

The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 16

Chapter 16 A Completely Different Person

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!”

Chapter 17 Revenge

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 fetched 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 Black Dragon, and Hong—whom I saved before—is from the Red Lantern. 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.