

## Chapter 56 Snare

“Your Honor, under the guise of acting out of concern for an alleged rape victim and rescuing her, where evidence suggested that the alleged rape was nothing but an act, the accused mortally injured my client. This alleged victim of the rape, Chu Xiaoxiao, is now with us in the witness stand. She would testify that whatever the accused might have claimed against my client, were in fact, lies. This was never an act of rescue, but a simple act of violence and battery.”

I looked at Chen Yuzhou. Since the court was in session, he has been putting on a rather odd act of a mixture of an arrogant asshole and meek frailty, as if he still hasn't recovered from the mortal wound that I had supposedly gave him. If not for all the reporters in the courtroom and all the live broadcasting cameras staged all around forcing him to act as though he had been heavily injured, he would probably jump onto the table already and flip his finger at me right at this instant.

But it was an oddity of an act still, because he has no trouble with the cameras catching his haughty and arrogant expression on his face, despite his supposed mortal injuries he had with him. Why? Because like his father said, he was used to being arrogant.

In Tong City, even if he killed someone, his father could just make it go away for him, so what does he have to be afraid of? The law? No. In Tong City, he is the law.

He has money. He could make Chu Xiaoxiao testify however he wanted her to. If she should refuse, he'll simply put pressure on the banks, telling them to refuse all dealings with the Chu Enterprise.

He has authority. His aunt was one of the department heads in the Tong City Hospital, so he could make the autopsy report say whatever he wished it to say. His uncle was the Deputy Commissioner of the Tong City Police Department, so he could arrest anyone, anytime, and anywhere in Tong City.

He has power. The Black Dragons answers to him. Whoever that displeased him, he could make their lives in Tong City a living hell.

He had it all covered. The Chen's have people everywhere, and anywhere.

In Tong City, he is god, he is law!

So, who would dare oppose him?

Who would dare...?

“Your Honor, if I may speak... thank you, Your Honor. Today, here I stand, as a witness testifying for Chen Yuzhou against Zhang Chao... only because he threatened me to lie for him. I had no choice but to do as he say.”

When Chen Yuzhou was putting on his show of a mortally injured but somehow still oddly and pompously arrogant battery victim, Chu Xiaoxiao slowly raised her head to the cameras, letting the whole country see the bruises and cuts and swellings on her beautiful face. Then she looked at me with her bloodshot eyes, but a firm determination burned brightly behind them.

When she finished speaking, silence fell over the entire courtroom.

Then shouts and exclams and anger and bewilderment exploded in the courtroom. Their voices loud enough to raise the roof of the courtroom.

Chen Yuzhou slammed the table before him hard and jumped up. He jumped up and yelled, “What did you just say? You wanna run that by me again!? Your filthy...!”

Chen Ruhai hurriedly pulled him back down onto his seat and covered his mouth to stop him from finishing his words.

“Father! Let go of me!”

“Shut it!” Chen Ruhai's face turned as pale as ash. All of his past experiences told him that they've been had well and good. He growled to his son, his beloved and spoilt son, with eyes reddening from intense frustration, “Cameras! All live and broadcasting nationwide! Hold it in!”

Chen Ruhai closed his eyes slowly, and immediately opened them again. In the midst of chaos, he secretly made a pass at the judge, hinting at him to adjourn and postpone the hearing immediately.

When the judge was about to make the announcement and adjourn the hearing, my lawyer stood up. He was one of Han Kun's people. He spoke, slowly and steadily, but projecting his voice loud and clear, enough to be heard by everyone else in the courtroom despite all the noises.

“Your Honor, my client was clearly framed. Not only by the prosecution Chen Yuzhou, but by the corrupted body of our very law enforcement and justice system. Your Honor, why is it that from the time my client was falsely accused and arrested to the court hearing today, not even a full week has passed? What power is driving this case forward?”

Though my lawyer was technically speaking to the judge, anyone with even half a brain knew that he was speaking to the various media staged all around the courtroom. He wanted these words to be heard by all the people of this country!

This put the judge in a tough spot. At this point, if he should make the announcement that the hearing is adjourned, it would make it seem as though he was also under the Chen's influence. But on the other hand, if he doesn't, the situation was already far beyond what he could manage and dictate by his words and will alone.

Sweeping his eyes across the room, there were cameras and microphones positioned everywhere, with reporters of all major news channels from all over the country. This wasn't something that a little local judge like him could possibly handle.

With all the cameras and microphones and eyes focusing their attention on him and him alone, every single careless word he uttered by mistake, every little expression on his face that seemed less than perfectly natural, would be seen and heard by all the people in the entire country, and would turn into a gigantic unstoppable wave and crush every bone in his body in an instant.

When push comes to shove, who'd every man be for if not for himself? In between a short blink of an eye, the judge made his decision.

“Silence! Order! Witness, you may continue your testimony.”

Chen Ruhai slumped into his seat as if his bones had been stripped from his body. In his seat, he looked at his tightly gripped fist, at the realization that he had already fallen into my carefully arranged snare.

But Chen Yuzhou hadn't. After Chu Xiaoxiao finished her testimony, he yelled loudly, “You lying bitch! How dare you turn on me!? You gave your testimony at the police station. You even signed it! How can anyone change it just like that? You got proof for any of the things you said!?”

Chu Xiaoxiao said, “Your Honor, at that time, I wouldn't dare to not do as Chen Yuzhou forced me to. If I don't do or say exactly as he told me to, Chen Yuzhou would make his people beat me. You saw, and everyone saw. These wounds on my face, I couldn't possibly have faked it.”

Chu Xiaoxiao lifted her face to the judge again, then to the media. In actuality, her father gave her those wounds, but no audience present in the courtroom would possibly be the wiser.

Chen Yuzhou was livid, “You lie! I never got anyone to even touch you!”

My lawyer moved to speak, and the judge allowed, “Your Honor, investigations on my side also discovered evidence of the prosecution tempering and forging his alleged evidence. This is a video recording of the prosecution forcing my client to his knees in Tong City Hospital. On the scene, the prosecution also threatened other witnesses at the scene. All of these were caught by the hospital's security cameras.”

Of course, Han Kun would be able to get his hands on this evidence. As the director of the hospital, and at the same time my one of my father's closest friends, of course Zhao Gongming would get this to him as soon as possible.

My lawyer continued, “This evidence I have here, is the prosecution's injury assessment by the paramedics on the ambulance when they took him to the emergency department of the hospital. To be sure, we have inquired and cross checked it with various experts in the medical field. The prosecution never had a ruptured kidney when he was taken to the hospital, so why was it that in the official injury assessment of this case against my client clearly recorded that the prosecution had a ruptured kidney?”

The judge could do nothing but nod stiffly in silence. But the media on the other hand, all of their eyes glittered with excitement at the sudden development. All of them sat upright and listened attentively.

My lawyer continued, “This evidence, is the official visitation record of the Tong City Police Department, and a photo of the prosecution walking with the Deputy Commissioner. The prosecution was closely related to the Deputy Commissioner of the Tong City Police Department. This document proved that after my client was falsely charged and arrested, Deputy Commissioner Xu brought the prosecution in, directly to my client's confinement cell.”

The crowds uproared.

Chen Yuzhou slapped the table again, and yelled, “What does that evidence prove!? How does any of that prove that I tempered the evidence? I can even say that those medical experts you found are all fake! That injury assessment you have is also fake! And that was just a photo of me and my uncle walking together, what kind of evidence is that!? Zhang Chao, you shrewd and sly bastard, your death will be slow! And painful!”

If not for the court police stationed all around, Chen Yuzhou would probably have run over and strangled me already.

Right now, Chen Ruhai was angry and frustrated enough to beat his own son to death. He probably could never understand that for all his life, he had been ever so careful and calculating for his entire life, just how in the world did he have a son like that!?

Like Chen Yuzhou said, technically, none of these evidence could say definitely that they had forged their evidence, beyond doubt. But now, after they had blown it into something so disproportionately large online on the internet, with so much media attention and so many public eyes watching from all around the country, what would the people think?

People weren't all fools. Who would believe that the niece of the Deputy Commissioner of the Police Station would allow himself to be mortally beaten by some random street thug?

Who would believe that a detailed injury assessment with the signature of the director of that hospital himself would have less credibility than a brief assessment report given by a small department head of that same hospital?

If they hadn't made it into something as big as they had, the Chen's could probably still have gotten away with it using their connections in the justice system.

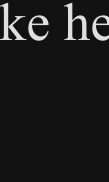
But with the entire country watching, would anyone, much less a little local judge, have the gall to protect and cover for them? I think not.

“Stop. Don't say anything anymore.” Chen Ruhai urged Chen Yuzhou, tugging at his sleeve.

But Chen Yuzhou was beyond reasons already. He screamed at me, “Zhang Chao, I'll kill you!”

Then a loud slap sounded and echoed in the courtroom. Chen Ruhai finally snapped and slapped him one on the face. Under so many cameras, the would be live broadcasted to the entire country. With that, Chen Yuzhou officially became an embarrassment on the national level.

Though humiliating, that slap struck some of his sense back into him. From a distance, he stared at me, sitting ever so calmly in my seat, his face whitened, and finally considered the possibility that perhaps all of this had been a snare from the beginning, a snare that I carefully arranged for and tailored to him.



## Chapter 57 Stand at Attention

In the end, Chen Yuzhou was dragged out of the courtroom.

Chen Ruhai was so frustrated that he looked like he might have a heart attack. His entire face was as white as ash, and just as dry.

To make sure that they could pin those charges onto me, they took no chances and hired the best lawyer duo who specialized in criminal law to assist Chen Yuzhou in prosecution. They were both tried and tested and had long since earned their place in their profession. Today, they had their first loss in a long time coming, utterly and completely.