlie!" Sam yelled when he saw a bloodied man inside a jail cell. Ali and the rest followed his direction and stared at the screen.

"That's Charlie!" Ali said with sadness in her voice, "What happened to him?"

Charlie's four limbs were cuffed to steel chains. He was like a puppet strung to the wall. His hair and beard had grown in to cover most of his face but one could still pick up his features if one looked closely. His body had cuts and bruises. The clothes he had on were dirty and dyed a dark red. He had endured the torture for a long time...

“Has Barron been torturing him for the past month?” Cairn huffed angrily.

“I’ll go kill Barron!” Wolf pulled out a gun and rushed out.

“Don’t be hasty!” Sam pulled him back. “You won’t be able to do anything even if you go now.”

Wolf was enraged. “But Charlie is dying being tortured by them! I can’t stand here and do nothing while this is happening to him!”

“Barron is going in!” Ali yelled. Her voice attracted everyone’s attention immediately. They all turned to the screen where Barron walked in with one of his men.

The men said no words and gave Charlie two lashes of his whip immediately!

The surveillance was silent but Xinghe and the rest could hear the sound of the whip lashing through the air. The two lashes seemed to fall on Ali and the rest’s bodies as well; they grimaced and their eyes glowered darkly.

The pain woke Charlie up from his half-sleep. Barron was talking to him but Charlie gave no response but looked silently at him. This enraged Barron. He grabbed the whip away from his man and dished out the punishment himself.

The whip kept flying over the air and Charlie’s features twisted in pain, however not a word escaped from his clenched teeth.

However, the more he defied him, the harder Barron whipped. Each lash tore open old and new wounds on Charlie’s body. On the screen, they could see fresh blood spraying in the air...

Sam and the rest’s fists were clenched; the eyes that were on Barron were practically burning.

Chapter 454: Saving Charlie

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“F*ck, we’ll go kill him now and save Charlie!” This time it was Sam who lost his cool. As he said so, the other four moved together with him.

Xinghe stood up and said, “What are you people doing? Stop right there!”

Sam turned back and said chillingly, “Miss Xia, we have to save Charlie. This is our problem so please keep yourself out of it; we don’t want to cause you the trouble.”

Ali also nodded. “That’s right, we cannot wait anymore. We will not allow Charlie to continue the suffering!”

“He is way too important to us!” Cairn concluded. Xinghe saw the determination in their eyes.

“If you go just like this, you’ll just get captured,” Xinghe reminded them with a sigh.

Wolf smirked. “We are not afraid of that because we cannot allow Charlie to die in front of our eyes and do nothing about it. He is like our father, you don’t understand how this feels to us.”

Xinghe nodded. “I do, if this happened to any one of my family, I’d be the same way.”

“So, you should understand why we must do this,” Sam said firmly. Xinghe was reminded of the time they rushed into a base that grossly over numbered them to save Ali. Their single goal was to save Ali, they didn’t consider anything beyond that...

It was the same for them now.

“I’m not saying that we shouldn’t save him but we need to plan first...”

“We cannot wait anymore, we must save him tonight!” Sam said in a voice that brooked no argument. On the screen, Barron was still whipping Charlie.

Ali's eyes were red. "Xinghe, we cannot wait anymore or Barron will whip him to death!"

"Take your ear-mics, I will give you the directions. Take more weapons and be alert!" Xinghe said with a solemn nod. Sam's group was shocked but quickly broke into smiles.

"Xinghe, thank you!" Sam walked to in front of her and said seriously, "If this mission is a success, please consider me as your boyfriend, I'm serious this time."

"..." For certain reasons, part of Xinghe wished for him to fail...

Without waiting for her answer, Sam and the rest went off to prepare. They were prepared to save Charlie or die trying. However, they still retained a certain degree of rationality to listen to Xinghe's arrangement through the ear mic. Night quickly fell.

Xinghe had already tweaked the military camp's surveillance. Sam's group would not appear on screen. With Xinghe's help, Sam's group snuck into the camp successfully. Xinghe was operating more than a few computers, her fingers flew over the keyboard and she rattled off her directions in a hurry.

"There are two men guarding the jail entrance and I've changed the video. However, you only have five minutes to get in and get out before the other guards get suspicious."

"No problem!" Sam whispered back before leading the rest into the jail. The moment they walked in, they stumbled across the two guards. Before the two men could react, they leaped forward and snapped their necks.

"Change into their clothes as a disguise," Xinghe ordered. Cairn and Sam did exactly that while Ali and Wolf hid the bodies away. They continued to push towards Charlie.

The surveillance video was switched back to normal by Xinghe.

Chapter 455: Someone Important Is Here

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Cairn and Sam stood like they were really the entrance guards. Xinghe would tamper with the surveillance again after they rescued Charlie...

Ali and Wolf quickly found Charlie's room. They used the key swiped from the guards to unlock the door and save Charlie. They were exact and precise in their movements. The atmosphere was heightened and nervous. After they saved Charlie, they planned to escape by retracing their steps.

However, at that moment, Xinghe saw from the surveillance a long row of military-use vehicles arriving at the military camp gate. Their arrival woke up the entire camp. The soldiers who were resting were roused from their sleep and pulled back to their post. The security suddenly became tight.

There was a seriousness in Xinghe's eyes when she informed Sam's gang, "Stay put for now. A good number of people have arrived at the camp and the soldiers are everything. If you go out now, you'll be discovered."

Sam's gang's faces shifted. They didn't expect to happen across such a sudden development.

"What should we do now?" Sam whispered.

"Stay quiet and wait for my orders," Xinghe said as she moved to watch what was happening. Apparently, some important person had arrived because the whole camp was woken up to welcome the group. Even Barron who was asleep changed and rushed out.

...

"Where's General Philip?" Barron asked his adjutant as he rushed down the stairs, still putting on his pants.

"The general has entered the camp, I've already had our men go welcome him."

"Why would he come so suddenly? He should have informed me beforehand," Barron couldn't help but grumble.

“The general’s visit is indeed very sudden,” the adjutant agreed. Even so, they didn’t dare waste any more time. They rushed to meet General Philip. When they arrived at the middle field, more than ten armored cars were parked there. The one at the front was the most lavish. Needless to say, General Philip was in it.

Barron rushed forward and saw General Philip in his military uniform sitting at the back.

“Good afternoon, General!” Barron gave him a salute as his eyes strayed to a mysterious man in a black garment beside the General. The man was wearing a black suit and a dark hat that was pressed low on his face. It shielded his face from view. Barron could only see his thin lips and sharp jaw. Even though his identity was a mystery, Barron could sense the strong presence radiating off him.

Philip returned him a salute and said, “I came at such short notice because I need your help with something.”

“Please give me your orders, General!” Barron opened his mouth to say with utter respect, a complete reversal of his usual smug self. They might both be generals, but Philip’s ranking was much higher than his.

Philip didn’t waste time and cut to the chase. “I heard earlier that you managed to grab some military munitions from IV Syndicate?”

“Yes, General!” Barron’s face brightened with pride. It was an impressive feat to be able to grab anything back from IV Syndicate. This organization was strong and mysterious, even Interpol had difficulties tracking them down.

Therefore, the fact that he could wrangle the munitions back from IV Syndicate proved Barron’s value to the military.

Chapter 456: Something's Weird

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“How did you manage that?” Philip questioned.

Barron answered, “We located their base and I had my men lay siege to it.”

“In other words, you know where their base is?”

“... Yes!” Barron’s answer was hesitant. This was because he didn’t exactly know where the base’s location was, only Charlie knew that. He’d only led his men to intercept the munitions that were heading out of the base.

Philip looked him straight in the eye and asked, “Where is their base?”

“General, why do you ask, has something happened?” Barron questioned instead.

“Answer me, who gave you the power to question me?”

“I’m sorry, General!”

Philip asked again, more forcefully this time, “So where is the base?”

Barron’s eyes shifted and said confidently, “General, I have no idea where exactly their base is but the person who infiltrated the base would know. However, the person is currently kept in my captivity because he has committed a great disservice to the country. Why don’t you move to a drawing room first and I’ll have him over for you to interrogate.”?

Philip narrowed his eyes on him and finally nodded. “Then, bring the man over quickly. Any mishap and you’ll be punished!”

“Yes, sir!” Barron guaranteed loudly as he helped Philip open his door. “General, please wait at the drawing room.”

Philip got out of the car and rose to his full height. The other man got down from the other side. He was as tall as Philip but Barron still couldn’t get a good look of his face. He was

curious about the man's identity but he didn't dare to ask or even take a look at him.

Philip didn't make the introduction so it was not his business to ask. However, from the way Philip treated him, the person had a certain importance. After Barron's adjutant led the two men to the drawing room, Barron brought a few men to the jail. Xinghe saw Barron heading towards the jail and quickly informed Sam's gang.

"Barron is coming, Ali and Wolf go into hiding quick, Sam and Cairn try your best to not get exposed!"

"F*ck, why is he coming over?" Sam cursed under his breath but he quickly assumed his required post. Together with Cairn, they lowered their head and stood in attention.

They saluted wordlessly as Barron walked over. Barron stopped before them and ordered coldly, "Open Charlie's jail cell now!"

"Yes, sir!" Sam coarsened his voice to answer and turned to walk in front of Barron.

Barron was still thinking about how to make Charlie cooperate when he noticed something funny about the guard walking in front of him. He narrowed his eyes slightly as his suspicions grew. However, he showed nothing on his face.

He stopped suddenly to whisper to one of his men. The soldier nodded before turning to walk away. Sam tried to keep his cool as he walked in front. The long corridor was suspiciously quiet. The sound of falling footsteps shook Sam's heart.

Xinghe who stared at the screen felt a bad feeling rising in her gut.

"Barron might have found something suspicious..." Xinghe whispered into the mic, "Be on alert and take him hostage if necessary! I've arranged for the men to meet all of you outside, just be careful."

After Xinghe said so, Sam's hand over the machinegun tightened.

Chapter 457: Cover's Blown

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ali and Wolf were hiding in the room, ready to jump on Barron. The air had become still with anticipation. Sam soon led Barron and his men to Charlie's room. He had his back to Barron and pretended to open the already unlocked door with his key. He shoved open the door and moved to the side with his head bowed.

Barron stood there motionless. He ordered, "Go on and drag the man out!"

"Yes, sir!" Sam answered as his body tensed. How are we going to jump on Barron if he doesn't go into the room?

Sam turned around slowly as his mind churned on the ways to attack Barron without getting shot first. They were running out of time.

"Do it now, the cover's blown!" Xinghe's voice came through the ear-mic. Sam pulled on his machinegun while his other hand grabbed towards Barron.

"Detain them!" To his surprise, Barron was prepared. He leaped out of Sam's attack and pulled out his gun. Barron fired without hesitation. Sam gave up on his pursuit and leaped back, narrowly avoiding being shot. Ali and Wolf who were hiding in the room jumped out and fired their machineguns at Barron.

Barron grabbed one of his soldiers to use as a human shield. As the lifeless body of the soldier collapsed, a large troop of soldiers charged to the scene.

"Cease and desist! Drop your weapons now!" The adjutant who ran to the front demanded. The soldiers immediately formed a wall blocking their passage. More than a dozen machineguns pointed right at them.

Other than that, the adjutant pointed his gun right at Cairn's head who'd been captured...

Sam and the rest dropped their machineguns and pulled out their grenades, ready for a final showdown. Barron climbed

over his men's bodies back to safety.

Finally, he stood upright to glare at them. "Sam, so it is your group! You people are courting death by attempting a jailbreak!"

Sam's face was drawn, he didn't expect the plan to go so wrongly.

"Barron, you kidnapped Charlie so you can't blame us for coming to spring him out!" Sam answered coldly.

Barron smirked. "Then, you can't blame me for punishing all of you! I was thinking about a way to deal with your group but you handed yourselves over to me so nicely. Drop your weapons or I'll give him a shot to the head!"

Barron grabbed Cairn roughly. He pushed his gun into Cairn's temple and made to pull the trigger. Cairn showed no fear. He was telling Sam and the gang wordlessly that they should leave him behind.

However, that was an impossible choice. Even if he wasn't captured, they couldn't escape easily. This was the whole military they were going up against.

"I'll count to three and if you still haven't dropped your weapons, I will kill him and then kill the rest of you one by one!" Barron threatened as he started the count down, "One, two..."

"We surrender!" Sam tossed his gun and grenade away before raising his hands in surrender. Ali and Wolf followed suit...

"Cuff them all," Barron ordered with a sleazy smile. The soldiers moved forward and detained the three of them easily.

"Barron—" At the same time, Charlie dragged his weakened body out of his cell. His dark eyes stared at him and said, "If you still want the information from me, you will not touch one hair on them!"

Chapter 458: Where's the Woman

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Before Charlie could finish, he was subdued by two soldiers. None of them struggled...

Barron nodded satisfactorily. He took them all in with his eyes and laughed smugly. "Don't worry, Charlie, I will not kill them as long as you're willing to cooperate."

Charlie knew Barron had him then, he would have to talk.

Barron didn't waste any more time and ordered, "Lock them all up and watch over them carefully. Don't hesitate to rough them up if they dare act defiant! Bring Charlie away with me!"

"Yes, sir!" The soldiers answered.

"Barron, where are you taking Charlie?" Sam demanded. The answer he got from Barron was a punch to the face. The punch almost broke Sam's teeth; he spat out blood.

Barron stared at him like a scorpion. "Who are you to demand anything from me? One more word out of you and your people die!"

Sam gritted his teeth and glared at him. Barron started laughing again. He took count of them and asked with a salacious smile, "Where's the other one? Where's the woman? If any of you are willing to tell me, then I might consider sparing the torture."

"Don't know!" Wolf answered coldly, there was no fear in his eyes.

Barron's smile turned frigid. "I will ask you again, where is the woman?"

"We don't know what you're talking about." Sam smirked.

"Barron, we are captured so we're prepared to die!"

"We'll see about that." Barron ordered, "Chain them up and get the woman's location out of them no matter what!"

"Yes, sir!" The group of soldiers brought them away. Barron laughed, satisfied. Then he realized he was needed elsewhere.

After all, the group was already in his captivity; he had lots of time to work through them. Now, he needed to focus on getting Charlie to cooperate with him in front of Philip.

Sam's group was chained to the pillars in the dungeon. What awaited them was endless torment...

Xinghe was still looking at the surveillance. After Sam's group was caught, she uncovered everything she could about Barron. She hoped to find some dirt on him.

Her last words to Sam's group before parting were, "Hang in there, I will find a way to save all of you!"

Sam's group felt hopeful hearing her words, but they didn't dare hold too much hope. Their only wish was that she didn't get captured as well or else it would truly be over for them...

...

Philip's men stood guard outside the large drawing room. Other than Philip and the mysterious man, the room was posted with quite a sizeable number of able-bodied soldiers. Even though this was a military camp, Philip's security wasn't lax.

"You just recovered, there's no need to rush with these things, why not rest for a few days first?" Philip advised the man.

"I'm fine," the man said as he operated on a laptop, "I need to find her as soon as possible."

Philip nodded. "Don't worry, I've sent my men out to look for this woman. I'm sure she'll turn up soon enough."

The man nodded as he continued working on the laptop. He was searching for online clues.

Chapter 459: That Eastern Woman

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

If Xinghe was still alive, she would have left a clue for him online...

However, there was nothing even after he had checked a few places. Under the rim of the hat, Mubai's dark eyes dimmed, and his lips had melted into a thin line. He powered on regardless. At that time, Barron came in with Charlie.

"General, the men are here!" One of the soldiers came into to report.

"Let them in," Philip said immediately.

"Yes!" The soldiers left to inform Barron. Barron nodded as he shot Charlie a warning glance. He had warned Charlie along the way, if he revealed more than the base's location, he would kill Sam's gang. Charlie promised him reluctantly which calmed Barron's heart quite a bit.

After Barron led Charlie into the room, he saluted Philip and said reverentially, "General, I've brought you the man you need! He is Charlie, he once infiltrated the IV Syndicate's base, you can ask him anything you want."

Both Philip and Mubai looked at Charlie. His body was covered with wounds, his clothes were dyed red, his hair and beard unkempt. His tall body was swaying from exhaustion and his face was incredibly pale but there was an indomitable spirit behind his eyes. It was obvious that this was a character.

Philip waved Barron away. "Excuse us for now."

Barron was shocked but he had to obey the order. He snuck Charlie one last warning glance before leaving. Charlie's face was unchanged which worried Barron because Charlie could reveal something that would be harmful to him. However, the damage wouldn't be big, or at least, not big enough to make Philip punish him. After all, this was a war-torn country; there was no innocents. If one looked hard enough, one could find skeletons in everyone's closet.

Barron was comforted by these thoughts. However, as he closed the door behind him, he received a call.

“Hello?” Barron picked up the call from an unknown call.

“Barron, I will give you twenty minutes to let Sam’s group go or else the proof of your criminal activities will be known across the country,” a woman’s calm yet forceful voice came from the other end of the line.

Barron’s mind was stunned. He covered the phone and walked far away before demanding severely, “Who are you? Do you have any idea who you’re extorting?”

Xinghe smirked. “I’m not kidding with you. I have the evidence of your drug smuggling and selling history, do you want me to send them to you to verify?”

Barron’s face shifted. “You’re that Eastern woman?”

Xinghe ignored him. “Don’t play tricks with me because I’m watching your every move. If you don’t cooperate, I don’t mind going down with you. But a clever man like you wouldn’t want that, right?”

Barron chuckled humorlessly. “I’m sorry I have no idea what you’re talking about. If I really have done such a thing, then release it to the public. But woman, I have to tell you, I will find you and make you pay for threatening me like this!”

Barron slammed his phone shut. He believed Xinghe was bluffing, she wouldn’t have the dirt on him.

Chapter 460: Let the People Go Now

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His ego wouldn't allow him to be threatened by a woman. Not only that, he wanted her to pay!

Barron was ready to call his men to search for Xinghe when his phone was flooded with messages. The incessant message alert gave him a bad feeling...

He opened the messages and widened his eyes in shock when he saw the contents. The more he saw, the worse his face became. The contents detailed all his drug trafficking activities. There weren't only time stamps but also pictures...

Impossible! Barron couldn't believe it. How can that woman get all of this incriminating information?

The information was limited to only his and his sellers or buyers. They wouldn't leak it out since it would implicate them, so where did she get all of this?

Barron's face darkened. He felt the threat this time. He immediately called back, the call was answered after one ring.

"What is it that you want?" Barron hissed through the phone. His tone belied his nervousness, he needed Xinghe to not go public with the evidence.

Xinghe replied slowly, "Let the people go or we'll die together. Don't worry, if you're willing to do that, I promise I will delete this evidence."

"Why should I believe you?" Barron asked anxiously. After all, he would lose all his leverage if he let those people go.

"The evidence will only get you fired but you'll still hang on to some power, or at least enough power to crush a small party like us so there's no reason for me to make you a nemesis."

"That's basically an empty promise."

"You have no choice but to accept. After all, I have other ways to save those people but you'll lose everything if you're fired."

Barron's face showed an ugly expression. Xinghe was right, she had him backed into a corner. If he lost his position, his old enemies would surface and take advantage of his weakness. Furthermore, Philip was there. If he got wind of this information, he would have no chance of ever coming back because that was the platform Philip ran on, the anti-drugs trafficking platform...

Therefore, he had no choice but to cooperate with Xinghe.

"Fine, I will let them go. But you'd better stick to your promise or I will haunt all of you even if I die!" Barron warned seriously.

Xinghe was unfazed. "Don't worry, I'm a woman of my words. Go release them now, including Charlie. Also, if I see any serious injuries on my friends, this thing's going public!"

"I know!" Barron shut his phone angrily. He instantly called his men to stop with the torture.

He personally waited for Charlie to come out. Thankfully, Charlie came out of the room soon, following him behind him was Philip's group.

"General, do you have any orders?" Barron asked eagerly.

Philip responded lightly, "Nothing for now but take good care of this man, I might have use for him in the future."

He meant Charlie.

Barron nodded in a hurry. "Of course, General. I know what to do!"

"Good, I still have something to attend to so I will take my leave now. Keep the fact of my visit here to yourself."

"Yes, sir!" Barron promised loudly. Philip nodded and led his men away.

Chapter 461: Miss Xia Is Waiting

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After their cars left the camp, Barron immediately arranged to let the people go. Sam's group heard everything through their ear-mics. They found it very hard to believe that Xinghe managed to force Barron to let them go.

"Watch yourself when you're out there, and if you come for me again, I will not hesitate to kill all of you!" Those were Barron's parting words.

Sam's gang nodded insincerely. However, they were captured so they had to cooperate until they were relatively safe. After they walked out of the camp, a car was already waiting for them. The door opened and the mercenary within said, "Get in, Miss Xia ordered me to pick you up."

Sam's group quickly hopped into the car. The car drove away into the night quickly.

"Sir, are we going to let them go just like that?" Barron's adjutant asked nervously.

Barron's eyes held on to the disappearing car and smirked, "Of course not. Don't worry, I've prepared a trap to reel them all back into my grasp!"

"Sir, you're so clever!" The adjutant was fast to lick Barron's boots. Barron smirked darkly, he would make those who threatened him pay dearly!

The car seemed to know Barron's plan as it sped far away from the city.

"Where are we going?" Sam asked.

The mercenary who was driving replied, "As far away from here as we can. Miss Xia is waiting not far ahead, this place is not safe, we cannot stay here anymore."

"He's right, Barron will not let us go so easily. He will find the opportunity to kill us all if we stay," Charlie added in agreement, he was very familiar with Barron's cold-blooded

ways. Furthermore, they had dirt on him now, he had more reasons to kill them because only the dead wouldn't tell.

Inspecting the wounds on Charlie's body, Sam said through gritted teeth, "When we've recovered, we'll find a way to take him out!"

"Definitely!" Wolf added seriously. They had to remove Barron as a threat eventually but they didn't expect that Barron would be so many steps ahead of them...

The car soon reached the countryside. Xinghe was indeed waiting for them there. She stood in front of a car. Under the cover of the night, Sam's group felt they saw her eyes glowing. She seemed to draw them in with her allure.

"Xinghe!" Ali leaped out of the car to give her a hug. She held her hands and said appreciatively, "Thank you, you've saved us again."

Xinghe's eyes scanned the length of her body and asked, "Are all of you alright?"

"We're fine, it's just a flesh wound." Ali shook her head but her tone betrayed her fear. "If you didn't come to our rescue, things would have been much worse."

Ali remembered the torture devices that were in the dungeon and her heart still shivered from fear. Thankfully, they were released before anything irreparable happened.

"You're Xia Xinghe?" Charlie walked towards her with Sam and Cairn's help.

Xinghe nodded. "I am, nice to meet you, Mr. Charlie."

Charlie smiled lightly. "Nice to meet you. You're exactly as Sam and the rest described, an impressive woman. Thank you for your help this time."

"You're welcome. Let's get into the car now, I'm afraid this is not over yet."

"Okay."

They quickly hopped into one of the cars there while the rest were occupied by mercenaries.

Chapter 462: Determination to Kill Them

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe had arranged for a fleet of similar looking cars. She had the mercenaries drive them down different routes, hoping to confuse Barron's men. She was sure that Barron had people tailing them.

"Aren't we going to keep a few mercenaries with us for safety?" Ali asked Xinghe in the car. They were alone among themselves then.

Xinghe shook her head. "They will not go into open combat with Barron. I've fired them, this is their last job with us."

Ali nodded with understanding. "Then where are we going now?"

Xinghe pulled out a map and pointed at a random spot. "Here, regardless of the location, we have to get out of this place first."

"Xinghe, you really have Barron's proof of criminal activities?" Sam pulled himself forward to ask. Xinghe nodded.

"Wonderful! We'll use it to take down Barron when we're safe!" Sam concluded happily.

Xinghe still shook her head. "We can't do that; the evidence will not do much. Barron only agreed to this because he didn't want to risk it. If we go against Barron for real, we'll be ones who lose."

"No matter, we will find a way to take him out sooner or later," Sam said with determination. It was clear to everyone in the car. They had crossed Barron's bottom line this time; he would try his best to kill them. The only way they could survive was to kill Barron first. Xinghe didn't think so far ahead, her immediate concern was whether they could get out of that city alive or not.

After she turned back to look out the back window, Xinghe said with obvious concern, "We have leave this place safely

first. I've taken a large risk exhorting Barron, we need to be careful..."

As she finished, the group could hear the sound of helicopter coming from the sky. Wolf pushed his head out the window and as expected, he saw a helicopter flying towards them.

"A copter is chasing after us!" As he said so, he heard cars coming from behind them. "Cars too, they must be Barron's men."

Xinghe frowned. Barron did decide to come after them. She knew things wouldn't be so easy. They had no choice to try their luck now.

"Cairn, pick up the speed!" Xinghe ordered. Cairn didn't have to be told twice. Sam and the rest picked up their weapons, ready to counter if possible. The copter reached them in a blink of an eye.

When it was within range, the copter started shooting at them.

"Sh*t!" Sam cursed, they were almost shot by the hail of bullets. Thankfully, Cairn was a good driver, he evaded all the attacks.

"F*ck!" Wolf pushed a rifle out the window and shot at the copter. This caused the helicopter to rise in elevation, giving Xinghe and the rest a chance to breathe. However, the danger was not yet over because the cars were catching up to them!

"There's a copse of trees in front of us, drive into it!" Xinghe yelled. She chose this because it would be easier to hide inside a forest. Cairn slammed on the gas pedal. Finally, they crossed into the forest and the cars followed behind them. Their relentlessness showed how determined they were to kill Xinghe's group!

Chapter 463: Finally Found Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's group tried their best to escape and a high-stake car chase took place within the darkened jungle. At the same time that was happening, Mubai finally found the message that Xinghe left for him.

Xinghe had used the money from their secret account and had left him a message on the phone number that was tied to that account. However, Mubai's phone had been destroyed in the crash so he had idea that she'd done such a thing. Thankfully, he had the sense to check the account or he still wouldn't have known. He didn't check the account earlier because he didn't think Xinghe would've had the need to use it, but she did!

Mubai was overjoyed because the account transaction was local, which meant that she was in the country, possibly even in the same city!

Using Xinghe's message, Mubai immediately called her number but her phone was off. He couldn't reach her. Mubai tried to trace her paper trail. He found out she had done trade with an illegal private bank.

Philip was happy when he was told. "This is perfect. If she's dealt with a private bank, we can find out more about her very soon. I know the bank's people, I'll give them a call soon."

"Call them now," Mubai urged.

Philip nodded understandably. "Of course."

As he promised, with one phone call from Phillip, they found out everything about Xinghe. After she cut a deal with the bank, she bought a house, cars, and weapons and hired some mercenaries through the bank. However, she'd left the city that night. According to the mercenaries, she and her group of friends were targeted by the military so they had headed to another city.

When Mubai found out, he told Philip firmly, "Philip, I need to ensure her safety, use every resource you have at your disposal! We have to save her now!"

“She is hunted by the military? What could she have done?” Philip asked curiously.

Mubai’s eyes narrowed. “Is that important? You can ask her yourself after we secure her safety!”

“Alright, I understand. Let’s move out now!” Philip arranged for his men to launch a rescue. Mubai naturally followed. No one could have stopped him from getting involved.

...

The cars behind them wouldn’t stop giving chase. Xinghe’s car was already riddled with holes after being fired at so many times. If not for the armor on it, it would have died a long time ago. However, the car wasn’t far from reaching that state either.

Wolf and Sam fought back, trying their best to buy time. Cairn was driving the car at maximum speed but he still couldn’t lose the cars tailing them. Their opponents hounded them relentlessly like a pack of hyenas. If not for the fact that explosives would burn the forest, they would have used grenades. However, sooner or later they were going to get caught if this was allowed to go on.

“Don’t give up now! Wolf, cover me!” Sam yelled as he leaned out the window to shoot at the tires of the cars behind them. Wolf tried his best to protect Sam from being shot.

Finally, with Sam giving it his best, he managed to pop the tire of the car that was right at the front.

Chapter 464: Die Together!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The car skidded before crashing into a tree. Unable to stop quickly enough, the cars behind it all slammed into it, causing a serial car crash...

The fleet of cars chasing them finally stopped. Cairn made use of the opportunity to escape. However, their enemy was equally lucky as one of their shots also took out Xinghe's car tires.

Cairn pressed down hard on the brake to stop them from careening into a tree trunk.

"F*ck!" Cairn cursed under his breath. He picked up the machinegun beside him and said, "We're going to have to fight our way out!"

"Get away from the car, I will cover you!" Sam yelled as he kicked open the car door and squatted behind it, using it as a shield. Wolf joined him and they both shot at their pursuers. Xinghe hauled a large chest of weapons from the car while Ali supported Charlie, Cairn provided covering fire as they rushed towards a large rock not far away from the car.

Sam and Wolf followed soon after but they had no place to retreat to after that. They needed to rely on the geological advantage provided by the environment to prevent their enemies from getting close. However, more and more enemy reinforcements continued to arrive...

Barron, who received news that they were cornered, sent in more men to deal with them.

Sam was more than a little agitated witnessing the increasing number of men. "We can't hold on much longer! There are too many of them, staying put is not going to do us any good!"

"Leave, Sam and I will cover your retreat," Wolf said firmly.

"No way!" Xinghe and the rest replied in unison, they couldn't leave the two of them behind.

Ali replied determinedly, "I'd rather die than leave any one of us behind!"

"That's right, either we survive this together or we die together, we leave no one behind!" Cairn echoed.

Sam leaned out from behind the rock to fire a few more shots before adding, "You have to go now or it'll be too late. Be rational, Cairn lead them away now!"

Cairn pretended that he didn't hear Sam as he also fired at their enemies. Ali was beside herself with turmoil. "I'm not leaving, I will not leave any of you behind!"

"Charlie is not going to hold on any longer!" Sam looked straight into her eyes and said.

Ali turned to Charlie who leaned weakly onto the rock. His breaths were coming slower and thinner. Charlie shook his head with resolve. "Don't care about me, I'm already half dead, all of you go... I will cover your backs!"

Everyone replied in unison, "No!"

Charlie pulled himself up with the aid of a machinegun and wheezed through clenched teeth, "Go now, leave me be!"

"None of you are getting away!" Suddenly, Barron's words cut through the woods. He hid behind his car and threatened, "Charlie, I advise that you surrender now, because if you do, I might spare your lives!"

Sam spat on the floor with derision. "Only an idiot would believe him!"

"He will kill us no matter what. If that's the case, we might as well make him perish together with us," Wolf said solemnly. Ali and Cairn nodded in agreement.

Suddenly, Xinghe said softly, "There are still some explosives here, we can use them."

The group was stunned. Is she going to stay and fight?

"Xinghe, you have to go now; we don't want to drag you into this. You might be able to find some help on your own," Sam told her softly, trying to trick her away from certain death.

Xinghe shook her head. “I couldn’t even if I wanted to. I’m not afraid of death, plus this is not a dead end for us yet.”

Chapter 465: We Are Probably Saved

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“But we are at a dead end!” Ali’s eyes darkened. “Xinghe, please leave us be. One survivor is better than none, at least you’ll be alive to take revenge for us.”

“That’s right, please go!” Charlie also advised her, “This is not your problem to bear.”

Xinghe still shook her head. “I’ve already said, I’m not leaving.”

The woods were so big, where was she going to go all alone? Plus, she would never leave her friends behind. She didn’t think they are going to die anyway.

Xinghe stared at Charlie and continued, “Furthermore, I need Mr. Charlie’s help with something.”

Charlie was confused. “What is it?”

“I’m looking for IV Syndicate’s main base. I need the information from you,” Xinghe said directly.

Charlie was surprised. “You also want to know about IV Syndicate?”

This time it was Xinghe who was surprised but she responded quickly, “Someone has asked you about them before?”

“That’s right, a General summoned me to ask me about this.”

Xinghe tried to recollect the things that she saw then. So that was why the important General was there at the camp...

Suddenly, Xinghe remembered the man in black beside the General. He wore a cap throughout so she couldn’t see his face even though she kept getting familiar vibes from him. Could it be...

Xinghe could feel her heart speeding up, she asked Charlie in a hurry, “The General that you mentioned, was there a man in a hat beside him?”

“That’s right!” Charlie nodded.

“What does he look like?”

Charlie shook his head. “That I have no idea, I couldn’t see his face.”

“Did he say something during the meeting?”

“Yes, he did ask me a question and based on his accent, he is not from this country...”

“Is his accent similar to mine?” Xinghe asked.

Recognition dawned on Charlie’s face and he breathed out, “Now that you mention it, it is!”

“Then we’re saved!” Xinghe announced. The rest were confused.

“Xinghe, what do you mean by that?” Ali asked curiously but with anticipation, “You have an idea to get us out of this conundrum?”

“Computer...” Xinghe didn’t answer but start to search for her laptop. She flipped open the device and ordered them without taking her eyes from the screen, “Try to hold them off as long as you can. I’m going to find us the help we need!”

“Xinghe, what are you planning to do?” Sam asked excitedly. For some reason, he believed Xinghe when she said they were going to be saved. The rest felt the same way. They had a lot of faith in Xinghe, so much so that they believed her unconditionally.

“I have a way to save everyone but I’m not sure...” Xinghe operated her laptop and answered nervously. She was really not sure if that person was really Xi Mubai.

“Charlie’s group, stop resisting!” Barron yelled with impatience, “You have five minutes to surrender or my men will be rushing in!”

Then, he ordered, “Prepare the explosives, when five minutes is up, blow them into smithereens!”

“Yes, sir!” his soldiers answered. Obviously, Sam and the rest heard Barron’s order.

“F*ck, we’re not going to take this lying down. Prepare our explosives as well!” Sam yelled audibly enough for Barron to

hear him.

As he expected, Barron's face darkened after he heard Sam.

Chapter 466: Such a Large Army

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He didn't expect them to have bombs as well. That made removing them a bit harder. Barron took a cautious step back and still threatened, "Charlie's group, you still have five minutes left, surrender or I'll grant all of you a horrible death!"

"Come if you dare, we'll all die in a massive explosion!" Sam yelled back with condescension.

"Barron, don't be rash..." Charlie opened his mouth to say, "There must be a better resolution that doesn't involve death for both of us."

Barron smiled smugly again thinking he had managed to scare Charlie.

"Surrender if you still value your lives. You still have four minutes left to consider. Don't waste your energy resisting, this place has already been surrounded by the military; there is no way you'll escape!"

"Barron, there's no need for things to end this way." Charlie tried to drag things out. Everyone was waiting for the signal from Xinghe. Xinghe knew that it was crunch time but she couldn't find any trace of Mubai online...

If she had mistaken that mysterious man's identity then it would be over for the lot of them...

"Xinghe, are you ready?" Ali asked anxiously.

Xinghe was their polar opposite. She was calmer when things went awry. "Give me some more time, I'm going to focus on getting to that General now." Maybe I can get to Mubai through him!

As Xinghe prepared to investigate Philip, a booming engine sound signaled the arrival of another fleet of vehicles. They could then hear the sound of helicopters in the air...

At least ten helicopters circled the forest they were in and the search lights lit up the forest like it was daylight.

Sam and the rest tilted their heads upwards with a sorry expression. “What’s happening now?”

Charlie’s face turned pale. “I didn’t think Barron would mobilize such a large army to deal with us!”

“It’s over!” Ali hugged the bomb and said with determination, “We have to make a last stand. To die fighting with all of you, I have no regrets!”

Everyone nodded with same determination. They knew this was really the end for them, how could they escape from such a large army?

Xinghe also lifted her head to the sky, a flash of resoluteness appeared in her eyes. She would not give up. She would not surrender until the very last moment!

Xinghe used her fastest speed to go through Philip’s information. However due to Philip’s unusual identity, it would require a bit more time to hack through his confidential information...

“What’s going on?” Unbeknownst to Xinghe’s group, Barron was also surprised by the sudden appearance of this new army.

His men were equally confused. “Sir, it doesn’t seem to be our men, they appear to be from another military unit.”

“Go and find out who is it then!” He ordered immediately.

“Yes, sir!”

His soldier came back with a happy grin on his face. He reported, “Sir, it’s General’s Philip army!”

Barron was shocked. “Why is the General here?”

“No clue, his men wouldn’t say.”

“Make sure they don’t run away, I’ll go and meet the General!” Barron rushed to meet Philip after that. He clambered over the rocky and slippery jungle floor. Suddenly, he was hit in the face by more than a few glaring headlights.

He shielded his eyes from the light, unable to tell how many people Philip had really brought.

Chapter 467: Focus on Him

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, he could tell that it was definitely a lot of people, and that was not counting the helicopters in the sky. Barron didn't think he would have such a large number of reinforcements.

Stunned out of his mind, he waved excitedly in the air.
“General, it's me, Barron!”

After the yelling, Barron could see a group of people walking towards him through his squinted eyes. Barron could make out the one walking in front was Philip, beside him was the man in hat and behind them was a row of trained soldiers armed with rifles.

Barron's go-to response was to pander to Philip, “General, why are you here? I didn't think you would be here; this is such a coincidence!”

Philip gave him a side-eye and said matter-of-factly, “I heard reports of gunfire coming from this area so I came to look.”

Barron was shocked but quickly recovered with a smile.
“General, it was my men chasing after a group of fugitives. They broke into the military camp to break out one of the important convicts inside. However, they have now been surrounded; it's just a matter of time until they surrender!”

Barron didn't notice the aura of the man in the hat dropping several degrees after he said that. Philip noticed the change in Mubai so he asked, “How many people are there in this group?”

“Six but they, as I've said, are surrounded; they will not hold on much longer!” Barron said proudly, “General, don't worry, I will detain all of them as soon as possible.”

“Tell me everything about them,” Philip pressed. Barron thought that the General was just going through the motions, so he held him everything truthfully.

“This group has always been rowdy but they crossed the line by attempting a jailbreak. That is punishable by death so I've

given the orders that if they still refuse to surrender within five minutes, my men will kill them all!” Barron said seriously and solemnly.

Philip didn’t show any observable response. “Lead me to go see them.”

“General, that’s not necessary, it’s dangerous.”

“Lead me now!”

“Yes, sir!” Barron had no choice but to follow his orders. However, he was also overjoyed because this spelled the end of Charlie’s group. Philip would have them killed. Barron quickly took them to meet with Charlie’s group.

Wolf, who had been observing the turn of events, said seriously, “Looks like the new arrival is someone important, he appears to be higher ranking than Barron.”

Xinghe scurried out from behind the rock to steal a look at the new arrivals. Her eyes instantly zeroed in on the man in the hat!

Xinghe’s eyes focused on him closely, unable to move away. However, since he was a distance away, she couldn’t see his face clearly no matter how hard she tried...

“General, they are just ahead,” Barron said as he pointed at the rock Charlie’s group was hiding behind, “They are behind that rock. We don’t dare to act too recklessly since they are armed with explosives.”

“Is that so?”

“That’s right, but that is not a problem now, since we have so many soldiers with us!” Barron said happily, his eyes sweeping over the helicopters circling the sky.

“General, you can order the helicopters to attack them from the sky but we’ll have retreat to somewhere safe first.”

“Well, you sure have thought everything out,” Philip said softly.

Barron didn’t hear the sarcasm in his words, he replied, “This is all thanks to General’s opportune arrival. If not for General,

I probably wouldn't be able to take them down so successfully."

"That's right, if not for my arrival, you would have killed them all instead," Philip said suddenly.

Chapter 468: Gift the Woman to You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“That’s right, this is all thanks to... General, what did you say?” Barron finally caught up to the meaning behind Philip’s words.

Philip didn’t clarify himself instead he ordered firmly, “From now on, no one is to fire any bullets unless it’s my explicit orders. Violators will be prosecuted according to military law!”

“General... What is the meaning of this?” Barron asked hesitatingly.

“Who are you to question my motives?” Philip glared at him and a bad feeling rose up in Barron’s gut.

The next second, Philip turned towards Charlie’s direction and opened his mouth to speak, “Come out into the open, I guarantee no one will fire at you, so be cooperative.”

“Impossible! The moment we go out, you will kill us!” Wolf argued, not at all believing what Philip said. None of them believed him. But Xinghe was waiting, waiting for that man to speak...

Philip smiled and turned to look at Mubai beside him. At that moment, he decided to play a little trick on him.

“Don’t worry, I said I won’t kill you so I won’t, but I have a condition.”

Sam who was the most curious of them asked, “What condition?”

“I hear you have an interesting woman with you. If you’re willing to hand her over to us then I can assure that the rest of you will leave this place with your lives,” Philip said with a hint of a smile in his voice even though his words were definitely not friendly. Mubai stared at him and saw the playfulness dancing in Philip’s eyes. He rolled his eyes in return.

Philip found the whole thing to be quite amusing, he continued with a smile, “Quick hand over that woman. One woman to save five of your lives, it’s a worthwhile trade and your only chance at survival!”

“He’s talking about Xinghe?” Cairn asked with a frown. The other’s faces darkened.

“F*ck, this must be Barron’s doing!” Sam cursed under his breath. They thought it was Barron who told Philip about Xinghe.

“They’re all the same; a bunch of disgusting pigs!” Ali cursed angrily, she looked down on this kind of person the most.

Sam breathed out coldly. “And to think we thought we were saved. They’re all one and the same. Ready your weapons, we must at least pull a few down to hell with us!”

“I’ll give you another two minutes to decide. If you don’t hand over the woman, then we will attack in earnest!” Philip yelled.

Barron finally understood the purpose behind Philip’s sudden appearance. So, he was interested in that Eastern woman. He cursed Philip inwardly for scaring him needlessly, thinking he had decided to side with Charlie’s group. However, he was confused, how did Philip know about that woman?

Nevertheless, his first response was to get into Philip’s good graces.

“General, there is such a woman in their midst, an Eastern woman, and is quite a looker. You have no idea, when I first saw her, my heart was moved as well. General, you certainly have good taste. Don’t worry, I will help you capture her alive and then gift her to you!”

Barron even coupled it with a salacious smile. Philip instantly felt the drop in temperature the moment Barron said that. He could tell without turning, a certain someone’s gaze must be sharp enough to be able to kill people right about now.

Philip sighed inwardly at Barron’s stupidity. His end would probably come before he even realized what had happened.

Philip ignored him and interrogated impatiently, “Why are you people still so stubborn? Are all of you really willing to die for a woman?”

Chapter 469: She's My Woman

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“So, what if that’s true? If today is the end for us, so be it!” Sam answered with a chilling smirk. Ali and the rest were already prepared to launch an attack at any moment. This time, at least, they had to take the initiative.

Philip laughed. “I’m impressed by your love towards one another, but woman, do you really want them to die just because of you?”

His words were directed towards Xinghe.

“You swear to let them go if I surrender?” Xinghe suddenly asked. Philip was shocked by the calmness in the woman’s answer. Mubai’s dark eyes shook violently. He was certain that it was Xinghe...

This time it was Mubai who answered her, “That’s right, if you follow us obediently, then we will let the rest of them go safely.”

Xinghe had a hard time suppressing the smile that threatened to appear on her face. She took up the offer immediately, “Deal!”

Mubai’s lips also curved into a smile. He was also getting interested in this charade. “Then, why are you still hiding behind the rock?”

Xinghe was ready to walk out into the open. “Xinghe, what are you doing?” Ali quickly pulled her back. They were shocked that she really was willing to sacrifice herself for them.

“You are to stay put!” Sam grabbed hold of her arm and said solemnly, “Didn’t we say we’re not going to leave anyone of us behind? What are you thinking?”

“This way all of you will be saved,” Xinghe said lightly. Her attempt at humour flew over their heads.

“We can save ourselves just fine! You stay here and don’t go anywhere. If you dare to sacrifice yourself to save us, then I

wouldn't forgive you even after I die!" Sam warned her seriously.

Ali also nodded in anger. "That's right, we will not allow you to do that!"

"Xinghe, there must be another way," Cairn consoled her. Even Charlie and Wolf didn't agree to her desire to sacrifice herself.

Xinghe looked at them and said, "But this is the only way we have to survive."

"You're too naïve! They will not let any of us go, they're lying to you," Ali lectured her.

Xinghe shook her head and said surely, "They are not lying. It's real this time. All of you will be safe if I surrender myself."

"Even if it's real, I will not allow you to do it. I would rather die than let you do that!" Sam said with determination. Everyone else nodded in agreement.

Xinghe was surprised and she asked, "All of you rather die than let me sacrifice myself?"

"That's right!" they replied in unison. Xinghe's eyes started to water, she was deeply touched. It was one thing that they treated her as one of them but she was deeply moved that they valued her so greatly.

Xinghe offered a rare smile and said, "Thank you, I have no regrets. From now on, all of you will be my friends, my comrades, until the day I die but I have to go now because..."

"Enough!" Sam interrupted her and yelled loudly at Philip, "F*cker, the woman that you want is already mine, she's my woman now so we will not submit to your demand! If you dare then come at us, we are not afraid to fight to the death with you!"

Chapter 470: Teach Them a Lesson

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Following Sam's sudden declaration, the atmosphere suddenly took a weird turn. Ali and the rest felt a sinking feeling in their stomachs but they had no idea why. There was a contained commotion within the military as well.

The next second, a man's chilling orders could be heard, "Surround them completely; shoot anyone who dares to move a muscle!"

At that moment, all the helicopters in the sky started moving, their searchlights directly landed on Charlie's group. The light was so blinding that they could barely open their eyes. The low flying helicopters blew up a strong draft that tousled their clothes and hair. Amidst the commotion, they could see dark gun barrels aiming at them from above!

This was the most threatened Charlie's group had ever felt!

This showcase of military power crushed their will to fight. Their thoughts of taking down their enemies with them were crushed. They felt completely helpless because they knew that being riddled with bullet holes was only an order away. If the helicopters fired down on them, they would be dead in an instant!

Sam's group was despondent. At that moment, the same man opened his mouth to say, "Xinghe, you still don't want to come out yet?"

Sam's group was shocked. They know each other?

For some reason, they could hear the murderous intent in Mubai's tone.

"Just a minute," Xinghe answered softly, she turned to give Sam a side eye. "You have to stop making those declarations; they might get you killed."

"..." What does she mean by that?

Xinghe didn't elaborate but walked out into the open calmly.

"Wait..." Sam tried to stop her but was pulled back by Charlie.

“You idiot, one more word from you and you’re going to get us killed!”

Sam couldn’t understand. “But we cannot let her...”

“Haven’t you realized yet? They know each other!” Charlie rolled his eyes at Sam. “Plus, you’re not his match.”

Finally, Sam took the hint. Charlie’s words were indeed proven true. Xinghe did appear to know them. The soldiers parted for her, no one giving her any difficulties.

Xinghe stopped before Mubai and looked into his dark eyes. “They’re my friends, don’t make this difficult for them.”

“Are you hurt?” Mubai asked instead.

“I’m fine.”

“You’re friends with them?” he asked again.

Xinghe answered truthfully, “Yes, we’re friends.”

Mubai’s lips curved into a smile and he replied rather sarcastically, “Only a few days and you’ve found quite a good group of friends, not bad.”

Xinghe felt there was a hidden meaning in his words. Mubai gave another chilling smile, “But they seem to harbor unclean intentions towards you, so a little lesson is in order.”

He picked up his communicator and ordered, “Teach them a lesson but don’t overdo it.”

“Yes, sir!” The leader up in the copters responded and ordered, “Fire at once!”

At that moment, bullets rained down on Charlie’s group, not giving anyone time to react. Ali’s group screamed in fear and shock from the sudden assault from the sky.

Xinghe’s eyes widened in shock. “What are you doing?”

Mubai answered nonchalantly, “Teaching them a lesson.”

“You might accidentally hurt them.”

“Well, accidents can’t be avoided sometimes.”

Chapter 471: Face Stinging a Little

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

How could she accept that? So many bullets were raining down on Sam's group; even though the soldiers made sure to avoid firing at the people, there was no guarantee they wouldn't be grazed by stray bullets or rebounds.

"Make them stop!" Xinghe was quick to intervene.

Mubai stared at her and said innocently, "I don't have the right to order these men."

Even Philip couldn't help but be impressed by Mubai's shamelessness. If you don't have the means to orders these men, who gave the order to fire just now?

"They're your men, right?" Xinghe turned to Philip. "Can you please make them stop?"

"Definitely," Philip laughed helplessly. "But the communicator is not with me at the moment."

Mubai had forcefully taken his communicator earlier. Xinghe grabbed the communicator back from Mubai and tossed it to him, "Now, can you stop the order?"

"Of course," Philip picked up the communicator and said slowly, "I think that's more than enough, you can all stop now."

The helicopters slowly returned back into the sky. Sam Wolf was frozen like statues. Even though the copters had stopped firing, they still squatted motionlessly after that bullet storm, scared it would continue the moment they relaxed.

Xinghe quickly ran over to check up on them. "Are all of you alright?"

Ali raised her eyes slowly and tears were running freely down her face when she saw Xinghe.

"Xinghe, that was too scary!"

Everyone else crumbled the floor, their legs still shaking from the trauma. Some of them even suffered minor wounds from

stray bullets. However, their focus wasn't on those wounds because their consciousness was occupied by the fact that they were still alive...

That scenario just now was too scary.

Xinghe looked at Mubai who was walking over to her and demanded helplessly, "Are you satisfied now?"

Of course, she knew he purposely did all that because of what Sam said.

Mubai glared at Sam's group coldly before his gaze fell squarely on Sam. "Looks like you guys have been taught a lesson. Be respectful from now on and keep those unneeded thoughts to yourself. Otherwise, next time, the lesson won't be so minor."

F*ck! That was just a minor lesson?

Sam almost leaped up to swing at Mubai but was pulled back down by Wolf and the rest.

"Sam, calm down, don't do anything stupid."

"How can I calm down?" Sam yelled angrily, "He almost killed me. Let me go, I'm going to..."

Wolf smothered his mouth and offered a smile at Mubai, "There's something wrong with his brain; I will look after him from now on."

"I'm sorry, he is indeed an idiot," Cairn added seriously.

"None of us really know him," Ali even went as far as cutting ties from Sam.

Sam pulled away Wolf's hands angrily, "You bunch of cowards, you might be afraid of him but I'm not! Let's me go, I'll teach him a lesson!"

"Fire—" Before he could finish, Mubai ordered suddenly.

"No!" Ali squatted back down on reflex and hugged her head. The rest, including Sam, following suit...

However, the forest remained quiet, there were no shots.

Mubai didn't have the communicator on him; he was just scaring them. Sam's face stung with shame and anger.

Ali and the rest looked at him mockingly. Didn't you just say you weren't afraid? Why did you start cowering like the rest of us?

Chapter 472: Wrong Move!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Now, wasn't that a swift face slap?

Even Sam knew he'd lost. In just a short period of time, Mubai had secured a landslide victory!

The contest between men had reached an end. Mubai nodded satisfactorily. "Now that we've that out of the way, let's try this again. First, thank you for keeping Xinghe safe."

"Of, of course." Ali and the rest nodded honestly. It was not that they were afraid of death but dying because of jealousy between two men was just too dumb. They also, in a way, appreciated Mubai showing them his bottom line so early; at least that way they wouldn't over step it accidentally. As long as they didn't cross the boundary with regards to Xinghe, everything would be fine and dandy...

With their promised cooperation, Mubai decided to let certain things rest. He smiled kindly. "Let's go, it's safe now."

He pulled Xinghe and walked away. Ali and the rest helped each other up. Sam was the picture of despondency.

Wolf slapped him on his shoulder and comforted him, "Brother, you still have us."

Cairn also added, "Don't take this failure to heart; this wasn't your first failure and will definitely not be your last."

Sam had on a pained expression being reminded of that. Why am I so unlucky with my romantic relationships?

Ali stared at him with a curious expression. "Why would you think someone as impressive as Xinghe would be available? It's rather a given that men would be fighting for her."

Of course, Sam had thought of that, he just didn't think his competition would overshadow him so much.

Charlie also came over to console him, "It's not a shame for you to lose to him. Let's go, after all, it's thanks to him that we are saved."

This pained Sam the most. His life was saved by his competition. How could he lift his head up in front of Xinghe as a possible romantic candidate?

Therefore, he had no choice but to eliminate that thought from his mind.

Charlie's group followed behind Mubai and Xinghe and none of the soldiers stopped them. Philip ordered the military to disperse and they were going to leave with their vehicles.

Barron who had been standing to the side too afraid to speak up finally couldn't stand it anymore. "General, wait!"

Philip who was getting into the car turned back to address him, "What else do you need?"

"General, they are all criminals who committed the great sin of breaking into the military prison. Are, aren't you going to arrest them?" Barron asked with righteous indignation.

Mubai who was also climbing into the car turned to look at Barron as well.

Philip nodded and turned to ask Sam's group, "You guys broke into the jail?"

"That's right, but as to why we did it... I'm sure General Barron knows very well. He was keeping Charlie captive illegally and is smuggling drugs. Not only that, he tried to murder us. He's the one that should be arrested," Xinghe said clearly.

Barron's face immediately changed. "You're lying, you're the criminal here!"

Afraid that his criminal activities would be exposed, Barron pulled out his gun and said, "General, they are my convicts so they fall under my jurisdiction; I refuse to let you pardon them! Therefore, it is within my right to execute them on the spot!"

As he said so, he pointed his gun at Xinghe—

"Wrong move!" Mubai sharpened his gaze and fired a shot at Barron without hesitation!

The bullet shot through Barron's chest. Everyone was shocked. Barron widened his eyes in shock. Like a cartoon, he looked down at his chest wound which was leaking with blood and his entire body convulsed.

Chapter 473: I Was So Worried

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His bloodshot eyes glared directly at Mubai; he was angry beyond words. “You, you dared to attack me! Men...”

Mubai shot another round at him without batting an eye. This time, Barron’s face could no longer be described with the word shocked or angered. However, what could he do to prevent his blood from escaping his body?

Barron collapsed to the ground with his eyes still wide open. The whole military was on full alert, waiting for Philip to order Mubai to be detained. Even Xinghe’s group was starting to get worried for him. After all, Barron was a General, killing him outright didn’t seem right...

However, Philip turned to Xinghe and asked, “Do you really have his proof of criminal activities?”

Xinghe recovered and nodded. “That’s right.”

“In that case, he deserved to die. Remember to pass me the evidence after this,” Philip said matter-of-factly as if the person who’d just died was of no particular significance.

“No problem!” Xinghe promised as she sighed in relief. At least Mubai was safe from prosecution.

Sam’s group was quite scared by this man’s decisiveness and ruthlessness. He killed Barron just like that. They realized they literally had just dodged a bullet earlier.

Barron’s body was quickly and quietly taken away. He couldn’t have guessed in a million years that his life would end this way. He’d brought his soldiers to end Xinghe’s group and it was him who was carried away in a body bag. Sam’s group didn’t think it would end like this either.

Regardless, they were thankful that it did and they came out the other end with all of them still surviving. Their luck did seem to have taken a turn for the better after they’d met Xinghe. It was thanks to her that they could overcome the series of hurdles. They decided to stick to Xinghe from now on!

Xinghe and Mubai had the whole car to themselves. The moment the door close, Mubai pulled her into a powerful hug!

This stunned Xinghe.

“You have no idea how worried I’ve been for the past few days!” Mubai said in a tone heavy with relief as he took in her unique scent.

Xinghe’s eyes shone and replied, “Actually, I felt the same way. I thought something bad happened to you.”

A wicked smile descended on Mubai’s face like a thin veil.

“You were worried about me?”

“Naturally.”

Mubai understood her worry was more on the side of her being worried as a friend but he was still overjoyed with the knowledge that he got her worried. He explained, “I’m fine, after I pushed you out the plane, I also hopped out of it with a parachute. However, I was injured in the progress so it took me some time before I could make contact with Philip. After that, I was unconscious for a few days due to exhaustion. Thankfully, I woke up in time or else who knows what would have happened to you.”

Xinghe didn’t expect things to unfold this way as well. The first thing he did after he woke up was to locate her and then save her. He seemed to appear every time she needed his aid. She found herself owing him more and more...

Xinghe pushed him away politely and asked, “Then, you’re alright now?”

Mubai smirked. “That’s right, fit as a fiddle. How about you? How was your injury and how did you end up with those people?”

Xinghe roughly explained everything that had happened to her after the plane crash.

After he heard everything, Mubai’s heart was pierced with fear. If not for Sam and his friends’ intervention, Xinghe would have been sold. In such a country, that would have been a horrible, horrible fate!

“Where is that group’s base?” Mubai asked darkly, he was going to wipe them out of the map.

Xinghe read his thoughts and said softly, “We’ve levelled the place and killed all the disgusting men there.”

Chapter 474: Demolish this Organization Completely

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Nicely done,” Mubai praised. “But I hope that, in the future, you will leave the hard work to me.”

He didn’t want her to face the world alone. He wanted to solve every problem for her.

Xinghe looked at him and said, “I’m not your typical damsel in distress. However, I realize there’s a limit to what I can do. You can help me with those things that I can’t handle and vice versa. I want us to be equal, neither of us less valuable than the other.”

Take the matter of Barron as an example, if not for Mubai, they would be dead.

Mubai smiled when Xinghe said so. He took her hands and said, “Xinghe, I’m glad that you’re okay.”

He felt he was dreaming that he was physically beside her. Xinghe’s eyes shone slightly; actually, she was glad that he was fine, too. They were divorced and had an uncertain future, but she didn’t want anything bad to happen to him. Thankfully, they were both alive.

“The ‘Philip’ that you mentioned earlier is the General?” Xinghe asked suddenly.

Mubai nodded. “He has great influence in this country; we are going to need his help if we are to take down IV Syndicate.”

“Charlie knows the location for one of their bases; we can start from there,” Xinghe suggested.

“I agree. We’ve gathered the information from him earlier. Leave the rest to me, after we find the base, it’ll be time for you to shine.”

“Alright, we need to resolve this as soon as possible.”

The longer this dragged on, the worse it would be for things back at City T. Feng Saohuang would have time to grow with them out of the picture. Therefore, they needed to find the proof of his criminality as soon as possible and rush back.

Mubai thought the same. Therefore, after they returned home, they started planning. Sam's group joined them in the living room, after they'd patched up their wounds and changed their clothes. Charlie was still recovering, but he made the effort to join them.

"Why are you looking for IV Syndicate?" Charlie asked. Earlier he didn't care but now that they knew each other. Now, he couldn't help but be curious. Sam's group was curious about it, too.

Cairn said, "Almost no one dares go up against IV Syndicate; it is not a good idea going after them."

Xinghe replied softly, "We have to."

"Why? Has the organization wronged you?" Ali asked.

Xinghe answered, "Indeed, they have, albeit indirectly."

"I think you should just let this be!" Sam warned them seriously, "IV Syndicate is not something you should approach willy-nilly. All of their enemies have been found dead in mysterious circumstances, so if the wrong wasn't that serious, there no need to take this risk."

"As I've said, we have to. Not only that, we're going to demolish the whole organization!" Xinghe said confidently, shocking everyone present.

"You're going to demolish IV Syndicate?" Ali yelled, "Xinghe, have you lost your mind?"

Destroying IV Syndicate was harder than climbing into the sky. If not, they wouldn't have survived for so long.

This time it was Mubai who answered, "Whether we can destroy them or not is not your concern, as long as you cooperate that's more than enough."

"That's right, cooperate with us. If we can demolish them, I will overlook the fact that you broke into the military prison," Philip said with authority.

Charlie replied anxiously, "General, even with the military's support, you might not be able to demolish them. In fact, I fear you'll get a target on your back. I've interacted with these

people before and I'm somewhat familiar with their situation.
They are a scary organization."

Chapter 475: A Big Investment

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Philip laughed. “Scary? If I was fearful of these kinds of people, I wouldn’t have reached the position I have today! This organization must be demolished because their very existence is a threat to this country!”

Charlie and the rest were silent. The General was right because this organization was a major player in the war currently raging in Country Y. They smuggled and sold military munitions, causing the rise of insurgency groups, making the whole country descend into chaotic madness. Without them, the country would have been a lot more peaceful.

“In that case, I will lend as much aid as I can!” Charlie promised determinedly, no matter the outcome, he wanted to give it a try. He wanted to save his country.

“We will try our best, too, it’s time IV Syndicate meets its match!” Sam added with fiery determination. Everyone else nodded. At that moment, they were burning with nationalistic pride and fervor.

Xinghe nodded satisfactorily. “Don’t worry, our hard work will not go to waste. We will definitely see this organization destroyed.”

The Xi family and her destiny was tied to this IV Syndicate. They would survive only after this organization was taken down. Therefore, they had to decimate this IV Syndicate no matter what!

Just like that, the whole room became united by one goal: destroy IV Syndicate.

After they left, Mubai told Xinghe about Philip. “I found his cooperation not only because he was an influential general but also he had an unhappy history with IV Syndicate.”

“What kind of history?” Xinghe asked.

Mubai explained in a whisper, “Philip’s parents were both killed by IV Syndicate and the organization is currently

holding his wife as hostage to prevent him from attacking them.”

“Is that so?” Xinghe nodded in thought. “This organization must have dirt on many people then. Or else they wouldn’t have grown to such strength.”

Mubai nodded. “It is so. They threaten or remove those that they can’t pull into their midst. One of the reasons this country is so chaotic is because it has been corrupted from within.”

“Then, can we trust Philip to help us with IV Syndicate?” Xinghe asked with concern.

Mubai smirked. “Of course, only by taking out the IV Syndicate can he climb to the top and take over this country completely.”

Xinghe understood then. Philip needed them to remove this syndicate to strengthen his influence and position. In such a rocky climate, the person or party who could instill peace would have the support of the people and the military. Philip would have the absolute support of Country Y’s citizens if he took down IV Syndicate. Furthermore, he had several personal reasons to hate IV Syndicate so they could trust him as an ally.

Xinghe was impressed. “It’s incredible that you managed to contact him and make him cooperate with you.”

Mubai gave a wry smile. “I gave him an offer he couldn’t refuse; that’s why he is willing to support me.”

“How big was that offer?”

“Very big.”

Xinghe nodded quietly. Philip might have the influence but the military was always in need of monetary support. Money speaks, that’s the iron rule, especially in a war-torn country like Country Y.

Therefore, she could attempt a guess at the offer number. It must have been astronomical!

Xinghe, who was not good at consoling, awkwardly said, “No matter, you will earn it back sooner or later.”

Chapter 476: I Would Die Without You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“With your ability, you’ll be able to regain everything you’ve lost.”

Mubai was shocked by how serious she was in comforting him. He found her awkward attempt at comfort irresistibly cute...

He couldn’t help but smile. Mubai looked into her eyes and said, “You have that much confidence in me?”

Xinghe nodded, her face genuine.

The humor in Mubai’s eyes increased. “But I have no confidence in myself. What if this will end up a huge blow to my financial condition and I’m not as rich as I once was?”

“You’ve really lost a lot?” Xinghe frowned, why else would his confidence be so low? This was so very unlike him.

Mubai nodded. “That’s right. The offer is equal to this country’s yearly capita.”

The amount is so high? Xinghe had no clue Mubai would sacrifice so much just to find Saohuang’s proof of criminality. She was at a loss.

She thought about it and came up with a weak encouragement, “Wealth is not that important. At least from my perspective, no matter what happens to you, you’re still you.”

Therefore, even if he was dirt poor, he was still that Xi Mubai. Mubai understood her meaning and purposely added, “You might say so but what if I don’t want to lose everything that I have?”

Xinghe replied instantly, “Then I will help you earn back everything you’ve lost. My business skills might not be as good as yours but they’re worth something.”

“You’re going to help me?” Mubai was taken by surprise. Xinghe nodded slightly.

Mubai's voice was coarse thinking about the possible implication. "But why would you help me?"

Xinghe looked at him curiously. "Didn't you say you don't want to lose anything? Then, I will help you earn it all back."

"But don't you think it's very not worth it for you to hand me every single cent of your earnings?"

Xinghe had really not thought about that. She gave it some thought and shook her head. "There is no question of worth because I'm willing to help you voluntarily."

Therefore, she didn't mind giving him every penny she earned. After all, money didn't mean much to her. What she valued in life was her will. Since she was willing to help him, that was everything that mattered, everything else was not that important.

Xinghe didn't think her way of thinking was weird but it was shocking to Mubai. He didn't expect that she would be willing to sacrifice so much for him. Just because he didn't want to lose his money, she would help him earn it back.

Not only that, she didn't ask for compensation or want him to feel in her debt. She wanted to help him pure and simple.

I will never come across such a woman again in my life.

Mubai suddenly lowered his head and smiled.

Xinghe again looked at him with curiosity. "Why are you smiling to yourself?"

When Mubai raised his head, Xinghe was stunned when she met his pair of bright eyes. She could see the whole galaxy in there, glittering like a beautiful picture of a starry night.

He stared at her both gently and intensely before opening his mouth to say, "I'm just happy. Actually, this past few months have been the greatest and happiest time of my life, do you know why?"

"..." Xinghe didn't answer, she just looked at him silently.

"Because of you... you've brought me immense joy. Xia Xinghe, you have no idea how important you are to me and

how much brighter my life has become with you in it,
therefore...”

There was a sudden melancholy in Mubai’s eyes when he continued with a suppressed sob, “Without you, I believe I would die.”

Chapter 477: No Matter How Long

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe froze when he said that.

That came out of nowhere.

Mubai seemed to be surprised by his sudden confession as well.

“Did I put too much pressure of you? I’m sorry...” He laughed to smooth over the awkwardness but then he turned serious.

“But those are words from the bottom of my heart. They will not change... ever. Xia Xinghe, I will wait for you no matter how long. I will not give up, no matter what.”

With that, Mubai stood up to leave. After he took a few steps, Xinghe’s voice came from behind him.

“I will also do my best to figure this thing between us out. When the time is right, I will give you an answer.”

Mubai froze. He whipped around suddenly and there was joy in his eyes, like he had just been given the greatest gift in the world.

“Okay!” Mubai’s lips curved up happily, his whole being radiating happiness, “I will wait, no matter how long! Of course, this is not to say that I’m rushing you, consider everything that you need to, I will wait forever if necessary...”

Xinghe’s eyes shuddered and she nodded slightly.

It took every ounce of Mubai’s self-control to not lunge at Xinghe and kiss her. He didn’t because he knew Xinghe was still considering whether to accept him or not, pressuring her was not going to help his case.

In any case, he believed the best of things needed time to develop and grow. He treated this relationship the same way. He believed his patience would be rewarded eventually.

That was Xinghe’s line of thought as well. Even though she didn’t need a relationship in her life, she was not averse to one. However, like everything else, she needed to have

confidence in that relationship. She needed time to observe it first.

Xinghe was a traditionalist in this sense, marriage was something permanent, a lasting bond between two people. Her broken marriage to Mubai was an exception, because she wasn't really her then.

In the end, she might end up choosing Mubai, but until then, she was not going to take this relationship lightly. Her cautiousness might cause her to miss out on a great relationship but she wasn't going to change herself for the sake of nabbing a man.

Therefore, it fell to Mubai to have the patience to wait for her to come around.

She didn't expect he would really do that. He chose to see it from her perspective and respect her decision to wait.

Even though, they didn't cement their relationship as a couple that day, it was a start. Xinghe had started to treat their relationship seriously. Mubai, on his part, tried his best to stay by her side and to accompany her.

Perhaps from other people's perspective, there wasn't anything intimate going on between them but they knew internally that their relationship had reached a deeper level. They shared a spiritual bond, one that was more rewarding than any carnal satisfaction...

Of course, this didn't mean that they had stopped working. Both of them were action-orientated individuals.

In terms of relationship, they might have a spiritual communion, but in real life, they hurried on with their plan. Nothing, not even relationship issues, could stop them from moving forward.

The next day, they started searching for IV Syndicate's base, throwing themselves fully into the operation. After they located the base, Xinghe could hack into their server to siphon any information they needed.

However, at that juncture, a video appeared suddenly online.

The video showed a fully naked woman cowering in the corner of a room. No men were on screen, but one could hear their salacious laughs behind the camera. It gave the impression that the men were going to ravish that poor, naked woman.

Chapter 478: That's His Wife?

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, the men didn't. The video focused completely on the frail, shivering woman who hugged herself tightly.

No one could understand the meaning of this video, other than telling them that the woman was in incredible danger. No one knew who the woman was, what the purpose of the video was, or who the sender was.

However, the target audience of that video was clear because Philip received a disk containing that video in mail!

Philip didn't know what was on the disk so he put the disk on while Mubai and the rest was discussing their mission plan.

However, the moment the video started playing, he reared up angrily as he pulled out his gun to threaten the room. "Look away, move your eyes away! I will shoot anyone who looks!"

The people in the room were not dumb. Based on Philip's reaction, they could guess the woman in the video was someone important to him.

Mubai was the first to avert his eyes. Actually, the only thing he felt when he saw the video was worry and fear for that woman. It was the same for everyone else.

Furthermore, they didn't see much because the woman hugged herself as she turned away from the camera. The most they could see was her legs and bare back. However, these images were enough to make Philip go crazy with anger; the threat in his voice was real.

He quickly pulled out the disk and shut down the television. He stormed back to his room to review the rest of the video. Very soon, the sound of items crashing and heavy cursing came from his room.

"That's his wife?" Xinghe turned to Mubai.

Mubai nodded. "Should be."

This shocked Sam and the rest. "How can the woman in the video be General Philip's wife? What's happening?"

Xinghe explained, “His wife is in IV Syndicate’s hands.”

Ali yelled, “That means this is IV Syndicate’s doing! They are...”

Ali didn’t dare continue but they could fill in the blanks on their own. No wonder Philip was so hell bent on destroying IV Syndicate. No man could bear seeing his wife being treated this way.

“But what is the point of IV Syndicate mailing General Philip this thing? Could it be that they’re on to us?” Sam asked.

A feeling of unease passed through the room. If IV Syndicate had found out about their plan then things would be a lot more complicated.

However, very soon they would find out the reason why.

Right then, a woman arrived at Philip’s house. The woman was young but had Country Y’s military uniform on. She also came with a small military escort.

The woman was brash and arrogant; it seemed she was about to join the list of this novel’s cannon fodder.

From her badges decorating her uniform, she was of a certain ranking, just a smidgen lower than Philip. However, she was not at all respectful when facing Philip, in fact she might have gotten even more conceited.

When Philip saw her, his eyes were as cold as grave. He tried his best to suppress his killing intent.

The woman saw the hatred in his eyes and smiled coquettishly. “Looks like you’ve seen the video leaked onto the internet. Philip, why are you still so stubborn? If you don’t cooperate soon, you will cause Kelly’s death.”

“Internet?” Philip caught the word she used.

The woman’s brow raised with interest. “You’ve not seen the videos online? Well, I did manage to recognize the woman in the video as Kelly.”

Rate Translation Quality

19 comments , join in

Chapter 479: Shameless Woman

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Philip's face immediately changed and the words were almost squeezed through his teeth, "The video is online as well?"

His eyes were burning with the desire to kill!

The woman sensed the change in him and smiled slightly.

"That's right, it was posted online as well. I guess the whole country has seen it by now. But don't you worry, they don't know Kelly personally so they won't know that's your wife."

Philip pulled out his gun, pointed it at the woman and interrogated, "What is the meaning of this? Didn't I warn you guys not to do anything or I will crush your organization?"

The woman was unfazed. She stared back at him and said, "We didn't do anything, we just made a video. However, I can't promise what will happen next if you still refuse to cooperate. Philip, why would you be so stubborn for a woman like Kelly? She doesn't deserve to be by your side; only I do. If you cooperate with me, this whole country will be ours. Now you might lose everything you have because of Kelly; ask yourself, is it really worth it?"

Philip smirked as his eyes filled with derision and contempt.

"Aliyah, I'm doing this not only because of Kelly but also because of my parents!"

"That was an accident; there will always be casualties when two great forces clash. You shouldn't blame the organization but your parents for standing in the way," Aliyah retorted naturally like she was in the right all along.

The gaze that Philip had become increasingly disgusted.

"You're here only to tell me all this?"

Aliyah smiled thinly. "Of course not, I'm here on IV Syndicate's behalf to advise you to cooperate with them if you're planning to join the upcoming election. If you don't, I can't guarantee what will happen to Kelly but I'm sure you can make an educated guess. Therefore, I advise that you cooperate with them."

Philip couldn't help but laugh at the absurdity of it all. They had killed his parents in cold blood and had detained his wife, how could he cooperate with them?

He couldn't do it no matter what. But if he didn't, what would happen to Kelly?

The thought made him turn murderous again. Aliyah looked at him and said gently, "Philip, why don't you work together with them? Look at me, there's no losses, only gains. Work with them and you can even save Kelly. Of course, why would you do that? She is not a good match for you from the beginning and now such a video about her has leaked. She is no longer worthy to be your wife." Aliyah stepped close to Philip and brushed her body against his. "Philip, why must you choose the hard road? Get together with me and we can claim the whole world together, isn't that the better choice?"

The whole room froze when the woman said that. Just how shameless this woman had to be to suggest such a thing in front of them to Philip?

Sam and the rest's opinion of this woman had dropped to rock bottom so it must feel worse for Philip who was directly involved in it.

"Aliyah, you listen to me." Philip stared into her eyes and declared, "Even if I choose to cooperate with them, I will not get together with you because you are worth less than Kelly's pinkie finger!"

"You..." Aliyah's features were twisted by anger and jealousy. "Even if Kelly was mounted by so many men, you still want to stay with her?"

Chapter 479: Shameless Woman

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Philip's face immediately changed and the words were almost squeezed through his teeth, "The video is online as well?"

His eyes were burning with the desire to kill!

The woman sensed the change in him and smiled slightly.

"That's right, it was posted online as well. I guess the whole country has seen it by now. But don't you worry, they don't know Kelly personally so they won't know that's your wife."

Philip pulled out his gun, pointed it at the woman and interrogated, "What is the meaning of this? Didn't I warn you guys not to do anything or I will crush your organization?"

The woman was unfazed. She stared back at him and said, "We didn't do anything, we just made a video. However, I can't promise what will happen next if you still refuse to cooperate. Philip, why would you be so stubborn for a woman like Kelly? She doesn't deserve to be by your side; only I do. If you cooperate with me, this whole country will be ours. Now you might lose everything you have because of Kelly; ask yourself, is it really worth it?"

Philip smirked as his eyes filled with derision and contempt.

"Aliyah, I'm doing this not only because of Kelly but also because of my parents!"

"That was an accident; there will always be casualties when two great forces clash. You shouldn't blame the organization but your parents for standing in the way," Aliyah retorted naturally like she was in the right all along.

The gaze that Philip had become increasingly disgusted.

"You're here only to tell me all this?"

Aliyah smiled thinly. "Of course not, I'm here on IV Syndicate's behalf to advise you to cooperate with them if you're planning to join the upcoming election. If you don't, I can't guarantee what will happen to Kelly but I'm sure you can make an educated guess. Therefore, I advise that you cooperate with them."

Philip couldn't help but laugh at the absurdity of it all. They had killed his parents in cold blood and had detained his wife, how could he cooperate with them?

He couldn't do it no matter what. But if he didn't, what would happen to Kelly?

The thought made him turn murderous again. Aliyah looked at him and said gently, "Philip, why don't you work together with them? Look at me, there's no losses, only gains. Work with them and you can even save Kelly. Of course, why would you do that? She is not a good match for you from the beginning and now such a video about her has leaked. She is no longer worthy to be your wife." Aliyah stepped close to Philip and brushed her body against his. "Philip, why must you choose the hard road? Get together with me and we can claim the whole world together, isn't that the better choice?"

The whole room froze when the woman said that. Just how shameless this woman had to be to suggest such a thing in front of them to Philip?

Sam and the rest's opinion of this woman had dropped to rock bottom so it must feel worse for Philip who was directly involved in it.

"Aliyah, you listen to me." Philip stared into her eyes and declared, "Even if I choose to cooperate with them, I will not get together with you because you are worth less than Kelly's pinkie finger!"

"You..." Aliyah's features were twisted by anger and jealousy. "Even if Kelly was mounted by so many men, you still want to stay with her?"

Chapter 480: Chooses His Wife

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Philip gripped her throat tightly and warned, “Before I make my decision, I will kill you if you dare to lay a finger on her! Listen closely, if anyone of your group dares to have any malicious idea about her, I will spare no expense to hunt down every single one of you. I’m a man of my word, now get out of my house!”

He shoved her roughly out of his way. Aliyah widened her eyes in shock; she was having a hard time stomaching such a humiliation.

She glared at Philip and smirked. “Fine! You sure have guts, Philip. But don’t think you can stay at the top for long, you will understand the meaning of regret soon enough. Let us go!”

After that, Aliyah took her men away. At the same time, numerous methods to torture Kelly bubble up in her mind. After she won the election, she would dispose of Philip. After that, she would torture Kelly in front of him, to show him what the price for ignoring and humiliating her was.

...

Of course, Philip could guess Aliyah’s thoughts.

He turned to Mubai’s group with his icy gaze, and said directly, “All of you heard her, right? If I don’t participate in this election, Aliyah will win. She has been in bed with IV Syndicate since the very beginning so all hope will be lost after she wins.”

“But your wife is in their hands,” Xinghe said seriously.

“Therefore, you have to save her as soon as possible, before the general election,” Philip replied firmly.

Xinghe asked, “What if we can’t?”

Philip was stunned. That’s right, what if they fail? Should I succumb to them or watch them rape my wife?

Neither of the results were desired by Philip.

Xinghe stood up to stare at him and asked, “What will be your choice if we are unable to save her before the election?”

For some reason, Philip felt pressured by her question. He felt he must give her an answer. He held Xinghe’s eye contact for two seconds before announcing slowly, “I will choose to work with them—”

“In other words, you’re willing to surrender your parent’s revenge for your wife?” Xinghe asked to confirm.

Philip’s face darkened and hissed, “That’s right, so you better find and save her before then. This is your only choice!”

F*ck, he dares to threaten us like this!

Sam unconsciously wanted to help Xinghe say something.

He was thus shocked by Xinghe’s direct promise. “Alright, we will give it our best. Don’t worry, I will make sure that our cooperative relationship will not end like this.”

Sam was shocked. Why would Xinghe agree to this? Philip was willing to cut them lose to save his wife so why was she still willing to work with him?

Only Mubai’s mouth curved smilingly.

Philip chose correctly. If he chose to surrender his wife, then Xinghe probably would not cooperate with him anymore.

At the end of the day, he was still loyal to his wife and cared about her. He didn’t lose the big picture, after his wife was safe, there would still be time for his revenge. Being alive was the most important.

Furthermore, this showed that Philip was a loyal individual. Xinghe preferred people like this rather than those that worked for the highest bidder.

Now Xinghe had to make sure she held up their end of the bargain, to not disappoint Philip and make sure their cooperation last.

Philip appeared to be shocked by Xinghe’s reaction as well.

Chapter 481: Found the Base's Coordinates

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He thought they would be disappointed in him and choose to end their collaboration. Who knew the woman would be so frank and straightforward? He could see why Mubai valued her so much. She was indeed one of a kind.

“In that case, I will cooperate to the best of my capabilities. If you can save my wife, I, Philip, will be forever in your debt!” Philip promised.

Xinghe smiled. “Since General Philip has such trust in us then we will definitely respond in kind. Can you bring me a computer?”

Philip was confused. “Why do you need one?”

“I’m going to take down all the online videos!”

Philip was shocked but he didn’t question her. He quickly had someone prepare a good computer for Xinghe.

Under Philip’s gaze, Xinghe made herself comfortable in front of the computer and started working her magic. All the videos of Kelly online were taken down one by one. Thankfully, the videos hadn’t gone viral so she only took half an hour to remove every single one of them.

Furthermore, in a country like Country Z, news refreshed itself hourly. A video about a cowering naked woman wasn’t enough to catch much attention. Therefore, even though the videos were suddenly taken down, it didn’t cause much commotion, not many even paid attention to it in the first place.

However, for Philip, the existence of the video was a humiliation so he felt much better after all copies of it were all removed.

“Mubai said you have the ability to find this IV Syndicate and steal all of their information. Actually, I was doubtful of that. But now it looks like he has found the perfect person for this job.” There was a slight change in Philip’s tone; there was an additional respect that was previously absent.

Sam and the gang also didn't think Xinghe would be so good. She might be ever better than they'd imagined.

Xinghe didn't dare to make baseless promises, she replied softly, "I can't guarantee that one hundred percent but I'm ninety percent confident that is doable."

"That is more than enough. Miss Xia, if you have any requests in the future, please come to me immediately, I will fulfil them if I can!" Philip said generously.

Xinghe nodded. "Actually, I do need certain things prepared. I will give you a list; hopefully, you can help me procure them."

"No problem!"

Just like that, a computer control room that Xinghe wanted was prepared. It had everything she needed, filled with the latest high-tech computer accessories. Back in City T, Mubai could prepare all of this easily, but since they were in a foreign country, it was easier for Philip to make certain things happen.

The next step was to locate IV Syndicate's base. The base was said to be far from the city, deep in the desert.

Charlie only knew the general direction; they still needed Philip's men to comb the area before Xinghe could step in.

In that period of time, Philip kept receiving threats from IV Syndicate. The general election was going to happen a week later. If they still couldn't save Kelly in that one week, Philip would bow out of the election. That would be the end for them, so they were racing against time.

Thankfully, the following morning, Philip's men came back with good news: the coordinates for the base had been ascertained!

"Wonderful job!" Philip and everyone else was overjoyed. They surrounded Xinghe in the control room, watching her operate the computers.

Mubai offered to help but Xinghe had her own way of doing things.

Chapter 482: Like In Combat

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Afraid that he would mess up her flow, Mubai didn't get himself involved. She sat in front of the supercomputer, her fingers flying over the keyboard.

Xinghe's first task was to hack into the base's server. The base's powerful defense was powerless before Xinghe. She hacked into it easily and took over the internal surveillance system.

Instantly, a series of surveillance videos appeared on screen. Everyone was excited when that happened.

Ali praised Xinghe without reservation, "Xinghe, you're too good! You hacked into their system so fast."

"I didn't expect the base to be so big, the videos here only show part of the whole compound," Charlie observed in a serious tone.

Philip said directly, "Check every corner of this place, and I need an accurate layout of the place!"

"Naturally," Xinghe said as she continued working on the computer.

Mubai suddenly sat down beside her and asked, "Do you need my help?"

Xinghe looked him and smiled. "Sure, I will pass over the surveillance to you, you save them and make a layout map."

"No problem," Mubai replied with a wicked smile. Philip and the rest were equally surprised by Mubai's computer skills, they'd thought he was only a successful businessman, turned out he was equally good in computer. In their eyes, he was as good as Xinghe.

Furthermore, they cooperated with each other flawlessly. One was responsible for collecting the data, another collating them. There was minimum verbal communication between them but they seemed to know what the other needed.

Instantly, the room was filled with the sound of fingers tapping on keyboards. They were in the zone, their expressions deeply focused.

The surrounding people didn't dare make any noise, afraid that they would disturb the two. Even their breathing had gotten slower.

However, their hearts were beating fast with excitement. They still hadn't physically infiltrated the IV Syndicate's base but watching the two of them work felt like they were in the middle of real combat.

The sensation would make anyone's blood boil!

...

After some time, Xinghe finally stopped working. She smiled. "This whole base is now fully under our control."

Mubai stopped the next second, "The layout's ready."

Xinghe was surprised. She praised, "You were fast."

His speed honestly did impress her. Mubai smirked. "It's just a map layout, it's no biggie."

However from the rest's perspective, he was already crazy good!

The map was immediately printed out and they began to familiarize themselves with it. Philip was a military strategist; when he saw the map, he had already come up a few strategies to destroy it.

However, it was not yet time to strike because they realized this sizeable base was only a branch!

"Is there any way you can trace their main base from this one?" Philip asked Xinghe.

"I can but I will need a day or two to do that," Xinghe replied with a frown. She felt the time needed was a bit too long but Philip was already satisfied.

"We have one or two days to spare. I will go and arrange my men; when you're ready, we'll move out immediately."

Chapter 483: No Money, No Sex

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Okay.” Xinghe nodded before turning back round to work. She didn’t want to waste even a second. They were running out of time; she had to work fast.

Philip was also racing against time. He was going over the combat strategy with Mubai, the first step was of course to save Kelly. After she was saved, everything else would be easy. They wouldn’t need to hold back against IV Syndicate anymore. The base could be destroyed with the simplest and most effective way.

“The day after tomorrow will be the deadline to name the running candidates. We will have to break into their main base before then,” Mubai told Philip. Regarding this, Philip had his own plan.

He explained, “I will figure out a way to drag this until the last minute, I will hand in my candidacy form eventually but I will make them feel like I’m still hesitating. Don’t worry, I know what to do.”

“Okay, we will try our best to locate the main base before then,” Mubai also promised. While Xinghe was following their electronic footprints to trace the main base, Mubai tried his best to shoulder some of her workload.

This was the first time two of them had cooperated but they cooperated very well. Xinghe never had to worry about Mubai making a mistake and vice versa.

They saw each other as an extension of themselves so they could trust each other implicitly. Depending on how one looks at it, Xinghe or Mubai’s speed had doubled.

They gelled perfectly on the aspect of technicality and they shared the same outlook, which was to give it their best to not disappoint Kelly and Philip!

...

Xinghe and Mubai spent the whole day in the computer room, neither touched a morsel of food. Ali carried a tray of food in

carefully, intending to advise them to take a bite but she decided otherwise when she witnessed how serious they were.

She set down the tray noiselessly and retreated back out to the living room. Cairn asked her immediately, “Have they eaten?”

Ali shook her head. “No, it’s the same, I didn’t have the heart to tell them to stop.”

Sam was busy playing a shooter game on the computer, he replied without taking his eyes from the screen, “Let them be then. They have gone in too deep like me and this game, I can understand how it is for them.”

Ali, Cairn, and Wolf rolled their eyes behind his back.

“Please, your situation is not one bit like theirs,” Wolf chided him.

Cairn also added without reservation, “They’re doing serious business and you’re playing a game. How is that the same?”

The sudden insult made Sam lost focus and he was head-shot in game.

“F*ck, you people just made me lose!” Sam grumbled with dissatisfaction, “Do you know how many levels I’ve passed in this game? Eighty of a hundred in total, okay? I was so close to the end!”

Ali who sat across him suddenly said, “Now I understand why you’re still single.”

He asked cautiously and fearfully, “What do you mean by that?”

Wolf and Cairn also leaned in closer. They also wanted to know because that might be the reason why they were single as well...

Ali started at Sam and replied with a devilish grin, “Because Mr. Xi uses the computer to earn money while you use it to waste time. As they say, no money, no sex!”

The three guys looked at each other speechlessly. For various reasons, they felt sorry for each other...

Chapter 484: Sharing the Same Bed

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

When night fell, Xinghe and Mubai were still working even though most of the others had gone to bed. They were still energetic, showing no signs of fatigue.

The tray of food had gotten cold but neither of them had taken a bite.

Mubai was worried about Xinghe, but he stopped himself from advising her to take a rest. He knew he wouldn't stop when asked so he should expect Xinghe to react the same way. Therefore, the only thing he could do was assist her, to fight by her side.

Finally, with both of them contributing, Xinghe finally found IV Syndicate's main base!

She cried out in surprise, "This is it!"

Mubai leaned in and revealed a proud smile. "You finally found it."

"Yes, we did it." Xinghe sighed with satisfaction before rearing up for another round. "Now I will hack into their server."

"Why don't we leave it for tomorrow?" Mubai was quick to stop her. "You have not eaten for a whole day and your body needs to rest. We've made great progress today so there's no need to rush for now."

Xinghe was persuaded. Being too tired wasn't beneficial in the long run.

"Alright, we'll take a rest. You haven't had anything either, right? Remember to eat something and then go rest."

Mubai smiled and pulled her up. "Let's go to the kitchen, it's already so late, it's better if we don't wake anyone. We'll just make something ourselves."

Xinghe didn't object. The lights in Philip's house were still on but most were already asleep.

When they opened the refrigerator, they realized there was a lot of cooked food inside. It was obvious that it was all left for them.

Mubai heated up two plates of steak and spaghetti. As they had their late dinner, Xinghe continued discussing the mission with Mubai. He listened closely as he helped her slice the steak.

“I think I will return to the computer room to finish the rest. I don’t think I can rest knowing there are things needed to be done.”

“You want some wine?” Mubai suggested suddenly.

Xinghe was surprised but she eventually nodded. “Sure.”

Mubai poured her half a glass of red wine, a perfect accompaniment to her steak. After Xinghe drank the glass, she couldn’t help but start to get drowsy. She hadn’t even finished her meal before her eyelids started to droop.

Mubai put down his utensils and picked Xinghe up in one graceful movement. That woke Xinghe up completely. She asked with shock, “What are you doing?”

The man replied with a gentle smile, “I’m taking you to rest, we can take care of the rest tomorrow.”

“But...”

“Both of us need to rest,” Mubai said sternly. Xinghe knew that, that was not her point of contention, she wanted him to put her down.

However, for some reason, she couldn’t bring herself to raise the issue anymore.

Mubai carried Xinghe back to her bedroom and placed her gently onto the plush mattress. He even helped her take off her shoes.

Xinghe looked at him do all that and her heart was a complicated mess. When Mubai lay down beside her naturally, she still couldn’t find her words.

Mubai didn't give her the chance to say anything as he pulled on the cover and yawned. "Good night, don't think about it anymore, we can continue the first thing tomorrow."

After that, he closed his eyes.

Xinghe stared at him for a while before deciding to let it be and sleep. Discounting the last time he snuck into her bed while she was sleeping, this was the first time they shared the same bed after their divorce.

After their divorce, Xinghe thought that would be the end of their relationship...

Chapter 485: Mr. Xi Cheated on Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Who would have thought, for the past few months, their interactions would have been so constant. Lying there in the dark, Xinghe let her mind wander.

If she hadn't stumbled into him and Tianxin several months ago, she wondered how her life would turn out. She wouldn't have recovered her memory and he wouldn't have anything to do with her...

Then again, if she didn't lose her memory so many years ago, she wouldn't have married him in the first place. Maybe everything was already written the stars. Xinghe decided to leave this relationship to fate, since she couldn't handle it on her own, she was going to let everything slowly fall into place.

Her decision made, Xinghe cleared her thoughts and slowly drifted off to sleep.

After she fell to sleep, Mubai opened his eyes slowly. He shifted to lie on his side and looked at Xinghe's profile. He didn't want to find himself alone in the bed after he woke up so after he made sure Xinghe had really fallen asleep and wouldn't steal away in the night, he was finally relaxed enough to fall into his slumber...

...

Outside the sun was rising. Everyone had started to stir. They unconsciously decided to gather at the computer room. When they arrived, they saw Xinghe was already there hard at work.

Ali was the first to respond. "Xinghe, you didn't sleep?"

"You should have gone to bed!" Sam scolded her lightly.

"Miss Xia, actually you don't need to rush this too much..."

Philip moved forward to advise her but as he got near, Xinghe suddenly passed him a stack of document.

"The location of the IV Syndicate's main base has been found. This is the address, you can have your men look at it now."

Philip was stunned. “You’ve found it?” He quickly recovered and accepted the document happily. “I didn’t think you would locate it so fast.”

“Actually, I found their server location last night but not their physical location because I took a quick nap for a few hours.”

“No worries, you need to take breaks. Thank you for your help, I will have my men follow up on this. This is perfect, this means that I can hand in my candidacy form today,” Philip looked at Xinghe, deeply appreciative.

After that, he turned to leave. Right then, he saw Mubai who was standing by the door. When Philip passed him, he clapped Mubai’s on his shoulder and commented, “Your lady is indeed something else.”

Mubai smiled proudly.

“Then, why would she divorce you?” Philip asked with a confused expression.

“...” Mubai grumbled internally, Did you have to bring that up?

“What, you two are divorced? This means you were once married to each other?” Ali widened her eyes in shock. Sam and the rest did the same. They were married to each other, how come they had no clue?

Philip who knew half of the story explained on Mubai’s behalf, but he only made it worse, “Well, a man is bound to make some mistakes here and there. A divorce is nothing huge, the important thing is that he has learnt his mistake.”

Ali who was a woman understood what Philip was insinuating, “In other words, Mr. Xi cheated on Xinghe?”

As if on cue, the guys turned their noses up at Mubai.

“How could you cheat on someone like Xinghe after you married her?” Sam was indignant. The man was not as good as he thought. “Ali, this is your so-called good man?” Sam huffed at Ali.

Ali, Wolf, and Cairn immediately looked at Mubai with disdain. Ali felt the most betrayed because she was the one

supported Xinghe getting back together with Mubai. He'd disappointed her!

Philip again stepped in to explain, "That is all in the past, Mubai is proving his worth now, isn't he?"

"No one will think you're mute if you don't speak," Mubai suddenly interrupted him, he glared at Philip severely. "Didn't you say you have something to prepare? Why are you still here?"

Chapter 486: Dating with Marriage in Mind

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

If Philip didn't stop with the nonsense, Mubai couldn't promise he wouldn't physically assault him. Philip who felt the discord was confused. What did he say wrong? However, his instinct told him to leave first.

"Then I will go now, call me if you need anything," Philip coughed awkwardly before leaving the room. After he left, Mubai found he still need to deal with Xinghe's new friends.

"Come clean with it, did you do anything wrong by Xinghe?" Sam cracked his fingers scarily. Ali and the rest glaring at Mubai behind him.

"That's right, I did disappoint Xinghe," Mubai admitted with a light nod.

Sam chuckled humorlessly. "How dare you do wrong by her, you don't deserve her and now I'm going to help her teach you a lesson—"

Sam swung at Mubai, but his fist was caught in mid-air. Sam tried his best to wiggle out of Mubai's grip, but he couldn't. Mubai turned out to be more powerful than he was...

"I might have made a mistake, but it is certain not your place to teach me a lesson," Mubai glared at him and stated.

"Furthermore, even if I did do something wrong, you would have no chance with her because our son is already four years old."

Sam and the rest were shocked beyond words. The two of them even had a child together already!

"By the way, if I really did cheat on Xinghe, do you think she would ever let me be here so close to her?" With that, Mubai swung Sam's fist away and turned to stride into the room.

The atmosphere in the room got instantly curious. If it was not disloyalty, then what kind of sin did Mubai commit?

Subconsciously, they all turned to Xinghe. Xinghe met their eyes and gave her side of the explanation, "Actually it was me

who called off the marriage. We didn't love each other so there was no reason for us to stay married.”

Sam and the rest didn't think that would be the reason.

“Then... do you love him now?” Sam asked as a test. There was also hope hidden in it. If Xinghe said no, then maybe he still had a chance!

“We're currently dating with marriage in mind,” Xinghe answered seriously.

That sent Sam crashing back to reality. He was in deep despair, then again, he should have known that when Mubai came to save them from Barron.

Wolf and Cairn patted him on his shoulder as he shuffled out of the room. Ali also looked at him with pity.

Xinghe looked at them curiously before turning back to work.

“We will eventually get married again,” Mubai said suddenly as he sat down beside her. There was a confidence in his voice.

Xinghe was shocked. She turned to look at him. His dark eyes were ablaze with passion.

Mubai opened his mouth to say, “I was glad to hear you say that.”

He didn't think Xinghe would treat their relationship so seriously. Even though dating was not technically a romantic relationship, but for him, it was already a giant step forward.

Eventually, he would change their dating status to couple status and then finally to married status!

Xinghe laughed. “For some reason, I knew you would say something like that.”

“Of course, I would. I would give up the world to marry you right this moment!”

“Then, we're still on different pages; I'm not in a hurry to get married.”

“No worries, we will be on the same page sooner or later,” Mubai replied with confidence. He would use his lifetime to

win her heart.

Chapter 487: Like an Underground Country

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He had confidence and determination. He fully believed that only he could give Xinghe the greatest happiness and no one could love her more than him. She seemed to have sensed his thoughts and returned him a smile.

Then she averted her eyes and said, “Enough chit chat. We need to get back to work, I will hack into their system now.”

“Alright,” Mubai smiled and also turned back to work.

After Xinghe hacked into IV Syndicate’s system and studied their surveillance. They finally knew how great this organization was. For one, the base was built underground. For another, the base was so huge that it was akin to an underground kingdom.

It was fitted with the best equipment and had airtight defense. There was a test at every door because the doors were only openable via facial recognition.

Even for Xinghe, searching through the server was a cautious business. One careless mistake and she would be found out.

Mubai seemed to have spotted something. He stared at the screen unblinkingly.

“How can this base be so big?” he queried. Xinghe had checked through many surveillance videos but she seemed to have only gone through the tip of an iceberg. It would probably take days to go through the entire base.

“This is IV Syndicate’s main base?” Suddenly Philip walked in. He too was shocked by what he saw.

“That’s right,” Xinghe answered. “This is the IV Syndicate’s heart.”

Looking at the high-tech devices, bustling researchers, large amount of munitions and guards, Philip’s face darkened. He announced, “This base must be destroyed, its continued existence will definitely cause harm to this country!”

“I will steal all their information now, but the time needed will probably be over our supposed limit,” Xinghe added softly.

Initially, she thought that after she located the base, she could have everything she needed from them. However, the size of the group was something she didn't predict. Therefore, it was only logical that their information storage would be humongous as well.

With her alone, it would take some time before she could finish copying all the necessary information. However, there was no other candidate. If someone else did this, they would have been found out.

“How much time do you need?” Philip asked.

Xinghe shook her head. “Not sure, maybe one or two days, but even so, I don't think I have enough time to copy everything.”

“We don't need everything. But first, you have to help me find my wife.”

“Naturally.” Their first mission was to save Philip's wife. Only with her safe and sound that the other operation could begin. Xinghe started combing through the surveillance to look for Kelly.

Philip was going to leave his house after he assigned his men to deal with this base but now he needed to stay.

He stared at the screen nervously, hoping to spot his wife soon.

However, the base's defense system was indeed powerful. Xinghe needed to re-hack into the system whenever she ventured into a new area. This ate into their time...

Right then, Philip's phone rang. It was Aliyah.

Philip answered his phone with a drawn face. Before he could say anything, Aliyah's voice came from the other end.

“Philip, have you come to a decision? The election list will be announced tomorrow. If you don't register now, then there will be no chance in the future. Of course, you have to make the right choice before you make that decision or else I can't guarantee what will happen to Kelly.”

“Was that the whole reason of your call?” Philip asked coldly.

Chapter 488: Biggest Bet

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Of course, this is just me being kind by reminding you. Other than that, I’ll be waiting for you at the state hall, don’t make me wait for too long.”

With that Aliyah ended the call.

Philip almost crushed his phone. He met Mubai’s searching eyes and said, “It’s Aliyah, she wants me to make the choice today.”

“But, we still can’t ascertain your wife’s condition yet,” Mubai said.

Therefore, Philip couldn’t come to a decision. If Kelly was safe, the decision would be easy. Alas, that was not the case...

Philip turned to Xinghe anxiously. “Still no sign of her?”

Xinghe didn’t answer but focused on her work. She jumped through many surveillance cameras, her hands tapping the keyboard non-stop, hacking into every surveillance point. After a flurry of action, Xinghe suddenly stopped on a screen!

“Found her!” She heaved a sigh of relief.

Philip and Mubai widened their eyes at the same time as they looked at Kelly on the screen. Kelly was kept inside a small room. She was curled into a ball on the corner of her bed. She stared listlessly at the empty space before her. She reminded Xinghe of the first time she met Xiao Lin.

Philip’s heart was gripped with pain when he saw her.

He gripped his fists tightly. “What did they do to her? Kelly is not like this; she is the most optimistic person I know in this world, but this...”

The woman on screen was like mannequin that had lost her soul. If not for unspeakable horror, a person wouldn’t have changed so much.

It had been almost a year since Kelly was kidnapped by IV Syndicate. Philip hadn’t seen his wife for that long. He didn’t

dare to imagine how her life was in that year, he was afraid that he would go through a mental breakdown. He didn't know the reality was worse than his greatest nightmare...

"We will be able to save her soon. What you need to do now is to tell them that you're willing to cooperate," Xinghe told him clearly. Her voice pulled him out of his painful memory.

"You're right." Philip's expression darkened. He turned to Mubai and said seriously, "I'm going to the state hall. It's likely that I will not be able to leave there for a few days, so I will not be able to oversee this operation. Therefore, I leave the reign of command in your hands. Please save my wife!"

Mubai stood up and repaid him the same amount of severity. "We will do our best."

"Thank you!" Philip gave him a salute before turning to leave. He was going to the state hall to prepare for the upcoming election.

The fate of his wife and even the entire Country Y hanged in the balance.

He had no idea whether his choice was correct or not, but now, he had no choice but to believe his instinct. This was the biggest bet Philip had made in his life. However, he felt confident in it; he believed Xinghe and Mubai would pull through in the end.

Philip left after he arranged everything.

Mubai and the rest gathered to discuss the upcoming mission.

"I have to go to IV Syndicate's main base personally, this rescue mission is too important. We can't afford to make any mistakes," Mubai announced.

Xinghe looked at him and said firmly, "I'll be coming as well; I will provide the necessary support."

"We are going as well!" Sam's group said in unison.

Chapter 489: Election

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Mubai had been hoping for that. He felt better knowing they would protect Xinghe. “Alright, let go together. Go prepare now, we will move out in a minute!”

...

Mubai’s group soon left for the base. Philip dispatched a highly trained unit for Mubai to command.

The sole objective of their mission was to rescue Kelly. However, saving her without raising the guards’ suspicion was easier said than done. Therefore, they had been strategizing on the way there.

Xinghe had brought with her some computer equipment. Without them, she wouldn’t have been of any use there.

As they travelled to the base, Philip handed in his candidacy form; he would be joining the election tomorrow. Aliyah was happy to see him finally compromise.

“Philip, you should have done this a long time ago, but better late than never, trust me, you will not regret this decision.”

“Remember what you’ve promised me; if you touch Kelly, I cannot promise what will happen,” Philip said expressionlessly before turning to leave. He didn’t want to see this woman anymore.

Aliyah smirked as she watched his back. Of course, she would not let Kelly go so easily. The woman had taken her Philip, so of course she would need to pay for her sins.

Regardless, she was going to reach her goal soon, after that, nobody could stop her from doing what she wanted!

And Philip would have to beg her for mercy...

Aliyah couldn’t help but laugh thinking about this; she couldn’t wait for tomorrow’s election to arrive.

The whole Country Y welcomed the election with good cheer. In this rocky country, the general election was always

something momentous.

On one hand, people hoped the new president could save them from the endless war, but on the other, they lamented the futility of the rigged system. Therefore, there was a clear line between citizens that supported it and citizens that opposed it every election. Other than that, hidden intervention from hostile countries was a common occurrence.

However, in conclusion, Philip had the highest support among his countrymen.

Due to his ruthlessness in taking down terrorist and illegal organizations, he had always held a lot of support from Country Y's people.

Behind him was Aliyah. She was also quite popular in Country Y, famous for being an iron maiden.

Furthermore, she came from a decorated family background. Her grandfather was Country Y's ex-president, so she had quite a number of supporters as well.

However, due to the country's archaic mindset, a majority of citizens still placed their hope in Philip. In a way, the result of the election was already predetermined. Everyone knew Philip was going to win.

However, Philip knew things were not going to be so simple. His only hope was Mubai's group.

...

Mubai's group had finally reached the edge of IV Syndicate's main base when night fell.

After a full day of planning, they finally had some down time to pay attention to the general election.

Sam said happily, "With so many people supporting Philip, this must be a sure win for him!"

Ali and the rest thought the same way.

However, Xinghe shook her head, "That is not a certainty, at least until we save Kelly."

Cairn asked curiously, “Are they not going to let Philip win? But he has already agreed to working with them.”

“The people from IV Syndicate knows Philip’s cooperation is unwilling. Do you think they will let a liability like him ascend to the presidency?”

Chapter 490: The Plan Starts

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe explained slowly and clearly. This shocked Sam and the rest.

Sam narrowed his eyes. “You mean they won’t let Philip win even if he decides to cooperate with them?”

“That’s right. Put yourself in IV Syndicate’s shoes, who is more easily controlled? Philip or Aliyah?” Xinghe posed them the question.

It stunned them. Of course, the answer was Aliyah who had been cooperating with them from the start.

“Looks like we have to save Kelly,” Wolf grumbled.

Ali, though, had something else on her mind. She said excitedly, “Who would have thought small characters like us would sway the country’s election? Since when did we become so important?”

Sam was influenced by her words, “Does this mean our contribution will be huge if Philip succeeds?”

“Do you think this means we’ll rise to a position of great importance following that?” Cairn also couldn’t help but ask.

“At least we wouldn’t be small characters anymore,” Wolf said with a smile.

Ali cheered happily, “We’ll be rich!”

Xinghe looked at their excited faces and reminded them with a smile, “Don’t think so far ahead yet; we still need to save Kelly first.”

Sam nodded. “You’re right! We have to save Kelly, for the sake of our future and this country’s future!”

“Right, we must save Kelly!” the rest chimed in unison. If before they were helping out of responsibility, now they were doing this mostly for themselves. After all, this was their only chance at a new chance at life; they had to secure it.

Sam and the guys still remembered what Ali had said: no money, no sex. They didn't want to be single all their lives.

Xinghe nodded with a smile witnessing their drive and confidence. She returned to her work, not wishing to waste any more time. She had to correct the surveillance and defense system before Mubai and the rest of them sneaked into the base.

In a way, Xinghe's mission was the most important. She had to succeed before they could proceed with the rest of the plan...

...

On the second day of the election, Philip and the other candidates were still busy giving speeches to rally their supports. Over the few days prior to the election, the candidates couldn't leave the state hall for fear of mysterious 'accidents'.

This was especially true for Philip who had the biggest chance at winning. This meant that more people were trying to prevent him from succeeding. One of them was obviously IV Syndicate.

However, Philip had made his preparation, his men were already gathered around IV Syndicate's main base. After Kelly was saved and he became president, his first move was to demolish IV Syndicate!

However, if the plan failed, he knew he would fail as well.

No one other than Xinghe's group knew about the forces that acted in the dark, forcing immense pressure on Philip.

...

Xinghe whispered into the ear-mic, "Done, you can go in now."

Mubai and the rest who were already in disguise and standing in front of the mechanical door. The electronic scanner read their faces and unlocked the door after the auto-sensor was successful.

Mubai's group walked in calmly, their plan had started!

Xinghe who sat in front of the computer, helped them take down the electronic surveillance that stood in their way.

Sam's group stared at the screen nervously, afraid that Mubai and his men would be found out. Thankfully, due to the size of the base, there was usually a corridor that was left unattended by the guards.

The electronic surveillance wasn't an issue because they had Xinghe.

Chapter 491: Such Pain...

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This organization had too much faith in their surveillance and defense system. Then again, they couldn't have expected to run into a genius like Xinghe.

With Xinghe's help, Mubai's men reached the proximity of Kelly's cell successfully. However, at that time, a few other people were rushing towards Kelly's room.

"Hide, someone's coming!" Xinghe immediately warned them.

Just as Mubai's men went into hiding, the group of people walked past them, opened the cell door, and entered the cell.

Hearing the door open, Kelly who was cowering at the corner of her bed lifted her eyes with fear. The few men glanced at her with derision and disgust. The one leading the group was wearing a white lab coat.

Fear filled Kelly's eyes and her face blanched when she saw that white coat.

"No..." She subconsciously retreated back into the corner.

The white coat ordered, "Detain her!"

"NO!" Kelly tried to scurry away, but two powerful men pressed down on her, she couldn't wiggle even a muscle no matter how hard she struggled.

The white coat then pulled out a syringe and approached Kelly as he stared coldly at her. Kelly had no clue what was in the syringe, but she was sure it was nothing good.

When she was held captive, these mysterious men would shoot her up with substances every other day, her mind would be so muddled that she would be forced to write letters to Philip that she had no recollections of writing.

The stuff that they gave her would cause her immense pain; this time would be no exception!

“No... No, STAY AWAY!” Kelly struggled helplessly as the needle head pierced her skin. She watched as the liquid in the syringe got shot into her body...

Xinghe couldn't hear her voice but could see her torment and despair. Mubai couldn't see anything but could hear her blood-curdling screams.

“They're shooting something into Kelly...” Xinghe said coldly.

Mubai asked, “Can we save her?”

“Don't! If you're discovered, none of you will get away.” Xinghe's heart wrenched with pain when she made that decision. They could barge in to save Kelly, but they had to be patient and look at the bigger picture.

If they were discovered, all their plans would fail, and Kelly wouldn't be saved. Therefore, they had to hold still for now.

Soon, Kelly's painful moans came from within the cell. Even Xinghe felt she could hear Kelly from the men's ear-mics.

The worst thing was the white coat's men were recording Kelly's pain with a recorder. The white coat stood before the camera and said, “Philip, we've given your wife a type of highly corrosive poison. If she is not given the antidote in the next two days, then her internal organs will start to fail. When that happens, even God wouldn't be able to save her. Plus, before her death, she will experience the greatest pain imaginable to man, as you can see now...”

The camera panned to Kelly, her screams had reached beyond human decibels, her face a mask of absolute agony and hopelessness.

Her wailings would break the hardest hearts.

When Mubai heard all these, he gripped his fists tightly, his eyes a shade of utter viciousness. Everything that happened to Kelly now, Xinghe had experienced before!

They were injected with the same thing.

Now he knew first-hand how harrowing it was for Xinghe...

Being reminded of that period of torment, Mubai was ready to tear the culprit to shreds!

Chapter 492: Destroy Everything!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He was hell bent on flattening this organization!

None of them were going to get away, this place must be levelled!

Xinghe seemed to have understood something, her eyes that stared at the screen were frosted over.

“What are they doing to Kelly?” Ali asked in a silent whisper, she got no answer. Everyone’s heart was heavy watching Kelly’s tortured expression.

“Contact Lu Qi to get the antidote formula,” Mubai suddenly ordered Xinghe. Xinghe didn’t ask for the reason, her eyes shuddered, and she replied, “Okay.”

They were indeed doing the same thing to Kelly that Saohuang had done to her. So, this was where he got the poison.

Xinghe immediately contacted Lu Qi. He was surprised when he received her call. He had many questions to ask her, but eventually, he settled with a kind reminder, “Miss Xia, take care. It’s not wise to return now because there’s a warrant out for your arrest.”

“I know, thank you.”

Xinghe hung up quickly and contacted Mubai, “Got it.”

“Thank you.” Mubai’s voice was low and they returned to silence. This was because Kelly was still screaming, and the white coat was recording her. He didn’t seem like he was going to stop anytime soon. Needless to say, they were going to use this recording to threaten Philip.

...

After some time, the white coat handed the recorder to his men and left the cell. For some reasons, Xinghe felt she needed to follow this man. Eventually she followed him into a lab.

The IV Syndicate has such a large base, so it was not surprising that they had labs. After all, they needed to perform

ballistics tests on firearms, so there were plenty of weapon labs.

To Xinghe's surprise, the man walked into a medical lab!

She and Ali were shocked by the things that appeared on screen. There were jars of human organs suspended in unknown liquids littering the spacious lab. There were hearts, stomachs, pancreas, and even brains...

Everything was creepy, it was as if they had walked into a scary movie set but everything here was real.

In the middle of the room, on top of a giant experiment table was a dark-haired woman. Her eyes were closed, face pale and breathing weak. Her head and every part of her body were covered with a metallic sheet and the sheets were connected to a giant device.

The device showed clearly the girl's vitals and many other information.

Ali almost vomited when she saw this. "They're conducting human experiments?"

"Just what else is this organization into other than profiteering illegal munitions?" Sam frowned with disgust.

Xinghe didn't comment, she quickly retreated out of the lab and returned to check up on Mubai's situation. Not matter what this organization was involved in, they would find out soon enough. Then, they would destroy it all!

Xinghe's group didn't sigh in relief when they returned to Mubai's side. Kelly was still struggling in pain. Just like how it had been for Xinghe, she was suffering through the worst night of her life.

Everyone who heard Kelly could share her visceral pain much less Xinghe who had experienced it personally before. If possible, Mubai wanted Xinghe to stop her surveillance; he was afraid that this might bring up dormant traumas in her.

Chapter 493: Edit Your Speech

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, Xinghe was expressionless. There was no twitch in her emotions. She should have been the most traumatized, but she was the one that was the most collected of them all.

After some time, Kelly finally collapsed from pain. The men stopped filming and left.

“Go now!” Xinghe ordered immediately. Mubai’s men thronged into Kelly’s cell and started the nerves-inducing rescue operation!

Outside, dawn had arrived. The people outside the state hall started to wake up.

Today was the last day of the election, the only two candidates that reached the final were Philip and Aliyah. After that day’s counting of votes, the new president would be announced. However, before that, each of the candidate had the final chance to give a speech.

Philip, in his military uniform, sat expressionlessly in the waiting room. He looked outside the window with no obvious expression. The door was suddenly pushed open.

Aliyah waltzed in. Philip knew who it was from the sounds of the heels without turning around.

“Philip, why don’t you go first for the speech?” Aliyah asked him lightly. Her tone though wasn’t inquisitive. Her question sounded more like a directive.

Philip turned around slowly. His pair of dark eyes stared at her and he said no words. However, a question was clear in his eyes. What tricks are you playing this time?

Aliyah’s colored red lips curved into a thin smile. “However, you might want to edit your speech. We’ve already helped you with some corrections, they’re all in this video, why don’t you look at it.”

After that, she pulled out a phone and passed it to Philip. Philip didn’t take it. “What is this?”

“You’ll know after you see. You’ll regret it if you don’t see this.” Aliyah’s smile was smug. Philip’s heart twitched with fear, but he didn’t show it on his face. He took over the phone guardedly, and as he switched it open, what he saw wrench his heart with pain and lit up his fury like flame to oil.

In the video, Kelly was tossing around in obvious pain. Her every scream a sharp knife to his heart.

Philip whipped his head up and glared at Aliyah. “What did you do to her?”

Aliyah didn’t show any trace of fear, in fact, her smile became wider. “Continue watching, you’ll find out soon enough.”

“Philip...” Suddenly, a man in a white coat called his name. The man stared emotionlessly at the camera and said, “We’ve given your wife a type of highly corrosive poison. If she is not given the antidote in the next two days, then her internal organs will start to fail. When that happens, even God wouldn’t be able to save her. Plus, before her death, she will experience the greatest pain imaginable to man, like how you can see it now... I know you want to save her from such a horrid death. If you do, then surrender your right to run. Remember, only by stating that you’re not going to run for president can she live.”

After that, the white coat left the camera with a satisfied, cold-blooded smile. The rest of the video was a horror show featuring Kelly’s torment. As if to upset Philip, the camera kept focused on Kelly’s pained expressions...

The video lasted until Kelly fainted from overwhelming agony.

This whole time, Philip was forced to see his wife endure, but he couldn’t do anything. Finally, the phone was snapped into two in Philip’s hands!

He grabbed at Aliyah’s neck and glared at her with blood lust.

Chapter 494: Announcing his Surrender

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His voice came from the darkest depths of hell. “Didn’t I warn you not to harm her? Aliyah, if you’re looking for death, then I will fulfil your demand!”

He was ready to squeeze the life out of her.

“If I die, Kelly will also be dead!” Aliyah hissed through her teeth, “Philip, kill me if you dare.”

Philip widened his eyes and used a great amount of self-control to release his grip.

“What do you want?” he demanded, his eyes still burning with vengeance.

Aliyah looked at his helplessness and smiled satisfactorily. “What do we want? Obviously, we want you to voluntarily step down from the race. I’ve even prepared the reason for you. Just say you’re not feeling physically well and you don’t think you’re capable of shouldering the responsibility of president. It’s that simple.”

Philip knew this was coming. “Looks like you people have been guarded against me and not really sincere in cooperating with me.”

“We do wish for cooperation, but it doesn’t mean that we’re willing for you to win the presidency.”

“How can I trust you people when you’ve violated your promises again and again?”

Aliyah smiled. “Do you have another choice?”

That’s right, he was cornered. They had Kelly and they now were forcing him into submission by threatening her life. He had no choice but to yield. Even if they wanted his life, he didn’t think he would do anything to object. However, he was not willing to admit defeat, had he really run out of options?

Why hasn’t Mubai saved Kelly?

Philip planted all his hope on them and it appeared like he had made the wrong decision...

Aliyah looked him and knew he had selected to compromise. "Philip, don't worry because I still love you and will prevent them from harming you. Even if you don't get to be the president, I will elect you as my vice; you will still have control of this country." Aliyah leaned intimately into his body. "Come on, don't be mad. You need to go and prepare, it's almost time for your speech."

Philip stared coldly at her and warned, "Aliyah, one day, you will die by my hands."

Aliyah smiled like a shameless vixen. "If you do, you'll just be killing Kelly and I don't think I would mind that."

"..."

"Honey, it's time for you to show yourself to the public. I believe you know what to do, right?" Aliyah blew him a kiss but there was a threat in her eyes. Philip took a deep breath and shoved her roughly away, he then strode out of the room.

Aliyah smiled triumphantly watching his back before she also followed him out.

Philip eventually found his way to the speech hall. Thousands of voters saw him arrive and they cheered enthusiastically. About seventy percent of the voters gathered there were his supporters. Some of them started weeping in joy when they saw him, and a chanting of his name erupted among the crowd.

Other than those gathered there, those gathered in front of their TV sets also cheered him on. Everyone was excited and joyful, because they believed their country's hero was finally going to bring them out of the endless war.

They believed he would bring them happiness and hope to this country that desperately needed it.

However, little did they know, Philip was painfully thinking, preparing to give his abdication speech!

Chapter 495: The Phone's Vibration

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The chanting in the hall lasted for a long time. However, Philip had a drawn face and had spoken no words. He stood upright on the stage, but a stubborn haze seemed to have clouded over his eyes.

His expression, gaze, and every twitch of his emotion was enlarged and broadcasted on screen. The whole world was tuned in and seemed to have the same questions on their mind. What is wrong with him? Did something happen?

Until the hall quieted down, Philip opened his lips with visible difficulties. "My dearest comrades, friends, and fellow countrymen! Thank you for your constant support and love, they have been my biggest motivators, but today... today..."

He choked on his words. Philip was a hot-blooded general, not known for his sentimentalities, but at that moment, people could see his eyes watering.

He had to surrender and to disappoint the hope people placed on his shoulders. He had to disappoint his men, the soldiers that had died for his cause.

He didn't mind the president's seat that much, but the moment he gave it up, he would let down the hope of millions and millions of people. This decision was harder than making him kill himself. However, before he was these people's hope, he was Kelly's husband; he couldn't let her down. Therefore, he had to make this choice...

As if they could feel Philip was going to make a serious announcement, everyone started to get antsy. They looked at him with uncertainty, praying that he wouldn't let them down.

The only person who was happy, excited, and glad was Aliyah who was back stage. After Philip made his announcement, the country would be hers. With the country as the stepping stone, she would eventually dominate the whole world!

Philip seemed to be able to sense her irreprehensible joy and turned around to look at her. He saw the manic glow in her

eyes.

“Kelly...” Aliyah didn’t avert her eyes instead mouth the woman’s name voicelessly. Philip’s face darkened, and Aliyah started to laugh. Philip would give up the whole world to give that woman a sound slap on the face!

Philip gripped his fist and suppressed his burning fury. He again turned to face the crowd.

“But today, with a heavy heart, I have to make an announcement,” Philip opened his lips to say, “And that is...”

Right at that moment, Philip’s phone which he’d placed in his suit pocket, close to his heart, started to vibrate. The moment it did, Philip’s heart seemed to mimic its vibration.

Philip was startled but quickly pulled out his phone.

As his eyes laid on the caller ID, Philip disregarded the decorum required for the situation and answered, “Hello!”

The crowd was an immediate chaos. Why would Philip pick up his phone in the middle of his speech? What’s happening?

Philip had forgotten he was being broadcasted all over the world, his focus was completely on that phone call.

The call came from Xinghe. Her calm and collected voice came from the other end, slow and steady, but powerful and strong.

She told Philip, “Philip, you don’t need to make that announcement, because you will win. Congratulations, we’ve saved Kelly.”

“What did you say?” Philip gripped the edge of the podium. At that moment, he felt his life was being revived.

Chapter 496: The End of their World

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It was as if the world was coming alive!

“We’ve saved Kelly. It’s your call whether to lay waste to IV Syndicate or not, just say the word,” Xinghe added softly.

Philip was finally his usual confident self again. His eyes were practically shining as his blood boiled. His presence swept across the hall. Like a newly awakened lion, he was ready to take on the world.

“Of course,” Philip gripped the phone and ordered, “Destroy them now!”

He’d had enough of this god-forsaken organization.

Xinghe smiled. “Very well, but I still suggest we take this opportunity to present the world with a good show.”

“That’s a wonderful idea.” Philip laughed as his gaze sought out Aliyah. The latter felt flushed by the feeling of fear.

What is going on?

She would find out soon enough.

Philip turned to the thousands of citizens and endless cameras, and announced with authority, “My fellow countrymen and citizens of the world, today I want to make a serious announcement, but worry not, it is good news. IV Syndicate’s main base has been located. Today I will not give a speech but a demonstration! I will use my actions to show the world the consequences of coming after my country’s citizens and safety! This destruction of IV Syndicate is only the beginning, this is what I, Philip, promise you!”

Philip’s booming voice stunned everyone present and the whole world. They heard everything he said but they still had a hard time processing it.

Just as the whole world was dazed, the large screen behind Philip changed!

It showed a large expanse of desert filled with a sea of military units, soldiers, helicopters, and fighter jets.

A fighter jet flew over the desert sky and dropped a bomb. It exploded, and a mushroom cloud appeared in the sky.

The bomb revealed to the world the IV Syndicate's underground kingdom. The people in the base were stunned by the explosion.

They had been focusing on the election, waiting for Philip to surrender, but the next thing they knew, Philip said he was going to destroy them. Before they could understand what was happening, the screen behind Philip showed the surface level of their underground base. That couldn't be mistaken.

But why didn't their surveillance say anything if an army of such an enormous size had gotten so near?

The whole base was running around like a group of headless chickens, they bumped into each other trying to launch a counter attack.

“Quick return fire and launch our own missiles. Activate our defense system!”

“What? The missiles aren't reacting!”

“The defense system is non-responsive; the system is down!”

“Who opened the doors? The military is coming in—”

This sentence sent the whole base into chaos.

“Quick go and grab Philip's b*tch. We'll have to use her as leverage!”

They thought they could use Kelly to bargain their way out of this. However, the men quickly returned and reported, “This is bad, she's not there anymore. Someone's let her go!”

None of the offense or defense systems could be operated. They couldn't stop the soldiers from marching in and their most valuable hostage had disappeared.

The whole IV Syndicate felt like their world was ending.

Chapter 497: Stunned the Whole World

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Aliyah also felt her world was ending. As she gawked at the screen behind Philip in utter disbelief, her face slowly drained of blood. She couldn't believe the things that were happening before her eyes.

Every citizen in Country Y was equally shocked.

The strong and mysterious IV Syndicate that had been harming Country Y like a malignant tumor had been found, and not only that, had been purged!

Is this a dream?

Other than those that supported IV Syndicate, the normal citizens that valued peace had tears welling up in their eyes. This image was broadcasted all over the globe.

Country Y citizens dropped what they were doing and rushed to witness this historical moment of their country. The war happening on screen made them feel a rush of nervousness and excitement.

Those who were more sentimental were already weeping openly, even others that were more reserved had red eyes.

This marked a new beginning for their country, finally a time for them to prosper, a time to usher in a new era of joy and happiness. This moment would forever leave a mark in Country Y. At the same time, Philip who acted as the commander of this operation, elevated himself into a legendary hero status in the citizens' eyes.

“Philip, Philip...” Inside the hall, the chanting of his name began anew. More was led by this this and people started to scream his name with a crazed fervor. “Philip, Philip!”

Those on the street who stopped to witness this on their phone also joined in. The name ‘Philip’ that day resounding across the globe. It stunned the whole world!

Even Saohuang back at City T had seen it.

“Boss, how could this happen?” Sun Yu said with disbelief watching the destruction of IV Syndicate on screen.

Saohuang was expressionless.

“Boss, the organization is now destroyed. Will they trace it back to us?” Sun Yu asked anxiously.

Saohuang surprised him by saying, “It’s good that it’s destroyed.”

Sun Yu was astonished. “Boss, what are you saying?”

Saohuang stared at the TV screen and said slowly, “I don’t need them anymore. Their destruction will guarantee my freedom, no one will be there to hold me back anymore!”

Sun Yu understood his meaning instantly. IV Syndicate’s existence was both good and bad for Saohuang.

Saohuang could use the organization’s power to climb to the top, but this connection would ruin him if unearthed. Now that IV Syndicate was destroyed, no one would be able to uncover the skeleton Saohuang’s closet. It was a cause for celebration.

Furthermore, he was in the progress of crushing the Xi family and was only days away from being named the leader of the Flying Dragon Unit. Now, his last reservation, IV Syndicate had been destroyed.

Everything was going perfectly for Saohuang.

He laughed happily. “Looks like God does love me! It is time for Feng Saohuang’s era!”

Sun Yu immediately offered his flattery. “Congratulations, boss! Even God is on your side, therefore it’s only a matter of time before the whole world is yours!”

Saohuang laughed even harder, relishing the fact that the world would soon bow to his command.

Little did he know that his world would crumble soon.

...

Back in Country Y, Philip had firmly established his place in the country’s history. With the destruction of IV Syndicate, his

position of the leader of the country was unmovable.

Even without a speech, his position as president was secured!

Chapter 498: Off to Military Court You Go!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

At this time, Philip could do anything he wanted, and no one would have an opinion. Thankfully, he was not a tyrant. Speaking of a crazy tyrant, he turned to look at Aliyah who had appeared to have frozen into an ice statue.

Philip took slow, purposeful steps towards her with a smile. Aliyah's body shook with fear watching him approach. Her instincts told her to run—

At Philip's signal, the guards moved to detain her.

“What are you doing? Let me go, I am General Aliyah, who dares to detain me?” Aliyah struggled like a crazed woman, but she was no match for a group of trained soldiers.

By then, Philip had reached backstage and stood before her.

Aliyah looked at him and cursed loudly, “F*ck you, Philip, you lied to me; you don't care about Kelly's life at all! You lying bastard, you planned all this from the beginning. How could you sacrifice Kelly's life just to become the president? You liar, Kelly will die because of you!”

Aliyah thought Kelly was still in IV Syndicate's base. Philip could only laugh when he heard Aliyah curse at him.

“As if you care about Kelly's life so much,” he chided sarcastically. “Aren't you the one who wants her dead the most?”

Aliyah responded with a sarcastic barb, “You're not qualified to lecture me on that! You tricked me into believing that you value her life, but now you're willing to kill her with your own two hands for the sake of this presidency. What kind of husband, what kind of man are you that you can use your wife as a sacrifice? You don't deserve to be the president; you don't deserve to lead this country. I will expose your real identity to the whole world and let everyone know how cold-blooded and fake you are!”

This was Aliyah's only way out now, so she stuck to it like her life depended on it, which was rather true. However, Philip's

next sentence crushed all her hope, “Do you think I would do this if Kelly wasn’t safe?”

Aliyah looked at him shock. “What did you say?”

Philip replied slowly, savoring the moment, “Too bad for you, Kelly has been rescued. She is recovering at the hospital; you must be very disappointed to hear that, right?”

“Impossible! Last night she was still...”

“The hospital report said that she has survived the critical period. Do you wish to see it?”

Aliyah was finally convinced Kelly was saved. But when did he locate IV Syndicate’s main base, plan everything, and save Kelly?

Aliyah had no idea these things were happening behind her back; her body shivered from fear.

She thought everything was in her control. As long as they had Kelly, Philip would be her puppet. Who knew all along she was the one being toyed!

Philip did so many things in the dark and the scariest thing was he was never found out. They didn’t notice anything wrong with him.

Now that IV Syndicate was done, it was all over for her as well...

She thought she was going to get the whole world but she now she had lost everything she had. Aliyah’s face was ashen like her soul has escaped from her body.

Philip was done having this dance with her. He ordered, “General Aliyah has been found to be colluding with IV Syndicate to harm this country’s safety! Detain her for now and we will try her at the military court!”

“Yes, sir!”

“No, let me go, my grandfather was the president of this country, you cannot do this to me—” Aliyah started to struggle again but she couldn’t do anything against her eventual fate of being a criminal, waiting for her judgement.

Chapter 499: Xinghe, You're the Most Generous

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

IV Syndicate's end was cemented now. With Xinghe's tampering, all the electronic systems in IV Syndicate were disabled.

The military got into the base easily, like a tornado, they ravaged those surprised terrorists. With Mubai acting as the lead commander, he was working hard to make sure no one got away. Those who refused to surrender would be executed on the spot.

Facing such a strong enemy, the base was soon taken over. Xinghe's side obtained a landslide victory!

They managed that in only half a day. When that happened, almost the whole country cheered.

Sam's group started dancing with joy.

"We won! IV Syndicate is over! We won!" Sam yelled at the top of his lung, he felt like he was dreaming.

Ali also added happily, "I didn't think that there was still hope for peace in this country in my lifetime."

Indeed, taking down IV Syndicate was the beginning of the hope for peace. There were still other illegal organizations out there but with the strongest of them all crumbling, taking care of the rest was only a matter of time. Destruction of IV Syndicate meant they had won half of the way. As long as the rest of Country Y worked together, peace was no longer a dream. This was a hard-earned victory that was like salvation for Country Y's citizens who were already tired of all the fighting and wars...

Since Philip was the face of this operation, they naturally attributed this long-awaited victory to him. They didn't know about the others that contributed behind the scenes.

...

Seeing the amount of news about Philip that appeared online, Sam grumbled with some dissatisfaction, "These reporters

know nothing, the greatest contributor for this operation was Xinghe.”

“That’s right. If not for Xinghe, how could they have taken down IV Syndicate so easily,” Ali concurred.

“Mr. Xi’s contribution was not small either,” Cairn added in fairness. Indeed, Xinghe and Mubai had done the most to make the operation a success. However, that was knowledge privy to the few of them only.

Xinghe, who was sifting through the organization’s information, heard them and replied softly, “We don’t need the recognition, that’s our deal with Philip.”

Philip would have the recognition and they would have Saohuang’s proof of criminality.

Ali giggled and said, “Xinghe, you are the most generous person I’ve ever met.”

She didn’t care for fame or fortune; everything was transient to her. However, it was also because of this outlook on life that others were willing to go the extra mile to impress her and be nice to her.

Her attitude seemed to have brushed off on the people around her as well. They learnt to be appreciative, to value everything they had.

This changed Sam’s earlier thoughts. “Should we still go and seek credit? It sounds so petty now.”

“Perhaps we can ask for a job?” Wolf suggested.

Cairn followed up by saying, “Maybe we can join the military?”

Sam shook his head immediately. “I don’t like it, being a soldier is too restrictive!”

“Then, we settle for nothing?” Ali too was conflicted. They had nothing, so they really wished to ask for something.

However, since the biggest contributor, Xinghe didn’t actively go to seek rewards; it seemed out of place for them to do so.

Xinghe looked at them with mirth in her eyes. “All of you might get more than you could ever dream of.”

“Why?” Ali was curious.

Before Xinghe could explain, Mubai walked in suddenly.

Chapter 500: Burning for a Long Time

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He was wearing a simple camouflage shirt, military slacks and boots. He looked like a real soldier. When he walked in, the room was stifled by his immense presence. He had changed into this look for the sake of the operation.

To their surprise, he looked like a real soldier in this outfit, strong and powerful. If he had entered into the military and not business, he probably would be someone as important as Philip. This was observable from the natural way he commanded the troops that day.

Even Sam's group was surprised by his ability. They grumbled internally, Can this man give us average Joes some space to survive? Does he need to be good in the fields of both business and military?

Only Xinghe knew that this talent came from his family's influence. After all, Elder Xi was a decorated military general.

Regardless, she had to admit he look rather dashing in this get-up.

"Follow me," Mubai didn't catch the temporary admiration in Xinghe's eyes and told her as he walked in.

Xinghe didn't ask anything but stood up to follow him. There was an armored car parked outside. Mubai helped her into it and they left Philip's house.

"Where are we going?" Xinghe finally asked.

Mubai who was driving answered, "We're going to IV Syndicate's base; I found something."

"What?"

"An energy crystal."

Xinghe was shocked. Why would IV Syndicate have that? Could that be why Saohuang knew about the energy crystals?

Xinghe was excited because they seemed to be about to stumble into a big secret.

...

The base had been completely taken over. Many soldiers were stood outside the entrance guarding it. They greeted Mubai and allowed them entry. When Xinghe personally stepped into the base, she finally realized how big it really was.

It was fitted with the best equipment, it was like a movie set. Even though this had been the scene for many gunfights, the internal walls were still well preserved. The only give away was the blood stains that covered the surfaces...

The bodies had already been cleared away.

Xinghe followed behind Mubai calmly. They eventually entered a lab.

Once entered, Xinghe saw in the middle of the room a large transparent enclosure. Inside it, a ball of fire seemed to be dancing. Burning within the fire was a black energy crystal!

Mubai ushered her forward and observed while staring at the crystal, "I've interrogated the captives. According to them, this thing has been burning for a very long time."

Xinghe was curious. "How long?"

"At least a few months."

Xinghe was again shocked.

She stared closely at the energy crystal inside the enclosure and realized its size didn't seem to have decreased. What kind of substance could continue to burn for several months?

Therefore, this metal was indeed something unusual.

"This confirms that the metal is really an energy source, but I didn't think its energy source would be so endless," Mubai commented.

Initially, they already predicted this was some unique energy source, but they didn't expect it to be so out of this world.

In comparison, other energy sources like natural gas or fuel, were like trash-tier.

If there was such a known fuel source in the world that could provide large amount of energy without exhausting itself, they would have known about it, but they had never heard of this unique metal before.

“How did IV Syndicate get their hands on this?” Xinghe asked curiously.

Mubai shook his head. “I have no clue and the captives couldn’t answer as well. The only thing they know is that this thing is very important and there are others all over the world. That’s why they have been searching high and low for it. Sadly, their leader managed to escape, otherwise we could have found out more about it.”