

Very soon, the security escorted the still shocked Liu Min out.

The manager smiled apologetically at us, then completed the membership application process himself and gave us two cards.

The card itself looked humble enough, not gold and glittering like the movies. Instead, it was a simple black card. On one side was the logo of this place, and on the other side of my card was a K, the King of Hearts, embossed with gold.

Mine was the King of Hearts, and when I looked at the card in Chu Xiaoxiao's hand, hers was the Queen of Hearts.

"There are differences between male and female cardholders?" I asked.

"Each and every membership card in this place are different. And as to the reason why, we shall wait patiently for you to explore one day." He said, with a mysterious air.

I guess it was understandable. For the sake of attracting customers, luxury companies like these usually do little things like these to give an air of importance and superiority. And

usually, rich people digs stuff like these.

After the membership application, we asked around on event dates and got the manager to introduce to us what events are available. I didn't ask specifically about wine tasting conventions, so as to not arouse Jiang Ming's alertness and suspicion. The manager gave us a brief introduction, then told us that further details will be available in the emails.

When we were about to leave, he escorted us to the door personally. When we went out the front door, at a corner beside the entrance, was Liu Min sobbing away miserably and hugging her own knees.

Chu Xiaoxiao said, "Manager, Liu Min was once one of our classmates. That really had been just a little misunderstanding back there. Please, if you would do me a favor, please don't fire her."

Both Liu Min and the plump manager didn't expect that Chu Xiaoxiao would say something like this, Liu Min even eyed Chu Xiaoxiao suspiciously, but the manager immediately nodded. He never cared whether Liu Min stayed or left in the first place, firing her had only been an attempt to appease and please

us. As soon as he heard Chu Xiaoxiao's words, he immediately nodded and agreed.

On the way back, Chu Xiaoxiao looked grim. Though she'd still respond when I talked to her, sometimes even smile and laugh, but when I didn't say anything, she'd keep her silence. I knew she must be thinking about Lin Fang. She was the type that really treasured her friendship.

Looking at her through the back mirror, I found that she was looking back at me through the same mirror. I don't know what she could be looking at. Was she perhaps mad at me? I don't know. I don't know what to do either. She is my friend, but on the other hand, Lin Fang is my girlfriend.

Before we part ways, Chu Xiaoxiao asked me why I went ahead and publicized my identity. I was about to explain to her when she suddenly shook her head, "Never mind. From today onwards, whatever you are and whatever you may do no longer have anything to do with me." Then she opened the car door and left.

The next day at work, Lin Fang seemed downcast for the entire day. I had to joke with her a little to finally make a smile appear on her

face, but they disappeared just as quickly afterwards. Many times, she would go to a quiet corner and make phone calls, and for some reason, she seemed to be avoiding everyone.

Throughout the entire day, Chu Xiaoxiao and I never said a word to each other, much to Lin Fang's approval. When night came, I drove Lin Fang to the gathering. Here, on this gathering, I will publicize my identity to all of them, and let everyone know that Lin Fang was about to become the happiest woman in Tong City.

Chu Xiaoxiao had always made friends with just about everyone she knows. On this dinner gathering, held once again at the Spring Garden, she knew just about everyone that walked through the entrance.

When I arrived at the Spring Garden, I happened to see Zhao Zichen coming in at the same time. As soon as he saw me, he laughed and came to me, "I heard one of your old school friends booked this entire hall on this floor, me and my brothers had to move to the smaller rooms elsewhere."

"You liked my Spring Garden that much? In that case, pick whichever room you want, and tell

your brothers to let themselves go, dinner's on me tonight."

Zhao Zichen laughed and went away with the waitress attending to them. Lin Fang thought I was only joking around and never gave it a second thought. She would never have known that I was actually the owner of this place.

After Lin Fang and I sat down, I felt a hand pressing down on my shoulder. I looked back, and there he was. Chen Yuzhou, with a face of disgust that you'd thought that he had just drank sewer water.

Chen Yuzhou thinned his eyes, and emphasised each individual words, "It has been a while."

"It has." I nodded. I have a feeling, that Chen Yuzhou came prepared tonight.

By now, just about the entire Tong City all know about what happened between Chen Yuzhou and I, and our old classmates even more so.

Chu Xiaoxiao already made sure to place Chen Yuzhou's seat on a table different than mine. Though we were in the same class, but our seats were placed very far apart, across a few

tables.

Chen Yuzhou greeted a few people on our table, and was about to go back to his seat, when suddenly a man sitting on our table called out and stopped Chen Yuzhou.

“Zhou, man I haven’t seen you for ages! Where are you going? All of us bros and friends are all here. Don’t leave, sit right down!”

Chu Xiaoxiao saw this from afar, but she didn’t know what to do.

Chen Yuzhou eyed me purposefully, then smiled, “It’s alright, all the seats had been arranged already, swapping around would only cause unnecessary troubles. Enjoy yourselves, I’ll come around to drink with you guys in a while. Just remember to leave some room in your stomach for booze when I come later.”

Chen Yuzhou had been famous for being the richest person in the entire school. Countless people wanted to befriend him and get on his good sides, especially those who didn’t have a chance back in our school days. Hearing that he was going away, they wouldn’t let him leave.

“No no, that won’t do, you can’t leave just like

that. Sit, pick whatever seat you want. We'll make them swap seats with you."

Though he seemed to be speaking about the empty seat whose master hadn't come yet, but he was looking directly at me with his eyes. What he didn't say couldn't have been more obvious. I was the only one here who didn't get along with Chen Yuzhou. Which means, I was the one who should take his advice and leave.

Lin Fang took a sip of water from her cup nervously. She looked like she was still scared of Chen Yuzhou. I held her hand, and found that she was trembling violently.

I comforted her, "Don't be afraid, I'm right here."

I ignored them, and tossed a complimentary peanut into my mouth and ate it right in front of them.

They obviously hadn't expected that I would be as calm as I am. Startled, Chen Yuzhou's face fell immediately, and that man who told me that I should leave, his name was Huang Hua if I had remembered correctly, muttered something under his breath about how shameless and stupid I was.

Huang Hua made Chen Yuzhou took a seat on this table and got him a glass of booze. Those who used to kiss up his boots immediately gathered around and began charousing.

“Zhou, even if anyone should leave, it couldn't have been you. You're our big bro! It's been years has it been since we last saw you! You won't just leave like that now would you?”

“That's right. Those who didn't belong here, do yourself a favor and just leave. Really, those people should learn their proper places in life.”

Chen Yuzhou was visibly pleased with their words. He looked at me and smiled, “Come on, that wouldn't be proper.”

“What isn't proper about it at all!? Besides, Fangfang is still here, are you just going to leave your girl here and have fun elsewhere?”

“That's right, you two had always been good before. What's the news now, are we going to get a certain invitation soon?”

“The two of you should hurry up and just marry each other. Don't keep us waiting even longer. Marry, have kids, then retire and come enjoy life with us.”



“That’s right. Fangfang was the most beautiful girl we know, and I’d say that out of the entire Tong City, no one else was more worthy of her than the man that was just as good looking as her.”

Everyone laughed and joked about Lin Fang and Chen Yuzhou. I thought at first that Lin Fang would at least say something to correct them, but when I looked at her, she simply hung her head low and stared at the cup of water in her hands. A feeling of irritation and dissatisfaction rose in me but I quickly quenched it. Maybe Lin Fang was simply scared of Chen Yuzhou. She was nothing but a lone frail woman. It was perfectly normal for her to be afraid of Chen Yuzhou. In the days to come, I’ll make sure to protect her, from everything that would harm her in the world.



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