

Chapter 80 Backbone

That night, I really couldn't find any place to stay, and then I remembered Xia Genghuai. I messaged him and bought some booze and snacks and went to his place, but it turned out that he was called in for some overtime shifts, with all the Black Dragons that they freshly arrested waiting in line to be questioned. He came back momentarily to opened his door for me, and then he went enthusiastically off back to the police department again.

Alone in his room, I reflected on what happened over these few days. It almost seemed unreal, that amongst all the chaos I could still come out of it while remaining somewhat unhurt.

Though I also knew that this was only a moment of calm in the midst of the storm. The storm hasn't left Tong City just yet. It may be quiet for a time now, but the worst is yet to come.

Knowing the Chen's, they'll never let me off. It was easy enough, luring Chen Yuzhou into striking out and acting out of line, but dealing with Chen Ruhai is another story completely. For now, I'll have a moment of respite, since he won't move a finger against me unless he was absolutely certain that he had everything prepared and that he had me in his clutches.

But then again, I can't exactly keep on waiting for him to get his pieces together. I must act before he finishes making preparations and move against me.

Right now, I wished for nothing more than to have an angry Chen Yuzhou on my back, making things worse for himself and shifting the scale to my end, but these days Chen Ruhai had been keeping him on a very short leash. Hopefully that landlord lady will tell him all about what happened today and get him riled up enough into doing something foolish again.

Taking the gun in my hand, I looked at it. If this really got Chen Yuzhou mad enough to come at me again, then I guess pulling the gun on the landlord today and risking her calling the cops on me won't be a complete waste of time.

For Lin Fang's sake, I must hurry up and get rid of the Chen's influence in Tong City. For my own sake too, I also want to get this done and over with as soon as I could, so I can finally begin investigating Jiang Ming.

Usually, by 10 o'clock at night, I would be asleep already, having been trained to do so as a soldier in the military. But now, lying on the bed, somehow I just couldn't sleep. Something in my heart just doesn't sit right.

After rolling around mindlessly for around 10 minutes, my phone rang. It was Lin Fang.

She was angry with me, for leaving the hospital unannounced when I was still supposed to be under observation, though her voice was laced with gentleness and worry.

The reason why I slipped out prematurely was that I just couldn't stand lying on the bed doing nothing anymore. I need to get rid of Chen Yuzhou fast, so that Lin Fang could go on living in peace, free of his constant threats and harassment, and so that I could finally get on investigating my father's death without having to worry about being backstabbed at every second turn.

But I couldn't just tell her that. Even now, I kept Lin Fang in the dark as to the truths behind my being rammed into by a car. I didn't want her to worry even more on top of what she had to worry about already.

I apologized and asked her to forgive me for leaving the hospital on such short notice, and guaranteed her that I really was healed already. I said to her that, if she didn't believe me, she could come over right now and give me a punch.

She giggled, but quickly stifled it, "That tongue of yours, when did you learn to have such a slippery tongue? Alright, but just be careful and don't do anything rough, I don't want to see any more things happening to you anymore."

It was all but silence in the room, and the only sound in my ear was Lin Fang's gentle words in my ears. My heart softened. Life was good to me, to let me have such a caring girlfriend. I must treasure her, and protect her from anything that would harm her.

The next morning, I woke up to the sound of knuckles knocking against the door.

Xia Genghuai's eye bags were dark and heavy, like a panda. He yawned and nodded at me.

"You pulled an allnighter?"

He yawned again, "It's a big catch. You know who you threw into my fishing net last night? He is one of the bigger fish in Black Dragon! For all these years Tong City had always wanted to give the gangs and mobs a serious hit, but up until now no one had managed to catch someone as big as that. My friend, my brother, this time, you ran me right into the motherlode. I really must thank you."

"Alright alright, just don't forget about me completely after you get your raise." I didn't tell Xia Genghuai that this blondie that he caught was only a small fry, as far as the big players in Black Dragon was concerned.

But it was specifically because of the fact that the blondie was only a small fry, that Xia Genghuai was able to receive commendations. If he really had arrested someone important in the Black Dragon, like Jiang Ming for example, he probably wouldn't have lived long enough to be still standing and talking to me here right now. That said, I won't just sit here and watch as they butcher up my friend either.

As long as I'm still around, and as long as Junran still stands, I'll make sure that I got all my friends' backs.

Lin Fang's father recovered well. Though he still isn't well enough to be discharged from the hospital, at least Lin Fang won't need to look after him daily as she had anymore. He was well enough to get by with the occasional help from her brother Lin Kang, who had been doing nothing but loitering around the house.

Incidentally, Lin Kang used this as leverage to ask Lin Fang for money again, claiming that he had "helped her with her share" and that she should compensate him for that. He frustrated her so much that Lin Fang even gave up her remaining leaves and ran away back to the company.

In the morning, Chu Xiaoxiao came to pick me up with her car. Walking out of the front door of Xia Genghuai's apartment complex, I saw her pulling by the side of the street in her car, a Bentley, winding her window down and waving at me to get in, just like the movies.

"What are you doing here?" I sat down on the passenger's seat.

Chu Xiaoxiao said, "You think I have the memory of a goldfish? You said just the other day that you're going to give me an advertisement company to cover for my loss. You're not weaseling your way out of this."

I won't go back on my words. Part of the reason why I bought Lutong was that I could give it to her. I couldn't possibly ask Junran to back up the Chu Enterprise, but I could afford paying her back a company, having soured her shot at starting up her advertisement company.

But seeing her, I wanted to tease her a little. I lowered the back of my seat a little and leaned back comfortably, "And you'd just go about believing everything that comes out of my mouth? Do you think that I could even to pay you back at all, and an advertisement company no less?"

Chu Xiaoxiao smiled thoughtfully, "I'm sure you can."

"And that's where you're wrong. I was just saying it for the thrill of it."

Chu Xiaoxiao started her car. But instead of driving off, she leaned her head on the steering wheel and turned back and looked at me sideways, and smiled, "How could you not? Young inheritor of Junran?"

"How the hell did you know!?"

I was beyond shocked. I've kept my identity a secret to everyone around me, and even within Junran, only a very selective few even knew about my existence. Even my aunt didn't know about my real identity.

Though it would appear that Chu Xiaoxiao was just as shocked, "What the...!? You are!? For real!?"

Slapping myself on the head, I swore and cursed at myself for letting my guard down, to be tricked by such a simple play of words. It was my fault completely, for thinking that Chu Xiaoxiao was too simple minded to do that.

Chu Xiaoxiao stared at me, all wide eyed, "At first, I thought you might be Mr. Qu's relative, since you have so many connections with so many of Junran's people. And then, seeing how that landlord was so afraid of you yesterday, I was guessing if you might be a little more than just a relative. I just took a random stab, I never knew that it'd hit a mark right out of the blues!"

"... I don't want to talk. Just drive."

Chu Xiaoxiao was as thick skinned as the steel plating of her Bentley. She drew near and looked closely at my face, "Yes boss. Of course boss. From now on, I'll be your faithful minion. Whatever you want me to do, just say the word and it's done."

"Chu Xiaoxiao, can you just perhaps maybe remember back in the days when you just came back to the country, you know, when you first saw me? Like the time when you used to have a backbone?"

"No, I'm a spineless wimp that cowers before might, lusts for money, and hungers for power. You promised me an advertisement company. You owe me."

I regretted it. I really truly regretted it. What's gotten into my mind? How did I even get myself into this mess with this girl? I should have just let Mr. Qu give her an offer and be done with it!

Chu Xiaoxiao was smiling so much, almost from ear to ear. Suddenly, right out of the blues, she slapped and honked her car horn, giving me a huge fright. She said excitedly, "Does this mean that one day Fangfang would become the woman behind the man who controls Junran? Ooh, I'm so happy for her! Before I was worried that you and Fangfang might not last long, but with you being who you are, Fangfang definitely won't leave you now."

So what she was saying that, if I weren't who I am, Lin Fang might leave me? I muttered inside, but I didn't ask, knowing that it was no use asking her. Chu Xiaoxiao will never badmouth Lin Fang behind her back.