

READING EXERCISE

The Adventures of Lola Badiola

CHAPTER 13: THE REVENGE

"Shit!" shouted Park Jae Bong.

"Shit!" shouted Kim Lee Son.

The two North Korean hackers were monitoring one of their ransomware attacks.

They had discovered a weakness in the Spanish branch of Swiss Insurance Company and had shut down their systems. They had given the company 12 hours to pay 250,000 euros into an account in Angola otherwise they would release a virus.

Everything was going to plan. They were expecting the money to arrive. But 15 minutes before the final deadline, their attack was disarmed, their code was erased, and an updated firewall was put in place.

"I can't believe it!" said Park.

"We were so close!" said Kim

Park and his best friend Kim sat next to each other in their little cubicles on the second floor of an anonymous government building in the middle of Pyongyang. They felt defeated and deflated. Almost a month's work had come to nothing.

"We'll get them next time," said Kim.

"Yes, we will." replied Park.

Park hated being beaten by another coder. To lose like this was a humiliation. He needed to regain his self-esteem.

"Let's start again," he said.

"Are you kidding?" said Kim "They've reprogrammed their whole system. We're never going to get back in."

"I don't agree."

"Come on comrade, it's time to go home. Why don't you come to my flat tonight? We can play chess, do Tai Chi or go jogging"

"I'm staying here." said Park.

"Or we could work out at the government gym," suggested Kim.

"I told you, I'm staying here."

Kim sighed and shook his head, then packed his bags and left.

Park turned back to his computer and stared into the abyss of cyberspace. Sometimes hacking was a painful as eating glass. But he had a high pain threshold.

He closed his eyes and tried to visualize the people he was targeting. Who were they? What were they like? What did they look like?

He tried to put himself in their shoes.

How had they defeated his attack? Who had they spoken to? Whose help had they requested?

He turned on some meditation music to warm up his mind, body and soul. This was going to be a long night and he needed to be in perfect condition.

Whoever had defeated Park Jae Bong was going to feel the full force of his revenge.

READING COMPREHENSION

1. Who are Park Jae Bong and Kim Lee Son?
2. What kind of company were they hacking?
3. How much money were they trying to extort?
4. Where was the money going to be sent?
5. Where is their office?
6. Why are they so upset?
7. What did Kim want to do with Park at his flat later that evening?
8. Why did Park refuse to go with Kim?
9. What questions did Kim ask himself?
10. What sort of music did he listen to? Why?

READING EXERCISE