

Chapter 170 Wedding Banquet

"Does the family owe a lot?"

"Of course. The loan sharks visit five to six times a day. They block the door and refuse to leave. You're early today. If you wait here a little longer, those gangsters will start their workday. You'll see how terrifying they are. Old Wang downstairs has an unmarried daughter who doesn't even dare to go home. What did we do wrong? Chao, I know you're a good person. Help Lin Fang out. The two of you can think about how to repay the money. Or persuade their family to move somewhere nobody knows."

Uncle Jian was very worried. He rambled on to me about helping the Lin family with their debts. He even said that if I paid back the money, Lin Fang was sure to marry me.

"She's not the type to exchange herself for money," I said, "Many rich people are pursuing her."

Uncle Jian seemed a little embarrassed. He was hesitant to speak, scratching his head and wondering if he should say anything to me.

"Don't worry, Uncle Jian. Just tell me. I'm not in a relationship with Lin Fang."

Uncle Jian was stunned. He exclaimed, "What? You're not in a relationship with her?!"

He looked at me unbelieving. "How is that possible? If you're not her boyfriend, why were you coming over every day previously? You even arranged for her father to get treatment in the hospital."

I laughed soundlessly, suddenly unsure of how to explain it to Uncle Jian. The story was too complicated. Also, while Lin Fang had done so many things to me, I was the bigger person and I did not want to destroy her reputation out of revenge. After all, I had loved her before, and she still needed to live.

I could only tell him, "I pursued her, but she's too good for me."

Uncle Jian nodded. "Then... today..."

"Haha, I'm here to bring her to work. She's my colleague now, but it's not convenient to go to and from work. Don't misunderstand, Uncle Jian. I already have a girlfriend. I really like her, she's a wonderful woman."

I could not help but break into a smile at the thought of Chu Xiaoxiao. When Uncle Jian reacted in surprise, I realized it too, and touched my own face.

Uncle Jian sighed. "Congratulations then, Chao. You're a good person. You shouldn't get together with Lin Fang."

He kept an eye on upstairs as he spoke. When he ascertained that no one upstairs was listening, he told me, "Uncle Jian's going to be honest with you. Since you're not pursuing Lin Fang, you had better keep your distance from this family. Think about it, Lin Fang's pretty, but why hasn't anyone married her? The line of people pursuing her stretches into the next neighborhood, but no one wants to marry her! Do you know Chen Yuzhou?"

I was not interested in hearing bad things about Lin Fang, but curiosity won over when Chen Yuzhou's name was mentioned.

What kind of relationship did Chen Yuzhou and Lin Fang have?

I had asked Chu Xiaoxiao about this many times, but she did not want to talk about it and always changed the topic. I was not born yesterday though, and I knew that there was more to Lin Fang and Chen Yuzhou.

"I do. We went to high school together."

Uncle Jian lowered his voice mysteriously. "Did you know? Chen Yuzhou was once extremely attentive to Lin Fang. He would come over five times in three days. This is a rich man's son and he could have anybody. But to pursue Lin Fang, he fell over himself trying to please her. You know how sickly Lin Fang's father is. This boy found a doctor and a hospital bed for him. A few years ago, Old Lin was dying. If not for the Chen boy, Old Lin wouldn't be alive to be operated on today."

Lin Fang had never mentioned this to me before. I scarcely believed that Chen Yuzhou would do that for Lin Fang. Back then, he had forced Lin Fang's father to move out of the ward when he was critically ill.

But Uncle Jian had no reason to slander Lin Fang in front of me. Even if Lin Fang's family owed that much money, there was no need to do this.

"Then why did Chen Yuzhou stop pursuing Lin Fang?"

"They even got engaged! Did you know? Then, for whatever reason, they didn't get married. Don't just look at her beauty. Their whole family is difficult. Her younger brother is addicted to gambling. He's amassed debts of millions in just a few years. That good-for-nothing doesn't even have an income. Lin Fang is repaying the debts herself. You and Lin Fang are colleagues and you were classmates. Do you know how much she earns? How is that enough to repay them? Gambling is a bottomless pit. You live your own life well. I'm a man too. I know how greedy men are, looking at someone else when you have your own. But the Lin family is a mess. It's better for you if you stay away from them."

I did not say anything, but I was so shocked.

Lin Kang owed that much money?!

"But Chen Yuzhou's so rich. If he likes Lin Fang that much, and she needs money, why not be with him?" I asked.

Uncle Jian laughed. "Is Chen Yuzhou stupid? He'll play around with this woman and treat the money as a maintenance fee. But marry her? He wouldn't dare. Even if he did, what would his parents say? Do you think they would accept her? Look, they say getting married makes you family. As neighbors, we aren't even friends. Just living in the same building is a misfortune. Ugh, this place is in the city center and we would have been able to get top dollar for it. But now with this situation, who's going to buy from us?!"

Just as he finished speaking, we heard the sound of an iron gate being opened. Uncle Jian said to me hurriedly, "Kid, that's all I'm going to say. Think over it yourself. This woman only looks good, her insides are rotten to the core. You're a good person. Don't get involved."

With that, he closed his door quickly. I heard Lin Fang's voice from upstairs.

"Zhang Chao?"

I called back in answer. An unpleasant feeling lingered in my mind.

Lin Fang was not the one who owed them money, yet she was shouldering this burden. How could Lin Kang get away with it?!

I did not know what to think, and I was still confused when I got upstairs. Lin Fang smiled when she saw me and asked me, suspicion tinged in her voice, "What were you discussing with Uncle Jian?"

"Oh, nothing much. Isn't Uncle Jian's son taking his college entrance exams? We just talked."

My phone started ringing in my pocket, saving me from having to lie to Lin Fang. I changed the topic by simply answering my phone.

"Captain, ya been unreasonable." This substandard Mandarin could only be Tsai. I suddenly remembered that I was supposed to meet Lin Yue'er and Tsai last night. However, with everything that happened, I clean forgot about it.

"Ugh, it's my fault. I totally forgot about yesterday. Please tell Lin Yue'er I'm sorry. How about tomorrow evening? I'll definitely apologize in person tomorrow."

Tsai groused at me and complained about how I broke my word. I grumbled to myself about Tsai's catty remarks. He did not use to be like this. Then, from his end of the phone, I heard Lin Yue'er say softly, "Tsai, don't blame the Young Master. He must have been held up."

Tsai covered the phone and told her, "Don't speak up for him. I have to grouse on your behalf."

"Captain..."

"Well, well, comrade Tsai. Since you've been promoted to such an affectionate tone, will you be inviting me to the wedding banquet?"

Tsai stammered but could not get his words out. I almost died laughing.

"I—I..."

"Oh, Tsai. Did you think I didn't know what was on your mind? Sure, you move fast."