

## The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 41

### The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 41 Disgrace

After that, I tried contacting Chu Xiaoxiao again, but her phone seemed to be switched off still.

Lin Fang was worried sick about what might have happened to Chu Xiaoxiao. She fidgeted about, unable to calm down.

I comforted her, telling her to relax. After all, Chu Huaien was still Chu Xiaoxiao's father. No matter what happens, he'll never be too harsh with her.

Lin Fang bit her lips, "But, if Xiaoxiao really does retract her testimony, we won't be able to hold up to Chen Yuzhou in court!"

"Testimony is the weakest form of evidence. In your case, you have a video recording. The evidence is rock solid. There's no need to worry."

Coming out of the police station, Xia Genghuai came and patted my shoulder.

Seeing how the two of us seemed to be rather familiar with each other, Lin Fang asked me, "One of your friends?"

I fell silent in a wave of awkwardness. It looked like Lin Fang had forgotten about Xia Genghuai altogether. Although in a sense, that was to be expected. Much like me, Xia Genghuai was also one of the less popular kids when we were in school together, so it was no surprise that Lin Fang won't remember him.

But unlike me, Xia Genghuai was the easy going type that attempts to make friends with everyone regardless of how they viewed him. He would actively engage others when he can, it was his personality. Compared to me, he was much more well received by just about everyone.

Xia Genghuai said, "Hey hey, pretty lady, we used to be in the same class in school. I sat right beside Zhang Chao back in the days. I must have become so much more good looking than before if you can't even tell who I am."

That brought a giggle to Lin Fang, "Sorry, my memory was kind of bad. I do remember you, but I just couldn't quite match your face to your name in such a short time."

"Don't worry, all is good! But, Zhang Chao, are the two of you hiding something from me? Looking at how you are now, how dare you sully the purity of your once innocent

relationship with your classmate? As your friend and as a defender of the people and enforcer justice, it's my duty to voice my disapproval of such unbecoming behavior. Good job!"

"Come now." I hushed him quickly, before he made Lin Fang even more embarrassed, "You're a police officer, don't be saying nonsense and slandering us good folks now."

Xia Genghuai straightened his shirt and collar pretentiously, "Not just a police officer. Not anymore. Thanks to you, after I arrested Liu Hu and put him behind bars, since he was a gang member, it seemed to have earned a lot of brownie points for me with the higher ups. After that, they promoted me and reassigned me to the anti-gangster taskforce. I was no longer the same petty cop you knew before."

"Not bad!" That, I hadn't expected. Good things do still happen I guess. Liu Hu wasn't completely useless after all. "Now that's some celebration worthy news. Got some time tonight? Let's go eat together! So, what do I call you now? Should I be calling you Inspector Xia from now on?"

Xia Genghuai gave me a mock salute, and got me to do the same to him, and then said, "Thou shalt address me as Sir Xia, the glorious Defender of the People. Anyway, I still got work now, so I'll see you later at night. And remember, as the honored Sir Xia, I shall grace thy dinner table only if you prepare the most refined cuisine befitting of my newly acquired status."

Since I didn't drive, Xia Genghuai went back inside the station and got a little intern officer to drive us back to our home.

That little bastard, only just freshly promoted and he started abusing his privileges already. Good for him.

All along the drive home, Lin Fang was depressed and feeling unhappy. I tried making her laugh a few times, but she was so worried about Chu Xiaoxiao that she couldn't even force herself to laugh. All throughout, she simply rested her head on the side of my arm, and looked vacantly out of the window.

To be fair, I was also worried about Chu Xiaoxiao. But, I also knew very well that simply worrying won't do a thing to change her situation.

There was no way to undo what has already happened. With what happened between us and the Chen's, there was no way that the Chen's would give in, and I would die before I bow to their tyranny!

As I silently reaffirmed my determination, my phone rang.

I took it out to see who called. With her head leaning against my shoulder, Lin Fang eyed my phone as I took it out, and asked who I think it might be when she saw that it came from a number instead of a saved contact.

I laughed softly. I knew this call would come eventually, but I didn't expect it to come so soon.

"You little bastard! Must you worry me like this wherever you go? I thought you said you're going home to do some business, just what kind of business did you do to land your sorry arse behind the gridiron? Did you forget who you are the moment you stripped off your uniform!?"

A well aged male voice bellowed through my phone, and began its never ending lecturing. Though the man behind the phone was in his 60's already, from the electronic crackling of the speakers on my phone, it wasn't hard to imagine just how loud he must have been yelling into his end of the phone to cause the unnatural clipping of his voice... and how much louder it would have been if he had been a couple of decades younger.

I laughed a I begged for mercy, "No Sir, of course I didn't, Sir. I'll never forget. I'm a soldier. I may have taken off my uniform, but I've never stopped holding myself to the same standard. Really. This time, things happened so quickly that I was left with little choice, Sir. Please forgive me just this once, when this is all over, I'll come in and apologize to you personally. You can even throw your boots at me then, Sir!"

"You little bastard should know better than anyone else in the world to not twist my words like that! You know exactly what I mean! You know full well that you're framed, so why haven't you called me? You're a soldier, you're one of us, you're a Snow Leopard! How could you allow yourself to be played by those spineless ingrates!?"

"Sir, please don't be mad. See, I got myself out didn't I? And I know that even if I hadn't called you, you'd come save me the instant you knew about it. You're my shield, who else in the world could I possibly be afraid of? Though I do find it odd that I was released so soon, to be honest." Though I was on the receiving end of his angry lectures, I wasn't at all angry or put off by it at all. I even felt a bit warm and fuzzy on the inside, knowing that the old man still looks out for his own, and that he still consider me one of his people all the same, even after I was officially discharged.

He muttered, "You're the only one that has ever given me this much headache..." Then he cleared his throat, "Don't be celebrating just yet. This could very well be a trap. Go on the net and have a look for yourself, there are people leaving anonymous messages that all this was an act that you and that girl pulled together. Some of them even began making up stories using your status as a war veteran. Look, about this stinking mess that you got your boot stuck into, you want me to say a few words through a few certain individuals? You know, silence a few mouths or let them know that you aren't some pushover that they can afford to play around with?"

I thanked him with all my heart, “Thanks old man, but I’m fine. I got this.”

The old man had always been decisive about his decisions. Hearing my reply, he left it at that, “Alright, you’ve always known what you’re doing, so I’ll keep my hands out of this. But Chao, remember, discharged or not, you will always be one of us, a proud soldier of the Snow Leopard. So in everything you do, you must constantly hold yourself and act in accordance with the honor of your identity. I’ll not allow you to disgrace the uniform that you once wore!”

I’ve heard the last part millions of times over in the five years of my service, and it resonates in my heart just the same as the first time I heard it. Straightening my back and sitting up straight, I answered firmly, “Yes Sir!”

“Good. Well then, at ease, you little bastard. Go on about with your own things.”

Though the call ended, I clutched the phone tightly in my hand still. Hearing the old man’s voice again reminded me of the times that I spent with my war buddies, my friends and comrades until the end of time. With them around me and watching my back, I may be deep in enemy territories but never once did I feel afraid. But now, all I have around me are enemies, hiding in the shadows, waiting for their chance to take a bite at me with their venomous stings.

Lin Fang asked me, “Was that your leader when you’re a soldier? Will he help us? With him around, the Chen’s wouldn’t dare to touch us right?”

I shook my head. With this matter I don’t want to bother the old man if I could help it. First, the old man was stationed at the southwestern part of the country, and Tong City was towards the southeast. No matter how powerful or influential he might be, this part of the area was too far from his area of jurisdiction. Though like he said, he could possibly pull a few strings to swing things in my favor, but I have a feeling that something is bound to come across complications somewhere in the middle of the process.

Besides, the old man spent his whole life on the battlefield, and all his troops and soldiers had been winning wars and skirmishes left and right. I couldn’t possibly bring myself to go crying to him for help for something this small and minute.

“Relax, it’ll be fine.”

The officer was told to drive us to our apartment complex. When we almost arrived at the place, I found a familiar rounded figure fidgeting around at the side of the street where I parked the Land Rover.

“Manager Lu, what’s he doing here, unless...!” Lin Fang breathed in sharply.

“Can’t be good, whatever it is.” I muttered.

I thanked the officer and asked him to let us off here, opened the door of his car, and ran towards Manager Lu. I called out his name as I ran, and he ran towards me as well with his short stubby legs when he heard me.

I invited him to come up to sit for a bit and perhaps have a glass of water, and to explain why Lin Fang and I wasn't at work this morning.

"Manager Lu, I'll just go upstairs for a quick shower. We'll be ready for work immediately.

"Oh, umm, about that, it won't be necessary." Manager Lu stammered and wiped at the sweat that formed around his forehead, "In fact, I came specifically to talk to you about that today."

By now, Lin Fang caught up to us too. She was a little nervous, and half hid herself behind my frame.

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Manager Lu looked perplexed. He kept shaking his head at me, "Zhang Chao, you're a good man, a good hearted and talented man, but I can't afford to keep you around anymore. I really do thank you for that contract with Juen that you salvaged, but I really need to fire you. Otherwise I won't have a company to run anymore."

"What!?" Lin Fang's desperation overcame her usual fear of contact with people. She grabbed Manager Lu's wrist and asked, "Why!?"

"You don't know this, but this morning, someone from Juen called and told us that, if I don't fire you, they'll make it certain that my company won't last before this Sunday comes. And then, after that, all of the company's bank accounts were frozen, and my personal account too. Calling the cab to come here to tell you this just cost me the last bit of cash that I still had. Zhang Chao, I'm a man of my words, really, I tried, but Juen really isn't someone that I can afford to mess with. I panicked so much that I seriously considered jumping out of my office window and give myself a quick one. I thought I'd wait for you to come to the company, but you didn't show up, so I had no choice but to come for you."

Lin Fang was stressed to the point of tears, "Then what about me?"

"Well, uhh, they didn't say anything about you. They only mentioned Zhang Chao."

“Zhang Chao, say something. What should we do!”

I was actually a little surprised. I never took Chen Yuzhou for the type that would stay his hand because of past friendships, but I really must commend him for this. Even now, he kept Lin Fang outside of this little farce between us.

Manager Lu said, awkwardly, “Chao, just... please, for old time’s sake, I... I had been good to you too, so do me one last favor, and let me and my company go. This Land Rover... I’m taking it back, give me back the keys.”

Lin Fang was more desperate about it than I was, “No, Manager Lu, if you fire him, he won’t have a job anymore!”

“Lin Fang, if I don’t fire him, none of us would have a job! There are so many jobs out there, he can find himself another one.”

Obviously, Manager Lu no longer wanted anything more to do with us. He stepped forward and grabbed the key to his car off my hand, then turned to leave. But unexpectedly, Lin Fang who had always been gentle and soft spoken, dashed after him and grabbed one of his sleeves, stopping him from leaving like her life depended on it.

“But that was Juen! If they did this, who else in the entire Tong City would dare to give Zhang Chao a job!?”

“What...! What does that have anything to do with me!? Unhand me! Why don’t you ask yourself that before you go and offended Chen Yuzhou!? Here in Tong City, he is God! Even I would never try something as stupid as that. Get lost!”

I hugged Lin Fang from behind, and spoke softly beside her ears, “Relax, easy now. Let him go.”

Only then did Lin Fang let go of her hands, and Manager Lu scurried away into his Land Rover. As soon as he got on the car, he started the engine and disappeared from our sight in a matter of seconds.

Lin Fang trembled and cried into my chest. I endured the pain in my heart, but for now, the only thing I can do for her is to hug her even tighter in my arms.

“Relax, don’t worry. It’ll be fine.”

Lin Fang didn’t know whether to trust me or not. She cried and cried as if the heaven itself had collapsed and fallen onto her. Which, might be very true for an ordinary girl like her.

I kept comforting her, so much that I missed the fact that a pair of merciless eyes had locked onto me as soon as I came into his sight, coming from a dim corner in our apartment building.

In the hand of the man whom this pair of eyes belonged to, was an odd pistol without rifling in its barrel.

When I finally noticed that something was amiss and looked in his direction, the gun barrel was already pointed at Lin Fang's back, its opening as dark as the abyss.

My heart skipped a beat, and before I knew it, I already pulled her around and changed place with her, shielding her in my embrace with my back turned to the pistol barrel.

Lin Fang exclaimed in her surprise, and was just about to ask why I had done that when she also noticed the man with the gun pointed at us. She screamed.

All of this took place in less than a second. I didn't even have the time to think. I simply acted out of reflex, and the singular thought that I mustn't let Lin Fang get hurt.

Then I shoved her backward, away from this danger, "Go! Call the police!"

Lin Fang stepped backward, and then suddenly, she tripped and fell onto her back. She froze in fear, and strength left her knees. Try as she might, but she was unable to get herself back onto her feet.

"Go, quick!"

I yelled, shielding my vitals with my arms, I ran towards where Lin Fang fell and pulled her behind the closest obstacle for cover. It certainly was a little strange that the man had held back firing at us with his pistol. Back then, when I saw him, he already had his eyes on me, so he should have fired at me already.

"Stay there!" Just as I wondered, a voice called out from the wall behind that corner, loud and clear, in Vietnamese. Chun Tang.

Then, like a panther, the man at the corner leapt into action to get away from Chun Tang. He was fast, so fast that the leaves on the pot plants on the hallway rustled as he ran past, almost knocking them over.

With Chun Tang on his tail, the man ran as fast as he could. Then, he suddenly appeared behind the obstacle that Lin Fang and I hid for cover.

Anticipating his appearance, I rammed my cranium into him as hard as I could. I got him right around the waist. He was running at full speed already, and I stopped his momentum short by ramming my head straight into him, focusing all the force of the

impact into one spot. He may as well as have run into a steel pole, with the impact reducing him to clutching his stomach in intense pain while rolling around on the floor.

I got back onto my feet immediately and ran to where the man was rolling on the floor. He was somewhat dark skinned, and was dressed completely in black. He swore at me, in what sounded like something in Thai.

I was going in for a follow up kick, but before I got close, he bounced back onto his feet like a spring, and began throwing punches at me like a machine gun.

Different from how Chun Tang approached us when he tried to kidnap Chu Xiaoxiao, this man went straight for the kill. His punches came at me as rapidly as machine gun rounds, and as heavy as rocks. This is classical Muay Thai.

As I dodged and blocked, I paid special attention to the gun he had. But either he had lost it or Chun Tang somehow disarmed him, he was unarmed now.

Breaking away from him momentarily, I yelled at him in Thai, "Who sent you!?"

"I'll tell you before you die."

He spat on the ground, with traces of red in his spit. I got him good with that tackle back then.

Then he lunged at me again, this time with kicks mixed in with his punches as well.

Even trained as I was, I prefer not to take him face on. With those professionals who practiced Muay Thai, taking even one direct hit from them more or less means visits to the hospital.

I concentrated on dodging and parrying him. I kept myself on the defense, but never turning back to run or backing off. I kept him engaged, like playing with him in a game of tag.

After about five minutes later, finally his stamina couldn't keep up with his attacks, and his steps faltered for a split second. Not letting this opportunity go, I took advantage of his momentary weakness and pulled his torso forward, then raised and rammed my kneecap right into his stomach.

When I trained in the special ops, we didn't bother with fancy moves or extravagant flourishes. In the forces, we value simplicity and efficiency above all else.

This reduced him to rolling around on the ground in pain again, this time also gasping for air, looking like a completely different person from the ruthless killer that he was merely seconds ago.



“Now, who hired you?” I tapped his face with the sole of my shoe.

But he kept his mouth shut, and only smiled viciously, the smile of a predator that had his prey in clutches. Then, ignoring me altogether, he simply got up and limped off.

“Zhang Chao, are you alright? Why did you let him go?” Seeing that man limping away and disappearing off into the distance, Lin Fang came out from where we hid and asked nervously.

I had a bad feeling about this, a really bad feeling, and it annoyed me no end.

“Not good, I think we might have been played.”

“What do you mean?”

I don’t have the time to explain it to Lin Fang. Running towards the elevator and pushing down on the button, I found the entire elevator had been put out of commission. Without other means to get up to my floor, I had no choice but to take the stairs.

Finally getting to my floor, I rushed into my apartment, and went straight for my laptop computer.

“Which website did Chu Xiaoxiao upload the video?” I already began typing, while shouting out my question to Lin Fang, who did her best following me all the way up the stairs, and was now panting hard fighting for breaths leaning against the side of my door.

“Just a few usual SNS that she usually frequents, and she mailed her circle of her friends. Not long after she sent them out, all hell broke loose.”

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### **The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 43 Chance to Strike**

I nodded and said to Lin Fang, “You check if anyone from her circle of friends still has the video she uploaded.”

Lin Fang immediately took out her phone to check, and at the same time, I began searching on all the common SNS for the video uploaded.

At first I was wondering what search terms I should use, but as it turned out, I don’t even need to think at all. It was right there, on just about every site’s front page. “Tong City Rape Case: Hero or Scam?”

I expected it. I did. But when I actually saw it with my own eyes, I still couldn't help but curse at their shamelessness.

All the newest messages and discussion threads on the rape case became filled with comments making up stories about mine and Chu Xiaoxiao's identities.

I became a bouncer at a nightclub that was secretly in love with Chu Xiaoxiao, and Chu Xiaoxiao became a high classed call girl, and this so called rape rescue was all an elaborate scam to blackmail Chen Yuzhou.

And that video that Chu Xiaoxiao uploaded, it was as if it simply disappeared off the internet.

"Those bastards, do they have even an ounce of conscience left in their heart!?" I couldn't help but opening up a few of those discussions, and practically every voice on them are criticising either me or Chu Xiaoxiao. Occasionally there would be a voice of reason, attempting to make some logical sense of things and pointing out the inconsistencies, but every time it happened, a horde of flammers and trolls would flood their account with personal attacks.

Even the blind could see that all of this was but the work of the cyber troopers hired by the Chen's.

Then from behind me came a clattering noise. I turned my head around, and saw that Lin Fang had dropped her phone on the floor. I looked at her nervously, finding her face was pale, and she said to me in a trembling voice, "It's gone... Xiaoxiao... she took down the video herself, Xiaoxiao is going to back out of this!"

I growled, "That can't be true. Chu Xiaoxiao isn't that type of person."

"But she... she is the only one that can do that... who else has the privilege to do so?" Lin Fang said, and gradually, tears began falling from her eyes.

I saw her cry, and immediately I panicked. I have no idea how to comfort a crying girl, and all the rage and frustration that has built up from seeing those things on the internet suddenly vanished as I panicked and fidgeted about trying to comfort Lin Fang. Right now, Lin Fang had no one else to support her but me. If I panic, Lin Fang would only fall into even deeper panic and worries.

Taking a few deep breaths, I calmed myself, and soothed her, "Don't worry, I'm still here. You go on first and get some rest. Remember, you still need to go to the hospital later to look after your father."

Lin Fang refused and shook her head, and said between sobs, "I don't want to, I don't want to leave your side now."

"I..." It was as though a giant rock had been shoved down my throat, and I couldn't find any words to say at all. I never thought that Lin Fang had come to trust me so much.

"Given how things are, Chen Yuzhou wouldn't do anything to you. He was only after me and Chu Xiaoxiao, so it'll only be safer if you distance yourself from the two of us..."

"No. I don't want to. I want to be with you. Zhang Chao, do you like me?"

Lin Fang cut me off short, and her abrupt question blew away what I was about to say, and all other thoughts and plans in my mind.

Looking at the tears that glistened in her eyes, and her nose that had been reddened from tears, she looked so adorable that the only thing I can do is continuously nodding in silence.

"I like you too. I want to be with you."

She said, then threw herself into my arms, and held me with her arms around my back.

A tremendous joy assaulted my heart. None of what was happening all around as can lessen even a little bit of the happiness that I felt in my heart right now. I laughed out loud, and returned her hug with my own.

No matter what Chen Yuzhou may do to me, no matter how dirty his tricks may be, no matter how much he may scheme, none of what he does could hurt me even the tiniest bit, because Lin Fang likes me.

Lin Fang hugged me and buried her face beside mine. Lowering my head, I kissed and nibbled on her earlobe that was dangling unguarded before my eyes, "Alright, have it your way. We'll do this together. Today is the day that the purity of our friendship becomes forever changed. You know that I'm going to brag about this to everyone else for as long as I live right? That you're the one who asked me out and not the other way round..."

Lin Fang broke into a soft laughter and hit my chest with her tiny fist.

I couldn't describe just how happy I am. Right now, I could say for certain, that even if Chen Yuzhou appeared before me right at this instant and taunted me with the dirtiest of insults, I would let him go without laying as much as a finger on him. Right at this moment, I have but one thought in my heart, to be together with Lin Fang and keep her safe.

"Tell me, what should we do now? If Xiaoxiao back out of this now, we really might be left with nothing to fight against Chen Yuzhou with." Lin Fang said.

"I still think that Chu Xiaoxiao wouldn't back out of this or change her testimony. Though I hadn't known her for too long, I think I have come to see the type of person that she is. She is a tough girl, and she'll never forsake her friends. At most, she might refuse to testify, but she'll never give false testimony or withdraw her charges."

Hearing my opinions, Lin Fang nodded, "You're right, Xiaoxiao isn't the type that would let her friends down... wait, Zhang Chao, last time at the Spring Garden, didn't you know that leader person... Lon, I think that's his name? Can you ask him to maybe step up and say a few things on your behalf and maybe see if he can help mediate this between us and the Chen's?"

I kept my eyes on Lin Fang and thought for a while, then said, "Lon doesn't have that kind of status to be able to say things on equal footing with the Chen's. Besides, at this point, I don't see any possibilities that this could possibly end peacefully. Between us and Chen Yuzhou, one side will definitely be hurt. Either us, or him."

"Then...! Then the one who called you, your old leader, we can ask him for help."

I said, "The old man was just being polite. I'm only one of his little soldiers, a discharged one even, how could I possibly be influential enough as to ask him for help?"

Lin Fang looked at me disbelievingly, and rolled her cheek with her hands as hopelessness slowly overtook her expression.

Then she shot her head up suddenly, as if she just remembered something, "That's right! Xiaoxiao once said to me, that you know Junran's manager. No matter how powerful Chen Yuzhou is, even he can't ignore someone from a company as large as the Junran Group."

I caressed her hair and said gently, as a slight pain flashed across my heart, "I don't, really. Chu Xiaoxiao simply misunderstood. You've known me for so long, you out of all other should know what kind of background I have. Do you really think that I would have that kind of connection?"

Though I kept it hidden, I felt a slight discomfort when I said that.

As a recon specialist, I learnt how to observe and at the same time I learnt how to deceive. If I really wanted to deceive someone, they could be long dead in the grave before they even begin to suspect that I had deceived them.

But in the past, I've always used them against enemies, on battlefields, but never on my own people.

And now, I lied to Lin Fang.

Lin Fang didn't continue asking, but simply accepted my answer as I gave it to her. Right now, there were a few things that I couldn't let her know just yet. The time wasn't right.

By night, as I had expected, a new video was uploaded onto the internet, showing me giving the killer that attacked me a thrashing.

From the video, I could see that whoever that recorded the video was hiding from a place that was above us. However the beginning and end of the video had been edited out, so it looked like I attacked him just out of the blues for no reason at all.

And of course, it caused another uproar and discussion on the internet. This time, everyone criticised the atrocity that I've committed, and no one spoke up in my defense anymore.

Seeing that things were unlikely to change at this point, I closed my laptop computer and packed it away.

Looking at the time, Han Kun should be calling me any minute now. And as expected, not too long after I switched off my computer, Han Kun's call came.

"Master Zhang, which particular fish are you trying to pull out of the sea? When are you going to start drawing the net in?"

I had thought that Han Kun might react in a few possible ways, the most likely being either showing his concern for my well being, or cursing at Chen Yuzhou's lack of honor and dignity, but he did neither.

I quickly went to the toilet with the phone in my hand, since it was the most soundproof room in my apartment. Looking at the mirror, I saw that the corner of my mouth had curled into a large smile, "There really is no hiding from you, is there, Uncle Han?"

"Boys like you, looking like the most innocent and harmless being in the world, but cut you open, and all that would come out would be plots upon plots upon plots. You take up your father."

"Uncle Han, how did you know that I was fishing for a particular person?"

"You passed a message to Manager Qu through Chu Huaien's little girl, and then he contacted me immediately. In situations like this, you did all that just to make sure that I don't accidentally step in and ruin your plans, so there can be only one possibility. You're completely fine, and that you're trying to fish out a particular someone."

"Uncle Han, you're wise. Chen Ruhai is a careful person. He tested me little by little. He was different than that son of his. Chen Yuzhou on the other hand, still got a long way to go. With a little taunting, I can make him jump into all sorts of fiery pits. With Chen

Ruhai, if he knew that I have you on my side, he'll be too scared to make a move, and I'll miss my chance to strike out against the Chen's."

## The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 44

The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 44 Sob Drama

"First comes the madness, then the hammer of annihilation. This is exactly why I never liked you military types, no room for mercy for your enemies. Well, I guess I'll just have to deal with it, you're still my young Master Zhang after all."

"Then what would you have done, Uncle Han?" I laughed, and asked in return.

"Chop the two of them up, father and son, and feed them to the dogs."

Together, we burst into laughter. I knew that Han Kun was perfectly capable of carrying out exactly as he had said, though. He was that capable.

"Well, jokes aside, why don't you tell me who you're trying to get to exactly? Tell me, and I'll look into it for you. And before you begin, don't tell me that you're really after the Chen's."

I fell silent and contemplated on the idea, but decided to swallow the name back down for now, "No need, I'll look into it myself."

Han Kun chuckled, "Chao, I can hear the distrust in your voice just then. What are you telling me to look into Jiang Ming for?"

My heart skipped a beat. Since when have I told him to look into Jiang Ming!?

Not waiting for me to reply, Han Kun continued, "There's no need for all the petty feints between us. Zhao Gongming never had any enemies in his life, except for Jiang Ming."

Since the cat was out of the basket, I decided that it was probably better to be upfront about it. I don't have any confidence that I could possibly fool Han Kun.

I said, "I only came across his name by chance. I heard that there used to be some grudge between him and my father."

Unexpectedly, Han Kun replied immediately with rock solid definiteness, "I guarantee, Jiang Ming had nothing to do with your father's death. Just don't get your nose into Jiang Ming's business."

"I..." I breathed out and sighed. It was as though Han Kun had seen through me completely. I couldn't even come up with a reply.

And, I really hadn't expected that he was even capable of knowing that I had been secretly investigating Jiang Ming, despite him being so far away from this place at Denmark.

I'm envious of his abilities, and fearful of them at the same time.

But, I knew that Uncle Han would never do anything to hurt me. He would never betray me.

Before he ended the call, Han Kun added, "Feel free to play with the Chen's if you want, just remember to not overdo it. Well, with that, I'm off to bed. Too tired. I still have much that I must take care of in Denmark."

After Han Kun hung the phone call, I looked into the mirror, at my own reflection under the dim bathroom light.

Truth be told, my memories of my parents had mostly faded with time. The clearest image I still have of them was that my mother was quite smart, and that she often gave my father advice on things.

In my memories, they were discreet and kept a low profile, perhaps because we didn't use to have a lot of wealth to speak of back then. The massive group collectively known as the Junran Group only grew into the giant that it is today after the death of my parents, beginning with its logistic department.

Back then, the most valuable possession we had apart from our house was a car, the typical kind that everybody else had. I guess when compared to some, we still came off as being well off enough, but we were never that rich.

My uncle, my aunt's husband and my father's brother in law, had no redeeming qualities apart from his good looks. From all the stories I've heard, he was something of a street bum, but for some reason he was able to have caught my aunt's heart and took her hand in marriage. Though I hated my aunt with every fiber of my being, I must admit that she really was pretty, and her renown was spread far and wide.

My aunt had always been distant to my parents. Our family were never close. But back then, my uncle was unable to get a job elsewhere, so my father took him under and hired him as his driver.

My father never drank. Even when they had dinner parties with their business partners, it had always been my mother who drank, as well as my father's portion too, though sometimes my uncle would do that too. On the night of their accident, my uncle treated our family to dinner. We ate, together along with my aunt's family. Half way through the

dinner, my aunt left, and soon afterwards, my grandparents picked me up and took me home. That night, they didn't come back, but instead, only the news of their deaths came.

I was young then, and I never once suspected anything. But now, everything I hear tells me that there was something unusual and out of place about their supposed traffic accident.

"Father." I said to the face in the mirror. Everyone who knew my parents all said that I was a split image of him in his younger days, "And mother too, watch me from above. I swear, I will get to the bottom of this."

Without Han Kun's cooperation, it would be difficult for me to perform investigations of any kind and scale. Though from the looks of things, it doesn't look like he would be willing to help me in this matter, otherwise he would have told me everything about it from the beginning.

So I guess I'm on my own on this one. I mustn't let anyone else know.

When night came, I drove Lin Fang to the hospital. With her father's operation just around the corner, it would not do to leave him alone in the hospital by himself.

In the hospital, I asked Big Lon to send a few of his people to be on a secret lookout for Lin Fang's safety.

After Lin Fang went inside to take over the shift from Lin Kang, a moment later, he came out. I quietly followed behind him, all the way to the elevators, and he never knew that he was followed until I quickly choked him and covered his mouth from behind and dragged him into the dimly lit stairways beside the elevators.

I pressed him into and against the wall. Lin Kang struggled and called out in fear.

"You! What are you going to do to me!?" Seeing that it was me who pinned him against the wall, he was even more afraid. Right now, just about the entire Tong City knew that I got beef with Chen Yuzhou. And him, Lin Kang, was one of his lackeys. From the fear in his eyes, I could tell that he was afraid that I would hit him.

"Got a question for you. Didn't you say to Chen Yuzhou that you're going to drug your sister and give her over to Chen Yuzhou? Why was it that it was a Vietnamese killer who came instead?"

"You... you came just to ask something like that?" Lin Kang begged, "Okay, okay, I'll tell you, just let go of me. Look, I don't know, he just suddenly changed his mind. Zhang Chao, why don't you just apologize to my bro Chen Yuzhou nicely? I'll get my sister to put in a few good words about you to him too. Who knows, maybe he just might forgive you and let you off this time."



“Me? Apologize to Chen Yuzhou? Heh, what a funny character you are.”

Lin Kang yelled, “It’s for your own good! You got on my bro’s bad side, and you can forget about even setting a foot outside in Tong City. My bro Chen Yuzhou will kill you, you know he can do it! Look, you’re so close with my sister, if you die, you’ll make my sister sad!”

“Oh, then I suppose I should thank you for your kindness. If I didn’t know you any better, I could’ve sworn that you were threatening your sister to be with Chen Yuzhou again, this time with my life.” Coolly, I popped his lies, “Now, last question. Last year, Chen Yuzhou killed a woman, along with the baby that was inside her at that time. What’s her name? Who is she?”

“You’re... you’re not hoping to make a story of it, are you? You think that you can fight my bro with this? Don’t even think about it. You’ll never be able to even touch my bro!”

I ignored his threats, and pressed my thumb into his throat, shutting his lungs off from air. All too soon, he began croaking his pleas for mercy with his eyes rolled upward showing copious amount of white. He gave me a name, Zhou Meng.

I took my hand away from him and stepped back, and Lin Kang slumped to the floor against the wall of the stairways.

“Wait, Zhang Chao, really, I’m warning you, making an enemy of Chen Yuzhou will kill you! You gave my father that 50 grands that he needed for his surgery, I’m thankful for that. Think of my advice as a repayment, don’t touch Chen Yuzhou, he is poison. You touch him, you die.”

I began walking away. I cared little whether Lin Kang was actually reminding me out of whatever goodness he still had in his heart, or simply threatening me.

Seeing my uncaring attitude, Lin Kang yelled to my back, exasperated, “You’re going to die! Horribly!”

With Big Lon’s people here, I don’t need to worry about Lin Fang’s safety.

Lin Fang urged me to go home and rest up. She said that sleeping in the hospital doesn’t do much for rests, and there was no need to tire the two of us out at the same time.

So I made my way back to my place, but when I arrived, I saw that at my door was a small pile of things. My belongings, all of them, were thrown out by someone.

“What’s going on here!?”

Looking at my unlocked door, wide open for the world to see, I thought that a burglar has broken in. Immediately, I took out my phone and was about to call the police, when the landlord came waltzing out of the door of my apartment with a swagger.

“Zhang Chao, I’m not letting you rent the place anymore. Take your things and get out.” He said, as if merely stating a matter of fact.

I gripped my fist. Holding back the anger in my voice, I asked, “Why? My contract hasn’t expired yet has it?”

And even if my contract was going to expire, the proper way to discontinue the contract would require sending me an official termination notice. What he was doing right now wasn’t just terminating the lease contract, but making a point to humiliate me.

The landlord simply stood at the door with his arms crossed squarely in front of him. As he spoke, the curls of his afro shook with his every word, like a giant teddy dog.

“Why? You want me to say it to your face? Alright. Simply put, I don’t want to associate with the likes of you. First you beat someone half dead, then you frame him for rape, I’ve never seen scams as blatant and shameless like this! When you came to me before, I thought you actually had a real proper job, I never thought that you did this for a living. No, I’m sorry, but I won’t rent my house to your kinds! Now take your junk and get off my property!”

Finishing off, he threw the dirty rag he had in his hand at my face, and flipped me one.

Of course, it goes without saying that Chen Ruhai must be the one behind all of this.

So this was what Chen Ruhai and Chen Yuzhou really wanted to do. Even if they couldn’t keep me in the jail cell, they’ll still do all they can to torture me, to humiliate me, just like when I was still in school.

“What are you doing still bumming around here for!? I swear if you don’t get out of my sight this instant, I’ll release the dogs on you!”

I swept my eyes across my belongings on the floor, and then immediately took a few photos of the man and the pile of my belongings on the ground. Then from that pile, I took away only a bag of documents and my laptop. Thank goodness the guy wasn’t smart enough to tell just how important these are, and as for everything else, they can be bought anew later.

“Heh, got an attitude there don’t you? Don’t think I’m afraid of throwing all your junk to the dump!”

I ignored him and kept walking away. Seeing this, the landlord chased after me and spat on the ground, "Bloody uncivilized thug, had the gall to come and rent my property, get lost and don't come back!"

When I stepped out of the apartment building, the weather was cooperative enough to begin to rain, first lightly, then heavier and heavier into a downpour.

I laughed bitterly within. What ironic timing, it was almost as if I was a character in some cheap sob drama.

At this time, a bright and blinding headlight shone right into my eyes, and an impressive looking Bentley drove up to me and stopped beside me.

The window came down, and as expected, it was Chen Ruhai in the driver's seat, with Chen Yuzhou beside him.

Chen Yuzhou was a completely different person from the beat up piece of rag of a person that he was in the morning, though his face was still just as beaten up and swollen. He laughed, with visible arrogance in his voice, and raised his fist with his middle finger sticking up towards me, slowly.

"Zhang Chao, I'll play you, I'll play you nice and slowly, until you die."

## **The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 45**

### **The Hidden Billionaire Chapter 45 In Trouble**

It had begun to rain heavily, and a round of thunder rolled and rumbled above us. The rain puddled all around us, and I heard the engine of the Bentley suddenly revved into gear. The car didn't move forward, but the madly spinning wheels splashed the dirt and puddle everywhere, all over my head and clothes.

I wiped at the grime on my face with my hand, holding back the anger that was building up.

"Out of a place to live now have you? With this rain, you look just like the homeless and beat up dog you are. Oh, I know, I'll take a photo of you and send it to Lin Fang, and let's see if Lin Fang will still be willing to be with you after seeing that."

Then he whipped out his phone and began taking photos, then he flaunted it at me.

"Don't you think you're a little too old for this, Chen Yuzhou? I remember you doing similar things in school all those years ago, not much of a creative person are you?"

Chen Yuzhou laughed, with hatred seething through his swollen face, "Is that what you think? I beg to differ. Nothing can be more satisfying to me than watching you suffer."

I gritted my teeth hard, "You think this will make Lin Fang turn back to you!? Don't be ridiculous! You threatened her father's life, then you tried to drug her best friend and almost raped her. No sane person would still like you after all that you've done."

"One day, she will be mine. And when that time comes, you'll see, that there are things that lowlifes like you can never even have a chance to have."

He gritted his teeth and glared at me too. Though the rain was heavy all around us, the heat and intensity in his eyes was so strong that I could almost see sparks flying off them.

It wasn't that I couldn't understand why he hated me so much and was always on my case. In his eyes, by my status, I shouldn't even be standing before him in his presence. But now, not only was I after the girl he liked, and she even liked me back.

But then, I could say the same of him. What right does someone as dirty as Chen Yuzhou have to even think that he deserved Lin Fang!?

Chen Ruhai said after Chen Yuzhou, "Zhang, my boy, let's not do anything rash here. Lin Fang and my Yuzhou had always loved each other, why must you force yourself between them? Why don't you do yourself a favor and just take care of yourself first? Look at all this rain, where are you going to sleep tonight? Right now, in the entire Tong City, who would dare to take you in? Which hotel would even dare to let you inside their premise? I heard that you've always been poor and orphaned since you were little, if something should... happen to you, you won't have anyone to look after you. So think about it, you don't want all that you've worked so hard for and earned for yourself up until now to all disappear, do you?"

I almost vomited in disgust at how hypocritical his words are. Claiming to be looking out for me on one hand while showing off just how far and wide his power and influence reached at the same time. In simple terms, if I should refuse him, he would make it so that I'll have no place to even live in Tong City.

At that, I simply turned around and walked away with my laptop in my hand.

Chen Ruhai tailed behind me slowly in his Bentley. Inside the car, Chen Yuzhou yelled, "Quickly, father, follow him closely! I want every second of this on video. Let's see just where he can go, and if any cab driver would dare answer his call..."

I didn't wait for him to finish. Walking up to a car in the car park, I stopped at its door. It was a Porsche. My Porsche. I pulled on its handle, and hopped on.

Inside the Bentley, Chen Yuzhou's face froze with his phone camera still pointing in my direction. Chen Ruhai was a little better, but the corner of his mouth twitched uncontrollably.

Turning on the ignition, the Porsche's engine roared into life. Chen Ruhai's Bentley was directly behind me, blocking my way out. I honked at them, but they didn't respond, or move. Maybe they were just too surprised, or shocked, or whatever, but I cared not. Putting the gear into reverse, I stamped my foot down squarely on the accelerator, as if to ram my car into his.

Perhaps out of love and consideration for his Bentley, Chen Ruhai snapped out of it and immediately backed off and gave way.

I didn't drive off just like that. Backing my Porsche just a little so that I was right in front of them, I let my window down. Taking a look at his face now stricken with dumbness, I gave him a laugh, "How kind of you, Chen Yuzhou, what a friend and classmate you are. But it looks like I won't be needing a ride anyway. Oh, and Lin Fang will never be yours, because she is already mine."

Chen Yuzhou's hand loosened and his phone slipped out and dropped. Maybe he was surprised by my words, or my car, but in any case, I no longer have any more interest in looking at his stupefied face any longer. Revving up the engine, I kicked my Porsche into gear and it zoomed off like the beast that it is, leaving Chen Ruhai in place with his Bentley.

I actually hadn't wanted to drive initially. With Chen Ruhai careful personality, seeing that I owned a Porsche would definitely arouse his suspicion. With the Chen's being as powerful and connected in the Tong City, they really just might be capable of finding out something about me. But then again, what they said might very well be true, since I also don't think that I'll be able to find any taxi drivers or hotels willing to take me in tonight.

Indeed, the Juen Corporation was quite a strong company, but even then, they were nothing compared to the massive juggernaut that the Junran Group is. At best, Juen counts as one of the largest and successful upstart companies in the Tong City, while the Junran Group was already a well established brand name on the national level, with branches in all major cities in the country. Financially, if Juen was a towering muscular man, the Junran would be a 100 foot tall giant. If Junran really wanted to crush Juen, it would take even less than a pinch with their little finger.

So then, just how was Chen Ruhai able to become the unstoppable tyrant that people claimed he is in Tong City? How was he able to control the entire Tong City and had them act exactly as how he willed them to?

With the stunts they pulled on the internet, I knew that I probably didn't have much of a reputation left now, probably more of infamy instead. But even then, that alone shouldn't be enough to persuade the entire city to turn me down.

I really must hand it to him. This Chen Ruhai really was a sly old fox. He must still have more tricks up his sleeves.

The only other things I knew of him right now was that Deputy Commissioner Xu of the Tong City Police Department is his brother in law, and that Chen Mengyun still must have her network of people in the Tong City Hospital. Adding himself to the picture, this means that the Chen's have a substantial influence among the law enforcement, the businessmen, and the common crowd, but to be able to exert such control...

..... the mafia. The hidden society that operates alongside and beneath the surface of our normal society.

Taking a glance at the rearview mirror, I saw that the Bentley had been doing its best following my taillight. That made sense. As careful as Chen Ruhai is, he must really want to know just how I was able to come into possession of something like a Porsche, and where I would head to with it. Knowing this would give him information as to what his stance towards me would be, and how he would deal with me.

The rain continued to get heavier, so much that the wiper was having trouble wiping away the rain bombarding my windshield, even on the fastest setting. Looking out from the car, the outside was almost a complete blur.

I headed up and into the highway, and Chen Ruhai followed immediately. He chased tightly behind me, uncaring of whether I might have noticed him or not.

Then, my phone rang. I skimmed at the phone screen to see who had called. It was a number from the Tong City Hospital.

"Hi, may I ask whom am I speaking with?" I thought it might be Lin Fang trying to reach me at the hospital, but instead, it was the voice of a man. Zhao Gongming.

"Zhang, have you got a minute? Can I ask a favor of you?"

Taking a glance at the Bentley through my rearview mirror, I decided to decline politely for now. Though I don't mind helping him out with whatever it might be, I couldn't do it with these two tagging along behind me.

But before I could speak, Zhao Gongming continued on, with urgency in his voice, "It was Zichen, he is in trouble! He had a major operation this afternoon, so he said that he was going out to drink and relax with some of his colleagues and went out. But I just got news that a fight has broken out at the pub he went to, and I haven't been able to reach him on his phone ever since. If I could, I would have gone myself, but I have an operation to perform right now, so could you do me a favor and make sure that he is well for Uncle Zhao?"

My first reaction was to make a witty remark about how I'm not a caretaker for hire, and that his son was probably drinking himself silly in the arms of some beautiful girl right now as we speak.

But again, Zhao Gongming didn't wait for me to reply, "Zhang, please, help me out, I also tried calling his colleagues when I couldn't reach him, but it turned out that I couldn't reach them either. You might not know this, but, recently in the hospital the politics and competitions are getting more and more heated. I really am afraid that some individuals would resort to less civilized methods to gain upper hand."

The more he pled with me, the more I found it difficult to refuse him. And, I did promise him that I would be his son's personal bodyguard for some time. I will never go back on my word.

I paused to think for a bit, and then agreed, "Alright, Uncle Zhao, send me the address of that pub. I'll get to it right away."

Hanging up the call, I slowed down my car a little so the two chasing behind me could catch up. Chen Ruhai read my intention, and sped his car a little to drive parallel alongside me.

I lowered my window, and I saw that he did the same. I called out to them on the highway in the heavy rain, "Uncle, just how long are you going to follow me around for? With all this rain, the road is getting more and more slippery, so why don't you do yourself a favor and stop following me anymore? If you're not careful, your precious Bentley that you worked so hard for just might skid and cause an accident. Think about it, I can see that you loved your son a lot, you wouldn't want to accidentally kill him along with yourself now would you?"

I imitated the way he talked, with the expressed purpose of trying to taunt and enrage them. The result did not disappoint. Chen Ruhai's face immediately exploded into anger, and Chen Yuzhou even jumped to the backseat to stick his head out through the back window, just to yell at me, "You watch your mouth!"