

Chapter 144 Old-Timer

"I know that Xiaoxiao won't agree."

"I don't wish to see you come back either," I told her.

Lin Fang pressed her lips together so hard that they turned white. She gave me a hurt look.

"Why do you have to say that? Were your feelings for me in the past all a lie?"

I was beginning to get annoyed. Did she even understand what I was saying? I had said the same thing to her multiple times.

I might have liked her in the past, but that did not mean that I had feelings for her forever. She had used me and played with me, why should I continue to be nice to her? I could not.

On a normal day, I might have been more polite, but today, I had a headache of Chu Xiaoxiao's matters, and I had no patience with her.

I did not say anything further, but turned and left.

In a panic, Lin Fang followed me out into the lobby and grabbed hold of me. The lobby was full of people, and everyone stared curiously at us. I did not want to make a fool of myself and had no choice but to stand there and say in a low voice, "Calm down."

"I won't say those things again, please let me come back. I don't have a job now. I know the colleagues aren't happy with me, but I need the money. I'll work hard to make up for my past mistakes."

Everyone broke into whispers. I glanced around and discovered that their faces were all of disgust. It seemed like most people did not want her to come back.

I did not blame them. I had not known this in the past, but everyone in the company, from the upper management to the newest intern, had an opinion on Lin Fang. She always failed to hand in her work on time and needed someone else to work overtime to help her. However, she never shared her project bonus. Everyone disliked her but did not dare voice it.

I had led soldiers before. I knew that teams hated this kind of behavior. Carrying someone useless could bring down the whole company.

Out of respect for me, no one voiced any direct objections even though they despised her.

"I'm not in charge of human resources, please approach a HR manager for an interview," I said.

I did not mean to be cruel. I just wanted everyone to know that moving forward, Lin Fang was an ordinary person. Even if she came back to work here, I would not give her any special treatment.

But Lin Fang did not understand me. When I mentioned HR, she panicked and clung on to my arm, refusing to let go.

"I'm begging you, let me stay here. Even if you like someone else, you don't have to be so ruthless. Zhang Chao, you can't abandon me..."

Damn it, why did she make it sound as if I was one of those heartless men who treated women like scum?

Everyone looked confused, yet curious. If this matter was not cleared up today, the company would be buzzing with rumors and gossip.

"Calm down. There are other advertising agencies in Tong City besides Lutong. Even if you can't find work in advertising, the Juen Group has plenty of positions suitable for you. Chen Yuzhou might not be a good man, but we can all tell that he likes you. He won't ignore you."

That was another reason why I did not want Lin Fang here.

The way Chen Yuzhou regarded her, there was no way he would leave her without a job. I did not know if Lin Fang had a motive for coming back to Lutong. What if she tried to fool me again?

Lu Tong agreed. "That's right, Lin Fang. Why don't you work for the Juen Group instead of for us? We're just a small agency and sometimes we can't pay everyone punctually. Juen is different. It's a big corporate group. Their benefits are much better than ours."

At this, Lin Fang grew emotional. Her breath stuttered and she started crying.

"Mr. Lu, I know you'll make fun of me, but can't you see what's happened to me?"

Lin Fang unbuttoned the top button of her high-collared shirt. Just now, I had already thought it odd that she was wearing such clothes. The weather was still warm, and she had never like this style.

Everyone present gaped when she undid the button. There were dark bruises on Lin Fang's neck. It looked like someone had put a lot of pressure on the area. Many people involuntarily touched their own necks, and the whispers started.

Lin Fang might be poor, but no one had beaten her up before. Some days ago, she had mentioned that Chen Ruhai wanted Chen Yuzhou to cut off contact with her and not give her a job. I thought it was false at the time. It was real?

"Who did that?!" I blurted out.

Lin Fang rubbed at her neck and replied with a face full of tears, "I didn't want to tell you and cause you any trouble. Chen Ruhai sent people to attack me. He thinks that it's my fault that Chen Yuzhou has become your enemy and offended Junran. That's why he's unhappy with me. He won't let me work in Juen, he won't let me be with Chen Yuzhou, and he even sent word out that no company in Tong City can hire me. He wants to make up to Junran by doing this to me."

I really wanted to tell Lin Fang that the Chen family was not interested in making anything up to me. They had sent a Thai assassin to kill me just a few days ago.

Seeing that I had not rejected her on the spot, she kept talking. "Now only Lutong and Junran will hire me. I'm begging you, if Lutong doesn't accept me, can I work in Junran? Even if it's just as a receptionist or a small position. Otherwise, I'll starve. You know how much my brother still owes."

I thought to myself, you still owe me three hundred thousand yourself. But I would not hit her when she was down. Asking Lin Fang for the three hundred thousand now was as good as killing her.

So I said, "Junran has HR processes, and I don't own Lutong. You can work anywhere, however, you need follow the standard process."

Lin Fang was crying. "No one wants me, I can't wait for the hiring process."

I frowned. "Then what do you want me to do? Let you in through the back door? I've told you multiple times, I have a girlfriend now. I can't give you preferential treatment. I don't want any misunderstandings. Follow the normal process, and if you're good, someone will hire you. Whether Junran or Juen."

I could not bear to say anything further. After all, I did have feelings for this woman previously. It did hurt to see her end up like this.

"Zhang Chao, you can't just ignore me like this. If Xiaoxiao knew about this, she would help me. She wouldn't watch as I end up on the streets."

At the mention of Chu Xiaoxiao, my heart softened. Chu Xiaoxiao said that she hated Lin Fang, but she was a kind person at heart, and would never watch as Lin Fang suffered.

I gave in. "You're on trial for a month. After the month is up, it'll be up to the HR department. If you don't agree, you can leave."

Lin Fang was clearly unhappy, but I left before she could try to negotiate. She had no other choice.

After one month, I would save Chu Xiaoxiao from the clutches of Chu Huai'en. I did not want to wait any longer. After a month, even if she wanted to break up with me, I would see Chu Xiaoxiao.

Chu Xiaoxiao was Lutong Advertising's best designer. Without her in the office, several projects lost their linchpin. Chu Xiaoxiao and Lu Tong had gone to discuss these projects with the clients just a few days ago. The office was thrown into disarray. With the lack of manpower, everyone had to put aside their grievances with Lin Fang and work together. Lu Tong told me that it seemed that Lin Fang had turned over a new leaf. She worked hard and, as an old-timer, helped the company a lot.