

The Hidden Billionaire

My name is Zhang Chao. I am 23 years old this year, working at an advertisement firm.

I have never received a university education. I enlisted in the army straight after graduating from high school due to my poor family conditions.

When I was seven years old, my father committed drunk and drove. He was someone who never touched alcohol, but he did on that day and was drunk with my uncle. While they were driving on the way back, they met a large cargo truck running a red light. The driver tried to dodge and veered the steering wheel. The cargo truck swerved, flipping sideways which caused the steel materials weighing several dozen tonnes to fall. The impact crushed the Volkswagen sedan, levelling it to the ground. My mother, father and uncle, all three of them...

From that day onwards, my aunt became my guardian.

I had never worn a new piece of clothing since then. All I wore were my younger cousin's hand-me-downs. I was taller than him, so his clothes looked shrunken on my body. No matter the seasons, my ankles were always exposed to the wind. And during winter, my knees were covered with chilblains.

My parents were businessmen and left me with a hefty amount of inheritance. However, I was too young at that time and did not know any better. Majority of the assets under my name were transferred gradually to my aunt except for a villa which could not be sold, so she moved the family there.

My aunt resented me deeply and frequently abused me physically. On my 10th birthday, she grabbed me and pressed my head into the toilet

bowl in a drunken stupor. I almost drowned. That feeling of fear after having come so close to death remains deeply rooted in my mind till this day.

Afterwards, her son, who was my younger cousin spun lies about this incident. He spread fabricated stories about how I had mental problems and drank water from the toilet bowl throughout the school until all were aware. Everyone in school talked behind my back about how I was a nutcase and a retard. No one was willing to speak to me, and I did not have any friends until I graduated from high school.

In high school, there was a girl in my class named Lin Fang, who was very pretty. She had a pair of moist, bright eyes and a slender waist.

I often stole glances at her during class. I would think of her while daydreaming and, she would even

appear in my dreams at night.

I only dared to have a crush on her secretly. At that time, I was quite innocent and did not harbour any indecent emotions towards her. She was like a goddess in my heart. It was preposterous to have other thoughts about her.

One night, Lin Fang and I happened to board the same public bus at a time when not many people were around. Two hooligans from the technical school were harassing her.

At that time, I was also scared. I did not know where my courage had come from, but I rushed forward and pushed the two hooligans away. The bus had arrived at the stop at that moment, so I took Lin Fang's hands and ran away quickly.

I did not know far we ran, but I only stopped when I was out of breath. I

turned behind to look at Lin Fang, who had glared at me with a flushed face.

She twisted my hands away in a hurry and said, "Let go of me."

I immediately let go of her wrist. Lin Fang rubbed her wrist and backed away from me.

"It's so late now. Let me walk you home."

"No need for that, I will go home by myself. Y-you... don't follow me... and do not speak about what happened today to others."

She finished her piece and immediately turned around and ran away as if I was a more terrible existence than the two hooligans. She did not even say thank you. It was as though speaking to me was more humiliating than being bullied by the two hooligans.

A few days later, when I went to the toilet during class break, I was surrounded by a group of boys who started beating me up without saying a word.

At that time, I was both thin and short. I was simply no match for those people. I could only resort to protecting my head from the storm of fists raining on me.

It went on for a while before they grabbed my hair to drag me up. I was in a state of confusion before I heard someone say, "I heard you like to drink urine. I will let you drink to your fill today." Right after that, they pressed my head into the urinal.

I was scared out of my wits. If I was forced into the urinal to drink urine in front of so many people, I would not be able to live with it. I would be turned into a laughing-stock everywhere I go in the future, and I

would never be able to lift my head for the rest of my life.

"Liu Hu, I-I have never offended you before. We are classmates. Why are you hitting me?" I pleaded with the person who grabbed my hair.

"Indeed, you didn't offend me because the one you fucking offended is my older brother. Don't you know who is interested in Lin Fang? How dare you harass her? Didn't you insist on sending her home at night?! Don't try to deny. Some people have seen what happened!"

"No, she was being harassed by ruffians. I was only trying to save her. Go ahead and ask her if you don't believe me."

"Haha, I have already asked her. Lin Fang is so kind. She was afraid that you would get beaten up, so she said she never saw you at all. Not

only are you thick-skinned, but you are also really shameless! How dare you lie! Now, drink the urine!”

“I-I did not!”

I resisted with all of my might. I could not win, but when people are at the brinks of desperation, the strength they summon often exceeded imaginations. The five men could not hold me down, so they resorted to beating me up again.

I was rescued by the people from the Political Education Office afterwards. Two of my ribs fractured and I had a high fever for three days. My aunt had refused to pay the medical fees and abandoned me in the hospital to my own devices. Luckily, a kind doctor could not bear to see my sufferings. She chased after my aunt until her home and lectured her for several days before my aunt finally agreed

to give me money for medical bills.

Rather than the physical pain, I felt as though my heart was being stabbed through by a knife, assaulted with waves of dull aches. I had especially wanted to question Lin Fang about her actions. I had saved her, but this was the treatment I had gotten in return.

I did not go back to school even after my injuries had healed.

My teacher came to persuade me several times to return to continue my studies as it was a pity for a student who ranked within the Top Ten to drop out of school. And that I would not have good career prospects if I did so. However, I really did not want to go back to that place. I had no idea what was in store for me if I returned. During that period, I often went on for days without speaking, and everything felt bleak to me. After I thought

back about it, the emotions I had experienced at that time were akin to hell.

Coincidentally, I turned 18 years old when my injuries had recovered. My aunt declared that she no longer had any responsibility as my guardian and threw me out of the house. But that villa belonged to me, so the one who should leave was her. However, I alone had no chance of winning against her.

It happened that the military was recruiting, so I decided to join the army. My thoughts behind becoming a soldier were very simple. The first was to build up my body so that no one would be able to bully me in the future. The second was to be able to have meals to eat, a bed to sleep and to be far away from my aunt.

Life in the military was quite simple and organized, even the company

leaders and comrades were nice. Slowly, I began to let go of my past. My personality became more cheerful and less boring, unlike before.

In my second year of serving as a soldier, the company commander suddenly came to look for me and said that someone wanted to meet me. That person was my parents' lawyer and also their most trusted friend, Han Kun.

Han Kun informed me that my father was the President of the Tong City Chamber of Commerce when he was alive. He had eight companies and twelve nightclubs, as well as real estates of various sizes and bond funds under his name. After his death, his assets were taken care of by the Property Management Committee. And according to his will, I was to inherit everything when I had turned 18 years old. Han Kun was supposed

to come to me last year, but he had encountered some difficulties which caused the delay. His purpose here today was for me to inherit the legacy.

"Young man, sign the documents. I have delayed you in becoming the richest man in Tong City for a year. Please do forgive me."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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I stared at the mountain of contract and property certificates that filled the entire suitcase. It dawned on me that compared to these assets that my parents had left for me, those that my aunt took away were actually utterly worthless.

I had served as a soldier for five years and promoted to a non-commissioned officer after completing mandatory service. When I retired from the military, I took a look at myself in the mirror. It was hard for me to believe how much I have changed.

I did not return to the villa where my aunt lived. Instead, I rented an apartment outside. I did not want my aunt to know that I was back. It would be for the best if we never crossed paths again in this lifetime.

Han Kun wanted me to work at my family's company, but I rejected his offer.

I would surely be the CEO if I worked at my family's company. But to put it plainly, I have been in the military for so many years. How would I know how to run a company?

I found a job at a small-scale advertising firm that was hiring security guards. Companies like this had a fairly simple structure which would allow me to learn about a company's operations.

"You young fellow sure have your own ideas. That's fine. Junran Group is also looking to expand into the advertising business and will be buying out a group of small-scale advertising companies soon. You can go and familiarize yourself with the business first."

My father's name was Zhang Jun, and my mother's name was Ji Yanran. The name, Junran Group was derived from a combination of

my parents' names. Throughout the years, it had developed into Tong City's largest business corporation. Thanks to that, I somehow became Tong City's richest man.

However, outsiders were not aware of my relationship with the company. Even my aunt was unaware, much less the advertising firm that I had applied for.

The advertising firm saw that I had experience in the military and immediately hired me, so I rented a small apartment in a middle-class residential area near the company.

Little did I know that I would meet Lin Fang the next day after moving in.

I happened to arrive home when I saw the female neighbor standing at the corridor pick up a call.

"Hello, are you Manager Qu from

Junran Group? We have spoken regarding that advertisement earlier.... Y-You are not interested anymore? Why? Can you please reconsider? We have still other plans available too. We can still make changes, hello? Hello?”

Initially, I only turned around after hearing the mention of Junran Group. But I saw that ever-familiar face- big, emotive eyes, and skin as pale as snow. She looked exactly the same as five years ago, except there was an air of maturity now. That person could only be Lin Fang.

I was in a turmoil of emotions and left speechless. After all, it was thanks to her that I ended up like this today. She had already entered her house when I regained my composure.

At night, I gave a call to Junran Group's Manager Qu to inquire about the matter. Manager Qu was

known for his bad temperament, so when he heard me asking about Lin Fang, he clicked his tongue, "That tiny advertisement firm's proposal was utter garbage. That designer named Lin Fang graduated from a design faculty of some rubbish local university, and that trash design she came up with was just a joke. The color combination and design was like the countryside village's platform stage. It can be summarized in one word, outdated. Two words, super outdated. Only that face of hers is passable. she is not much between the ears...."

I laughed while hanging up the phone. My feelings of fondness and hatred towards Lin Fang had long faded after so many years.

When I arrived at work on the second day, I immediately saw Lin Fang being called into the office by the fuming boss. Out of curiosity, I deliberately stood outside the door

to listen in.

“Are you kidding me?! You lost Junran, our biggest client?! Fucking hell, aren’t you a good-for-nothing! That’s a two million deal! Get out right now! Scram!”

No wonder the boss was so angry. Two million was equivalent to a year worth of business expenses for this small advertisement firm.

“Mr. Lu, please don’t fire me. My younger brother injured someone and is waiting for me to pay the compensation. I really need this job,” Lin Fang sounded like she was on the verge of tears.

“Enough, enough. You are so annoying, always pulling this trick. This is the last chance I am giving you. I will invite Mr. Chen over for dinner tonight, and you will tag along with me. Be smarter at the table. Wear something sexier. We

must clinch this deal with Mr. Chen at all costs!”

“But Mr. Lu, I am not in a relationship with Chen Yuzhou.”

“So what? I don’t care. What I want are business, deals, and cash! Let me make it clear to you. I will give you a 50,000 bonus if we close this deal. If not, don’t bother showing up for work tomorrow!”

I was about to leave after hearing the silence. But I was one step too late as I bumped into Lin Fang who walked out of the doors.

“You...”

I tensed and waited for Lin Fang to recognize me nervously. I was not sure if she would apologize for what had happened during high school.

Contrary to expectations, Lin Fang

simply sized me up and said, "Are you new here? Don't eavesdrop next time. If Mr. Lu catches you, he will fire you."

Little did I know that she did not even remember me. It was laughable that I actually thought she would apologize to me.

I nodded before turning around and walking away. I almost heard Lin Fang muttering to herself from behind: "This person looks so familiar. Did I meet him somewhere before? Why didn't he thank me?"

Wow, I actually owe her a word of thanks now? What a joke.

During the afternoon, all I needed to do was to sit beside the company's reception desk and prevent unauthorized outsiders from entering the premises. Although work was very easy, I was disappointed by the fact that this

position had nothing to do with management. If I knew earlier, I would have applied as a chauffeur instead.

When it was almost time to knock off work, Mr. Lu asked me to stay behind.

“Zhang, do you know how to drive?”

“Yes, Mr. Lu. I got my driving license in the military.”

While I was speaking, I saw Ling Fang walking out of the office. She had changed into a yellow low-cut tulle dress. Her chest was so pale that it reflected light. She had light make-up on, and she had let down her hair. After hearing our conversation, she lifted her head and glanced at me. My heart skipped a beat at that moment. She was still as beautiful as when she was in high school.

“That’s great. Accompany us to a dinner meeting tonight. I need to drink so you will drive for me.”

My attention was all focused on Lin Fang. Mr. Lu waved his hands back and forth in front of my eyes before I snapped out of my trance. It was obvious that both of them had noticed my loss of composure. Lin Fang blushed and shielded her chest. Mr. Lu sneered and said in a low voice, “Stop looking. Young lad, you will never have such good luck with women in this lifetime. How are your driving skills? Don’t wreck my newly-bought Land Rover.”

His statement was indeed true. Other women would be fine but I definitely cannot handle Lin Fang. I shook my head hard to discard those little thoughts I had about Lin Fang from my mind.

The place was Tong City’s renowned hotel with a long history,

Spring Garden . When my mother was still around, she loved their bean curd with crab roe. It almost closed down due to poor management a few years ago, so I bought the business under my name. Han Kun recommended a hotel manager to help with the operations. It has become the most popular hotel in Tong City after a makeover.

Supposedly, Mr. Lu was the one treating Chen Yuzhou to dinner, but no matter how I looked at it, it seemed like Chen Yuzhou was treating Lin Fang to dinner instead. According to Mr. Lu, Chen Yuzhou had been wooing Lin Fang and almost succeeding in his pursuit.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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I forgot to mention about this Chen Yuzhou. This name sounded very familiar to me. When I saw him in person, it confirmed my suspicions. This person was also my high school classmate, a wealthy second-generation, the boss in high school and, a tyrant in the class. He liked Lin Fang since high school and had been pursuing her ever since.

“Eh, isn’t this that person?” Chen Yuzhou wrapped his arms around Lin Fang’s waist before directing his gaze at me.

Lin Fang had a blank expression, “You know him?”

I thought to myself, how could it be so ironic. Chen Yuzhou was the one who remembered me instead of Lin Fang.

“Fang Fang, don’t you remember? He is that guy who stalked you home and took liberties with you on

the road. Afterward, I ordered Liu Hu to surround him at the toilet and beat him up. You really don't remember? Oh, he's the one that likes to drink water from the toilet bowl. What is his name again?"

Lin Fang's pupils contracted vigorously as she stuttered, "You are Zhang Chao?!"

My fists that were hidden behind cracked soundly. So he was the one who instructed Liu Hu to do those things!

Mr. Lu could tell that something was wrong, so he quickly said, "So all of you know one another. That's wonderful! Mr. Chen, fate has brought us together. Our cooperation this time will surely be smooth-sailing. Zhang, go and get some food to eat, and put it on my tab."

Life in the military has not only

changed my physique but, also my personality. I was no longer the cowardly, timid and, rash Zhang Chao from before.

Also, I didn't need to pick a fight with Chen Yuzhou. With my current status, getting involved with him would be stooping down to his level.

However, Chen Yuzhou did not allow me to leave. After glancing at Lin Fang, he walked over to me, "Hey, don't go. How rare is it for us to gather after graduation."

I suspected that this bastard had problems with his brain. We could even use blood feud to describe our relationship. It was good enough that I was not finding trouble with him, yet he provoked me again and again repeatedly.

"No need, I shall not intrude on your business negotiations."

“Eh, Mr. Lu. Your driver is not giving me face. A mere driver is putting on such airs. Looks like our partnership this time.....”

I sniggered and said, “Chen Yuzhou, I didn’t think that while you like Lin Fang, you also fancy male drinking companions. Your taste is quite unique. Pardon me, I’m afraid I don’t share your taste. I am a strict heterosexual. I will leave first.”

The service staffs in the room could not help but laugh loudly. It was quite a sight as Chen Yuzhou’s face darkened instantly.

The one most at a loss was Mr. Lu. He could tell that Chen Yuzhou and I have grudges and did not want to let me stay. He also did not dare to let me leave after hearing Chen Yuzhou’s words.

Since everything was out in the open, Chen Yuzhou dropped his

pretense before sitting down cross-legged and laughed coldly, "You are just a driver, what kind of attitude are you giving me? Today, if I tell you to sit then you have to sit. The same goes if I tell you to kneel, then you must kneel. You fucker don't think too highly of yourself. I have seen you as an annoyance since high school. How dare you clamor after my woman. Let me tell you. If I put the words out, you will never find a job except begging in Tong City!"

After finishing his words, he forcefully rubbed one of his hands up and down on Lin Fang's waist. Even the waitress standing at the side could not bear to watch and lowered her head. Lin Fang's face turned extremely red but she did not dare push him away. She was caged by him and could only let him do as he pleased.

Mr. Lu immediately jumped in, "Mr.

Chen, don't be angry. I will fire him right now. He is no longer part of the company from now on,"

"Who asked you to fire him? Keep him and bring him around every time in the future. Zhang Chao, look carefully. Lin Fang is my woman. If you dared touch my possession, I will definitely let you recall how the incident played out in the high school toilet."

I jumped up immediately. I wanted to smash the table and beat this bastard to a pulp.

However, Lin Fang was quicker than my movement. Her slap across Chen Yuzhou's face landed with a crisp sound. Chen Yuzhou held his face, stunned while looking at Lin Fang. She was breathing heavily as she picked up a glass of wine on the table and poured it over Chen Yuzhou's head.

"You need to wake up. You went too far."

That slap rendered everyone present speechless. No one thought that Lin Fang would dare hit Chen Yuzhou when his bad temper was known to all.

Chen Yuzhou's face darkened while Mr. Lu's face immediately blanched.

Lin Fang tided her clothes before saying to us, "I am going to the washroom,"

Chen Yuzhou scrambled to chase after her, "Fang Fang, don't get angry...."

The two of them consecutively left the private room. Mr. Lu and I who were left behind stared at each other. I was dumbstruck when I saw Lin Fang slapped him for my sake. Was that the same Lin Fang who did not dare to speak truthfully and,

caused me to be maligned and beaten up wrongfully?

“Y-you still dare to laugh?! Oh no, oh no, we are all finished now. Of all people you could offend, you chose to offend Juen Group’s Young Master Chen. We are in deep trouble now!”

I really could not help but grin foolishly. After I managed to control my smile, I assured him, “Mr. Lu, don’t panic so much first. I will go out and have a look.”

I was worried that something would happen to Lin Fang, so I pushed open the door and followed after them. I seldom came to Spring Garden, so I had to ask the service staffs for directions to the washroom. When I reached the entrance, I saw Chen Yuzhou grabbing Lin Fang’s hands and pushing her.

"It has been so many years and you still can't forget him? What is so good about that poor son of a bitch?!"

"I have already told you I lied to you at that time! The truth is he saved me on that night and wanted to send me home. Why do you not believe me?!"

"Of course not. If you don't like him, why do you refuse to be my girlfriend?"

"Chen Yuzhou, you are really crazy! You are asking me why I refuse to be with you? Why don't you ask yourself?! You have flings with so many women. How dare you approach me before clearing those matters up? What do you think I am?! Let go of me!"

Chen Yuzhou grabbed Lin Fang's wrist and spoke maliciously, "Wretch, you are talking about these

now? How come you didn't mention them when I gave you money?"

"That money was a loan from you. I said I would return them to you! Chen Yuzhou, so this is actually how you see me. Do you think I am doing this for money? Let go of me! Don't harass me again in the future."

Chen Yuzhou became enraged as he called her a prostitute and raised his hand to slap her. Lin Fang squeezed her eyes shut in fear.

However, that slap never landed on her face. When she opened her eyes, she saw me holding Chen Yuzhou's raised arm.

Our heights were similar, so our strength looked similar from appearances. However, people who had enlisted in the military before were robust with powerful arm strength, even if it was not

apparent. It distinctly differed from Chen Yuzhou's weak strength, and he was no match for me.

Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead when I squeezed his wrist. He was in awful pain but was too prideful to ask for mercy. The magnificent Young Master from Juen Group was being restrained by a mere security guard. It would be extremely humiliating for him if the news was to spread. Even more so, when it was in front of the woman he liked.

"Chen Yuzhou, we are all classmates. It's not good to raise hands against one another."

Chen Yuzhou wanted to scold me, but he could only grit his teeth in pain. If he opened his mouth, he would definitely wail in pain.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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I knew he was trying to endure to protect his pride, so I deliberately put in more strength to torture him for a while longer. Chen Yuzhou grunted and glared at me with eyes bigger than a bell. That look of his tickled me pink.

“Let me explain for a bit. I really have nothing to do with Lin Fang. I really only happened to save her on that day so stop getting so worked up over this. Look, you are here to discuss a deal with our company. Why don't we all behave like civilized men?”

The people who crowded around us kept increasing, but they could not tell the extent of our conflict. The atmosphere still looked quite friendly except Lin Fang who was close by could clearly tell that Chen Yuzhou's eyes had turned red from the pain.

I caught a glimpse of Mr. Lu

amongst the people in the crowd, so I said, "How about this? We each take a step back. Lin Fang and I will apologize to you. As for the contract, we will sign it here."

Chen Yuzhou glared at me flabbergasted and yelled, "You should..."

However, I spoke before he did, in a low voice, "If you don't agree, just wait and become Tong City's butt of the joke."

After finishing my words, I put in more strength in my squeeze. Chen Yuzhou's unfinished sentence jerked and changed into, "You~ should~ rest~ assured."

From where she stood, Lin Fang could clearly see what was happening, and she was quickly amused as she covered her mouth while giggling secretly. She was laughing until tears formed in her

eyes, and she looked at me. My heart skipped a beat. She was truly a beauty.

“Excuse me, let me through.” Mr. Lu squeezed into the crowd while in disbelief. Lin Fang had slapped Chen Yuzhou, yet he was still willing to do business with him. This incident would probably change his outlook on life.

Mr. Lu tried to verify again from sidelines, “Mr. Chen, this transaction is really finalized now?”

Chen Yuzhou lowered his voice and said to me, “Let go of me, I agree!”

Both of us were back facing Mr. Lu so he could not see our expressions. I also laughed lowly in return, “That’s wonderful.”

I released my grip on his wrist. He was in so much pain that he immediately moved his wrist to hide

between his thighs to relieve the ache. It was the most basic action of self-protection for humans, but he looked extremely vulgar doing that in his well-ironed suit.

Lin Fang smiled as she gently pushed me away.

I turned my head around and said, "That's right, Mr. Lu. Mr. Chen is very easy to talk to. We had some misunderstanding in the room earlier, but he has already agreed to the contract now. After all, we were classmates, and Mr. Chen is a generous man. He surely won't fuss over these small matters. Everyone here should know that. All of you must be familiar with Mr. Chen too. Chen Yuzhou, Juen Group's Young Master."

I said that on purpose in order to let everyone know Chen Yuzhou's true identity. If he dared to go back on his words, he would be thoroughly

shamed and embarrassed. I deliberately placed him in an awkward position where he could not find a way out.

Chen Yuzhou was infuriated to the point of wanting to curse as he gave me a severe glare full of hatred. I held his shoulder, and he spoke angrily, "What else do you want?!"

"Yuzhou, why don't you sign the contract right now? It is perfect, Mr. Lu has brought the paperwork here today."

"There's no hurry to sign the contract. It can wait till next time."

I purposely squeezed his shoulder and said, "Just sign it now. When it comes to business, efficiency is the most important."

Mr. Lu was not a fool either, he could tell what was up. He pulled

out the contract quickly, "Yes, yes. Mr. Chen, we are almost done with our chat anyways. All we need is your signature, and we can put in extra shifts through the nights to complete the work quickly."

So I said, "Mr. Lu, how can you say that? Surely our Mr. Chen is not a liar. He already promised to sign the contract so he will do that. The business world is all about credibility. There are so many people watching. If he goes back on his words, who in Tong City would dare to work with him in the future? I have known Yuzhou for a long time. He is definitely not that sort, right?"

I forced Chen Yuzhou's hands by my few sentences. It was impossible for him to leave or deny, so he had no choice but to pick up the contract and pretended to read through before signing.

After signing the contract, he squeezed the pen and glared at me angrily. The four of us pretended to be in harmony as we returned to the private room. Once we left the public's view, Chen Yuzhou could no longer continue his pretense as he picked up his bag and walked away with a darkened expression.

What I did not expect was that Mr. Lu was not surprised either. From the looks of it, he also knew that Chen Yuzhou did not truly want to collaborate with us.

Mr. Lu held the contract and drank three glasses of wine in succession. He was overjoyed, "Don't look at me like that. I only want business deals. He has signed the contract anyway, Juen Group cannot deny this fact. If they want to annul the contract, I still can get a hefty sum of compensation, you know."

Lin Fang and I exchanged glances, this situation was wildly different from our predictions.

Mr. Lu was quite an oddball. Indeed, he only has eyes for business. He rewarded Lin Fang as promised; he directly transferred the amount to Lin Fang's bank account when he was sitting in the private room.

"You have offended Chen Yuzhou, so I don't know how long I can keep you. But... but I am not ingrateful man. I will let you drive this Land Rover. If I dismiss you one day, I will give you your severance pay. You... you definitely won't suffer any losses..."

"Mr. Lu, you are drunk. You can rest at my place first,"

"T-this is your house? I want to go home,"

"But I don't know where you live?"

What is your address?"

He froze in bewilderment and thought for a long time before he gave up and laughed foolishly. Left with no choice, I tried to find a spot to park the car, but there was no parking lot available in the small residential area.

When I was driving, I happened to look at Lin Fang inadvertently while rotating my head around. She was also doing the same, and our eyes met. My face blushed instantly, and I pretended to look at the car windows. Although I covered up in time, the atmosphere had already become very awkward. I felt that Lin Fang seemed to have noticed something.

Right at this moment, Mr. Lu who was behind said, "Young lad... Y-you, don't think that I am kidding with you. This Land Rover of mine is truly expensive. You will look very

respectable if you drive it out. Oh, you have to fill up the oil yourself... A poor chap like you can drive such a nice car... You must have been blessed...."

I smiled, "Thank you, Mr. Lu. Sit tight. I will shift a parking lot out for you now."

I had no choice but to shift my Porsche out for a parking lot. This Porsche belonged to Han Kun. I did not have time to buy a car, so Han Kun lent me his most low-profile car.

After shifting it away, I hopped on the driver seat. Lin Fang and Mr. Lu stared at me with glassy eyes, flabbergasted.

"Why are you all looking at me like that?"

"Y-y-you have a Porsche. Why didn't you say so earlier?" Mr. Lu's voice

trailed off weakly.

I laughed in response, "It belongs to my friend."

"Oh, like what I thought. Porsche wastes oil. Y-you should drive my Land Rover. Land Rover is as good as Porsche."

I saw Mr. Lu retracting his head guiltily from the rear view mirror. This fat, unscrupulous merchant was quite interesting contrary to my thoughts. I did not expect that Han Kun's car would come in handy at a moment like this.

I threw Mr. Lu who slept soundly like a pig on my bed before sending Lin Fang who lived opposite me to her home.

"Wait, Zhang Chao!" Lin Fang suddenly called out when I turned around.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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She only drank a little wine, but her skin had turned pink. Even the skin around her chest looked extremely enticing like they were soaked in wine. I was taller than her, so when I looked down from my perspective, I could see the dazzling curves beneath her yellow low-cut dress.

I came to my senses quickly and swallowed my saliva. I looked at her questioningly to convey my curiosity about her intent.

"You really changed a lot. I honestly didn't recognize you,"

"I enlisted in the military after dropping out during the second year of high school,"

"Not bad,"

"Yeah, not bad. If there's nothing else, then I will go back to sleep." I was really worried that if I continued our conversation, my

eyes would be stuck to her chest. All men have the same tiny problem- being unable to move after their eyes laid on those two round lumps of meat.

“Zhang Chao! About what happened during high school.... I owe you an apology. At that time, Chen Yuzhou wanted to pursue me, and I couldn't reject him, so I told him that you were my boyfriend. I was too anxious then and you happened to save me the previous day, so I only thought of your name. I didn't expect that Chen Yuzhou would treat you that way. I am sorry, I explained to him afterward, but he refused to believe me,”

“It doesn't matter. It's not that he didn't believe you. He just wanted to make an example out of me. Have a good sleep. I have already forgotten about this matter.”

Lin Fang smiled and nodded her

head, "Goodnight."

I stood there and watched her close the door until I could no longer hold it in. I jumped a few times on the spot while shouting 'yes!' in my heart.

I expected Chen Yuzhou to come over to the company and throw a tantrum for Mr. Lu to fire me the next day. Surprisingly, he did not even appear.

After obtaining Juen Group's deal, the whole company became very busy. I had to accompany Mr. Lu everywhere on a daily basis. He had completely regarded me as his chauffeur instead. In the span of a few days, I managed to learn quite a lot.

He kept his promise and really allowed me to drive his Land Rover around. I am actually quite happy about it. After all, a Porsche would

incite gossip since it was too attention-grabbing. I wanted to drive a car that was more common.

Lin Fang and I lived in the same apartment block, so I gave her a lift whenever we had to go and leave work. Through these opportunities, we began to grow closer. She would often seek my opinions on things and asked me to accompany her to the supermarket.

She even asked me to accompany her back to her home on several occasions. Due to this, I happened to meet her younger brother, Lin Kang. This jerk got into fights with people every day instead of studying. He racked up a huge sum of online loans at his young age and always asked Lin Fang to pay for him.

"Sis, is this the new rich dude you are dating? But he doesn't look as rich as the previous one." Lin Kang

sized me up once he opened the door. He spoke without hesitation when he saw that I did not wear an expensive watch.

Lin Fang was so upset that she pushed him, "What nonsense are you blabbering? This is my colleague, Zhang Chao. Don't take it to heart, my younger brother has a foul mouth, but he is actually good-hearted."

I put on a smile on my face while I cursed him out in my heart. I extended my hand out to Lin Kang, "It's fine. Nice to meet you, I'm Zhang Chao."

Lin Kang clicked his tongue, "Okay, okay, okay, as long as you are colleagues. If you don't have money, don't think of dating my sister. I know she's pretty."

"You brat, don't you see there's a guest here? Show some manners

and go pour some tea.”

“I am playing PUBG, got no time.”

Lin Fang flashed an apologetic look and asked me to sit down quickly. She poured a cup of tea for me and placed the groceries into the fridge.

I looked around the house and discovered that Lin Fang’s house could be described as having nothing but four walls. There was nothing else except for some basic furniture, and even those had seen better days.

Lin Fang awkwardly said, “After my father fell ill, we needed money for his bills. My mother had to take care of him and could not work. And my younger brother is like that, so our family....”

“I understand. My family circumstance was much worse than yours in the past,”

"I really didn't think you would become like this today. I still remember that you didn't dare to talk to me in the past, haha."

The phone suddenly rang after she finished speaking. Lin Fang glanced at her phone and became very flustered. She picked up her phone and walked out. I was part of the reconnaissance company in the military, so I knew immediately that the call was from Chen Yuzhou.

Sure enough, she had a downcast expression on her face when she came back.

"Was that Chen Yuzhou looking for you?"

"How did you know?" Lin Fang sighed, "He knows that my father needs money for his illness again and wants to lend me money,"

I quickly said, "He definitely has

some unkind intentions behind. You mustn't believe him."

"But I-I...." Lin Fang panicked and on the verge of tears, "What about my father's surgery fee? Where am I going to find fifty thousand?!"

I really detested that I could not lend the money to Lin Fang directly. Fifty thousand was nothing to me. All I needed was to say the word.

At this moment, Lin Kang swayed back to the living room with a phone, "Sis, aren't you just making things difficult for yourself? Mr. Chen treats you so well. Since the money is given to you for free, you should just take it. For women, youth is the most valuable thing. Since you have to be with someone anyways, why don't you choose someone wealthy?"

"I am your elder sister! Are you trying to sell me away?!" Lin Fang

was enraged, "Give the phone to me. Did Chen Yuzhou came to find you?"

Lin Fang reached her hand out to snatch the phone, but Lin Kang refused to give and pushed her away, "So what if he did? Mr. Chen is so kind and so rich. Look at how nicely he treats our family. He even buys the video game skins for me. Why can't I put in a good word for him? If you get together with Mr. Chen, our entire family will live comfortably. Or else if you are with a pauper, our family will suffer in poverty together."

I grabbed the cushion on the sofa and threw it at him, "Are you even a man? How could you say those words? Why does this family depend on your sister's salary? Do you not have a responsibility too? Lin Fang, let's go. I have an idea."

I pulled a tear-stained Lin Fang out

of the house after finishing.

Lin Kang ran out and shouted at us from the stairs, "Fucking bastard pauper. You are quite good at boasting, huh. I shall see where you get the money from! Lin Fang, if you have no money, don't you dare come back!"

I looked at Lin Fang who was already crying until she was out of breath. She gripped my sleeve tightly like a helpless child drowning in tears.

"Don't cry anymore. Get in the car."

I pulled Lin Fang into the car and gave her a piece of tissue paper.

"I really want to find somewhere faraway to hide at times. A lot of old classmates laugh behind my back about my family. You probably think that I'm very embarrassing too."

She cried until her eyes were red, and she could not catch her breath. Her tears made me very flustered.

Lin Fang wiped her tears and sobbed as she said, "Many people look down on me and think that I got involved with Chen Yuzhou for money. You probably think so too. I bet you also don't believe that everyone sees me as someone who throws away pride for money. Including my younger brother."

I sighed deeply, and Lin Fang continued while wiping her eyes before I could speak, "It's okay. So be it if you don't believe me. I'm already a joke in everyone's eyes now anyways. Thank you for sending me back today, please keep what happened today a secret for me."

"Wait."

I rushed to hold the car door to

prevent her from leaving. I was too worked up and accidentally fell on her. One of my hands landed on her snowy white thigh. Her skin was as smooth as silk. My heart shook violently as I lost my balance and collapsed on her body. My face pressed against her chest. It felt really smooth and soft.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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It was as if the air itself was frozen solid, and so was both of us. Neither of us knew how to react to what had just happened.

An awkward silence later, Lin Fang hurriedly pushed me away from her.

"You... if you have something to say, say it after you're... properly seated."

Lin Fang blushed so furiously that even the bottom of her neck became bright red. I looked down, and found my hand still on top of her thigh. She pulled at the hem of her top, trying to shield her bare skin from my eyes, then peeked at me with her eyes filled with tear still.

I coughed, drily, "I just want to say, that I won't laugh at you. I can't speak for anyone else, but I won't look down on you because of it. When we used to be in school, I

lived a much rougher life, and I managed. I know how difficult it is to be in need, and how humiliating and frustrating it feels, and no one should have the right to make such unwarranted accusations.”

Lin Fang asked, holding back on her tears, “Do you really think so?”

I gave her the biggest nod I can give, “I do. Come on, don’t cry now. This 50 thousand, I’ll lend it to you. Over the years of being a soldier, I didn’t have many things to spend on, so I’ve managed to save a little bit of money myself.”

To me, particularly now, 50 thousand amounts to almost nothing. Even if for nothing other than old time’s sake, I would still be willing to offer a helping hand.

Though I still hesitated a little, unsure of whether or not she had been aiming for this from the

beginning.

“No, this isn’t right. This is your hard earned money from serving the country as a soldier, how could I possibly take it? And, likely, I won’t be able to return it within a year or two.”

“Your father’s health is much more important now. Don’t be so stubborn.” I sighed, and felt ashamed for being so suspicious of her. Lin Fang really is a good girl! And here I am, doubting her and assuming the worst of her character...

Lin Fang was adamant, “I said no. And, I don’t want you to think that I became your friend just for your money.”

Lin Fang’s father has a heart condition, and needed money to perform the surgery. The operation will cost roughly about 200

thousand dollar. With his medical insurance, though about half of the cost can be claimed, even despite her best efforts, Lin Fang just couldn't put together that much money in such a short period of time. Right now, she was still 50 thousand short.

Seeing how she refused my offer of lending it to her so adamantly, it looked like I need to think of another way of somehow getting the money to her, perhaps even anonymously.

One day, during the lunch hour, Lin Fang called me over to sit with her on the table.

After getting to know her better, we often ate together on the same table, so much that just about everyone in the company were used to the sight of the two of us sitting together. Sometimes I could even hear some of them whispering to

one another, wondering if the two of us were a couple.

“Aren’t you looking good today. Something good happened recently?”

I eyed at her, it was quite a rare sight to see her smiling so happily, especially of late.

Lin Fang said, “My best friend came back from abroad, and she’s treating me to dinner tonight. I think you would know her too, Chu Xiaoxiao.”

I uttered a response, and rolled my hypothetical eyes in my heart.

I could almost say for certain that just about everyone on earth, or at least those that had ever laid eyes on her, knows about Chu Xiaoxiao. She was a constant source of my pain and suffering in my school days. A loud mouthed girl, good

looking, but arrogant and unreasonable. Not someone that I was comfortable being around.

Suddenly, out of the blues, I felt a softness. Lin Fang put her little hands over mine on the table, and my mind erupted into an explosion. This was the first time that Lin Fang ever held my hand.

She laughed a little, her expression calm as always, "Will you come with me tonight?"

Personally, I really didn't know Chu Xiaoxiao well, but I wasn't about to refuse anything that Lin Fang asked of me.

But, why did Lin Fang want me to go together with her? Has she changed her attitude towards me?

When I asked Manager Lu for a leave around that time, it was nothing but a field of flowers

blooming in my head. Before going, I hurried back home and made sure that I was aptly dressed for it, packaging myself from head to toe completely.

When we came to the KTV that Chu Xiaoxiao had booked tonight, I found that it just happened to be another one of Junran's franchises.

Chu Xiaoxiao invited all of her friends during high school. This girl, after graduation from school, she went abroad for further education. And, other than academic knowledge, evidently she has acquired the partying attitude of the West as well, complete with booze and music and hypes.

As soon as we went inside, a tall girl wearing a thin tight tank top welcomed Lin Fang passionately with a hug, "Fang Fang! It has been so long, I missed you so much! And what's this, your boobs, it got

bigger? Again!? Our Yuzhou really is a 'lucky' man, isn't he?"

More than saying it, she even began groping and kneading at Lin Fang, bring a panicked scream to her, as I watched speechlessly.

With one hand guarding at her chest, Lin Fang hit Chu Xiaoxiao with the other, "Don't be saying nonsense girl. Here, a welcoming gift. So good to have you back."

Chu Xiaoxiao happily let go of Lin Fang to receive her gift with a smile. With that, Lin Fang went a few steps inside the room, and I followed her in. Seeing me walking in, everyone who were chatting with each other before fell silent and quietly asked around wondering as to who I am.

I paid no attention to them, but as I walked further in, I found Chen Yuzhou here as well. He looked back at me with a surprised

expression, obviously didn't expect to be able to see me here.

Now I finally realized why Lin Fang had brought me here with her. She was afraid of Chen Yuzhou.

Chen Yuzhou tried to strike up conversations with Lin Fang, but she simply ignored him.

Since I knew more or less none of the people here, I kept to myself and found a quiet corner to sit down. The games on my phone should keep me occupied until this gathering ends.

It has been quite a while since Chu Xiaoxiao and Lin Fang last saw each other. Finally together again, the two of them has a lot to say to each other.

"I'm starting up an advertising company. We've already got an agreement from Junran to give us a

contract for an advertising project as soon as my company is up and running. Fang Fang, come help me when I'm in business, don't work under that pervert Lu Tao anymore."

"Oh, I'm so jealous! We contacted Junran too, but we didn't make the deal. Xiaoxiao, you're so good at this. You're bound to be successful."

"I just got lucky this time. If it wasn't for Junran agreeing to give us a project, our investors might not be willing to stick with us. After all that's said and done, I think it was Junran's name that gave us an edge in this."

Having being a recon specialist when I served in the forces, my senses were trained to be a lot more perceptive than most people in the general public.

Sitting at a corner, though I didn't

look up, I can sense a constant contemptuous stare, from Chen Yuzhou's direction, as I would expect. But after a while, I felt another set of eyes staring at me with similar contempt. I turned my eyes to its direction, and there I saw Chu Xiaoxiao, pouting and asking Lin Fang, "Who's this that you've brought with you? He's not bad, not bad looking at all, but how could you bring another man here?"

Lin Fang couldn't quite understand what she was getting at, "Didn't you invite all our classmates during high school? He was our classmate when we were in school as well, and he is also my colleague at work, so I called him to come with me."

"Even then, how could you? Aren't you more or less giving Chen Yuzhou's face a slap by doing this? I heard about it, how you had a fight with Chen Yuzhou a while back, but it comes with being in a

relationship. It was a normal thing, you don't have to be so angry about it."

"Xiaoxiao, please stop, you don't know what happened. Chen Yuzhou and I, we're through, it's impossible between us. And, Zhang Chao is a good friend, and a good person too..."

Hearing these, a sweetness sweeter than honey filled my heart. Turning my head around in the other direction, I saw that Chen Yuzhou has been listening as well. His face almost turned green from anger, and his fingers gripped his cup so tight that he looked as though he might crush it and start picking a fight with me at any moment.

Not that it gave me any worries. Looking at him, I raised my brows slightly, giving him an eye that said "you're welcome to try... if you dare", very clearly. Probably remembering

what happened last time when I crushed his hand in a handshake, he stayed put and didn't make any commotions.

Chu Xiaoxiao bit her lips, and said, "I don't buy it. This guy, he must be taking advantage of you. I'm going to meet him."

Finishing her words, Chu Xiaoxiao took her drink, and walked to me in large strides with her long legs bared wearing a skimpy short shorts.

And suddenly, everyone stopped doing what they were doing and looked at us. Chu Xiaoxiao was always the center of attention wherever she went. And since she came to me, all eyes were focused on us.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"You, your name is Zhang Chao right? Since you came, I guess that makes you one of my guests. Here, drink."

Still sitting down, I looked up into her face. Beautiful, refined, and full of unfriendliness behind her eyes.

I sneered silently inside, and prepared myself to see what she has in store for me. I took the cup she offered, gulped it down in one go, and dunked the empty cup upside down on the table.

The crowd cheered, and Chu Xiaoxiao smiled and filled the cup again, "Oh, a bold and daring one. Good, then I'll say it out in the open. You, hanging out and pestering around my girlfriend, you just want to get into her pants aren't you?"

If I haven't swallowed the drink down in one go already, this would have made me choking on my own

drink. Just what sort of mind does this girl have? Or do all girls talk just as bluntly as she does these days?

Lin Fang quickly called out to her, "Xiaoxiao, don't, that's not it,"

Xiaoxiao continued regardless, "My girlfriend here isn't as thick skinned as you, so I'll say it in her stead. She's just too nice to reject you outright. My Fang Fang and Chen Yuzhou has always been good together. They don't need a third wheel like you meddling between them. Don't you feel ashamed at all? And you call yourself a man? And a word of advice, you should know who Chen Yuzhou is. Nothing good can come to you if you pester his people. Here, if you're even half of a man as you try to make yourself to be, take this drink and let the past be past, and stay away from Fang Fang from now on."

Lin Fang pulled Chu Xiaoxiao back

to her, her face red with anger, "Xiaoxiao, what are you even saying? That's not what's happening between me and Chen Yuzhou! And you're wrong about Zhang Chou too!"

"Wrong? I don't think so, I think what Chu Xiaoxiao said was pretty spot on."

In the midst of surprised gasps, Chen Yuzhou stood.

Seeing this, just as I wondered when did he suddenly grew a pair of balls, the door burst open and four large men came in. Chen Yuzhou gave them a nod, and the four of them came and cornered me on my seat.

As they moved, something about the way they walked seemed odd. And sure enough, when they came near, I saw that they were all equipped with thick steel pipes

buckled to their belt around their waist.

Looks like they were hired hitters. They stood towering over me, waiting for Chen Yuzhou to signal them to start doing their job.

Though he knew that I was difficult to deal with, Chen Yuzhou probably didn't know that I also served five years in the armed forces. He probably thought that these four that he hired would be enough to handle me.

With the drink Chu Xiaoxiao put in front of me, and the four men that surrounded me menacingly, all others in the room finally began to realize what is going to happen.

Lin Fang panicked and tugged at Chen Yuzhou, but he ignored her. Instead, he put a hand around her waist, pulled her body in pressing against his and cornered her

against the wall. Looking at what he was doing with his hand to her, my hand tightened around my cup in anger.

“Zhang Chou, let me put it this way. Since Fang Fang was nice enough to invite you here, we’ll be civil about this. Here, drink it up, get out of here and never come into our sight again, and nothing will happen to you. Either that, or you won’t have a leg to walk out of that door again.”

I kept my head down in silence, and continued my game of Tetris. It was one of my favorites when I was in the force. Since we’re usually forbidden from all forms of communication to the outside, and this game doesn’t require connections to any servers to play.

The crowd looked on, astonished, in the sight that I was able to keep my calm even when surrounded by so many thugs.

Finishing my game off, I looked up and smiled, "Sorry. No."

Chu Xiaoxiao's face was darker than mud. Holding back onto her outburst, "Don't be unreasonable. Drink, and let it be. Don't assume that we'll always be this nice and patient."

"Patient and nice? Threatening violence and telling me to stay away from Lin Fang is your definition of being patient and nice? Look, the two of them aren't even girlfriend and boyfriend."

Chen Yuzhou's face darkened in silence. Then suddenly, someone from the crowd exclaimed, "Oh, I finally remembered, aren't you Zhang Chou the little piss drinker? I remember making you drink from the urinal back then, good times!"

I was calm, but hearing that blew away all my restraint. This was my

one taboo, whoever that would dare to touch, dies.

I turned my head towards the direction of the voice. When they walked in, the light was a little dim so I wasn't able to recognize him straight away, but now I did. Liu Hu, one of the few that I had a personal score to settle with.

Chen Yuzhou's mouth curled into a vicious smile, and I understood completely just what is going on here. Simply put, he knew that I'd be here, so he called Liu Hu here to humiliate me.

"For those of you who might have forgotten, let me refresh your memory. Here is the walking legend of the Tong City High School. Zhang Chao the piss drinker.

Remembering now? The school idiot of the year, who loves to drink from the urinal. No wonder he doesn't want your drink, Chu

Xiaoxiao. His taste and preference is a little bit different than us usual folks.”

The entire room roared into laughter, among chatters and whispers discussing and asking about the incident.

I didn't know most of these people, but they all know who was. Back then, the entire school knew about the incident where Liu Hu beat me to the point where I had no choice but to withdraw from going to school entirely.

Chen Yuzhou said, in pretend innocence, “Oh, I didn't know that. In that case, Zhang Chao, if you're not in a hurry to go, why don't you stay and we can have a nice long talk about that? I just realized that, for all the years that we've been school together, I don't actually know a lot about you.”

"Oh, so that's who he is, that one retard that didn't know how to talk properly!"

"Oh, the urine superman. I remember now. He used to be so poor that he was still wearing clothes from his junior high when he was in our class in high school. I used to think that he just have a thing for three quarter pants."

"Hah! Now that you mention it, I think I remembered too. Seriously, that poor, and he is after Lin Fang? Is he crazy or just dumb?"

"Fang Fang, you didn't get tricked by him, did you? Losers like him these days always go for the pure and innocent type like you. Open your eyes, and for once see him for who he truly is."

Ridicules and jests of all kinds pierced my ears, as my knuckles turned white from clenching my

hands hard into fist.

Lin Fang pushed at Chen Yuzhou, trying to stop him from saying these things. In response, Chen Yuzhou only growled at Lin Fang, "Aren't you such a kind and caring friend to him. One more word out of you, and I'll make sure that he won't have a leg to walk out of here."

"Don't, don't do this, he has done nothing to you, let him go. Let's keep what happened between you and me to ourselves." Lin Fang pleaded.

Hearing that, I stood up, a whole head taller than Chu Xiaoxiao. As expected of that outgoing personality of hers, she was bold and daring enough to stare right into my eyes, without even taking a step back.

"Now now, though everyone's words were a bit harsh, they're all true

nonetheless. You're not in the same league as us, and staying here any longer would only bring more trouble upon yourself. Drink up, and leave. After this, you go your way, and we go ours. You don't bother us, and we won't bother you either."

I was so moved by her words that I think I might puke in disgust. I snorted, "Thank you, I never took you for the considerate type before. Don't you even feel a little bit ashamed of that so called 'kindness' of yours?"

Chu Xiaoxiao glared at me, "I know, you poor people have your honor and pride and whatnot, but they have nothing to do with me. I can swear to God, I'm not one to discriminate anyone just by how much money they have, but leave my dearest girlfriend out of this. If this had been any other girl that you're after, you can bet that I won't give a rat's ass about whatever you

do.”

“That’s right, Zhang Chou, since you’re probably too poor to even afford a mirror, pee a puddle and take a look at yourself. You, and Lin Fang? How could you possibly think that you could match up to her? Really, even the greatest matchmaker in the world won’t be able to find a match for you. Oh, that’s right, you’re too poor to even afford to see a matchmaker, I’m so sorry for hurting your little pride!” Liu Hu joked, roaring in laughter.

Chen Yuzhou immediately followed up, “Or a shrink, since something’s definitely not right in your head if you think you’re actually somebody!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Caught in the mood, Chu Xiaoxiao waved with her cup still in her hands, "There's nothing wrong with being poor, but what's pitiful is your inability to realize and accept yourself for who you are. If you're poor, then live an honest life accordingly. You don't know how sad you looked, clinging on to Fang Fang so desperately as if she was your charming prince that will one day give you a rich life like Cinderella's."

Lin Fang kept motioning me with her eyes, telling me to say no more. I know, that she must be afraid of what these people would do to me.

I looked around, eyes sweeping across the entire room, over all of their faces and memorizing every last one of them. Then at last, my eyes returned to Chu Xiaoxiao's pretty face, and I felt an urge to spit on it.

People of her kind were the most disgusting of them all. Though everything that came out of her mouth were “fair” and “kind”, but in her heart she held herself in higher regards than all others, treating all those less fortunate with money as if they should be bowing their heads in submission to Her Majesty. In her eyes, these people don't even have the right to speak before her.

These people mocked and jeered with complete disregard to how someone like me would have felt. They laughed so hard that some of them were even hugging their stomachs in pretend pain.

“So, how it looks to me now is that, you guys won't let me go unless I take this drink here?” I asked.

Liu Hu laughed so hard that I could see tears forming at the edge of his eyes, “Ho, that glass of drink is expensive, more than you could

ever afford. Just be honest with yourself and take it if you want it so badly. All these pretense of pride and principle really doesn't suit someone as lowly as you."

Once again, Chu Xiaoxiao was a picture a holy saint, as if she was the Virgin Mary herself, "So long as you promise that you'll leave Lin Fang alone from now on and quit your job, I'll even give you all the drinks that you can see here today. You're a security guard right? I can recommend you to another place, and they'll give you at least 500 more each month."

"Five hundred, huh." I laughed.

"You aren't satisfied with even five hundred? Zhang Chao, don't push my limits." Chu Xiaoxiao said, biting her lips.

I laughed even louder, so loud that everyone quieted down to look at

me. I nodded, "Five whole hundred, but of course. How could that not satisfy me? Your royal majesty did so graciously give me such an enticing offer. I wanted it so much that I'd beg you for it on my knees."

Chu Xiaoxiao began to sense that something wasn't quite right with the choice of my words and the tone of my voice. She frowned and crossed her arms, and was about to continue lecturing me. I took the cup of drink from her hand.

"A bottle of this costs a grand, if I remembered. This cup here really costs quite a bit right?"

Chu Xiaoxiao flipped her eyes at me, "Just stop it, whatever acts you're trying to pull. I'll give you the whole bottle if you want. You can even take away all the alcohol that we have today if it suits your fancy."

I nodded. I raised the cup high, and

then poured it all over Chu Xiaoxiao's head.

"Sorry, too expensive for someone as poor as me. My Lady Chu, your majesty, can enjoy it as much as you want yourself." I flipped the cup upside down and placed it on top of her head, letting whatever that still remained in the cup drip down on her face. Then, I sat my butt back down onto my seat.

What Chu Xiaoxiao wore tonight was very seductively skimpy indeed, so skimpy that there was probably less fabric on her from head to toe than the shirt that I wore. The alcohol dripped from her head, down to her face, and then to her chest. Wetness spread quickly over the thin fabric of her shirt, almost making it see through as it spread. Before long, two balls became in play on the court.

All were shocked. No one expected

that I would do something like this. Chu Xiaoxiao used to be one of the prime female figures when we were in school. Even now, people would beg and die for her to step on them with that shapely legs of hers, bowing to her every whims and wishes.

And here, I, the lowly peasant Zhang Chao, made such a big fool out of her.

I said, calmly, my face as matter of fact as the rising and falling of the sun, "I was going to leave it along anyway, that cup of drink, but since all of you were kind enough to threaten that I won't be able to leave this place unless I took it, I guess I got curious. Oh, that reminds me, I don't particularly want to go away either, not yet anyway. I have a bone to pick with a few of the people here."

Chu Xiaoxiao's whole body trembled

from anger, her little fists tightened and loosened repetitively, then she yelled, "Get him!"

At her command, all the guys in the room came at me. Chen Yuzhou also signaled Liu Hu with his eyes, and they nodded. The four of them readied the steel pipes in their hands, then brought them swing down in the direction of my head.

Chen Yuzhou yelled, "Hit him, hit him hard! Break his legs, I'll make sure that none of you have any consequences to bear!"

I sat there, unmoving, waited until the first one came up to me, then I suddenly reached for that man's collar and pulled. That man suddenly lost his balance and fell to the ground, and took the steel pipe that he dropped. With it, I swung it forcibly in the horizontal direction, right at the knees of a few of them that were behind him. Before they

could scream in pain, I shoved the man backward, letting him crash into the crowd that came at me.

All the while sitting down squarely on my butt. These people weren't able to touch even a hair on my head.

Chen Yuzhou knew that I was strong, but what he didn't know was that I was also quite capable in a fight. Possibly remembering what happened at our last encounter, Chen Yuzhou faltered a little and took a step back.

I looked at him, brows raised, "This is all you got?"

As if I would be so kind as to give him an excuse to back down. He stiffened visibly, then yelled, "Screw it. All of you, do it! Hold nothing back!"

"Wait." I stood up, and rolled my

neck.

Chen Yuzhou looked confused, and Liu Hu growled, "You little filthy dog, it's too late to beg now!"

I tossed my phone over to Lin Fang, and smiled, "Hey, watch it for me now. I want to play with them for a bit, and I don't want to accidentally scratch my phone."

This display enraged them so much that they were probably not far from wanting to strangle me with their bare hands. The pipes came at me hard and fast, as I dodged them left and right at the last minute, feeling them scraping against my skin.

"Heh, kill him! And someone, take out your phone and record down all of this. This is what happens when anyone dared to cross us." Liu Hu said to the onlooking crowd, gloating. Looking at how closely I dodged, with the pipes less than an

inch from me as I did, Liu Hu assumed that I only got lucky with the dodges.

I didn't say anything, and dodged a few more times. By now, I had more or less figured out their habits and how fast their movements were.

Liu Hu came at me again, and I slowed down a little on purpose, pretending to be unable to keep up with him. He smiled viciously, bringing down the steel pipe in his hand even harder onto me. Just as it was about to hit me, I sidestepped and the pipe missed me completely and crashed onto the floor, and I gripped Liu Hu's wrist with my hand. Before he realized what had happened, I kicked him hard in the chest, sending him flying backwards.

Before Liu Hu could yell out in pain, I lowered my upper body slightly and pulled at the fist that appeared

in the place of where my shoulder had been. A back throw later, that man gasped in pain as I brought his frame down solid onto the table in front of me.

I acted fast and decisively. The combat training I received when I served in the forces were an entirely different world than the usual fights between little thugs in the back alleys. At the beginning when I kept dodging without fighting back, I didn't do it for show, but instead I was evaluating and gauging how much I could let loose on them. After all, it'd be a little troublesome if I accidentally hit them a little too hard and killed them.

A short minute later, the room was in a state of complete chaos, with some guys moaning and lying unmoving on the floor, and girls screaming in fear.

I walked over, and picked Chen

Yuzhou up by his shirt. He stammered, his lips turning white as blood left his face, "What... what are you going to do to me?"

I replied, "Didn't you say just then, that I should go see a shrink because my head isn't right? Well, how about if you let me run a few analysis for you, whether or not you're thinking straight when you assumed that you could get out of this unharmed."

"You, you wouldn't dare! I'm the son of the head of the Juen Group, I'm your company's client! I... if you dare hurt me, I'll... I'll tell Lu Tao to fire you!"

I was soundly disappointed, "Look, we're all adults now, and you still can't make better threats than little schoolboys? Don't you even feel a little bit ashamed, as a man?"

Chapter 8 Cinderella?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Liu Hu climbed up from the ground, and came to me with the steel pipe again. But he was too afraid to come too close to me, and only yelled and taunted from a distance, "Zhang Chao, know your place and let Boss go!"

I shot a glare at him with my eyes reddened with anger, then spat through my gritted teeth, "Liu Hu, we will settle our score later, slowly."

Of course, I wouldn't actually hurt him too badly. The emblem that I once wore on my shoulder won't allow me to disgrace myself so. Though discharged, I was once a proud member of the country's military forces. I was the sword and shield of the country, defender of the people. My training and my pride wouldn't allow myself to stoop down to their level.

But Chen Yuzhou, he was

humiliated in front of Lin Fang today. Hearing Liu Hu, he assumed that I would be too afraid to actually hurt him, so he crossed his heart and taunted back at me, trying desperately to scrape up and regain whatever little dignity that he thought he had.

"If you dare touch me, even a finger, I'm make sure that you'll have no place to stay in the entire Tong City. And you can forget about even walking out of this Night Wolves KTV alive tonight."

I said nothing, and let go of his shirt. Chen Yuzhou took it as a sign of fear and submission, and gloated in presumed triumph. Straightening his shirt collar, he began to speak, "Now, you filthy little..."

Before he could continue, I absently took a bottle with my hand, and brought it down crushing onto his head. Chen Yuzhou hadn't expected

this at all, and he froze in fear. I missed him by a little on purpose, the bottle didn't hit him, but was smashed and shattered into pieces on the wall above his head. His legs wobbled as he slumped back down into his seat, and a wetness and stench began spreading from between his legs.

"Aaahhhgh!" A moment later, Chen Yuzhou screamed. It was a nice a long scream. After he came to, he began feeling his head with his hands. Feeling no pain and blood, he finally realized that I was only scaring him, but it was too late. He had lost all dignity that he brought with him today.

Patting my hands together a few times, I looked around. All who met my eyes took a step back, men and women alike.

"Alright, I'm done. I'll be leaving now. Hey, relax, you guys probably

won't ever see me again, so long as you don't come looking for me for trouble that is. Really, since we do live in two different worlds after all. Right, Chu Xiaoxiao?" I smiled at her.

Chu Xiaoxiao was terrified, through and through. Sure, they may have acted tough and rough before, but those had been almost play fights in comparison to what just happened.

I was about to say something to her, but Lin Fang tugged at my sleeve, "Don't, don't be mean to Xiaoxiao."

At once, I softened my attitude. Instead, I gave Chu Xiaoxiao a little wink, "That company of your that you're starting up, don't bother with it anymore. Junran won't agree to work with you. Lin Fang, let's go."

When we left the room, Lin Fang completely couldn't understand

what had just happened. She worried and fussed, "You're really in trouble this time. Quick, get out of here as quickly as we can, I know Chen Yuzhou, he won't let you off that easily for this. Quick, you get out of here, and I'll go back and see if I can ask Xiaoxiao to do something about this. She is my best friend after all."

I was going to tell her to not worry about me, that he won't even be able to touch a hair on my head no matter how many of those wimps he gathered. But, looking at her worrying over me, a warm feeling rose inside of me, and I couldn't help but tease her a little more.

"If they hit me, remember to tell Manager Lu about it and ask him for a day off for me." I said, jokingly.

Lin Fang was panicking so much that she stomped her little feet on the ground, "I was really worried!

And here you're still not taking this seriously!?"

Something caught my attention, and I listened intently for a while. Then I quickly put my arms around Lin Fang's waist and turned off around a corner into another walkway. Not knowing what's going on, she looked at me questioningly.

I asked her, "Are you and Chu Xiaoxiao really friends with each other? Are you sure that it wasn't just one sided wishful thinking on your part?"

"Of course we are. She really is a good person, though I guess sometimes she does have an odd way of showing it."

I sighed and gave her a cold laugh, "Well, let's see if it's true."

"Let's see if what's true?"

As soon as she asked her question, coming around from a corner in front of us came a handful of people, probably six or seven people, or maybe even more behind them. They blocked the walkway altogether, obviously targeting the two of us, especially me.

I pulled Lin Fang behind me and shielded her from their sight, "So, who do you people answer to? Chu Xiaoxiao or Chen Yuzhou?"

The one in the lead had a short trimmed head, with a long and gaudy dragon tattooed onto his right arm all the way up to the top of his shoulder. His lips curled into a cruel smile, baring his yellowed buck teeth, "Our brother Zhou sends his regards."

I sighed again, a little relieved, "Looks like you're right about Chu Xiaoxiao, she was indeed your friend."

If they had been from Chu Xiaoxiao, it'd be a sad thing indeed. After all, what kind of friend would send their regards through a bunch of menacing thugs?

Lin Fang was terrified, she said, almost in tears, "There's so many of them, let's call the police."

I replied her, "Wait, let me have a little chat with them."

"Chat!?" Tears formed at the corner of Lin Fang's eyes as she fumbled on her phone to dial 110. I held my hand over hers, stopping her with a shake of my head, and smiled at her. Then, turning my head to look at them, I called out, "So, you're here to enjoy the party and a few drinks, or are you on business?"

Though I could tell already that they're definitely watchers, or bouncers for the Night Wolves. Every pub or club have a few of

these types around, in case that something... unpleasant should happen.

The buck teeth carried a heavy iron bar in one hand, and looked at me with his chin lifted up so high that I could see right into his nostrils, "Causing troubles here in my Night Wolves are you? Taking us for a bunch of fools?"

"So on business it is then."

Behind us, the sounds of footsteps grew louder. And as expected, taking a glance over my shoulder, I saw Chen Yuzhou and Liu Hu supporting each other and coming towards our direction. Though in his other hand, Chen Yuzhou held a little pillow against the general area of his crotch, covering the damp spot.

Coming up from behind, Liu Hu called out to the group of men in

front of us, "Big bro Lon, this is the guy! He is the one that has been trashing your place, don't let him get away!"

I looked at Lon squarely in the eyes, "Since this is your turf, you must have Han Kun's number. My name is Zhang Chao. Why don't you give him a call before you start dealing with us? Look, I'm saying this for your own good. A little call won't take up too much of your time anyway."

Liu Hu cursed, "You sly bastard, wasting our time with another one of your tricks again!?"

But this was enough to arouse the buck teeth's suspicions. He mumbled, "You, how do you know our boss's name?"

Chen Yuzhou already fell silent as it began to dawn on him what had happened, but Liu Hu was

completely oblivious. He said, "Big bro Lon, don't listen to him, teach this little twerp a lesson for us! My boss here said that he will take any responsibility if anything happens."

But the buck teeth obviously wasn't so easily fooled, "I guess I could at least spare the time for a little call." With that, he dialed Han Kun's number, "Kun, bro, it's me, Little Lon. Yes, I'm here. There's some punk here, causing a ruckus and trashing this place, said his name was Zhang something. Yes, Zhang Chao, that's what he said his name is. He actually had the gall to tell us to bother you... yes, yes... alright, sorry, I apologize, I... yes, of course, Kun. "

Hanging up the call, the buck teeth stared at us hard, face as green and sour as lime and eyes as sharp as knives.

Lin Fang was beyond terrified and lost. Throughout all of this, her

hands never left my shirt sleeve.

Some of his men asked the buck teeth what was happening, and he stared him down without saying another word. Satisfied, he turned around and walked towards me steadily.

“So, Zhang Chao, that’s what you’re called?”

I nodded.

Seeing the stern expression on the buck teeth’s face, Liu Hu ran up to us from behind us and pointed at me, “Big bro Lon, give this dog a whipping!”

As soon as he finished speaking, the buck teeth turned around, and then back around again, whipping his hand into a slap... across Liu Hu’s face. It was loud and heavy, and the sheer force of the strike made Liu Hu spun around in a full

circle on the spot.

Feeling completely lost at what happened, Chen Yuzhou turned around and disappeared into the onlooking crowd, making good of his escape.

I didn't stop him. It wasn't like I was really going to hit him anyway. Besides, I already made him pee his pants. This alone would stick with him for a long time in his circle of rich friends.

"Lon? Big bro Lon...?" Liu Hu put his hands over where Lon had struck him. The buck teeth walked in closer, and gave him another slap.

Not waiting for Liu Hu to respond, the buck teeth continued slapping him around, whipping him silly like a spinning top.

The buck teeth yelled at him, "You bunch of useless ingrates! You dare

to raise troubles on my grounds?
You have a death wish or
something!?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

By now, I no longer have any more interest in watching what would happen to Liu Hu. I didn't like him, that much was for sure, but I'm no longer my old self. Not anymore.

I was no longer the frail little boy that I had been when I was in high school. From then on, I had long since learned how to stand on my own two feet, undaunted by unreasonable demands and bullies. I was no longer the little boy that had been so impoverished that I had to swallow whatever injustice thrown my way just so that I could get through the day to see the next sunrise. Those slaps that Lon knocked Liu Hu senseless with had beat away the last remaining shroud of darkness that stayed with me since I was young. This would be the last time that I would give in so willingly to the darkness within my heart.

In the end, I didn't stay to see what

Lon would do to Liu Hu. With Lin Fang, we left the Night Wolves together. We got into our car, and was about to drive off when suddenly a red BMW cut across in front of us.

The door opened, and Chu Xiaoxiao stepped out, with astonishment written all over her face when she saw the Land Rover that I drove.

“What more do you want? By principle, I don’t hit women, and please don’t make me make an exception of it today.”

Chu Xiaoxiao snorted, her contempt obvious behind her eyes, “So this is the reason for all those tough acts. Turns out you’re one of those filthy rich boys that you so despised huh, figures. So Fang Fang, you’re with him for his money after all?”

I was so overcome with anger that I began to have a sudden urge to

laugh. According to her, when I was penniless, I was unworthy for Lin Fang. And when she found out that I wasn't so poor, all of a sudden Lin Fang was only with me for my money. Either way, I was always the bad guy, and only they were the good guys.

I no longer have any more patience for her antics. I revved the engine to show my intent to leave, and suddenly I felt a hand. It was Lin Fang, she motioned with her eyes, telling me to wait for her. The expression on her face was that of a mix between anger and frustration.

Lin Fang's chest rose and sank visibly, a proof that she was trying her best to hold back her anger. She said to Chu Xiaoxiao, her face blue with sternness, "Xiaoxiao, the two of us had always been the best of friends. But, if you keep this up, then I'm afraid today will be the day that

our friendship ends.”

“You...! You would go that far? For someone like him...!”

“What ‘someone like him’? Isn’t he a person just like you and me!?” Lin Fang cut her off short, “It’s true, Zhang Chao isn’t rich, and this isn’t his car, but our boss’s. But does that mean that I couldn’t be friends with him? The two of us are just friends, normal friends, not even boyfriend and girlfriend ‘friends’, and we certainly aren’t ‘paid’ friends like those ‘filthy rich boys’ that you mentioned!”

Chu Xiaoxiao hurriedly explained herself, “That’s not what I mean! I was just... worried that he might be lying to you and tricking you...”

Lin Fang was even more livid, “So all rich people are honest saints and all poor people are deceiving liars!? In this case I think there is no longer

any need for us to continue associating with each other. Just so you know, even I... I too..."

I knew what Lin Fang was trying to say. Over the years, the situation with her family hadn't been so great either. They had been apart for years since their days in school, so I guess it could be possible that Chu Xiaoxiao might not have known about what had really been going on with her and her family.

Lin Fang didn't continue, but simply shook her head, "Xiaoxiao, I'm really disappointed in you. Zhang Chao is my friend, a good friend. Either you accept it, or if not, this is where our friendship ends. Zhang Chao, we're leaving."

Chu Xiaoxiao looked disbelievingly as I stepped down on the accelerator and drove off. Being treasured and adored like a little princess for her whole life, I guess

she would have a hard time understanding and believing why Lin Fang would choose someone like me over people that she would consider “upper classed”.

“That buck teeth then. Why did he listen to you?”

Driving out of Night Wolve’s parking lot, Lin Fang asked me as Chu Xiaoxiao’s figure disappeared around the corner as we turned into another street.

“I helped out their employer with a little favor some times ago, and that’s why he knows me. Don’t be afraid, that buck teeth won’t suddenly turn around and trouble us again.”

“I’m not afraid. When I’m with you, I feel as if I don’t have to be scared over anything.”

Though I was happier than anything

when I heard that, it also made me more nervous than anything as I blushed furiously and not knowing how to react. For a while, I didn't even have the courage to look in her direction. I think Lin Fang might have noticed how embarrassed I was, because from the corner of my eyes I could see that for the entire drive, she simply sat there and watched me with a wry but warm smile.

I was twenty odd years old, but I never knew how to be with a girl alone before. Every single time, I always managed to do something silly and made a fool out of myself.

After taking Lin Fang home, I buried myself into my bed. Lin Fang's smile filled my mind, so much that even the pillow and my bed sheet felt like Lin Fang when I hugged them.

In that delirious state, I fell

unconscious into my slumber. The next day when I woke up, the sun was high and well above in the sky already, and there was a constant banging noise coming from my door.

I flipped onto my feet and out of bed. Glancing at my phone... shoot, it was 8:20 already. Almost late for work! It must be Lin Fang knocking on my door telling me to get out of bed.

“Zhang Chao, something happened, you’ve got to help me!”

As soon as I opened the door, Lin Fang threw herself into my arms, crying. Still in her bed clothes, her eyes were puffed and reddened from tears. One of the shoulder straps of her silk sleeping gown hung loose at her elbow, exposing a large portion of soft whiteness at her torso. Especially so since I was taller than her, looking down from

where my eyes were left not a lot for imagination.

But she was beyond feeling embarrassed, and kept crying in my arms. I cursed myself for this, just what a trash of a man I must be, still thinking about "that" sort of things even when she was in this state of stress.

"What happened? Tell me, I'm here."

"The doctors, they called in the morning. They said that if I don't front up with the treatment fees now, they would discharge my father from the hospital. They already moved my father's bed out onto the walkways already! My father's heart condition can't take all this abuse. If they discharge him just like that, he'll die!"

"How could this be!? You've paid for his residence in the hospital right? In full, if I remember."

“The doctor said that, if he isn’t performing operation any time soon, he’ll have to move out of the hospital. The doctor said that, my father staying in the hospital is simply taking up the hospital resource and wasting their manpower. Oh no, what should I do? What could I do!?”

It pained my heart to see her so distraught. I patted and caressed her hair softly, “No, this sounds too fishy to be true. Let’s go to the hospital first and see what’s really going on. You go back to your room and get changed.”

At a total loss as to what to do, Lin Fang heeded my words as if it was a piercing ray of light in complete darkness, and went back to change her clothes immediately.

I brushed my teeth and got changed too. Before heading out, I thought for a bit and decided to give Han

Kun a call.

I never pretend to not seeing my weaknesses for what they were. Though I probably had more than enough money to throw at anyone, I didn't know a lot of people. In a place like Tong City, if you need something done, other than having the money to do so, often you would also need to know the correct people to get it done smoothly. Tong City was a small place, but the water here had always been as deep as a bottomless abyss.

"Uncle Han, sorry to bother you so early in the morning."

Han Kun's voice was filled with sleepiness. I heard him taking a yawn and muttered something inaudible before answering, "My, if it isn't Master Zhang. Come now, there's no need for all those formalities. So, enjoyed the Night

Wolves last night? I told Little Lon who you are. Almost scared him out of his wits. Next time you see him, don't be surprised if he suddenly got on his knees begging for forgiveness."

I laughed a little, "That was pretty good last night, but for now, I don't want to expose my identity just yet. Tell everyone who knew to keep their lips tight."

"Oh, I see that this isn't about what happened last night. So, something came up?"

I hurriedly summarized what happened to Lin Fang's father, and added, "Though I don't lack money, I know that I don't have any connections in Tong City. Uncle Han, you know a lot of people here. Can you see if you can find out just what has really happened, and perhaps introduce us to a good doctor?"

"It's good that you called. If you haven't, I'm sure they'd be pulling your strings everywhere until you couldn't tell your left from your right, wasting your time. This Lin Fang of yours, has she perhaps... offended someone that she shouldn't? I'm sure that most of the hospitals would love to have patients like this, taking as long as they could residing in the hospital wards. Easy money, so to speak. Why would any sane doctor want to drive their cash cow out? Relax, I'll find out. I got your back."

As soon as Han Kun brought it up, I immediately thought of Chen Yuzhou.

Though Chu Xiaoxiao was indeed a strangely daring character, her friendship with Lin Fang was real. She couldn't possibly do something so underhanded such as this to Lin Fang. There was only one person who would stoop so low as to do

this, Chen Yuzhou.

Anger flared within me, and I uttered a curse under my breath, "It must be him!"



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“What’s this, just coming back to Tong City and you’re making enemies already? This should be interesting. Want Uncle Han to clear the way for you for a bit?”

I laughed a little, “Let me have some fun by myself for now. It isn’t anything serious. Though I would appreciate it a lot if you could help me sort out what’s happening with Lin Fang. Next time you come back to Tong City, we’re definitely going to have to find a time to sit down over a meal or two. You’ve helped me so much. I don’t think I could ever repay you for all that you’ve done for me. Oh, one more thing, please contact the marketing department for me, and pass on the message that throughout the entire Junran, including all of its subsidiaries, not a single person should have anything to do with a woman called Chu Xiaoxiao.”

Not that I held a particular grudge

against her, but that I always said what I meant and meant what I said. If I said I'd do something, I would see to it that the job would be done. It was a habit I picked up while I was in the forces.

Han Kun laughed, surprisingly merrily, "I like this character of yours. Alright, so be it! I'll go back to the country as soon as I was able to finish off whatever I had to do here in Denmark. I haven't seen you in person for such a long time, long enough to make me start missing you, and whatever strange antics you may be up to. Alright, call me if you need me again. Just remember, in Tong City, nobody can make you do anything you don't want to do. Those who dares to offend you, offends the entire Junran and all who associates with Junran."

"Thank you, Uncle Han." I thanked him, from the bottom of my heart.

If it hadn't been for Han Kun, so selflessly honoring my parent's will and signing my inheritance over to me when I came of age, I would still be a nobody today, living under the shoes of people like Chen Yuzhou.

On the entire way to the hospital, Lin Fang's eyes were red with tears. I kept comforting her and telling her that everything would be fine, but she seemed unsettled, looking out from the window as if she was in thoughts and conflicts. From the looks of things, there was definitely something more that she hadn't told me yet.

"You go on ahead, I'll be with you shortly after I find a park for the car."

Said me after we arrived at the hospital. Lin Fang nodded. She reached for the door handle, hesitated, then said to me, "Zhang Chao, I think, maybe you should go

back, and I'll handle it myself."

I paused, and frowned, "Just what happened?"

Lin Fang pulled on the door handle and got out of the car, "Nothing. From now on, just leave me to deal with my own problems."

Looking at her, turning her back to me and walking away, I felt a pain as if my heart had been stabbed.

Pulling the key out of the car, I jumped out of the car and chased after her. I grabbed her wrist, stopping her midway, "It was Chen Yuzhou right? It was him behind all this isn't it?"

Lin Fang shivered, and turned her eyes away from mine.

"You let go of me, I..."

She shook my hand off, and walked

towards the hospital entrance. I tried to follow behind her, but she turned around and pleaded with eyes reddened from desperation and frustration, "Don't, Zhang Chao, don't be like this. I really don't have a choice."

I overtook her and blocked her way. Stepping in front of her, I supported her shoulders with both of my hands, and reasoned as earnestly as I could, "It was only fifty grands right? I have it, right here with me. If you take his demand this time, what's stopping him from making another demand of you next time, and the time after that? After seeing all that he has done, can you still not see what kind of person he is?"

For all this time, Lin Fang has been holding on to her tears. Hearing me say that, it was as if a trigger has been flipped, and her tears began falling uncontrollably.

The two of us were standing right at the main entrance of the hospital. Many passerby came and went, staring at the commotion we caused as they walked by.

Lin Fang shook her head, then shook her head harder again, "It isn't just about the money. If I don't obey him, no hospital in Tong City would take my father in! What could I possibly do? Zhang Chao, there is no other way. There is no winning against him!"

I cursed at him under my breath again, at the depth that he would sink to just to achieve his ends.

To be fair, I had expected some form of retaliation from him. But, I never thought that he would go as far as to hold another innocent life hostage. Has he abandoned his humanity altogether?

"This time, he already threatened

you with your father's life. Next time, what do you think he will do.. or rather, what do you think he wouldn't do? What are his terms?"

Lin Fang sobbed softly, "When I went back to my room to get changed just then, he called. He demanded that I agree to become his girlfriend..."

"He has other women too! Are you sure he wanted you for his girlfriend or his plaything!?"

Hearing what Lin Fang said made me momentarily lost in the heat of anger, and I subconsciously raised my voice. For a while, all was quiet all around and all eyes were looking at us. Suddenly becoming the center of attention of prying eyes and ears, Lin Fang was taken aback by a sense of shame and humiliation. She struggled out of my arms.

“And what difference will it make!? I don’t need you telling me how to deal with my own problems!”

For a short while, all words left me and all I could manage was a broken stammer, “I... sorry, I didn’t mean... what I wanted to say is...”

Lin Fang shook her head again, and apologized as well. Leaving me behind with one last glare, she stormed off into the elevator.

I wanted to follow her up, but for some reason my foot has lost its usual strength. I stopped in front of the elevator, feeling angry and dejected, at myself for losing control, at Lin Fang for not believing in me, and all the while feeling bad for Lin Fang about her predicaments.

Regardless, I would never abandon Lin Fang to fend for herself. No matter what happens, I would never

let her be bullied around by Chen Yuzhou.

Coming to terms with myself and renewing my determination, I ruffled my hair hard to vent out the last remaining bit of frustration. As I was about to go to Lin Fang again, my phone rang. An unfamiliar number.

I thought it might be someone from Junran. Perhaps they have some messages for me. I took the call, and what came through was a woman's voice.

"Zhang Chao! You! You did this to me, didn't you!?"

"Who are you? Talk properly if you have anything meaningful to say."

Just by the tone of voice, I knew for certain that it couldn't possibly be someone from Juran. I was never one to indulge in pleasantries on

the phone with a stranger, much less one that was rude and uncivilized like this one.

“Who am I? You’ve gone ahead and did this to me and you’re saying you don’t know who I am!?”

I ran out of patience for her, and simply swiped and ended the call. With what just happened, I really wasn’t in the mood to deal with a random stranger.

As soon as I ended the call, my phone rang again. I looked at it. It was Han Kun this time.

“Master Zhang, what is happening over there? I received words that Lin Fang was crying her eyes out and making a scene in the hospital. I’ll get my people onto her father’s case right away.”

“Wait, hold it for a while.” I said to him.

Han Kun asked, sounding confused and suspicious, "What's going on? Was there something odd about Lin Fang?"

"No, that's not it, Uncle Han. I just want to see how much reach Chen Yuzhou has in this hospital. I want to know just how many people are answering to Chen Yuzho, so I can get rid of them in one fell swoop."

Lin Fang's father will be having his operation here, and I'm sure that he would be undergoing other checkups and evaluations after the operation as well. If I didn't weed out all Chen Yuzhou's underlings now, there would be endless troubles coming their way in the future.

I had dealt with thugs like Chen Yuzhou before. With these types, if you didn't slug them a really good one, they would never know not to mess with you again. Unless you

give them a really good lesson, they would continue buzzing around and pestering you like annoying flies.

I went inside the elevator and pushed the button that would take me to Lin Fang's father's floor. Waves and waves of frustration hit me as I remembered how hopeless and helpless Lin Fang looked as she uttered those words to me. If Chen Yuzhou would appear before me right now, I would love to have a chat with him. With my hands around his neck.

"Dr. Zhu, please! I'm begging you! I will definitely come up with the money. Just give me a few more days. Please, just a few more days!"

When the elevator opened, the quiet hospital hallway was filled with Lin Fang's pleas.

Following her voice, I began heading in her direction. When I

saw her, Lin Fang was in tears, begging in front of a middle aged man wearing a white doctor's coat.

"In our hospital, we have protocols and regulations to follow. Your father has been hospitalized for more than twenty days. We can't keep him in here any longer."

"But his life will be in danger if he is discharged right now! Doctor, please, have mercy and kindness. Give me just a few more days!"

I didn't go to her straight away, but kept myself out of sight listening and assessing the situation around a nearby corner.

Chatting with Han Kun back then reminded me. In a hospital, especially in a government funded public hospital, a mere no name doctor would never have the guts to act so harshly out of line. There must be someone in a higher place,

backing up and giving instructions to this Dr. Zhu.

"I already said no. Leave me be. I have other things to attend to."

"You... if you ignore me, I'll... I'll file a complaint on you!" Lin Fang said, with desperation in her voice.

Dr. Zhu was walking away already, but when he heard what Lin Fang said, he stopped and turned around. A cold light gleamed in his eyes behind his glasses, as he returned her threat with a glare, "Go ahead, and try all you want. You don't know who you're messing with. Well, I guess that's fine too. It would do you good to hit a brick wall once every so often. At least that will teach you your proper place."

Before Dr. Zhu even finish speaking, the door behind Lin Fang opened, and Lin Kang walked out.

"Sis, what are you making a scene for? I filed countless complaints already. It was useless. They have rules and regulations in the hospital. Everything he did was lawful and fully in his rights to do so."

Lin Fang exclaimed, her spirit broken, "That's impossible! That man in the bed beside father's, he had been here for more than three months! How could any of this be right!?"

"How could you not know how? That man you mentioned has connections, and money. And us, what do we have? Really, I really don't understand what's wrong with your head, sis. Mr. Chen was so nice to you, and rich, and powerful, and had such a nice personality to go along with all that. Why would you not take him? Something is seriously messed up in your head."

My knuckles whitened from gripping my fists too hard. Right now, I would love nothing more than to give Lin Kang a good knock over his head.

"You! Just how much did Chen Yuzhou pay you to say that!? You'd sell me off to him for what, just for some skins in some cheap games? I'm your very own sister for crying out loud!"

"I... err, I didn't say it all for myself you know! See, with our father lying here suffering in pain in the hospital, you can't be so selfish as to think of only yourself."

"Selfish and... only thinking about myself? Lin Kang, you're twenty odd years old already, why are you pushing all the responsibilities and blames onto me!?"

"...! We're... we're all one family right. Our problem is your problem

too. Well, you do what you want, but if anything happens to father, it'd be his blood on your hands! I've already done my bit by calling Mr. Chen here. He'll be here soon, but what you need to do is to save father now!"

At this point, I really couldn't hold it any longer. I stepped out from the corner and walked over to Lin Fang. Seeing me, Lin Kang flipped his eyes and almost spat, "You again. You're the one who has been filling my sister's head with all kinds of crazy things. I was wondering why she changed so much over these few days."

Dr. Zhu walked back towards us, "This is a hospital, so keep your voices down. Lin Fang, it was only because of Mr. Chen's that I let your father even stay in the hospital over the past twenty days. Today, I really can't allow it any longer. He will be discharged today. If he doesn't go

home, then he'll sleep in the streets."

"Hold it!"

Hearing me calling out to him, Dr. Zhu eyed me up and down with obvious contempt in his eyes. Seeing that I wasn't dressed as if I was a rich man, he nudged his glasses impatiently, "What do you want?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lin Fang tried to stop me, but I was quicker than her. I cut in front of Dr. Zhu as he was about to walk away, stopping him short, "Doctor, let's be frank. As the old saying goes, good doctors treat their patients as they would their children. Don't you think that you're a disgrace to all doctors and tarnishing their good name by doing what you've done?"

This particular Dr. Zhu looked to be about fifty years old. He has a mole at the corner of his mouth. Every time he spoke, the hair on his mouth shook and trembled with his mouth. He uttered something under his breath, then turned around and said uncaringly, "Young man, you should learn to be careful with that foul mouth of yours. In this hospital, we must abide by our regulations!"

"The hospital's regulation? I saw it just then. You guys have so many empty rooms to spare. Why won't you let us stay for a few more

days!? Everyone, gather around and see for yourselves. This is how this hospital do things! If we don't get to the bottom of this today, we'll bring this up to the director of the hospital himself!"

I was being unnecessarily loud on purpose, so as to attract the attention of nearby doctors and nurses, as well as other patients and their family and friends that came visiting.

This floor was mainly for the long term hospitalized patients, and their family members. Most of them have nothing but time on their hands, and so many of them peeked their heads out from their rooms, curious about what was going on with all the commotions.

Lin Fang tugged at my shirt, motioning me to stop causing a scene. I turned around and said to her softly, "Didn't you say before

that you felt safe with me around? Just trust me one more time.”

Lin Fang looked at me suspiciously, and I continued, “Do you really think Chen Yuzhou can be trusted? Even if you accepted his demands, he may still go back on his words.”

As the crowd grew bigger and bigger, Dr. Zhu began to feel the pressure of numbers, and all the attention they were giving him. Perplexed, he tried to get away from here by going into and disappear behind the crowd, but I was ready for that. As soon as he turned around, I shot my hand out and grabbed his shoulder.

There was no way that this overly plump and untrained civilian could withstand my grip. He yelped in pain, and I held him against the wall. Putting on a rough and vicious tone, I said, “Today, none of us will be going anywhere until you own up

to what you've done! Everyone, families and friends! Look at him, look at what he has done! He took someone's money to throw us out of the hospital. He would even go as far as to forcibly discharge a dying patient!"

The onlookers likely had already heard about Lin Fang's father's case. They all pointed at Dr. Zhu, muttering and gossiping to each other over what a terrible man he was.

"Let me go. Stop slandering me. I've done nothing of the sort. Why don't you go ahead and sue me if you actually think I am in the wrong?"

Dr. Zhu wiped at the sweat that had begun forming from his agitation, and turned around to leave again. But I was not going to let him go so easily. I secretly extended my foot and hooked it in front of his when he wasn't watching. He took one

step forward, then tripped and fell, planting his face into the floor.

“Ouch!” Lying sprawled on the floor, Dr. Zhu winced in pain, and yelled at the few nurses that had gathered to watch the show, “Can’t you see that I’ve fallen and can’t get up? What are all of you just standing around for? Somebody, come and help me up!”

Perhaps this particular Dr. Zhu had always been this insufferable. All the nurses flipped their eyes at his demand, but they had no choice but to heed it. Unwillingly, one of the nurses came and supported him back onto his feet.

Knowing that I won’t let him get away, and at the same time knowing that he couldn’t talk me down with words since I have the higher ground in both reasoning and morality, Dr. Zhu thought for a while in awkward silence, then his

face lit as if he had come up with a good idea. Taking his phone out and after a few swipes and taps, he said, "You just hit a doctor, this is medical violence. I'll record a video of this and post it on the internet for the world to see. You'll be famous for this act of violence before the sun goes down today!"

The absurdity in his thoughts almost made me laugh. Compared to a no name nobody like me, a supposedly respected doctor working in a well known hospital like him would have a lot more to lose from exposures like that. I've never seen someone shooting themselves in the foot with such merry enthusiasm.

I simply stood my ground on the spot, and looked at him with my arms crossed, unafraid.

Seeing my reaction, Dr. Zhu asked me in his confusion, "Why... why are

you still smiling for?”

“Oh, nothing much. I was just waiting for you to do just that. Then I’ll be able to point out to the rest of the world just how many vacant rooms there are around this place in your recordings, and see just how you could possibly explain yourself away for not letting us stay in the hospital. In fact, let me help you. I’ll take a video recording with my phone and post it onto the net as well, and let’s see which one of us would become famous quicker. Your name is Zhu Wangshen right? Do you own this hospital or something? Because you sure acts as if you do.”

Dr. Zhu was in the middle of recording with his phone, and when he heard that he panicked and threw himself at me in an attempt to knock away my phone. Thankfully, my grip had been tight enough so my phone withstood the

impact and remained in my hand, but because of it I was able to get a nice and clear footage of him charging at me like a wild pig.

“Dr. Zhu, what are you doing? Let me remind you that this is a hospital, not some circus for you to put on such an unsightly display for. The patient has overstayed for a period exceeding twenty days already. Why have you not notified the patient and arranged for his discharge according to the hospital regulations? Another patient has already booked this particular spot, and he will be needing this room soon in the afternoon.”

As I continued drawing more attention to Dr. Zhu, a thin high pitched voice cut through the crowd, and all of us turned our head towards the direction of the sound.

The voice belonged to a woman. But before I could see who this

voice had come from, the one that came into my eyes first was Che Yuzhou, and the two well built men dressed completely in black, walking beside him at his left and right.

Those who were trained usually have an eye for others who had gone through similar training. Though these two in black had yet to do anything, I knew that they were in a completely different league than the four thugs that Chen Yuzhou hired last night. They kept their expression calm, betraying nothing of their emotions, and watched their surroundings like wolves. They said nothing, but their posture and habit already spoke volumes about them. They were well trained. Perhaps they were even once part of the forces like I was.

Seeing that I looked in their direction, Chen Yuzhou

subconsciously flinched and backed off a little. But he quickly remembered that he had brought two hitters with him, and stepped up again.

The crowd parted and made way for them. Only when they came through, did I discover that behind them, stood a short and scrawny woman, looking to be in her forties. Her face was dry and wrinkled, but her eyes gleamed with a calculating shrewdness.

“Fang Fang, so you came already. This is my aunt over here.” Chen Yuzhou couldn’t wait to show off his connection to Lin Fang.

This boy really wasn’t suited for plots and schemes. In the presence of so many others, saying what he said would be more or less an open announcement that he was personally involved in this mess, and that he was related to the one

who was behind everything. And, even if his plot should succeed and Lin Fang submitted, hadn't he considered that Lin Fang would hate him all the more because of it?

Lin Fang was conflicted. She bit down on her lips, unsure of what she should do. Seeing her indecisiveness, Lin Kang gave her a shove from behind and urged her, "Sis, the one who can really help us is here. What are you hesitating for?"

I swept my eyes across the tag pinned at tiny woman's front. Chen Mengyun, a rather elegant sounding name, meaning "dream" and "cloud". Which is all the more disappointing because her appearance really didn't live up to the name that she was given.

Evidently, this Chen Mengyun had a much better head than Chen Yuzhou. Immediately, she scolded

him sternly, "Is she a friend of yours? But even if she is, I still couldn't be partial about this. I am the head of the cardiology department of this hospital, and I of all people should, and would, set a proper example for all to follow."

Though she saved it, anyone with a sliver of common sense would know what was really going on. More than a few of the onlookers chuckled with a smug expression over their faces. Some of them even expressed sympathy for Lin Fang, but most of those present were either family members of residing patients, or the patients themselves, or Chen Mengyun's subordinates. In short, no others present would dare speak out against Chen Mengyun, who quite literally had a say over their lives or deaths.

Lin Fang pleaded, her eyes once again red with tears, "Mrs. Chen,

please, I beg you. Please let my father stay a few more days. We have enough money for the operation. I can give it to you now.”

Chen Mengyun steeled her face, “Who said it was about money at all? Here in the hospital, we have our own rules that we must follow. Your father has been hospitalized for more than twenty days. If he wishes to perform the surgery, he must apply for a readmission to the hospital, but unfortunately all our beds are currently accounted for. You are welcome to submit an application for your father’s readmission, but he must wait for a bed to be vacant just like anyone else!”

Finally about to get a word in, Dr. Zhu followed, “That’s how it is. A bunch of country bumpkins, making a ruckus and wasting our precious time!”

It appeared to Lin Fang that she was all out of options apart from begging Chen Yuzhou to help her and accepting his terms. She knew very clearly that Chen Yuzhou was a bottomless abyss that would ask even more of her if she gave in, but she really had no other options.

Chen Yuzhou's eyes were filled with anticipation, as he waited for the words that he wanted to hear so much from Lin Fang's mouth. Standing beside Lin Fang, Lin Kang also urged her on relentlessly.

Just as Lin Fang was about to give in to her hopelessness, I reached and held her hand firmly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lin Fang hadn't expected that I would touch her so suddenly out of the blues. Chen Yuzhou's face turned blue as he pointed at me and yelled, "You take your filthy hand off her!"

I ignored him and spoke to Chen Mengyun directly, "Mrs. Chen, last time I checked, this is a public hospital right? This isn't your private practice, and as such you don't have complete authority over all of this. I get it that you must have had a hard life, having no choice but to always wear that ugly face that you're born with, but your heart needs not to be as ugly as your face. I request an audience with your superior."

"What did you just say!?" Chen Mengyun almost ran up to me to give me a slap, but she quickly cooled her head down, "My superior, you say? I am the head of the cardiology department. Anything and everything that occurred here in

this department is under my direct jurisdiction. If I tell you to stay, you stay. If I tell you to leave, you leave.”

This brought a smile to my face, “Is that right? Well, that’s a relief.”

“What do you mean by that? Don’t be thinking that you can pull a fast one under my eyes!”

I replied, “Knowing that you’re the one behind everything that happened here, I can rest assured.”

No one here knew what I was talking about, and I only laughed it off without explaining myself. If Han Kun caught winds of it as soon as we set foot inside the hospital, then he must be knowledgeable about our current situation as well.

And expected, from a little distance away, I saw a group of people drawing near, all wearing the same doctors white coat.

Chen Mengyun wasn't able to see them from a distance, due to her height. When they came close enough and appeared in her sight, her face turned as pale as ashes. She muttered under her breath, "The director himself!? No, that is not possible. He couldn't possibly have come for this brat. Impossible."

Chen Yuzhou on the other hand, was a fool through and through. Assuming the most convenient explanation for himself, he even reassured her, "The director have much more important things to worry about than this. Besides, with your position and influence in the hospital, even the director himself would think twice about dipping his hands into your affairs."

Chen Mengyun nodded, but wasn't completely convinced, "You did ran a background check on him right? He wasn't related to anyone of importance, was he?"

Though they kept their voices low, I still could hear them. When I served in the forces I was trained to be a recon specialist. What most would consider inaudible still sounded loud and clear to my ears.

Chen Yuzhou reassured her again, "Relax. He is nothing but a loser. A penniless and stupid loser. Though he is indeed a little stronger than others."

Hearing what Chen Yuzhou said, Chen Mengyun relaxed. She gathered her thoughts, then turned and walked to the director of the hospital with a smile, though that smile lasted less than a matter of seconds before it froze.

The director walked over to her directly, his face dark with sternness, "Mrs. Chen Mengyun, and Dr. Zhu Wangshen, you're fired!"

Even I was surprised at the turn of

events.

When Han Kun told me to relax, that he got this, I thought what he had meant then was that he would find a reliable doctor for us, and that the doctor would have enough say in the hospital to persuade them to make an exception of the hospital regulation and allow Lin Fang's father to stay in the hospital.

But over and above all my expectations, he went ahead and found the director of the hospital himself.

Of course, with Han Kun being so well connected and powerful, I don't doubt that he could very well have known the director of the hospital, even on a personal level.

But when the director appeared, I had thought that the most he would do would be a light scolding, or perhaps put in a few good words for

us, and then made arrangements for a bed spot for us.

But I never expected that the director would fire the two of them out right, in front of so many eyes!

Chen Mengyun and Zhu Wangshen's faces looked even uglier than pigs. The two of them were caught completely off guard by the turn of events, completely unable to react, or believe, what had just happened.

They weren't the only one. All the onlookers were also shocked, and all mouths fell silent. Chen Yuzhou's too.

Of course, Chen Yuzhou would never have guessed that the director of the hospital came for us personally. In his eyes, I was nothing more than a penniless loser, and that I couldn't possibly have so much influence.

But Lin Fang was a lot quicker and more perceptive. She began eyeing me suspiciously, as if she had discovered and seen through something in my heart. Meeting her inquisitive stare, I felt more than a little unsettled, and hurriedly explained to her, "Sorry, I was focusing on others' reactions about this. I was just as surprised about this as any other would."

Though Lin Fang obviously didn't take my words for the whole truth, but she conceded with a nod after thinking for a while. Even she would have trouble bringing herself into believing that someone as important as the director of the hospital himself would come and speak on my behalf. Especially since she had known me since my days in high school. I really lived the life of a pauper then. Even if I somehow became rich, it'd be impossible for me to come to know someone as prestigious as the

director of a hospital.

Chen Mengyun was a lot more cautious about it, much more so than her nephew. She asked, "Director Zhao, we both are lawful employees of the hospital. You can't just fire us at your whims. I know how much you wanted your son to take my place as the head of the cardiology department, but we've talked about it before. Your junior's level of skill really isn't up to par for the job. Though you might not have liked the fact that I voiced my honest opinion about him, you couldn't just fire me because you hold a personal grudge against my professional judgement!"

This Chen Mengyun, I really must hand it to her. She was really good. In a matter of seconds, she already managed to turn the spear point back to the director, leading others to believe that the director acted out of his personal grudge and selfish

interests.

But Director Zhao kept his calm. Instead of getting angry, he actually laughed in the face of such serious accusations, as if taunting at them and silently welcoming them to continue with the act.

Zhu Wangshen took the opportunity to speak up for himself, "Ye... yes! That's right, Director Zhao. All our actions are within the boundary of our hospital regulations. You cannot do this to us."

"All within the boundaries of our hospital regulations? Does that perhaps includes receiving bribes from patients to move them up the waiting list, Dr. Zhu? That three thousand dollars you received under the table from that particular patient's family members, are you perhaps implying that such ludicrous act of corruption is part of our hospital regulations?"

Zhu Wangshen's legs lost strength and gave way to gravity, and slumped onto the ground in shock.

Seeing his reaction, Chen Mengyun cursed at him, "You fool!"

Not give her time to continue, Director Zhao cut her off, "Chen Mengyun, I received words that you've been having some rather personal dealing with one of our medical suppliers. Asking for unofficial reimbursements from them off the records and falsely reporting a much higher price to profit from the margin. I'm assuming that you're still going to say that you acted in full accordance with our hospital regulations?"

"You're lying!" Chen Mengyun denied.

Now I really was lost about all of this. So the director really wasn't

here for my case? I could no longer made heads and tails about this whole mess. It looked like these two really had overstepped their boundaries, and Director Zhao caught winds of it and came to straighten them up. A fortunate coincidence for us.

Chen Mengyun might have got on a similar train of thoughts to mine. She rolled her eyes again, and suddenly pointed her finger in my direction, "Alright, I get it now. Taking bribes, unofficial reimbursements, and false reports, everything has been about them, hasn't it? You know these people, don't you? You're doing this because of them, aren't you? I was wondering why that little brat was so confident throughout all of it, so this is why. You were behind it all along!"

"Mrs. Chen, those are some rather preposterous claims spouting from

your mouth. Are you still going to deny your involvements even now?" Director Zhao was completely unmoved by her accusations, as if nothing she said could possibly faze him. Now that was some temperaments that impressed even me. If I had been in his shoes, I would have retaliated verbally, if not physically already.

It looked as though Chen Mengyun was going to take the bet that Director Zhao had no solid proof of his claims. She refused to believe that it was all an untimely coincidence. They had just plotted to drive Lin Fang's father out of the hospital, and Director Zhao immediately came and fired the two of them. It was too much to be a simple coincidence. It must be an act, to pull a fast one under her eyes.

"If you have proof, then take it out and let us see, Zhao Gongming!

This is all an act, a plot to get rid of us, to get rid of me so your son can take my place! I'm... I'm so angry that I could die!"

With that, Chen Mengyun sat her butt down on the ground right on the very spot, and began bawling and crying and screaming in total disregard to the onlookers eyes.

Director Zhao's face was still a picture of complete calmness. He waited for her to get tired of crying, then pointed at two of the men who stood beside him at his left and his right, "Why don't you take a good look at who these two are?"

The two of them never said a word. They simply stood with their hands folded in front of them passively. Though their expression bore a slight resemblance to Director Zhao's, a picture of complete calmness.

“You found two random guys to be your false witness!? Never! Oh God, this is too much!”

Then, one of the two men procured a little booklet from his pocket, and handed to Chen Mengyun, telling her to take a look for herself.

Without even opening, Chen Mengyun’s face whitened as soon as she saw the cover of the booklet.

Zhu Wangshen urged her, “Mrs. Chen, who are these people? Tell us!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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No matter how much Zhu Wangshen asked, Chen Mengyun simply stared into the void in silence. All around us were whispers and chatters, people trying to make sense of all that happened. Somehow, in a matter of seconds, Chen Mengyun lost all her flairs.

"They are agents from the National Health Department. Mrs. Chen, you may think that your plans and actions were watertight, but these people had been investigating your case for quite some time now. I was hoping that I could let you walk away with your dignity attached at least, but then you had to bring this down upon yourself." Director Zhao shook his head regretfully, with a smile that showed a hint of bitterness.

This was completely unexpected. All of this really had been a timely coincidence. I really got lucky this

time. The problem went away by itself without me having to expose my true identity.

If at all possible, I didn't want anyone to know of my true identity. Other than not wanting to appear as if I was a good for nothing son of a rich showing off his wealth, the larger part of me simply didn't want my aunt to know that I was back to Tong City. I hated her, and I'm scared of her. But, above all else, I could never bring myself to take vengeance against her. So, the best solution would be to keep my presence a secret to her, and never seeing her again in my remaining life.

Mrs. Chen and Dr. Zhu were quickly escorted away by the people from the National Health Department, leaving a dumbstruck Chen Yuzhou behind. Even now, he was still standing at the same spot, unable to come to terms with what just

happened.

All the onlookers cheered and applauded. They had been thoroughly entertained alright. The cheers went on for more than a few rounds before the doctors and nurses who had been watching finally realized their duties and began dispersing the crowds, asking them to return to their wards.

Lin Fang took the chance to explain her situation to Director Zhao, hoping that he would make an exception for their case and allow her father to be hospitalized for just a few more days.

"Of course. You are one of our patients, and in dire conditions no less, and you have paid for your father's hospitalization. How could we possibly throw you out? Also, I think you mentioned that your father will be having his operation

soon, right? Wu, my boy, make a note of it on my schedule. I'll perform his surgery personally."

Dr. Wu was the doctor responsible for Lin Fang's father. Hearing what the director said, his mouth opened so wide in shock that it could probably fit his entire fist, "D..director? You're going to perform this surgery personally? This is nothing but a simple procedure, the only problem so far had been that we simply haven't received payment for the operation from the patient's family."

Director Zhao reached with his hand and patted Dr. Wu on the shoulder, and said with a laugh, "No need to worry about the payment. It should come soon, either today or tomorrow. You just go ahead with it and schedule the operation. Perhaps next Monday. I would have some free time then."

Dr. Wu was pleasantly surprised and excited at the same time. He nodded enthusiastically, and asked Director Wu for his permission and honor to allow him to observe as his assistant. Lin Fang also kept holding and shaking the director's arm to express her heartfelt gratitude.

In the midst of all the merriment, I noticed from the corner of sight that Chen Yuzhou and Lin Kang was sneaking away from a distance, so I quietly and secretly followed behind them.

Again, as a recon specialist, tailing the two of them was a walk in the park. They never realized that I was behind them as they snuck into a nearby fire exit. Seeing them going in and not hearing the sounds of footsteps either going up or down, I simply leaned against the wall outside of the door and focused on listening to whatever they might be

saying.

“What happened!? What’s going on!?” Chen Yuzhou was furious. From the sound of things he seemed to have kicked something, perhaps a trash can.

“This... but... maybe, maybe Zhang Chao was behind all this? My sister couldn’t possibly have that kind of influence and connections. Zhou, bro, don’t get too worked up.”

“No, that’s impossible, Zhang Chao was too stupid for this. And the director said so himself. He didn’t come because of your father. When he had my aunt, his proof was also rock solid. Thank God that it wasn’t because of Zhang Chao. If it really was, my mother would have my life if she finds out that I was responsible for this! You sly little snake, I already gave you so much money and so far I haven’t even been able to touch your sister at all,

not even her little finger! Are you and your sister simply playing me for a fool!?”

Behind the door, I heard the sound of a loud slap, loud enough to be soundly audible even after being dampened by the heavy door of the fire exit. This really made my day. That good for nothing trash of a little brother deserved just that. I've been wanting to do it myself too, especially as of late.

“Ouch, that hurts. Zhou, bro, don't be mad. I know that my sister still loves you. What is a little Zhang Chao to the love between the two of you anyway? Just you wait...”

“Wait? Wait!? You're telling me to wait!? Let me tell you, if I don't get to sleep your sister, I'm going to sell your butt to a God forsaken man shop. That underground loan you took out from Gao, he came pestering me about it more than a

few times already. For now he had done me a favor and kept it civil, but don't think I'll always be this nice about the two of you, you and your sister too. My patience is running thin. You have one more week, or I'll have Gao come to deal with you personally. If it comes to that, remember to wash your butt thoroughly and prepare to be hammered silly."

"Nonono, Zhou, my bro, just give me another chance... Yes, I have a plan. Tonight, I'll go to my sister's, and put this into her water and make her drink it, and then of course you'll be waiting outside for the right moment to come in..."

I swore out loud on the spot right on the quiet hospital walkway. For God's sake, how could you still call yourself her brother!? You're worse than even the scum on the bottom of the trash can!

I had a sudden urge of simply busting in there and beat the living hell out of this little bastard. But then it dawned on me, that it would be of no use. If they didn't succeed this time, they would simply try again next time. And more importantly, Lin Fang still think of Lin Kang as her dear little brother. She wouldn't possibly take my words over his.

Chen Yuzhou was obviously satisfied with this plan, and his voice obviously calmed down, "Don't play me for the fool again now. When?"

"Tomorrow. Tomorrow night, I'll go to my sister's, and then..."

The two began discussing the details of their plans right there. I committed all of them into memory, and began formulating a counter plan of my own, a plan to let Lin Fang see her trash of a little brother

for who he was.

After a while, their voice stopped, and from behind the door I began hearing the sounds of footsteps again, so I quickly retreated away and headed back to Lin Fang's father's ward.

As I was about to enter the room, someone called out to me, "Zhang, let's have a few words."

That voice sounded familiar, but I couldn't remember who it belonged to. Turning my head around towards the voice, I suddenly saw that it had come from someone that I hadn't expected at all. Director Zhao.

"Greetings, Director Zhao. I was just thinking of going to you to thank you for such a great help you've been to us. Though it wasn't for us specifically, stopping Mrs. Chen and Dr. Zhu and firing them really helped us. You have my most sincere

gratitude and respect.”

Director Zhao only laughed, and took hold of the hand that I extended. Shaking it, he stepped forward and whispered with a chuckle, “I really got you good this time, haven’t I? Han Kun called me early in the morning, telling me that Zhang Jun’s little boy came back and wanted me to do you a favor. Heh, I was actually afraid for a bit that I might not be able to recognize you. Well, that worry proved to be unfounded anyway, since you looked the splitting image of your father when he was young. You had his flair.”

I was speechless, utterly speechless. It took a long while before my mind finally began working again, “What? So... so, you really did that... to help me? But... those people from the National Health Department? If... if that’s the case...! Is the evidence fraudulent!?”

"Of course they're real, as real as you and me. You're going to ask how I could procure them so quickly right? Well, I have nothing to hide, since I didn't do anything anyway. It was Han Kun, from the start to the end. That old sly fox is one hell of a lawyer. He arranged just about everything that happened today. When I got his call in the morning, those people from the National Health Department was already waiting for me outside my office."

I was truly shocked, well and truly. I know that Uncle Han was a capable person, but I never knew that he was that good!

Director Zhao said again, his voice low, "It was so good to finally see you again. Come, to my office. We have much long awaited catching up to do. And, I did just do you a favor right? I have a favor to ask of you too. Though from the looks of things, you and the Chens seems to

have some sort of histories between the two of you already, so this would probably benefit you too.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“How unexpected, finally being able to see you again. You’ve grown so big now. I remember when Zhang Jun came to me to show off his little boy, you were only this tiny then, sleeping so peacefully in your arms. What were you then, not even one whole year old still I think. Boy, time really flies by at the blink of an eye. Chi, make yourself useful and bring us a cup of water, will you?”

Chi, his secretary, nodded and went out of Director Zhao’s office, closing the door behind her.

Zhao Gongming looked more jubilant than anything else, eyeing me up and down and around. He looked so happy to see me that I was beginning to feel awkward, like a little boy visiting a distant relative and not knowing what to say to them. By the look in his eyes, I might as well be his own long lost son by blood.

“Director Zhao, so you know my father too?”

“Stop with all this business of Director Zhao already. If you don’t mind, just Uncle Zhao would do. Come, and sit. Oh I know your father alright. Him and I, we go way back. We used to learn at the same school even! The two of us both graduated from the Capital Medical School. I’m a little older than your father though, by about six years. After graduating and coming back to Tong City, I became a doctor. But your father, no, his head was too good to waste on this doctor business. Instead, he went headfirst into commerce and began his own business. If only he didn’t offend those people, he’d still be... no, sorry, it has been all these years already. Never mind about that.”

“Offend? Who did he offend?” I asked, confused. As far as I had known, my parents passed away

due to a drink and drive accident, running into someone else's car. Was there something else to this story?

Everything about my parents had been passed on to me by my aunt. When they passed away, I was too young to understand anything, much less those thick convoluted documents that the court sent over.

But, other than my aunt, all of my other relatives said the same about them, and it would be impossible to think that my aunt would have staged this huge lie involving all of them just to deceive me.

Zhao Gongming knew that he made a slip, and asked me awkwardly, "Oh, so... you didn't know?"

As a recon specialist, I learned a great deal while I served in the forces, about how to talk others into bringing up the information I wish

to extract. If I really wanted, I could probably pry it out his mouth if I used it on him, but I didn't want to do this to Uncle Zhao. These techniques, I learned them so I could deal with my enemies, but he was my father's friend. And, planned or no, he did just helped Lin Fang and I. I respected him for that, so I refrained and simply asked plainly.

"Just what had happened back then?"

Zhou Gongming scratched his nose, "This... this was nothing. You know, when your business gets big enough, suddenly everyone else in the world all became your enemy. Your father's business grew too large too quick in the Tong City, and attracted a lot of hatred all over the place. He did have a few notable enemies, but none of them had anything to do with your father's death."

I was no fool. And, Uncle Zhao made it so obvious that even fools could tell. He was pulling a blind over my eyes, and he didn't even bother to be discreet about it. If they really had nothing to do with my father's death, he would never have mentioned it.

For all these years, I never once doubted my parents' cause of death. Because my aunt had drilled it into my head since I was young, that at the same time my parents killed themselves, they also killed my uncle, her husband, and that was why she had always hated me. Though everything else could be faked, that hatred in her eyes towards me wasn't. If she hadn't hated me so to that extreme extent, I didn't believe that she would look at me with such hatred that looked as if she was always ready to strangle me to death should I ever give her the chance to try.

But at the same time, I could tell that Zhao Gongming really hadn't intended to be frank with me about it. If I were to chase him up on it, he would probably gloss over it with a few empty words and formalities.

I could do nothing but take a long sigh, filled with regret. I couldn't come up with any plans. Against those whom I hold dear, I couldn't formulate any plans to manipulate them. "Uncle Zhao, you mentioned just a while ago that you wanted my help with something? If it's anything I could help you with, I'd be glad to do so."

Zhao Gongming also looked as if he was desperately thinking of something to say to change the subject. When I gave him a lead, he followed up on it immediately, "I hear from Han Kun that you were pretty well trained while you served in the forces. You must be pretty good at handling yourself right?"

"Passable I guess. In the forces, everyone of us were taught how to handle ourselves against assailants to a certain degree. Why do you ask, Uncle Zhao? You're not thinking of hiring me to become your bodyguard, are you?" I replied, a little jokingly.

I responded absently, still thinking about my father. By now, I've come to the conclusion that his slip up just then couldn't possibly have been a coincidence. He wouldn't be Zhao Gongming if he was someone that would so easily make a slip of the tongue. That had definitely been intentional, but then again, Han Kun never once told me anything about it before.

I only meant it as a joke, but Zhao Gongming's reply surprised me yet again. He sighed, "I have a son. His name is Zhao Zichen. He is a general surgeon, but in a short while he would be applying to

specialize as a cardiology surgeon. With the coming and going of the tide, oldies like me are gradually being made to fade out of the scene to give way for the fearless youngs.”

“And you also think that this is a good thing right, Uncle Zhao? After all, I don’t think you’d be objecting to more leisure times and rest.”

Uncle Zhao laughed, full of mirth, “I’m not in any particular rush either way, but those underneath had began to grow restless. Every single one of them wished that I would step down, right now if they could have their way, so that they could have their own people sitting on the director’s chair. I more or less know of all the potential candidates already, but the right to make the final decision somehow finds itself ending up in my hands. Though I don’t particularly care for it, whether anyone else thinks the same as me

isn't something I can say for certain. For my whole life I've sought harmony, never intending to offend anyone else. But as fate would have it, it looks like this is one conflict that I cannot run away from."

Now I finally understood what he meant, "Uncle Zhao, you wanted me to protect your safety?"

For people like Zhao Gongming, taking him down in open confrontation would be almost completely impossible. But if they were to resort to something more subtle and underhanded, it would be a completely different story altogether.

Zhao Gongming nodded heavily, "Something like that, but not me. I want you to protect my son Zichen. I know these people, I know that they know me, that if they dared to do something as foolish as to force

me to a decision, I would simply resist them until the bitter end. But all except for one thing, and that is my Zichen. He is my only son. I don't even want to imagine what it'd be like to lose him. Chao, I know very clearly that, you being who you are now with all that you possess, something like this is, frankly, unfitting would be an understatement. But on the other hand, after much thoughts, you are still the most suitable one, and the only one that I could ask this of. What I'm thinking is that, with Lin Fang's father hospitalized as he is now, you'll most likely frequent the hospital as well. It'll only be a few more days, until a new director was appointed, and after that there should be no more troubles. I've thought of hiring professional bodyguards for Zichen, but unlike his old man he is stubborn to a fault, intentionally opposing just about every single one of my decisions, so I could only ask you

for help. If you do this favor for me, if you should need your Uncle Zhao for anything else in the future, you had but to open your mouth to ask.”

This shouldn't be much of a problem. Zhao Zichen and Lin Fang's father would be in the same department. And with Lin Fang's father's operation coming so soon, she was bound to apply for leaves to come looking after her father. I'll simply tag along then.

“Uncle Zhao, no need to be so formal, it'd be no trouble at all. And if I wasn't wrong, among the candidates this time, one of them is also one of Chen Yuzhou's relatives right? That's why you said I would be helping myself as well if I help you.”

He grinned, “Good, a smart cookie you are. Yes, Chen Yuzhou's uncle was one of the candidates, his name is Chen Han. He is also the one that

is most likely to threaten Zichen's safety. The Chens are very deeply rooted here in the Tong City, and they were also arrogant and demanding like a tyrant. That's what's worrying me so much."

"Well, with me around, you can rest easy Uncle Zhao. Friends of my enemies are my enemies, and enemies of my friends are still my enemies. Uncle Zhao, I'm worried that this Chen Han would conspire with someone else. Do you have any other enemies beside this Chen Han? If there is any, please tell me so I can prepare for it. As they say, preparing for what might be trumps regretting what might have been, any time and every time."

"Enemies, you say. Well, there is one, but he has long since went somewhere far away already. That, and it had been such a long time ago."

"What's his name?" I asked, desperately holding on to my emotions so as to keep Uncle Zhao from noticing anything out of the ordinary, "So I can be more efficient in keeping Zichen safe."

I could see it on his face that Zhao Gongming really didn't want to utter his name. But hearing my words, he hesitated and debated internally for a while, "His name is Jiang Ming. The two of us never saw eye to eye ever since we were young, but he left Tong City many years ago already. You shouldn't need to concern yourself with him too much."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Jiang Ming was not an unusual name, but it was definitely not an impossible mission to find the required person. I was just not sure if this Jiang Ming had anything to do with my father's accident.

"I was just a child when my father passed away, and Mr. Han has been abroad a lot these days, so I know very little about what happened before. Could you please tell me more about my father if possible?"

"Absolutely, but it's getting late today. Why don't you let me buy you a meal and introduce my son to you later?"

I stood up and refused politely, "I would very much like to, but Lin Fang needs my company now. Would you please call me when Zichen comes back? Thank you so much for everything."

He seemed to be sincere about the

invitation, but I excused myself properly.

“Well. That’s alright. Come back to me whenever you’re available.”

“I definitely will.”

When I walked out of the office, I bumped into Mr. Chi, who was here to deliver the tea. It took him more than twenty minutes to make it, which made me kind of doubt if he’d planned the delay.

I soon found a covert place and, without taking a pause, called Han Kun.

Despite the time lag between Denmark and China, he picked up within seconds.

He thought I was calling for Lin Fang, so he casually asked about her situation. I ignored his question and asked directly, “Is there anyone

who can possibly hurt or threaten Mr. Zhao Gongming in this city?"

"That would be a long list. What do you need this for?"

"He told me that his son was being threatened recently, and he wants me to protect him. I need to figure out whom should I protect him from first."

"He wants you to protect his son? He's really being ridiculous. I'll just hire some bodyguards for him."

"No big deal. I've agreed to do it anyway. Tell me more about his network, and I'll take care of the rest."

Even though he didn't approve of my plan, he respected my decision; He called me Young Master after all.

He agreed to send the list to my

phone later and reminded me to make use of it as it could help me understand the complicated relations between the important figures in Tong City. I had to do those things anyway since I had to inherit the business sooner or later.

I promised, and after hanging up, I dialed another number.

Actually, I was slightly hesitant about this phone call.

The death of my parents had left a scar on me, and it hurt whenever I tried to pry deeper into it. So, even the thought of it was always avoided, let alone an investigation.

However, after talking to Zhao Gongming, I was possessed by the idea of looking for the truth.

The man I was calling now was an old friend—or I should say the only friend—from high school.

He was my classmate, Xia Gehuai. With a poor family background and average grades, he failed to get into a college when we graduated. But somehow, he pulled himself together and worked hard to enroll himself in a police training school. Now he was a policeman in the Jin'an District of Tong City.

He was neither an outstanding student nor a capable policeman, but he was always good-tempered and well-mannered. While I was being bullied in the class, he was the only one who would talk to me.

During my service, we didn't communicate much except for the customary greetings on special occasions. I hadn't contacted him yet after I came back.

After catching up, I asked him for a favor, hoping he could help me access the stored file of my father's accident.

I needed to confirm something.

Xia Gehuai assured me that he would have it done as soon as possible.

Around half an hour later, I got his call when I was about to have lunch with Lin Fang.

“Did you get it?”

“Let’s discuss in person; It’s damn odd.”

“What are you talking about?”

“The file you asked for is classified. Apparently, I have no access to it, and here I thought it was merely a traffic accident. What have you got me involved in?”

“Are you sure?” I was shocked by his revelation.

“It’s hard to explain on the phone.

Let's meet up and have a chat.

I tried to stay calm, but my heart was thumping hard in my chest as if it would jump out the next second.

Xia Gehuai was very discreet about phone calls, so I guessed I had to change my plan.

"Are you free for lunch? My treat. We haven't seen each other for ages. "

"Wow. Have you made a fortune? But don't fool me with the street food, alright? I would only talk in a fancy restaurant."

"You are getting picky, brother. No problem. Just name it."

"Spring Garden then."

"I'll see you there."

He had made the best suggestion since Spring Garden happened to be one of my businesses. What a great bargain!

I wanted to take Lin Fang with me. The mere thought of leaving her alone in the hospital worried me; however, Lin Kang wouldn't let her go.

"We are still short of money for dad's surgery. Who is going to pay the 50,000 if you are not here?" asked Lin Kang.

Lin Fang was annoyed by her brother's attitude. I comforted her by saying, "Don't argue with them. I'll be back with the money after I am done with the things in my hands. Just wait for me here."

Her eyes watered, and she said softly, "Okay. I will wait for you. But please, tell me you'll be back."

I felt warm with the trust in her eyes and her tender look, "Yeah, I will be back before you know it."

Lin Kang was unhappy with my presence, but he dared not fight with me. He just muttered to himself restlessly as I left.

On the way, I booked a VIP table in Spring Garden and ordered the most expensive courses in advance.

Only one manager at Spring Garden knew me, and I specially told him not to reveal my identity.

"Zhang Chao?"

My mind was wandering when an average-height young man appeared before me, astonished.

I was used to that expression, which appeared on every classmate who met me again.

"I thought you were in the army? Oh my God! Abalone, shark fin... Did you order all this for me? You must have done well in the forces. Did they reward you? Look, you are a completely different person now!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

The familiar teasing from Xia Genghuai almost took me back to the classroom in high school.

After a big hug, he laughed, "Tell me you've earned money rightfully, young man."

"Don't worry, sir. Every penny is made honestly, just like you."

"Enough of that! Ha-ha. You even talk differently now."

I didn't remember much about our high school life. It wasn't pleasant enough to recall anyway. I had thought those stories would never be brought up again because of the awful experiences back then.

But as we drank and chatted about the funny teachers and beautiful girls at that time, I gradually felt more comfortable talking about it.

Between the hiccups, Xia Gehuai

fetches his briefcase and took out a thick folder

"Here you go. This is what you wanted," he passed it to me.

"You said it was classified and that you had no access to it, didn't you?"

Without authorization, it was impossible to gain access to classified files. I'd learned that in the army, so I was in real confusion now.

Following a loud burp, he continued, "That's why I thought it was odd. I see no reason why the report of a traffic accident is confidential. It's very rare and strange."

"Could it be that it's a criminal case, and you are not a detective?"

"No way. The accident happened years ago. Even if it was classified then, the restrictions should have

been lifted by now. What's happening is unusual, so I was wondering if there was something special about the case itself. However, a traffic accident is nothing noteworthy. It leads me to think that maybe it's related to other critical or serious cases that are not open to the public yet."

Although the system in the military was similar to that of the police, I was not familiar with the details. So I poured him one more drink and asked him to brief me.

"For example, if Zhang Jun was undercover and the related case wasn't closed yet, or if his case involves national security, that would explain this dilemma," added Xia Genghuai.

Undercover? I didn't think so.

Although I could barely recall the days I spent with my father, he

seemed to be around us a lot in my memory. He wouldn't have time to undertake tasks like that.

Xia Genghuai continued, "That's why I got you this. I thought if my guess was right, there might be records of his other cases, which might be more accessible. And bingo! Here they are."

He pointed at the folder in my hands.

I put the glasses and dishes away, making room for the files inside.

There were at least eight files, mostly reports of minor offenses like fistfights. Nothing exceptional could be found.

When I was just about to put them back into the folder, I spotted a familiar name—Jiang Ming.

Individuals involved: Zhang Jun,

Han Kun, Jiang Ming...

Instantly, the idea that this could be the person Zhao Gongming mentioned flashed through my mind.

"Help! Help!"

Abruptly, a scream broke the silence. I looked up and saw a woman running into our room.

She was panicked and in a mess, dashing to Xia Genghuai almost without any hesitation.

"Help me! Please!"

I grabbed the files and stuffed them into the folder. They were the most important thing for me right now. If there really were anything fishy in my father's accident, I would better keep my investigation a secret.

"What happened? Tell me about it;

"I'm a policeman."

"I'm being attacked," she said while sobbing.

"Don't worry. As I said, I'm a policeman, and I'll protect you."

Before he could finish the sentence, a peal of scornful laughter was heard from outside.

"Ha-ha-ha. Who is bragging? Oh, a drunk policeman? Hong, that's your last straw? Seeking protection from cops? You are a joke!"

Bang!

The door was broken with a huge noise. It was certainly not my lucky day as troubles kept coming my way like being drawn to a magnet.

A dozen men rushed in, followed by even more.

Xia Genghuai, alert and tense, stepped back.

The woman named Hong, however, calmed down after hearing his boisterous comments. She fixed her clothes and lit a cigarette.

"It's not good," Xia Genghuai whispered to me.

"What?" I was nervous and fidgety. Was it a mere coincidence or not? They came when I was just starting to look into the accident.

"Fights between gangsters. These men are from the Dark Dragon, and Hong—whom I saved before—is from the Red Light. We'd better stay away from this. Keep quiet, and I'll get you out of here," said he.

If this happened on any other day, I would not leave so easily. No gangster fights were allowed in my place.

But today, I needed to protect the files. They were my clues to the truth

I stayed close to Xia Genghuai and walked out slowly with my head low. But suddenly, my arm was seized.

"Isn't this Zhang Chao? What a lovely coincidence!"

I looked up and met a pair of fierce eyes. Liu Hu! What bad news.

He seemed excited. He should be since he had been dying to get his revenge against me.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"I've been looking for you, you know."

Liu Hu gave me a hard push, and his men blocked the door immediately to prevent us from running away.

I hadn't foreseen this coming, but I knew it might not end well today.

"That's him, boss. The guy I told you about, Zhang Chao! Please help me and Yuzhou get our revenge today!"

Liu Hu talked to a young man standing in the front, sounding humble and flattering. The man was of average height and resembled Lon somehow because they both looked like a typical gangster.

But with many gangs active these days, I had no idea whom he was working for.

Xia Genghuai got tense and said, "How did you get into this trouble?"

"Look at your uniform. You are a policeman, bro. Are you really that afraid?" I made fun of him.

"Nonsense. Haven't you seen how many of them there are? I'm just an ordinary policeman, not spider-man!"

I was surprised at how the city had changed.

Five years ago when I joined the forces, there were gangs in Tong City as well, but they were more discreet and would definitely avoid displeasing the police.

But now, they showed more disdain than respect for Xia Genghuai.

The young man, however, was probably not the real leader of the Dark Dragon. He could be the head of a small group under it, though.

After all these years of being a

scout, I could tell this much from his manner.

It might not be as severe as Xia Genghuai had thought. The fights between the small groups wouldn't be much trouble.

I had never dealt with those people before, but I had seen worse in the battlefield. It was not the most intimidating situation, at least for me.

Encouraged by Liu Hu, the leader— young and irritable—decided to show his strength. He walked around me with a toothpick in his mouth.

“My name is Kim. I heard you know Lon from the Night Wolves? Which mountain are you from?”

Mountain? I was confused as Tong City was not located in a mountainous area.

"It's an argot. He's asking you whom do you work for? You know Lon? That's great. Seek for his help!"

Xia Gehuai urged. But before I could react, he suffered a kick at the chest from Kim and fell on his back.

I became furious and roared, "What are you doing?!"

"Nobody talks when I talk, especially cops. Who do you think you are, Mr. Policeman? Do you hope to scare me simply with your badge?"

I tried to help Xia Gehuai stand up, which seemed to be rather difficult for him. He struggled but failed, blood coming out of his mouth.

"Shit!" My eyes went red, "Lie down, brother. I'll get you out of here."

"Out? You can, for sure, but only if you do three kowtows to me. I'll let

you go for the sake of Lon," said Kim.

Others laughed loudly, waiting to see me humiliated.

My fist clenched with rage. Liu Hu knew that I was not weak, so he became alert and warned Kim, "Kim, be careful. He's quite good at fighting."

"He's got only himself! What are you afraid of?" Kim said with contempt and turned to me. "Do it now, and I'll let you go. The debt has to be paid, no matter what. I wouldn't allow even Lon to bully my fellows!"

He got excited while talking and then smashed a bowl against the ground. His followers came closer to me at his sign as if I were the only target for them tonight. Hong, who was supposed to be the real culprit, was now smoking and spectating casually from the side.

Noticing my gaze, she cast a frivolous glance at me. I was angry, but it wasn't the best time to argue.

"And what if I don't?" I asked, word by word.

"You don't?" Kim patted my cheek and coldly said, "Then only your dead body will be allowed to leave tonight."

We had confronted each other for about two minutes, but Liu Hu became impatient. He shoved himself towards me and seized my collar, ready to punch me.

He was never a threat to me. My reflex action was to catch his arm and push it against the table.

It happened so fast that nobody even realized what was going on. Liu Hu's face was near the hottest dish, mini-hotpot, on the table, so it must be scalding. He screamed and

grabbed my folder, waving for help.

No! The envelope was easy to be stained with the soup and leftover food on the table. And the next second I knew, the folder caught the fire under the hotpot and started to burn.

I hurried to save it, but it burnt faster than I expected, and soon there was nothing left except ashes.

Someone pulled me away from Liu Hu.

Watching the files turning to cinders drove me crazy. I flew at Liu Hu at once.

“I’ll kill you!”

I totally went out of control. Several men stepped in to stop me but failed due to my rapid and fierce strikes. More of them intervened

and finally caught me.

Liu Hu kicked my back to vent his anger. I felt nothing, though, as my heart ached even worse.

“Damn you. Trying to be a hero, huh? All right, I’ll have one of your fingers as your apology.”

Kim was utterly furious because he was also punched by me earlier.

My fingers were stretched on the table as Kim took a Schweizer Messer out of pocket and laid it above them.

“Don’t you dare,” I uttered.

“There’s nothing I don’t dare. Ask about my name around the city, and you will find out.”

The knife drew near, and I felt the cold blade caressing my skin. A wound emerged at once, glaring red

drops falling down.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Tell Lon that Mr. Jiang Ming is back, and we’ll take over Tong City from now on. Behave, or I’ll teach him how to.”

My eyes widened at the mention of the name. I became too surprised to think or speak.

Although I was not sure whether this man had anything to do with my father’s death, it was now my only lead.

Suddenly, a sharp pain jolted me back to my senses.

Kim was literally cutting my pinkie. I had to respond quickly, or I would only have four fingers in the future. Suddenly, his vision blurred for a second, and the knife vanished without a trace.

When he finally came to himself, the knife was held against his own neck. My hand was bleeding from

grabbing the blade by force.

I breathed hard and patted his face with the knife. Kim was dumbstruck for a while and then cried out.

"How did you do this?"

I was not interested in answering him, of course. I took a bowl and slammed it on his head.

Kim wobbled, and before long, he fell on the ground.

"He hurt Kim! Catch him! Go!" Liu Hu yelled at his henchmen.

His companions were finally awakened and flooded to me, waving their fists.

I had thought there were no more than forty people, but I just realized that at least sixty more were waiting for the signal outside. Was it all for catching that woman called Hong?

I turned to Hong, who shrugged to me as a response. I became speechless. Taking part in a gangster fight was the last thing I would care to do.

Fortunately, the room wasn't big enough to allow all of them in, so I could still manage to defend myself.

Xia Gehuai leaned against the sofa and held a stool in his hands. He hit whoever came near and said to me, "Zhang Chao, if they keep coming, we'll be exhausted soon!"

Liu Hu, on the other hand, stepped back stealthily while shouting, "They are losing! Let's get them!"

After a few steps, his path was blocked by someone. "Fuck off. Are you blind?"

He cursed and turned back. The man behind him grinned, which left

Liu Hu frozen.

“M-Mr. Lon...”

Without hesitation, Lon gave Liu Hu two slaps on the face. He trembled violently and collapsed.

While falling, he saw the crowd behind Lon. Every one of them had come with a weapon.

“Causing trouble in my turf? Are you insane?” Lon spat at Liu Hu.

Spotting my presence, he frowned, “Why is Young Master here?” Then he shouted, “Damn! Teach these bastards a lesson and throw them out!”

Liu Hu knew that he was doomed today, so he knelt down and begged, “Please forgive me, Mr. Lon, for the sake of the Dark Dragon.”

Lon humphed. “I’m a law-abiding

citizen, and I don't deal with gangs like that. But this place is under my protection. You had the gall to mess with my business and I will make you pay the price for your offense."

"Sorry. I'm deeply sorry, Mr. Lon. I didn't mean to create a mess here. It was just because of Zhang Chao; please, it is only a misunderstanding."

"Zhang Chao?" Lon stomped his foot on his chest and replied, "He matters even more than me!"

Liu Hu rolled off the floor and hit the wall.

He must be wondering why Lon kept helping me out. He thought I was still that poor little boy from the high school; Unluckily, I was not!

Two groups of men crashed into each other, and the sound of clashing metal echoed in the small

room.

“Let’s go.”

Xia Gehuai managed to stand up, and I helped him slowly walk towards the door.

With the massive fight going on, nobody noticed us. Good timing.

At this moment, however, Kim regained his mental faculty and stood up, shrieking, “Don’t let Zhang Chao leave! Lon! Stop! Your man is in my hands—”

“Ouch!” Before he finished his sentence, he fell again. It was Hong who gave him a kick from behind, right at his head.

Xia Gehuai was astounded, “Wow. Is she the same woman who claimed to be a damsel in distress earlier?”

I was no less shocked. I didn't expect her to be so strong and decisive.

"We've got no time for her now. Let's move."

I caught Xia Gehuai's sleeve and tried to rush ahead, only to be stopped again.

The corridor was crowded with more than a hundred people, and there was simply no escape. Those from Dark Dragon were being besieged by Lon, and their only hope was to hold me hostage.

Seeing me trapped, Lon asked his men to stand down right away.

"Kim, if you still hope to leave Spring Garden alive tonight, leave Zhang Chao alone!"

Kim was still lying on the ground, under the high-heels of Hong. He

dared not say a word.

Hong chuckled and poked Kim's head with her pointed shoe, "Do as he says."

"Don't, Mr. Kim! As long as we have Zhang Chao, Lon will not hurt us. If we let him go, it will bring shame to the Dark Dragon!" Liu Hu shouted while Kim hesitated over the decision.

The gangsters were already clearing a path for us, but upon hearing Liu Hu's words, they all stopped.

Liu Hu was frightened of Lon, so he hid behind us. His face was swollen from Lon's slaps. It must be hurting.

"Zhang Chao, you're not going anywhere today."

Liu Hu looked at me as if he was trying to eat me alive. He gnashed

his teeth with red eyes. I had never seen him like this in high school. What a desperate loser.

Xia Gehuai spat at him, "If we are not leaving here, neither are you!"

"Ha-ha." Liu Hu burst into a laugh as if he had heard something hilarious, "Do you think Lon can protect you forever? Let me tell you this, Lon is no more than a henchman of Han Kun. We respect him only because we don't want to upset Junran Group. You will be dead the moment you are out of their protection."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lon fluttered about anxiously outside and wanted to barge in with people to save us on several occasions. However, if we waited until he rushed in through this narrow corridor, it would be too late.

Liu Hu was sure that I could not escape so he laughed loudly unbridled with that swollen face of his.

"I am really fucking curious. How did a tramp like you manage to ride on Han Kun and Lon's coattails? I still remember how you looked like begging me to let you off at the toilet during high school. Do you recall? Your look at that time was too marvelous. I won't forget it in this lifetime."

I clenched my teeth strongly subconsciously. This was the number one sore spot in my heart, and no one was allowed to mention it.

When Liu Hu saw the rage in my eyes, he showed excitement. Not only did he not think that what he did was wrong, he actually thought that was some exploit worth showing off.

“What is that expression of yours? Haha, did I jab your sore spot? Then again, I suppose that’s natural. You have left Tong City for so many years, almost like you vanished off the surface of the earth. Those people around you now definitely don’t know about your past. Lon, do you know this brother of yours likes toilet bowl water? Hahaha, during our high school days, this dude is our high school’s legend, the Toilet Bowl Hero.”

I stared at that amused face of his, and I could feel that my gums were almost bleeding from how hard I had clenched my teeth.

Liu Hu was totally unafraid of me

and asked with contempt, "I am just curious. You like to drink urine so much, why did you refuse to drink when I fed you during high school?"

"Liu Hu, we are all classmates. That's too much," Xia Gehuai said.

"Classmates? Hah! Zhang Chao, you are at most a plaything to me."

Liu Hu wiped the sweat on his forehead fiercely and arrogantly pointed his middle finger at me. Lon was cursing outside, but he did not dare to act rashly for fear that they might hurt me.

Everyone's line of sight fell on me. People from the Dark Dragon stared at me and laughed gleefully. I knew Liu Hu had achieved his motive. He was deeply humiliated today. Although he could not hit me with Lon around, he could at least embarrass me.

"I will let you off today, but don't you forget. I almost made You drink urine, so you will forever be a creature that only drinks urine. Don't fucking think that you would ever be able to call yourself a decent human just because you clung onto influential people."

"Hah."

I only had these words for him in response to his long-windedness.

Liu Hu growled lowly, "How dare you still laugh."

I said, "Liu Hu, we have graduated from high school for so many years already. How is your IQ still so low? It's fine if these words came from Kim, but you are just a puny follower. Aren't you afraid of being slapped for acting so crazily? What if I refuse to let you go?"

Liu Hu panicked for a bit before

regaining his composure quickly, "If you don't let me leave, then don't think that you can leave either. Hah, who are you trying to scare?"

Lon was like a cat on hot bricks. Even his henchmen did not understand why he was so worried about me. Only he himself knew the reason. If anything untoward happened to me, Han Kun would kill him.

Lon already decided to open up a pathway when I said heavily, "Don't. Just keep surrounding them like this. No one can leave here today."

"Enough with your bluffing." Liu Hu grinned nastily.

I continued, "Keep surrounding them like this, then go and report the police. Get the police to come here. Organized crime syndicates are fighting over here. It doesn't have anything to do with us. We are

all law-abiding citizens who have nothing to do with these violent matters.”

“Call the police? You think we are afraid of the police? What a joke,” Liu Hu continued, “Be my guest. See if anyone comes”

“Xia, call those of your colleagues who can be trusted and tell them you received a tip-off that Kim is taking drugs here. There’s no need to go through the procedure. Just throw Kim into the jail for a night and find people to entertain him inside.”

Xia Gehuai was also a crafty person and immediately understood me. He said, “Makes sense, Dark Dragon is protecting you, but the mightiest dragon cannot repress a snake in its old haunts. I can put you behind bars for one night and no one would know. By the time you are found, your fucking chrysanthemum flower

would have already been turned into a sunflower by others. (TN* Chrysanthemum means anus. He is implying that Kim will be sodomized in jail)

Our eyes met as we shared a smile, and immediately Kim's face blanched.

"Z-Zhang Chao. The one you have a grudge with is Liu Hu. Why are you implicating me?"

Even the toughest men were afraid of people like us who play hardball. Kim even started trembling while he talked.

"Each of you, get out of the way! Let Zhang Chao go. Zhang Chao, we will each mind our own business from now on and write off our grudges today."

Liu Hu panicked frantically, "Kim! He won't dare to do that!"

Kim roared ferociously, "Shut up! Zhang Chao, I am also an influential figure in Tong City. You don't want to test what I will do when I am cornered."

I said, "Indeed, Kim. But if you want to walk off like this, that's impossible."

Kim's face became extremely displeased, "What more do you want?"

My gaze lingered on Liu Hu's face. His knees went weak and he almost fell on the ground. I said, "Liu Hu is my old classmate. We haven't met for a long time and need to chat. Our grudges will be written off today if you leave him to me."

"Kim, no!"

There was no way Kim would bother with what would happen to Liu Hu. He itched to get away from

underneath Hong's feet right that instant. He shouted for everyone to open up a path and then looked at me.

I nodded and Hong loosened her foothold. Kim immediately got up on his feet and squeezed into the sea of people from Dark Dragon as if he was on fire. He panted deeply, "You are really something! We will meet again!"

Under Lon's watchful gaze, Kim walked out with his group grandiosely.

"Young... Zhang, are you alright?" Lon almost cried in front of everyone. If anything untoward happened to me, Han Kun would have asked him to scam.

I laughed while reassuring him, "Everyone has left. It is time for us to play with this left behind toy now."

Liu Hu kept close to the foot of the walls and wanted to sneak away, and we all shifted our gaze towards him.

Honestly, I have seen dumbasses before but I have not seen dumbasses of this extent. Being surrounded by my people yet he still thought that he had a chance to reverse the situation and kept provoking me to deal with him. When would I grant his wishes if not now?

Liu Hu's back was glued to the wall. He shivered and squeezed a smile at us. His face had swollen up like a pig head and he still forced a smile. It was too comical a sight

"Zhang Chao, we are old classmates. Be a bigger person here and let me off. It's all my fault."

I folded my arms and smiled while keeping quiet to watch how he was

going to wriggle his way out of this.

Liu Hu swallowed his saliva, "I know you are kind. You definitely won't take what happened in the past to heart."

Lon made eye contact with the people on the left and right to signal them to make a move. Two henchmen rolled their sleeves up and walked out from behind. Feeling scared, Liu Hu was on the verge of tears. He knelt on the ground with a thud and kowtowed to me consecutively, "Spare me, spare me. Zhang Chao. I am sorry. I apologize!"

I stretched my hand out to stop the two people and said seriously, "Stand down. Don't do it."

Liu Hu threw himself on me and hugged my leg. His face was full of mucus and tears, "Zhang Chao, I know you are a good person. Let

me apologize to you. what I did in high school was wrong. I have been a snob. I am sorry!"

"Enough, enough. You don't need to say anymore. I won't hit you." I smiled.

Liu Hu breathed a long sigh of relief as if he was pardoned from a long sentence, but before his heart settled down, he heard me say, "Weren't you very regretful that you weren't able to make me drink urine during high school? Why don't you go and taste how urine is like in person today? Lon, can we find a place in our Spring Garden where Liu Hu can drink to his fill?"

"Yes, of course, there is!" Lon grabbed Liu Hu by the collar, and lifted him up, "There will be plenty of urine for him, hahaha!"

Liu Hu was deathly pale and did not even have the strength to put up a

resistance.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"Zhang Chao, spare me! I can help you pursue Lin Fang! I know you like her!"

Liu Hu who was dragged away by Lon refused to give up and continued struggling while flopping like a dead fish.

I obviously would not believe his nonsense. I looked down on this particular dumbass the most during my entire high school period.

"Zhang Chao, believe me. I helped Chen Yuzhou succeeded in pursuing Lin Fang before!"

"Wait."

Long stopped walking and waited for me to catch up quickly.

"What did you say? Lin Fang and Chen Yuzhou dated before?"

It seemed impossible. If they really

dated before, why did Chen Yuzhou tried so hard to get into bed with Lin Fang?

"It's true and I helped him. Believe me, I am definitely able to help you pursue Lin Fang successfully."

"Bullshit. The attitude Lin Fang has towards Chen Yuzhou, does it even look like they are in a relationship?" I responded sternly.

"I swear to the heavens. What I said are all true. Chen Yuzhou spent over five hundred thousand on Lin Fang. If they are not in a relationship, will Chen Yuzhou spend so much money? The two of them have been together since a long time ago, but Lin Fang refused to let Chen Yuzhou touch her. If you spent over five hundred thousand and your girlfriend refused to let you touch her, won't you get mad?"

I could not stand hearing people

defame Lin Fang and chided, "If what you said is true then Chen Yuzhou is just a rich fool. What does it have to do with you helping?"

"What I say are all true! With that woman, the best you could have is her body. Don't tell me you want her love? When Chen Yuzhou gave her money to spend, both of them came and went in pairs to have fun. We aren't blind and can tell that they are already a couple. After exploiting Chen Yuzhou to return her debts, she kicked him to the curb.

Although she is very close to you now, she originally said that you are the most disgusting person she has ever known. This was what she said last month. This woman is totally heartless, but if you want to sleep with her, I really can help you!"

I felt as if I was slapped and my mind turned white.

Lin Fang said that she had always felt guilty towards me and wanted to apologize to me all along. How did it become like this?

"From what I see, you fucking need urine to brush your teeth. Goodness knows which words of yours are the truth. Come along with me!" Lon noticed my amiss expression and did not want Liu Hu to continue.

"Let him go," I said deeply.

Lon stared blankly for a bit. I repeated, "Let go!" Then, he heeded my words and let Liu Hu go.

What Liu Hu said about the past in high school did not pain me. But these few sentences did really cut me deep in the heart.

"Maybe they are all lies." Xia Gehuai comforted me.

"I don't believe his nonsense. I just

suddenly thought that it would be letting him off easily with drinking urine. Xia, bring him back with you. The CCTV must definitely have captured the evidence footage of the fight. The police don't dare to touch Dark Dragon but that does not mean they won't dare to touch a mere thug like Liu Hu."

"Then I'm going to get a great merit this time!" Xia Gehuai laughed and took out a pair of handcuffs from his waist. He cuffed Liu Hu's hands, "Walk. Behave yourself!"

"Zhang Chao, you don't believe my words? I am telling you the truth!"

I did not respond and watched the back view of him being brought outside by Xia Gehuai with mixed feelings.

No matter how many lies Liu Hu said, one sentence was true. If Chen Yuzhou and Lin Fang did not have

any relationship, why would a shrew man like Chen Yuzhou lend Lin Fang fifty hundred thousand?

Lin Fang, why must you lie to me?

I was preoccupied with my thoughts. When Lon spoke to me, my mind drifted away. Whatever he said went in one ear and out the other.

I only vaguely remembered Lon telling me that this incident was caused by Red Lantern. That person named Hong pretended to be alone and lured Dark Dragon people to Spring Garden. They only came because they thought Spring Garden did not have any backings. Red Lantern planned to outflank and wipe out Kim's people here. It was beyond their imagination that I would be here to disrupt their ploy.

Dark Dragon and Red Lantern were Tong City's top two largest gangs.

They were fighting ferociously over territories recently.

“We have offended Dark Dragon this time, but due to Mr. Han’s influence, Dark Dragon and Red Lantern won’t dare to mess with you. We Junran and the underworld have never interfered with each other. Young Master, if you run into things like this in the future, you must avoid it if you can. People from the underworld are mostly brainless maniacs, they don’t think about the outcomes when they do things.”

I slowly lowered my head that pounded painfully.

Lon saw that I was not in the right state of mind so he did not continue speaking and arranged for a car to send me home.

After I laid down on my bed at home, I received a call from Lin Fang. I stared at my phone screen

dimwittedly for quite a while before I lifted my finger heavily and pressed the answer button.

“Zhang Chao, are you done with your matters? You didn't come back for a long time and I was getting a little worried about you.”

I didn't know what I was supposed to feel anymore. What if what Liu Hu said turns out to be true? why would she lie to me?

She was not aware of my true identity and status so it could not be because of my wealth and identity.

Zhang Chao, Zhang Chao. You must not be deceived by other's words when you had been in the reconnaissance company for five years.

I felt that Liu Hu must be lying to me since he hated me yet he could

not do anything to me, so he deliberately sowed discord between Lin Fang and me.

No matter how I thought about it, this was the most likely situation. Even though I still felt dissatisfied, I still decided to treat Liu Hu's words as nonsense.

"Wait for me at the hospital. I will be there right away."

I flipped my body and got up from the bed. Then I drove the most low-profile Land Rover to the hospital and dropped by the bank to withdraw fifty thousand on my way there. Those money was to be given to Lin Fang for the surgery fees.

In reality, I could have transferred the money to Lin Fang online but I still went to the bank to withdraw the fifty thousand in cash and wrapped them in an envelope. I wanted to see with my own eyes

how Lin Fang would look when she saw the money, whether her expression would be filled with gratitude or secret glee.

I really liked her a lot, even if she did not like me but I did not want to be treated as a fallback guy for her to fool around with.

"Fang Fang. How can that Zhang Chao be compared to Chen Yuzhou? You need to wake up."

When I arrived at the hospital and just reached the door of Lin Fang's father's ward, I immediately heard a familiar feminine voice from the room.

I glanced from the glass windows and saw a tall, skinny, and fashionable woman. It was Chu Xiaoxiao sitting on the sofa inside the ward. She was holding Lin Fang's hands and persuading her agitatedly. Lin Fang's father was

asleep, her mother was not in the ward so no one heard what they said. They did not notice me standing at the door either.

Lin Fang said, "Xiaoxiao, stop it. There's really nothing between me and Zhang Chao."

I wanted to push the door in and enter but I heard Chu Xiaoxiao's voice at this moment, "Please. Do you think I can't tell? That Zhang Chao likes you."

"How could I control whether he likes me or not."

Chu Xiaoxiao exclaimed, "He has ulterior motives towards you! What happened to you and Chen Yuzhou? Weren't the two of you fine a month ago? I was even happy for the two of you. Only one month has passed since then."

My head buzzed, the stack of cash

in my hands almost dropped on the floor.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lin Fang and Chen Yuzhou really dated before. Did Liu Hu actually tell the truth?

"I don't want to bring up what happened between us anymore. Xiaoxiao, I have a lot of things to do now. Can you stop talking about this? My head hurts a lot."

"Don't change the topic. Does Zhang Chao have a handle over you and threatening you with it? That man is a total scumbag. I only argued a little with him at the KTV and he actually mobilized his connection to make Junran reject working with me."

I slapped my head and recalled the phone call I had received today at the hospital from an unknown woman. It turned out to be Chu Xiaoxiao who called to denounce me!

She said it in such a light manner as

if we only bickered at the KTV when Chen Yuzhou and her ganged up to humiliate me using every means possible. I could refrain from arguing with women but if she wanted to continue working with Junran, that would only happen in her dreams.

Chu Xiaoxiao became extremely exasperated when she brought up this matter. She grabbed Lin Fang's hands and asked, "Did he threaten you with something?"

Lin Fang was shocked, "How could it be? Zhang Chao is just a security guard. How could he command Junran's operations? It's just a coincidence that Junran refused to work with you."

Chu Xiaoxiao was upset, "Since the deal with Junran fell through, the investors refused to put in capital. I have such bad luck! Let's talk about you. You know that Zhang Chao is

only a mere security guard, why are you so enamored by him?”

“I really am not. It’s just that I cannot get along with Chen Yuzhou. You only see that Chen Yuzhou treats me well, but do you know how many women he has outside?” Lin Fang rebuked.

Chu Xiaoxiao followed up immediately, “Even if you are no longer with Chen Yuzhou, you cannot be with Zhang Chao. Have you forgotten? Zhang Chao is the most disgusting person to you. This is what you said. He saved you once during high school, but then he became self-entitled and wanted to send you home. He even grabbed your hands and caused you to be laughed at by female classmates for a whole year. Have you forgotten about this matter?”

My heart froze. What Liu Hu said were all true. Lin Fang had always

looked down on me all along.

I let go of the door, turned around and wanted to leave but Lin Fang's hushed yell came out from the ward, "Enough, Xiaoxiao! Zhang Chao is my friend. If you continue talking like this then let us not meet again in the future. You are right, I looked down on Zhang Chao in the past. Even now I am still very regretful when I recall those matters. I did say before that Zhang Chao is the most disgusting person to me and those words of mockery about him. But I was wrong. It's not Zhang Chao's fault. Compared to me and Chen Yuzhou, Zhang Chao is truly a good man. You don't understand at all!"

Lin Fang became very agitated, "You think Chen Yuzhou is good to me? True, he lent money for my father's medical bills but he only wanted to sleep with me from the start! I am a woman with self-

respect and I am not selling my body. I don't have to date whoever gives me money."

Chu Xiaoxiao panicked and explained, "That's not what I meant. Don't get angry. But you and Zhang Chao really don't suit each other....."

"Xiaoxiao, you are a rich girl. You don't know what I had been through these past few years. After my father fell sick, my younger brother became a good-for-nothing and borrowed money from everywhere. To get money for my dad's medical bills and to pay my younger brother's debts, I have seen a limitless amount of eye-rolling directed at me. My friends don't contact me anymore. Before you came back, I did not have any friends for a long period. You will never understand that kind of loneliness and helplessness. Those people who are good to me only had ulterior motives, like Chen

Yuzhou.”

“Zhang Chao also has ulterior motives towards you!”

“No. He, he only likes me, that’s all.”
Lin Fang blushed and lowered her gaze to her shoes. Her eyes turned gentle, “He does not have ulterior motives towards me. He only wants to treat me well. Even though he knew everything about me, he didn’t look down on me, instead he gave me a lot of help and he never asked for anything in return. Also, I have hurt him badly in the past but he is still willing to treat me well.....”

When Lin Fang finished her speech, Chu Xiaoxiao was left speechless. Chu Xiaoxiao looked down on me but she could not refute everything Lin Fang had said.

Lin Fang had already treated me like a true friend unknowingly. No matter how hard Chu Xiaoxiao tried

to convince her, she could not shake up my position in Lin Fang's heart.

"Fine, I really don't know what to do with you. The two of you can be friends but you definitely cannot be together with him. Don't tell me you like him."

Lin Fang's face was as red as a tomato, even her neck was red. She looked at Chu Xiaoxiao, "Y-y-you... What are you saying? We are only friends. Xiaoxiao, Zhang Chao is a very good person. Don't be upset with him anymore okay? If not, I will be in a very difficult position between the two of you."

"He just rubs me off the wrong way! He is simply a damned toad lusting after you. You are way out of his league!"

Chu Xiaoxiao lunged at Lin Fang on the sofa and started tickling her. Lin

Fang was very ticklish and laughed until her face turned red and her clothes became crumpled. Both of them played around and curled into a ball. They only noticed me after a while when I entered.

Lin Fang laughed until she was out of breath. Her cheeks were red and hair messy but she gave off an indescribable captivating charm. I watched her and could not move my sight away. I looked at her chest that bobbed up and down when she was trying to catch her breath. I saw her snowy white skin from the opening on her white t-shirt and immediately my mouth became dry uncontrollably.

Who said I did not have ulterior motives towards Lin Fang? I was not a good person either.

"Zhang Chao, you are here." Lin Fang tidied her clothes busily and got up from the sofa with Chu

Xiaoxiao.

I gave a smile to Lin Fang, neglecting Chu Xiaoxiao who stood beside and gave the fifty thousand to her, "I withdrew the money for you. Go and settle the medical fees as soon as possible."

"Thank you, really. If not for you, I still don't know what to do. Zhang Chao, I will definitely return the money to you."

Fifty thousand was just spare change to me, I had no expectations that Lin Fang would pay me back anyways. However, to prevent my identity from being exposed, I could not act like I was very wealthy now.

"So long as uncle will recover, it will be worth it. You don't have to worry about money. I still have some money, if it's not enough, you can tell me."

When I just finished my words, Chu Xiaoxiao snorted coldly, "If you have the sincerity then give her all your money in one go."

"Xiaoxiao!" Lin Fang stopped her from continuing.

"Am I wrong? Fifty thousand is only for the surgery. When uncle finished his surgery, he would need money for recuperation. The various miscellaneous fees from the hospital also require money. If he is really sincere, he would give you all the money you need in one go so you don't have to keep begging him for money."

"Xiaoxiao, what did I tell you?" Lin Fang pulled Chu Xiaoxiao's sleeve.

Chu Xiaoxiao said, "I know you are friends with Zhang Chao. I cannot refute that fact. But if Zhang Chao wants to pursue you then I have to make things clear. Zhang Chao, if

you have no money then don't think about pursuing our Lin Fang. Fangfang is so beautiful. She deserves men who are wealthier.”



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