

In the midst of commotion, I saw Zhao Gongming quietly retreated and disappeared behind the crowd. Nobody, in Tong City, dared to stand before the Chen's, not when they bared their vicious fangs in rage.

The Chen's was like a beast that lurked beneath Tong City. Chen Ruhai did a good job of concealing its teeth and claws, using them so sparingly that most people didn't even realize how dangerous they are, but not Chen Yuzhou. He bared his fangs at the first sight of provocation, and made people realize just how powerful the Chen's are.

The officers stuffed me into the car, and when we got to the place, they threw me into a small confinement cell. This time, I was alone.

Holding on to the iron bars of my cell, I yelled, "Chen Yuzhou, what do you want with me?"

The corner of his lips twitched, "I want you dead!"

We tried to stare each other down through the bars. Now I could be sure that his hatred for me has skyrocketed to the point that not even Chen Ruhai can calm him down. It was done. Now, all that I need to do, was to wait.

Then Chen Yuzhou threw a few more threats at me, and left. After nightfall, an officer came and brought a person behind him. Apparently there was a visitor for me.

A rather unexpected guest. Chu Huaien, Chu Xiaoxiao's father.

When he saw me, he breathed out a long sigh.

"Zhang, I'll be frank about it. I came to ask you for a favor. Please, talk some sense into my unbecoming daughter."

The moment I saw Chu Huairen's face, I knew what he was going to say.

Chu Huairen continued, "Though we only met once, that night at the restaurant, I have a good impression of you. You're someone who knows to consider the gains and losses in things. But, Xiaoxiao doesn't, not yet. If she continues going down this road, she would doom the entire Chu Enterprise along with her! Though it isn't publicised, beneath the surface, the Chu Enterprise is going through a rough time right now, and with the Chen's putting pressure on us and every one of our associates, no one is willing to give us loans or investments! We are quite literally at the brink of being bankrupt. Look, just talk to her, tell her to drop the charges. Whatever losses that may incur on your part, I swear on my personal honor that I'll make it up to you!"

At the end of his request, in my mind, I could only shake my head in disappointment.

"Uncle Chu, you're right about what you said, but have you thought about the fact that Xiaoxiao was your very own daughter? Chen Yuzhou almost raped her. Shouldn't Xiaoxiao be more important than any of those things you said?"

It was as if a cat got his tongue. For a while, he couldn't

say anything at all.

Chu Xiaoxiao was indeed born into a wealthy family, but just from those things Chu Huaïen said just then, he probably never thought of his daughter as an important member of his family, his own flesh and blood. A sad and pitiful man. Somewhere in my heart, I felt a touch of sympathy for Chu Xiaoxiao.

A while later, Chu Huaïen said, "Say whatever you want! Chu Xiaoxiao will change her testimony! I'll see to that! Zhang Chao, I thought you were a decent and hardworking boy, so I thought I'd give you a chance. If you won't take it, then you're welcome to burn in hell along with your pride and arrogance!"

I lied down on the bench in my cell, "We'll see about that."

I didn't know at the time, but when I was taken and thrown into the confinement cell, Chu Xiaoxiao also had a harsh time.

Chu Huaïen forced her to change her testimony, and threatened to disown her and legalistically cut her off from the Chu family if she should refuse. Before sundown, he has taken away her phone, discontinued all of her bank cards and credit cards, and even cut up her passport, driver's license, and her national identification card.

She was determined that she would never change her testimony. Not only because it'd make her look bad with those false rumors of her being a call girl, but because she knew that if she changed her testimony, I would go

to jail for a crime I didn't commit under the Chen's false accusations.

Some times after Lin Fang's father's operation, a group of people sent by Chu Huairen came to the hospital and forcibly dragged Chu Xiaoxiao back home. When she was home and back to her room, Chu Huairen was there, and he beat her. If people could see her in her current state, no one would be able to tell that she was actually the young daughter of a rich family, much less the sole daughter of the Chu Enterprise. Sitting on the edge of her bed, her face swelled, and blood dripped from her nose, but she refused to change her testimony.

Chu Huairen was livid, almost to the point of undoing his belt and whipping his daughter with it. He pointed at her nose and yelled, "You! You'd put all our lives on the line just for this Zhang Chao!? You think the life of some random rundown bum off the streets is worth more than ours!?"

Chu Xiaoxiao pleaded in tears, "Father, this wasn't about his worth or our worth at all! Chen Yuzhou simply went too far. He hired a Vietnamese killer and sent him on Fangfang, and that man almost killed me too! Are you telling me that I should just swallow that and treat it like it was nothing?"

"Yes! You will do exactly that! Who do you think you are!? What the hell is that Lin Fang anyway!? Can't you see? The Chu family can't afford to offend the Chen's! And even if this Lin Fang and Zhang Chao dies, what's that to me anyway? As long as the Chu Family lives, I don't care if anyone else lives or dies!"

Chu Xiaoxiao was shocked. She never knew that her father was such a ruthless person.

Chu Huaïen massaged his temples, "If you won't listen to me, fine. I'll let someone else talk some sense into that useless brain of yours."

He turned around and spoke to one of the house servants. Then the servant went outside briefly. After a while, the door opened, and a teary eyed Lin Fang came in.

Chu Xiaoxiao gave her a puzzled look. She couldn't think of any reasons why her father might bring Lin Fang here.

Chu Huaïen didn't say anything, but simply gestured with his hand for her to speak.

With her eyes red with tears, Lin Fang staggered forward and fell to her knees before Chu Xiaoxiao at her bedside. She reached and held Chu Xiaoxiao's hands, but before she said anything, tears already began falling from her puffy eyes.

Looking at her friend in such distress, Chu Xiaoxiao's heart ached. She had always treasured her friends, especially Lin Fang, whom she cared for and looked after like her little sister. For as long as she had known Lin Fang, this was the first time that she saw her crying so hard.

"Xiaoxiao, you're hurt." Lin Fang caressed over Chu Xiaoxiao's wounds gently, all the while her tears continued streaming down her face.

"Fangfang, don't cry." Seeing that her father has left her room and closed the door behind him, Chu Xiaoxiao dropped her guard and comforted her friend with a forced smile, "Don't worry, as long as I refuse to drop the charges, they won't be able to do anything to Zhang Chao. And even if not for Zhang Chao, even if it's for your sake alone, I won't change my testimony either. You and I, we're like sisters, and closer than any real sisters. If it's for you, I would willingly take a swollen eye or two."

Lin Fang buried her face into Chu Xiaoxiao's lap, and cried, "Xiaoxiao, actually, I came to ask you to change your testimony. Please, I'm begging you."

"... what?" Her heart skipped a beat. Chu Xiaoxiao thought that she must have simply misheard.

"Please, change your testimony. Chen Yuzhou sent people to my father's ward, and they kept on harassing him that he stressed out and his blood pressure was through the roof! If this goes on, he'll never be able to have his operation tomorrow. Please, I beg of you, change your testimony."

Chu Xiaoxiao was so shocked that, for a while, all she could hear was a constant high pitched hum, in her ears. She looked at Lin Fang, whose face was now so familiar, and yet so foreign, "You do know what it would mean for Zhang Chao if I changed my testimony, right? Everything that happened to him, everything he had done, they were all for your sake."

Lin Fang didn't answer, but only cried harder, almost as if she couldn't catch her breath. Tears fell from her eyes

onto her pants, and before long, a small wet patch appeared on her pants over her thighs.

Chu Xiaoxiao felt torn inside. On one hand, a fire erupted within her, wanting to berate her and question her just how she could do something so selfish and heartless. But on the other hand, another voice inside her also told her that Lin Fang had no other choice, and that she was a victim in this as much as they were.

The two thoughts battled within her, and after a long silence, Chu Xiaoxiao finally brought herself to say, "Are you sure?"

But to Chu Xiaoxiao's disappointment, Lin Fang nodded without hesitation.

Chu Xiaoxiao said to her, "You probably don't know, but back at the hospital before he was taken away, Zhang Chao already tried persuading me to change my testimony. He said that, since Chen Yuzhou isn't like Chen Ruhai, if Chen Yuzhou gets desperate, he'll definitely put pressure on you. For your sake, he asked me to change my testimony."

Lin Fang's expression stiffened, but Chu Xiaoxiao couldn't tell if it had been from feeling sorry for Zhang Chao, or something else. But in this moment, it was as if a small crack had appeared in the trust and friendship between them. Looking at the woman on her lap, Chu Xiaoxiao felt as if Lin Fang had become a complete stranger to her.

It was about 9 o'clock at night when the news that Chu

Xiaoxiao will be changing her testimony came to my ears.

As if to flaunt it in my face, Chen Yuzhou made Deputy Commissioner Xu himself escort him to see me. Far off in the distance, Deputy Commissioner Xu's voice sounded, reminding Chen Yuzhou, "In the morning, you made me send my people to arrest Zhang Chao. When your father knew about it, he was furious. I can let you see him, but behave yourself this time, eyes only. If you do anything unnecessary again, I don't know what your father would do to you."

"Alright, alright, I get it already. My father's just too chicken about it. What's so scary about Zhang Chao anyway? So he drives a Porsche, but so what? I looked into it already, that Porsche wasn't even his. Look, my father wants him dead, I want him dead, so doesn't this mean that I'm exactly the same as my father? Plus, I'm doing so using the law as my weapon. I'm much more refined than my father."

"Really, you should listen to your father more."

"Uncle, when did you become as big a coward as my father?"

The two of them chatted on, and before long, they appeared before my cell. I lied on the cold steel bench in my cell, with my back turned against them.

"Zhang Chao, I'm here to notify you officially that your case will begin trial early next week."



"Impressive, so you can open court whenever you want the court to open. Looks like in Tong City, it isn't only the law enforcements, but even the justice system revolve themselves around you too."



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