

## Chapter 73: Meeting

One morning, Arthur, Craig, Arnold, Dutch and Hosea parked their horses in a vacant lot in the slums, waiting for Annabelle to arrive.

"Craig, do you need to send someone to inform Miss Annabelle and let her know that all of us are waiting for her to set off?" Dutch said impatiently

"Craig, I think Miss Annabelle must be very beautiful. (Looking at Dutch) Of course the beautiful lady needs more time to prepare before going out. Don't you want beautiful lady to come with us? said Hosea

"If she's not pretty, wouldn't I have wasted my time?" Dutch complained in a low voice.

At this time, the sound of horse hooves was heard from a distance, and Annabelle approached Craig and his party on horseback.

"Sorry, I'm late. Because I think we will go outside the city anyway, so I went to the police station to pick up some bounty commissions with targets outside the city." Annabelle waved.

Dutch stood up and walked to Annabelle, grabbed Annabelle's hand, and kissed the back of Annabelle's hand.

"Nice to meet you, Annabelle. My name is Dutch Van Der Linde. It's such an honor to have you with us this time." Dutch said.

"Mr. Van Der Linde, do you say this every time you meet a woman?" Annabelle said with a smile.

"No, you are the first woman who made me want to say this." Dutch said

"Miss Annabelle, it's nice to meet you. Can we leave now? Or do you need to rest for a while before setting off?" Hosea said

"I've already delayed a lot of your time, so let's go now." Annabelle said

Hosea, Dutch, Arthur, Craig, Arnold, and Annabelle rode on their horses and left the slums

"Uncle Hosea, where is Uncle Colm now?" Arthur said

"He should be camping by Mono Lake right now," Hosea said.

"Mono Lake...that's pretty close to the state border, right?" Arnold said.

"Because members of the Carson Gang, the largest gang in Nevada, have recently entered California, Mr. O'Driscoll personally stationed himself at Mono Lake to observe the intentions of the Carson Gang," Hosea said.

"What other intentions does the Carson Gang have? Apart from wanting to invade California, I can't think of any other possibility. Moreover, several carriage robberies occurred after the Carson Gang entered California. Although there is no eyewitness information saying that it was the Carson Gang that robbed the carriages," Dutch said.

"I now understand why the O'Driscoll Boys Gang want to cooperate with us. We used the name of the O'Driscoll Boys to destroy Omar Talley's business, which will surely make Omar Talley target the O'Driscoll Boys Gang. And the Carson gang is also targeting O'Driscoll, and made the situation become a bit critica if the O'Driscoll Boys Gang being attacked by both sides." Craig said.

"Yes, so please do consider co-operate with Mr. O'Driscoll." Hosea said

When Arthur and his party left the confines of San Francisco, Hosea and Dutch immediately put dark green scarves around their necks.

"Everyone, please keep close to me and Dutch. It would be bad if we have a conflict with Mr. O'Driscoll's subordinates before we see him." Hosea said

Along the way, Hosea, Arnold, and Craig moved forward with Arthur as the center, guarding beside him. Dutch and Annabelle were chatting happily

Although we met many outlaws wearing green scarves on the road, they just passed by Arthur and his party peacefully.

A few days later

"Ahead is Mono Lake." Hosea pointed into the distance.

Arthur and his party looked in the direction pointed by Hosea and saw a vast grassland with many strange-shaped stone pillars. Between the stone pillars, scattered tents can be seen, and several lines of thick smoke are rising.

Dutch and Hosea led Arthur and his group to approach the tent group, and several members of the O'Driscoll Boy Gang approached them.

"Dutch, Hosea, you are finally back. Colm is waiting for news about you, and Ciarán is also here." said a member of the O'Driscoll Boy Gang.

"Thank you for telling me. (Watch Arthur and his group) Come with me and I'll take you to meet Mr. O'Driscoll." Hosea dismounted and handed the horse to the O'Driscoll Boys gang member.

"Just give your horses to them, and they will take care of the horse for you temporarily." Dutch handed his horse's rein to the member of the O'Driscoll Boys gang.

"Oat, I'll see you soon." Arthur dismounted, patted Oat's neck, and handed the rein to the O'Driscoll Boys gang member.

Hosea and Dutch led Arthur and his party to a larger tent, where Colm and Ciarán were sitting and talking.

"Colm, Ciarán, I brought the leader of the Moose Gang here." Dutch said.

"Dutch, thank you and Hosea for bringing him here. (walks towards Arnold and stretches out his hand) I'm glad you're willing to come, I'm Colm O'Driscoll, one of the leaders of the O'Driscoll Boys gang. And he's...Ciarán, where are you going?" Colm said.

Ciarán walked up to Annabelle, knelt down half-kneeling, took Annabelle's hand, and kissed the back of Annabelle's hand.

"Beauty, do you believe in God's arrangements? It seems that God has arranged a surprising encounter for me. I am Ciarán O'Driscoll, may I know your name?" Ciarán stood up, as he stood up, a look of disgust flashed across Dutch's face.

"Whether this is God's arrangement, I don't know. I am Annabelle Cornares, nice to meet you." Annabelle said

"Ciarán, don't just chat with the beautiful woman, come over and say hello to the leader of the Moose Gang." Colm sighed.

"Colm, I think you misunderstood. Craig is the leader of the Moose Gang." Arnold said

"Sorry, I was too rash." Colm stretched out his hand to Craig awkwardly

"Arnold has always been misunderstood as the gang leader." Craig shook hands with Colm.

"Then will you cooperate with me?" Colm said

"I'm actively considering this, but I don't know if I can provide what you want." Craig said

"Don't worry about this. You've already brought what I want." Colm looked at Arthur

Annabelle immediately hugged Arthur to her body, while Craig stood in front of Arthur

"What do you want to do to Arthur?" Craig said defensively

"You don't need to be so vigilant. In exchange for helping you defeat Omar Talley, Colm just wants Arthur to temporarily join our gang after success." Ciarán said

"Temporarily? How long is it temporarily?" Arnold said

"Arthur, are you fifteen this year?" Colm said

"Yes, if you can help me kill Omar Talley, I am willing to temporarily join the O'Driscoll Boy Gang." Arthur said

"Arthur, is your decision too hasty? I think it would be better to discuss it with Mr. Huo," Craig said.

"You don't have to worry, I just want to take care of Arthur until he reaches adulthood. When he becomes an adult, I will not interfere with him deciding his own life," Colm said.

"But Omar Talley will leave a lot of property after his death. Don't you have any interest in it?" Arnold said.

"As far as I know, a large part of those properties were inherited from Arthur's grandfather. Although Colm and I like money very much, we don't bother to occupy the inheritance that a minor deserves. Ciarán said

"It seems that the O'Driscolls Boys gang's behavior is more noble than the rumors say." Craig said sarcastically.

"I understand how Colm and Ciarán simply want to do something for someone they respect, so Craig, don't doubt them," Arnold said.

"So what are your thoughts on killing Omar Talley?" Craig said.

"Why do you think Omar Talley has such a big influence in San Francisco?" Ciarán said.

"Mainly the police in San Francisco, most of them have accepted bribes from Omar Talley, or have some kompromat held by Omar Talley. That's why we continue to destroy Omar Talley's source of income. As long as he can't give bribes to police as much as before, we have a chance to kill Omar Talley," Annabelle said.

"This is a good way, but what if I have a better way?" Ciarán said

"A better way?" Craig said

At this time, an O'Driscoll Boys gang member hurriedly walked towards Colm

"Shima, what happened?" Colm said

"Declan...Declan's camp is under attack!" Shima gasped.

"Is it an attack from the Carson Gang?" Ciarán said.

"Yes... yes, dozens of Carson Gang members attack Declan's camp." Shima said

"Sorry, our discussion has to be suspended for a while. (To Shima) You stay here to help Colm defend, and I will go to support Declan right away." Ciarán said

"Ciarán, let me and Hosea help, too?" Dutch said.

"I will give you additional commission rewards, let's go." Ciarán said

"Colm, can we go help too?" Arnold said

"If you want to help, I won't stop you. And I will help you take care of Arthur temporarily."  
Colm said

"Then Arthur..." Craig was interrupted by Arnold mid-sentence.

"Arthur, you want to help too, right?" Arnold said

"Yes, I want to help." Arthur said

"Arnold, why..." Craig said

"There is no time to hesitate now, let's go quickly." Arnold said

Ciarán and a dozen members of the O'Driscoll Boys Gang members mounted their horses. Annabelle, Craig, Arthur, Arnold, Dutch and Hosea retrieved their horses and followed Ciaran.

Soon after, gunshots were heard in front of Arthur and his party.

"Hosea, what do you think we can do to defeat the Carson Gang with the least loss?" Ciarán said.

"We can send a small number of people into Declan's camp and inform him that reinforcements have arrived. The remaining people will be divided into two groups, go around both sides of the Carson gang secretly, and attack the Carson gang on both sides, but do not block their retreat ways. Don't chase after them when they are defeated by us," Hosea said.

"Indeed, if we kill the Carson Gang members completely, there will be fewer options for us in the future. Dutch, you and Hosea bring Arthur into the camp. Arnold, Craig, can you please assist Cyrus in attacking the Carson Gang on the right? Annabelle, can you fight with me?" Ciarán said.

"I have no objection. Anyway, I want to see up close whether the bounty target is in the Carson Gang." Annabelle said

"No, I want to be by Arthur's side to protect him." Craig said

"Craig, since you want to stay with Arthur, how about we switch our post?" Dutch said.

"Then let's arrange what you said," Craig said.

"Dutch, please remember that our purpose this time is just to repel the Carson Gang. Don't just act handsome and forget the purpose." Hosea said

"I'll remember it," Dutch said.

Then, Ciarán and Annabelle led the O'Driscoll Boys gang members to the left, while Dutch and Cyrus led the other half of the O'Driscoll Boys Gang members to the right. Hosea, Arthur and Craig head towards the direction where the gunfire came from

Soon after, Arthur and his party arrived at a camp. Declan and members of the O'Driscoll Boys Gang members hid behind wooden boxes and started a gun battle with the Carson Gang. Several members of the O'Driscoll Boys were grazed by bullets and lie on the ground and rest

After Arthur, Craig, and Hosea dismounted, they ordered their mounts to leave, took out their pistols, and walked into the camp.

"Hosea, did Colm only send three people to support me?" Declan said while firing back with his pistol.

"No, Ciarán and many of his companions are here and are preparing to attack the Carl gang from both sides." Hosea said, hiding behind the wooden box to help fight back.

"Arthur, hurry up and back away. It's very dangerous here." Declan fired back, pushing Arthur back slightly.

"Arthur, this gentleman is right. Can you go help take care of the injured? (reaches out to Declan) Craig." Craig hid behind the wooden box and shot at the Carson gang.

"Declan. Thank you for coming to support me." After shaking hands with Craig, Declan refocused on fighting back.

Arthur did not step back, but walked to Hosea and shot the Carson gang with his pistol. Arthur traced the right shoulders of two Carson Gang members, and then shot. The two Carson Gang members were shot in the right shoulders at the same time, and the repeaters in their hands fell to the ground.

When the Carson Gang members shot by Arthur picked up the pistol with their left hands, two Carson Gang members were shot in the left shoulder at the same time. Their pistols fell to the ground and retreated behind other Carson Gang members.

As time goes by, more and more members of the Carson Gang lose their ability to fight. The members of Carson's gang became more cautious in shooting, changing their standing positions from time to time, and the frequency of gun shooting also slowed down.



After a while, the sound of horse hooves was heard from both sides of the Carson Gang. Ciaran and Cyrus fired from the left and right sides while approaching the members of the Carson Gang.

As if competing with each other, Ciarán and Dutch shot the members of the Carson Gang. Adding the shooting from Declan's camp, the number of people in the Carson Gang who have lost the ability to fight has increased rapidly.

When the Carson Gang members saw that the situation had taken a turn for the worse, some of them carried the injured Carson Gang members on their backs. The rest of the Carson Gang members were shooting while guarding the Carson Gang members who were carrying the injured and quickly retreated.

The members of the Carson Gang who were not rescued by their companions could only lie on the ground moaning in despair.

Arthur, Hosea, Declan, and Craig left the camp and walked towards the Carson Gang members lying on the ground.

An O'Driscolls gang member walked up to an injured Carson gang member with a pistol, pointed the pistol at the injured Carson gang member's head, and was about to pull the trigger.

"Stop! Whoever kills again, I will punish him as a traitor! (Looking at Annabelle) Annabell, do those injured Carson gang members have your bounty targets?" Ciarán said

Annabelle dismounted, took out the bounty posters, and compared the appearance of the injured Carson Gang members one by one.

"This is one of my bounty targets, Ty Buck, and Byron Gill over there. Thank you for helping me find them." Annabelle said

"So... Can I get some rewards?" Ciarán shyly pointed to his cheek

"Of course." Annabelle was about to kiss Ciarán on the cheek.

"I shot those two people. I should be the one who keeps those two people here!" Dutch dismounted and approached Ciarán.

"So that's it, then do you also want a reward?" Annabelle said, and Dutch nodded shyly.

Annabelle walked up to Dutch and kissed Dutch lightly on the cheek. Ciarán showed a jealous expression. But when Annabelle walked towards Ciarán, the jealous look immediately disappeared from Ciarán's face.

"You helped me too, so you can get a reward too." Annabelle kissed Ciarán on the cheek.

"Ciarán, are these Carson gang members going to be dealt with as usual?" Declan said

"Hosea, what do you think would be a better way to handle this?" Ciarán said.

"I think keeping their lives may be a bargaining chip for us to negotiate with the Carson Gang." A confused expression flashed across Hosea's face, and then returned to normal.

"Then let's arrange it according to what you said. (Looking at Craig) Then shall we continue the conversation just now?" Ciarán said

"Of course." Craig said

Afterwards, everyone returned to the camp, where the O'Driscolls Boys Gang members repaired the camp and placed the injured Carson Gang members in the same tent.

Arthur, Craig, Arnold, Annabelle, Ciarán, Hosea and Dutch gathered around the campfire, eating and talking.

to be continued