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Chapter 61.1

Storm (Part 2)

The sky was dark as black clouds surged all around with lightening as it streaked across the sky; the appearance was like that of a silver snake shuttling back and forth through the clouds. The flashes were blinding as the storm raged on malevolently throughout the deep sea. The rain was a lot heavier than expected and the wind whipped across people's faces to the point where they could not easily open their eyes. From time to time, the waves were higher than the ship as they pounded onto the deck. Shang Jun and Xiao Zong Qing had only just come out of the cabin door when they were already drenched by the heavy rain.

On the back end of the deck, Lao You and several young sailors were holding a bunch of ropes when Shang Jun walked while stumbling over and asked with a loud voice, "What is going on?!" Even though Shang Jun had used his loudest voice, it was practically drowned out by the strong winds during this perilous situation at sea.

Lao You helped support Shang Jun and answered loudly in his ear, "This is a sudden storm and it looks like it will not go away soon!" It was his mistake; when he had looked at that peculiar red color in the sky, he arrogantly thought it was already late autumn, so it would be rare there would still be a storm, but in the end, they still unexpectedly met with this huge storm.

The boat was swaying forcefully, so Shang Jun tightly grabbed onto the side of the boat and once he was able to stand after great difficulty, he urgently asked, "Is it too late to return to the harbor now?!" They had left the harbor only several hours ago, so it would be better if they just went back.

Lao You shook his head and seriously answered, "Out of the question! The hurricane is blowing into the sea and we cannot return to the harbor at all now! We can only follow the direction of the wind and we will be fine once we pass the area of the storm!" They could not retreat now and could only break through the wind.

Xiao Zong Qing stood behind Shang Jun with one hand tightly pulling Shang Jun's hand, while his other hand grabbed onto the rope at the side of the boat to steady his body. The rain was getting heavier and heavier and he had to vigorously wipe his eyes in order to clearly see in front of him. The ship looked like a helpless leaf going out of control in the midst of the wind and waves. Xiao Zong Qing was puzzled about this as he asked, "Why is the ship spinning out of control?!"

Lao You pointed at the huge sail at the back end of the ship and answered, "The mast of the main sail is broken on one side and if the sail cannot be fixed the boat cannot go in a good direction!"

Shang Jun turned his head and saw that sail trembling violently with loud banging sounds from the wind and rain. Shang Jun grabbed Lao You's sleeve and shouted, "Take me to look at it!"

"Out of the question!" Lao You strongly shook his head and answered, "The waves are too big and you guys are not used to maneuvering on a stormy sea; if you make one mistake, you will fall into the sea! Moreover, Gentleman Shang is still seasick, so it is better that you stay inside the cabin!" He was so skinny; the storm would probably blow him away!

"I am alright now, Lao You, do not say too much, let's go now!" After being on the boat for a period of time and resting properly for two days, Shang Jun now only felt a little dizzy, but he was still alright. It was he who insisted to leave the harbor that evening and now that they encountered this storm, he would take responsibility. If he did not go check on it, his heart would not be peaceful. As Shang Jun let go of Lao You's hand, he held onto the side of the boat and walked with difficulty towards the back end of the ship.

"Shang Jun, wait for me!" Even though his hand that had been grabbing the rope was already numb, Xiao Zong Qing still wanted to follow Shang Jun to the back of the ship. How could he be less than a girl?!

"Gentleman Shang!" Lao You shouted, but Shang Jun's thin back was already firmly advancing towards the storm with difficulty. Lao You helplessly tied up a bunch of ropes on his shoulder and followed behind Shang Jun and Xiao Zong Qing.

Once they arrived at the back of the ship, Shang Jun saw that there were more than ten sailors all gathered there. Raising his head to look up, the lower right corner of the triangular main sail had collapsed, and it was flying around everywhere uncontrollably under the storm. Several sailors had already grabbed the end of the cloth after great difficulty and tied it up tightly with the rope, but there was no way the sail would stay tied with huge winds like this.

Looking towards Lao You, an older sailor pulled the rope while his mouth howled loudly, "Lao You, this will not do! The wind is too strong, and the sail cannot be tied up!"

Lao You took a rope, put it under his feet and went over to help to pull the sail that was still endlessly moving, when he said to the sailors, "We need to tie it up! Have more people come over because the sail must be fastened, otherwise we will only keep spinning in the middle of this storm only to be drawn into a whirlpool! Everyone, use your strength at the same time!"

"One two three, one two three..." Under Lao You's command, the sailors quickly pulled the two ropes separately and little by little, with this rhythm, the sail finally came closer to the mast.

After fixing his body to fasten the mast, Lao You's face was already red as he said to the young sailor who was by his side, "Hurry! Tie it up!!"

The young sailor who took the rope in a hurry to bypass the mast made a little mistake, so Lao You shouted with a loud voice, "Pull... the handle... strongly!" With a slight relief, everyone used their own body strength towards the mast. Even though their shoulders and palms were already tired and worn out, they still could not relax.

Finally, upon using this approach, little by little the sail was tied back up to the mast. The boat was still being pounded by the huge waves, but at least now it was not spinning anymore. They could finally relax a little; Lao You along with this group of people were all gasping for air on the deck as the rain fell on them, but nevertheless they had bright smiles on their faces.

Shang Jun narrowed his eyes; he deeply admired this group of strong men who were not afraid of any perilous or dangerous situations. Just as everyone was relaxing, Shang Jun suddenly heard a strange sound coming from the top of the mast. Even within the heavy rain, the sound was clear, and he wanted to check it out. The rain, however, was still very heavy so he was unable open his eyes properly.

Lao You also clearly heard it, but since Shang Jun could not see clearly and Lao You had experience going back and forth on the sea, he was certain about what the sound was and, in a flash, his complexion turned pale.

Those sailors who were still relaxing, looked at Lao You's strange expression and then one by one raised their heads up to look. Once they looked up, they all gasped in a mouthful of cold air.

The sail on top of the highest mast was loose!!