

Chapter 79 Mercy

Just when I thought that she was going to plead mercy for that woman, suddenly Chu Xiaoxiao pointed at the woman's face, "And how is that any of our business? What are you crying to us for anyway?"

"Please, you look like a good girl, please go easy on me! I was wrong! Please, tell Zhang Chao, he can keep living here for as long as he wants!"

Chu Xiaoxiao said, "No, I won't. If you did what you did, then you deserve whatever punishments that you got."

The landlord said hurriedly, "It wasn't me, it's Chen Yuzhou!"

"Then that's even simpler. Since Chen Yuzhou got you into this mess, all you need to do is to testify against him in court. I don't believe that someone like you will be as stupid as to not keep something on him as leverage."

The landlord was getting desperate, "You think it's as simple as that? If I do that, they may have me killed! Please! If you won't... if you really force me to go through with this... I'll... I'll...!"

Her expression grew more and more vicious, as she clenched her teeth harder.

Chu Xiaoxiao said, frightened, "What are you doing!?"

The landlord got off her knees, and mopped the tears off her face with her hand in one rough motion, "Zhang Chao, you don't want to do this. If you press me too hard, I bite too."

I already had a foot out of the door, but hearing that, I retracted my footsteps and stepped in between Chu Xiaoxiao and the landlord. I looked at the landlord with unblinking eyes.

The landlord continued, "This is Tong City. I don't know how you came to know about the false receipts that I issued, but I do know that something like this could only be known by someone inside the company. And you know what, as soon as I get back, I'll have whoever that leaked the information to you ratted out immediately!"

"Are you seriously threatening us over the very crimes that you yourself committed!?" Chu Xiaoxiao said, eyes wide with anger.

Seeing that I won't give in to her anyway, the landlord cast off all pretense.

She laughed, viciously, "I say we each take a step back, or if I go down, I'll make damned sure that you go down with me. Just put it out there, I can't afford to offend the Chen's. If you push me too hard, I'll resist and bite you back with everything I've got!"

When she finished her words, I already reached inside my pocket and pulled out the gun, and had the gun pointed against her skull. Immediately, all was quiet and still, as if time itself had froze.

The landlord began to tremble, and then raised her hands gingerly. Her eyes squinted cross eyed at the gun. Her legs weakened and wobbled, but she dared not to move even a muscle.

Chu Xiaoxiao was surprised that I had a gun with me, but she stifled her gasp with a hand over her mouth very quickly.

I said, "Oh, don't mind me, do continue."

"I... no, I..."

I made a motion as if to lift the gun a little, and she immediately began backing away, but I followed her with the gun. She was almost in tears again. She tried to push the gunpoint away from her face with her hands, but every time, I would move the gun back to her forehead again. No matter how much you are trained, with a gun pointed at you at point blank, anyone would feel pressured.

"You cannot afford to offend the Chen's." I said.

The landlord nodded frantically, with gushing tears, "Y...y...yes, I can't... I re...really can't..."

I laughed, "Remember this also from now on, you cannot afford to offend me either."

Slowly, I squeezed my finger over the trigger. The landlord screamed in fear, her voice echoing through the entire apartment complex. Her legs finally gave way as she slumped to the ground, though she does have excellent bladder control, I'll give her that.

A few seconds later, the landlord felt her head all over with her hands, only to find that there was no blood and everything was still as they were, and finally realized that there was no gunshot. I didn't shoot.

I turned and motioned to Chu Xiaoxiao that we're leaving. I still need to find a place to stay for the night.

Chu Xiaoxiao followed me into the elevator, and then she stared at my face. I said in pretend alarm, "What are you looking at? I'm your best friend's boyfriend. I'm off limits to you."

And immediately Chu Xiaoxiao gave my shoulder a punch, "Dream on, as if I'd ever be into you. But that was so totally awesome back there! You looked just like in the movies! Oh, come to think of it, why did you have a gun?"

There wasn't any need for me to keep what happened with the Thai assassin a secret from her, so I told her. In fact, it was probably better that I keep her informed, for her safety and awareness, since Chu Xiaoxiao had been hanging around me more often as of late.

Chu Xiaoxiao said, vexed, "Chen Yuzhou has gone too far! After Chun Tang, he hired yet another killer after you!? I never knew that he was someone like that...! That landlord, you don't think that she would tell Chen Yuzhou that we knew about the false receipts?"

"Of course she would. She said it herself. She couldn't afford to offend Chen Yuzhou."

"Then what will we do? If Chen Yuzhou knows that you know about it, he'll come after you again."

I smiled and didn't answer her question. Instead, I asked her, "Give me a straight answer, Lin Fang said that you liked me. Is this true or is this false?"

From Chu Xiaoxiao's tone of voice, she didn't seem to have any particular feelings for me.

Chu Xiaoxiao was startled for a second, and then fell silent. She turned away and simply looked at the descending number on the elevator panel, and refused to answer.

I said, "So it's true?"

"Bullshit. Who do you think I am? I'm not someone who'd fall for my best friend's boyfriend."

"Which means, that it must be something else that you and Lin Fang are hiding from me."

As soon as I said that, Chu Xiaoxiao pinched my arm hard, "You tricked me into saying that!"

"Ouch, that hurts! Please, stop it, spare me! Have some pity for the homeless will you? I probably have to sleep out here in the streets tonight."

Chu Xiaoxiao let go of my arm and flipped her eyes at me, then said to me after a moment of thought, "Then, how about you come to my place?"

Now I was really startled. I pointed at myself with my finger, then pointed at her, and looked at her as if she was mad.

Chu Xiaoxiao added, "Relax, you won't be bothering anyone. There's currently no one else in my house right now. My father won't be coming home this month, so it'll just be the two of us."

I was speechless. Did this girl even realize just how wrong what she said sounded?

After I while, I laughed, "Now I'm really wondering if Lin Fang was right after all. Are you just lulling me into your house so it'll be easier for you to make a move on me?"

Only then did Chu Xiaoxiao realize what she just said implied. She promptly planted a foot squarely on my butt and yelled in embarrassment, "Minds out of the gutter you!"

Either way, Chu Xiaoxiao's place isn't a good idea. She is a young single woman, and I already have a girlfriend. For her sake, and mine, it wouldn't do for me to spend the night alone with her at her place.

Besides, my old house where my aunt lives was right beside her house, at Yulong Bay Minor District. Unless they move away, I want to be as far away from that place as possible if it can be helped.

Chu Xiaoxiao said, "Then where can you go? No one in Tong City would give you a place to stay... oh, I see, I get it now! You're thinking of sleeping at Fangfang's aren't you? Come on, out with it, you've been with Fangfang for quite some time now, have you done anything x-rated to her yet?"

All of a sudden, Chu Xiaoxiao's eyes became full of stars of curiosity, and immediately I knew that it was high time for me to leave from the chill that was sent down my spine. As soon as the elevator door opened, I ran out.

Chu Xiaoxiao chased after me, "Really!? You really mean to say that you've only kissed? You're such a virgin!?"

Chu Xiaoxiao badgered after me, "How could someone as young and strong as you stay at only a kiss? Zhang Chao, don't tell me that you can't...! Oh no, I must tell Fangfang about this, I can't let her live the rest of her life with you if you can't even..."

I turned around and yelled, "I can't what!? How about I prove it to you just exactly what I can right here and now!?"

I retorted furiously, which only made Chu Xiaoxiao laugh harder, so hard that she was hugging her stomach.