

Chapter 138 Delight

In the midst of the lively discussion, I turned to the red-faced bearded man. "Do you still want to play? Or have you swindled enough money and won't be greedy?"

The woman saw red. "What do you mean?"

I laughed. "Just now, when my brother caught you cheating, he was right. As the saying goes, a novice fears an experienced player, while an experienced player fears a cheater. How could two kids win against a pair of swindlers like you? My brother was hasty in seeking justice, but he couldn't catch you red-handed. I have no choice but to win the five thousand back this way. Will you take advantage of the current situation and walk away once you've lost five thousand to me, or will you be greedy?"

"That's slander! When did we cheat?! You're the cheater here. It's so obvious!"

"Did you catch me? Aren't you committing slander? If you didn't cheat, why are you losing to a novice like me?" I grinned.

The woman wanted to retreat, but the bearded man was ticked off. Planting both hands on the table, he glowered at me. "You think I'm scared of you, you bastard?! Let's play, high stakes! All or nothing!"

By this time, everyone had an inkling of what was happening. They were not interested in whether I was cheating. Now, they wanted to know how I was cheating.

I smiled and walked over to the woman, patting her on the shoulder. She jumped in surprise.

"Don't be nervous, it's not like I'm killing you. To be fair, you can deal us in."

The bearded man had been wondering how to let the woman deal, but I had suggested it of my own accord. The woman was very unwilling, but she could not stop the bearded man. Therefore, she had no choice but to play.

"What are you playing?" The woman looked at us.

I smiled. "Aiyah, it's gambling. Gambling is about luck. If your luck is good, it's all the same no matter what you play. Why don't you tell me what the stakes are?"

The bearded man copied my stance. Both hands on the table, body leaning forward slightly, he sneered, "If you win, I'll give you all my money. The same if I win. One hand to determine who wins or loses."

I looked him in the eye. There was a moment of silence when everyone held their breath, before I scoffed at him. "That's not high stakes enough."

"Then what do you want to bet?"

"If I win, you and your woman have to leave. If you win, the three of us will leave. In such weather, whoever leaves is going to die. Do you dare to play a game of life and death? If not, admit defeat, and I'll let you off."

I riled him up on purpose. The woman trembled when she heard this, but the bearded man just got redder and angrier. He clenched his fists. "Sure. We'll play Higher Or Lower. One card will decide the winner."

The woman dealt. I kept my eyes trained on the bearded man, and did not bother to glance at the woman. I did not care whether she cheated.

"You open first," he told me.

I smiled and took hold of my card. As he finished speaking, he peeked at his own card, and swearing a blue streak, flipped it over before I could move. The ace of spades.

"The highest value card," the bearded man gloated, "I've won, damn it!"

He reached over to scoop up the money, but I blocked him with a hand.

"Are you denying me?!"

I shook my head. "At least wait until I open my card."

The bearded man gave me a doubtful look. He was not sure what I was up to. He had already gotten the highest card in the whole deck. There was no way I could win.

Everyone else's reaction was similar. They muttered among themselves about what I was doing. The game was already lost.

At this moment, Baldie turned around slowly and twisted his cap around. He zipped his jacket all the way up. "What are you doing?" I asked, glancing at his odd appearance.

Expressionless, Baldie said, "Getting ready to leave."

Gan's reaction was about the same as Baldie's. Just that Gan was older and not as steady.

I did not know whether to laugh or cry. "At least look at my card."

I flipped it over.

On the card was a colorful joker, laughing silently at the bearded man and the woman.

A joker trumped the ace of spades.

The whole lobby fell silent. Everyone stared mutely at the joker card.

"I don't really know poker cards all that well, but this should be the highest-value card in the deck."

"That's impossible, you cheater! I already took out all the jokers from this deck of cards!" the woman accused, her finger right in front of my nose.

All eyes turned to me, threatening to burn me on the spot with their looks. Everyone surrounded the three of us. Baldie was not affected, but Gan was terrified.

The bearded man cursed me and asked, "What do you have to say for yourself?"

I held up the joker card between two fingers, glancing at its front and back. Then, I laughed.

"What are you laughing about? You cheated and you're still laughing?!"

I nodded. "Yes, I cheated."

The crowd was furious. No one had expected that I would confess. There was an air of helplessness and inevitability around Gan, as if he was facing death.

Still holding the card in my fingers, I looked over at the woman. "The saying goes, a novice fears an experienced player, while an experienced player fears a cheater. What does a cheater fear?"

I walked to her side. She looked up at me, unafraid.

I took the card and stuck it in her deep cleavage. She was stunned and had no idea what I was going to do.

Suddenly, I pulled the card downwards. Like a sharp knife, it tore apart her top. Shocked, she covered herself with her hands. Luckily, she was quick enough to cover herself up. However, everyone else was wide-eyed...

Because a heap of poker cards had fallen out of her top and onto the floor. The cards were identical to the ones we were using.

"A cheater fears a miscalculation," I smirked and told her, "A miscalculation means you lose."

The woman collapsed to the floor as her legs gave out from under her. She stared at the cards on the floor and knew that she had made a "miscalculation".

I tossed the joker onto the pile of cards on the floor. "I'm a cheater, I borrowed a joker from your deck. I'm returning it now."

They were caught red-handed. No one had anything to say now. The bearded man and the woman both knew that they had lost!

I picked up the money from the bearded man's side of the table, and gave the boys back their share. The rest I gave to Gan, delighting him.

"Young Master, good job! I was so worried you would lose..."

I grinned and put an arm around his shoulders. "Uncle Gan, there's no need to worry when you're with me. I don't know what 'lose' means."