

Chapter 97 Qualify

I was speechless, though thankfully her stomp wasn't all that powerful. I apologized with all the sincerities I have, hoping to appease this goddess of violence, but when she heard me calling her the goddess of violence, she got even more violent and even began swinging her fist at me. I dodged, but that girl wouldn't stop until she hit me. She lunged at me with her fist.

Subconsciously I sidestepped her, almost by reflex entirely. It has long been drilled into us in our trainings as soldiers, that we'd try to dodge anything coming our way, be it bullets, projectiles, or people.

Chu Xiaoxiao went past me and tripped, and I immediately reached out and grabbed at her, trying to stop her from falling face down onto the ground.

"Zhang Chao." Chu Xiaoxiao's face was downcast, her voice was low, dangerously low, "When you want to help stabilize someone, usually you'd grab their shoulders, or their waist. Either one is fine. But please pick one place and not in between!"

In my hand was a fullness, a softness, that certainly didn't come from either the shoulder or the waist. This was... breast...

I immediately let go of her, and she fell onto the ground, though this time not completely from standing upright.

"Are you... okay?"

"Zhang Chao, you did it on purpose!"

"Zhang Chao, Xiaoxiao, what are you two doing?"

As I was about to help Chu Xiaoxiao up, Lin Fang's voice suddenly came into my ears. I looked back, and there she was, standing right behind me.

I completely didn't see her at all, and I also didn't know just how long she had been standing there. But, judging from her face, she must have seen everything that just happened.

"Fangfang, listen to me, it isn't how it looks like..."

On Lin Fang's face was a look of pain, as she simply kept shaking her head from side to side. My heart sank. She took a step back, then another, and tears filled her eyes.

Chu Xiaoxiao got up, and dusted herself off, "Fangfang, that really was an accident. If you won't believe him, at least you'd believe me right? Didn't you go back already? What are you doing waiting in the car park for?"

Lin Fang bit her lip, and instead of answering Chu Xiaoxiao's questions, she growled, "Xiaoxiao, how could you do this to me!?"

I panicked. She misunderstood us completely. I chased up to her and tried to explain myself.

"Fangfang, the one that I loved is you, didn't you know that already?"

Lin Fang looked at me, but it seemed like she was looking right past me at something behind me, but right now, Lin Fang was the most important thing to me, so I didn't look back.

After a while, Lin Fang calmed down. She asked, "So it's me that you really loved? Not Xiaoxiao?"

"Why would you even think that?"

Lin Fang said, "Then do it, right here, in front of Xiaoxiao, tell her that the one you loved is me, and not her. Tell her to stop bugging you, and tell her to stay away from you from now on."

I was shocked. Just what was going on? The two of them are better friends than the bestest of best friends!

Chu Xiaoxiao was just as shocked. She shivered and trembled visibly, and crossed her arms, "Lin Fang, how... how could you say that?"

"We were best friends, be I won't let you take my boyfriend away."

"I never did!" Chu Xiaoxiao cried, "You really crossed the line! I had been so considerate of you, and I looked out for you, and this is how you looked at me all this time? I don't need you telling Zhang Chao to stay away from me. I have legs, I can walk away myself. I wish the two of you live happily ever after!"

Lin Fang looked at Chu Xiaoxiao's eyes intently, "Was I wrong about you? Do you dare say that you aren't interested in Zhang Chao even a little in the least?"

"Why do I have to say that?"

Lin Fang shook her head, "Xiaoxiao, I know you too well. Your likes and dislikes are written all over your face, as plain as day. I have business to attend to still, and I hope that you'll keep your words and don't try to take my boyfriend from me."

I hurriedly asked, "Are you going home? I'll take you back."

Lin Fang hesitated a little, "Hmm... no. I want to spend some time alone. We'll see each other tomorrow anyway."

Lin Fang wouldn't let me take her back, so I could only give up. Looking at her back as she walked away, an indescribable feeling rose up in me. There was something about it that I just couldn't put my finger on.

I shook my head. Looking back, Chu Xiaoxiao are still standing there, spacing out staring at the emptiness alone, looking lonely and lost at the same time. I feel bad for her. I really do. Because of Lin Fang and I, she fought with her family, and now, she just lost her best friend, and I won't be able to see her as I do now in the future. What was she going to do? What could she do?

"Don't take it to heart. Lin Fang didn't mean it like that."

Chu Xiaoxiao just looked at me, until I started feeling the growing awkwardness. She asked, "Zhang Chao, do you really not understand what Lin Fang was saying?"

"I..."

Chu Xiaoxiao shook her head, then turned away, "Never mind. I'm leaving. Lin Fang was right. We really shouldn't see each other again."

I felt torn inside. It had been nothing ever since the beginning. It was impossible between Chu Xiaoxiao and I. Was Lin Fang really going to throw away her best friend since childhood over a little misunderstanding like this? And now, Chu Xiaoxiao was my friend too.

I couldn't think of anything, so I only thought of one thing. I must straighten out this misunderstanding, between Chu Xiaoxiao and I, and between her and Lin Fang. I chased up to her and overtook her and blocked her way, "No, you're not leaving just like that. You... yes, I need your help with something tonight. This is important. Come with me for now, we'll straighten this out tomorrow."

Chu Xiaoxiao pursed her lips, and looked like she was about to give in to her tears at any moment. She wanted to go around me, but I blocked her way again. Of course I won't let her leave just like that. If nothing else, I couldn't see the friendship between her and Lin Fang fall apart just like that.

In the end, Chu Xiaoxiao couldn't get rid of me, so she begrudgingly agreed to go with me, but just this one time.

"Just this once. At least, it was worth it knowing you as a friend." Chu Xiaoxiao went to her car and took the passenger's seat. I started the car and began driving, and she asked me where I'm going to take her.

"Wine tasting convention."

"The one that Jiang Ming attends?" Chu Xiaoxiao immediately sharpened up, "You're going to see Jiang Ming tonight?"

I chuckled, "No. That convention was open only to members. And how to become one of their members? Three million bucks upfront. I need to become a member first, then maybe get familiarized to the place, before I would even try to get close to Jiang Ming."

"Why was it that you just had to get close to this Jiang Ming character? Chen Yuzhou said that this person was dangerous didn't he?"

I spoke, calmly and quietly, "I know he is dangerous. No one knows how dangerous he is more than I do."

That wine tasting convention was held in a rather secretive place. Uninvited, most people would never know that such a place even existed in Tong City.

It was located midway up a hill. It was a winery, and at the same time a holiday park. The owner bought the entire hill surrounding the winery, and the road going up there was long and windy. Though, the road condition was relatively good today.

I said to Chu Xiaoxiao that the reason I brought her with me was that I need her identity as the young daughter inheritor of the Chu Enterprise, that way no one would raise an eyebrow if we took out three million dollars in cash to become their member.

If not, given my current identity as a no name commoner, even if I have the money, they still won't let me become a member.

There are things in life that even money can't buy.

Arriving at the place, stepping out of our car and immediately someone walked up and attended to us. Everything went smoothly. I've prepared the money already, and Chu Xiaoxiao only had to use her identity to get the membership here. This way, I'd be able to go in and out of this place as her assistant.

But after Chu Xiaoxiao finished filling in the application, the lady at the counter politely refused her application after validating her documents.

"Apologies, we have validated your identity, and I'm afraid that we are currently unable to approve your application."

"Why?" Chu Xiaoxiao asked, "Am I not who I am or was my money not money?"

The lady was polite and maintained her smile throughout, but it looked fake, like plastic.

"You are Chu Xiaoxiao, and you do not meet the criteria for this application, I'm afraid. Only those who possess a certain degree of financial influence are eligible for membership at this place."