

Chapter 136 Apology

The older boy looked uncomfortable and told his companion, "The lady is right. He warned us, we..."

"Bro, it's all the money we have. We came to Tong City for a reason."

The woman hurriedly cut in, "Little brother, if you need money, I can lend it to you, but you can't commit slander."

Her tears had bamboozled the crowd, and the few men present yelled at Baldie. Baldie did not react, but how could he face down so many voices? It was not like he could kill them all.

Gan saw that Baldie could not hold his own. He stepped forward and said, "Miss, there's no need to be hasty. My friend erred on the side of caution. Perhaps this is a misunderstanding. Everyone has a good reason, but we are all seeking justice. Please be patient."

Gan was an old hand at this. His words made perfect sense. With his age and calm demeanor, everyone showed him respect and listened to his explanation.

The bearded man realized the crowd was calming down and could not be riled up by him anymore. He dared not push them either. "We're not the reluctant ones. Your friend is the reluctant party here. What are you going to do about it?!"

Gan replied, "All the cards are on the table. If we count them, we will be able to tell if anyone cheated."

"Yes, we just need to count them."

The couple was shocked. They glanced at each other, embarrassed. However, they were put on the spot. They could not say disagree with it, but they did not dare agree to it either.

The observers in the crowd noticed their hesitation and someone voiced their doubts.

"Yes, the old man is right. If you really aren't cheaters, then we should count the number of cards."

"Yes, let's match up the cards,"

said someone else.

"If you really cheated, we'll chase you out!"

The woman visibly blanched. Leaving the safety of the building in such weather was death. She made a decision, and the expression on her face suddenly changed. Smiling at everyone, she agreed. "Well said, let's check."

I told Baldie in a low voice, "This woman is up to something. Keep an eye on her and catch her when she makes her move."

There were only two candles in the lobby. The light was limited and visibility was low. In addition to that, these two were experienced swindlers. Your ordinary citizens would not be able to see through them. Only Baldie could catch them.

Just as I finished speaking, Baldie shouted out, "You swapped another card!"

I jumped in surprise. I had not expected him to shout out; I thought he would catch hold of her. The woman jumped too, but she had already made the swap. She railed on Baldie, screaming, "Bullshit!"

While Gan did not see it, he believed Baldie, and spoke up for him, "Miss, you said you didn't do anything. Then what will you do if we find a card on you?"

The bearded man immediately opened his mouth to scold Gan, "You want to search a woman's body, you old fart? If it wasn't for your age, I'd beat you up!"

Gan had been in dozens of situations, but one could not reason with an unreasonable person. Especially if the person was just a two-bit gangster. He flushed red, but had no comeback.

By that time, the people who were checking the cards were done. There was no problem with the cards because the swap had already been done.

Baldie did not speak, but his fists were clenched so hard they were white. However, I was speechless at his actions. What was the use of being angry? Why did he just shout out and not catch hold of her? With his skill, he could have?!

"I think you're the ones who should leave! You're shameless!" someone yelled out from the crowd.

"Yes, get out! Liars!"

Everyone was shouting over each other. Baldie was incensed, but there was nothing he could do.

The typhoon was fierce, but I had encountered worse weather when I was in the army. If Baldie and I left now, we might be okay. However, I was not willing to risk Gan at his age.

I would not care about such trivial matters when I was younger due to my temperament. There were many swindlers out there, and normal people would not be scammed unless they were greedy. Those who were scammed might not realize they were being swindled even when they saw it for themselves.

The thing was, this could not be stopped. Baldie and Gan thought that there were ways to expose such scams. Unfortunately, unless they were caught red-handed, these swindlers would get away with it. They were experienced and had many ways of rolling with the situation.

Baldie had lost his opportunity after he failed to catch them in the act twice. They knew he was skilled, and would not take further risks.

"Big brother, big sister, don't chase them out. They just pity us. It's our fault for being greedy. We don't want the money back. Don't chase them out. The weather is deadly," the younger boy suddenly pleaded.

I had not expected the boy to speak on our behalf, and my heart softened on the spot. This money was an astronomical amount to these boys.

I motioned for everyone to quieten down. Because I had not spoken all this while, no one knew what I was doing, and they did quieten down somewhat.

I started speaking. "First of all, I would like to apologize to you. My brother here is not quite right in the head."

I tapped my temple. Baldie gave me an unhappy look out of the corner of his eyes. I grumbled to myself, what was he looking at? If he was not so stupid, things would not have ended up like this.

"Your brother's problem is too serious. He's just crazy."

"That's right! Stay out of it!"

I apologized again and added, "Since there's nothing else to do, would you like to play a hand of cards with me? If I lose, treat the money as my brother's apology. If I win, I'll return the boys their money. It doesn't seem right for us adults to take advantage of children."

The couple exchanged a glance, unsure of what I was up to. Gan tugged on my arm and whispered, "Young Master, are you crazy? You can't beat them!"