

Chapter 169 Disgrace

However, I was ready for this. The moment I had made the call to Zhao Zichen, I had prepared myself for him to seek me out.

"Alright, I'll reward you. This is the one and only time we'll work together," I told him.

Zhao Zichen seemed excited. "Of course, Chao. As you wish! What shall we do next? I'll do anything for you if it means I can destroy Jiang Ming. I'm ready, and everyone's pumped. The Black Dragons have gone silent, and it's time to gather and fight them."

"I'll reward you, but now is not the time. I won't renege my debts. I can't help it if you don't believe me."

Zhao Zichen frowned. "Bro, you need to be more transparent."

"I can't reveal anything. It won't come true otherwise," I smiled mysteriously.

He tried again, but seeing that I was adamant, had to give up. I asked him if he had eaten yet. If not, he could join us for dinner.

"I didn't seek you out for dinner," Zhao Zichen replied, "I have important news for you."

I really did not want to work too closely with Zhao Zichen. He might be smart but he was also too smart. While someone like this could make everything easier, I would be on my toes wondering when he would manipulate me.

However, after some hesitation, I could not turn down any news of Jiang Ming. Sooner or later, I would personally deliver him to jail and avenge my parents!

"Tell me, does this have anything to do with Jiang Ming?" I asked, worried he would use something trivial to shake me up.

But Zhao Zichen shook his head. "This has to do with you."

"With me?"

Zhao Zichen nodded. He glanced around to make sure there was no one there, then whispered quickly in my ear.

The more I heard, the more uncomfortable I became. I clenched my fists and felt an indescribable sadness come over me.

"Is this true?" I had to make sure.

"A hundred percent. We have eyes in the Black Dragons. I know when they make any moves."

I believed Zhao Zichen. He always knew what the Black Dragons were doing, catching them off guard.

"Chao, whether you believe it or not, you'll find out tomorrow. Just be careful."

I felt so conflicted. I knew that Zhao Zichen was telling me this not just to help me, but also for me to owe him.

If Zhao Zichen was right, I would have to seek help from the Red Lanterns tomorrow. With the situation at Junran the way it was and Han Kun still missing, it would not be easy to dispatch anyone from Junran.

Xia Genghuai could send me some men, but the gangs of Tong City were not afraid of the police.

Zhao Zichen stood by, waiting for my response. Even though he did not say anything, I understood what he was telling me.

"Fine," I said, "We can work together two times. I always repay my debts."

He laughed. "Don't think that badly of me, Chao. I really want to help you. Your owing me is just a bonus."

"You don't need to say more. I understand. But I hope we won't meet tomorrow."

I waved at him, ready to turn and walk away.

Behind me, Zhao Zichen called out, "Chao, don't be so unfeeling. Are you just going to use me and leave me? What are you eating? I want to mooch off you."

I yelled back, "Shaxian Snacks."

I felt so wretched that Qingqing could tell.

When I returned to the car, I suddenly realized that I could have come around the other side, opened the door, and fixed the seatbelt. Why did I have to climb over Qingqing?

When they said that lust overtakes reason, they clearly were not joking.

I might have done something if not for Zhao Zichen's unwitting intervention. I really missed Chu Xiaoxiao. If she was by my side, I would not be acting like a lovesick dog, getting excited over every woman I saw.

I wanted Chu Xiaoxiao by my side as soon as possible, but when I thought of what Zhao Zichen had said to me, I wished she would not return to my side so fast. At least she would be safe at home.

That night, I was in a bad mood and became taciturn. Qingqing kept stealing glances at me the whole journey. When we arrived, she asked me if everything was okay. I opened my mouth to say something, but decided against telling her.

I collapsed into my bed the moment I arrived home and slept through my alarm the next day. I only woke up when my phone started ringing.

"Hello?"

"Darling, are you downstairs yet? I'm ready."

Who was this? A scam call? I glanced at the phone, oh... It was Lin Fang's number.

"Lin Fang?"

"We said we would be a couple for a day. Did you forget?" I could hear her pout as she reminded me.

Of course, I had completely forgotten about this.

I remembered when she brought it up. Since I had agreed to it, I could not back out. So I told Lin Fang to wait and that I would be there shortly.

It was only when I got downstairs that I remembered that I did not have a license and that Qingqing had taken my car. I stood there, dumbfounded.

However, when I thought about it, Lin Fang herself had torn up my license, it was not my fault. Also, while I might have agreed to be a fake couple with her, it was just acting. There was no need to take it too seriously.

I called for a car, then washed up quickly.

I was trained in the army to be quick and thorough, and I was out of door in a flash.

I went downstairs and had just gotten in the car when Gan called.

"Are you coming to Junran today?" Gan asked.

I figured that I would not have the time today, and told Gan that I would not be there.

He replied with a sigh, "You're not coming? I was hoping you would drop by."

"Is there a problem with the audit? Did Liu Rong cause any trouble last night?" I hurriedly asked.

"There's no problem with the audit. It's going well, and Liu Rong hasn't caused trouble... It's just..." Gan heaved a deep sigh. "Maybe I'm old and paranoid. I feel that something isn't right. How can it be going this well?"

I let out a sardonic bark of laughter. "Don't worry, Uncle Gan, it won't go that well."

"Why do I think there's something you're not telling me?" Gan asked, "Something doesn't feel right. Liu Rong isn't that easy to get along with. We need to be vigilant. He's definitely holding back."

I reassured Gan, but there was a bitterness to my smile when I hung up. I knew exactly what Gan meant.

I soon arrived downstairs from Lin Fang's. She requested I go upstairs to get her.

After she stopped working, she no longer lived in her rental. However since the lease was not up yet, and her things were still there.

I did not want to go to her home, because she lived with her parents and her younger brother Lin Kang. I did not want to see any of her family members.

But Lin Fang wanted me to go upstairs, so I had to. Otherwise, she would act coquettish.

I would never have thought that I would find her annoying when I used to dream about her acting cute at me.

As I walked upstairs, I saw that the stairwell was covered in red paint, proclaiming things like "Pay up" and "Kill everyone".

Suddenly, the door of the unit on the third floor opened. When I used to come here more often, I had met them before and nodded to them in greeting.

"Aiyoh, it's you Zhang Chao. It's been a while." The uncle's furious expression became friendlier when he saw me.

"Hello, Uncle Jian."

"Hey, are you looking for Lin Fang? Can you help me persuade her to move out? Look at this corridor, it's covered in such writing. Who can bear it? We're living here too. My son is so young and he's always scared. It's terrible. Please help us! Can you persuade her to move out?! We can't stand it anymore! It's such a disgrace. Why doesn't she pay up? It's shameless."