

## Chapter 98 No Chance

What the clerk said made Chu Xiaoxiao's face redden with anger.

Chu Xiaoxiao slapped the counter, "What do you mean by that? Was the Chu household not good enough to drink your wine?"

That clerk maintained her professional smile, "Oh, certainly not, it's just that the Chu Enterprise currently have quite a large debt on them, as well as the fact that they are currently borderlining bankruptcy. Please understand that we treat the safety of our members very seriously. We cannot allow just anybody to become our member, even if you have the money."

Chu Xiaoxiao had been treated nicely ever since she was a child. Everywhere she goes, people respected her and doted her. Never before had she been slighted like this.

Though to be honest, even a normal person wouldn't be able to take this kind of insult. If I didn't know any better, for a split second I felt as if I was in one of those historical films, with peasants and nobles and frilly shirts, that was how haughty the clerk's attitude and tone of voice had been.

Chu Xiaoxiao exploded in anger, "Get your manager. I will speak to him about this."

But that clerk wouldn't budge, she said calmly, "My manager was the one who instructed me to refuse you. And also, he doesn't see anyone without prior appointments. Ms. Chu, please, don't make this any harder for both of us. In fact, instead of wasting your money here, you should probably save this three million dollars. I'm sure you'll need it in the coming future."

Chu Xiaoxiao was mad enough to jump at her, but everywhere around us I could see security guards, and quite a number of them are looking this way at us right now.

Though this clerk was smiling all the time, but it looked like she had already notified the security guards.

As expected of a high classed place, the standards of their security guards lives up to their reputation. There was no shoving and threatening like in the movies, but each one of them kept their eyes on us, like predators intent on their prey, ready to spring into action on command.

Chu Xiaoxiao was out of ideas, and asked me what we should do.

I stood up from my seat and gave that clerk a smile, "Why don't you go back and notify your manager once more? I'm sure he would like to have a talk with us."

The fake smile remained on the clerk's face, "There is no need. Our manager's presence are required only at the final stage of the membership application process, to sign the membership card."

I said, "Then go get him. We will leave today, with the membership card."

An irritated frown cracked open on the clerk's otherwise perfectly professional smiling face, "Do you perhaps not understand what I said before?"

I laughed, "So you're saying that we do not qualify?"

"Certainly, by our currently standing criterion, you do not qualify."

"Just one more time, just to be sure, you are saying that you are certain, beyond doubts, that I do not qualify for membership at this place?"

The clerk said impatiently, "Yes."

I took out my phone and called the manager of Junran's HR department. While the phone was calling, I commented passingly, "In that case, I don't know what kind of people actually qualifies for that lousy card of yours."

The clerk probably thought that I was only acting. By now, the clerk already abandoned all pretense of niceties, and simply sat back down at the desk and signalled the security guards with her eyes, probably telling them to get rid of us when the time comes.

The phone went through, I spoke a few words of instructions, then hung up the call. They couldn't hear what I said, but they obviously thought that this was nothing more than an act. None of them paid me any mind.

Chu Xiaoxiao asked me what we should do. With all the onlookers, even she started feeling the embarrassment. I told her to wait just a little while longer.

"Why don't you take your leave now? It's a long way up the hill, and no bus ever comes here. If you don't leave now, we're about to close up for the day." The clerk has given up even trying to be polite, and jeered at us sarcastically.

I told Chu Xiaoxiao to ignore her. Suddenly, Chu Xiaoxiao said, "No wonder, I thought she looked familiar! You're Liu Min aren't you, the one that used to be in the same class with me in school!?"

I lamented inside. No wonder the clerk was so unfriendly towards us right from the beginning. As it turned out, she was Chu Xiaoxiao's old classmate.

"You don't even remember your classmate!?" I whispered to her in a low voice.

Chu Xiaoxiao said awkwardly, "She wasn't very active in class before. And I was never mean to her. In fact, we hardly knew each other, but I never thought she'd hold a grudge against me. I don't think I've done anything to make her angry though, now and before!"

Of course she would be angry. If it were me, if my old classmate doesn't even remember me, I'd feel terrible too.

Chu Xiaoxiao said awkwardly, "Never mind, let's get out of this place. I don't want to suffer the embarrassment any longer."

She grabbed my hand and was about to drag me up, when suddenly a plump looking man barged inside, or I should say out of his office, and yelled at us, "What are the lot of you doing just letting them sit there unattended!?"

Liu Min said immediately, "Manager, I'll get the security guards to drive them out immediately."

Hearing that, the security guards begin towards us.

The manager was livid. He screamed at Liu Min, "Drive them out!? I'll drive you out! They are our guests! You don't want your job anymore!?"

Liu Min was startled, she stammered, her face reddened in anger, "But... but manager, Chu Xiaoxiao do not qualify for our membership..."

Chu Xiaoxiao flipped her eyes at her, and almost swore in anger, "Liu Min, I don't know what might have happened between us, but we were once classmates, you don't have to insult me again and again like this."

The manager glared at Liu Min harshly, then immediately turned around and smiled apologetically at Chu Xiaoxiao, "Ms. Chu, there might be a little misunderstanding here. I'll make sure to better educate our clerks in the future. You have filled in your application, yes? Liu, go and run her application through the membership process."

Even now Liu Min still couldn't understand why her manager would be so nice and polite, almost fearfully so, of Chu Xiaoxiao, a mere daughter of a rundown business owner facing bankruptcy.

She just couldn't understand. She couldn't get around in her head. Though looking at it objectively, even if she did process our application in the beginning, it wouldn't have made any difference to her either way, even in the slightest. But that would mean lowering her head to Chu Xiaoxiao, and it looked like she couldn't accept that.

"Manager, what you're doing is against the company protocol. I cannot comply."

"Are you crazy? You won't even do as I say!?"

"I cannot. I will not. If you must, do it yourself. Chu Xiaoxiao do not qualify for our membership, and neither did that driver of hers called Zhang Chao."

"D..driver...?" The manger laughed, coldly, "Peel that eyes of yours open! This man who stands in front of you is Master Zhang, the largest shareholder of Juran, the largest and most powerful company in Tong City, and their future inheritor and chairman."

I must say that I'm more than a little impressed at this manager. If he hadn't said it, even I didn't know I had such a long and impressive title after my name.

Liu Min was speechless, with wide gaping mouths, as was the security guards who left their post to surround us. They muttered amongst themselves, something about not being able to tell from looking just at the clothes I wear.

The manager said, "You can leave now. What you have done was beyond even stupidity. Go to the HR and get your three months pay. I don't want to see you still on this premise before we close up today."

Liu Min opened her mouth, but the manager wouldn't give her any chance to plead.