

## Chapter 76 Confession

And once again, I declined his offer, “I will never work together with you. No matter what happens, nothing will change the fact that I was once a proud soldier of the country. I will never work with people who hold themselves above the laws that we protect. I owe them my second life, I will never do anything that would disgrace them.”

“Stubborn old fart.” Zhao Zichen flipped his eyes and snorted, “By yourself, you’ll never be able to match up to Jiang Ming in strength! As soon as Jiang Ming noticed you, you’re dead! He is a snake, a viper, our only chance against him is to kill him before he even realizes our existence.”

I said, with a smile, “I won’t change my mind.”

He will never be able to convince me. Seeing that I wouldn’t reconsider, he finally gave up trying. I motioned Chu Xiaoxiao over, and got her to delete the recording right in front of him, and then swore that we would never tell anyone else about Zhao Zichen’s identity.

“I sincerely hope that you would change your mind.”

“Maybe if one day I had amnesia and forgot who I am.” I replied.

After Zhao Zichen left, Chu Xiaoxiao finally breathed out in relief. Looks like what just took place really gave her a fright.

“He really is the head of them Red Lanterns? I couldn’t tell at all!”

“He’s a crafty one, you never know if he was being truthful with you, or if it was simply another one of his acts.” I don’t want to stay on this topic too long with Chu Xiaoxiao. The more she knew, the more danger she’d be in. I eyed the box in her hand, and lamented, “You got me another serving of poison today?”

“How rude, that’s no way to talk to someone who was only being nice to you. Are you eating it or what? If you don’t want it I’ll just throw it to the dogs.”

“I don’t want it.”

“I don’t care whether you wanted it or not. You will eat it if it’s the last thing you do!”

I already knew what’s going to happen, so contrary to what I said, I already accepted her box over. I’ve done my time in the military serving in the frontlines, I’ve had worse before, so this is nothing in comparison, most of the times.

As I sat on the chair and ate, Chu Xiaoxiao sat on my bed and suddenly lowered her voice, all secretive, “Let me tell you something good. Chen Yuzhou just got hit again.”

“What happened?”

“His father found out that he hired someone to ram you with their car. His father was in a meeting with their stockholders then, and he just called Chen Yuzhou out to the company out of the blues, and slapped him a good one in public, one across each side of his face. He just got sent to the hospital down below for ruptured eardrums.” She sighed, “With that, it should be clear to the entire world just what kind of person Chen Yuzhou is. Even Lin Fang should be able to choose you over him now.”

That last bit got my attention. Setting the spoon down, I asked.

“What do you mean?”

Wasn’t it over already between Lin Fang and Chen Yuzhou? Why would Chu Xiaoxiao say that?

Chu Xiaoxiao wasn’t slow either. She immediately realized that she had made a slip of the tongue.

“It’s... it’s nothing. Don’t look at me like that.”

“You’re hiding something from me. Both you and Lin Fang have been hiding things from me haven’t you? If you won’t tell me, then I’ll go ask Lin Fang.”

“Argh!” Chu Xiaoxiao exclaimed, in vexed exasperation, then glared at me.

Seeing my eyes meeting her glare, she sighed in defeat, “It wasn’t anything big. The few nights you were put in jail, Lin Fang and Chen Yuzhou met up.”

My heart skipped a beat, and immediately remembered what Qingqing said back at Lutong, “Lin Fang went into Chen Yuzhou’s car? And he got her flowers and roses?”

“Seems like that.”

So it was all true. Why would Lin Fang lie to me like that? When I was taken away and thrown into the jail cells, she went behind my back and got together with Chen Yuzhou. Was her love that fickle and untrustworthy?

I felt no anger, but only sadness. My eyes reddened, as I lost all my words. I guess, it was only natural. On the surface, Chen Yuzhou did appear to be richer and more powerful than I am. She only made a choice that she deemed that would benefit her more.

Chu Xiaoxiao muttered, gingerly, “Come on, Zhang Chao, don’t be like that...”

I said in self pity, “Heh, it’s fine... it’s fine. She wanted to be with Chen Yuzhou. It was her choice, and I respect that. But she shouldn’t lie to me... and you shouldn’t lie to me for her either. I’m unworthy of her after all. She simply chose a richer man to be with. It makes sense. I get it...”

“Enough! Just listen to yourself, do you even realize what you’re saying!? You were put in jail. In jail! And Fangfang had no idea then that I would change my testimonial again at the last minute, it’s only natural that she would be afraid! Besides, just because she met up with Chen Yuzhou it doesn’t mean that she had been unfaithful with you. Back then, we asked around everyone we knew, seeing if we could somehow get you out of there. Fangfang may have met up with Chen Yuzhou just to beg him to let you out. Back then, Chen Yuzhou threatened her with her father’s life, and you were in jail, who do you think she could turn to!? What else could she have done!?”

Chu Xiaoxiao’s words woke me up. Yes, back then, in Lin Fang’s shoe, it would seem to her that she was completely on her own. Of course it would be frightening. What I should be doing is making sure that the same thing won’t happen to her again, ever.

“It was wrong of me. I shouldn’t doubt her like this.”

“If you liked her, then you should trust her. And if you can’t trust her anymore, you should just break up with her.”

I was startled when I heard Chu Xiaoxiao. Why would she say the same thing twice, once positive and once again negative no less? Was there some hidden meanings in her words?

“I like her. Really, I do. And... I was wondering if you could help me out with something.”

Chu Xiaoxiao visibly relaxed, and lowered her head to avert my eyes, “What is it?”

“I haven’t confessed with Lin Fang yet. Can you... like, maybe... teach me how to confess my feelings to a girl? I liked Lin Fang, and I want her to have all the good things that she deserves.”

Chu Xiaoxiao’s jaws dropped wide open, and she exclaimed, “You haven’t confessed to anyone before!?”

Already I began to regret my decision. Seriously, what was I even thinking asking a girl about something like this, and this particular girl no less! I lied back down onto my bed and pulled the sheet over my head, “Never mind, forget about it.”

But Chu Xiaoxiao wouldn’t let up. She pulled the sheet down and flipped me over to face her.

She laughed, “And let me guess, you’ve also never been with a girl before haven’t you, little virgin?”

“Virgin my butt. You’re the virgin.” I didn’t even know how to make a more threatening come back.

“You ain’t fooling me. I’ll bet that you’ve never even kissed before have you?”

“I so have kissed before!”

“And yet you didn’t deny the virgin bit.” By now, Chu Xiaoxiao was laughing so hard that tears began forming at the corner of her eyes. She bumped her chest and guaranteed, “Just you relax. If you truly liked Lin Fang, I’ll definitely help you pull off the best and most perfect confession!”

She laughed, but after she finished, she suddenly frowned at me and asked, “Zhang Chao, you are really sure that you really liked Lin Fang?”

What’s going on? Why did she keep on asking me that?

“Pretty much, at least now I do.”

I said in intentional vagueness, just to see what her response would be.

This got Chu Xiaoxiao worried immediately, “If you didn’t like her all that much, then you should think twice about it and reconsider.”

“How would I not like Lin Fang? Just what’s going on? Why are you asking me the same question over and over again?”

For some reason, there seemed to be something more in Chu Xiaoxiao’s words. In everything she said, she seemed to suggest that I should reconsider how I feel about Lin Fang.

She was against me and Lin Fang at first. Back then, she looked down on me, thinking that I’m unworthy of Lin Fang. But now, what I felt from her was completely different, as if she was somehow more unsatisfied with Lin Fang.

I asked her again, but still she refused to answer. I tried asking in a few different ways, but she saw through them and refused to say anything more. In the end, she threw a “I don’t care about you anymore!” and ran off.

I slapped my forehead in realization, as I remembered what Lin Fang told me before. She said that Chu Xiaoxiao liked me. If it had been anyone else who told me about this, I wouldn’t have believed them. But if anyone’s words can be trusted, it would be Lin Fang’s.