

“What scores could we possibly have between us?”

Meng laughed and said, “You don’t think we’ll just let you leave like this would you? You’re the one who called Jin here, which means that you’re the one responsible for all those things that they smashed up. Are you just going to leave without paying for the damage to this place?”

“I...” Just as Chen Yuzhou was about to about to try to weasel out of it, all the Red Lanterns around him hardened their eyes, and he immediately decided to bite down and take the loss, “... of course I won’t. You think I couldn’t afford a rundown restaurant or two?”

Meng said, “Well spoken. Pay up then.”

The belittlement in his voice made Chen Yuzhou’s face contort with anger, but he had no choice but to bow down to the sheer amount of brute force before him. Unwillingly, he reached into his pocket, took out his wallet, and opened it and handed me a thick bundle of cash.

I didn’t take it, and Meng didn’t budge either.

Lin Fang said nervously, “Come on, Zhang Chao, take the compensation...”

Meng laughed, “Girl, are you joking with us?”

That little bit of pocket change there isn't even enough to cover for my night snacks."

Chen Yuzhou yelled, "There is at least a few thousands here, and yet you still wanted more? How much do you want!?"

Meng held his hand out, and lifted one lone finger, and made a circular motion with it. Chen Yuzhou yelled again, "Ten grands for a beat up table!? This is outrageous!"

Chen Yuzhou didn't want to own up, but Lin Fang knows what kind of person I am. She didn't want to cause any more troubles, and spoke to him softly beside his ears, just do whatever it takes and get out of this place first.

Unwillingly, Chen Yuzhou procured a card from his wallet and tossed it before us, "Ten grands it is."

Instead of picking up the card, Meng looked at his finger, with pretend wonder, "So you think my finger was worth only ten grands? Man, it was a long time ago since I had been looked down this much. Let me tell you, this gold finger of mine is worth one million."

"One million!? Why don't you go rob a bank instead!? You're asking too much! Don't think you can force us into this, I have numbers too! With all my classmates behind me, I can still

put up a fight!”

But after he said that, nobody dared to even make a sound, much less stand up to help him. All those people who called him brothers only moments ago, now all stood as far away from him as possible. They approached Chen Yuzhou for his money in the first place, so of course they wouldn't say anything to cross me, who had even more money than he did.

Seeing that no one stood up for him, he quieted down immediately.

Meng said, “You'd rather that I rob it off you? I thought we're all civilized folks here.”

Chen Yuzhou said, “Look, you're just being unreasonable here...”

“Unreasonable?” Meng repeated after him, then all of a sudden he took a beer bottle on the table and smashed it down on the table, shattering the bottle into hundreds of pieces. Chen Yuzhou was scared witless, as the look on Meng's face changed and he shoved the sharp edges of the broken bottle right in front of Chen Yuzhou's eyes, “You wouldn't happen to have forgotten, what line of business I'm in, would you? So what if I'm being unreasonable, what are you going to do about it? One million, not a nickel less.”

Even for Chen Yuzhou, it was all but impossible for him to procure a million right on the spot. There was no getting out of this today, he realized. The real problem was never the Red Lanterns to begin with, but the Junran Group that I represent. He couldn't even rely on the police to get him out of this bind. He knew them well enough to know that they wouldn't suddenly decide to uphold their duty and just to come save him and risk the possibility of crossing the largest shareholder of the Junran Group.

Not a chance in hell.

Meng didn't hold back on his on his display of physical prowess. Any normal person would have cowered in fear the moment they saw him looking at them menacingly. Slowly, Chen Yuzhou slumped onto the floor.

"F...Fangfang, help... help me, ask Zhang Chao for me, aren't the two of you pretty close? He liked you, he'll listen to you, please... help me, ask him..."

Lin Fang's face was completely red, either from anger or shame or guilt. After pronouncing ultimatum on me only moments before, how could she simply treat it as if nothing had changed and xome asking me?

But with Chen Yuzhou laying on the floor limp

and useless, and Meng acting the terrifying menace, she had no other choice.

Lin Fang bit her lips, and said each word with difficulty, "Zhang Chao, please, let us off. One million really is too much. I know you must hold a grudge against us, but we were... we were once..."

She couldn't continue anymore.

So I continued, "We were what? Lovers? Or friends?"

Tear fell from Lin Fang's face. How could she possibly say that we were friends? We were much more than just friends, but she couldn't answer lovers either. Not anymore.

Looking at her tears, I felt an intense pain in my heart too, but I no longer have any desires to protect her.

"Seeing that we were... once... please, let me and Zhou go. Between you and Zhou, there was never anything serious to begin with. You don't have to push us this far."

My heart immediately sank, and felt a terrifying coldness. What she said implied that all of what happened was Chu Xiaoxiao and I pressuring them and forcing them into their current predicament.

I never realized that she was this kind of person, until now. This woman was selfishness personified. Reflecting back, she had always been like this. Back when I was in school, though I saved her from the people who were harassing her, she framed me for harassing her instead because she was afraid of being the laughingstock of the school, which led to that incident with Chen Yuzhou and Liu Hu, which led to me being expelled by the school. And now, to this day, she hasn't changed one bit, still the same selfish person that she was.

I breathed in sharply, as my eyes reddened with tears, not only from sadness, but also from remorse. This woman that I had once loved so deeply, finally died in my heart.

Lin Fang took my arm into hers, and begged, "Please, you said that you loved me, so can you please do this for me just one last time?"



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