

The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 31

The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 31 Saw Through

When Chun Tang went to address his wound, I told Lin Fang to go back and lie on her bed with the lights off.

Lin Fang looked visibly unsettled about this, and trembled with fear.

“Relax, I will be right there with you as well. I won’t let anything happen to you.” I reassured her.

Lin Fang looked at me, and then nodded, but she still doesn’t look convinced. I felt bad about it for her, but I don’t have any other better ideas.

“How about we do it this way? I’ll pretend to be Fangfang, and Fangfang, you can wait right here in Zhang Chao’s room.” All of a sudden, Chu Xiaoxiao spoke up.

Lin Fang said with a frown on her face, “No, that’s too dangerous for you.”

“Nono. See how frightened you already are? If in a bit you got too scared and messed up and he found out, it’d ruin everything. Let me do it.”

What Chu Xiaoxiao said was indeed correct. Lin Fang was too nervous. She was trembling now even before it began.

But then, this isn’t something as simple as asking your friend to buy something in the store for you. If Chu Xiaoxiao steps in for Lin Fang, it’d mean that she would be the one exposed to the danger instead. Even if it was for the girl that I’m in love with, I can’t ask another unrelated person to risk their lives unnecessarily, so I didn’t ask her to do that at first.

Chu Xiaoxiao ushered Lin Fang back into my room, “You just stay here and sit nice and tight. Zhang Chao and I, the two of us will protect you. Nothing will happen.”

Lin Fang started again, “But...”

“No more ‘buts’. You’ve always been too easily frightened since we were kids, and back then I took care of it for you every single time didn’t I? Just pretend that we were all back in school again, and let big sis take care of it.” Chu Xiaoxiao raised her chin high and stuck her chest out proudly, almost haughtily.

“Alright, but, you need to be really careful. If anything goes wrong, call the police!”

“You just relax and wait. Close the door, lock it, and don’t open the door to anyone else other than the two of us.”

Before Lin Fang has time to reconsider and call it off, Chu Xiaoxiao closed the door and called Chun Tang over.

The three of us went to Lin Fang’s room. Before anything else, I got Chu Xiaoxiao to change into a set of Lin Fang’s clothes.

Then I instructed Chun Tang, “In a while when Chen Yuzhou comes, let him think that there isn’t anyone else around in the vicinity.”

Chun Tang was a little nervous too. Obviously, he wasn’t nervous about the act of deceiving Chen Yuzhou itself, but the consequences that would come afterwards.

I cut his worries short, “If I promised, I deliver. I never promise anything I that I can’t do. Have faith in my ability.”

Hearing my words in such a definite tone, Chun Tang’s nervousness went away. He nodded, this time calmly, “I see. I will, Boss. You really aren’t just anyone.”

I gave him a pat on the shoulder with a laugh, and he winced in pain. He had a few broken ribs, and couldn’t exactly hold his posture straight just yet. Hopefully when Chen Yuzhou comes, his blood and senses would all be focused on his third leg down below to notice anything else.

After that, I went to Lin Fang’s room and knocked on the door, in case that Chu Xiaoxiao was still changing. She came and opened the door for me shortly, and I went inside. Closing the door behind me, Chu Xiaoxiao went and lied down on Lin Fang’s bed, while I turned off all the lights in Lin Fang’s room.

This was the first time that I entered Lin Fang’s room. In the darkness, my other senses heightened, and then it hit me. All around me was Lin Fang’s faint and gentle scent. For a time, it was all I could do just sitting there in silence and drinking in and drowning in her scent, as I felt something in my chest stirred.

Though Lin Fang’s home wasn’t rich by any measure, she kept her home tidy and clean. There was even a flowering pot plant beside her bed at one end.

Compared to her, my home could hardly be called a home. Or rather, it’d be more appropriate to call it a shelter with walls. If I can marry her one day, if Lin Fang would be my wife, then I’ll be so happy that I could die laughing the very next day.

I set a pinhole camera in a corner of the room. This wasn’t just any usual camera that you can get out there. It was a military grade one that they gave me along with a bunch

of other things when I left the armed forces. I never thought that there'd be one day when I would have an actual use for it, so soon too.

Then I lied down on the ground and hid myself on the other side of Lin Fang's bed. Coming from the direction of the door, in this position I would be completely hidden from Chen Yuzhou's line of sight, and I could easily bounce up and stop Chen Yuzhou if things should get out of hand.

Lying on the bed, Chu Xiaoxiao suddenly rolled over and stuck her head out to look downwards at me, "What're you laughing so happily about? Are you fantasizing about my best friend?"

Though the room was dark, by now my eyes had adjusted to the darkness. Hearing her, I turned my eyes to the direction of her voice, and found her face almost within a foot's length away from mine. From my position, I could see that even closer to my face were two... things, pressing together and forming a deep cleft in between, so close to my face that I would touch it if I raised my head only a little bit upward.

With my other senses sharpened from having my sight weakened by the darkness, another alluring scent different from Lin Fang's bombarded my nose, so much that I felt my heart skipped a beat.

Thankfully it was dark all around, so she couldn't see me blush in embarrassment. I turned my eyes away as soon as I came to, "I didn't laugh."

"You aren't fooling anyone. I heard you loud and clear. Looks like you really are seriously in love with Lin Fang, what do you say that you let me help you with that?"

Now I'm really confused at her absurdities, "Why are you being so nice to me now? I remember just a while ago you were still warning me to stay away from Lin Fang. What happened to your principles and determination? Seriously, I swear, if we had lived in a time of war, you'd be the first one to be executed for treason."

Chu Xiaoxiao reached out her hand and slapped the top of my head, firmly, but not in a way that would hurt, "Who said anything about being nice to you? I'm only thinking for what's best for Lin Fang. I didn't know you before, I thought you were just another one of those losers aiming for Lin Fang's body, but now I know you're nothing like that."

"Don't think that I'm some kind of rich or important person just because I have connections with Manager Qu."

Chu Xiaoxiao flipped her eyes at me, and then stared at me squarely in the eyes, this time with contempt in her eyes, "What kind of person do you take me for? I know you aren't rich. Besides, back in the times when we were in school, you were so poor that you became famous among the bullies. Do you know why, throughout all these times, they've only hit and beat you around but never robbed you?"

I never liked it when anyone mentioned about my high school days. I snorted, "Don't tell me it was something like that honor among thieves you said just a while ago."

"Honor my butt, like they even know what that word means. No. It was just that everyone knows that you're poor, to the point that there's nothing to rob you of. Seriously, back then, what can they get from robbing you? Your beat up shirts and pants? But though you don't have money, I know today that you have something much more precious than money. You surprised me, completely. Take what just happened to me for an example. Though you didn't like me, you didn't even hesitate about saving me when I was in danger. Really, I apologize for all the things that I've done to you in the past. It was wrong of me."

The seriousness in her voice startled me.

I'd never have thought that, out of all the people who bullied me and made my life in school the living hell, the first one to apologize to me for it would be Chu Xiaoxiao.

In a swirl of emotions of all kinds, I was speechless and didn't know how to respond to that exactly, so I gave her a slightly awkward laugh.

That laugh didn't escape Chu Xiaoxiao's ears. Hearing my laugh, she quickly continued, also awkwardly, "Of course, not just that. I know today that you also have a talent for the linguistics, being able to speak Vietnamese so fluently. In my book, that counts for a lot of brownie points in men. You have potentials."

This time I laughed, really laughed. This woman really was as bold as a tiger, no, a tigress who stood atop of all other tigers.

With just the two of us, one on lying on the bed and one lying on the ground, since Chen Yuzhou hasn't showed up yet, we were bored out of our wits. So we chatted.

Chu Xiaoxiao asked me, "While we're on the topic, how did you come to know how to speak Vietnamese?"

"I served in the military before."

"Wow, no wonder, that's why you're so packed and rock hard. Heh, Fangfang will be so lucky in the future, especially after the sun goes down, in bed..." Chu Xiaoxiao actually did an authentic and suggestive wolf whistle.

I never knew that a girl like her can joke about these things as naturally, and perhaps more so, than my bros and buddies in the forces. And surprisingly, it doesn't feel odd at all.

"Girl, get your mind out of the gutter grimes. Oh, I didn't get a chance to ask you earlier. Aren't you afraid, stepping in for Lin Fang?"

“I have a tough Mr. Soldier playing the role of my bodyguard. What do I have to be afraid of?”

I fell silent for a while, and then said with a laugh, “Kiss up to me all you want, but I’m still not giving you that contract with Junran.”

Chu Xiaoxiao also joked with a laugh, “Damn it, you saw through me. Damn that sharp mind of yours...”

Then I heard a faint mechanical hum. Immediately I stopped Chu Xiaoxiao with a hush, “Wait, I think Chen Yuzhou is coming.”

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The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 32 Solid Evidence

That soft and low pitched hum was the sound that came from the machinery in the elevator shaft. A moment later, from a distance, I heard a soft “ting” of the elevator chime. The elevator had stopped on this floor.

As expected, very soon afterwards I heard Chun Tang and Chen Yuzhou conversing at the other side of Lin Fang’s door.

Completely outside of our expectations, the few “what if he said this” scenarios that I drafted up with Chun Tang had been a complete waste of effort.

It seemed that, right now, all of Chen Yuzhou’s blood had rushed to his third leg already. Either that or somewhere else other than his brain, because he wasn’t thinking at all. He didn’t pay any attention at all to Chun Tang, and waved him off and dismissed him almost as soon as he came inside Lin Fang’s house.

In the dark, Chu Xiaoxiao had pulled the sheet over her face, but left her flowing hair out spreading behind her on the pillow. This way, even if Chen Yuzhou turned on the light, he wouldn’t be able to see through the act short of pulling off the bed sheet entirely.

Hiding in the darkness, I felt my breath slowing down.

This wasn’t nervousness, but a subconscious reflex from my training.

Right now, not only does it not make me nervous, but also it gave me a rush of excitement instead, like I was back in the forces and was in the middle of a recon mission.

I was officially discharged from the forces, but the soul of a soldier burned inside my heart and coursed through my veins still. Nothing in the world can take that away from me, and I wouldn't trade it for any other thing in the world.

Then, the door opened, and a sound came from the switch as Chen Yuzhou turned on the lights in Lin Fang's room. His breathing was loud and heavy.

"Finally, after all those years, I finally get to have a taste of you today."

Right now, the one thing that I was most worried about is how much Chu Xiaoxiao's patience can hold out, because I need the footage to be incriminating enough, and that means I need her to bear with what Chen Yuzhou will do to her to a certain extent.

Then I heard the ruffling sound of Chen Yuzhou stripping off his clothes, as hungry as a hound that had starved for years.

"My little babe, don't you go blaming me for this. I wanted to be nice to you, by all the gods out there I had been good to you all these years, but no, you wouldn't have it. It came to this because you left me no choice."

As he stripped, he blabbed on.

"It was all your fault. I still remember, that you used to say that I was the one you loved the most, more than anything else in the world. How could you just turn on me and act as if none of it ever happened before?"

I felt a wave of sourness washing over me. So these were the things that Lin Fang used to say to Chen Yuzhou in the past.

But then, I reasoned with myself. Those were in the past already. Lin Fang didn't used to know how Chen Yuzhou really was behind the facade that he put up in front of her, so naturally there would be nothing to stop her from liking him. A real man shouldn't always be clinging on to the past. I will be satisfied if Lin Fang likes me from now on.

Chen Yuzhou continued, "Just what part about me isn't a million times better than that bum Zhang Chao? I swear, after this body of yours comes to know mine today, you'll never be able to leave me again."

Then I heard the sound of him moving closer to the bed, and my heart stirred.

I hoped with all my heart that Chu Xiaoxiao's patience and mind could endure it just a little longer. I swear, as soon as he stepped over that line, I will jump out and stop him and beat him to a pulp.

Chen Yuzhou made a slurping sound, "Little babe, after this, you stay with me, and I'll make you the happiest woman in the world. My father said to me, to deal with women

like you, don't bother with anything else and just do it. And after this, you'll be mine forever, body and heart and soul. And if you should see any other men, I'll make it so that there'd be no place in the entire Tong City for that man, and you as well. That bastard Zhang Chao, I'll deal with him eventually, I'll make him grovel at my feet begging for forgiveness!"

So it had been his father giving him advice and coming up with all those plans. That voice at the end of that call must be his.

It sickens me, that this pair of father and son would stoop so low as to stage and commit this atrocious act together.

Anger burned within me as I gripped my hand into a fist.

Chen Yuzhou's patience and self control had long since run dry. As eager as a hungry hound, he came onto Chu Xiaoxiao. Lifting the sheet that Chu Xiaoxiao covers herself with from the end of her feet and revealing her body underneath, he began fondling and touching her, all the while still muttering to himself and cursing at the same time, "So you liked Zhang Chao? Just for that, one of these days, I'll do this to you again right in front of him! That bastard! Who does he think he is? He's nothing but a poor piss drinker. I'll get him. One day I'll get him! I'll kill him and make him drink piss for his entire life! That's what you get for even thinking about looking at my woman!"

Chen Yuzhou rubbed Chu Xiaoxiao's body a few more times, and then began at her foot again and this time working his way up over every inch of her body. When he finally came to Chu Xiaoxiao's smooth and bare shoulders, he pulled the sheet off entirely and threw it aside, and immediately began lowering his head over hers for a kiss.

And at the same time, Chu Xiaoxiao turned her face around to look at him right in the eyes, and Chen Yuzhou froze instantly midway. She winked at him mischievously, and then gave him the brightest smile that she has.

"You... why... but how...!?" Chen Yuzhou stammered. After a while, he began slowly coming to, but it was already too late.

Chu Xiaoxiao slugged him one directly to the middle of his face.

She wasn't strong, and neither was she particularly trained in any of the martial arts, but still stunned in his state of shock, Chen Yuzhou was caught completely off guard, and took Chu Xiaoxiao's fist with his nose.

"Aaagh...!"

Hearing his grunt, I flipped myself onto my feet. Jumping onto the bed, I grabbed Chen Yuzhou by the collar, and immediately gave him a few heavy ones right in his face before anything else.

My fists were filled with love, for humanity and righteousness, and with my burning wrath.

Chen Yuzhou's face swelled like a pig. Before he could even begin making sense of left and right, his eyes already swelled to the point where he could only see through a thin slit. He stared at my direction, and after a dazed moment later, he finally recognized who I was.

"Zha...Zhang Chao...? Why're you.... ugh!"

I stopped whatever he was going to say with another heavy blow to his stomach. Letting go of him, he clenched his stomach in pain and screamed into the ground wordless silence. After stumbling a few steps backward, he threw up and emptied the contents of his stomach.

I extended a hand to help Chu Xiaoxiao up, "Are you alright? He didn't hurt you, did he?"

"I'm fine. Quick, stop him, don't let him get away."

Instead of taking my hand, Chu Xiaoxiao brushed it aside and scurried on all fours to where I set my military grade pinhole camera, completely uncaring of what just happened to her. The only thing on her mind right now was whether or not the recorded footage was enough to put Chen Yuzhou behind bars. This woman, really, I don't even know what to say about her anymore.

And indeed, turning around, I saw Chen Yuzhou inching away towards the door and struggling to get back on his feet. As soon as he recognized me, he realized already that this had been a trap and that he had walked right into it. And he also knew that, given how heavy my punches were, the longer he stayed, the more he would risk getting beaten to a pulp by me.

Getting back on his feet, he started making a break for it. But before he was able to get more than a couple of steps out, I chased him down and leapt off the ground with one foot and gave his backside a kick with the other, toppling him off his balance and making him lose his footing. The momentum from my kick added to his own momentum, and carried his body forward as his body rolled three to four times over before the wall at the end of the hallway finally stopped his body.

When we were both young, Chen Yuzhou was able to best me physically, but that had been because I had always been constantly weakened by malnutrition back then, and the fact that he often had a whole gang of people with him, putting pressure on me. But now, years later, his body had been done in by himself, with all the alcohol and women that he surrounded himself with. With a well planted kick, I could send even a professional killer like Chun Tang wincing in pain, Chen Yuzhou couldn't withstand the impact and the pain at all.

With that, Chen Yuzhou let out another silent scream, his swollen face turned a deathly white, his forehead sweating profusely from the pain.

“Stop, don’t hit him anymore, if you hit him that hard again, he may die.”

In a rush of anger, I forgot how heavy my punches and kicks are to average human beings. I was going to follow up with a few more punches, but a gentle plea stopped me. It was Lin Fang.

From behind, she embraced me gently. Though her voice was soft, it brought me back to my senses instantly.

I nodded, “We got the footage. Let’s call the police.”

Chu Xiaoxiao waved with the camera in her hand, “With evidence as solid as this, let’s see just what other tricks you can still pull to get yourself out of this one!”

Chen Yuzhou only groaned, lying half dead on the ground. I wasn’t going to bother with him, but in the end, after much consideration, Chu Xiaoxiao called the ambulance for him for old time’s sake and sent him to the hospital.

Though I hadn’t realized it right at this moment, but this very act saved me in the future not too distant from now.

When the police came for us, we were all in the hospital. Since where I lived happened to be one of the areas that Xia Genghuai was responsible for in his patrols, so I was sure that he would show up in the group of police officers that came for us. But he didn’t.

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The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 33 More Ferocious Than Tigers

Though he didn’t show up, I would never doubt Xia Genghuai’s integrity or work ethics, or the friendship between us. Lazy as he usually was, he had always been my friend. Throughout the living hell of my high school days, he never once turned his back on me. I’d trust him with my life back then, and it hasn’t changed now. Come to think of it, obviously I wouldn’t expect every officer in the police department taking calls to know about me and my relationship with Xia Genghuai, or that Xia Genghuai would somehow come into the knowledge of exactly which incident reported in that area would be related to me.

When the police officers came, Chu Xiaoxiao took the initiative and talked to them, and was the first one to be questioned. Unlike Lin Fang, who had always been an introvert and preferred to not get involved with anyone unless she absolutely has to, Chu Xiaoxiao was outgoing and had experienced lives of all kinds abroad around the world,

and had no trouble striking up conversations with the police, or anyone for that matter. When the police questioned her, Lin Fang and I sat together on a bench a little distance away from them and watched them from afar, and waited for our turn to be questioned.

Lin Fang noticed that I had been tapping my knee with my knuckles for a while, and asked, "You looked a little worried, is something the matter?"

I didn't realize before that she was observant to a point as to be able to see my emotions through my habits. I gave her a little laugh, "Of course I would be worried. This is only the beginning. Between us, and the Chen's, there are going to be some hard battles ahead of us."

Lin Fang said, "Aren't you overthinking it a little too much? It shouldn't come to that right? On this matter today, we have the letters of the law behind us. Chen Yuzhou is powerful, but now, we have his weakness in our hands. We have solid evidence that Chen Yuzhou's attempted to rape Chu Xiaoxiao. Though rape qualifies for a public prosecution case, so whether or not we choose to press the case forward, the police would have to bring the case before the court anyway. But with that, I think, given how powerful the Chen's are in the Tong City and how deep their hands reach with various people here, stamping down and snuffing out a little public prosecution case would be a walk in the park for them. Which means that, we are the only ones that could possibly touch them, should we choose to press on the case. So, in a sense, we quite literally hold Chen Yuzhou's fate in our hands now."

Lin Fang's analysis of the situation was so spot on, that I gave her a round of applause, in my heart, silently.

But at the same time, something caught my attention. I stared at her. What she had said was all true, and her assessments of the situation were almost exactly the same as what I thought would happen. But, did it really come from the same Lin Fang who was so afraid to do anything just moments ago?

Lin Fang looked confused, "You're staring at me. Was there something on my face?"

I replied absently, "Because you're pretty to look at."

But in my heart, my thoughts raced. Lin Fang was a lot more perceptive than I took her for. All this time, I used to think that she was an ordinary girl who couldn't fend for herself and needs to be protected, had I been wrong?

These days, I keep hearing rumors about Lin Fang. Even Chun Yuzhou, what he said when he was doing all those things to Chu Xiaoxiao because he thought she was Lin Fang, if by any chance that they were all true...

If Lin Fang had always been able to assess the situation so accurately, then she would definitely have known back then that no real harm would come to her even if Chu Xiaoxiao hadn't offered to stand in for her. Why then, had she been reluctant to go through with it back then? What was it that made her so afraid?

As my mind wandered, suddenly I felt something warm and soft around my hand. I looked down, and found Lin Fang's little hands holding mine in hers, as she leaned her body close and rested her head against my shoulder.

My heart quite literally skipped a beat. Her body felt soft all over, and seemed to radiate a gentle comforting warmth and a maddeningly seductive scent. A few loose strands of her hair tickled and brushed against my chin, but the itch seemed to spread throughout my entire being instead. Suddenly, a strong urge swelled within me, to hold her in my arms as tightly as I could, protecting her.

Now I see how unreasonable I had been. Ever since she was little, Lin Fang had always been able to score a better grade than most during tests, so it already wasn't the first day that I knew her to be more insightful than others. But other than that, Lin Fang was an ordinary girl, a very easily frightened ordinary girl who was used to living a very sheltered life. On the other hand, Chu Xiaoxiao had always been outgoing. In fact, even when we were still in school together, back then Chu Xiaoxiao had already begun associating with and getting to know people of all kinds. Out of everyone I know, she was probably the most bold and daring girl on the face of the earth. It won't surprise me one bit if one day she comes up to me and says that the heart that is inside her comes from a real tiger instead. It was unfair of me to even try to measure her against what Chu Xiaoxiao had been willing to do.

I wanted to put my arms around her, to embrace her and comfort her, but I had no such experiences in the past. For a time, I could only raise my arms with the intent of reaching out to her, only to put them back down by my side again because I have no clue just where and how I should touch a girl's body. In the end, I contented myself with remaining completely unmoving like a wooden statue, and letting Lin Fang do whatever she wanted with me.

I thanked all the gods I knew that Lin Fang didn't get angry with my choice or response. Instead, she only giggled and whispered into my ear, "I never took you as one with a taste for pretty words before. If I didn't know better, I would have mistaken you for a simple and honest man."

I hurriedly corrected, "I was never not honest with you."

Lin Fang kept her mouth exactly where it was, right beside my ear, tickling it as she moved her lips to speak, making my heart race faster and faster, "I'm kidding. I know you're an honest person, and that the most honest part of you would be your mouth. If you weren't the honest person that I knew you for, you would have tried to kiss me already."

I've always been impressed with those guys that knew how to womanize women, even those ones that were all talks. At least they still knew how to talk, unlike what was happening to me right now as I simply sat in complete silence and stillness, as if to scream to the rest of the world that I'm an inexperienced boy who never knew how to deal with girls.

When I was still in the forces, we'd all joke around about women and what to do with them, since a little bragging never hurt anyone, especially when there had been no girls there to call us on our bluffs. But now, with a girl's soft and fragrant and lithe body leaning against me in my arms, I simply froze in my panic like a fresh recruit setting my foot onto a real battlefield for the first time, completely at a loss as to what's happening and what I should do.

As my confused mind debated over completely unrelated issues like whether or not I should take this opportunity and really take a kiss at Lin Fang's lips, she sat up and straightened her posture, and spoke in a lower and more serious tone, "Alright, I'll stop teasing you now, for real. But, you really are so much better than a few certain... trash of a man that I know. And this... this is also why I..."

She didn't go on, but she had said so much already, too much in fact. Of course I knew what she left unsaid. She was going to say that it was why she liked me.

But now, I thanked her for not actually saying it out loud, because I like her too. I'm a man, and I should be the one doing the confessing to her, not the other way round!

I felt so moved at the same time as I felt fulfilled. Now, between Lin Fang and me, we were no longer staring at each other's blurry image through a thin veil. Instead, it was only thin air, that if I reached out with my hand, I would be able to have the goddess that I've always dreamt of having.

Looking at her pretty little face, I made up my mind. I will give Lin Fang the most formal and perfect confession, so that when she does choose to become my girlfriend, she can do so proudly with her head held up high! And only then, would I kiss her.

Making up my resolve, I nodded forcefully. As I was about to tell her something, Lin Fang said, "With that, we can finally have a good night's sleep tonight. Well, at least what's left of the night that is. You still have work to go to tomorrow."

At this point, it should be better if I let Lin Fang know a little bit more about how things really are.

"You said it then, the Chen's have some connections in the Tong City. If they have the power to reduce a public prosecution case into a private prosecution case, don't you think that maybe they'll turn around for a retaliation backbite? Chen Yuzhou is their only child, after all."

Lin Fang's face was white all over, as she bit down on her lips, "But they shouldn't, we got proof..."

"Where is the patient's kin!?"

As we were talking, the door suddenly opened and a doctor rushed towards us.

Chu Xiaoxiao turned her head to look at the doctor, "We're unable to contact his family, but the officers had already sent people to contact them. If you have anything to say, say to Mr. Officer here."

"That won't do! The patient had a ruptured kidney, depending on his situation, we may need to operate on him to remove it. We need a signature from his next immediate kin!"

"He was hurt that badly!? How soon can you process his injury assessment!?" The police officers asked.

"This is no time to be dealing with something as trivial as an injury assessment! A person's life was at stake here! We'll process his injury assessment when we have time, but now, we have a life to save!"

The police finished questioning the doctor, then told the doctor that Mr. Chen's family was on the way here already, and that they have asked him to pass on the message to the doctor to do his best performing the operation. On the matter requiring a signature from the patient's kin, that police officer told the doctor that he'll sign it in their place, and that should anything happen, he would be willing to take responsibilities, as well as the medical fees for the operation. He then gave the doctor his badge number, and told the doctor that he is welcome to call him should anything else happens.

Then the doctor immediately praised the police officer for what a noble and exemplary public servant he was, and turned around and disappeared back into the operation room to begin "operating" on the patient.

Then, by the time when the officer turned his face in my direction, his expression was as dark as the grime underneath the garbage dump in the dirtiest streets. He snorted, "Zhang Chao, you will come with us. Chen Yuzhou's injuries must be life threatening. You are the prime suspect, for possible charges of battery and assault!"

Of course, I was already prepared for this. I had been wondering for a while now, about when they would finally start moving the show along. As it turned out, they have been spending all those times putting this third rate act together. Really, it was rather unnecessary, this whole act. Couldn't find his kin? The Chen's had a whole flock of family members and relatives inside this hospital. How could it even be possible that none of them knew about the news that their pride and joy had been lethally injured and admitted into the very hospital that they worked in?

And, just which sane police officer would have the gall to sign Chen Yuzhou's consent to operation on his parent's behalf without their consent? Willing to shoulder the operation fee on his honor? That'd be putting his career, his future, and possibly his own life at stake. What a show.

In the midst of the chaos, Chu Xiaoxiao jumped out and stood between me and the police officer, and grabbed the officer's arm that he extended out to grab me, "What do you think you're doing!? Chen Yuzhou was going to rape me, this Zhang Chao came and saved me from him, and yet you people won't catch the bad guy but are going to put the good guy in jail instead!?"

Lin Fang simply stood at the side, unable to speak even a word. It pains my heart to see her so distressed.

But Chu Xiaoxiao on the other hand was like a tigress on steroids. They were police officers, uniforms and batons and badges and all, but she didn't hesitate at all. She walked straight up to them and pulled at them with all her strength, almost pulling the officer's jacket off him.

Rather than what would happen to me, I was more worried about what consequences she would bring upon herself through her bold actions. Does she even know what she is doing? She'll put herself in danger if she continues whatever she was doing!

"This is an obstruction of justice, and an assault to an officer of law on duty! If you don't unhand me, I will put you under arrest immediately!" The officer was finally provoked to anger.

As I was worried about her and was about to advise her to keep her cool, Chu Xiaoxiao took a step back herself and immediately changed her tone and posture. She cowered and gingerly pointed at the officer in the face, and screamed, "Oh no, someone, help! This is an abuse of power! I'm scared! Everyone, anyone, look! This officer, he was working with the bad people. A bad man was going to rape me, and this person saved me, but now the police officer won't catch the bad man, and was going to take my savior away! Where is the law? Is there no law!? Everyone, come, look! Where is the justice in Tong City!?"

My dear God. Truly, the heart of a tigress, this woman.

I fell into a complete loss for words, no better than Lin Fang who was left to standing by herself alone awkwardly, embarrassed at her friend's behavior.

But Chu Xiaoxiao doesn't seem to care at all, and kept up with whatever she was doing. The hospital residents and visitors who had been bored to death in their uneventful lives all came to watch the show, and soon they were surrounded by phones and camera flashes. The police officers was so embarrassed and angry that he looked as if he was

ready to skin Chu Xiaoxiao alive, but none of them dared to make a move, not in front of so many phones and cameras.

And since Chu Xiaoxiao backed off well clear of them, she was hardly an “obstruction” to anything at all, much less “assaulting” an enforcer of law.

“You...! You’re... slandering a public servant!”

Somehow, Chu Xiaoxiao was in tears now, “See? See how they threaten us common folks with vague accusations!?”

I thought she was simply making a scene, but as the scene escalated and the crowd and police officers both became loud and physical towards each other, she slipped out of the chaos unnoticed to me and winked. In the midst of all the chaos, no one saw or heard what we talked about in our brief exchange.

Then Chu Xiaoxiao slipped back in, and yelled, “Fine, take Zhang Chao away all you want! So many of us good folks all witnessed every one of you abusing your power today! Let’s all go back home and put it on the net, and let the entire country watch just how corrupt you are! We the common people will have you tyrants’ hides if you let anything bad happen to this good man!”

Heart of the tigress. No, that would be an understatement. This woman was more ferocious than any tigers alive.

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The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 34 Presence

Not that I had looked down on Chu Xiaoxiao in any ways before, but now, what I saw with my eyes left me in utter awe.

Personally, I don’t think of myself as having much of a macho alpha male complex, but when I served in my squad, the vast majority of us were all men. And of course, that also means constant bragging and tall stories, and lots of times, about women. As a result, most of us tend to think of women as damsels as frail as a precious flower grown inside the comfort and safety of green houses.

Of course, though we joked about it, all of us knew that real women weren’t at all like what we joked about, but Chu Xiaoxiao by far exceeded and shattered the image of what I thought a woman is. She saw that third rate act that the doctor and the police officers put on, and immediately realized that something wasn’t quite what it seemed to be. Then from thin air, she pulled this off, calling on the media and the general public to watch out for me and taking all the measures to make sure that I won’t be mistreated, or

at least on the surface, after they take me away. Though to be honest... I don't think there's much they can do to me anyway. Han Kun would never allow anything bad to happen to me as well.

However, what she did won't work all the time. The media has its uses, but at the same time it was just as likely to turn on you, much like how you used it to turn on your opponent in the first place.

I know the power of the media. I have used it myself when I served in the military during particular missions. The media is fickle. We can influence it, but so can our opponent. Especially with Chu Xiaoxiao, this won't bode well for her. To put it bluntly, she has no money, and the Chen's have lots of money. All they have to do would be throwing some coins at a few who were willing to write in their stance, and suddenly an act of bravery would turn into brutal assault, and Chu Xiaoxiao herself from a victim to a call girl.

When all around us raged in chaos, she stole a quick moment to come to me unnoticed. I said to her, "Thanks for this, but you just sit tight and relax. Though, if you can, do contact someone for me, you know who, tell him to 'wait a little more', and don't worry about me, I'll be fine."

Looking at her up close, I found that Chu Xiaoxiao was afraid too. Uncertainty flashed in her eyes, as well as actual tears.

But she nodded forcefully, and slipped away back into the midst of the chaos.

The police officers all glared at Chu Xiaoxiao. Evidently, they wanted nothing more than to take her away too, but they can't do that under so many phones and cameras. Taking me away would be easy, since regardless of what happened, I did heavily injure another person. But with Chu Xiaoxiao on the other hand, taking a rape victim away in cuffs would spell nothing but troubles, no matter how influential the Chen's might be and how much money they would give them.

These officers weren't the Chen's faithful and brainless hounds. Though it wasn't easy being a police officer, and that the Chen's was a very powerful and influential group in Tong City, no one in their right mind would openly oppose the public media for the Chen's. If in the end things should get out of hand, these officers themselves would be the first ones that their superiors sacrifice as scapegoats to appease the public media.

The job their superiors gave them was to simply take me away. They don't have to do anything unnecessary.

Not many were born naturally to do bad things. For the vast majority of us, we were simply doing our job given to us, trying to make a living.

Rather than the direction that the media would turn to, what I was more worried about was that, with so many phones and cameras, would my face be shown in the broadcast

footage? Would my aunt see me? Would she be able to recognize me? If she knew that I had come back...

My heartbeat suddenly accelerated to more than twice its speed. The feeling that emerged from within me was fear, a true and solidified fear. I felt my stomach contracting itself, and fought to hold whatever that was in it back down into my stomach.

No matter how tough I trained my body, no matter how much more money I got, the darkness that had always been hiding deep within my soul was very hard to get rid of.

To those in school who bullied me, I can pay them back in cold blood. But with my aunt, it wasn't so simple. She hated me. Though I wasn't at fault, she has all the reasons in the world to hate me. We were both victims in the same event. How could I take vengeance on her?

The police arrested me and began driving me to the police station. Along the way, all the police officers acted as if they were simply fulfilling their duties.

Chen Yuzhou was a brainless idiot, but his father was indeed quite a formidable character.

I wasn't too certain just how badly hurt Chen Yuzhou really was. I did hold back on that kick. After all the years of training, I knew exactly how heavy my punches and kicks are. That kick I gave him really shouldn't have ruptured his kidney. But after all the years that Chen Yuzhou had done himself in with alcohol and women, it wasn't impossible that the little kick I gave him really just might have pushed his body over the edge.

But I was certain of one thing. That "signature" that the doctor supposedly "required" was definitely an act to make people believe that Chen Yuzhou was hurt a lot more severely than he actually is.

The police officers chatted among themselves through the entire drive. Perhaps they did it as some sick form of payback to what Chu Xiaoxiao put them through back then, or perhaps they were doing it to provoke me.

"The way I see it, it must be a scam. Just look at that girl's package, so feisty and wild and smoking hot, this must be a scam.

"Didn't she call herself Chu Xiaoxiao, you got any idea who her daddy was?"

"Her daddy? Hah, you mean my little junior down there?"

"Heh, I swear that mouth of yours is gonna get you killed one of these days. Her daddy is Chu Huaien."

“Chu Huaian... wait, that Chu Huaian!? From the Chu Group!? I heard words that he just went to Macau earlier this year and gambled away a couple of billions, putting a huge dent in the company finance. Some of their shareholders called the cops and reported frauds already!”

“That’s right, the very same one. But don’t underestimate them just because they seemed to be on a low tide recently, mad dogs are always the most dangerous when they’re hungry.”

“Heh, say, it wouldn’t happen to be that daddy ran out of coppers and nickels, so he had his pretty little girl perform some... you know what, would it? Come to think of it, that Chen Yuzhou was also quite a rich little boy, and given how much daddy Chen cares about him...”

From his words, it seemed to imply that these police officer seemed to have a rather close relationship with Chen Yuzhou’s father. The officer taking the wheel immediately cleared his throat with a dry cough, reminding him to keep his blabbing traps shut.

That particularly talkative officer immediately turned the topic around, and directed his words to me instead, “You there, why don’t you tell me for real, was I right about that hot little daughter from the Chu’s? Come on, we’re all bros here, and we got no cameras and recorders either, what you say will only be between us bros here...”

Not getting a response from me, he turned his head around in my direction and saw that I had my eyes closed. He immediately cursed, “Look at this, the galls this one had, ignoring me and sleep? Alright, go ahead, pretend to sleep all you want now, we’ll show you a good time later.”

I ignore that too.

I’m afraid what Chu Xiaoxiao did may backfire on her after all. If Chen Yuzhou’s father hadn’t had a hand in this, that footage would be more than enough to get me out of this. But if his father had always been the one pulling the strings behind the scene for all this time, as someone who would suggest his very own son to hire a professional killer, I don’t think that he would let me off the hook that easily, since I did beat his precious son into a pulp.

I just hope that Chu Xiaoxiao had understood my little message and passed on the message to Manager Qu, and that Manager Qu would understand my message and pass it to Han Kun.

Hopefully Han Kun can wait a little more before bringing his hand down onto them, as I still have a few things I want to do before that happens.

A short while later, the police car drove into the courtyard of the police station. They dragged me out of the car, and threw me straight into one of the jail cells.

I joked, laughing, “Good officers, dear comrades, no late night questioning?”

The one with the foul mouth smiled viciously, and eyed me up and down with the solid gridiron between us. Looking satisfied as if whatever masterplan he had plotted in that little head of his had worked flawlessly, he snorted at me with contempt, “Oh no, we wouldn’t dare even dreaming of it. That lovely little dog Chu Xiaoxiao of yours may have pulled that trick with the media on us, but as law enforcing and law abiding officers of the law, we would never do something as inhuman as to question you through the night. No, you stay here and rest well, and we’ll question you tomorrow. We’re kind enough to arrange someone to look after you too. Oi, Chou, take good care of Mr. Newbie here tonight won’t you?”

With that, he turned the key in his hand and locked the door of the jail cell. Immediately, I felt someone behind me stood up, who carried a different presence about him, unlike the average street thugs.

That officer rattled the iron bars of the cell with his baton, “Oh, still looking at me? Or are you looking at my badge number? Well whatever, you’re welcome to file whatever complaints on me. The name’s Zhou Xiaoqiang. The receptionist’s desk is over that way, and the forms are over in that corner. We’ll be ready to receive your complaints first thing in the morning. But for now, enjoy the night.”

Then he turned around and instructed, “No one is to do anything no matter how noisy it gets tonight! And our surveillance system malfunctioned tonight, so remember to file a request for its repair right now!”

The other officers knew exactly what he meant, and answered in unison, “Yes Sir!”

Then they all left. As soon as they went out of sight, a big hand slapped down onto my shoulder, and gripped it. I don’t even need to guess what his name is, Officer Zhou introduced his name to me just a while ago, Chou.

And of course, needless to say, all the others who were here in the same cell as me had stood up as well. Probably a dozen of them, give or take, from the sounds of things.

The Chen’s wanted to show me a “good time”, so these “roommates” that they’ve arranged for me must all be criminals convicted of heavy crimes. These people all carried a different presence about them than your usual run of the mill little street thugs. Being with these people for an entire night, if you’re lucky, they’ll kill you. If you’re unlucky, they’ll skin you alive, and then kill you.

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Chen Yuzhou's father, this unnamed enemy that has yet to show himself before me, for him, I have nothing but respect for his intelligence right now. This man really qualifies as a proper "enemy" of mine. He thinks with his brain.

He didn't attempt to overwhelm me with numbers, either monetarily or in fist counts. Instead, he patiently sent his pawns to me one by one, always seeing if he could manage to dig up a little more about my background, crippling and severing my connections one by one, little by little. His methods had been much more refined than anything Chen Yuzhou had done up until now. I'm sure that, by this welcoming party he arranged for me, Chen Yuzhou must have told him about my relationship with Night Wolve's Lon.

From behind me, came a round sniggering and knuckle cracking.

Before they say anything, I cut in before they did, "Chou, right? Before you begin, why don't you hear me out first? It'll be quick, I promise."

Then from behind me came a chorus of laughter. Heh, never thought that I had such a talent in the comedy business before.

"Chou, Big Bro, did you hear that, did you hear what he just called you?"

"Ho, looks like this little boy really is looking for a fun time."

"Hehe, it was so long ago that they gave us had such a funny toy to play with!"

The one who laughed the loudest was Chou. He laughed so hard that he ran out of breath, and slapped my shoulders hard again, trying to catch his breath, "Oh, it had been forever since we last had someone with your spunk. I like you, let's be friends, right after you bend over and lick that toilet bowl clean with that smiling mouth of yours. Heh, what a hilarious boy you are."

I said, evenly, as if stating a simple fact, "Before you start with me, let me advise you, don't start with me."

"..."

Then the cell burst into laughter again.

In the midst of all the laughter, I grabbed onto the hand that Chou kept on my shoulder, and the next instant, I sent Chou flying right into the solid gridiron in front of me, all while the others behind me were still roaring in laughter.

It happened so quickly that they weren't able to stop their laughter, and I chuckled along with the laughter behind me, "Because you'll get hurt."

Chou's body slammed into the solid iron bars in front of me, and screamed in pain and anguish. After that, the laughter behind me slowly faded into silence.

I stretched and rolled my neck, and then turned around to look at them. Like they said, first impression is everything, so I smiled as friendly as I could to my new "roommates", and introduced myself, "Hi there. I guess I'll be 'crashing' with you guys for a few nights. Really, all my 'friends' said that I'm the type that gets along well with just about anyone. Well, in a place like this, let's be open about it and do away with all the 'nice to meet you' formalities that none of us really believed in the first place anyway. Alright, I'm done. You can sit down now, no need to be so formal with me."

These people stared in my direction dumbfounded. Out of all of them, Chou had been the tallest and widest one, like a beast. And here, I took the beast down in less than a second.

Now, who else had the gall to be the next in line?

"Well, sit."

Either they were terrified of me, or still couldn't come to believe what their eyes just saw, but none of them dared to make a move. Each one of them kept their eyes on me, as if ready to run at the slightest of my movements. The officers who supposedly were on night duties were nowhere to be seen, and hadn't even bothered pretending to be on duty and had turned off all the lights in their offices. The silence of the cell now struck fear into everyone's heart. The only one making any sounds at all had been Chou, writhing on the ground groaning in pain. Unfortunately for him, all the officers were gone, and he was quite literally on his own.

I took the opportunity and looked around the cell. As expected of jail cells, simple is best. There was nothing else in the cell except for a bunk bed on one side of the cell, and a toilet in the other corner of the cell.

I laughed, "Well, since you guys liked standing around so much, why don't you guys squeeze over there a bit? I'm a little tired and need some space to sleep, you guys wouldn't happen to be nice enough to let Mr. Newbie here have some leg room would you?"

"You little bastard, don't be overestimating yourself too much. We aren't afraid of you, we have numbers on our side. Go, get him!"

I focused my eyes onto the only one that kept talking. When his eyes met mine, he immediately turned his eyes away and hid behind the others. I thought his voice sounded somewhat familiar. It was Liu Hu.

Last time I handed Liu Hu over to Xia Genghuai to let him deal with Liu Hu, and it looked like he had stuffed Liu Hu into this place to serve his jail time. On his face, I could see blobs of blue and purple. Those weren't from me, so he must have got them after he came here. It looked like this place has been treating him well.

Liu Hu hated my guts more than anything, but he was also terrified of me. All the others however, were ready to call it off for the night, but Liu Hu's words got their blood pumping and adrenaline rushing again. Though none of them stepped up in particular, they all surrounded me, ready to make a move at me if someone would take the lead.

At the situation that he had caused, Liu Hu was satisfied and made rude gestures at me behind the wall of people. At this, I had been ready to let loose and get rough for a bit, but now I had all but lost the mood. If he came at me in a one on one, I'd still respect him as a man. I already made peace within myself about what he had done to me during high school, so I won't exact any more vengeance from him about it. But, doing something like this, with trickery and plots, I despise such cowardice.

"Hey, my bros and buddies, like they say, you can never have too many friends. As fate would have it, like it or not, we're all going to be sitting in this dump for a few nights together anyway. So, what do you say that we keep things civil between us?"

This confused them even more. They probably never thought that I would play nice, especially after I took out the strongest one among them.

I gave Chou a hand and helped him off the ground. That throw I gave him then was quite a heavy one. In a fight, your body mass does give you certain advantages, like being able to take more hits and throw heavier punches, like a tank. But at the same time, the downside of it was that you'd also take heavier falls, also like a tank.

Though it looked as though I helped Chou up, I steeled my grip around his shoulder. Immediately, all his facial features scrunched together from the pain.

I continued, "Chou, my bro, that was my bad just then, but please do forgive me. I was in the armed forces for five years, and had one year of training as one of the special ops. Whenever someone touches me from behind, we were trained to retaliate by reflex. Please, forgive me."

As soon as they heard that I was in the special ops, these people looked visibly shaken. Some of them even reeled backward.

These people may be tough by average standards, but they knew very well the difference between an average tough guy and one of the war machines raised and trained by the country themselves.

Chou's shoulder was still inside my iron grip, radiating with waves of pain. Now that he knew that I had been one of the special ops, he looked as though he wanted to travel

back in time and gave himself a few good kicks in the butt for having gotten himself into this mess.

I squeezed his shoulder again, "That cop just then, he's even worse than all of us combined. He wanted me dead, but he said that he wouldn't dirty his own hands. That's why he told his people to do away with the surveillance off tonight. Chou, my bro, he wanted you to do his dirty work for him, that's why he got rid of the other cops too, so they won't get in the way of his dirty schemes. Chou, listen to me, keep your cool, if anything happens tonight, that cop's just going to make you take the blame for it."

On Chou's face, I could see his scrunched expression trembling in fear. He understood what I really have said. Simply, there would be no laws tonight, and I could send him to see his Maker!

I continued, "Chou, bro, I know. As soon as I saw you, I know. You're smart, smarter than that cop. Please, you gotta do me a favor and cover for me, my bro."

Chou's face was a roller coaster of emotions. I knew, that to be able to continue holding on to his place in the hierarchy here in this jail, he needed some sort of a way out to smooth away what just happened. I gave him exactly that, and he took it in a snap, "The bastards! Look, you just tell your big bro here. Anyone that dare to mess with you, big bro here will bust him up for you!"

Then I looked at Liu Hu, so did Chou and everyone else.

Still as slow as he always was. He kept looking around, left and right, until he ran out of people to look at, and only then did he found that everyone else in the cell was looking at him.

He swallowed hard, "Ah, no... umm... I..."

Everyone turned right around and pressed on towards Liu Hu slowly, until his back hit the corner of the jail cell.

I loosened my grip on Chou's shoulder, and helped him to sit down on the bunk bed. I wasn't being soft on them because I'm scared of them, but I'll be here for a few days, I'll need to rest eventually. I couldn't possibly stay alert all 24 hours of the day.

Something like 10 people surrounded Liu Hu. It was dark, and there was a wall of people between me and him, so I couldn't see exactly what was happening to him. But what I was able to hear, is Liu Hu crying and screaming in pain, again and again.

Chou kept a nervous eye on me, and said tentatively, "Hey, buddy, what're you in here for?"

I laughed a little, and replied, "You just call me Chao, or Little Chao if you want. Going by either age or life experience, I really should be calling you big bro. Big Chou, I was in here because I was framed. I know I had offended you just before. I apologize. Please, forgive me."

The expression on Chou's face was a picture of "yeah right, as if anyone would actually dare", but I gave him plenty of respect back then, and he relaxed visibly.

For people like them, who walked the jianghu, the one thing they valued the most was respect. It doesn't cost a dime to give, but it was more precious to some than mountains of gold.

Chou said, "Alright! Since you put it like that, from today, you and I are brothers! If anyone dare trouble you when you walk the jianghu in the future, you tell them that your brother's Chou Laogo. If they mess with you, they mess with me!"

Though his words were tough, I knew that they were exactly that, tough words. If he really was all that important of a person, he would never be inside this dump behind bars in the first place.

I know about the gangs in Tong City. Even petty thugs like Jin spoke quite haughtily and daringly to police officers. If Chou really was a somebody in jianghu, he would never be behind the bars for as long as he had been here, no jails would dare keeping him in for more than they have to.

But of course, sometimes, there were things that would be better left unspoken. After all, it doesn't cost a dime to give more respect to people. Putting another top hat on his head, I replied, "Thanks, Big Chou, I appreciate that. So, what about you, brother? How did you get in?"

Chou looked proud and embarrassed at the same time, sighing, he said, "Fights. Petty fights. We Red Lanterns were slugging it out with the Black Dragons, and then some God forsaken coward called the cops on us, and then here I am."

"Big Chou, you're a Red Lantern? Then you wouldn't happen to know a woman who goes by the name Hong would you?"

"You know Hong? My little bro, she was our Vice, the Red Lantern's second in command."