

Chapter 453 The Search for the Rat

That night, after Mackenzie brought the men over, Herschel had them sent out to keep watch on Nathaniel's company the moment he took over. After all, there was a very high chance that he might cause more issues should Nathaniel realize what was happening. After all, they were in the latter's territory.

In fact, he was not afraid of going to war. Instead, he was worried that Nathaniel might move his company elsewhere.

Herschel had no doubt considered all the possible outcomes.

However, an issue arose when the person sent to keep watch of Nathaniel's company sent word that it seemed like nobody was working the next day.

"That's strange...Why hasn't anyone gone to work?"

Herschel immediately gave Alyssa a call, thinking he might be able to find out what was happening from her.

Unfortunately, Alyssa's cell phone had been turned off, so he could not contact her.

In combination with the fact that nobody had gone to work, Herschel concluded that this was not a coincidence, so he informed Javier straight away.

Javier tried calling Suzanne, but it turned out that she had also turned off her cell phone.

'Has everyone turned off their phones?'

Obviously, this was not possible. Thus, Javier immediately gave orders and had Mackenzie ransack the company.

He had a feeling that the company was now only a husk.

Indeed, that was actually what had happened...It would not be difficult for Herschel to organize his men and have them stand by each entrance. In fact, they were even able to enter the company without causing too much of a ruckus. However, when they entered, they discovered that the company was now just a shell without anything inside.

Even the security guards did not know what had happened when questioned. They only mentioned that nobody had left the company after working hours last night. However, they had been strictly instructed to never enter the company under any circumstances. Thus, the security guards only brushed it off. They had been working through the night to conduct some kind of research, but neither of them knew what had actually happened.

'What kind of sorcery is this?! I just met Nathaniel yesterday morning, and Javier even had lunch with Suzanne this afternoon. Most importantly, I sent men to stand watch here at night. If even the security guards didn't notice anyone leaving the company, where the hell could they have gone? Are you telling me they somehow learned how to grow wings and flew away?!' Javier walked in and took a look at his surroundings, realizing that the entire place was a mess. Obviously, they had left in a huge rush. In fact, they had even destroyed some larger equipment that they had not been able to take with them.

This obviously meant that they had received word about what was going to happen, so they had left in a huge hurry, without leaving even so much as a shred of evidence for Javier to find.

While they were checking the surroundings, loud gunshots were suddenly heard from afar.

Javier turned around and saw that Mackenzie was firing his automatic rifle against the floor.

Under normal circumstances, doing something like this would be practically suicide. This was because the floors had been laid down using bricks, which meant that there was concrete beneath it.

Thus, after the bullets crashed against the brick and hit the concrete, they were surely going to ricochet, hitting anyone in the vicinity.

However, Mackenzie would obviously not make such a rookie mistake. That was true, as the bullets did not ricochet at all.

Javier instantly understood what was happening after he went over and took a look at the floor. The bricks that had been shot by the rifle were riddled with holes, which meant that the bullets had completely penetrated the floor, which in turn meant that the floor was completely hollow.

After he had his men search the area, they finally found a switch on a piece of equipment that caused the ground to tremble when they flipped it.

Just like a double-sided electric door, the floor of bricks opened up, revealing a large entrance around 20 feet wide.

Of course, this was only an entrance. As they walked down the steps, they saw a large passageway, which was so dark that they could not see the end at all.

Herschel was furious. "No wonder there's nobody here! Nathaniel must've retreated with everyone else when he noticed us arriving!"

Mackenzie said, "I'm sure someone tipped him off."

Javier nodded his head. "The person who tipped him off is no mere pushover ...I'm sure he's someone very powerful."

Herschel heard this and pondered it for a moment before he finally understood what had happened. 'Kenzo brought his men over here at around 10 p.m, so he landed somewhere at around 9 p.m. last night.

'The security guards did not see anyone leave, and Javier even had lunch with Suzanne. In other words, they all retreated in the afternoon. But the problem is that Kenzo and the others hadn't even arrived yet!

"The fact that Nathaniel was able to take his people away and leave before Kenzo and his men even arrived must mean that someone has eyes on the mercenaries. Most importantly, if Nathaniel was able to obtain information from Kenzo's mercenaries, this must mean that he already knows who Javier really is and has been keeping tabs on him this entire time... 'It would be absolutely impossible for a mere pushover to do something as powerful as keeping tabs on the mercenaries!'

Javier took a deep breath. "I think we've unknowingly dug up a hidden force."

Mackenzie nodded his head, agreeing with what Javier had just said. Obviously, Mackenzie was aware that someone had been so daring as to wage war against all the major families and had then vanished without a trace almost immediately.

Thus, he knew that any person who could act with so much discretion and even deliberately send someone to keep tabs on the mercenaries' movements must be someone powerful.

On top of that, the major families would come clean out of concern that some kind of misunderstanding might arise after facing such an issue.

After all, nobody would do something as reckless as try to forcefully steal someone else's belongings.

This would not even happen between minor families.

However, this new force had ended up secretly moving their base away without even making an obvious declaration. Thus, there was no other explanation for this other than the possibility of them being afraid of being exposed

Mackenzie immediately ordered his men to scout out the passageway, but he grabbed a hold of Herschel when the latter was just about to head down there. "Are you an idiot?" Herschel suddenly realized what Mackenzie meant and thanked him profusely.

As an ex-war veteran, Herschel had also retreated several times before. Thus, he knew that when

retreating, one would usually lay down some sort of trap to stop the enemies pursuing them. Most of the time, such traps would be lethal ones, like landmines or an outright ambush. It was very hard to determine whether this force that had been hiding in the shadows would leave behind such a trap, so Herschel had indeed acted rather recklessly. Meanwhile, Javier went out of the entrance and sat down before lighting a cigarette. At the same time, he tried giving Suzanne another phone call. Sure enough, her phone was still turned off, so it seemed as though everyone's phones had been confiscated by the research team.

Right after Javier stopped trying to call her, Mei suddenly called him instead. After the call was connected, Mei said, "I found out who Brian Schmidt is. He's 55 years old and he used to be the head of our medical research development team, but he was declared AWOL last spring. "Later on, someone found his uniform and worker's ID in the sea, but there was no body found. On top of that, he had a habit of going out to sea to go fishing, so the police just wrote the whole thing off as him accidentally falling in the sea and dying there. "I also looked into his family. His parents and wife have always remained in the country, but they also went missing recently. There is no record of them leaving the country, so it's as if they disappeared without a trace. This has been going on for three months now..."

'Brian disappeared, and so did his family a year later? 'They're obviously still alive, but they've been transported somewhere else. We don't know where they are, though.'

Javier increasingly felt like he was going up against a tricky person that specialized in working behind the scenes without leaving any traces. This was exactly why he thought that the people he was dealing with were dangerous, as all the major families had been exposed in public, while their adversary was hiding in the darkness.

Javier took a deep puff of his cigarette before telling Mei, "Have 500 men sent over here. There's something I need to investigate."

Without a single moment of hesitation, Mei mobilized 500 men as though it was nothing to her.

Then, Javier gave Angelina a call. However, he did not waste any time. He just told her about the existence of this force. Angelina then said she would send 1,000 men over, even adding that she could have Javier's mercenaries sent over at the same time.

Of course, Javier needed them to be dispatched there. Meanwhile, he had Mackenzie immediately take a flight out of the country. At that moment, the mercenaries were about to be mobilized, and he needed to be the one to personally give out orders and keep them all under close watch, especially the 1,500 of them that were being sent over.

Now that Javier was going to be in control of 3,000 fully-equipped men, he refused to believe that he would not locate the d*mn rat!