

Lin Fang picked up Chu Xiaoxiao's hands in her, panicking, "How could they do this? Zhang Chao was clearly the good person who came in and stopped his acts of terror. What about your recording? Everything on the internet was taken down, but you still have the original right!?"

I said, "No need for that. It's no use anyway. Even if you give that to the police, they'll just destroy it outright or accidentally 'lose' it for Chen Yuzhou's sake."

Lin Fang was shocked, "What!? Where did you hear that? The police couldn't possibly do something so blatantly unlawful right?"

Chu Xiaoxiao couldn't hold her tears in anymore, and it fell freely down the sides of her face, "It's all true, my father said so to me himself. As for the original, my father took it from me and deleted them. I said to him that I've already handed the evidence to the police, but the only thing my father said to me was telling me to not make an enemy of the Chen's. He said that, in Tong City, even if Chen Yuzhou killed someone in the open public, the police can still find a way to release him. The evidence that we collected must have been destroyed already. What do we do now?"

"What Chen Yuzhou is doing is slowly taking our options away from us." I said quietly, in anger, through clenched fists and teeth.

I told Chu Xiaoxiao that she should sit this one out and stay out of this mess. Since she no longer had any evidence, then she might as well change her testimony

like they suggested. There was no need for her to openly confront the Chen's personally about this.

"This had nothing to do with you from the start. Since they offered, it's probably for the best that you keep your distance from this whole mess."

"How does this have nothing to do with me!? I came up with the plan with you, and I also executed the plan with you. I'm in this as much and as deep as you're in this. You're not kicking me out of this."

"Look, this isn't the time to act all tough and big. This is serious. Right now, the entire Tong City is either breaking their ties with us or blacklisting us, or else they'd be the next target on the list themselves. Chu Xiaoxiao, open your eyes, stop putting yourself before the gun points. We appreciate it, but if you do this, you wouldn't be just putting yourself on the line, it would be you and the entire Chu Enterprise!"

Chu Xiaoxiao glared at me with her reddened and unyielding eyes, "You think I'm only doing this for the two of you? I'm also doing it for myself. Think about it, if I change my testimony now, what would they say about me?"

I hadn't thought of that. Right now, rumors circulating on the internet spoke of her as a high classed call girl, conning Chen Yuzhou for his money to save her father's failing company, and I was a bodyguard that she hired.

Lin Fang said to me softly, "If Xiaoxiao flipped her testimony around now, she'd never be able to deny those

nasty rumors for the rest of her life."

Chu Xiaoxiao went on to say, "Besides, get going when going gets tough, just what kind of friend or person did you take me for? Fangfang, I'm not that kind of coward. And Zhang Chao, stop looking down on me. I know that Chen's are a bunch of vicious vipers, but us Chu's weren't easy pickings either."

I really didn't know what to do with her anymore. Because of us, she was beaten by her own father to this state. I couldn't possibly tell her to go back to her father again. Besides, who was the one that said that there was no true friendship between women? I've never seen any friendship truer and purer than what Chu Xiaoxiao has shown towards Lin Fang.

I sighed, "Then be prepared and brace yourself for whatever the Chen's have in store for us tomorrow. Though we don't know what they have planned for us, but we can be sure that it'll be more lethal and disgusting than anything that they had done before this point. Also, we no longer have the video evidence in our hands. This won't be easy."

"I don't care. No matter what happens, I'd bite my tongue and kill myself before admitting defeat to Chen Yuzhou!" Chu Xiaoxiao pouted, "I hate him so much! How could I never see him for who he was before? He deceived me, and I almost pushed my precious Fangfang into his venomous laps in the past. Argh! I regret that so much!"

Then Chu Xiaoxiao threw herself at Lin Fang, hugging her and rubbed her face on her body. Lin Fang simply

laughed softly and patted her on the back like a mother comforting her misbehaving child. It was... actually a little arousing and mesmerizing watching the two most beautiful girls I knew being so intimate with each other. I couldn't tear my eyes away at all.

Lin Fang's father was a quite heavy sleeper. We chatted on, but he showed no sign of waking up.

I asked, "Now here's a strange one. Didn't they all say that like repels like, and especially between two beautiful women? So why are you two so good to each other?"

Chu Xiaoxiao said, "Back when we were in school together, I was her big sister and she was my little sister. If anyone dares to come bothering her, I kick them in the butt. So of course we're good together."

I chuckled, "You sure it wasn't just your imagination? Lin Fang was such a nice person, who would go bothering her in the first place anyway?"

"And this is why you're a man and not a woman. It's exactly because Fangfang was such a nice and pretty girl that they go and bother her. And when that happens, I'd come in and shoo them away." Chu Xiaoxiao said, her face still plastered to Lin Fang's embrace.

For as much as I remembered, Lin Fang had always been well connected, even to some of the rougher types. Plus, back then, Chen Yuzhou was her childhood friend, and had his eyes on her ever since they were young. Just who'd even dare go bother someone like that?

But I didn't dwell on it. The thing that worried me the most was what would happen tomorrow.

The Chen's had prepared everything, and tomorrow, they'd throw them all at us.

I was a little worried, but at the same time, I couldn't help but feel curiously excited about seeing what Chen Ruhai would do next, and whether or not I could take him head on by myself without having to request help from Junran. Chen Ruhai was indeed a worthy adversary, making me recall the smell of battlefields, the smell of blood and slaughtering, ingrained deeply into me.

That night, the three of us all slept in Lin Fang's father's ward.

Lin Fang and Chu Xiaoxiao curled and snuggled up against each other on the spare bed meant for the caretaker, while I slept sitting on a chair a little distance away from them. As a soldier, we were trained to be able to rest in much harsher conditions such that simply being unable to lie down was no trouble for me at all.

When morning came around, a doctor came in to check up on Lin Fang's father, making sure that his condition was sufficiently well to undergo the surgery.

Though this surgery will be conducted by the Zhao Gongming, the director of the hospital himself, but any and all operations still carried with them an element of risk, no matter how small. Other than the routine checkups, the doctor also informed Lin Fang's father of the possible risks involved, so that he could be informed

enough to decide whether or not he still wanted to go through with the surgery after all.

As Lin Fang's father reached for his reading glasses by the side of his bed, Lin Fang took a look at the consent forms, then quickly signed her name on it and handed it back to the doctor.

The doctor commented, "The patient was in perfect consciousness, why don't we let him sign it off himself?"

Lin Fang's father mumbled, "My daughter can sign it. She's responsible for everything around the house."

Lin Fang said, "It makes little difference as to whose name was signed on the consent, since either way, my father's life depends on this operation. And, we have complete faith in Director Zhao's abilities."

"Well... alright. Then, rest well, relax, and prepare yourself for the upcoming surgery tomorrow. Make sure that the patient isn't exposed to the cold or undergo too much stress. If we detect anomalies in his blood pressure between now and the surgery, we'll have to cancel the operation and reschedule it accordingly."

Lin Fang pulled the blanket over her father and tucked him in again, "Yes, I'll make sure that my father is well rested."

The sight of her looking after her father so intently caught my eye, as I stared at her unable to take my eyes away. She noticed me, gave me a smile, and then came to me. She reached and took my hand.

"You didn't have a bed to sleep in for the entire night, you must be tired. Why don't you take a rest on the bed now?" Lin Fang asked.

"I'm not tired. I couldn't sleep anyway, not when I couldn't figure out just what Chen Ruhai would do to us."

At the mentioning of the Chen's, Lin Fang's mood fell immediately. A frown came back to her face, and she swayed my hand left and right slightly, "If... if it comes to that, I'll beg him, and maybe he'll let you off for my sake."

"No need for that." I said, letting a little mirth into my voice, "I let him have his way with me yesterday. Today, it's my turn."

Lin Fang couldn't understand what I meant, and gave me a puzzled look, "What do you mean your turn?"

Yesterday, I already had a rather clear picture of his network of connections figured out in my head. Law enforcements, businessmen, the common folks, and the mafia. Chen Ruhai had been too active lately. The more things he does, the easier it became for me to get a handle on the way he does things.

And it was almost about time that I removed him from the picture forever.

I squeezed Lin Fang's shoulders gently, and just as I was going to say something, my phone rang. I looked at my phone, it was Han Kun.

"The people are in position now, as you requested last

night. They're ready to act as soon as you give them the okay."

"Wait a little bit more. I'm going to let Chen Yuzhou show off in front of me just once more."

I meant to let Chen Yuzhou have a taste of his own medicine, and it'd be such a shame if I wasn't around to see it when it happened.

Lin Fang didn't know what I was doing, and simply kept a puzzled eye on me. Chu Xiaoxiao, being the type that just couldn't sit tight, came over and asked me what I was doing, many times.

I didn't want to disturb Lin Fang's father, so I took today's newspaper and sat outside the ward to wait for Chen Yuzhou to come.

And he didn't disappoint. About 10 o'clock, Chen Yuzhou waltzed out of the elevator door, and headed straight for me in obvious and eager enthusiasm.

"Zhang Chao, I'm not an unreasonable man. If you don't want to go to jail, get down on your knees right now, and beg for your filthy and unworthy life. Today, I'll make you get it through your thick skull just who your daddy is."

What he didn't know was that the more he flaunts and taunts, the more his face would hurt later. Metaphorically, and physically.