

## The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 26

### The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 26 Confession

The surrounding crowd was still filming Chu Xiaoxiao. Tong City was not too big nor too small, and these people might not know Chu Xiaoxiao. They just heard Junran's name and wanted to join in the bustling.

These videos would be uploaded to the Internet in a short while. Han Kun had told me before that those rich young ladies and young masters have their own circles. He suggested me to get in contact with these people but I rejected him. Chu Xiaoxiao was quite famous in the circle. It wouldn't take long before her "friends" find out that she got embarrassed in front of so many people.

After Chu Huaien left, Chu Xiaoxiao's tears dripped from her face. There was a deep red palm print on her cheeks too. She looked really pitiful.

"Let's go. If you have to talk, do it later. Don't stand here and embarrass yourself."

Chu Xiaoxiao shook off my hand, "Stop pretending to be nice! Just tell me, what do you want with me? Do you want to be with Lin Fang? Never! I won't do this type of things like selling my friend away."

I dragged her against her will and rashly pushed her to the entrance of a washroom. There were lesser people here. She was not afraid of embarrassing herself but I still wanted to preserve my dignity. I definitely did not want to appear on the news headlines with her.

"I never wanted you to do anything. Just do whatever you want. I am going back to eat. What about you? Going back with that palm print on your face?"

Chu Xiaoxiao did not expect me to say those words. Judging by her expression, she was obviously convinced that I would say something nasty.

I turned around and walked a few steps before she caught up with me, "Y-you really don't have an agenda?"

"No."

T-then, can you give that business deal to me again?"

"Impossible."

I rejected her bluntly. What a joke. I was not a dumbass. She slapped me twice ruthlessly and expected me to forgive her after saying a few sentences of pleasantries and apologies?

“W-why? Didn’t you say you want nothing from me? I apologize to you. I mean it.”

I simply couldn’t stand her constantly badgering me, and so I stopped to examine her. This woman was actually quite beautiful but she was just too much of a dumbass.

“I just don’t want to forgive you, okay? I have never wanted to threaten you in the first place. If the enemy did not offend me, I will not offend them. If the enemy offended me, I will make the enemy suffer. You are apologizing to me now and you said it’s your fault. But Chu Xiaoxiao, if you aren’t at your wit’s end now, would you have apologized to me? I don’t think so. So you are not apologizing to me, you are only trying to trade your laughable pride for my forgiveness.”

Chu Xiaoxiao’s eyes reddened again and she clutched my sleeve, “Then what do I have to do to earn your forgiveness? You have heard what my dad said, if Junran does not work with me, he will throw me out of the house.”

I laughed coldly, “That’s none of my business.”

I bumped my shoulder against the dumb-founded woman lightly to clear a path out and returned to my seat.

Lin Fang was waiting anxiously and stretched her neck to see. She wanted to get up to find us but was worried that the service staff would clear the table after seeing no one was around.

Lin Fang was relieved after she saw that I was back, “I thought something may have happened to both of you. There were people saying that there were two people fighting at the entrance. I thought that they might be you. Where did Xiaoxiao go?”

“She probably went to the washroom. Your relationship with her is pretty good.”

I couldn’t understand no matter how I thought about it. How did such a good person like Lin Fang become friends with that shrewd, Chu Xiaoxiao?

“Haha, Xiaoxiao might seem loud and fussy, but she’s actually a good person. If you know long enough, you will understand.”

In my heart, I was highly resistant. No thanks, if I interacted with that woman for a minute longer, I would die an early death.

When Chu Xiaoxiao came back, the red palm print on her face had faded a bit. It was still obviously swollen so she could only pretend that her tooth was aching. She used a

towel to press against her face and lied that she was suffering from excessive internal heat.

Lin Fang wanted to buy medicine for Chu Xiaoxiao immediately. Chu Xiaoxiao was extremely moody and did not have the energy to correct Lin Fang, so she nodded. I stopped at a pharmacy on the way back. Chu Xiaoxiao waited inside the car while Lin Fang and I got off to buy the medicine.

I took the medicine and walked to the cashier to pay when Lin Fang suddenly called me to stop.

“Zhang Chao, when did your clothing get snagged?”

I turned my head around to look. There was a hole on the back and I did not know when it happened.

“No biggie. Maybe I snagged it somewhere by accident.”

“If you don’t mind, I can mend it for you. This piece of clothing should be wearable after mending.”

I was about to reject since this piece of clothing was not expensive, but Lin Fang’s gentle expression made my heart skip a beat.

“Sure, thank you.”

“Don’t say things like troubling me or thank you to me anymore.”

“Why?”

I blurted out this question and Lin Fang lowered her head with a blushing face while she walked out. I was left behind, flabbergasted.

Thud.....

The cashier scanned the item and threw the medicine at me, “You fool. You don’t understand what that lady is trying to say?”

I was unable to make heads or tails of what happened after racking my brains, “I really don’t understand... Did I say something that angered Lin Fang by mistake?”

“You helpless imbecile!” The cashier rolled eyes at me.

I kept trying to grasp what Lin Fang was trying to say, and I had a theory. Could it be that she likes me too and did not want me to be too polite with her?

B-but, how could it be? Am I worthy of Lin Fang?

Lin Fang did not seem to be angry. She smiled at me while chatting in the car. Based on how she acted, I was beginning to think my theory was right. With this thought, I was about to explode with happiness.

If Chu Xiaoxiao were not here, I might have confessed my love to Lin Fang already.

But I glanced at Chu Xiaoxiao and decided against it. This woman would definitely do something to destroy it.

I wanted to send Chu Xiaoxiao away and confess to Lin Fang afterward. However, out of the blue when I was driving the car, Chu Xiaoxiao suddenly said to Lin Fang, "Fangfang, I want to live at your house."

Fuck, this woman just had to ruin things for me.

When the car reached the front of the apartment building, I restrained my upset feelings and thought it was Chu Xiaoxiao's way of getting back at me.

"I will go and get a parcel. You all can go park the car." Lin Fang asked me to stop the car and said while opening the door.

After Lin Fang left the car, I turned my head and asked Chu Xiaoxiao, "Why are you not going back?!"

Chu Xiaoxiao replied in an upset tone, "I was driven out by my dad. I cannot go back anymore."

Fuck, what a load of crap!

I held back the anger and violently swatted on the car horn. The car made a noise abruptly. Lin Fang treated Chu Xiaoxiao as a good friend and definitely would not chase her out, which meant that this woman would stay between us for a good few days.

Chu Xiaoxiao rolled her eyes and extended her head over to the front. She looked at the side of my face and said, "You want to spend time alone with Fangfang? Then you have to give me Junran's business deal."

"Hah, didn't you say that you wouldn't make use of Lin Fang in exchange for benefits just now?"

Chu Xiaoxiao pouted, "Then I will stick to Fangfang's side and you can forget about spending time alone with her. Don't think that I cannot tell you like Fangfang. If you make my life miserable then I will make your life miserable too. Humph."

“Chu Xiaoxiao, what have I done to you? Why do you keep making things difficult for me?!”

“Because you are not a good person! You harmed me, and I don’t want you to harm Fangfang too.”

“So you are saying, if I want to prove that I am not a bad person, I have to give you Junran Group’s business?”

“That would be great.”

I rolled my eyes at her from the rearview mirror, “You sure are thick-skinned.”

## The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 27

### The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 27 Misunderstanding

No matter how much I wanted to, there was little I could do about Chu Xiaoxiao right now, so I had no choice but to let it slide for now. I guess, if Lin Fang really have feelings for me, then confessing my feelings to her a few days later shouldn’t affect things too much. And, all the more importantly, Lin Fang was my first love, my goddess in my school days. I need to prepare for it in every possible way to make it as perfect as it can be.

The door of the elevator opened to a dark corridor. The lights in the hallway appeared to have went out. All two of them, and a faint green light shone from the dim and discolored LED of the emergency lamp.

The bulbs were probably blown. Like they say, you get what you pay for. The neighborhood that I chose to stay in really wasn’t one of the better ones, so things like this probably weren’t all that uncommon.

With Lin Fang still on her way back up downstairs, Chu Xiaoxiao didn’t have the keys to her place, and had to wait outside in the dark until Lin Fang came back.

I went inside my room and flipped the switch on, and the lights went on. This made it clear that it really was the bulbs that were blown outside, rather than a building wise power outage. Good, at least it wasn’t my problem.

“Huh, eh? You’re... you’re going inside just like that? Leaving me all alone in this dark and dangerous hallway by myself?”

Chu Xiaoxiao suddenly grabbed and pulled at the back of my shirt, and asked with a trembling voice.

I turned around to look at her. One side of her face was swollen from her father beating her, and the other side was a deathly white. She looked like she was terrified.

I played dumb and pretended not to notice, "Of course, what does it look like?"

"You... ah, umm... won't you invite me inside to have a chat or sit around or something?"

"Oh, no, I wouldn't dare, my poor heart can't possibly handle it. We weren't even friends to begin with, and just moments earlier, you were recording down what I say and replaying it out of context to frame me in front of Lin Fang. No, I don't think it was a good idea to invite you into my house."

As I was saying, I kept on closing the door slowly, and little by little the light from my room leaking out to the hallway grew dimmer and dimmer. Chu Xiaoxiao's fear and panic grew as the hallway became darker and darker again, she kept pushing on the other side of the door, and sounded as if she was about to cry, "Then... then! Can you wait just a little bit for me? Until Lin Fang comes back at least? It... it's dark, and... and I'm scared."

Scared? Not my problem. I pushed a little more strength into my arms, and the door closed with a click. Shortly after, through the door came the sound of knuckles knocking door, feet stomping floor, and Chu Xiaoxiao saying things about me with words that good children should never say.

She continued cursing and swearing at me. Somehow, this didn't make me angry at all. It was actually kind of fun, seeing her panicking in fear.

I let her go on for a while, made sure to not to laugh, then cleared my throat with a cough, "You do remember, just how you have lost your contract with Junran, right?"

Immediately, all of a sudden all sounds outside ceased. I peeked out from the spy hole, and there she was, biting down on her lips and storming around in circles, with tears of frustration in her eyes.

Well, all of this was the result of her own doing. I wouldn't spare her even a nickel of my sympathy.

Though to be honest, I really wasn't seriously trying to get back at her. It was only 8 o'clock at night, even if the lights did went out outside in the hallway, it was still in the safety of an apartment building. Besides, Lin Fang would be back soon, she was behind us for only about ten minutes at the most. Nothing would happen to Chu Xiaoxiao.

Today had been way too eventful, and I had been going around all the places. Especially after that fight at the Spring Garden, afterwards I was drenched in my own

sweat. Pulling my shirt off, I stepped inside the shower and gave myself a refreshing rinse.

Though I wasn't sure what it meant, but Lin Fang's attitude towards me seemed a little different than how she used to be. But I do think, that her feelings towards me should be well in the positives at least.

Right now, between Lin Fang and I, neither of us had said anything about it out right. It was as if we were staring at each other through a thin veil. Not yet crystal clear, a little fuzzy at places, but knowing for certain that the other was right there looking back at you in the same way.

It was as the saying went, truth was indeed stranger than fiction. Life had been full of unexpected surprises. Who would have thought that I would actually have a chance with the girl that was my goddess in my school days? At least, my old self a few years back would certainly have never expected it.

After the shower, I sank myself into my bed and was about to turn on the TV to pass some time. As soon as I did, I leaped off the bed immediately, remembering something.

Though I had fully intended to give Chu Xiaoxiao a fright, but I never wanted her to be frightened too badly.

I opened my door abruptly to see how frightened Chu Xiaoxiao got, and whether Lin Fang had came back or not, but what I saw instead was Chu Xiaoxiao struggling and fighting for her life in the darkness. A figure was dragging her into the stairways in the fire exit, with a hand firmly over her mouth stifling her screams.

Since the bulbs were blown, the hallway was dark and poorly lit by the faint LED emergency lamp, if I had been any other person I would certainly have missed it completely.

I could only see a faint silhouette, but I couldn't make out his face clearly. That man was blinded by the sudden change of brightness as I opened my door abruptly, and was forced to squint his eyes involuntarily to the burst of light.

In the man's momentary lapse, Chu Xiaoxiao took hold of the opportunity, and grabbed his hand and bit down hard onto it with her teeth.

The man grumbled, but he didn't loosen his hands. Instead, he slipped his arm forward and now had Chu Xiaoxiao's throat in an arm choke, attempting to strangle her to death just like that.

"Stop!"

I yelled in their direction, but they were a little distance away and out of my reach. Feeling a solid and heavy object in my hand, I instinctively threw whatever that I had in my hand at the man's head with all the strength I had.

After I threw it, one side of the object lit up to a waiting screen, and only then did I found out that the object I that threw was my phone! In the darkness, its bright screen beamed a beautiful parabolic trajectory of light.

Not that I would have hesitated even if I had realized it sooner, that is. A life was at stake here, nothing else could be more important than that.

I had been precise with my aim, and the hardened edge of the phone smashed right onto his skull. This did a much heavier number on the man than that little bite Chu Xiaoxiao gave him. The pain and impact to his head must have given him a temporary daze, and he loosened his grip on Chu Xiaoxiao.

"Run!" I yelled at Chu Xiaoxiao, unsure if she could still hear me. The man had her in a rather tight choke, and from where I looked, I was worried that she might have passed out from the choke, or worse. But surprisingly, and thankfully, she responded to my call and still had enough strength in her to drag herself off the ground, and scurried over towards my general direction in a panicked frenzy.

Also coming back to his senses, that man lunged towards Chu Xiaoxiao once again. This time, I leapt forward and blocked Chu Xiaoxiao from his sight, and planted my foot squarely in the middle of his chest with a fierce and well aimed kick.

People like us who had done our time training as one of the troopers, we can kick through even concrete walls provided that the wall wasn't too overly thick. If this man had been a simple civilian, he could have very well died from that.

That kick sent him flying backwards in the direction he came from, and into the solid wall behind him. His back crashed against the wall hard, then dropped to the ground with a thud, unmoving.

Still keeping an eye on the man on the ground, I quickly glanced back at Chu Xiaoxiao, and said to her, "Phone, I need your phone."

Chu Xiaoxiao was still in a stupor from the shock, and didn't respond to my request. I called out to her again, "Phone! Enable the torch function and give it to me, I need some light!"

This time, she came back to herself. As she fumbled on her phone, it suddenly brightened up and she handed it to me. The man on the ground struggled to get up to get away, but couldn't. I might have been a little bit on the heavy handed side with that kick, because the man kept struggling to get off the ground, only to fail each time as he winced from the pain coming from his injury.

I had thought that this man might be either Che Yuzhou or Lin Kang. The two of them were planning to do something nasty to Lin Fang. I knew about their plans.

But as soon as I kicked him, I knew that this man couldn't have been either one of them. This man was trained, as I was. Though my kick connected, but from the feeling coming from my foot as I kicked him, I knew that he had been skillful enough with his reaction and didn't take the full brunt of the impact from my kick.

Aiming with the phone in my hand, I shone the bright flashlight of the phone directly at his face and lifted his head up. A South East Asian face, with a pronounced forehead and dark skinned.

"Say it, who sent you?" gritting my teeth hard, I interrogated him.

If Lin Fang hadn't been lucky with her timing, the one in trouble right now would be her instead! Thinking that Lin Fang might have been the one that he was after, I was angry enough to want to skin him alive.

But what came blurring from the man's mouth was a series of foreign tongue. Chu Xiaoxiao pulled closer and asked me, "What dialect was he speaking in?"

"Not a dialect of Chinese, at least. He was speaking Vietnamese. He said that it was all a misunderstanding, that he thought you were his ran away girlfriend, and only wanted to take you home back to Vietnam."

"That's impossible. He is lying!"

I nodded, "Of course I know he is lying."

That man stared at me, with a mix of emotions showing on his face, unsure of what I would do to him.

I spoke to him, in fluent Vietnamese, "Tell me. Who hired you?"

At once, all other emotions left his face, except terror. He stammered, "How did you know...! No, I mean, what are you talking about?"

I snorted, as coldly as I could, "I'm not going to waste my time with you. You have one chance to start talking. If you don't, I have a million ways to 'encourage' you."

Knowing that I would buy none of his acts, he gritted his teeth in stubborn silence. I took a switchblade out from my pocket and held it against the top digit on one of his fingers. I said, "One minute, one finger. If you don't tell me what I want to hear, you will leave your fingertips here in my country."

"No, you wouldn't dare.... aarrgh!"

He looked disbelievingly at his bloodied hand with half of a digit missing on his pinky, in pain and horror. I continued, "You have ten minutes to begin talking. Well, actually, nine now."

"I... I'm... not sure what you are talking about..."

"You're sure you don't want to rethink your answer?" I touched the blade to his second finger.

"Chen! The name he goes by is Chen! The account that made the transfer to my account belonged to someone called Chen Yuzhou!"

Chu Xiaoxiao couldn't understand Vietnamese, but she knew this name. She spaced out for a stretch of time in silence before finally turning her head to look at me, "Chen Yuzhou? How could he possibly... no, he couldn't..."

That man stammered, this time with his broken Chinese, "He, told me, kidnap woman, bring to him. Other things, I don't know."

Waves of intense feeling washed over my head. Burning with anger, I put my switchblade away, "Let's go see what Chen Yuzhou have to say about this."

## **The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 28**

The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 28 Denial

"Wait! Lin Fang hasn't come back yet, you don't think that something might have happened to her, would you!?" Chu Xiaoxiao snapped me out of my anger.

My head began hurting. Lin Fang said that she was only going to receive a package that came for her, but this had been much too long for just that.

I said, "Let's stay calm. Since we have the man that Chen Yuzhou sent for her right here, Lin Fang should be alright. You look around, see if you can find her, and call the police if anything goes wrong. I'll keep an eye on this man here."

Chu Xiaoxiao nodded, bobbing her head up and down furiously, and dashed away... then came back again just as quickly with tears in her eyes.

"I'm scared..."

I almost flipped my eyes at her. What could there be to be scared of? All the lower floors had their lights on, bright as day. It wasn't as if she would be looking around in the darkness.

Besides, I'll be keeping guard on the man that Chen Yuzhou sent. I really didn't think he'd go as far as to hire a group of professional killers. It wasn't as if he was trying to rob a bank or putting a hit on someone to be assassinated.

But before words came out of my mouth, I saw how frightened Chu Xiaoxiao was and swallowed my retorts back down. Her eyes were red with tears, with a reddened hand mark around her throat, and a cut or tear at the left of her face. Struggling against the man had torn the top of her shirt as well, exposing a lot more skin at her chest than what was usually considered decent.

"Alright, then, you watch him here, and I'll go find Lin Fang."

I said, dragging the man inside my house. Once inside, I went to my toolbox and took out two pieces of zip ties from it. pulling his hands together, I tied one of the zip ties tight around his two thumbs, then tied that zip tie to one of the heating fins on the wall with the other zip tie.

"Alright, this way he won't be going anywhere. You don't have to be scared anymore."

Finishing up, I turned around, and Chu Xiaoxiao was nowhere to be seen. Just as I was about to call out and ask her where she was, she emerged from behind my kitchen door with my biggest knife in her hands.

I felt the pain in my head worsen, "What do you think you're doing? Put that thing down. Now."

Chu Xiaoxiao didn't answer, but kept her distance and pointed the knife at him. I sighed. Walking over to her, I put a hand on the back of the knife in her outstretched hands, then twisted it out of her grip gently.

"Don't do anything silly now. Just stay here, keep your distance, and watch him. I made sure that he won't be able to move away from that spot. Trust me."

Chu Xiaoxiao gave me a big nod, "Then, come back soon."

Seeing her acting so agreeable for a change, as I headed out of the door, I couldn't help but tease her a little with a laugh, "It actually feels a little odd, with you not badgering at my every word."

As expected, Lin Fang was fine. After she received the package, the counter keeper lady at the little general store downstairs was in a talkative mood and called her up for a chat as she was about to head off, and she has been held up here since then.

Seeing that I had came down for her, she quickly acknowledged the counter lady with a nod and a smile, then grabbed her things and came to me.

“Why are you down here? Did you have another fight with Xiaoxiao?” Lin Fang asked, “And here I thought I’d leave the two of you alone with each other to talk things out and maybe make up, but looks like it didn’t work out too well.”

I breathed out the breath that had been in my chest since I was coming down in the elevator, “You were in the store all this time? You haven’t been anywhere else?”

Lin Fang looked at me, questioningly, “Just what happened?”

I sighed in relief, “I’ll fill you in on the details after we get home. You’re okay, and that’s all it matters. In the few days to come, watch yourself and where you’re going, and don’t go anywhere unless you absolutely have to.”

There were only the two of us as we headed up in the elevator, so I briefly told her about what had just happened.

“No, that’s just not possible, how could Chen Yuzhou do something like this?”

“Do you still have so much faith in his character, even now? He was never a good person to begin with. Did you forget that he threatened you with your father’s hospitalization?”

“I just... I just didn’t think that he would do something so horrifying as that.” Lin Fang said.

I know that Lin Fang wouldn’t believe it if she hadn’t seen it with her own eyes. She was too innocent, and too trusting of others.

“The man was still there. We locked him up. You’ll see when you come.” I didn’t try to continue to convince her. Like the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and there we have a breathing and talking one at that.

Seeing the man tied to the heating fan, Lin Fang’s face turned white and slumped down onto the sofa.

“How could he? How could he do this...”

Looking at her acting so dejected, my heart pained as I wished for nothing else other than chopping Chen Yuzhou up and feed his remains to the dogs.

I put an arm around Lin Fang’s shoulder, and she leaned closer and began sobbing against my chest.

“What should we do in the days to come, Zhang Chao? How could we even stand against Chen Yuzhou!?”

I replied firmly, "You just relax. and I'll protect you."

But Lin Fang only sobbed harder, "No, you don't know. You don't know just how big Chen Yuzhou's influence in Tong City is. If he truly want us dead, then we'll surely die! He... he has connections, with the gangs."

"I don't care who he has connections with. No matter who they are, I'll keep you protected at all costs. I'll keep you safe, even if it costs my life."

I clasped my hands around Lin Fang's hands tightly, comforting her. Slowly, her sobbing waned and a faint blush began spreading on her face.

Chu Xiaoxiao also comforted her, "So what if he knows some thugs from some gangs here in the Tong City? We still have the laws to protect us. If he tries anything, we'll... we'll call the cops on him! Actually, yes, why don't we call the cops now and give this man over so he can rot inside the city jail?"

Obviously, that man knew enough Chinese to understand what Chu Xiaoxiao just said, and began making noises and saying something nervously.

Chu Xiaoxiao asked me, "What's he gibbering about?"

"He said that he came into the country with proper documentations and all, and if we get the police involved it would turn into a matter of international diplomacy. Actually, if he was professional enough, I'm sure that he must have had messed with the surveillance system in the building beforehand. If that's the case, I really don't think we have enough evidence to prove that he broke the law."

"God damn it, then what use do we even have those useless laws for!? Look, here, here, and here. Look at all the things that he did to me!" Chu Xiaoxiao's anger exploded at the inefficiency of the laws system.

"Doesn't change the fact that it's probably how it would turn out. This guy is obviously a pro. He knows his stuff. If we hand him over to the police, not only would he be let off clean, the two of us would probably have to face some assault charges for the wounds we gave him."

I thought that the most Chen Yuzhou would do would be to hire some random thugs off the street for what passes as that elaborate scheme of his. But he went a step further and hired a professional hitman from another country. With these sorts, so long as they kept their records clean, even if only officially and superficially, they were actually granted a lot more freedom to their acts than local street thugs. Those inside the laws system tend to want to avoid complications where possible, especially one that would potentially escalate into major diplomatic issues.

But something smells odd. With a brain like Chen Yuzhou's, I didn't think he'd be able to give this that much thoughts. There must be someone coming up with these ideas for him. And it couldn't have possibly been Lin Kang either, he was much too stupid for this. No matter who this yet nameless strategist was, having his brain working for Chen Yuzhou could be nothing but bad news for me.

Chu Xiaoxiao panicked, "Then what? Are you saying that we'll just have to take whatever garbage he throws at us!? You said it yourself just then, let's go see what Chen Yuzhou have to say about this. Let's go right now! We'll take this man with us too, and throw him at Chen Yuzhou's face if he doesn't own up!"

Lin Fang sobbed again, "No, let's leave it be, Zhang Chao. The two of us, we have no money and no connections with any powerful people, we can't possibly act against Chen Yuzhou's wishes. Let's let this slide and lay low, maybe... maybe one day he'll forget about us."

"No. I know this types. With people like him, the more we hide and cower in fear, the more he finds a sick sense of pleasure in continuing to exploit us."

I knew what type of person Chen Yuzhou was all too well. In my school days, I was his choice victim, cowering before him and avoiding him wherever he went. People like him won't simply forget their targets and move along in life. They took pleasure and excitement in the extortions of others.

"That's right, Fangfang! Listen to Zhang Chao, he'll figure out a way." Chu Xiaoxiao added after me.

Lin Fang and I both looked at her, stared at her, as if we saw something strange and unbelievable. After a moment of silence, Chu Xiaoxiao grew more and more self conscious from our stares, and asked, "What? Was there something on my face?"

Lin Fang stopped crying. Wiping away her tears, she said, "I thought felt something strange for a while now. Why have you started speaking for Zhang Chao?"

"I... I did? No, I... I didn't!" Chu Xiaoxiao denied stubbornly, "I was just being... objective! Yes, I was simply being objective about this. I still hate his guts to pieces, but I'm just not letting it cloud my judgement!"

Lin Fang took Chu Xiaoxiao's hand, pulled her close into her arms and hugged her, "Stop being in denial already. You're being thankful of him. He just saved you, didn't he?" Lin Fang couldn't help but laugh, feeling happy for her friend.

"No, I'm not... I am so not in denial! This is this and that is that. He can save me a million times for all I care. And even then, I'll still hate him!"

“Yes, yes, still in denial I see.” Lin Fang laughed again, “It’s so good that the two of you decided to make up. See, I told you, Zhang Chao is a good person.”

“Good person my butt. He is the worst person in the entire universe!”

## The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 29

### The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 29 Taboo

The two of them bantered and fooled around like the good friends they were, driving away the gloominess that had set around the room and lightening the atmosphere. And as for me, I was still trying to recover from the shock and devastation of being referred to as simply a “good person” by Lin Fang. That hurts... quite a bit more than just a little. But, after all that was said and done, if Lin Fang was happy, then so was I.

No matter what happened, I would protect her from anyone that tried to hurt her.

I took a chair, and planted it right in front of the Vietnamese man. He was a little afraid of me, and flinched a little as I sat down on it.

“Zhang Chao, didn’t you say that you’re going to see Chen Yuzhou about this man?” Having teased Lin Fang enough, and had enough of being teased by her in return, Chu Xiaoxiao voiced her serious opinion, coming to me and standing by my side with Lin Fang standing at my other side.

“No need to be so rushed about it. Right now as how things are, us going to them would be playing right into their hands. No. We won’t go to them. And instead, they will come to us.” I said to the Vietnamese hitman, “Call Chen Yuzhou. Tell him that you got the job done, and that Lin Fang’s door was left unlocked for him with no one else there. Tell him to come here now.”

Compared to having a foreigner sneaking an unconscious girl into his own house, coming here to Lin Fang’s place unnoticed would be a much easier and safer alternative. After the deed, Chen Yuzhou could simply sneak away before she came back to consciousness the next day, and no one would be the wiser. I thought, Chen Yuzhou would definitely fall for it.

The man ignored me. He turned his head aside and pretended not to have heard me. He probably thought that, so long as he continued refusing to cooperate with us, we’d have no choice but to let him go in the end.

But on the other hand, if he gave in now, his reputation in this line of work would be ruined. Not only would it be extremely difficult for him to receive any more jobs in the

future, the ones who used to hire him would probably take revenge or place a hit on him themselves.

I chuckled nonchalantly, then began to speak to him, in Chinese, “Well, since you obviously understand Chinese, I won’t bother speaking Vietnamese with you. Now, tell me, are you perhaps in the delusion that there’s nothing I could do to you if you simply refused to do as I say?”

He replied stiffly with his broken Chinese, “You, call cops. I’m not scared.”

He said, viciously, with defiant eyes and tone. His expression looked a little like a monkey’s face, with a pronounced and protruding mouth and lips.

“You son of a...! Putting on the tough guy act now aren’t you!” Anger shot through Chu Xiaoxiao’s head as she stomped the ground hard, “You just wait right here. I’ve seen and learned all kinds of screwed up things on TV, and I know just what to do with you.”

The man froze, and Lin Fang gave me a questioning look. I shrugged, having no idea what she was going to do either. Chu Xiaoxiao stomped into the kitchen, then before long came the sound of the kettle boiling water. After a while, Chu Xiaoxiao came back with the kettle, filled with freshly boiled water, still bubbling.

The man looked at her with fear written all over his face. He tried to stay as far away from her as possible, as far away as the zip tie that tied his thumbs in place would allow. Tucking in all his limbs and his neck, making himself look as small as possible, he trembled visibly, “You, what you want, to do?”

Chu Xiaoxiao laughed, perfectly portraying her true villainous inner self, “Now, you had better do exactly as Zhang Chao have told you. If you don’t, I’ll let you experience what they call by baptism of fire... baptism of boiling hot water, and have a taste of culture that you unsophisticated brutes would never have experienced in your pitiful uncivilized lives.”

Now that was a good one, some cultured and civilized person she claimed she was. I looked at what Chu Xiaoxiao was doing with interest. Hilarious as it was, hopefully, in the future this man wouldn’t come to think of all my other fellow countrymen to be as ruthlessly barbaric as she was. All this while, Chu Xiaoxiao switched the kettle around from her left hand to her right, then back again, then repeated a few times, sometimes feinting as if to pour it over the man’s head.

Lin Fang was already beyond frightened to even watch what her friend was doing, hiding behind me and burying her face into the back of my shirt. As expected of Chu Xiaoxiao the Bold, definitely not the same girl that was too afraid to even set a foot outside of my apartment merely minutes ago because it was too dark out there.

“You! You do this, you break law!” The man kicked frantically, desperately trying to knock the kettle out of her hand, and away from him.

“Heh, funny. Never thought that there’d come a day that a kidnapping killer would lecture me about breaking the law.”

Then suddenly, Chu Xiaoxiao feigned as if she fumbled her grip on the kettle. The man was terrified, and kicked again desperately. The kick missed the kettle, but landed on Chu Xiaoxiao’s wrist instead, and boiling water came splashing out of the kettle. By the time Chu Xiaoxiao regained a proper grip on the handle of the kettle, half of its content had been emptied onto the man’s thigh already. The intense pain made him jump. He leaped about on the same spot as if the floor was made of lava, like an ant atop a burning hot platter.

He screamed and cursed, his eyes red with bloodshot. He growled at my direction, “Never! I never do what you say!”

Now now, that’d be a little troublesome. If he should refuse to cooperate, it’d be a little hard to get Chen Yuzhou to take the bait and come here. Massaging my temples, I tried to rub my headache away with my hand.

Whatever Chu Xiaoxiao was doing, or whatever she thought she was doing, didn’t work. This Vietnamese hitman had guts, at least, and looked as though no pain we put him through would be able to change his mind.

Lin Fang heard him scream in pain, and looked sickened and disgusted at the same time. I hadn’t intended to let Lin Fang witness something as gruesome as this, and from how she had looked I’m guessing Chu Xiaoxiao hadn’t either.

As the intensity of the pain began receding gradually, the man slumped lifelessly to the ground, panting and trying to catch his breath from screaming at the top of his lungs for all this time. Lifting his head to look at us again, a venomous light gleamed behind his eyes. It was clear that even if he had been tempted by our offer at first, he’d resist us to the bitter end now.

And with that, Chu Xiaoxiao quietly sat herself down on the sofa at the side of the room, looking sad and dejected like a little girl that has been grounded by her parents. It would appear that Chu Xiaoxiao had ran out of ways to deal with this man.

“Now what do we do? If he doesn’t want to go along with us, we’ll have no choice but to let him go. But if we let him go, we’ll never be able to live a peaceful life anymore.” Lin Fang said, worrying. Her eyes began reddening with tears again.

Chu Xiaoxiao bit her teeth together hard, “We can’t let it end like this. Zhang Chao, quick, think of something, aren’t you always full of dirty tricks up your sleeves?”

“I never said anything about letting it go just like that in the first place. Didn't you say that you knew exactly what you're doing just a while ago? Go on, I'm still waiting for you to bring out your big guns.” I replied.

“Give it a rest already! Look here, are you really going to nitpick at everything I say? In case you haven't noticed, we're all in this together! Just go and get on with it if you really still have tricks left in your bag, unless if you're just all talks.”

I thought I'm finding this girl quite a bottle of fun to be with. The volatile and explosive kind. She was like a tiny little hedgehog, all cute and harmless, but gave her a nudge and she'll threaten to sting you to death with her little spikes, but still cute and harmless nonetheless.

I couldn't help giving in to the temptation of setting her on edge a little more, “What if I really do?”

“Hah! I'm calling your bluff right here and now. If you really can get him to comply, I'll... I'll...” Stopping midway, Chu Xiaoxiao suddenly pulled the torn collar of her shirt together, covering up the part of her skin that had been showing all this time, “What're you plotting again this time? I'm warning you, I'm a pure and innocent girl, and you're not allowed to have... impure thoughts about me.”

Once again Chu Xiaoxiao managed to render me speechless. In a momentary stunned silence, I quickly glanced at Lin Fang, then relaxed and said back to her, “Yeah, right, as if. No, what I'm saying is, if it turned out that I really can handle this, then you'll be washing my socks for me for a week, since you'll be bumming around in her place because you've got nowhere else to go right?”

I've yet to get her back for tagging along and forcing herself into what would have been some quality alone time that I could have with Lin Fang. This was too perfect an opportunity to let up.

Chu Xiaoxiao didn't look like she was going to agree at first, but I continued to look at her tauntingly, setting her pride on fire, “Fine! I'm game. Then? What if you can't?”

Lin Fang kept eyeing me, motioning me to not take Chu Xiaoxiao's words seriously, afraid that the two of us would begin fighting again.

I laughed, “If I can't, I'll give you a huge present, so big that you can go back home and decorate your room with it tomorrow. You know what I'm talking about right?”

Chu Xiaoxiao's eyes brightened. Her father Chu Huaien threw her out of her house because she lost her contract with Junran, so she knew exactly what I mean when I said that she'll be able to go back home.

Lin Fang didn't know any of this. She looked at us, as if imaginary question marks appeared all over her head, "What are you two talking about?"

"Oh, nothing at all, don't worry Fangfang, your Zhang Chao will always be your Zhang Chao."

Scarlet red bloomed all over Lin Fang's face as she began hitting Chu Xiaoxiao's shoulder in a fit of embarrassed rage. Neither of us had been explicit about how we felt towards each other, and we were letting it grow and develop bit by bit and enjoying the little things along the way. And then Chu Xiaoxiao came along and stabbed right at the heart of the matter, bringing it out in the open for the world to see.

Still laughing, Chu Xiaoxiao begged Lin Fang to stop, while turning around to the man still restrained into the heating fan, "You, be a man. You may be a bad person, but you still got a pair right? Remember your pride, honor among thieves, assassin's creeds, tradesmanship, and professionalism and all that. Whatever Zhang Chao tells you to do, don't! You got that?"

The deranged man was caught between fear, anger, defiance, frustration, and now confusion, as he looked up at Chu Xiaoxiao, complete at a loss as to what exactly might be inside her head. I stared at her in wide eyed speechlessness too. I think I may never be able to understand just how Chu Xiaoxiao thinks.

"I'm not sure what exactly you're trying to gain by being so uncooperative with us. You must know, that the moment you blurted out Chen Yuzhou's name, it was already game over for you and your career, don't you?" Returning to the task at hand, I said, in Vietnamese again, "That is the one biggest taboo in your line of work, exposing the name of your contractor,"

His expression scrunched into a miserable mess, with bulging veins and sweat, all showing visible signs of intense agitation. But his words remained defiant, "That's just what you're saying. You could have figured out his name on your own, or you might just have been lucky with your guess. But if I help you do this and deceive my contractor, I'll be the laughingstock between all of my colleagues and the next target on everyone's hit list. I won't do what you say even if you chopped off all ten of my fingers."

I gave him a smile, "Now, you're from Lai Chau, or Son La?"

Immediately, his nervousness doubled, and squeaked, "Why? What... what's that got to do with anything?"

## **The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 30**

The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 30 One Fell Swoop

I spoke in Vietnamese, "Know why I didn't stop this girl from doing all that to you? I'm just seeing whether you would give in or not. If you are just a self trained nobody here to make ends rather than a professionally trained killer, that kettle of water would surely have made you spill your beans. But instead... looks like you weren't only professionally trained, and the one in charge of your operation is..."

Coming to the important part, I leaned over and whispered a name into the Vietnamese man's ear.

At the mentioning of that name, his eyes bulged as he looked at me, as if he had seen a ghost.

"How... how did you know? Why do you know him? Just who are you!?"

When a person becomes terrified, they often revert back to their mother tongue. By now, it was evident that this man had lost it completely, as he fell into a panicked frenzy and began frantically saying something in Vietnamese. Lin Fang and Chu Xiaoxiao couldn't understand anything he said, and both asked me what happened, and just what exactly I have said to the man that broke him so utterly.

I reached my hand into his pocket and took out his phone and tossed it to him, "Call Chen Yuzhou, and do exactly as I say. Or, I'll get someone to secretly transport you back to Vietnam, and deliver you right back into your boss's hand. And of course, I'll make sure that your boss knows everything that you did here, especially that part about having given up the name of you contractor."

"If I do this, I will die. Please, give me a way out so I can live. You Chinese are all good natured people, please, I beg you."

"Do as I say, and I'll even give you a job. Now, choose."

He looked like he was deeply suspicious of whether or not I can actually hold up my end of the bargain, since I don't look like much of a rich man. But on the other hand, I know his boss's name. That fear alone should be enough to convince him.

After a moment of silence, he said to me, defiance gone in his voice, "My hands, untie me."

I took the knife that I confiscated off Chu Xiaoxiao moments ago, and sliced off the zip tie tying him to the heating fins with one swift motion. He began stretching and moving his limbs and joints around. Though freed from being tied in place, since his thumbs were still tied together by another zip tie, it was still quite impossible for him to get away from us.

Chu Xiaoxiao stared wide eyed and looked at the man with spite in her eyes, "Chicken. You're a disgrace to all professional killers. Zhang Chao, just what voodoo or sorcery did you put on him?"

I only laughed, "A real magician never reveals his secret. In any case, you owe me one week of socks duty. Fangfang, I'll win another week for you next time."

Lin Fang laughed so hard that by the end of it, she leaned and was trying to catch her breath on Chu Xiaoxiao beside her, a very grumpy Chu Xiaoxiao.

The man began punching numbers on his phone. I don't think it would be Chen Yuzhou's number. That would be too easy, but God knows if Chen Yuzhou would be stupid enough to actually give him his own phone number.

When he pushed the call button, I looked at him intently, and estimated the possibility that our opposition would see through his act.

Of course, I have complete faith in Chen Yuzhou that he would fall for it. His head wasn't nearly smart enough to see past his foot, but I'm worried that his yet unnamed strategist would smell something fishy about this.

I motioned with my hand to tell the man to put the call on speaker phone. He did.

"Hey, you got it done?"

As soon as the call connected, from the phone came Chen Yuzhou's voice filled with eager anticipation.

When Lin Fang and Chu Xiaoxiao heard Chen Yuzhou's voice from the phone, they looked as though something within them shattered and died. They still had that one last thread of hope that it wasn't Chen Yuzhou but someone else that was behind all this, but this destroyed even that last bit of hope.

I knew that while they were in school, the two of them were both in pretty good relationship with Chen Yuzhou. Especially Lin Fang, she had known him since she was in elementary school, and they have been friends since then.

Who would have thought, that someone who grew up with them would turn on them like that?

I made a sign with my hand to tell them to keep their silence, and motioned the Vietnamese man to continue.

He was a little nervous, "I, did it. The girl, she ahh... she unconscious. Now, I put her... in her room, on bed. You, come?"

“Good! You, wait for me right there.”

Things went surprisingly smooth. Chen Yuzhou’s stupidity didn’t disappoint. He didn’t even find it odd that the Vietnamese man was stammering in uncertainty.

But as the man was about to end the call, from the phone came another man’s angry voice, “You gave him your actual phone number!? How could...”

And then the call was cut off short.

The Vietnamese looked at us, unsure of what to do next.

I asked him, “Who was that person right before the call ended?”

The Vietnamese shook his head frantically, “I don’t know him.”

I asked, “Wasn’t he the one who hired you?”

Chu Xiaoxiao asked me in return, “Didn’t Chen Yuzhou hire him?”

I shook my head slightly, “He doesn’t have the brains for it. If it had been him, the man in front of us would be a street thug or some no name gangster at most, instead of a foreign professional killer.”

And if he was privy what Chen Yuzhou was saying when he took the call, he must be someone that Chen Yuzhou trusts. This man was very perceptive, and much smarter than Chen Yuzhou at the same time. He might just be the one that was helping him come up with all his plans.

Lin Fang said worriedly, “Then do you think that man found something odd? He wouldn’t have realized that this is all an act right?”

“It’s a possibility. In any case, let’s try it, see if Chen Yuzhou would come or not.”

We stood up. If Chen Yuzhou did decide to come, he would be here shortly. We need to stage the act and get things ready to make it look convincing before he arrives.

“Boss, you let my hand loose first. I, my hand, please...”

The man behind me called out with a sense of urgency and desperation as I was about to leave the room.

He showed me his pinky with half of a digit chopped off, in all its goriness, still wet and dripping with blood, though some of it had somewhat dried into smudges of dark purple.

He said again, "Boss, you let my hand loose. I won't run, I stay here. From now, I work for you, I give you my life."

"I don't need your life. But if you ever betray me, know that you'll be a lot worse than you are now."

I sliced again with the kitchen knife, cutting the zip tie around his thumbs loose. He rolled his hands a few times, and then out of the blues he knelt before me and bowed to me a few times with his head on the ground.

Lin Fang was still worried, "What if he ran away?"

I said to the man, "Over there, you'll be able to find a med kit. For now, give your wound some first aid with it. I need you to cooperate with me later. Remember, this is the road you've chosen, there is no going back now. Work with me to get rid of Chen Yuzhou, this is your only way out now."

He nodded, continuously.

"What's your name? I can't keep calling you Vietnamese killer forever."

He said, "My name is Chun Tang. From now on, I call you Boss."

I looked at the clock on the wall, "Let's hurry, we don't have much time. Chen Yuzhou must be coming here on full throttle and running all the traffic lights on the way. This time, we'll get them all in one fell swoop."